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.*

Contents.

VOL. V. No. 229.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1854. [PRICE SIXPENCE.

News of the Week.

EVENTS are leading well up to give *éclat* to the Queen's speech in proroguing Parliament to-day: Ministers managing admirably so as to part with us under good appearances. Her Majesty will be enabled to state that the Turks have driven the Russians out of the Principalities; and Lord Clarendon has already stated that our Cabinet relies on the good faith of Austria, who is declared to be as averse as we are to the establishment of the *status quo ante bellum*. This looks like a happy state of things; and the prospect is even pleasanter, for we now daily expect to hear of coincident grand *coups* in the Black Sea and in the Baltic. But some doubt and hesitation may still be entertained. Russia has withdrawn the offence for which we went to war with her: for what, therefore, are we going to bombard Bomarsund and Sebastopol? The English nation will not find fault with our admirals for being illogical in their operations; but it *will* be rather illogical to destroy Russian fortresses before we have considered our object in those proceedings. We are now at war with Russia: what for? That is a question which Austria, master of the situation in consequence of our felicitous negotiations, will now be entitled to put to France and England;—whence the probability that new negotiations will now begin, and the possibility that at whatever *nominal* sacrifice Russia may arrest the war. Considering that Lord Clarendon, on his own confession, made such a complete miscalculation as to Russian movements on the Danube, ought we now to trust his opinion of Austria? The omission in his otherwise rather confiding and singularly simple speech of all reference to Prussia will be noticed; what that indicates is very evident. Throughout the Foreign Secretary's soliloquizing answer to Lord Clanricarde, there is no trace of the idea having as yet occurred to him or his colleagues, that the difficulty has begun with the Russian evacuation of the disputed territory. It may be that the Russian notification to Austria has taken our Ministers by surprise; but from all we have recently heard, we have inferred that the Cabinet has been calculating on a long war. Mr. Gladstone has declined in a marked manner to proffer his ready-money maxim about war finance as applicable to next year; and it is notorious that seven or eight more regiments are being got ready for the East, and that the Militia is to be embodied. On the other hand, France accepts war as a permanent social condition. It has been said that France with the consent of the English Government, has entered into a separate treaty with Austria, guaranteeing her, in the event of her joining the Western Powers in active war, the possession of Lombardy against Italian patriots:—will English Liberals approve of that? Lord Clarendon says that Austria can only be expected to adopt a policy suitable to her interests; and how can English Ministers seek an Austrian alliance, knowing what Austrian interests mean? Prussia has similar rights of choice of friends; and it is not honourable to us that the King and his Ministers ground their reluctance to join the Western Powers on the "proverbial faithlessness and instability" of England.

Success, or apparent success, in war and foreign policy, compensates Ministers for their not victorious aspect in Parliament. The public comprehends and condemns such cases as that of Lawley and O'Flaherty; and the impression is unfavourable, not only to the political pretensions, but to the personal character, of Ministers. The public likewise appreciate the influences which have elevated an ignorant and incompetent man into the office of Minister of Health. The folly of the Bribery Bill—a bill to purify a general election, and limited to one question—is perceived, the more clearly that the Lords, who can rely on intimidation, have insisted on improving the measure in stringency: the silliness and false pretences of the Russian Securities Bill were ascertained before the weighty opinion of the Chief Justice was tendered to the Lords that the law would not be worth the paper it was written on. Nevertheless, there is one parliamentary incident of the week which has given satisfaction. Sir Charles Wood's statement of the affairs of India indicated how considerably the public opinion of justice-loving Englishmen—and on this point "party" so slightly influences, that Lord Stanley and Mr. Bright work together—has forced Cannon-street and Leadenhall-street into generous statesmanship. Evidently "Young India" was agreeably surprised by the tone Sir C. Wood assumed; and, in their startled satisfaction, they were perhaps too complimentary, and made too few conditions; for this party is beginning to see that, *as* a party, it is in its power to *compel* good government of India. Another clear and comforting Ministerial statement was Lord John's on the slave-trade, in connexion with Cuba; his lordship hinting to Espartero that now that Christina is down the traffic ought to be stopped; Sir Joshua Walmsley, a Long Parliament sort of member, commenting pithily:—"If the Spaniards don't stop the trade, let us make them stop it!"

The remainder of the parliamentary news affects bills hurried through, or hastily dropped, because of "this late period of the session;" and even an India Budget did not collect a House of more than fifteen members. It is considered ridiculous and preposterous for a senate to sit more than six months; "popular members" are even as eager as Ministers to get into the recess when the people cease, except through an unrecognised press, to have any control over the governing classes.

Spanish affairs have merely passed out of one state of unsettlement into another state of unsettlement. Espartero, an amiable man, with his common sense modified by a papaish sort of feeling towards the unhappy young Queen, is endeavouring, in the weak benevolence of age, to make a *mild* revolution, and, very naturally, he is breaking down. O'Donnell continues the man of the crisis, seeking to coerce Espartero into severe measures in relation to those who have sinned so seriously against the nation—prominently against Queen Christina, who ought to be tried and punished. Espartero hesitates: as a constitutional admirer of rose-water *regimes*, he thinks everything ought to be left to the Cortes—whom O'Donnell has a masculine tendency to do without altogether; and the result will probably be that Narvaez will come in, after more bloodshed—Queen Isabella's chances disappearing with Espartero. What then?

The American news supplies one event. Lord Grey appears to have cursed every place he touched, and he touched every place he could; Greytown (named after him), in the "Mosquito territory," has been bombarded and reduced to splinters by a Yankee man-of-war captain, who lost his temper with the ludicrous authorities of that locality. The act was infamous, and more stupid than infamous; but United States journalism relieves us in England from the duty of protest—they have nearly all denounced the dull atrocity. The American news also supplies an exciting rumour, that the Czar has offered to sell to the Federal Government all his American territories—throwing in a little island by way of what some Americans call "a bittock."

In America, where the people have something

to do directly with the Government, and are consequently allowed to know what is going on, such rumours generally mean a great deal: and in another column the aspects of such a political bargain are discussed. The Czar would gain two points in such a sale: he would get money, and would injure, and still more, would vex, England.

The strictly domestic news of the week is of a character in accordance with the "season"—when public affairs are suspended. The Assize intelligence, English and Irish, affords the usual illustrations of our deplorable Christianity and melancholy civilisation. That most serious of all questions—the "Labour Question"—is again presenting itself, with its inveterate persistence in search of a settlement, under some sad aspects, in the exhausted Spitalfields velvet-trade: masters and men fighting it out anarchically, and with none the less hideous vehemence, that the debasing controversy is as to whether a workman shall make 13s. 6d. instead of 12s. a week. The last act of the Preston drama has been played out at the Liverpool Assizes: the prosecutors withdrawing their indictments against Cowell and his brother delegates; and the suppressed people being now unequal to gaining attention to the inquiry—were not law and justice violated by the masters in obtaining the arrest of the delegates?

Cholera progresses, here and throughout the world. One hundred die daily in London:—the Government occupied in seeking a Minister of Health among political partisans—the public thinking of deputations to the Home-office. For instance, a deputation from Hackney make long speeches to Lord Palmerston descriptive of the state of the open Hackney brook; Lord Palmerston replies that it shall be covered by November or February! This is very imbecile; we appear to have lost a free people's capacity for action. Some weeks ago we suggested a *coup d'état* against cholera: a national suspension of business while our towns were being cleansed, our brooks and sewers covered, and hospital accommodation and medical corps organised. But nothing is being done; what is going on in Westminster Hospital is going on everywhere—there are not beds and not surgeons enough for the patients.

RUSSIAN POSSESSIONS IN AMERICA.

THE *New York Herald* announces that negotiations are going on between the Czar and Federal Government, on the basis of the Czar offering to sell to the United States all his American territory. If this be true, important considerations will arise; and meanwhile accurate information as to the territory in question is important. Mr. A. K. Isbister, in a letter to the *Times*, says:—

"I am in a position fully to corroborate the statements of the *New York Herald* as to the great value of the territory in question in a commercial view, and more especially in relation to the valuable and important whale fishery which has recently been established in the neighbouring seas and islands. All the best whaling stations in the North Pacific are comprised within this territory, and its acquisition by the United States would, as the *New York Herald* justly observes, 'give their whalers an advantage which would at once enable them to defy competition;' not to speak of the immense political advantage arising from the possession by our American rivals of so great an extent of sea coast on the Pacific, completely hemming in the narrow strip of sea coast which would then remain to us between Queen Charlotte's and Vancouver's Islands, and rendering those possessions absolutely untenable by us in the event of a war.

"I trust it is not too late to draw the attention of our Government to certain arrangements between the Russian Government and the Hudson's Bay Company, which, I anticipate, will be found to afford us the means of interposing an effectual bar to the further prosecution of the negotiations now said to be in progress. In consequence of certain infractions on the part of the Russian Fur Company of the treaty of 1825, under which England claimed the privilege of navigating the rivers flowing from the interior to the Pacific across the line of boundary established by that treaty, negotiations were entered into by the two Governments and by the two fur companies, which led to an agreement that from the 1st of June, 1840, the Hudson's Bay Company should enjoy, for a specified period, the exclusive use of the coast assigned to Russia, extending from 54 deg. 40 min. north, to Cape Spencer, near 58 deg. north, in consideration of the annual payment of 2000 otter skins to the Russian American Company; an arrangement which, I believe, subsists to the present time, and under which we are, therefore, at this moment in actual possession of all the best harbours on the Pacific belonging to Russia; for the line of coast beyond these limits is comparatively of little value, being blocked up with ice during the greater part of the year, and therefore little likely to excite the cupidity of the United States.

"There can obviously, therefore, be no transfer of this territory, without a breach of engagement with us, before the stipulated period expires, and any attempt of this nature would fully justify us in converting our temporary occupancy of the coveted coast line into absolute possession."

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

On Wednesday Sir H. WILLOUGHBY asked Mr. Gladstone how we stood as to finance? Had the expenditure exceeded Mr. Gladstone's estimates? If it did, were we to pay ready money for war—the expenditure of this, and next year out of next year's taxes? Or, if not, what would be the nature of the loans? Or if no loans, what sort of taxes? Sir Henry mixed up these pertinent and popular questions with some immaterial rubbish—which it is not necessary to notice here.

Mr. GLADSTONE answered boldly and fully—giving us this his fourth budget for the session, and repeating his old suggestion that the public is never told the truth in the "public accounts:"

"With respect to the public revenue and expenditure, he did not think he could add anything to what he had stated to the House on a former occasion. On a previous occasion he had gone at great length into this question, and he was very happy to say, that though a time of war was necessarily a time of very great uncertainty—uncertainty as to whether the national expenditure would not fall short of the estimates—yet, speaking at the present moment, the 9th of August, he saw no reason to retract or to qualify any statement he had made or any expectations he had held out to the House on the 8th of May, when he made a financial statement in detail upon which the proposal of the Government was made and the subsequent votes of the House were given. He was bound to say that up to the present moment he was entirely satisfied with the state of the revenue. Perhaps it would be convenient to the House if he took this opportunity of giving some explanation with reference to the last quarterly statement of the revenue, which had made an impression less favourable than the facts warranted. It would be recollected that the last quarterly statement of the revenue showed a decrease upon the quarterly income, as far as regarded the permanent and regular branches of the ordinary revenue, amounting, he thought, to about 570,000*l.* Now, he considered it right to show the House how dangerous it was to form a judgment from statements of this character, which were very partial in their form, which were, perhaps, not as happily arranged and adjusted as they might be, and which he sincerely trusted they should succeed in improving. With regard to the whole of this 570,000*l.*, that apparent decrease was entirely fallacious. (*Hear, and a laugh*), He would explain to the House why it was fallacious. In the first place, it would be recollected that last year this House had been pleased, upon his motion, to pass a bill relating to metropolitan advances for metropolitan improvements, the first effect of which was that in the second quarter of 1853 a sum of about 140,000*l.* was paid to the credit of the land revenues of the Crown, being due to it in consequence of the transactions of former years. That 140,000*l.*, of course, had nothing whatever to do with the revenue of the year. But although it had nothing to do with the real revenue of the year it formed a part of the apparent revenue of the second quarter of 1853, with which, of course, the second quarter of this year was compared. Therefore, from the apparent deficiency of 570,000*l.* in the second quarter of this year we must deduct this 140,000*l.* on account of that purely fictitious increase in the land revenues of the Crown in the corresponding quarter of last year. There was another item to which it was also necessary he should direct the attention of the House. On the 6th of April in the present year there was a fall in the tea duty. Of course, it was the desire of the trade to release at the earliest moment a considerable quantity of tea. The principle upon which the Customs' Department acted, when there was a desire to take out a large quantity of any commodity at a reduced duty and at a very early hour, was to receive the duty in respect of that commodity on the previous day. The consequence of this was, that no less a sum than, he believed, 233,000*l.*, which was entirely due to the revenue of the second quarter of the year for goods taken out on the 6th of April, went into the revenue of the first quarter of the year, being received on the afternoon of the 5th of April. And don't say that this money was really due to the revenue of the first quarter of the year, because the tea duty had been stagnant in the first quarter in expectation of the remission of duty. That was perfectly true, but there was a much greater stagnation in 1853, prolonged from December, 1852, to May, 1853. Here, therefore, was a further sum of 233,000*l.*, which was due to the second quarter of 1854. This took away at once 370,000*l.* out of the 570,000*l.* of apparent decrease. Then, again, the quarterly statement, made up for the information of the public, referred to England and to Scotland, but did not refer to Ireland. If it had referred to Ireland, if it had given the revenue of the united kingdom—which was of course what they had to deal with—they would have seen in the revenue of Ireland for the quarter an increase which would have disposed of the whole of that 200,000*l.*, so that, in point of fact, upon the revenue of the quarter, although they were comparing the revenue of a period of war with the revenue of a period of peace, although they were comparing a period of dear money with a period of cheap money, and a period of dear bread with a period of cheap bread—yet, in spite of all these unfavourable circumstances, the revenue of the second quarter of this year, from permanent sources fairly estimated, was equal to the revenue of the second quarter of last year, notwithstanding the great reductions of taxation which had been made. That, he considered, was a very satisfactory statement to make to the House. With regard to the demands upon them, he did not think it was desirable to repeat the figures which he had laid in great detail before the House at an early period of the session. He must, however, correct the hon. baronet when he declared that he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had laid down the principle, that the cost of the war for the year was to be paid out of the taxes of that year. On the contrary, the House would recollect he had always pointed out that it would be impossible to raise the new taxes within the year, and that therefore a temporary advance of money—which must be of course borrowed in some form or other—would be absolutely necessary for the service of the present year. The House provided the Government with a taxing power, which, when added to the available surplus revenue, was equal to the expenses of the war as they were estimated for the year, and the money advance of the present year, when received, he had no doubt would be fully equal to these expenses; so that, if they were happy enough to have peace proclaimed before the 5th of April next, he should be enabled completely to liquidate these expenses without adding one shilling to the national debt. He said this, of course, with reference merely to the present, without venturing to prophesy for the future, with regard to which nothing could be safe. All that he ventured to state was, that none of the appearances referred to on the 8th of May had been falsified or rendered less probable on the 8th of August.

THE WAR.

Some languid efforts have been made in the expiring Parliament to "screw" some news out of Ministers.

On Thursday, in the Upper House, Lord CLANRICARDE made a long speech, in which he reproduced the newspaper points of the fortnight, and put the question, and how do we stand in regard to our alliances? There was only one phrase in his speech worth printing; this —

"Public opinion did not act often or easily in that country, but when it did act the Government were frightened at it."

Lord CLARENDON answered in some elaborate pompousness, which may be reduced to one or two facts. In respect to the treaty between Austria and the Porte, he declined to disapprove of it.

"The treaty was communicated to us, but not until the same day that it was signed at Constantinople; we knew nothing of it before, and no instructions were sent to Lord Stratford upon the subject. Lord Stratford merely recommended the Porte to adopt that treaty, and some three weeks or a month after, her Majesty's Government approved of the advice which he had so given. Lord Stratford recommended the adoption of that treaty, because he saw that in its preamble, as well as in its articles, it was closely connected with all the proceedings that had taken place at Vienna and with the principles which were recorded in the Vienna protocol, and because he found nothing in it to prevent the Sultan from taking such measures as he thought fit for re-establishing his authority in those Principalities, or from taking any part he pleased in occupying them upon the withdrawal of the Russians. Our language, even to Austria, when we heard of the announcement of her intention to enter into the Principalities was, that if Austria was going into Wallachia—evacuated by the Russians—for the purpose of proceeding on to Moldavia, in order to drive them out of that province, that convention would be fulfilled; but that if she was merely going to occupy the province upon its being evacuated by Russia, then we did not think she would be warranted in so doing, unless invited by the Porte. The Austrian answer was, that their object would be to repress anarchy, to restore order, and to re-establish the authority of the Porte, and that, once entered, they would resist by force of arms the return of the Russians."

He then proceeded to state the present position of affairs. The Austrian Government had been informed officially, that Russia had evacuated both Principalities.

"And I have great pleasure in stating that within the last thirty-six hours, and consequently since the evacuation of the Principalities was known at Vienna, notes have been exchanged between her Majesty's Government and the Austrian Government, which will show, when published, that Austria has as little intention as we have ourselves of returning to the *status quo*." (*Cheers.*)

He went on:—

"My lords, I am not about to enter into any elaborate defence of Austria, or to attempt to explain the motives of her policy, but I must say I see no reason to retract any opinion of mine with respect to the probability of Austria acting in that manner which a due regard for her honour, her dignity, and her interest would entitle us to expect that she should act. I entirely agree with my noble friend that Austria is an independent Power and has a right to pursue her own policy in her own way, and that we have no right to complain of her doing so. Whatever may be thought of any sacrifices that may have been made by the allied Powers, I entirely deny that our policy has been in any way dependent on the policy of Austria. She may not have been so alert in her movements as we could desire, her army may not have been ready so soon as we could have wished, but to bring that army up to the state of efficiency in which it now is, was certainly a work of time and expense. The policy of Austria, as my noble friend says, must be guided by her own interest, just as that of France and England must, in the same way, be guided by their interests; but the interests of Austria are more complicated and more antagonistic than those of France and England. . . . . I believe Austria will overcome all those tricks and manœuvres which have been played off to paralyze her action."

He proceeded to talk in a very *naïve* manner: stating that when the war began, the English Government thought Russia meant to attempt to get to Constantinople, and that the allied army in the first instance, were meant merely for the defence of that capital. But, to his astonishment, the Turks had conquered!

"The allied armies are therefore now ready, and have, perhaps, already commenced those more important operations to which my noble friend has alluded. Then, on the Baltic we have certainly two of the finest and most powerful fleets that ever left the shores of any country. Certainly great success is not to be obtained against a Power that obstinately refuses battle, and shuts up his fleets within granite walls; yet those ships are blockaded and useless; and surely

when we consider what the amount of our trade is, and how much we depend upon it for our revenue and retaining our position as a first-rate Power among the nations, I say it is not an unimportant thing that in this great war with a maritime Power our ships are permitted to ride on every sea throughout the world, unmolested and free from danger. While the Russian ships are so blockaded our trade flourishes, and I may say that, in consequence of their ships being blockaded, we may consider the trade of Russia as nearly extinct. My lords, I am not able to quote prices, as my noble friend has done, or say on what terms certain Russian productions can be brought to this country; but this I know, that none of them come from the Russian ports in the Baltic, though some of them may come from the Black Sea. But when we consider the great expense of carrying Russian products overland—that, for example, as I am informed, Russian tallow, brought from Memel, has increased from 10*l.* to 20*l.* a ton—it cannot be thought that much business will be carried on at that price. We must consider, too, that the trade with Russia is usually conducted with English capital; that English capital has been indispensable for their production and for bringing them to market, and that that has entirely ceased: and that all the industry of the country has, to a great extent been paralyzed, while the want of markets has deprived the Russian proprietor of all that he had to depend on to meet the expenses to which he is subject. Now, I know these are not very heroic results, but I feel sure they will do what my noble friend thinks so desirable—they will create more pressure on all classes in Russia, and will exercise an effect on public opinion—which I agree with him does exist—far greater even than if Sebastopol or Helsingfors had fallen, and our national vanity and ambition been thereby gratified.

This was his peroration:—

"I have often said, my lords, that it would be useless to attempt to say what would be the conditions on which we may make peace, but we are of opinion that the object of the war is to attain a just and honourable, and—as far as human foresight can procure it—a lasting peace; and we believe that no peace whatever can be just or honourable, or likely to be lasting, that does not secure the independence and integrity of the Turkish empire—that does not make the Ottoman empire a part of the general system of European policy—that does not protect the Ottoman empire from menace, and secure it from danger. (*Cheers.*) I say, without this, peace would not be just, or honourable, or lasting; and, in order to get these objects, we desire the co-operation of other Governments, but we are not depending on them. France and England will not relax in their efforts. They rely on their own resources, on the justice of their cause, and on the support which they receive at home; and, though we are ready to negotiate for peace, we are determined never to do so till we get evidence of *bonâ fide* intentions and a willingness to accept those conditions which we feel to be just, and which the whole of Europe is entitled to obtain at our hands. (*Cheers.*)

[Very few peers were present, though this was the most candid Ministerial speech of the session.]

ENCUMBERED ESTATES WEST INDIA BILL.

On going into committee on this bill, on Monday, some interesting conversation took place.

Sir J. PAKINGTON complained that the return which had been made in compliance with the motion of the right honourable member for Coventry, as to the repayments made on the Hurricane Loan advanced to the colonists of the British West Indies in 1831, had been made in an incorrect form, and did not represent the actual repayments which had been made, the real balance due being only 460,000*l.* out of the 1,000,000*l.* advanced, whereas the return would leave it to be understood that the balance was 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.* above that amount. The right hon. baronet protested against the harsh manner in which he described the Government to be acting towards the West Indians, from whom it was sought to extort more than could be fairly demanded from them, and which in fact would amount to, if enforced, absolute confiscation of the estates of the proprietors. If the Government pressed for the pound of flesh, if they sought to extract from these estates all that could be got from them, the result would be that in St. Vincent alone, out of 23 estates no less than 18 would be altogether confiscated and taken away from the owners. If the West Indies were now in the same state as they were at the time these loans were granted—if West India prosperity had never been diminished, the Government might then very properly claim the whole amount of their debt. But the whole effect of legislation on the part of this country had been to reduce the West Indies generally to a state of poverty and ruin, on the ground, as was urged, of public policy, and of what was due to the welfare of the people of this country. If these loans had not been recovered, had not the people of this country been repaid in another shape? What had they not gained in the interval by the fall in the price of sugar? Last year alone the saving effected in this way might be calculated at upwards of 3,000,000*l.*—a gain effected by the ruin of the unfortunate West India proprietors. The suggestion made on the part of the debtors to the State was, that their respective debts should be lowered upon a fair and a strict valuation, in the same ratio as their estates had been diminished in value. There might be some difficulty in apportioning this, but in itself the proposal seemed to him a perfectly fair one. He did hope the Government would meet this claim for consideration in a fair and liberal spirit, and that they would not act upon the letter of the law or in the spirit of the despatch written by the Secretary of the Treasury, in which that gentleman had declared the Government were willing to accept what would be, in a great number of cases, actual confiscation.

Mr. WILSON could not say he thought the right hon. gentleman had taken a wise course in bringing this matter before the House at the present time, for all the effect it could have would be to create hopes which must necessarily be disappointed among the parties who had obtained these loans. Already the uncertainty in which the West India proprietors had been kept as to the intentions of the Government had been very prejudicial to the improvement of their estates. These loans had been borrowed under the acts of the 2nd and 3rd William IV., in the year 1832 or 1833. By the terms of that act, these loans were to be repaid in ten years, but before that period expired Parliament extended the term for ten years further. Not satisfied with that lenient treatment, in 1848 that House passed an act whereby the annual payments during these last ten years were extended for five years further. This term expired in August last. It then became the imperative duty of the Government to determine in one way or another what should be done with regard to these loans. It was quite obvious that, if the question had been still left open, not only would the existing proprietors have been unable to obtain any credit upon their estates, but that the interest of individuals would be rather to allow these estates to deteriorate than to be improved. The Government, indeed, had been distinctly informed that this was the direct result which ensued from the want of a settlement in this matter. The duty of the Government, then, in order that these islands might be restored to some measure of prosperity, was by some means or other to bring all these claims to as early a conclusion as possible. They had found that it was impossible to apply a common rule to all cases. The principle adopted by the Government had, however, been this—that if a person could show that he was prepared to pay as much as the Government would be able, through an expensive and what might be called a harsh mode of treatment, ultimately to obtain, then they would feel justified in accepting a sum of money considerably less than the actual value of the estate, but not smaller than the amount which the estate would bring to the Government if they foreclosed their mortgage. He thought this was a very just and fair principle to act upon, and one which would be thought satisfactory by the public. The general principle they had laid down, and which the Exchequer Loan Commissioners had communicated to the parties, was that they were empowered to extend to 1859, and no longer, the payment of these loans, and meanwhile they were prepared to receive applications for compounding and settling them in any way most convenient to the proprietors. The fair and liberal spirit in which any such propositions would be received might be judged of from the fact, since last year, in Jamaica, out of 56 estates the Exchequer Loan Commissioners had succeeded in bringing into a fair way of settlement, by sale or by payment, no less than 41. One fact which ought to be known by the House was, that persons had been speculating upon the ruin of others in the West Indies, in order to get the Government to give up their claims. Would the Government be justified in throwing away the public money in any such way? All he could say was, that where an original *bonâ fide* debtor and owner of the estate made a proposition to the Exchequer Loan Commissioners, such a proposition would be received with every desire of settling the claim in the most liberal spirit. He hoped, therefore, the right hon. gentleman would be satisfied to leave the matter in the hands of the Government, with an assurance that, while they would endeavour to do their duty to the public, yet that where there was a *bonâ fide* disposition to settle the matter on the part of the proprietors, and no disposition to speculate, the Exchequer Loan Commissioners would receive any such applications with every possible desire to meet them fairly and liberally.

Mr. E. ELLICE must say that the manner in which the right honourable gentleman opposite (Sir John Pakington) had characterised the whole of the proceedings on the part of the Government appeared to him exceedingly just. The hon. member said that, if the West India proprietors would pay as much of their debts as the Treasury could by any process exact from these estates, Government would listen to any applications which might be made to them. Now, he agreed with the right hon. gentleman, that this was a petty, oppressive, and vexatious proceeding. He concurred with the hon. gentleman in thinking that it was worse than useless to have the sword suspended any longer over the heads of these unfortunate debtors, and that the matter should be settled now, once and for all; but the case of these poor West India proprietors was a very hard one, and had met with very little sympathy either from that House, from the Government, or, he feared, from the public at large. A system of artificial prosperity had been founded in the West Indies, and founded upon the worst principles—slavery and protection. We had taken suddenly away the basis upon which the whole fabric rested; the fabric had fallen, and irretrievably fallen; and while this was going on, instead of taking to ourselves the blame of the system from which all these miserable consequences had issued, we scolded the victims, treated them in the manner now proposed by the Treasury; and their case altogether had met with about as little consideration as it was possible to conceive.

Sir GEORGE GREY said their business was to look to the public interests here; and the public interest was that the public's money should be repaid by those who had borrowed it.

Mr. V. SCULLY made an excellent suggestion: Forced sales of the estates would probable occasion a loss to the sellers of more than one-half the value; but he believed that this result might, in some degree, be prevented through the circulation of capital among persons desirous to become purchasers, by allowing a portion of the purchase money to remain out upon negotiable securities in the nature of land debentures.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

On Tuesday the House of Commons (numbering at the time fourteen members) resolved itself into a committee on the Indian Revenue Accounts, when Sir C. WOOD, as President of the Board of Control, delivered his budget, in fulfilment of a promise made last year. It was a statement of the financial condition and general progress of India; and he followed up by certain resolutions (following the precedents of former years) relative to the income and charge of the several presidencies of India, and the general charges in India and at home, the difference being the ultimate surplus of the Indian revenue. After some preliminary observations upon the form of the accounts, and upon the reasons which rendered it impossible to show the revenue and charge of each presidency with perfect accuracy separately, he proceeded to state the results of the accounts and the substance of the several resolutions:—

"The revenue of the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 30th of April, 1852, was 7,584,435*l.*; the local charge (exclusive of the military), 1,936,362*l.*; the local surplus, 5,648,073*l.* The revenue of the North-west Provinces was 5,670,715*l.*; the local charge, 1,402,238*l.*; leaving a local surplus of 4,268,477*l.* The military charges of Bengal and the North-west Provinces were 5,442,230*l.* The net revenue of Bengal and the North-west Provinces amounted to 13,255,150*l.*, and the charge on them (exclusive of the military) to 8,770,330*l.*, leaving a surplus revenue applicable to the general purposes of India of 4,484,320*l.* The revenue of Madras was 3,704,048*l.*; the charge, 3,204,273*l.*; the surplus, 499,775*l.* The revenue of Bombay was 2,868,298*l.*; the charge, 2,847,392*l.*; the surplus, 20,906*l.* The total net revenues of the several presidencies amounted to 19,827,496*l.*, and the total local charges to 14,822,495*l.*, leaving a total surplus of 5,005,001*l.* The interest on the Indian debt was 1,967,359*l.*, and the amount of charges paid in England was 2,506,377*l.*, making together 4,473,736*l.*, leaving a surplus, in the year 1851-52, of revenue above expenditure of 531,265*l.* This statement he thought was a satisfactory one, more especially as in the two preceding years there had also been a surplus of revenue, though not quite so large. The year 1851-52 was the last for which he had a complete statement, but he had an estimate for 1852-53, which showed a gross revenue of 26,915,431*l.*, a gross expenditure of 26,275,966*l.*, and a surplus of 639,465*l.* He was sorry to say that in the year just ended—1853-54—there was a prospect of a considerable deficiency, the revenue being estimated at 26,586,826*l.*, and the expenditure at 27,459,161*l.*, leaving a probable deficiency of 872,335*l.* Sir Charles specified some of the heads on which there would be a deficit of revenue or an increase of charge, and stated the future prospects of the chief sources of income—namely, the land revenue, to which no addition could be expected; the opium duty, which was uncertain, though he did not calculate upon a diminution of the demand in China; salt, and Customs—concluding that there was little prospect of an increase of the Indian revenues, and as little of a diminution of expenditure. The great item of charge was the army; but, notwithstanding our late increase of territory in the Punjab, Pegue, and Nagpore, only two European and three native regiments had been added to the army, which was small compared with the forces of native states. Our whole Indian army amounted to 320,000 men, while the few native states maintained 398,000 men. Upon public works, judicial establishments, and education, an increase of expenditure must be incurred. In one item a considerable reduction had been effected, namely, the interest paid on the Indian debt, the great mass of which had been converted from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent., realising a saving of 330,000*l.*, in the face of one war concluded and another commenced. Sir Charles then took a view of the general state and progress of India. The territory acquired in Ava, rich in products of various kinds, was likely to become a valuable possession, as well as Nagpore, which had lapsed to the British Government by the death of the Rajah. The tribes in the north-west of India had at length been coerced to submission; friendly relations had been established with the chiefs of North Afghanistan, and there was every prospect that next year he should be able to make a similar announcement with reference to Dost Mahomed Khan and Cabul. The Shah of Persia had professed, and had hitherto maintained, an unbroken neutrality in the war with Russia. Lord Dalhousie, he was happy to say, had been enabled to turn his attention to the internal improvement of India. Sir C. Wood enumerated some of these improvements—the increase in the salaries of native judges, and the advancing them to higher situations; the amelioration of gaols, and the suppression of dacoity. He likewise gave some striking details of that great undertaking, now completed, the Ganges Canal, and of the administration of the Punjab, which in three years had been recovered from a state of disorder and settled in tranquillity, the assessments reduced, obnoxious taxes repealed, and local courts established, with native agency. He glanced at the public works executed at Bombay and Madras; at the progress of railroads in India, and the construction of the electric telegraph connecting Calcutta with Delhi, Agra, and Bombay. He then stated what had been done in execution of the act of last year, and detailed at considerable length the measures which had been adopted and were in preparation for two great objects, the promotion of public works and a systematic scheme of education in India.

Some comments followed—the House of 14 apparently being satisfied.

Sir E. PERRY said, he had listened with unmixed gratification to the speech of Sir C. Wood, which would be hailed by the people of India as containing the most promising picture which had ever been held out to them.

Mr. H. D. SEYMOUR thought the greatest credit was due to the right hon. baronet for his efforts in the cause of Indian reform during the past year. His minute on education would be received with approbation from one end of the country to the other. The right hon. baronet, now that the revenue did not meet the expenditure, ought to endeavour to follow out the policy of Sir R. Peel in regard to this country—to take off the taxes from the mass of the people, so as to improve their energies and enable them to fill the Exchequer.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE hoped the attention of the right hon. baronet would be turned towards the attainment of a system of cheap transit from one end of the country to the other. The importance of developing the production of cotton in India could scarcely be exaggerated, and with this view he hoped no pains would be spared to improve the navigation of the Godavery. Several recent American writers had expressed an opinion that if the resources of

India were properly applied it would be useless for America any longer to expect to compete with India in the production of cotton.

Mr. V. SCULLY expressed a hope that the right hon. gentleman would earnestly turn his attention to a reform of the land tenure of India. By so doing the prosperity of that country would be based on a sound foundation. He had a letter from Poonah, which described in the most graphic terms the wretchedness of the peasantry, and the sufferings they endured from famine.

The resolutions were agreed to.

APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE ARISTOCRATIC SYSTEM.

On Tuesday, Mr. F. LUCAS took advantage of a technical opportunity to call the attention of the House of Commons (about 50 members present) to the "Edmund O'Flaherty case."

The words of the notice on the paper were these:—

"On consideration of the Consolidation Fund (Appropriation) Bill, as amended, to ask a question of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the office of the Special Commissioner of Income-tax in Ireland; and to call the attention of the House to circumstances connected with the appointment of persons intrusted with the collection of the revenue."

The reasons which had induced him to give this notice were, said Mr. Lucas, these:—

"There had been for a considerable number of weeks past in the public journals statements of a very painful and unpleasant kind, that a certain gentleman who had been appointed, it was understood, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about a year and a half ago, to a place of great trust and confidence, had absconded—or, at least, had left the country—having, as it was stated, committed forgeries to the extent of from 14,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* He did not say that these forgeries had been committed, but the public journals did say that they had been, and by a gentleman who had, not much more than a year ago, been appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a place of great trust and confidence. He had waited, week after week, in the hope that some other person would bring the matter before the House, but, no one having done so, he had felt it to be a duty to mention the matter, at however late a period of the session. On the 5th of July last, a statement was made in the *Times* newspaper that this gentleman, a Special Commissioner of the Income-tax in Ireland, had absconded under peculiar and not very reputable circumstances. This statement of the 5th of July was repeated in the same journal on the 12th of the same month, at much greater length and in much fuller detail, and it was distinctly stated that this gentleman had quitted the country, having committed forgeries to the extent of between 14,000*l.* and 20,000*l.* Mr. O'Flaherty, the offender in question, had, before the Dungarvan committee, sworn that the appointment had been conferred upon him by the right honourable gentleman wholly unsolicited by himself, or by any of his friends or acquaintances; that he had never in his life applied to the Government, directly or indirectly, for any place on the face of the earth; and that the appointment had been conferred upon him by the right honourable gentleman as a purely voluntary and unsolicited pledge of the right honourable gentleman's personal friendship for him. Now, if the right honourable gentleman contradicted this sworn evidence, and told them that there were correspondence and testimonials in connexion with this appointment to which he must refer before he could explain the matter, most assuredly, he would take the slightest word of the right honourable gentleman in preference to the sworn evidence of the ex-Special Commissioner of Income-tax. (*'Hear hear,' and laughter.*) The appointment of Special Commissioner of Income-tax in Ireland was one of far higher importance than the commissionerships of income-tax in England, involving more responsible functions, and conferring far higher powers. It was a place of very great trust, of large discretion, of extensive authority, which gave to a dishonest holder the opportunity of committing almost unlimited fraud, and to a partisan holder the opportunity of committing the utmost wrong and injustice towards political opponents. By the agency of compositions for income-tax, allowances, exemptions, and in fifty other ways, the Special Commissioner of Income-tax in Ireland had the means, were he base enough, of perpetrating any amount of fraud. The holder of such a post ought to be a man by his social position above the temptation to dishonesty, and by his personal character above the suggestion of partiality or unfairness. But how stood the case as to Mr. O'Flaherty? Was his pecuniary position such as to render him exempt from all suspicion of liability to temptation? Why, so far from his possessing the qualification of 5000*l.* of real, or of 200*l.* per annum of personal property, everybody, at the time of his appointment, knew that he was a man who had no property at all; that, on the contrary, he was a man weighed down by debt, that he had not a single farthing in the world clear of his heavy debts and engagements—of itself a sufficient reason why he should not have been nominated to the post, contrary to the whole spirit of the act—while, as to the strict impartiality which should characterise such an officer, everybody knew that Mr. O'Flaherty's sole recommendation to the right hon. gentleman's patronage had been his unhesitating devotion to the Government as a political partisan, his unquestioning activity as a political agent. He had himself no personal knowledge of Mr. O'Flaherty, but from his knowledge otherwise of that gentleman, he was prepared to say that there was no man in Ireland to whom he should have been more unwilling to submit his private accounts; and he was prepared to express the belief that this feeling was shared by all persons in that country who were opposed politically to the party by whom Mr. O'Flaherty had been appointed. Did the right hon. gentleman mean to say he did not know, at the time this most unlucky appointment was made, that the object of his patronage was dabbling, was wallowing in bill transactions—was utterly and hopelessly insolvent? This, apart from all that had happened since, was quite a sufficient condemnation of the appointment. The appointment of Mr. Stonor was a most reprehensible act, but the motives for it were the most high and honourable that could be imagined; every one admitted that the appointment of Mr. Lawley was most reprehensible, but every one conceded that the motives for it were of the highest and most exalted character; and so the motives for the appointment of Mr. Edmund O'Flaherty, a dabbler in bill transactions, a furious political partisan, a person in whom no class of his fellow-citizens could place the slightest confidence, might have been the most high and honourable, although the appointment itself was a most reprehensible and damning proceeding."

Mr. GLADSTONE replied very quietly, and cleverly evasively. Why had Mr. Lucas given him only one day's notice of this motion? Why had Mr. Lucas not waited until Mr. O'Flaherty's brother, a member of the House, was in his place? (Mr. O'Flaherty, M.P., would take care not to be present—so that the question is—why did not Mr. Lucas wait till next session, or the session after that?) Mr. O'Flaherty had ceased to be Income-tax Commissioner before he absconded, the office having been abolished: Mr. O'Flaherty had not taken any public money: and what had Mr. Gladstone to do with Mr. O'F.'s private misdeeds? As to Mr. O'Flaherty's character, previous to the appointment being made, it was represented to him (Mr. Gladstone) as first-rate.

"With regard to his fitness for the office, he (Mr. Gladstone) had taken pains to obtain the most competent person, and he had consulted the Secretary for Ireland, who recommended Mr. O'Flaherty, whom he had believed to be a respectable person, and he knew nothing of his partisanship. He was a brother of a member of the House who was spoken of in terms of warm esteem by persons on whose judgment he placed the firmest reliance."

The subject would then have dropped; but Mr. DISRAELI did not fail to remind the House that this Mr. O'Flaherty was the person who, on the occasion of the Keogh scandal, was offered as evidence (on his "honour") that Lord Naas, Mr. Disraeli's Irish Secretary, had offered the Irish Solicitor-Generalship, under Lord Derby, to the Mr. Keogh, for whose appointment by Lord Aberdeen the Coalition was attacked by Lord Derby's Lord-Lieutenant. Mr. Disraeli asked—Did any one believe that now?

No one answered:—not even Mr. Keogh.

The subject did then drop.

THE BRIBERY BILL.

This bill was read a third time in the House of Lords on Monday night. A slight debate took place with reference to the clause legalising "travelling expenses," to which the Marquis of CLANRICARDE strongly objected. Ultimately the Duke of NEWCASTLE, to the astonishment of the House, undertook to withdraw the clause, thus leaving the law to remain as at present—that is uncertain. There was a division; but four peers only voted for retaining the clause.

The Lords' Amendments were taken into consideration in the Commons next day: Lord JOHN RUSSELL mildly moving that these amendments be agreed with, suggesting that, "at that period of the session," there was no time for disagreement. A long battle ensued.

Lord HOTHAM adverted to what he considered the singular and almost unprecedented position in which this motion placed the House, and to the manner in which, and the time at which, the amendments were made. He had never yet seen, he said, a Minister ask the concurrence of the House to an amendment made by the House of Lords in an opposite sense to that in which he had repeatedly spoken and voted, and, in effect, to stultify itself. The only resource for those who objected to the omission of the 26th clause (relating to travelling expenses) at this moment was the extreme measure of moving an adjournment; but he implored the noble lord not to reduce them to the alternative of either taking a course most repugnant to their feelings, or of making a base and pusillanimous surrender of their conscientious duty. He moved that the further consideration of this particular amendment be deferred for a month.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed, that the clause in question was not in his bill when first brought in, nor was it a primary object of the measure. When the subject of the declaration was discussed, it was considered that there should be a clear definition of what were legal expenses, and he had therefore advised the House to agree to this clause, legalising travelling expenses. The motion of Lord Hotham, if carried, would of course defeat the measure.

Mr. HILDYARD urged the necessity of insisting upon the retention of this clause, letting the responsibility of making a crusade against the franchise of the poorer class of voters rest with the House of Lords.

Mr. HUME said he had hitherto taken no part in the discussions upon this bill, believing it would be ineffectual without the ballot; but he approved the omission of this clause. Voters should come to the poll at their own expense.

The SPEAKER having explained to Lord Hotham that the effect of his motion would be to defeat the bill,

Lord HOTHAM said that was not his object, which was merely to prevent the agreement of the House in the omission of this particular clause.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, after strongly condemning the resolution of the House of Lords limiting the period for passing bills, observed that the defeat of this bill would be no real loss; he believed it would prove a mockery and delusion, and he should move to continue it for twelve months only.

Sir J. PAKINGTON thought it was not for the credit or character of the House that, in the middle of August, with a bare quorum, it should be called upon to reverse a determination which had been arrived at by a full House. He should vote for the motion of Lord Hotham, even if its effect would be to defeat the bill, which he believed, with Mr. Duncombe, would prove a delusion.

Mr. G. BUTT, Mr. WILKINSON, and Mr. CAYLEY spoke in favour of agreeing with the Lords' amendment.

Mr. MALINS supported Lord Hotham's motion, and called for an explanation of the extraordinary circumstances of a member of the Cabinet in the House of Lords moving the omission of a clause which had been proposed and supported by his colleagues in this House.

After a few remarks by Sir C. BURRELL against the Lords' amendment, and by Lord R. GROSVENOR in its favour, the motion of Lord Hotham was negatived upon a division by 78 to 21.

Lord HOTHAM then, in conformity with the intimation he had given, moved that the House do adjourn, and this motion was likewise negatived upon a division by 84 to 16.

Mr. HUME moved that the debate be adjourned.

Lord J. RUSSELL expressed a hope that the question would be fairly decided upon the issue, whether the House would agree or disagree with the Lords' amendment.

After a further discussion, a third division took place, which negatived the motion for an adjournment of the debate by 81 to 15.

Lord HOTHAM thereupon moved that the House (which was getting thinner and thinner) do adjourn, and this motion being negatived upon a division,

Mr. MALINS proposed, as a compromise, as no notice had been given to absent members of the subject of discussion, that the debate should be adjourned until Thursday. He accordingly moved its adjournment.

Lord J. RUSSELL said it was quite obvious that an adjournment of the debate until Thursday would give great advantage to Lord Hotham; the debate would be prolonged, and the prorogation would be postponed, or the bill would be lost.

This motion, after another discussion, was negatived upon a division. Another motion for the adjournment of the House met the same fate.

Lord HOTHAM then moved the adjournment of the debate; but, at the suggestion of Mr. T. Duncombe, a compromise was at length effected by Lord J. Russell assenting to the limitation of the bill to one year, and until the end of the next session of Parliament, and Lord Hotham thereupon withdrawing his opposition.

The bill was amended accordingly, and the omission of the 26th clause, with the other Lords' amendments, was agreed to.

THE RUSSIAN SECURITIES BILL.

This bill came before the Lords on Wednesday. Lord FORTESCUE moved a resolution, suspending standing orders, and calling upon the House to consider the second reading. The Duke of NEWCASTLE seconded the motion:—

"He was not prepared to say that the bill, even in the form in which it came up from the House of Commons, was rendered very necessary on account of the existing state of the law. He would be sorry to recognise the essential necessity of such legislation, but the bill had been denuded of many of the objectionable provisions which he had reason to believe it contained when it was originally presented to the other House. He would be most unwilling, either for himself or on the part of the Government, to throw any obstacle in the way of a measure which was considered necessary by the other House of Parliament, with the view of assisting Her Majesty's Government in maintaining the interests of this country in its conflict with Russia. He wished to state, however, that the subject to which this bill referred had not been neglected by her Majesty's Government. When an announcement was made upon the Exchange in this country and in other countries that Russia was about to endeavour to contract a loan, her Majesty's Government, without a moment's delay, took the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to how far it would be legal for British subjects to have any concern in such a loan, the obvious intention of which was to enable a foreign Power to raise forces adverse to this nation and Crown. The law officers gave a distinct and positive opinion that any British subjects who were parties to such a loan would be guilty of high treason. Thereupon, without twenty-four hours delay, the noble earl at the head of the Foreign Department wrote to all our Ministers at foreign courts, and to all our consuls abroad, desiring them to give a public intimation that British subjects would incur these heavy penalties if they involved themselves in any transactions connected with the proposed loan. To show that these steps were taken on the instant, he might mention that some time back replies had been received from the United States of America, to the instructions which had been sent out to the agents of this country there. Her Majesty's Government had also communicated with the Ministers of this country at foreign Courts, instructing them to make earnest appeals to the Courts to which they were accredited, desiring those Courts

to the utmost of their power to throw obstacles in the way of the proposed loan, inasmuch as it was at variance with the terms of neutrality or of alliance existing between the Courts in question and her Majesty's Government. Although strong powers were already possessed by the Government with regard to the transactions to which this measure was intended to apply, he believed that the reduction of the offence of dealing in these securities, under certain circumstances, from the crime of high treason to that of misdemeanour would render it more easy to thwart the objects of Russia; and, feeling that the bill could do no harm and might do some good, he hoped the House would consent to the motion of his noble friend, and allow this bill to pass."

The resolution being agreed to, the second reading was moved. Lord CAMPBELL, without opposing, then pointed out certain absurdities in the bill, and offered his aid in framing some new clauses. Some conversation ensued; and Lord Campbell at last blurted out,—He did not wish to throw the slightest obstacle in the way of the bill passing, but he assured the House if it was adopted in its present state it would not be of the slightest value.

This gave the Duke of NEWCASTLE the excuse required to sneer at Lord Palmerston.

"He certainly should not consent to pass the bill as it stood after the opinion given by one of the learned judges of the land, that in its present condition it was uttely useless. What he should propose was, that it pass through all its stages but the last, when the assistance of his noble and learned friend might be obtained, and a clause drawn up making the measure effective in the cases referred to, which might be added on the third reading, thus giving sufficient time for the bill to go down to the other House, and to be afterwards brought back and passed.

"This course was agreed to, and the bill, having passed through its various stages, was ordered to be read a third time next day."

Other considerations appear to have prevailed; for, next day, the bill was passed without esssential modifications; the opinion probably being that the bill was not worth improving.

SPAIN AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

On Wednesday Mr. HUME asked some questions about the slave trade, and the state of things in Cuba. "There was now a new Government instituted in Spain, and the principal promoter of the slave trade to Cuba—Queen Christina—had been expelled from that country. The present, therefore, was a peculiarly favourable period for effecting the total suppression of the traffic on the part of the Spanish authorities in Cuba, and he was sure that Espartero would give his best assistance towards this great object."

Lord JOHN RUSSELL seized the opportunity to offer some hints to Espartero. He asserted that the trade was going down, and that in Cuba the importation was being at last officially discouraged: and he then "nudged" Espartero.

"In February, 1854, orders were issued there of the most stringent character, under which all slaves recently introduced were to be liberated; and Mr. Crawford expressed himself as having full confidence in the sincerity of the orders which had been so issued. Further orders to the same effect were issued in March, and, under them, 600 negroes who had recently arrived were taken by the authorities and released. Other orders directed that any of the authorities who should fail to report the arrival of fresh slaves in the island should be at once dismissed from their office and be subject to penalties; and under this regulation several district officers, who had offended against it, had been dismissed. In May, also, 600 negroes, who had been landed, and placed on an estate where it was imagined they would not be interfered with, had been released by the governor, with the full sanction of the tribunals. It was quite obvious that, if such measures were rigorously carried into effect, the importation of slaves into Cuba must soon cease. It was quite true that the venality of the persons who were employed under the Spanish Government in Cuba had, to a very large extent, frustrated the efforts which had been made to suppress the trade; but, as had been observed by his hon. friend, the Queen Mother of Spain, who—the fact was, unfortunately, too notorious—had been the chief promoter of the slave trade to Brazil, had been removed, and a new Government had been instituted in Spain, which he doubted not would give its energetic aid to the great object in view. General Concha, who had been appointed Governor-General of Cuba, would, it might be confidently expected, zealously co-operate; and the Duke of Vittoria, who was now at the head of the Spanish Government, he had every reason to believe, would leave no measure untried for the same purpose. He had long known that nobleman, and known him as a man of the greatest honour, integrity, and liberality of sentiment. He was quite sure that the duke would do all in his power to put an end to the venality and corruption in Cuba which had so long assisted the slave trade there; and her Majesty's Government would impress upon the duke, and upon the new authorities in Spain, that all the credit of their Government would be forfeited if this disgraceful traffic were to be continued under the sanction, in any way or device, of the Spanish Government. Her Majesty's Ministers would urge as strongly as possible, and as soon as possible, upon the new Government of Spain the necessity of effectually putting down that traffic. Lord Aberdeen and the Foreign Secretary of State had from time to time urged upon the Spanish Government, that earnestness of purpose was only needed to enable that Government to suppress the traffic, as other countries had suppressed it. His hon. friend need move no address on the subject, he might be assured that her Majesty's Government would keep a watchful eye on the matter; and that, setting aside all motives of interest which they might have, they felt that the total suppression of this trade and the consequent civilisation of Africa were objects deserving of the utmost endeavours to accomplish.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY said, with evident disbelief in the efficacy of these courteous insinuations,—"the English Government should try coercion if no other plan will succeed!"

RUSSIAN SECURITIES BILL.—This bill was read a third time in the House of Commons on Monday.

BOARD OF HEALTH BILL.—This bill was passed by the Lords on Tuesday—the standing orders (against receiving bills so late) being suspended, politely, on the ground of urgency.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. HUME.

THIS week Mr. Hume reached the great Radical success of his career:—the Whigs have presented him with a portrait; and the City of London with the freedom of the city in a gold box even more valuable, being worth 200*l*.

The deputation from the subscribers to the portrait went up to Mr. Hume's house, in Bryanstone-square, on Monday. Mr. Hume, with Mrs. and Miss Hume (the poetess), and others of his family, received the company. The deputation included four Whig Ministers: Lord John, Lord Palmerston, Sir C. Wood, and Sir William Molesworth. Lord John read the address (which is to Mrs. Hume):—

"Madam,—I have the honour to present to you a full-length portrait of Mr. Hume. This portrait has been painted by that distinguished artist, Mr. Lucas, at the request of a large body of subscribers, among whom are seventy-five members of the legislature. I will mention a few of those who have held conspicuous situations in the councils of the Crown, or who have guided in critical moments the deliberations of Parliament. Among the former are Lord Palmerston, Lord Broughton, Lord Panmure, Mr. Disraeli, Sir George Grey, Sir Charles Wood, and Sir William Molesworth; among the latter are Mr. Cobden, and many others whose opinions have great weight both in Parliament and in the country. The list of those who share in the sentiments of the subscribers, but whose names do not appear, would indeed be a long one. It would comprise the whole Liberal party, and many whose views do not agree with those of that numerous party. The sentiments to which I here allude are those of respect and affectionate regard for one whose services to his country have been able, indefatigable, and disinterested; who, through a long career, has never been turned aside from his path by the calculations of selfishness or the animosities of political strife; who has supported without forfeiting his independence, and opposed without provoking personal hostility. To the members of the Liberal party long engaged, though with various modifications, in the same task of political improvement other recollections will occur. They will recal the time when disability on account of religious difference was the rule and not the exception; when the green mounds of Old Sarum had their representatives, and the thriving community of Manchester had none; when by prohibition and by duties the common food of the people was restricted in its passage, and burdened on its entrance; when the popular cause was prostrate, and men of liberal views proscribed. Mr. Hume has laboured long, with perseverance, with courage, with energy, to change this state of our laws and of our legislature. More especially in the cause of economy and retrenchment his untiring efforts have been conspicuous and successful. The voice of the people has encouraged his efforts, and a spotless reputation is a part of his reward. The conscience that he has served his country as an honest and disinterested patriot will, we all trust, brighten his remaining course, and after the heat of the day give calmness and serenity to the evening of his honourable life."

"Mr. Hume said—My lords and gentlemen, I assure you, on behalf of Mrs. Hume, that she is deeply sensible of the great and unexpected compliment which you have thus paid to us. No person has been more desirous than herself to see this country prosper, or, at the same time, less inclined to meddle in political affairs. It has been otherwise with me. I have for a long period been actively engaged in public life; and a stern sense of duty has often compelled me to differ from those with whom I was desirous of co-operating; but, my lord, I can assure you, that no man can have more regretted the necessity of such differences than myself. It is, however, a great consolation to me to look back to the period to which your lordship has alluded, for I recollect with pleasure that an humble subaltern in the ranks has aided in bringing about the changes which have taken place in favour of civil and religious liberty. In all matters I have been guided by one general principle—the interest of the many. (*Cheers.*) Before I entered Parliament I adopted the principle—not at that time very much in favour—known as Bentham's principle, that, namely, of securing for the greatest possible number the greatest possible advantages which good government could afford. From the hour that I first entered Parliament that has been my leading principle. I have always been anxious to promote economy and retrenchment as a means of lessening the burdens of the people, and of making the administration of public affairs honest and pure; and had that system been more fully carried out, we should have been spared many of those scenes which have recently disfigured the aspect of our representative institutions. My lord, I am now an old man. It is forty-three years since I first entered Parliament, and for the last thirty-six years my political life has been uninterrupted. I have undoubtedly committed many errors in its course, but my faults have not been those of intention; and it is most gratifying to me, towards the close of my political career, to see around me on this occasion not only those with whom I have acted, but many also who formerly differed, or still continue to differ, from me, who no doubt feel that we had the same object in view, though our means of attaining it may be different. And it is pleasing to me, however, to believe that we are all gradually approximating towards the same views, as to the measures and principles best calculated to secure the future welfare of our country. Nothing, my lord, could give me greater gratification than to see so many friends assembled around me, to pay me a compliment so unexpected and so far beyond anything to which I am entitled. Numerous as are the marks of approbation which I have at different times received from different parts of the country, I reckon none equal in value to that which you have now conferred upon me. I can only say further, that this portrait having been originally designed to be placed in some public institution, Mrs. Hume and myself have consulted together on the subject; and as no public question has engaged my attention more constantly than that of education—(*cheers*)—ever since the year 1811, when I was a member of the Lancasterian School Society, at a time when we had still to dispute the question whether education for the masses was a good or an evil, it has appeared to us, more especially as I had the honour of being a member of the first council of University College, that nothing could be more gratifying to us both than to see my portrait placed in that institution. (*Cheers.*) Having been for years a member of its council I know how much that institution has done to raise the standard of education and the qualifications of instructors throughout the country, and I hope the council will accept the offer which Mrs. Hume desires me to make of placing this portrait under their care and at their disposal. My lords and gentlemen, I have only again to thank you for the kindness which you have shown me, and to assure you that nothing can efface the impression it has made; and I trust that no act of mine, while I continue my labours, will tend in any degree to forfeit the feelings of friendship and esteem which you have honoured me with." (*Cheers.*)

The portrait is to go to University College—that being regarded as the fittest place for the memorial of a man who has been forty years a member of the House of Commons!

OUR CIVILISATION.

AT the Chester Assizes, Sarah Featherston was charged with the murder of Joseph Chadderton Featherston, her son, aged eleven months:—

"The prisoner, who is a respectable-looking girl, not quite twenty years of age, has followed the business of a dressmaker at Stoke, near Crewe, for some time past. About two years ago she was seduced by a young man, who afterwards deserted her. She gave birth to a male child, and about two months since the prisoner put it out to nurse to a woman named Hannah Latham. The prisoner had been promised marriage by another young man recently. The child was a very sickly one, and as no money had been paid by the mother for its maintenance, Mrs. Latham said she could no longer keep it. Accordingly, on Friday morning the 28th ult., the prisoner fetched the child from the nurse. Nothing farther was seen of it until the following Tuesday morning, the 1st inst., when, as the constable of the district was passing a small pit near the Shropshire Union Canal, close to the nurse's residence, something in it attracted his attention, and he took from it the body of a male infant. The frock was pinned over its head, and two half-bricks were fastened within the frock against the head. The child was quite dead. After her apprehension the prisoner said to the special high constable, immediately prior to her being taken before the coroner, 'I wish you to tell Mr. Edleston (a solicitor) that he need not attend, for I am guilty of the crime; it is of no use me denying it.' For her defence, it was stated that the prisoner's father died in a state of insanity, her uncle is at present in a lunatic asylum, her sister is an idiot, and it was said that she (the prisoner) had attempted some months ago to commit suicide. The probability that the death might have been caused by a fall, and that the unfortunate mode of getting rid of the body, adopted by the prisoner, was in order to avoid the shame of a public funeral, was pressed upon the consideration of the jury by the learned counsel for the prisoner. She was found 'Guilty,' with a strong recommendation to mercy. His Lordship (Martin), having put on the black cap, passed sentence of death in the usual form. The recommendation to mercy should be forwarded to the proper quarter, but at present he could hold out no hope. His lordship was very much affected while passing sentence. Mr Swetenham then pleaded the prisoner's pregnancy, and a jury of matrons was immediately empanelled. They found, after seeing the prisoner in the gaol, that she is not quick with child."

A Presbyterian clergyman has been in a disgraceful position before the Longton magistrates. The information charged the Rev. John Magee Martyn with being the putative father of a male illegitimate child, of which Sarah Felicia Holmes, a Sunday-school teacher, and an exceedingly good-looking single woman is the mother:—

"Miss S. F. Holmes, the complainant, a young female, apparently about twenty-two years of age, gave her evidence in a firm but very becoming manner. The substance of her statement was, that she was a milliner and straw bonnet maker living at Hanley, and knew the Rev Mr. Martyn, the defendant, who was the minister of the Presbyterian church in that town. She became acquainted with him by going to his church and being a teacher in his Sunday school. She considered herself engaged to defendant six years ago, and during that time he had promised her marriage. Their meetings usually took place in her father's house, and they were generally left together in the front room. She had met the rev. defendant at other places, and had walked out with him about three times. On the 15th of October last she gave birth to a child. The complainant here detailed particulars of repeated intercourse commencing at the latter end of 1852, and continuing over several months in the following year, and, in answer to questions from the magistrates, she stated that such intercourse took place in her father's house, the do-

fendant usually fastening the door of the front room. Mr. Martyn paid her a sovereign before the birth of the child towards expenses. He (defendant) was considered her accepted suitor, and both her father and mother knew of it. They first became aware of her situation on the 8th of July in the present year. She had mentioned the matter to Mr. and Mrs. Chetwyn. Emma Chawner took a note to the Rev. Mr. Martyn for her on a Saturday, and he met her in the evening when he embraced her. Mr. Chetwyn is one of the elders of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Martyn expressed his surprise that she should have so exposed him. The Rev. Mr. Martyn was then sworn, and he positively denied everything that the complainant had stated, or that he had ever received a note from Emma Chawner. The Bench said that they felt bound, from the evidence brought forward, to affiliate the child; and ordered the Rev. Mr. Martyn to pay 2s. 6d. per week and the costs.

Bishop, the music-master at the Appleby seminary, has been tried this week for running away with the girl, Ward, a heiress, twelve years of age, and whom he had married, and he has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. There can be but one opinion as to the idiotcy of the parents in bringing a bad case to such a worse result; for the marriage is indissoluble.

James Burrel, a soldier, billeted at a public-house at Whitehaven, got "friendly" with the landlady, made her drunk, and then ravished her, or attempted —she was not very sure which. The case has been tried at Cumberland Assizes this week: the prisoner found guilty of attempt, and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

At the Guildford Assizes, Ann Berryman, a young girl, a dressmaker, has been tried on a charge of concealing the birth of her child, and acquitted. She had been seduced; became pregnant; there was a premature birth of a dead infant, and, to hide her shame, she burnt the body and buried the bones!

At the Lambeth Police Court, Sarah Seymour has been a character this week. She is a young girl in love with a young man; being on board a Thames steamer she sees her young man, on one of the piers, in company with another young woman: in her jealous despair she throws herself into the river, and is only saved after great efforts. The magistrate lectures her, she cries, is very sorry, and is discharged—to make inquiries about her young man.

The woman Brough, the heroine of the "Esher tragedy," has been tried this week for the murder of her children, and found "Not guilty, on the ground of insanity." Dr. Winslow gave evidence which produced this result on the jury; and what he says is of general application in all such cases:—

"In answer to a question put by Mr. Bodkin, Dr. Winslow expressed an opinion, from what he had heard in the prisoner's case, that her brain was structurally disorganised, and he said this would render it much more disposed to be affected by any moral shock. He went on to say that the mere fact of an enormous crime being committed without any apparent motive would not alone induce him to come to the conclusion that the person committing it was insane; but he said that if he found any one had killed a near relation without any motive, and that it appeared they had, up to the time of the act being committed, been on kind and affectionate terms, he should certainly think that *primâ facie* it was an indication of insanity; but he should not positively come to that conclusion without regarding all the other surrounding circumstances.

"Upon being re-examined, Dr. Winslow said he was of opinion that, at this moment, the prisoner was suffering from disease of the brain."

At the Tipperary Assizes, two men have been tried, and found guilty of being ringleaders in a riot of the Roman Catholic population of Nenagh against some Presbyterian missionaries, who were out that way "proselytising." This was the third time the men had been tried; the two previous juries being so afflicted with religious partisanship as to be unable to come to any verdict. It appears that the proselytisers were "stoned" by the mob; and impartial spectators cannot but approve of such treatment in such a case.

At Ayr, one evening lately, a party of three women and one man were seen walking together on the beach, and separated, the man taking his position barely out of pistol shot; and, to the surprise of onlookers, he commenced stripping as if going to bathe. But surprise was succeeded by consternation on the part of the spectators when one of the women began to divest herself of her clothes. The man met the lady half-way, and, to the amazement of all who witnessed the spectacle, gave her his arm, and slowly and ceremoniously marched into the sea knee deep. Adult baptism was the key to this proceeding; for the man, after pronouncing some gibberish, immersed his companion over head and ears, and, pronouncing a benediction, they slowly returned to their respective places. The party went off singing psalms aloud. Subsequent inquiry brought out the fact that the dipper is a Mormonite, a disciple of Joe Smith, and the dippee is a newly-made convert.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

A Mr. O'Keefe, alias O'Keel, "an Irish gentleman," has been before the Marlborough-street magistrate on a charge of obtaining 500*l.* on false pretences, from a spinster, Priscilla East, residing at Bedford-place, Russell-square. The false pretence was that the gentleman would marry her; the fact being that the gentleman couldn't, being already married. They were opposite neighbours; and their acquaintance had been made by ogling one another across the street. The money had been obtained in small sums, from time to time; the circumstance that the swain had a wife in existence not being found out till the last.

Miss Kaul, a German lady, was walking along Long-acre, a "street boy" ran behind her, and put an ignited lucifer match under her petticoats; they caught fire: and the flames were with difficulty extinguished. The boy had done it in the mere spirit of mischief: and he was sent to goal for fourteen days. The sagacious magistrate said:—"The boys of London were London's greatest curse. They were brought up to no trade or calling, and were encouraged in every species of mischief by their parents. If he had the power, he would order this boy to be well whipped."

A Mrs. Briggs, of Chelsea, was delivered of a stillborn child: Mr. Briggs gave the body to a woman, with 2s. 6d. for its burial: the woman put the body into an old box, and walked to a cemetery. Meeting a friend on the way, they went to drink, spent the money, and, in a state of drunkenness, reeled about the street: the box falling, the child rolls out into the street, and a police case is the result.

A Bradford Jury, in an inquest on the body of a woman who died of cancer in the breast, have returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the practitioner (unqualified) who had attended her. He had professed to cure cancer "without cutting," and was largely employed in the neighbourhood.

A man of the name of Dean hung himself in Liverpool this week, because, for two or three months, he had been unsuccessful in his search for employment. In the letter which he left addressed to his wife, he excuses the act on the plea that he was starving.

NOTES ON THE WAR.

An expedition has sailed from Varna; and, according to the *Times*, who speaks authoritatively, this expedition is to land "on the heights of Sebastopol," which is to be besieged by sea and land.

News is daily expected from the Baltic of the destruction of Bomarsund; French troops landing, English ships bombarding.

The Russians have retreated beyond the Pruth; and both Principalities are, probably, at this moment free of Russian soldiers. Omar Pacha is in Bucharest.

These are the great facts of the war; the diplomatic facts are supplied by the speech of Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords on Thursday night.

Before leaving Bucharest, Prince Gortschakoff assembled the Boyards, and thanked them for the manner in which they had treated the Russian troops during their stay in Bucharest. The general added, that strategic reasons induced him to quit the city, but that it was not improbable he might return at an early period.

This is Omar Pacha's address:—"Romanen,—When the Russian troops before Silistria learned that I was marching against them at the head of 80,000 men, they retired. I am now going to cross the Danube, and hope, by God's help, to drive back our and your enemy to Bessarabia. Be united one with another. Your situation will shortly improve.—OMAR."

Adlerberg arrived at Frateschti at the time that Gortschakoff was drawing up his plan of retreat. At this interview a rancorous and violent discussion took place between the two generals of the Czar. In the presence of his aides-de-camp, Adlerberg upbraided the prince with an aimless neglect of his duty, and even intimated that he was guilty of cowardice. The prince, who, like most Russian officers, is very irritable, would hear no more, but said that Adlerberg being merely the courier of the Czar, his duty was to deliver his despatches, and receive the answer; further, he had no business in the camp. To this Adlerberg, who is more of the courtier than the warrior, answered tranquilly that he would rather "be a conscientious and faithful courier, than a beaten and retreating general."

In the Black Sea a circumstance has taken place extremely disgraceful to the allied navies; a Russian war-steamer, the Vladimir, got out of Sebastopol, steamed to the Bosphorus, making an attempt to capture an English steamer; destroyed some Turkish vessels on her way back, and got home unperceived and unchased by either French or English! It was a bold deed; and the captain of the Vladimir should be remembered among the heroes of the romance of war.

The French admiral in the Baltic has addressed a very Frenchy proclamation to his sailors. The following is the most salient passage:—

"The Russian fleet keeping close at home appears resolved not to accept the combat offered by the fleets of the allies. Before Cronstadt our work seemed to sink to the blockade of 500 leagues of coast. The Emperor was not willing to allow this to be so. His Majesty has selected and designated an important object for our efforts and our guns. I am happy in telling you this. The brave General Baraguay d'Hilliers is at hand, with 10,000 of our valiant troops. The Emperor sends his eagles to join our ships, and show the northern regions what the powerful will of France, armed for a noble cause—the right of the weakest, and the liberty of Europe—can do."

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Ost Deutsche Post* gives a sad account of the Turkish army at Kars, Sarif Pacha, the commander-in-chief, is represented as a man without intelligence, energy, or the least military knowledge. There are sinister rumours that European officers have been fired at by the irregulars, and of some of them having been publicly massacred.

"Private telegraphic advices from Berlin, based on authentic information, state that it is the menaced situation of the Crimea and the other maritime provinces of southern Russia, and that alone, which has induced the Czar to withdraw his troops from the Principalities. The Russian regiments in Bessarabia and Kherson are to move in all possible haste to the Crimea, while those in Moldavia march to occupy their places."

Four French generals have died of cholera at Gallipoli.

"In addition to Lady Erroll, who remains with her husband at Monastie, the following ladies are at Varna:—Mrs. Carpenter, wife of the Colonel of the Forty-first Regiment; Mrs. Wrottesley, with her husband, the Hon. Lieutenant Wrottesley, R.E.; Mrs. Galton, wife of Captain Galton, Fiftieth Regiment; Mrs. Jubilee, wife of Captain Jubilee, &c. Mrs. Scott, wife of Colonel Scott, of the Guards, remains with her family at Therapia, where there is quite a little colony of English "grass widows," principally attached to officers of the navy."

The Naib, Sheik Emin, brother-in-law of Schamyl, reached Constantinople yesterday, per Scheisser, after having conferred at Varna with the authorities and commanders of the auxiliary forces. The Sheik landed at Baksche-Capon, with a retinue of mountain warriors, and thence proceeded directly to the Porte, where he was received with open arms by the Grand Vizier and all the great functionaries. The object of this visit is unknown, but it appears that the Caucasus is in a state of the utmost commotion—that it is impossible much longer to restrain the mountain tribes.

Accounts from Belgium state that, as a proof of the conviction of the allied Governments that the war with Russia will not finish this year, contracts have been made at Hamburg and other places for the supply of the shipping and troops, during the whole season of 1855. The King of Sweden, in an interview with General Baraguay d'Hilliers, upon being greatly complimented by the latter, with an expression, at the same time, of the sincere desire of the allies to have his Majesty's active co-operation, is stated to have asked, in reply, whether it was expected that he should set his army in motion against Russia, and bear the brunt of any probable check in an enemy's country, when the allied troops had been five months coming to the scene of action? We are not told how this reasonable objection was met.—*Morning Advertiser* (City article).

A Benevolent Expedition to the Baltic.—The *Messager de la Charité* says:—"We are informed that five Sisters of Charity have set off for Boulogne to form part of the expedition to the Baltic. They are to be placed on board the hospital ships, where they are to attend on the sick."

The Great Shaving Question remains in this wise—Lord Raglan will issue no order on the subject, but the officers and men of the first division may wear moustaches, though they *must shave* their *chins*. Brigadier Bentinck was very anxious to restrict the growth of the moustache to a week's produce, after which he recommended clipping with scissors; but the Guards have got their own way, and the moustache is to be allowed to attain the greatest development nature permits in each case.

TURKISH LOAN.—Rumours are again flying about as to a Turkish loan. The *Times*' City article says:—"It is understood that the Turkish Government still contemplate a small loan in this country, and that the details have been already arranged with Baron Goldsmid and Messrs. Palmer, Mackillop, and Co. Rumours, however, which were circulated to-day on the subject, were incorrect as regards the intended terms."

The writer of the same article endeavoured, in yesterday's *Times*, to make some amends for his past attempts to render the loan impossible in London by writing up Turkish credit, and pointing out those circumstances which entitles her now to do what all other European states have done—acquire a public debt. This suggests that something is at last being done, and that we may soon expect to see Turkish stock on 'Change.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE AUSTRIAN LOAN IN LOMBARDY.—All letters from Lombardy just now are filled with protestations against the so-called voluntary loan. It is difficult, indeed, to conceive how the Government is to succeed in obtaining *enforced* contributions to the amount of 65,000,000 florins from a population notoriously disaffected, and utterly wanting in confidence in the good faith of the Government, on account of its very peculiar system of financial policy. No doubt, under other circumstances, the terms offered of taking 95 florins paper for 100 florins stock, allowing 17 per cent. premium on payment in metallic currency, and 5 per cent. interest on the loan, are so favourable, that no difficulty would have been found in raising the sum required, notwithstanding the embarrassed state of almost every person in the kingdom. But, as things exist, these terms are considered but small inducements in Lombardy to risk capital in Austrian loans. Impartial readers of history will not be surprised at this diffidence on the part of the Lombardo-Venetians, but the Government has already provided against the backwardness of such persons as guardians of minors, trustees of charities or other public institutions, agents of sequestered estates, &c., by issuing injunctions to them so strong, "that if they do not forthwith contribute all available funds to the Government loan they will be held guilty of maladministration," as would elsewhere be thought most unjustifiable menaces; and in the case of some of the last mentioned class, who excused themselves by saying they had no money and many liabilities, the answer was, "Where there are debts there must be credit."—*Times*.

THE NAPOLEON FETES IN PARIS.—Louis Napoleon will not be present at the Paris *fête* in honour of St. Napoleon on the 15th. He has accepted an invitation to be present at a ball at Bayonne, fixed for that day; his excuse being that he cannot be long absent from the Empress. The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"Though the *fête* will go on all the same, yet the absence of the Emperor on such an occasion is remarked as strange, and various causes are assigned for it, more or less doubtful as to their accuracy. It has, indeed, been circulated that it is fear of the cholera which prevents the Emperor from returning at this moment to the capital, but the visit to the Pyrenees during the summer had been decided on long since, and the Emperor, when President of the Republic, did not quit Paris in 1849 during the period that the cholera raged with most violence. I should doubt his feeling any pusillanimity on that score, even if there were cause for it."

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The *Athenæum* says: The edifice in the *Champs Elysées* preparing for the *Exposition* of next year is now in a state that some opinion may be formed of its effects, proportions and distribution. The leading idea appears to be a vast oblong central hall,—since, though the side galleries and double aisles are wide, and the former are abundant in the amount of space which they provide, by the nature of the composition they are so shut off from the central portion as, in no point of view, to be commanded by the eye in conjunction with it. This separation is on the lower story further aided by the heaviness of the iron-work, which, unless it be decorated with remarkable skill, bids fair to produce the effect of a wilderness of columns and cross-beams in deep shadow,—so intricate as to destroy all intimation of the area betwixt them and the outer wall. Then, the distribution of light and shade—or, to speak more exactly, of glare and gloom—may offer difficulties of detail which it will require as much ingenuity as foresight to cope with. In the central hall,—although it is to be glazed with ground glass,—the affluence of daylight and sunshine may become dazzling. In the side aisles, on the ground floor, light is so sparingly admitted that subdivision will be almost impossible in anything higher than dwarf partitions. To eyes accustomed to the Crystal Palaces at Knightsbridge and Sydenham, the central hall of the Parisian building will seem deficient in height,—while the curves of the iron-work in the roof, when viewed in certain positions, have an appearance which is more singular than satisfactory to the unscientific eye. The outer elevation of the building, which is solid stone-work, offers less matter for doubt and question. It is simple and handsome.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL AND THE JEWS.—The *Cologne Gazette* states that the King of Portugal, during his late visit to Amsterdam, having been informed that the Portuguese Jews in that city formed a commune apart, and had a synagogue to themselves, visited it, and promised the chief of the commune that, on his return to Portugal, he would endeavour to have the old Portuguese laws which banished all Jews repealed.

The king of Saxony has had an ignominiously unroyal death. Travelling home from the Munich Conference to Dresden his carriage was upset; and in the struggle and confusion one of the horses, kicking, struck him on the head, the blow proving fatal.

SPAIN.

ESPARTERO has formed his cabinet, and, already, there are rumours that he and O'Donnell are at variance on several vital points—one of these referring to the disposal of Queen Christina, whom the generous Espartero would allow to escape, whom O'Donnell would compel to disgorge her infamously-gotten wealth, and whom the people would very justly hang if they could but get hold of her. The elections of the Cortes are to take place in a month; and meanwhile the Juntas hold conditional power. In Madrid the barricades are removed (it is remarkable that Lord Howden arrived the same day that they were demolished), but the people hold their arms, and watch affairs with caution—the public instinct suggesting that the revolution is by no means complete.

To one of the Junta's addresses, Espartero replied in these words:—

"I have need of the co-operation of you and of all well-thinking men, to complete the consolidation of the popular guarantees which I am anxious to give to the nation, and I have no doubt that, with the aid of such persons, we shall achieve this great result—that in Spain liberty shall no longer be in danger."

The *Times*' Madrid correspondent says:—

"It is feared that there is a difference of opinion among the members of the Government as to the line of policy to be followed hereafter. There is a manifest desire on the part of some that Queen Isabella should absent herself from Madrid for some time, under the pretext of going to some watering-place, and San Sebastian is spoken of for that purpose. It is also known that some of the Generals are disposed to reactionary intrigues, and the name of Narvaez is now at length beginning to be spoken of. A rumour also prevails that General Prim is about to return from the east. It would certainly be strange if General Prim was able to resist the temptation the moment the breath of revolution reached him. What side he would have taken, supposing the struggle not to have been over, it is difficult to say. Prim always passed for a Liberal, or something more, but he was yet believed to be on good terms up to the last with Sartorius. If he comes now he will find it too late, unless he joins the discontented party. . . . The real cause of dissension is the abdication of the queen. Many among the Moderadoes would urge on that measure merely for the purpose of confusion, and the more advanced section of the Liberals demand it, because they are convinced that the queen is at heart false, and that she will take the first favourable opportunity of betraying the party now is power."

Another correspondent says, in reference to the proposed sea-bathing of Isabella:—

"Undoubtedly change of air would be very desirable for the Princess of the Asturias. Persons who have seen her within the last few days assure me that her aspect is most sickly; her complexion is cadaverous, and her eyes are deeply sunk in her head, which is of an unnatural and unhealthy size. Her life, according to the most trustworthy reports, is a very precarious one."

Queen Christina has made several attempts to get away from Madrid to Portugal; but O'Donnell has refused her a guard; no postilions can be induced to serve her; and armed men are night and day awaiting along the roads to stop her. Her position is precarious; and she has no reliance but in the devotion of her Queen-daughter, who shelters her in her palace, and has made her safety a condition with Espartero.

The last Madrid news is:—

"In the course of the day deputations from various sections of Madrid presented themselves before the Junta, to request that body to prevent Queen Christina from leaving the kingdom until she had been tried by the Cortes. The Junta immediately communicated this request to the Council of Ministers, which, after a long and animated discussion, determined to accede to the desire of the people."

ITALY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Independance Belge* writes, that in consequence of the agitation in Italy, Austrian troops have been sent from Trieste to Ancona, and that an Austrian camp is about to be formed on the Abruzzi frontier, as a precaution against a rising in Naples. Some *emeutes* have occurred at Prato and Pistoja, in Tuscany. A regiment of infantry is on the march to reinforce the Austrian army of occupation in the grand duchy. "In connexion with this news I may mention that the belief is almost universal among the liberal party here, that a revolutionary movement on a large scale will take place in Italy before the autumn."

A military conference was held at Vienna on Friday week, when it was resolved to order the Italian army to be made *mobile*, and to call out its cavalry reserves.

The rumour is renewed that Bavarian troops are to do Austrian garrison duty in Lombardy.

UNITED STATES.

THE commercial advices from New York to-day mention no new events in connexion with the prevailing panic. A partial recovery had taken place in the stock-market, but there were no general signs of any mitigation of distrust. The banks, however, had continued to discount more freely, their stock of specie having increased, notwithstanding the remittances to England; and these circumstances seem to have assisted materially in lessening the difficulties of the crisis to legitimate traders.

The bombardment of the free port of San Juan, or Greytown, Nicaragua, and its trivial causes had excited much comment. One of the captains of a river steamer of the Nicaragua Transit Company shot a native boatman a few months back after a short dispute, and alleged that he had done so as the man was about to fire at him. When summoned, however, to an investigation by the local authorities at San Juan, he refused to appear either then or at any future time, and was supported in this course by Mr. Borland, the United States' Minister to Central America, who happened to be on board a steamer at San Juan, on his way home. The authorities endeavoured to arrest the captain, but met an armed resistance, during which Mr. Borland received some accidental blow. For this the United States' sloop-of-war Cyane, was sent to demand an immediate apology, and, the authorities and inhabitants having declined to make the slightest approach to one, notice was given that on the following day the town—as the miserable collection of frame-houses built at the unattractive spot solely for commercial purposes is called—would be bombarded. The residents forthwith fled from danger, and the cannonade was kept up for six hours, when a party was landed to fire whatever was still standing. The destruction of the place was thus completed, "only one or two small buildings in the suburbs remaining to mark the spot." The United States press condemns this booby brutality.

It is said that "a treaty of neutrality has been signed between the United States and Russia. Russia wishes to negotiate with the States for the sale of territory for fear of its being captured by the British."

EGYPT.

SAID PACHA has granted an amnesty to those who attempted to oppose his accession. He has abolished the Government monopoly in the corn trade, re-established free competition in cotton, and taken off several taxes. Enthusiasm consequently goes on increasing. A grand fete has welcomed his entrance into Alexandria.

On the 26th the Sultan issued a firman, confirming Said Pacha in the Government of Egypt. An Imperial commissioner, the bearer of that firman, was to leave in a day or two for Alexandria, to invite the viceroy to come and receive the investiture from the Sultan.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC-HOUSES ON SUNDAY.

THE new act comes into operation to-morrow. This document explains the requirements:—

The "Act for regulating the Sale of Beer and other Liquors on the Lord's Day" has received the Royal assent, and will come into operation next Sunday.

By the law as it now stands, public-houses, beer-shops, taverns, and hotels must close at twelve o'clock on Saturday night, and continue closed until one o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

In the afternoon they may open at one o'clock, and continue open until half-past two o'clock.

They must close at half-past two o'clock precisely, and continue closed until six in the evening.

At six o'clock they may again open their houses, and keep them open until ten o'clock, when they must close and continue closed until four o'clock on Monday morning.

It is important for the trade to observe the hours, and all persons should be very particular in not opening before the time, and in closing five minutes before half-past two, and five minutes before ten, that they may avoid any infringement of the law.

The parish church clock is the usual regulator of the time.

There is the usual exception in the act, allowing Licensed Victuallers during the prohibited hours to serve *bonâ fide* travellers and actual lodgers dwelling in the house, but there is no definition of what constitutes a traveller.

In all other respects the law is the same as before the act passed.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
WIRE AND CHILD,
Solicitors to the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society.
9, St. Swithin's-lane, 9th August, 1854.

THE CHOLERA.

THE cholera is on the increase in London. It is calculated this week that about 100 persons daily die of cholera within the bills of mortality. The deaths take place almost exclusively in poor districts: the greatest mortality being in the wretched localities near Westminster Hospital, where the accommodation for patients is criminally insufficient. In Somers Town several deaths have taken place; and on an inquest the coroner (Wakley) gave this sensible advice:—"Call in a medical man in every case of diarrhœa: that, neglected, leads to cholera."

The cholera is more or less prevalent in all the large towns through this country; but the local newspapers do not obtain any accurate intelligence.

The disease continues to make way in every part of Europe. By the last news we find that at Varna every day there died eighteen English soldiers; at the French camp matters are even worse, though the regulations are rigid and excellent. A Paris letter dated Wednesday, says:—

"The returns of deaths by cholera in Paris sent in to the Mairies on Friday give, I am informed, upwards of 150 for that day, an increase which is attributed to the great variation of the temperature. Of these 150 or 155, from 40 to 50 are set down to the hospitals, and the remainder occurred in private houses, particularly in the Banlieue. From 50 to 60 are also the cases of persons who had been previously wasted by disease, which rendered them susceptible of being attacked by the prevailing epidemic. The accounts from Marseilles and other places where it has raged with some intensity are more favourable. It has increased, however, at Toulon."

A letter, dated Perpignan, says:—

"In the south, the epidemic now extends along the shores of the Mediterranean from Genoa to near the foot of the Pyrenees, and Marseilles and Toulon are, as they always have been, the principal foci of the cholera. For many weeks past the diligences have been crowded with persons flying from the plague to places not yet infected; the roads have been covered with vehicles of every description carrying terror-stricken fugitives as far from their homes as their means would permit them to go; and some, fearing not to put a sufficient distance between them and the cholera, have crossed the frontier and passed into Spain. In fact, in some of the towns near the Rhone the population, it is affirmed, is diminished to one-quarter of its amount before the commencement of the epidemic.

"From Marseilles, which town has lost by deaths an incredible number of its inhabitants, the emigration still continues; many of the fuyards going to Toulouse, where the cholera has not yet appeared, although some cases have occurred in the Lower Garonne, and at Bordeaux."

A deputation from Hackney district has waited upon Lord Palmerston this week, and represented to him, upon medical evidence, that the cholera prevalent in that neighbourhood is attributable to the "foul, obnoxious, and loathsome condition of the Hackney Brook." His lordship answered that "in a few months" the Brook should be covered up. The deputation thanked him for his "courtesy."

BEVERLEY ELECTION.

A LETTER has been addressed to the *Globe*, by a Beverley "Reformer." The information contained in the following extract, as to Mr. Gordon's opinions, is important as indicating something of Lord Aberdeen's.

"From the first Mr. Gordon declared himself a progressive reformer. He was in favour of a large extension of the suffrage (5*l.*, or under), vote by ballot, and perfect religious equality (he emphatically declared that no man ought to pay for the support of the religion of another); and his private and public conduct attested that he was earnest and sincere in his professions.

"The constituency numbers a little over 1,000. Under the peculiar circumstances of the election, not more than about 800 could have possibly voted. Without any undue influence whatever, and on the strictest principles of purity, Mr. Gordon polled 493. His opponent only polled 192, all with a few exceptions Tories, and several of them members of a bigotted Tory Protestant association, of the Rev. Tresham Greg school."

THE SUSPENDED BOROUGHS.

GENERAL THOMPSON has addressed the following letter to a contemporary. After such a letter who can say that the General is too old for public life?

"Eliot Vale, Blackheath, August 8, 1854.

"The readiness with which your pages are opened to anything bearing on the interests of political reform, induces me to think you will see the opportunity of doing service by publishing the following remarks on the subject of the suspended boroughs. If I apply to the case with which I happen to be best acquainted, it will not be contrary to any rule of philosophy that I am aware of. It is for the concerned to inquire, how far the brick is a specimen of the house.

"The borough with which I am acquainted, is Hull. In the evil days of English history, it was a city set upon a hill. It afterwards lost caste, and for many years was deep in the degradation of the times. At the Reform Bill, its character was retrieved; in which I was art and part to the extent of being laid down and robbed at the door of the House of Commons, to the amount of many thousand pounds. One useful result was, that the taking up of freedoms by what were denominated the 'old freemen,' was virtually abandoned on all sides, there being no probability of profit in repayment of the cost. Success of course had depended on the union of what for shortness shall be called Whigs and Radicals. If either of these terms is hereafter used in connexion with disgraceful acts, I beg to protest against intending any unjustifiable imputation; and the great Whig body has it always in its power to clear itself by actions of any disreputable complicity.

"Success on subsequent occasions depended on the same union. A candidate appeared, who called himself a Whig. He came to me of his own accord, and invited me to enter into an engagement with him, that if any dispute arose between our respective friends or followers, the first who knew it should communicate with the other, in order that he might use his personal influence to put it down. Of course so rational a treaty was immediately ratified. The locality was Market-place East flags, two-thirds of the way from the Whig hostelry which was the Cross Keys, to mine which was the Kingston. Like justices in an affiliation case, I love to be particular.

"Some short time afterwards, a very paltry dispute arose, which I could have settled in half an hour if the compact with me had been kept. Some of my friends spoke perhaps boastingly of their strength. Instead of applying to me, the Whig candidate said to them, 'What *is* your strength? I hear you have a list. Show me your list.' The Radicals answered, that if they had a list, it was only for themselves. The Whig replied, 'I know your list is only two hundred. Now I will go and pay for two hundred new freedoms, and then I will defy your list.' And he went or sent accordingly, with two hundred golden sovereigns at one time and a hundred at another, and openly offered to buy any man his freedom who would sign a promise to vote as a named individual should direct. And the two hundred promises were produced accordingly. He thought to steal a march on the Conservatives by going into the market on the last day appointed for taking up freedoms. But the Conservatives showed cause for demanding a week's extension; and so they had time to purchase as many as they liked in turn. The Conservatives must be 'sensible they were very wrong;' but the deed was totally of the Whig's inventing, originating, and setting in motion. For authentication of all these operations on the market, reference may be made to the Reports of the Commissioners, and the proceedings of a public meeting of the constituency I called to take cognizance of the facts, and which may be found in the Hull papers of about the 31st of August, 1839.

"In some very unbecoming correspondence with me which was brought before this public meeting, the Whig complained bitterly that my friends should have a list he did not see. I wonder he did not complain there was not a community of wives. And why did he do all the damage to me and to the constituency which followed, in the teeth of his volunteered engagement to communicate with me? I could have put it all down by return of post. To this act of his is owing all the misery and defeat which followed, and it will not be the fault of his supporters if it does not end in the disfranchisement of the town.

"And this was followed up. In Commissioner Flood's report lately laid on the table of the House of Commons, I find the following passage:

"'——and it appears to me certain that it is to the uncompromising opposition of Colonel Thompson to all improper practices, and to his own (Mr. Clay's) acquiesence in them and belief that they were necessary to the success either of himself or of any other candidate professing similar political opinions, that Mr. Clay alludes when declining in January, 1847, to come forward as a candidate while Hull is "hampered by Colonel Thompson, who makes it impossible for any reformer to have a chance."'—Commissioner Flood's Report.

"Here then, because I refused to engage in practices which would justly have expelled me from the society of gentlemen, and warranted the exertion of the summary power residing in the crown for the purification of the Army List, I am found held up as the man who 'hampers Hull' and 'makes it impossible for any reformer to have a chance.' These are your reformers; I was in the way, was I, as the man walking on one side the street, is in the way of the man upon the other? This cancels all condonations. If there is anybody in the country who honestly uses the word Reform, there is matter for him to think upon at leisure,

"Thus then stands the actual case. The author and originator of the town's disgrace and all the mischief, is unseated, as he ought to be, by a committee of the House of Commons. His friends stand by him, and one association, I am sorry to say of the working classes, declares he is 'endeared to them by ten thousand ties.' I doubt whether it ever amounted to ten thousand. The Whigs (or so they call themselves) stick to him, and declare through their organ in the press, that they will support nobody but his nominee. I was asked if I would be that nominee, with an understanding to make way for the father of bribery when he is re-eligible. And I replied—(it was a rugged speech, but I hope no honest person was damaged by it)—that I would as soon think of selling my daughter for a concubine at New Orleans. The recommendation to this pleasant succession comes endorsed from the Reform Club. It is to help bribers out of the consequences of their deeds that this institution rears its head in Pall-mall. I wonder an honourable profession, in which I have a right to take some interest, should see its member unwarned, putting himself into a bed which has been qualified in the rough terms described.

"If the other boroughs were looked into, the same kind of things would be found; and the public lessons from the whole are many and important. I call upon the unrepresented, to wake out of sleep, and ponder on the nonsense of the pretended measures taken against parliamentary corruption, with the real object of keeping the masses excluded from the franchise. I invite the Ballot Society to double their energies, and remember O'Connell's story, of the man who had tried all ways of fattening his horse, till he was asked 'Did you ever try *corn*?' To the country at large, I would suggest the advantage of looking at the general case, and seeing who is who, and judging them by their performance. All kinds of men are now upon their trial.

"Of my own course, few words will suffice. I will not be a candidate, till the bribery nominee is withdrawn. The parties which support him know very well they cannot carry two. Even if there was not written 'Decency forbids,' they should not draw me into their ambuscade.

"Yours very sincerely,
"T. PERRONET THOMPSON."

ROBERT OWEN'S PETITION.

THE following is Mr. Robert Owen's recent Petition to the House of Lords presented, we believe, by Lord Brougham:—

"To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The Petition of Robert Owen humbly showeth,

"That the Crystal Palace at Sydenham is not only the best day-school ever yet opened to the public in this or in any other country, but the best Sunday-school also. Your Petitioner, therefore, prays that it may be opened to all classes every day in the year, and more especially because the mass of the people in these islands are grievously in want of a sound system of instruction in common things, in accordance with common sense.

"And your petitioner will for ever pray, &c.
"ROBERT OWEN."

A TORY VIEW OF THE PERIOD.

AN authoritative Tory writer in the *Press* is thus felicitously rhetorical on the "crisis"—and the Conservative function therein: viz., to act as a dead weight:—

"None but a violent and thoughtless partisan could find subject of unmixed exultation in the present parliamentary condition of the Coalition Ministry. However degrading to the Government, it is still more dangerous to the State. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the conclusion, that, if persisted in, the Constitution of this country must receive a great shock, and that the government of public opinion, through the agency of parties, which has hitherto been our security against violent political revolution, must gradually cease. The first effect of this change will probably be to throw the Administration of the country into the hands of courtiers, and, with a popular or discreet Court, the inevitable injury to public spirit and peril to public liberty of such a course may not immediately be recognised. But the process of degradation or disorder is certain. Either a powerful centralised Government will be established, and its resources of multiplied corruption brought to bear upon members of Parliament in detail, or the House of Commons, wrestling with the Court, and seeking refuge in an unconstitutional organisation, will resolve itself into committees, and invade the various offices of the Executive. The most corrupt form of government in the world is that which combines a centralised Administration with a popular Chamber, as was seen recently in France; and the most offensive and tyrannical form is that which invests a popular assembly with executive as well as legislative duties, as was felt two centuries ago in England. Yet there are the possible alternatives, which may be offered, and even soon, to the only country in which Parliamentary Government has succeeded, and which, only so late back as 1841, gave, by its agency, to Sir Robert Peel the most powerful Administration of the century. It is clear, therefore, that it was not the Reform Act of 1832 that destroyed, or even that impaired, party Government in England.

"We are far from supposing that the members of the present Cabinet are blind to these evils, or not discouraged by them. Many of them are men of great station in the country, who have risen to public eminence in the atmosphere of the House of Commons, and who, we doubt not, highly appreciate our system of public life. Although the distempered ambition of Lord John Russell has been mainly instrumental in bringing about the present lamentable state of affairs, it is quite impossible that such a man, now that the heat and fever of upsetting the Ministry of Lord Derby have passed, should be insensible to the errors which he has committed, and not feel that, with a little patience and constitutional restraint, he might perhaps at this moment have been First Minister of the Crown, at the head of a homogeneous party. Lord Aberdeen himself has never sate in the House of Commons, and never taken, until his present sorry displays, a leading part in the other House. No one ever imputed to him any fervid admiration of our parliamentary system. His mind was formed in the Austrian Chancery: he has always been a votary of political, and not public, life, of power without responsibility, and therefore as little as possible in the public gaze. He is now advanced in

years, ambitious, quite unprincipled, and very vain. There is nothing he will not do to retain the position which Court intrigue, and not parliamentary following, gave him. He will make war with or for Russia; oppose Parliamentary Reform, or propose Universal Suffrage; become a brother of the Oratory, or seek refuge in that Free Kirk which his blundering legislation called into existence. The cleverest thing that Lord Aberdeen ever did was to persuade the Whigs that he meant to abdicate at the termination of the first session of the Coalition. It was an act of the most adroit deception since the election of Pope Sixtus. Such a man will not have any twinges about the fate of the English Constitution, and, we doubt not, is quite prepared to close his career as one of those courtier Ministers with which his country has so prodigally furnished us, and add another to the resplendent list of the Carrs, the Hays, and the Butes. Nothing, however, will persuade us that English gentlemen, a Sir James Graham, or a Mr. Sidney Herbert, statesmen educated in the House of Commons, Parliament men, can, however serene may be their countenances in public, contemplate the present state of affairs without great disquietude and disapproval. * * * * *

"The runners and hangers-on of the Government, in order to divert the storm of public indignation from the heads of their patrons, have the cue to abuse the House of Commons, and to hold up that assembly as the cause of the inefficiency of the public service. This will never do. It is not true that the House of Commons, like the Ministry, has done nothing. The House of Commons, this session, has done a great deal. It has stopped Parliamentary Reform; it has vindicated the Protestant character of the Constitution; it has checked centralisation; it has given another blow to the scheme of secular education, which is continually brought forward in so many insidious forms. These are not mean services; and a grateful country will on reflection not fail to recognise that it is indebted for these benefits, not merely to the House of Commons, but to that spirit of party discipline which still largely prevails in that assembly. It is the rallying of the Conservative party that has steadied the ship. Amid a crowd of hostile and rival sections—old Whigs headed by Lord Seymour, discontented Radicals pushing on Lord Dudley Stuart, the Manchester school inflamed by the indignant logic of Mr. Bright, Sir William Heathcote crossing himself at the head of the Tractarians, and the Popish recusants brooding in sullen vengeance over the ruins of their betrayed confederacy—there is still in the House of Commons a numerous and compact party; not anxious for power, yet not afraid to assume it, and resolved never to retain it unworthily—a numerous and compact party prepared to uphold with all their energies the English Constitution."

AN M.P.'S VIEW OF PARTIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. LUCAS, M.P., writes thus to his journal, the *Tablet*:—

"The disorganisation which weakens and paralyses the Government is not confined to them. It extends, I need hardly say, to the Conservatives, and it places a serious impediment in the way of that which many honest people desire—I mean the junction of the independent Liberal elements of the House of Commons for the purpose of checking and propelling a Liberal Ministry. Upon the dissensions of the Conservative Opposition I have no need to enlarge at present. It is commonly said that about sixty or seventy members are all that the leader of the Opposition can count upon. The rest of that once formidable band are sheep without a shepherd. Amongst the independent members the differences are not less obvious, and presuming upon these differences and the impossibility of overcoming them, the Government play with Liberal interests as they please. Of course in this enumeration I leave out of account the apostate Irish members. They are the merest slaves of the Government, and cannot be counted on either now or hereafter for any independent course. But leaving them out of account, the misfortune is that the Liberal members who really mean to be independent are disunited among themselves. Religious questions form one element of this disunion—and by religious questions I mean the hatred which some members and more constituents bear to the Catholic religion. Leaving, however, religious questions out of account, look at the experience of the past week. We have just seen a movement amongst certain independent members in a sense more or less hostile to the Government; but as far as opinion went the members who were most hostile to that movement are also independent Liberal members, who should be at the head of the independent Liberal party. Setting aside the rivalry of mere personal ambition, if there were two men pitted against each other on Monday night, it was Mr. Cobden and Mr. Layard—Mr. Cobden all for peace, Mr. Layard all for war. The men who have the most capacity to lead an independent party in the House are the heads of what is called the Manchester party. But, after all, the war is the great question in every man's mind, and upon war the Manchester leaders are at variance with the bulk of those who, on matters of home policy, would be prepared to act with them. I do not see that there need be any very great difficulty in uniting the independent Liberals from England with the independent Liberals from Ireland upon grounds that should be satisfactory to both, and beneficial to both countries. If there are difficulties in the way these seem to me to be not insuperable, and the part of an honest and reasonable politician is to endeavour to overcome them. I see that the *Leader* has lately been working in this direction, and, I am sure, I wish every success to his efforts. I am afraid the session is too far gone for anything very decisive to be done at present; but I hope that before Parliament next assembles—even if a complete accord and agreement upon all objects cannot be hoped for—yet, that at least some topics may be selected upon which, by common efforts of independent men, sound principles may be advanced and promoted. If something of this kind is not done, great opportunities will be thrown away. I earnestly hope the *Leader* will follow up with energy what is so well begun upon this subject."

THE WINDSOR BARRACKS AFFAIR.

THE court-martial on Lieutenant Perry is still in progress—the progress being like that of a "navvy" in a sewer—the heaping of filth and mud on either side. No facts have come out, in the last week's evidence, to present the case in any new aspect. On Thursday, a correspondence between different officers was produced, which tends to leave Lieutenant Perry in a position in which he will lose all the sympathy the public have extended to him. This is the damaging letter:—

"LIEUTENANT SHERVINTON TO MAJOR FYFFE.

"Weedon, May 31.

"Sir,—In obedience to your orders, I beg to state below some of the complaints against Lieutenant Perry and Ensign Knapp, which I have found necessary at various times to bring to your notice.

"Lieutenant Perry some short time ago (in presence of Ensign Waldey and his servant), upon the occasion of my handing him a memorandum respecting drills, which were written by your directions, went through the motions of wiping his posteriors with it, and returned it to me.

"He has also been absent as well as late for drills. On the 25th inst. he was absent from afternoon drill, for which omission he was directed by you to attend morning drills until further orders.

"Ensign Knapp I have had to bring before you for absence from morning drill; also for sulkiness and inattention on several occasions; together with improper conduct during divine service (reported by Captain Clarke). Having been reported absent from a board which assembled on Saturday last, he was directed by you to attend morning drills until further orders.

"Lieutenant Perry and Ensign Knapp, thus attending morning drill for omissions of duty, were reported to me this morning by the sergeant-major, for dictating and ordering him to substitute company drill for the position drill named in orders. The question having been settled by reference to me, they, after a considerable lapse of time, fell into the ranks in a most discontented and unofficer-like manner, which (I understand) caused considerable merriment to the men.

"The position drill (which they consider derogatory to their rank and position in the service) consisted of the extension motions and the usual portions of the sword exercise.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"C. R. SHERVINTON, Lieutenant, 46th Regiment,
"Acting Adjutant Detachment.

"The Officer Commanding 46th Regiment, Weedon."

The defence commences on Monday.

Meanwhile the result of the first court-martial on Lieutenant Greer has become known. The Court recommended that he be dismissed the service; but the Judge-Advocate General (who, of course, takes a hint from Prince Albert and other authorities) refuses to ratify the decision, on the ground that the trial was marked by injustice and unfairness. What authority will the Court now have when it re-meets?

THE COURT.

HER MAJESTY is to-day to prorogue Parliament in person.

On Wednesday, her Majesty, the Prince, and the children, with a party, cruised in the royal yacht, from Osborne to the Channel Islands, and anchored off Alderney—the Queen receiving on board an "address" from the astounded "authorities," and the Prince going on shore.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AMUSEMENTS OF SAN FRANCISCO.—An extraordinary pedestrian feat was performed in San Francisco the other day. An Englishman of the name of Hughes walked 80 consecutive hours, without resting one moment, on a plank 15 feet long by 3 feet wide, in a saloon. He completed the task on Sunday evening at 10 o'clock, and was dreadfully knocked up, but is now recovered. "It was quite a disgusting sight to look at him towards the end of the task, swollen and stupified as he was."

A LONDON ATTORNEY IN SYDNEY.—The *Empire* (Sydney) tells this story: Another trial has excited a great deal of attention. A Mr. James Husband, who was formerly an Attorney, at Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, sought admission to practice in the Colonial Courts. He was opposed by a young man who had followed him here from London, on a charge of having obtained a large sum of money from him on false pretences. Mr. Gilchrist, the opponent of Mr. Husband, had preferred this charge at the Clerkenwell Police Court, in London, where a sort of compromise was entered into and the defendant (Husband) escaped under a feigned name to this colony. He was getting into a very respectable practice when his London creditor arrived, and demanded the amount of his claim, about 500*l*. Mr. Husband disputed the payment, and brought an action against the pursuer in the colonial courts for the wrongful imprisonment he had suffered in London. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages one farthing. After this, Mr. Husband sought to have his conditional admission to practice for one year made permanent. After much discussion the judges refused his application, and he has been struck off the rolls of the court, with liberty, however, to renew his application on rebutting the evidence produced against him. The case is peculiar from the fact of an action having been brought here for injuries alleged to have been sustained in England, and it affords a curious instance of the intimate connexion that now exists between two countries so widely separated.

A GOVERNOR'S SON—OFFICER MORALE IN AUSTRALIA. The Sydney *Empire* says: Captain Fitz Roy, the Aide-de-Camp and son of the Governor General, a short time ago laid a criminal information for slander against the proprietors of a weekly paper, called the *People's Advocate*, and well known for its antipathy to the Government, and for the severity of its strictures on the vice-regal household. It charged the Captain with cheating at cards, but the charge was not sustained to the satisfaction of the jury that tried the case, and the defendants Messrs. Hawksley and Williamson were found guilty, and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment each, and also to pay a fine of 25*l*. each to the Crown. The amount of these fines has been raised by public subscription, for the prosecutor is not favourably known to the Sydney public, and had very recently given great cause for scandal.

THE CAMPBELL MONUMENT.—In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord Campbell asked Lord Aberdeen how it was that the Dean and Chapter of Westminster would not let the Tom Campbell monument be placed in the Abbey without the payment of a fee of 200*l*? Lord Aberdeen answered, that the Dean and Chapter levied such fees in order to maintain the edifice in good repair; and that the money, therefore, *must* be paid. He could not promise a public grant; but he intimated that privately he would take some steps to carry out the wishes of the subscribers, of whom he was one.

METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL JOINT-STOCK BREWERY COMPANY.—The annual meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, at the office, 8, Moorgate-street, City, J. F. Boutains, Esq., in the chair. By the report of the directors it appears, that notwithstanding the high prices of malt and hops during the last year, the affairs of the company at the present time were going on satisfactorily, and that with some further increase of capital, which they hoped to obtain, sufficient to enable it to fully develop its London business, considerable profits may be anticipated. The accounts of the last year and statement of the company's affairs were presented to the meeting, and unanimously adopted. A dividend of 5 per cent. was declared, and the meeting, which was well attended, separated after transacting the ordinary business, with a vote of thanks to the directors and chairman.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE WORKING MAN'S EMIGRATION.—Captain Lean emigration officer, has applied to the magistrates to interfere so as to put an end to a "Working Man's Emigration Society," which he charges with obtaining money under false pretences, pretending to guarantee passages to Australia, and never keeping their engagements, but keeping the money deposited. The magistrates granted summonses against the manager of the society.

On Thursday this manager, Mr. Soper, presented himself to the magistrate, the charge being that he had unlawfully acted as a passenger-broker without a licence. He was defended on technical and legal grounds, and the summons had to be dismissed. Sir John Shelley, M.P., trustee of the society, expressed his confidence in it; and the barrister, Mr. Sleigh, stated that the society had sent out hundreds of working men to Australia, and was respectable.

THE MOUNTGARRET ESTATES CASE.—The plaintiff in this "Ten Thousand a Year" case has won: Lord Mountgarret is pronounced by a jury illegitimate. But the case will not rest there: we shall soon hear of it again in the superior courts.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—We were the first to announce that Sir Henry Young was to be removed from South Australia to the government of New Zealand; that appointment having been reconsidered, he is to succeed Sir William Denison in the more lucrative government of Van Diemen's Land.—*Daily News.*

EXTRA-MURAL CEMETERY.—The great parish of Marylebone has this week laid the foundation stone of the chapel of their new cemetery. The site chosen is situate near the village of Finchley, between the Five Bells and the Green Man, and is within a short distance of the St. Pancras and Islington ground.

MR. CARDEN is "kindly treated" in gaol. He is not clothed in prison costume; and he is not sentenced to prison diet—having dinner parties of his own viands. "Gentlemen" are greatly respected in all cases; and Mr. Carden is made as happy as possible.

AFFAIRS AT LISBON.—"An attempt has been made to get up a little excitement and a call for the National Guard at Lisbon, in imitation of Madrid, but people generally seemed to think they enjoyed liberty enough under a Government whose tolerance has long been a perfect contrast to the despotism at Madrid."

COFFEE-HOUSES.—The coffee-houses of England take precedence of those of France, though the latter have more enduringly flourished. In 1652, a Greek, in the service of an English Turkey merchant, opened a house in London. "I have discovered his hand-bill," says Mr. Disraeli, "in which he sets forth the virtue of the coffee drink, first publiquely made and sold in England, by Pasqua Rosee, of St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, at the sign of his own head." Mr. Peter Cunningham cites a MS. of Oldys in his possession, in which some fuller details of much interest are given. Oldys says, "The first use of coffee in England was known in 1657, when Mr. Daniel Edwards, a Turkey merchant, brought from Smyrna to London one Pasqua Rosee, a Ragusan youth, who prepared this drink for him every morning. But the novelty thereof drawing too much company to him, he allowed his said servant with another of his son-in-law's, to sell it publicly; and they set up the first coffee-house in London, in St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill. But they separating, Pasqua kept in the house; and he who had been his partner obtained leave to pitch a tent, and sell the liquor, in St. Michael's Church-yard." Aubrey, in his Anecdotes, states that the first vendor of coffee in London was one Bowman, coachman to a Turkey merchant, named Hodges, who was the father-in-law of Edwards, and the partner of Pasqua, who got into difficulties, partly by his not being a freeman, and who left the country. Bowman was not only patronised, but a magnificent contribution of one thousand sixpences was presented to him, wherewith he made great improvements in his coffee-house. Bowman took an apprentice, (Paynter,) who soon learnt the mystery, and in four years set up for himself. The coffee-houses soon became numerous: the principal were Farres', the Rainbow, at the Inner-Temple Gate, and John's, in Fuller's Rents. "Sir Henry Blount," says Aubrey, "was a great upholder of coffee, and a constant frequenter of coffee-houses."—*Table Traits.*

DEPARTURE OF A BODY OF METROPOLITAN POLICE TO THE SEAT OF WAR.—A number of police-officers belonging to the metropolitan districts, specially appointed for active duty at the seat of war, took their departure on Monday evening last from London, *en route* for Southampton, and then for Constantinople, and finally to settle at Va[illegible] any other place where their services might be [illegible], or The corps consisted of about 20 of [illegible] more required. force, who, it is understood [illegible] the finest men in the service. A very affe[illegible], volunteered to go upon foreign road termi[illegible] meeting scene took place at the Waterloo-wa[illegible]rus; for as the train in which the men [illegible] was moving out, a number of friends and young women, some of whom had been keeping company with the officers when on duty in London, and who little anticipated that they would have to leave the metropolis, commenced sobbing violently. It is understood that another and far larger body of men are to follow those already sent off in the course of a few weeks.—*Morning Advertiser.*

THE MORMONITES.—The last advices from the desert give very favourable accounts of the colony which has planted itself on the shores of Lake Utah, in order to found the New Sion. Governor Young has established relations with the Indians, and has bound the Saints to live in good understanding with the savages. The *Deseret News* publishes some letters written by a Saint to her sister in New Hampshire. "I am happy, very happy," she writes, "and I live agreeably to the will of the Lord. My husband has six other wives, whom he loves equally, and whom I esteem as sisters. Our children, united, are 24 in number. Peace is in the house." These letters must most likely be dictated by fanaticism, or extorted by force.—*New York Herald.*

A LONG IMPRISONMENT.—On Thursday last George Risby, who was tried at the Lent Assizes, at Chelmsford, on the 9th of March, 1835, for the wilful murder of John Spooner, at West Bergholt, was discharged from Springfield Gaol, her Majesty's pardon having been received by Mr. Neale, the governor. Risby was committed on the 7th of August, 1834, and at the following assizes was tried, and acquitted on the ground of insanity, but ordered "to be kept in strict custody until his Majesty's pleasure be known. Thus, after a lapse of twenty years, a few days only excepted, he has regained his liberty. His case and good conduct in prison having been represented to the Secretary of State, the authorities were induced to recommend his release.—*Essex Standard.*

Postscript.

SATURDAY, August 12.

THE chief business of the House of Commons, in its meeting yesterday, was to order the new writs for Canterbury, Cambridge, Barnstable, Maldon and Hull. Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE offered some opposition, dividing the House on each writ, on the ground that as the Bribery Bill would not prevent bribery, these writs for these corrupt places ought not to issue until the ballot was adopted; Mr. Duncombe taking for granted that some day the ballot *will* be adopted. Mr. HUME was more moderate; he asked Lord John Russell whether, if this Bribery Bill should prove a failure in these cases, he (Lord John Russell) would at last consent to the ballot. Lord JOHN distinctly declined to make such a pledge.

BUSINESS FOR NEXT SESSION.

As usual, several members drew bills on next session.

Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS, irrepressible Protestant, gave notice of a motion on Convents and Nunneries.

Mr. HUME, with no thought of retirement, gave notice that next session he would move that salaries in Government offices be paid quarterly where they are now paid half-yearly.

CUBA—THE SLAVE TRADE.

In the House of Lords the Earl of CLARENDON, in laying on the table certain papers relating to the Slave Trade, took the opportunity of stating that during the government of the late captain-general of Cuba, the most stringent measures had been adopted to put down the slave trade in that country; and he had every reason to believe that under the government of the newly-appointed captain-general—Concha—the same course would be pursued, as it was the decided policy and wish of General Espartero. He also wished to disabuse the public mind in the United States of a notion which prevailed there, that this country was ready to enter into conventions for the purpose of making Cuba an African republic. He wished to give such a report the strongest contradiction.

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.

Lord MONTEAGLE presented a petition from Auckland, New Zealand, praying for redress against the clause in the act granting a constitution to the Colony which imposed the payment of a sum of 268,000*l.* out of the proceeds of the Crown Lands, to the New Zealand Company.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE said he was always opposed to that arrangement, and that the matter was under the consideration of the Government, with a view to its correction.

POSTAGE TO FRANCE.

In answer to a question, Viscount CANNING stated that negotiations were in progress for the reduction of the rate of postage on letters between England and France, and Sardinia, to 6d., and that the rates on newspapers to Sardinia would be immediately reduced.

The House then adjourned at a quarter past six.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Can "M. A., Ter[illegible]" unless w[illegible]

It is [illegible]ple," expect us to publish such a letter [illegible] know his real name and address?

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 7, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 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.

THE NEW ELECTIONS.

THE writs for the "suspended boroughs" were last night moved for, ordered, and, by next week, will be issued. These elections will take place under the new Bribery Bill; and, whatever the defects of that measure the discussions upon it, in both Houses, will have at least so far raised the *morale* of electioneers that we may expect, under the combined influence of fear of exposure, desire for economy, and craving for purity, that the contests will be somewhat exceptionally honourable.

In these circumstances the elections, even upon the limited franchise, will be regarded as presenting genuine indications of public opinion in some of our most important boroughs. The elections will take place at a critical period: at the close of a session in which our "public life" has been an anarchy; at the commencement of (if we are really commencing) a great war, the ultimate objects of which are dubious; and at the formation of alliances, the conditions of which are equivocal—perhaps degrading and disgraceful. It is, then, of importance that the Liberal party should be prepared.

We do not mean that the Reform Club Committee should sit daily; that the Reform Association should hunt for candidates; that the Ballot Society should endeavour to write an address; or that Mr. Coppock should have interviews with Mr. Hayter and his private bankers. We simply mean that the Liberal, or Radical, electors in the different boroughs should consult with one another as to what *they* consider to be the national interest and the Government's duty in respect to this war. We have failed to get a programme either from a Liberal Government or the Liberal Government's Radical supporters: let us at least insist on pledges from Liberal candidates. The best sort of "public meeting" is that which collects round a hustings;—"resolutions" then are very real and practical things.

Some bold words, honourably guaranteed, and coming from newly-elected members, would just now furnish the Cabinet with that steadying guidance which they necessarily require in entering on the Recess. Let us hope, therefore, that these boroughs will speak nationally—at least intelligibly. When we are intent on Russia, do not let us have candidates exclusively insisting that they will not vote against "progressive Reform," or "local self-government," or the "Ballot Society." These pledges, too; but, in the first place,—what sort of treaty with Russia, and what sort of alliance with Austria they will vote for.

Yet as Parliament is done away with for six months, by an arrangement which seems not to astonish a people who believe that they are governed by representative institutions,—why new elections at all? The treaty may be signed, and the alliance contemplated, ere our possible statesmen have taken their seats in that Senate which only comes in with green peas and other luxuries of the spring season.

RESULTS OF THE SESSION.

WE have had a very long session. About 60,000,000*l.* of taxes have been voted; no information has been given about the war; and the Oxford University Reform Bill has been passed;—these are the main facts of the very long session. The war excused no-legislation; and "consideration for the public service," in reference to the war, excused the no-information. The war required the voting of extra taxes; and the fact that extra taxes were being voted explains the consistent indifference of the House to economy in the ordinary estimates. The excuse for everything has been that this great war was fully approved of by this great people, who were engrossed in it; which fully accounts for the earnest reluctance of the aristocracy to pass any bill to improve the representation of the people in the House of Commons.

Certainly the people are quite content with this eventless session. And undoubtedly the Government—which has been unable to do anything except get taxes and refuse information, and which has been beaten about twice a week by an Opposition without either principle or organisation, and by Radicals who were its most hearty and anxious supporters—and which closes the session, collectively degraded, and in several instances individually disgraced—remains one of the strongest Governments that have ever ruled in England. It is difficult to account for this anomalous state of public opinion; but it is remarkable that the public is quite indifferent to the anomaly and does not seek to have it accounted for.

A strong Government always getting beaten: that is the position which puzzles all through the Session; and which has provoked insane hopes in an Opposition ludicrously weak and yet generally victorious. The position, however, is not stated thus with perfect accuracy. It will be observed, that the Government has been omnipotent in obtaining taxes, withholding information, and coalescing with useful but horrible despotisms in defence of civilisation; and that the Government has only been weak, flabby, foolish, and snubbed, when it entered the field of abstract politics, touched Reforms, or attempted Progress—or what it believed to be Progress. The absurd misfortunes of the administration may, therefore, be traced to its own misconception of its duties and its rights. The Coalition was not formed because of a pressure in the country upon parties to carry specialities or conquer Reforms. The Coalition was formed at a moment of profound quiet (for there was never any real fear for Free-trade—the Budget on which Mr. Disraeli went down was a Cobden—Budget)—at a moment when the Whigs had no Radical cry to stand alone on—when the Peelites were straggling about as useful administrators who could find nothing to advocate,—when the Tories had broken down because they were too ingeniously attempting, at a favourable moment of universal content, to please all interests too much. In a word the Coalition was formed for the Duke's reasons, and for none others—viz., to carry on the

Queen's Government. Not content with that, the Coalition aimed at a greater *rôle*, and, because it had got a large majority secured on the understanding that nothing was to be done, insisted, to the astonishment of an apathetic people, on a variety of reforms and a host of measures—undemanded or postponable. The result was, that the Coalition first split up among themselves, and that the House, following the example, and different sections siding with the understood tendencies of different ministers, beat it indiscriminately.

Lord John Russell has no doubt been the disturbing element. Lord John felt that he was equivocally placed in the Cabinet; and to justify his leading the House of Commons he made arrangements to get beaten once a week;—vindicating his share in forming the Coalition by rendering its tenure of power all but impossible, Lord John considered that it was his duty to give to a colourless Coalition—popular for its paleness—*his* hue. And from the day he took office, he—member of a confederation based upon political compromise—which meant political suspension—talked incessant Reform. This sustained, he thought, his own dignity and importance; his colleagues, overruling his importance, consented to endure it in the mistaken notion that the clap-traps would bring the whole Cabinet popularity. At best a Conservative Premier, acting in the spirit of a cautious, however liberal, Court, could not assent to large Reforms. Lord John had, therefore, to give way, taking advantage of Radical Minis. terialism to conciliate the Court; and it turned out in these instances, as in all instances of "safe medium measures," compromises begot no affection and died the deaths of languid hybrids. The democracy was already apathetic—these stimulants could not arouse it. There was no "cry,"—except Lord John's, whose baffled vanity rendered him conspicuously silly. Lord Aberdeen justified the Coalition on the ground that all parties were concentreing to one set of opinions. A more philosophical definition of the Parliamentary condition would have been that it was a period in which no one had any opinion, and when, therefore, there was no reason why Whigs and Tories should not share together in the plunder of a people intent upon watching a war which it was hoped would lead to the continental adoption of representative institutions—which, on no account, would we give up except from August to February.

Next session the Ministry may more clearly comprehend its chances and its functions. But next session it is possible that it will no longer be permitted a negative policy. Already a positive policy is being demanded in foreign affairs; and under the pressure of taxation a people who could not be roused by Lord John's speeches may be suggesting that "popular members" do not get into that profession for the purpose of getting places for their sons and nephews.

What are the results of the session on the Opposition? A Conservative Opposition which does not know what to conserve and has nothing real to oppose is inevitably feeble; and the mass of heavy country gentlemen, who are so excellent and so slightly interesting, have not been active—and, indeed, have not been amused. The best of them would long ago have gone over to Lord Aberdeen—the Peers among them appear to have done so since the Reform Bill was withdrawn—if any guarantee were given that Lord John Russell could be kept down and forbidden those unearnest snatches at popularity which distinguish his squirrel-minded statesmanship. Mr. Disraeli, who more and more developes his incapacity for everything but smart criticism, has made clever speeches, rendering Ministers uncomfortable,—by correcting their cant,—and producing no historical impression whatever. Lord Derby has sulked at home; his own Peers having deserted the chivalrous champion who got his chance and was not equal to it. Those two men *are* the Opposition; and that singular fact is connected with the formation of the Coalition. The English aristocracy is so thoroughly worn out (intellectually) that no one aristocratic party can stand by itself; and combined, they do not strike the nation with awe or reverence. What would the House of Commons be without Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone—two importations from literature and commerce? Why something like what the House of Lords is.

The results of the session on the Radical party are, we believe, satisfactory. This party, greatly enriched by new blood and young men at the last general election, is beginning at last to realise that the Whigs, who have to lean upon the Tories, cannot, in turn, support the Radicals. The Whig party is destroyed by Lord John Russell—in other words, the Whig party has produced no first-rate man; and, the Whigs gone, the Radicals necessarily begin to think of self-respect and self-dependence. Mr. Bright considers the war a misfortune: but it is in such a war that the Radicals can best make effective application of their large principles of human government. It is in such a war that as guardians of the rights of European nationalities they may present themselves as an organised party; and their reward would be—Power.

We would wish to see the Radical party, which is full of intellect and purpose, and possesses all the elements of popularity, aiming at government for themselves and by themselves—in the name of the people, and of that nationality of which the Crown, wearied, probably, of oligarchies, is part. But a more timid policy will, for some time, prevail; and if they *must* have allies in the aristocracy, we would venture to refer them to the energetic section of the Peelites—who stand between Whigs and Tories, scarcely recognised by either, and yet more powerful than both, because, by necessity, seeking to "approach" the middle class. Mr. Gladstone, the expelled of the Carlton, the author of the Budget of —53, is the natural leader of a popular party.

THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMY.

WHATEVER may be the issue of the courts martial now sitting at Windsor, enough and more than enough has been elicited, in spite of a conspiracy of short memories and prevaricating tongues, to deter any father from aspiring to place his son in her Majesty's Forty-sixth Regiment of Foot. If that undistinguished and unfortunate corps were the only culprit in the case we should be disposed to abandon the equitable and truly paternal chief, Colonel Garrett, with his congenial and complaisant staff, and his polished and ingenuous subalterns, to whatever sense of the honourable, the becoming, and the brave, still lurks in the bosom of an unmilitary public. No words, we are persuaded, can inflict a deeper stigma on the performers in that disgraceful parody of justice than their own leagued hesitations and blundering confessions. The 'Court,' as that strange tribunal is called by courtesy, may affect to treat, with the disdain of the barracks, the voice of public opinion and the indignation of civilians. But we take leave to express our belief that public opinion will yet prove too strong for swaggering corruption in or out of barracks.

We have never joined in the vulgar abuse of the army. Resisting the principle of a standing army, deprecating the system of purchase, which destroys all soldierly emulation, and reduces the organised strength of the nation to an appanage of rank or wealth, we have ever dared to feel, and never hesitated to express, a frank and cordial sympathy for the service. We have not waited for the war to feel and to express this sympathy. In a time of war we hold it to be, more than ever, a sacred duty of public writers to deal tenderly and respectfully with the reputations of gallant men exposed to hardships and to perils from which civil life is free. It is because we believe and know that the very life of the army is vitiated and enfeebled, its prestige compromised, and its fair fame sacrificed by proceedings such as those which have signalised the Forty-sixth at Dublin and Windsor, and scarcely less by the attitude and constitution of the Court which pretends to be trying a prisoner while it is hounding on the persecution of a victim, that we denounce the system and its evil fruits. That system was described with minute precision in a letter to the *Times*, by one signing himself "Civilian," as a system in which

> "Until lately, the half-educated members of our aristocracy and ploutocracy, who, on leaving our public schools, have felt themselves unequal to meet the educational tests requisite to qualify them for entering at our universities, have been in the habit of taking refuge in certain fashionable corps, in which they could dress gorgeously and play at soldiering, with very slight chance of ever being called upon to perform any real service, and where they could agreeably divide their time between horse-racing, betting, fornicating, and prize-fighting.
>
> "It has long been the habit of the officers of these corps to consider them merely as pleasant clubs, kept up as asylums for the private accommodation of young men 'in society,' and to resent the appointment of any young man not included, in their opinion, within that pale as an unwarrantable intrusion, to be resented by all means within their power, whether fair or foul."

To this letter another writer, "an officer of fourteen years' service," signing himself "W. B.," attempts to reply. Civilian's sneer, he says, "at the sons of the aristocracy embracing the army because they are unable to stand the test required in one of the learned professions, may in some respects be true." . . . . "Should Civilian's lad of sixteen or seventeen years of age *show any signs of mental or bodily weakness*, he ought not to be in the army, where such deficiencies will but lead to ruin. *One of the learned professions would be his sphere.*"

Observe that while this officer is willing to allow that sons unfit for learned professions are sent into the army, he suggests with characteristic effrontery, that youths affected with mental or bodily deficiency should be consigned to a "learned profession" as unfit for that service of which the gallant witnesses of the Forty-sixth are conspicuous ornaments. He does not dispute, much less disprove, the charge that the army is in effect an aristocratic club. On the contrary, he assures fond fathers that regiments are "pleasant clubs when joined by boys who will not endeavour to dictate to their seniors, or disturb the *régime* which has existed for years."

We are not disposed to cavil at the reservation. We all know that discipline and due subordination are indispensable to any well-organised society; that prigs and pedants are insufferable. These are mere common-places, vague and stale enough; but what we did *not* know was, that the habits and practices of the Forty-sixth, and we have good reason to fear of many other regiments in her Majesty's service, are the habits and practices of any ordinary society of gentlemen. If they are, we can only say commend us to the society of costermongers!

The Forty-sixth may be one of many exceptions, and no doubt *is*, at least—in being found out. But the morale of the Forty-sixth is, we suspect,—we speak of the younger officers,—the morale of two-thirds of the

regiments in her Majesty's service. The talk is the talk of schoolboys, and the life is the life of the "gent." As for the *esprit de corps*, which has usually been considered the life and soul of armies, that chivalrous sentiment is witnessed in a form of systematic denial and perversion, for which the law has a name, a trial, and a punishment. What is an oath to the duty of "sticking by each other?" Such is the point of honour as interpreted by her Majesty's Forty-sixth regiment, and ostentatiously approved by the "Court." It appears to have escaped the witnesses that the natural effect upon the public mind of this form of "sticking by each other" is, that the entire regiment becomes a partaker in the disgrace of one or two 'black sheep.'

The reports of the court-martial from day to day have excited a *crescendo* of public indignation and disgust at judges, witnesses, prosecutor, and prisoner in an almost equal degree. Let us take a single instance. In the report of Tuesday's sitting the court refused to permit the prisoner to examine Captain Campbell as to his own habits. Here we have a witness who states upon his oath that he shunned the society of the prisoner because, among other proper and pertinent reasons, of his "general depraved habits," which he subsequently explained to refer to the prisoner's taste for the 'society of prostitutes.' A terribly uncommon taste, we are to suppose, among the Subs in the army! This evidence, *although, as the witness admitted, merely hearsay*, the Court received without the slightest scruple. But when the prisoner, by way of testing the value of the evidence asked the witness whether he was not himself in the habit of frequenting the society of prostitutes, the Court at once interfered, and decided that questions having a recriminatory tendency could not be put.

Now, we take it upon ourselves to affirm that no judge in the country would have stopped the line of cross-examination adopted by the prisoner—that it was strictly regular, and that the refusal of the Court to allow the prisoner to ask such questions as might show the character and habits of a witness who pretended to have shunned the prisoner's society from moral scruples—looks very like an undue leaning of the Court to the side of the prosecution. There has been a singular anxiety in the Court to convince the prisoner (and the public) of their extreme indulgence towards him. This idea of indulgence alone denotes a strange blindness to the functions of a tribunal. The prisoner has no right to seek or expect indulgence; he simply asks for justice. If the Court would be a little less indulgent, and a little more judicial, truth and honour would be the gainers.

Let us not be supposed to accept the responsibility of apologists. We do not feel any violent enthusiasm for Lieutenant Perry. We fear he is something of a prig, something of what sailors call a "sea-lawyer." He has, perhaps, aspired to be a fast man, and has only succeeded in being pert, 'forward,' and obnoxious. This is often the case with young men destitute of individuality, who have not the moral courage or the force of character to accept their condition in life, nor the sense of dignity to challenge respect without familiarity, and to assert independence without inferiority.

Lieutenant Perry, we are led to believe, entered the army as a profession, not as an aristocratic club to which he had no title to belong. If he forgot the obligations of his position, and affected the swagger and the 'life' of the club, the fault was his own, and the punishment is deserved.

But the whole system of an army officered by purchase is radically debauched. That noble blood should lead the chivalrous profession of arms, is at least intelligible; that promotion should be an affair of purse-strings seems an anomaly even on the classic soil of ploutocracy. "Money, no doubt," writes an officer of fourteen years' standing in the *Times*, "has its weight in this society as in all others, and I see no way of altering this result." Perhaps there are a few who do not yield to this acquiescent indifference. Perhaps there are a few who *do* see the way of altering this result, and a few other similar results; who can conceive an army, as they can imagine a Senate, to which 'the name of club' would not be applied with justice. A sharp war may purge away many absurdities far more serious than the stock and the coatee. If we are told that to abolish the existing system would be to democratise the army, we reply that a democratised army, terrible as the idea seems, would be worth an aristocratic club for fighting purposes any day. It is idle to say that these exposures are exceptional cases; of course they are. But good "officers *and gentlemen*" seem to be equally exceptional. At any rate, a military establishment composed of an aristocracy of spendthrifts, a middle class of bullies and "gents," and a professional minority of prigs and Parias, is not in a very wholesome condition.

Let us not be misunderstood. Far from us to libel the army. We are jealous of its reputation as we are proud of its renown. We know that fops have fought and "dandies have stood hardships" as well as the rudest and the roughest;—to this Wellington bore witness. But it will take a severe brush on the banks of the Danube, or on the heights of Sebastopol to rub out the disgraces of the Forty-sixth. England will be glad to know that bullies can stick by each other in fighting as well as in swearing. A little of the superfluous energy wasted at Windsor in midnight brawls, would be well spent against the Russian battalions; and, for our own part we should be content to see all the proceedings of the recent courts-martial annulled, and the gallant witnesses and prisoners together courting expiation in the thickest of the fight.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

SIR BENJAMIN HALL is to be President of the new Board of Health: preferred over the heads of Lord Seymour, Mr. C. Lewis, Mr. James Parker, Mr. M. Baines, and Mr. Strutt; and very properly preferred. But still it is a very ridiculous appointment.

Mr. Simon, in one of his able state-paper essays, thus sketches the functions of a minister of health:—

"Into the hands of this new minister—advised, perhaps, for such purposes by some permanent commission of skilled persons, would devolve the guardianship of public health against combined commercial interests, or incompetent administration. He would provide securities for excluding sulphur from our gas, and animalcules from our water. He would come into relation with all local improvement boards, in respect of the sanitary purposes of their existence. To him we should look to settle, at least for all practical purposes, the polemics of drainage and water supply; to form opinions which might guide Parliament, whether street sewers really require to be avenues for men, whether hard water really be good enough for all ordinary purposes, whether cisternage really be indispensable to an urban water-supply.

"Organisations against epidemic diseases—questions of quarantine—laws for vaccination, and the like, would obviously lie within his province; and thither perhaps also his colleagues might be glad to transfer many of those medical questions which now belong to other departments of the executive—the sanitary regulation of emigrant ships, the ventilation of mines, the medical inspection of factories and prisons, the insecurities of railway traffic, *et hoc genus omne*."

The sketch might have been amplified into a more statesmanlike portrait; other particulars of qualification might have been added; and then, thinking all the while of Sir Benjamin Hall, we could read the "character" in the sense in which we take Swift's "advice to servants."

Sir Benjamin Hall is an admirable man: a parvenu aristocrat, who has bewildered a Radical borough into electing him—he must be a very clever man. Possessed of a copious smile, which clothes his presence with ineffable—if not strong-minded—sweetness, he is notoriously gifted with "popular manners,"—as those manners are always described which are insulting to the people. Then Sir Benjamin Hall is conspicuous for his irrepressible horror of bishops:—a lively monomania which is entitled to some sympathy. Furthermore, Sir Benjamin Hall has obtained some club fame for faith in the lead of a Radical morning journal, which considers that the great democratic points are—to insult the Court because it occasionally interferes with the aristocracy, and to drive Irish Roman Catholics into insurrection because they are not partial to the Presbyterianism which in Scotland illustrates itself, as a reformed religion, by inducing a depressed population to take to *delirium tremens*. Sir Benjamin Hall was in the market for office: having no objection to drop in at Downing Street, on his way to the House of Lords [Nolo Episcopari will be more than a phrase when he gets there]; and having indicated to the Coalition, by secretiveness during the Session, his continuous astonishment at having been left out.

His capacity to be in his "place" with regularity, and, after his many years admiring study of Lord Palmerston, to answer a question with conciliatory inconclusiveness, cannot be doubted. It is even possible that, with the aid of a private secretary of a Marylebone education, Sir Benjamin could get through a despatch, and manage a correspondence with advocates of local self-government demanding opportunities to come up to town. Let us also, as Liberals, not overlook the fact that Sir Benjamin Hall, when pressed once in seven years at Langham-place, is in favour of "a considerable extension of the suffrage," and of Lord Dudley Stuart, and suppression of Maynooth; vote by ballot, and Lord Palmerton; triennial Parliaments, and primogeniture; and a variety of democratic measures of that class.

But, in the name of Chadwick, what are Sir Benjamin Hall's qualifications as Minister of Health? When we look out for a judge, we seek a lawyer; when we find a bishopric vacant, we expect a man who knows something of the New Testament. Or if these are not analagous cases, let us examine the routine in ordinary public business appointments.

It was Lord Carteret who remarked that the Secretary of State (for Foreign Affairs) ought to be able to talk French; and we generally fill great offices with officials possessed of some sort of suitable speciality. When we do not observe such a rule of common sense, we hear a great many complaints—as when a Yorkshire squire, with no more practice than he got in keeping off his mortgagees, was made Finance Minister by the Whigs. Sir Benjamin Hall's appointment is passed over, the public feeling rather relieved, the aristocracy, declining to consummate the bilious ambition of the the spiteful Lord Seymour, has condescended to look below the gangway and seize a metropolitan member—who, though boasting of the crest of the bloody hand, and a painfully Welsh pedigree, has behaved with the liberal acuteness customary in such representatives. Examined by itself, however, the appointment can only be regarded as improper, and—at a moment when the Board of Health is or should be something more than a *dilettante*

statistical society—even mischievous. Mr. Jerrold makes the sailor—who is examined as to the moral qualities of the husband of Black-eyed Susan—specify that his shipmate "plays the fiddle like an angel." Similarly, if Sir Benjamin Hall were required to state why he is created a great official, with a large salary and immense patronage, he would be bound to mention that he did not like bishops. The Coalition had other views, perhaps: wearied of the croaking of the frogs, in the sewers, that Stork Chadwick was too energetic, Government pitches to them—a log.

The appointment illustrates the aristocratic, as modified by the subservient Parliamentary, system. No reason whatever can be given why a Minister of Health, whose considerations cannot be political, should have a seat in Parliament. At all events, as it is obvious that a Minister of Health should be a distinguished *savant*—the office being distinctly one which should be opened to our great men of science and social philosophy—the necessity might be met by appointing a *savant*, and afterwards finding a seat for him—such a seat as that which was so ingeniously discovered for Mr. Gordon at Beverley. Or if we could not have a scientific or medical man, because of reasons which would occur to the comprehensive mind of a Hayter, why shouldn't we have Lord Shaftesbury, who has learned the business of the Board of Health by five years' hard work there, and who has been guilty of the excessively ridiculous practical Christianity of so working as *unpaid* president? We fully believe the Government has passed over Lord Shaftesbury merely because it really would not do to encourage such absurd precedents as *that*.

BRITISH PROGRESS IN INDIA.

THE amount of interest felt by Englishmen in the affairs of India is not to be estimated by the fact that only fifteen members were present on Tuesday night, when the Indian Minister made his first annual statement. It is scarcely credible that Sir Charles Wood delivered to one of the thinnest Houses on record his account of the financial and social condition of India. But so it was; and we can only hope that the public are more anxious than their so-called representatives to learn how the new system of Indian Government has worked. If we are to believe the few gentlemen who did stay to hear Sir Charles's statement, everything is going on as smoothly as could be desired. The Reform Bill, which cost so many weary hours of discussion, has achieved wonders. As regards finance, indeed, there was a *deficit* last year of 872,335*l*., and no expectation was held out of any increase in the revenues. But in other respects, the prospect was gratifying in the extreme. Ava and Nagpore had been added to the list of British possessions, the North-western tribes had been subdued, and the old despot Dost Mahomed was on the eve of paying homage to Queen Victoria. Then, as to internal improvements, Lord Dalhousie had been vigorous. A scheme has been laid before the Bengal Government for increasing the salaries of the native judges and advancing them to a higher social position. The gigantic Ganges Canal, "an undertaking which surpasses all similar works in ancient or modern times," has been opened; the Punjab, hitherto the perpetual scene of commotion and revolt, has been reduced to order, and "at this moment life and property are more secure there than in Bengal." Then public works are advancing in Madras and elsewhere, railways are in progress, and already an electric telegraph has been laid down from Calcutta to Bombay.

It is pleasant, moreover, to learn that the Home Directors performed the bitter task of self-decimation with the spirit of heroic martyrs; and the eighteen members of the New Court have worked together as cordially as if they had owed their appointment to the same authority. With regard to public works in India, we are henceforth to know, by means of annual estimates, the exact amount of progress that has been made. Works are to be completed by means of advances from the Treasury, instead of waiting for a surplus revenue; and means are to be taken for securing an adequate supply of superintending engineers. Last of all, attention has been paid to the question of education: the Home Government is engaged in preparing a general scheme which will be applied as circumstances may require, and grants are to be furnished to every school irrespective of any religious instruction. We are to teach the natives without attempting to make proselytes.

We should be very glad to think that this picture was correct. We are not inclined to exact too much from the Indian Government in the very first year after the establishment of the new system; and if Sir Charles Wood's exposition were not glaringly exaggerated, we should be more willing to echo the eulogiums that were passed upon it. To tell the truth, the portion of Sir Charles's speech which seemed to please him least, was precisely that which we read with the greatest satisfaction. Any one who knows the system under which the Indian revenues are collected, will be glad to hear of a smaller rather than of a larger surplus in the Treasury. There is work enough to be done in India to absorb more than a thousand times the surplus of which the Indian minister boasted; and it is painful to believe that, in spite of all the cool-blooded rhetoric of Sir James Weir Hogg, the natives still groan under the most shameful extortions. As for the prodigious activity in public works, it is startling to be told that in this same year, 1854, Bombay is once more in danger of drought, and only at the last moment have extraordinary exertions been made by Lord Elphinstone to carry out a plan proposed in the days of Sir George Arthur. It is true that Sir Jamesetjee Jejeebhoy has again come forward to meet the present need; but it is infamous in the extreme that the Government has suffered another year to elapse before adopting sufficient precautions. In the first year after the Indian Reform Bill, thousands are famishing by drought at Bombay. These two instances—one exhibiting false notions with respect to Indian economy, the other a highly-coloured statement of facts—will cause our readers to look with some suspicion on the exposition of Sir Charles Wood, accepted though it was by a select body of Indian Reformers.

The great hope for the future prosperity of India lies in the vigorous promotion of public works. The expense is wonderfully small when compared with the results that will surely be produced, and we hope to hear, next year, that the Government has fulfilled its promise of providing means from the Treasury. Then, again, as regards the elevation of natives to offices of importance in the Government and Courts of Law. It is possible that the pictures of native intelligence, with which we are sometimes favoured, are considerably exaggerated, but we cannot forget the petition drawn up by natives at Bombay, and which excited an unusual amount of public attention, last year, in this country. The Indian Reformers should remember that their task is by no means finished. It will never do for the administration of the most splendid empire in the world to fall once more into the power of a clique. We have sent forth our fleets and armies with the avowed purpose of destroying a despotism in the east of Europe. Is it true that other British troops are employed in supporting a despotism scarcely less oppressive and unjust? This is a question which must form a portion of the programme of an organised Radical party.

AUSTRIA—FOR AND AGAINST.

WHATEVER a few blind or mendacious persons may pretend to the contrary, it is as certain as anything can be, that the chief cause of the great interest which the British people have taken in the present war, and of the extraordinary enthusiasm with which they have cheered it on, has been a vague expectation of good likely to arise out of it to what are called "the distressed nationalities." Mystify it as you like, that is the fact. Strike this element of interest out of the war—make it plain that Hungary, Italy, and Poland, are not likely to derive any benefits from the war; in other words, that the war is not likely to subserve the cause of continental revolution—and the enthusiasm for the war, now felt from Cornwall to Caithness, will fall seventy per cent. to-morrow. Set down twenty per cent. to direct hatred of Russia, and ten per cent. to independent affection for the Turks, and you make a very fair allowance for *these* elements. All the rest, we maintain, consists of pure, though vague, longing to see the Italians, the Hungarians, the Poles, and their brethren "up and doing."

We will not yet say that the main element of interest for the British people has already been extracted out of the war—for it is impossible to calculate the spontaneous issues of so large and uncontrollable a business; but we do fear that so far as the diplomatic management of the war by the Governments who conduct it is concerned, the "friends of European freedom" may now begin to give up hope.

Translating the vague popular expectations from the war into what they precisely meant, they amounted to this—a wish for the partial dissolution or dismemberment of the Austrian Empire. This was not the phrase used; but, just as six pennies united make sixpence, so the desire to see Italy free, the desire to see Hungary independent, and the desire to see the Poles restored to nationality, meant, when put together, the desire to see Austria made small by degrees and beautifully less in Europe. Accordingly, the universal wish at the beginning of the war—universal, at least, out of official circles—was that Austria would facilitate her own destruction by taking open part with Russia. Then, of course, almost by consent of the Governments of Great Britain and France, the democracies would have been let loose upon her; she would have been torn to pieces; and the war would have gone in the groove of the European Revolution. Austria, however, wise in her generation, did not go with Russia. A sense of self-interest, aided by the earnest entreaties of the Western Powers, anxious to their wit's end that the war should *not* go in the groove of the revolution, brought her to the occidental side of the controversy. She gave in her adhesion, with necessary Germanic modifications and by-treaties, to the policy of Great Britain and France. There was rejoicing over this event in Downing-street; Austria and "her magnanimous young emperor" were eulogised by Ministers in Parliament; and new diplomatic coaxing went on at a great rate. The hope—for it really was a hope—of the lovers of European freedom then was that Austria was insincere, and would, at some turn of the war or other, show the cloven hoof. That hope failed also. Whether the earnestness grew or not as fortune became inauspicious for her old protector, is no matter—Austria *was* earnest in the part she took; she *did* find it her interest

to keep on the occidental side. She was dilatory, and did not do all that the British and French Governments wanted, keeping back from actual service against the Czar, and only giving her *name* against him; but still she could not be said to be acting treacherously. The next hope of the friends of the nationalities, accordingly, was that, as, in any case, Austria did not go the whole length of the Western Powers against the Czar, she and they would split upon the pacification. She would insist, it was thought, on letting off Russia on a mere treaty of *status quo ante*, or little more; whereas our ministers had pledged themselves not to make peace except on far more stringent terms, effecting a new order of things in the East. And, splitting on the pacification, Austria, it was thought, would then pursue a course which would give the democracies an interest in at least the dregs of the war. Even this anticipation, it seems, must now be given up. On Thursday night, Lord Clarendon announced that even up to this last point, the conduct of Austria was perfectly satisfactory, as "within the preceding thirty-six hours, and consequently *since* the evacuation of the Principalities was known at Vienna, notes had been exchanged between her Majesty's Government and the Austrian Government, which would show, when published, that Austria had as little intention as the British Government, of returning to the *status quo*." Supposing this to be true, it bars all prospect of a split upon the pacification. To be sure, as Ministers have never distinctly announced the terms on which *they* would make peace, it is quite as possible that they may let down their demands to the standard of the wishes of Austria, as that Austria will raise her ideas of a proper pacification to the standard of theirs. But at all events, if the present information is final, there will be an agreement, and no split. And thus—always barring what may be called the incalculable eventualities—the last hope of the "friends of European freedom" from the present war would seem lost. They are at liberty to take all that interest in the war which arises from seeing the Russians well thrashed within certain limits, and the Turks placed in a more respectable position in the East; but, so far as appears, that larger element of interest which consisted in hope for Italy, Hungary, Poland, and the enfranchisement of nations more our own kith and kin than the Turks, has now wholly departed from it.

One point more. Has the conduct of Austria during the war been a pure speculation of her own, dictated merely by enlightened self-interest, and a progressive sense of the amount of capital she could make out of the opportunity; or has it been also, in part, purchased by promises and stipulations on the part of the Western Powers? This is a momentous question. If the conduct of Austria has been a pure speculation of her own ingenuity, she has made a splendid thing of it. She has been put forward as the arbiter of the situation till she herself believes it, till all Europe believes it, till even the Turks believe it, and begin to look to Austria as, after all, the real Power to enter into relations with. Thus she has recovered prestige in Europe, with all that prestige commands. Besides she will have the pickings of the war—some slice of the Principalities, perhaps, if she manages cleverly. Not a bad speculation all this, considering that all that she has done has consisted in judiciously doing nothing, and letting herself be puffed for doing it. But *has* it been pure speculation? There is the enigma. If it has, prudent men naturally acquiesce. If Austria *would* be our ally, they say, we could not refuse her aid, and drive her off—a power with 400,000 men! We might, perhaps, have toadied her less; but if she was bent on going our way, we could not prevent her! But, if she has been our ally on predetermined conditions? *There* is the point on which our Government might well be catechised. They could not, in common prudence, refuse Austrian help; but they had a right to look at any conditions annexed to that help, as its price, and refuse them if not suitable. Now the belief in well-informed quarters is, that the price paid to Austria for her help in the war, such as it has been, has been a guarantee by the Western Powers of her Italian provinces. France, it is said, is the immediate party to the guarantee—France and Austria being at present co-partners in Italy. Great Britain, of course, would not dare openly to appear in such an infamous transaction; but we need only remember our diplomacy in the case of the French restoration of the Papacy, to see that after all we might be morally implicated in it. And if so, not only is this war robbed of its supposed anti-despotic and anti-Austrian character; it becomes positively pro-despotic and pro-Austrian; and Great Britain, systematically, takes her place among the despotisms.

MORAL OF THE HUME PORTRAIT.

MR. JOSEPH HUME has been forty years in public life, during all that time a consistent Reformer, leading the way in all the Reforms which Lord John Russell enumerates whenever Lord John Russell is in danger of being turned out. There is, among the English people, an affectionate esteem for the veteran Reformer; the Crown respects him; his life has been so good and so pure that the aristocracy have been conciliated into admiring him. His has been a uniquely grand career: that of a patriot whose love of country has been practical: and who for forty years has worked in public business twelve hours out of every twenty-four—and never took one farthing of public money. To him is not only extended the praise due to the wise and the honest; but he revels in that still pleasanter commendation which is claimed by, and is accorded to, complete success. An earnest politician, who has disarmed all political enmity—an ardent Reformer, who beholds all his ideas adopted as the commonplace of every competitive faction—his splendid position was on Monday recognised by the nation, represented in popular representatives, and on that day the great old man obtained the triumph of his life. The Whigs—yes, at last—presented his wife with his portrait!

The ceremony, we are told, was touching. We can only regard it as humiliating to Radicalism. Is this the future that Radicals, who are following in Mr. Hume's footsteps, promise for themselves: to be patronised by the Whigs, and painted by subscription?

We take for granted that Mr. Hume, with the sagacity which has marked his whole career, purposes to make this his last session. We sincerely hope so: his most glorious week should not be marred by less happy incidents to which he might be exposed in the future; and we cannot but think that statesmen may often imitate with advantage the careful management of laurels which is exhibited by great actors and singers, Macreadys and Marios, who retire in time. Mr. Hume has always been leading Lord John; and we assume, as a matter of course, that he is now intent on setting Lord John a good example—his last. At such a moment, therefore, we are reluctant to use an expression which may not be complimentary. But without the slightest offence, we may venture to point out, for the benefit of his contemporaries and disciples, the great fault in Mr. Hume's career. That fault—a generous and perhaps noble fault—is in this: that Mr. Hume's exertions have been confined to creating capital for the Whigs. Mr. Hume's ideas have been in power;—why has Mr. Hume never been in power? Because Mr. Hume, humble and worthy man, never for a moment entertained so preposterous an idea as that the Radicals could do without the aristocracy. Mr. Hume's policy—it has been the Radical policy always—has been merely to play Whig against Tory, and, out of their bids for popularity, to get the utmost possible concession for the people. No other policy was possible at the period of the Reform Bill of '32: the oligarchical system was then regarded even by the wildest among the Reformers as a sacred portion of the constitution. When Peel was rising on the reaction of the Reform Bill era, no other policy was possible: the Radicals had lost Lord Brougham, were tortured with O'Connell, and had not quite lost the Whigs, and were not quite sure of not gaining Peel. But Mr. Hume's determined reliance on Whiggery has been, since 1846, most disastrous to his party; and his Ministerialism, on the formation of a Coalition unchecked by an organised Opposition, has had the effect, this last session, of handing over the people and popular conditions—those connected with the war included—to the mercy of a Government whose Conservative instincts were too strong for the management of the maladroit Lord John Russell. Individually, Mr. Hume may have improved his own comfort in the House, and his age entitled him to avoid the vigorous attitude of a Radical leader. But, in spite of himself, he *was* the Radical leader; and his invalidy shirking of criticism and conditioning—even on the estimates—was the excuse for the slothful or treacherous conduct of too many of his friends among the "popular members."

Mr. Hume would have carried his points sooner had he observed, through his life, the Parliamentary necessity of the Radicals being organised into a party just as Whigs and Tories are organised;—offering to his friends in and out of the House, those temptations—office, with its profitable and philosophic pleasures—which create and consolidate parties; and promising for himself the patriotic delight of doing the country's work in his own pre-eminently thorough way. Because Mr. Hume never aspired to real power, and never permitted his party to contemplate the possibility of independence of Whig patronage, he has never been feared, and therefore never adequately consulted or deferred to by the Whigs. And they are grateful; they send his portrait to the Liberal University to suggest the amiable example to rising Humes. All honour, say we, with them, to this distinguished man. May there be many Humes as honest and as keen; but may there never be another so humble.

SPITALFIELDS WEAVERS.—These miserable men have modified their demands: they now ask an increase of only 3d. per yard all round. If the masters refuse this they threaten a strike. This paragraph represents their case:—"In order to show that this demand was not unreasonable, they represented to the manufacturers, that the manufacture of one yard of silk velvet would occupy a man the whole of a day—sometimes fourteen or fifteen hours, and for this, at the present rate of charge, he would receive only 12s. a week. By the proposed increase he would, supposing him to be constantly at work, receive 13s. 6d. a week. They admitted that it was true they received more than this for the support of their families, but that increase could only be secured by keeping their wives and children constantly at the machine, sacrificing every domestic comfort, and bringing up their children in a state of the grossest ignorance, and depriving them of all sorts of healthful exercise." A meeting of 3000 of the operatives was held on Thursday night, to hear what progress had been made. As a body it was reported the masters had not given way. Several firms, it was alleged, have entered into combination against the men.

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.*

To have some twelve or twenty periodicals before you, and to have to go over them, so as to ascertain their contents and report on their merits, is the best possible training in the "art of skipping." Practice has made us tolerably perfect in this art. Having been in the habit of hearing a great many sermons, and being at the same time afflicted or blessed (whichever you choose to call it) with a constitutional tendency to *reverie*, which the pew-attitude naturally fosters, we long ago discovered that it was totally unnecessary to attend to a preacher throughout, and that we could delegate to the ear the business of watching for us, and keeping us duly informed when anything good was going on, for the reception of which it might be worth while to waken up the intelligence. We have acquired a similar knack in reading. We believe we are conscientious reviewers, and just reviewers; and yet we confess we don't read through all the books and all the periodicals we pronounce opinions upon. We look at the outside of a book or a periodical; we read the preface, the list of contents, and all those outer scraps which give us the general physiognomy of the book; then we sit down, paper-knife in hand, and cut up all the pages punctually from the first to the last, hovering all the while over the pages, like a hawk, glancing at the headings of chapters, at suggestive words and proper names in the text, descending leisurely for a closer view when anything attracts us, and swooping down rapidly and greedily wherever we descry a tit-bit. We don't say that that would be conscientious reviewing for a *Quarterly*-man, entrusted with the task of giving a verdict on one book; but we do say it is conscientious reviewing for the purpose of a literary summary. And we beg to say, cursory as the style of proceeding may seem, it is in *our* case perfectly satisfactory. We are such adepts in the "art of skipping," our instinct for what is good is so fine and so catholic at the same time, that, if we once have used our paper-knife on a publication, we are sure of having accurately diagnosed it, and not missed any of its tit-bits. Our golden rule, however, is to cut open all the leaves from end to end. All depends on that.

We have just submitted the bulky residue of the month's periodicals to this process. We must say that the result has been to confirm the impression we ventured to state last week, that the quantity of "skippable" matter in our periodicals is prodigious. There is not much that is positively bad or nonsensical; but the amount of useless commonplace in the way of thought, and insipid recompilation in the way of history, shows that the editorial function is in many cases degenerating into a sham. Last week we quoted DE QUINCEY's remark about the non-sufficiency of merely reasonable thinking about a subject to entitle one to write upon it. We find some very apt remarks to a similar effect in a capital article on *The Use and Abuse of Words*, in the *North American Review*. The writer is reviewing Dr. PETER MARK ROGET's recently published *Thesaurus of English Words, so classified and arranged as to facilitate the Expression of Ideas and assist in Literary Composition*. He says:

"The most cursory glance over much of the 'literature' of the day, so called, will indicate the peculiar form of marasmus under which the life of language is in danger of being slowly consumed. The most hopeless characteristic of this literature is its complacent exhibition of distressing excellences,—its evident incapacity to rise into promising faults. The terms are such as are employed by the best writers, the grammar is good, the morality excellent, the information accurate, the reflections sensible, yet the whole composition neither contains nor can communicate intellectual or moral life; and a critical eulogium on its merits sounds like the certificate of a schoolmaster as to the negative virtues of his pupils. This fluent debility, which never stumbles into ideas nor stutters into passion, which calls its common-place comprehensiveness, and styles its sedate langour repose, would, if put upon a short allowance of words, and compelled to purchase language at the expense of conquering obstacles, be likely to evince some spasms of genuine expression; but it is hardly reasonable to expect this verbal abstemiousness at a period when the whole wealth of the English tongue is placed at the disposal of the puniest whipsters of rhetoric,—when the art of writing is avowedly taught on the principle of imitating the 'best models,'—when words are worked into the ears of the young in the hope that something will be found answering to them in their brains,—and when Dr. Peter Mark Roget, who never happened on a verbal felicity or uttered a 'thought-executing' word in the course of his long and useful life, rushes about, book in hand, to tempt unthinking and unimpassioned mediocrity into the delusion, that its disconnected glimpses of truths never fairly grasped, and its faint movements of embryo aspirations which never broke their shell, can be worded by his specifics into creative thought and passion."

The article from which this is extracted is one of the best, if not the best, in the number; the whole Review, however, is tolerably exempt—as a quarterly, and above all, a quarterly published in Boston, ought to be—from that vice of "fluent debility," with which we are charging so much of our periodical literature. Among the other articles, there is one on Miss MARTINEAU's translation of COMTE's *Positive Philosophy*, beginning in this scandalous manner:

"We are sorry, but not surprised, that Miss Martineau should have adopted the opinions which are avowed in the recent publication of her correspondence with Mr. Atkinson, and in this attempt to translate Comte's Philosophy and to render it popular in England. Her former writings showed considerable ability, but it was the ability of an ill-regulated mind,—of a mind working out of its proper sphere, and scorning all those limitations and restraints which indirectly help us in the search after truth, because they narrow the field of inquiry, and not as preservatives against the most hurtful errors. In her ambition to leave the common track, she has wandered wildly over the whole field of knowledge, and come to the most barren conclusion at last,—to a belief, if it can be called such, that there is no divine superintendence of the affairs of this world, and no hope of a world to come. The leading vice of her character has always been intellectual arrogance. She has never had any deference for man, and now has ceased to entertain any faith in her Creator; the only being whom she has never learned to distrust is herself."

After this specimen of the writer's controversial style, it is unnecessary to say that he is peevish and shallow throughout. A great deal of vinegar has been poured upon COMTE by the Reviews: but we did not expect such weak vinegar from a Transatlantic Quarterly. A thorough discussion of COMTE and his doctrines from the true antagonistic point—and that point, we believe, is to be found in the philosophy of SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON, or thereabouts—is still a desideratum. KANT or COMTE, transcendentalism or positivism—*that*, after all, is the alternative; and all midway exposition and doctrinizing, is (if the conditions of real speculative discussion are to be attended to) but cleverness and mystification. One other course, indeed, there is for those whose natures refuse to saddle themselves with the "conditions of speculative discussion"—and that is to keep clear of the whole subject follow their own noses as well as they can, and let KANT and COMTE whirl antagonistically, like two windmills on the distant heights. If they are asked which windmill they believe in, they can say "I *see* both."

From the critical notices at the end of the *North American Review*, we perceive that America has started a candidate for the honours of Junius. A MR. FREDERIC GRIFFIN, in a book called *Junius Discovered*, sets up GOVERNOR POWNALL as the proper man, on evidence which the reviewer pronounces a failure.

We have two other American Reviews—the *Christian Examiner*, published in Boston; and the *New York Quarterly*. The first is almost exclusively theological: the writers append their initials to their articles, as in the old *Westminster;* and in addition to this, a printed slip, distributed with the Review, gives the names of the writers of the various articles at full length. When will this practice become general? The *New York Quarterly* has some interesting articles. The first, on *The Morale of the Eastern War*, is a Transatlantic apology for the war. The following explains the writer's views:—

"We will frankly say, at the very start, what our view of the *morale* is, thus enunciating the proposition we will then attempt to prove. We believe that in the main Russia has acted throughout in better faith than Turkey or Turkey's allies; that while the czar is not guilty of the simplicity of childhood, he is nevertheless neither a political ruffian nor a buccaneer; that while, like every other sovereign, acting not solely in a personal capacity, but representatively for his people, he may feel that more latitude and verge is given for his actions than he would be entitled to as an individual, he has yet, in the present instance, pursued a course which no other country would have taken unless its weakness compelled it to do so; in a word, that while, like other sovereigns, he may be ambitious and discreet, he has been careful to have much of the right on his side from the very start, and to have kept to that right in a way that would almost argue a weakness in the instrumentality or an indecision in the will by which his ends were sought to be obtained."

Any view may be maintained by argument; but nothing will do away with the impression that for an American to argue in favour of the Czar is about as decided a case of being "in the wrong box" as could well be. There is another case of "wrong box," however, in the same Review—to wit, a plea in favour of wine-drinking from the land of the Maine-law. The editor, having the fear of the teetotalers before his eyes, appends a note, abjuring all responsibility for the doctrines of the article, and protesting that for his part he "would recommend only cold water as an ordinary beverage;" nevertheless he lets his contributor support Mr. OLIVIERA's views respecting the probable effects of the reduction of the duties on foreign wines. The writer opens thus:—

"It has ever been found, that a wine-drinking people present the most favourable specimens of humanity, whether physical or moral. By the term *wine-drinking*, however, we do not mean what is vulgarly understood as *getting drunk* with wine;—God forbid! but we mean the habitual and temperate use of wine, as a beverage; not its bacchanalian abuse for intoxication. Wine is one of God's gracious gifts to man—designed, as we have it on the authority of Holy Writ, 'to make him a cheerful countenance,'—that is, to animate, to exhilarate, to gladden him. And when we read of wine making such sad havoc with poor human nature as that which the drunkard's case too often exhibits, nine times out of ten it is not wine at all, but ardent spirit, that has done the mischief."

In an article on *Institutions for Popular Information in New York*, we have a series of notes and reflections on the New York Crystal Palace, the Astor Library, and Abbott's Egyptian Museum. The paper is judicious; but there is nothing specially worthy of quotation in it, except the following passage, *apropos* of the effects likely to be produced by great libraries on American literary production.

"It was in the library of Modena that Muratori prepared those volumes which have made his name, although a hundred years have passed over it, a hallowed word for the student of Italian history. It was from the same spot that Tiraboschi sent forth, volume by volume, his matchless history of Italian literature. It was the sight of the treasures of which he became the guardian, as librarian of the Faculty of Advocates, that suggested to Hume the idea of his History of England. Shall we ever be able to associate names like these with the libraries of America? We want a history of England; for of all that have been written there is none that meets the requisitions of an American republican. We want a history of English literature; for England herself has none; and how happily and honourably might a life be spent in writing it! We want a history of France; there is none, in the language, that deserves the name. We want a history of Italy; the record of great actions that we might imitate, and great errors that we should shun. And if we would meet these and the other manifold wants of our literature, we must have great libraries like the Astor, which in the true spirit of democracy, shall enable every man that has the talent and the industry, to work his way to those heights of literary renown which, without them, so many can only gaze at in sorrow and bitterness of heart."

Turning from the transatlantic to our own periodicals, we have, besides those noticed last week, a good number of the *Dublin University*, containing, *inter alia*, a memoir of Sir SAMUEL GREIG, a Scotchman of the last century, who entered the naval service of the Russian Empress Catherine, in 1764, became a distinguished man in that service, drew numbers of other Scotchmen into it, and so, before his death in 1788, "earned the title of Father of the Russian navy" (the writer does not say who *was* the mother); a fair number of *Tait*, with liberal politics predominant, and a word of protest much needed against Exeter Hallism and its votaries; a light and heterogenous number of *Bentley;* and as light, though not so heterogenous a number of the *National Miscellany*.

Mr. CHARLES KNIGHT has issued parts 15 and 16 of his *English Cyclopædia;* Messrs. ORR and Co. have published parts 4 and 5 of *The Landmarks we Live in*, containing, among the articles, "Liverpool," "Manchester," "Shef-

field," and the "Staffordshire Potteries;" there are also new parts of the *Art Journal* and of *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal*, the last full of sound matter as usual.

The works of old English writers—known too often only by name—are literally pouring from the press. This week Mr. Bohn supplies us with another volume of De Foe, containing *Memoirs of a Cavalier*, *Memoirs of Captain Carleton*, and others of less significance. In the new series of British poets, published by Nichol (Edinburgh), we have the first volume of Samuel Butler's works, edited by the Rev. George Gilfillan.

Nicolini's *History of the Jesuits* (Bohn) we reserve for more extended criticism. A single word is sufficient to announce a new translation of *Strabo*, in Bohn's *Classical Library*. The only other book on our list is Vinet's *History of French Literature, in the Eighteenth Century*.

Hard Times, collected into one volume, beautifully printed, needs no notice from us beyond the simple announcement of its reproduction in a permanent form. No doubt the mass of our readers are already familiar with the story as it appeared week by week in *Household Words*.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The Nations of Russia and Turkey, and their Destiny. By Ivan Golovin. Author of The Caucasus. Part II. Trübner and Co.

In a sort of Preface to these lively Notes (for the volume is rather a collection of jottings than a connected and systematic essay) M. Ivan Golovin constitutes himself a critic of contemporary writers on Russia. We cannot, as a rule, find time or space to criticise critics, and we think M. Golovin would have shown better taste and discretion if he had reserved his strictures on his fellow-writers for at least a separate form of publication. A correction of the many errors into which the political bias of pamphleteers, the haste of bookmakers, the ignorance of *à priori* historians, and the imperfect observation of tourists inevitably betrays the mass of writers on the topic of the day, would in itself be a valuable contribution to the dominant literature; and M. Golovin has no doubt peculiar qualifications for such a task. But to preface a hasty and fragmentary production of his own, which a harsher judgment than ours might pronounce more readable than reliable, a specimen, in short, of the thousand and one mixtures of anecdote and statistics which are daily supplied by ingenious publishers to an ungenerous public under the general titles of "Books on the War," "Russia and Turkey," &c.: this usurpation, we say, of a double office by our present author is, we humbly think, deserving a word of reprehension. Having discharged our gall to this extent, we have no difficulty in recommending M. Ivan Golovin as a vivacious and original authority on Russian eccentricities, social, political, and administrative. His family name, his personal antecedents, and his actual position, are not the least striking illustrations of the system he exposes with a severity to which the freedom and dignity of exile, with all its hardships, preferred to the livery of a splendid servitude with all its wealth and decorations, lend a keener edge than any mere force of rhetoric, or point of epigram can bestow. When the Emperor Nicholas paid a visit to Italy and Sicily some years ago, Count B——, who had been ambassador from the Sardinian Court to St. Petersburg, at his coronation, had an interview with the imperial tourist. The conversation falling on the Marquis de Custine's book, the Emperor said, "M. de Custine is a Frenchman: he is free to write what he pleases on Russia; but (alluding to M. Golovin's work on *Russia under Nicholas*,) here is a man whose brothers I know well as men of honour and distinction, and he writes in this disgraceful way about his country." To which sally of temper, our informant adds, the Count B——, in the true spirit of a practised courtier, could only reply, *à la* Louis XIV., "*Sire, one black sheep out of sixty millions!*" The Emperor, however, if his words are faithfully reported, was incorrect in accusing M. Golovin of abusing his *country*. On the contrary, although an exile, he never forgets to separate his race and his country from the government he unmasks and the system he lays bare. The *Athenæum* only last week says, almost in a tone of reproach, "Before all things, M. Golovin is a Russian." We honour the patriotic courage which refuses to confound an enduring nation with a transient tyranny. M. Golovin has been accused of treating as of no importance the exemption of the Russian nobility from corporal punishment, an exemption which is in effect a real privilege. Our contemporary, whom we have just quoted on the other hand, seems to blame M. Golovin for noticing this exemption, in reply to a French writer, who had epigrammatically remarked that "all Russians were equal before the stick." An English writer might with equal justice and propriety remark that "All Englishmen are equal before the law. 'Old marquises,' however, do occasionally escape exposure, and a system of fines in police-courts operates occasionally as an exemption from punishment for the rich in cases where imprisonment would be the penalty of the poor. Landowners, too, in some instances, practically refute this admirable theory of equal justice." When M. Golovin tells us that he regards it as "a misfortune to have been born in the reign of Nicholas, to have to waste his energies in combating a man who, *had he not the power to render millions of human beings unhappy* would not deserve any attention;" he speaks rhetorically, of course; his regret has all the air of real gusto, and the "had he *not*" is a stroke of irony with a vengeance! "*Had he not*," indeed!

M. Golovin, in the volume we are at present noticing, rambles on in a note-book style over every phase and branch of his subject, historical, ethnological, political, administrative, military, artistic, literary, topographical. Much of his information is necessarily not new, though probably not borrowed, and it is conveyed with a certain pretension of novelty and exclusiveness rather irritating to readers choked with Russia of late. The best and freshest part of the book is, after all, the most apocryphal—we mean the anecdotes with which every page is agreeably interspersed. Of some of these it may be said,—if not true, they are well invented; and they are happier, if not more faithful illustrations than tons of contradictory and squeezable statistics. M. Golovin writes surprisingly good English—clear, vivid, and sometimes even felicitous. Perhaps the occasional strangeness of the phrase lends a certain zest and flavour to the writer's always caustic style.

HUNGARY AND KOSSUTH.

Hungary and its Revolutions, from the Earliest Period to the Nineteenth Century: with a Memoir of Louis Kossuth. By E. O. S. Bohn.

Hungary and its Revolutions is the title of the volume just published by Mr. Bohn in his "Standard Library;" but by far the larger portion of its pages is dedicated to the most recent of Hungary's revolutions; the chief object of the work being, as the author states, "to give a true and correct relation of the life and character of Louis Kossuth, and especially to point out the principles by which he was guided before and after the revolution of 1848." The introductory sketch of Hungarian history is consequently an exceedingly brief one; but it is well and clearly written; it is an interesting narrative—not, like most compendiums, a dry record of dates and events; and it is valuable as affording a key to the character of a people extremely susceptible to traditional influences, and attached as much to ancient laws as to ancient liberties. As a specimen, we will present the reader with an extract from the account of the struggle for Hungarian liberty, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, by the patriot Francis Rákoczy. The history is additionally interesting, for we cannot but trace a striking analogy between some of its events and those of the last revolution in Hungary; an analogy which even extends in some measure to the heroes of either story. The living patriot has evinced the talent, the energy, the devotion, the courage in misfortune, which distinguished his predecessor: we may trust that the similarity between their fates ceases there, and that a brighter future is in store for Kossuth.

"As soon as Joseph I. was established on the throne of Austria he recalled Heister, and offered the Hungarians an amnesty, with a promise to redress their grievances. Though the country was still in a state of too much irritation against the late monarch to be ready to accept terms from his successor, Rákoczy was sincerely desirous of peace. As he could not singly oppose the will of the majority, he summoned a Diet, where it was resolved to restore Hungary to its original form of government, a kind of federal union, in which each state or county should continue as heretofore to manage its own local administration, while sending deputies to the general Diet, and all united under one chief, who should bear the title of Duke, as in the days of Arpad. It was with some difficulty that Rákoczy could be persuaded to accept the honour, but as soon as he yielded, he was raised on a shield according to ancient usage, and the prelates, magnates, and deputies of the Diet, swore allegiance to him. The proposals of Joseph to negotiate were then accepted, on condition of his resigning the hereditary claim of his family to the throne of Hungary and Transylvania, and that if he was received as their king, he would abandon the latter country wholly to Rákoczy, and swear to observe the charter of King Andrew.

"These conditions were, however, rejected, and war recommenced in 1707. The Diet met at Onad, and the deputies from thirty-one out of the fifty counties attended the sitting. Rákoczy again urged them to listen to proposals of peace, which were, however, again refused; the Hapsburg dynasty was declared to be deposed, and the throne vacant. The Czar of Russia about this time offered to procure the crown of Poland for Rákoczy, but he declined the honour. In 1708, Joseph convoked a Diet at Presburg, which was but thinly attended, and the time was wholly occupied by religious discussions. General Heister entered Hungary with a large army, and encountered Rákoczy at Trentsin: in the heat of the battle, the prince was thrown from his horse with so much force as to become insensible, and this accident turned the fortunes of the day; when he recovered his faculties all was already lost. Six thousand men lay slain, many captives were taken, and the rest were dispersed by the Austrians.

"The magnates had now begun to weary of the war, which they themselves had continued contrary to the advice of Rákoczy; but when in 1710 he laid before them the proposals of peace sent by Joseph, and offered to resign his office, and release them from their oaths of allegiance to him, they steadfastly refused. The plague had broken out on the frontiers of Turkey, and cut off all communication with the strong places there which still declared for the Hungarian leader, and the promised succour of his ally, the King of France, did not arrive. Rákoczy accordingly went to Poland to demand aid, leaving Karolyi in charge of the troops; but in his absence his general accepted the mediation of England and Holland, and at Szatmar signed a treaty of peace with the emperor.

"Rákoczy perceiving now that all his hope of establishing the liberties of Hungary on a firmer basis were vain, wrote to Joseph and recommended the unhappy Hungarian people to his mercy; then embarking in a vessel at Dantzic, sailed for England, and passed from thence into France. Louis XIV. received him graciously, allowing him a handsome pension, and he was treated with much kindness by his nobles and the ladies who surrounded the king, who were charmed with his romantic history, and his literary taste. But the frivolity of the French court had no attractions for a man whose hopes had been crushed, and who now wandered an exile from the country for which he had vainly sacrificed the best years of his life. He left France for the shores of the Sea of Marmora, and was there occupied with literary labours until his death in 1735. His memory is ever cherished by Hungary as one of the last of her patriots, and the wild music of the Rákoczy march which then echoed amidst her mountains, and was borne by the winds across her plains, has a century later been heard again in louder strains, and roused the hearts of her people once more to deeds of heroism."

The work before us is principally compiled from sources of information already before the public; but it also contains much that is new regarding the early and purely personal history of Kossuth—if, indeed, a man can be said to have a purely personal history whose whole life has been devoted to the service of his country, and who has scarcely had a thought unconnected with public matters since extreme youth. There are interesting details concerning the conduct of the *Pesti Hirlap*, or *Pesth Journal*, of which Kossuth was the editor from 1841 to 1844, and which became in his hands so valuable an exponent of Liberal principles. Many of those individuals who look upon Kossuth as a demagogue or general destructive, whose marvellous powers of eloquence only render him the more dangerous, will probably be surprised to see the wisdom and moderation with which—while advocating the cause of the people, and endeavouring to awaken them to a sense of their dignity and of their rights—he employs that powerful eloquence equally to repress injustice and revolutionary excesses. The following is not the language of an ambitious demagogue:—

"'Those schemes of wisdom are futile,' he wrote, 'which do not proceed from law, but within the boundaries of law, we must listen to the inspirations of sound reason, and we may not forget that under the shadow of a constitution which it has taken centuries to erect, the lives and interests of millions rest, who have as strong claims on our consideration and forbearance as on our justice.' With these views he was desirous that while claiming a more just construction of the laws respecting the tenure of land, the interests of the present proprietors of the soil should not be overlooked.

"He further exhorted those who, in their zeal for reform, were inclined towards extreme measures, to cherish the remembrance of the past, which amidst errors and darkness, contained much that was truly great and good, and therefore to respect the order of the aristocracy, which had hitherto played the chief part in the history of their country. He bade the people follow leaders whose names were associated with the most glorious recollections, while he at the same time admonished those to whom a nation turned with confidence at the very sound of their names, to whom a sphere of active usefulness was opened from their first entrance into life, which other men only attained through a series of long struggles, that it was their duty to lead the nation on in the pathway of reform. 'Let them but renounce their narrow-hearted, selfish, unpatriotic views, let them but feel that to grant to others their rights is no sacrifice, but the best security for their own rights; let them but carry the white banner of rational progress crowned with the green garland of Hope, along the

road of peaceful national prosperity and constitutional progress, and the nation will hail them with confidence as their leaders, and follow their traditional names with twice the enthusiasm with which they once followed their ancestors into the field of battle; but,' Kossuth added, addressing the aristocracy in their own persons, 'if there are men among you who think that the splendid name you have inherited from your ancestors is an inexhaustible capital, which confers on you the right to spend your lives in inaction, or even to set up your personal privileges and your private interests in the way of right and justice, and of the national commonweal; if such men are to be found, who by their blind egotism clog the wheel of the world's advance, or of that rational progress which should guide the counsels of a wise government, hindering that which the general need and the instinct of the nation demands, then—now, the nation unaided by you, will fulfil its own destiny—*with you, by you, if you will; without you, even against you, if it must be.*'"

But though he attached undue value to the aristocratic element in the constitution—though he never wished to overthrow constitutional monarchy in Hungary, but only to reform and purify it—experience soon taught him to distrust Austrian faith and Austrian promises. The difference between his feelings and those of his more credulous colleagues, flushed and hopeful from the triumph of having obtained from the king a responsible Ministry, is well described:—

"It was with much difficulty that Batthyanyi persuaded Kossuth to form one of the Ministry; he was not ambitious of office, and he knew that he differed on several points from Batthyanyi, and from those who composed the rest of his Cabinet; but the Premier considered his presence to be indispensable, and that no Cabinet could exist in Hungary from which he was excluded. Kossuth was not as credulous as many of his colleagues, of the fair promises they had received; he was well aware that the Viennese Ministers would not regard with favourable eyes the efforts of the Liberal party to maintain order and independence; and, therefore, while earnestly cherishing the hope of peace, he thought it expedient to be prepared to resist external aggression; he could not believe that a few weeks would change the whole policy of Austria, and urged that immediate preparations should be made to put the country in a state of defence. Batthyanyi, on the contrary, could see no reason for distrust. With views narrowed by an aristocratic education, he could never comprehend the true character of the people who confided in him, and he feared democracy more than the tyranny of despots."

We might extract from this memoir many interesting illustrations of the incredible energy which is so distinguishing a characteristic of this remarkable man. We all know—he told us—how and where he learnt our language; how, in his dreary imprisonment in the fortress of Buda, worn in health and wearied in spirit by the two years' of solitary confinement he had endured before even books were allowed him, he mastered a foreign language with such completeness, that never, in the memory of living man, has it been wielded, even by a native orator, with greater power. Even when at Kutahia in 1850, an exile and a fugitive, in circumstances calculated to crush the spirit and paralyse the energies of most men, we are told he devoted himself to acquiring the Turkish language, and to composing a grammar, now in use in the Turkish schools. We take but a one-sided view of his character if we omit to notice the gentleness and mercy which distinguished his public acts. Never was he known to err on the side of harshness or injustice towards even his bitterest enemies. Indeed, his tenderness of disposition and command of temper were proverbial among his countrymen. His biographer quotes a trifling anecdote on this subject, which we insert as characteristic:—

"While thus occupied with his Ministerial labours, Kossuth almost denied himself necessary rest; but his placidity of temper and gentleness of disposition never forsook him in the relations of domestic life. An anecdote is told of him at this period, that one day having spent the whole of the previous night in writing, and having retired to snatch a short interval of rest, he found on his return that the large pile of papers which had occupied him during so many hours had disappeared. On inquiry being made, an old servant of the family acknowledged that, supposing them to be rubbish, he had used them to light the fires. Kossuth bid the man not distress himself, as he could write them over again, and sat down with an unruffled temper to recommence his work."

The best testimonial to his character is found in the adoration with which he is still regarded in Hungary. Nine hundred out of every thousand boys born since 1848, we are told, bear the name of "Lajos" (Louis) in memory of the exile.

This is not the place to retrace the sad story of 1849—of "foreign force and native fraud"—of the treachery of friends and the apathy of European Governments—which laid Hungary again under the yoke of that relentless despotism which is a bye-word even among despotisms. But we cannot refrain from extracting and from echoing one more passage from this book, believing, as we do, that a selfish policy in nations, as in individuals, will infallibly receive, sooner or later, a just retribution; and that, according as the constitutional Governments of Europe support the struggling nationalities cordially and loyally, or desert them from timid and temporising views of (miscalled) policy, will the cause of constitutional liberty stand or fall?

"On the 1st of August, Lord Palmerston had written a despatch to Vienna, offering to mediate, *if Austria desired it.* The Russians were then in the very centre of Hungary, the assistance of the autocrat had enabled Austria to overthrow a constitutional government, and destroy the freedom of fifteen millions of human beings; and England, after refusing her services while there was yet time, offered to stay the hand of the destroyer when the death-struggle had already commenced.

"In 1839 Paget wrote thus:—'The interests of Europe, of humanity, require that the ambition of Russia should receive a check. . . . . She is preparing the way for future conquest in the south of Europe, and to these conquests Wallachia and Moldavia are the high road. These countries have no force which could enable them to resist her invading army for a single day, nor is it possible that for centuries they can have. . . . Independent, therefore, these provinces cannot be; the question then is, to whom they shall belong? . . . . Hungary is the only power which could hold them with safety to herself and others. Let Hungary offer the Principalities a frank union, a fair share in the advantages of her constitution, and an equality of rights and privileges, and I have no doubt the Wallachians would gladly join themselves to a country which could guarantee them a national existence, civil and religious freedom, and an identity of material interests. Hungary, too, would gladly accept a share in the trade of the Black Sea, and might probably be induced to give up her claims on Gallicia for such a compensation—and then, with constitutional Poland reinstated in her integrity on the one side, and constitutional Hungary intervening on the other, the fears of invasion from absolute Russia would be an idle bugbear, unworthy a moment's fear; *but from no other combination can Europe ever be safe.*'

"Where is Hungary now? Russia was invited by Austria to break down the second and strongest barrier which impeded her conquest in Europe. England, France, and Prussia gave a tacit consent to the proceedings of the czar. One barrier only remains; what wonder then if Nicholas, encouraged by the conduct of the Powers at this period, attempt to destroy the last obstacle between him and the ambition of his race, from the time of the Great Peter; and on whom does the blame rest, if Europe is again a scene of war and bloodshed? Surely the selfishness of nations, as of individuals, is short-sighted, and a just retribution must visit those who have refused to interpose their influence to save from destruction the lives and liberties of the only great nation in continental Europe, whose people can boast a constitution of eight centuries."

MORE POETS.

Poems. By James Macfarlan. Robert Hardwicke.
Poetical Tentatives. By Lynn Erith. Saunders and Otley.
Firmilian, a Spasmodic Tragedy. By T. Percy Jones. Blackwood and Sons.
Songs from the Dramatists. Edited by Robert Bell. John W. Parker and Son.
Five Dramas by an Englishman. Saunders and Otley.
The Siege of Silistria: a Poem. By William Thomas Thornton. Longmans.
A Waterloo Commemoration for 1854. By Michael T. Barry. Wm. S. Orr and Co.

SEVEN modern muses were noticed in this journal not very many days since. The ever-flowing tide of publication brings us this week no less than six more, whom we must despatch in a single article. In writing these words, we are led to remark the peculiar tendency of the age to poetical—(well—*rythmical*)—expression. Here are thirteen new volumes of poetry published in the space of a few weeks, of different degrees of merit, but none of them rising above mediocrity, while many, we must admit, fall far below it. Different as these books are,—different as men's minds,—there runs through all the present school of minor poets a certain resemblance. If we read the table of contents prefixed to any recent volume of poems, we cannot but be struck with the similarity of the subjects chosen. Poetry has its Vicars of Wakefield, its Cavaliers, its Deerstalkers, Gipsies, and Italian peasants, as regularly as Painting. "Solitude," "Memory," "Night," "The Past," "Nature," "The Soul," "Hope," "Music," "Evening," &c., &c., greet us as certainly in these volumes, as do our old friends above-named, in Trafalgar-square. The poetic taste of the present day is characterised by a worship of nature, and by a careful and minute observation of the changes of the external world. Add to this an eager recognition of the analogies between the material and immaterial, and you have the stock in trade of many a modern poet, whose very facility of versification becomes a deadly snare to him, because out of these materials he finds it so easy to weave endless reveries. From this danger Alexander Smith does not entirely escape, though his true poetic talent, and the variety and fertility of his imagination, save him from becoming monotonous or common-place. But in inferior hands the danger is manifest; the obvious analogies and natural illustrations are soon exhausted, and the writer either repeats himself everlastingly, or becomes strained and exaggerated, deeming himself forcible.

We have mentioned Alexander Smith; because, in the poems of Mr. Macfarlan, now before us, the influence of that poet is strikingly apparent. The exuberances and mannerisms which the sincere admirers of Alexander Smith regard as errors incidental to youth and inexperience, are precisely the characteristics most easily imitated. Mr. Macfarlan's imagery is as profuse; but not, alas! as varied. Rosebuds, stars, suns, dew-drops, tear-drops, waves, motes, and beams, besprinkle the pages. Here and there we find a well-expressed thought, or a pretty image, but there is a sad lack of originality for the most part. To us there is neither nature nor novelty in the following conversation—or rather exchange of what Dickens calls "moral crackers" between two friends:—

"ERNEST.
"Hopes lie like flowers upon the path of man;
And when they wither, it is oft because
His own unwary steps have crushed their bloom.
"JULIAN.
"The past is but the charnel house of Time,
Wherein are buried all our hopes and joys;
While memories come back like sheeted ghosts
To haunt us in the midnight of our thoughts.
"ERNEST.
"Be happy yet! Build up a proud resolve
Upon the ruins of thy shattered hopes."

Or in this:

"ERNEST.
"Man's thoughts would fain go round the universe,
And set out bravely on the mighty task;
But when they enter on the confines dim
Of dread infinity, they quickly fall
Like frighted shot-stars to the breast of earth.
"JULIAN.
"We must retire; the moon looks calmly in,
As if to smile at our late sitting here.
"CYRIL.
"You do mistake her; she is now at rest.
The moon reveals her beauty to the night
Without a blush upon her virgin cheek;
But when the earth too amorously looks up,
She draws a cloud upon her naked form
To screen her from the gaze." [*Exeunt.*

Ernest, the hero of the poem just quoted, is one of those mysteriously miserable geniuses, tender and sensitive, though steeped in crime (they would have you believe) of the blackest dye, who are especially fashionable with this class of writers. Mr. Macfarlan has considerable power of versification; we hope he may "change his hand," apply the pruning knife, and do better things.

There is less fault to find with *Poetical Tentatives;* but neither is there much to admire; the versification is smooth,—sometimes rather slovenly, the subjects neither novel, nor originally treated. We subjoin a specimen:—

"THE RUSHING RIVER.
"Oh, river! rushing river,
That floweth on for ever,
Under the shadow of the tree that droopeth down;
Swift art thou, and full
Of the rolling beautiful,
Choir of rock and wave, as they each other crown.
"Thy goal is not yet won,
But still thou glidest on,
To where its shores are lying;
Towards that mighty sea,
Which soon shall set them free,
Thy trembling waves are sighing.
"How rapid is the tide
Of life, which thou doth glide
Towards some boundless ocean;
How many a soul to-day,
Is hurrying on its way,
With sighing and emotion!"

A plague on all parodists! Here is Professor Aytoun, under the thin disguise of Percy Jones, pouring out a vial of wrath on Alexander Smith. Heaven knows we have little enough to say in defence of the poets of Young England. At the close of the season, in the face of cholera, at the cost of many a weary hour, when the bright sun was tempting us from our mournful task, we have lately tried to discover some hidden beauties in their productions. As our readers know it was all in vain. Rather would we go to Nineveh with Mr. Layard, rather ascend Mont Blanc with Albert Smith, than again encounter the labour of the last six weeks. Above all we cannot tolerate parodists. It is easy (critics ought to know) to pour out sentences of indignation. It is more pleasant and in every respect more human to search for beauties. If we cannot find room for praise, we scorn to crush a literary aspirant who forges the weapons of his own destruction. Sometimes, indeed, a sham achieves success. He deceives mankind, and then, in pity to our race, we expose him. But we enter a decided protest against that burlesque mania which seems to have seized on all the world. Look at our theatres; what a crusade is waged against the beautiful and the true! The divine Shakspeare has not escaped. He has been travestied, parodied, and burlesqued in every conceivable way. And so it is throughout. And we are astonished beyond measure that a man of any mark in literature should condescend to court applause by pandering to this popular taste. *Firmilian, a Spasmodic Tragedy*, is the work of Professor Aytoun, and his object is to make Alexander Smith ridiculous. We are not going to defend Alexander Smith. Long ago we prophesied his success, and did not certainly conceal his defects. We are content to be assured that the public have agreed in our verdict, and that the poet can stand on his own merits. As everybody knows, the faults of the young Scotchman's poems lay on the surface, a fool in criticism might have found them out. Their beauties lay deeper; at all events, they lay beyond Professor Aytoun's ken, and so the author of some tolerable imitations of Macaulay has chosen to write a parody. We are sorry to say that some portions of *Firmilian* are too clever to allow the book to go unread, but the "spasmodic" effort will invite no praise but such as is accorded to intellect without heart.

With intense satisfaction we turn to *Songs from the Dramatists*, edited by Robert Bell, and forming the August volume of Parker's annotated edition of the English Poets. Mr. Bell is, in the best sense of the word, a worker, and we believe him, when he tells us in his preface, "the labour bestowed upon this volume cannot be adequately estimated by its bulk. The labour which is *not* represented considerably exceeded the labour which has borne the fruit and flowers gathered into this little book." We are spared the toil, and have full enjoyment of the pleasant results. From Nicholas Udall, who was born in 1505, to Richard Brinsley Sheridan, there are some sixty dramatists, whose songs are thought worthy of republication. Beyond the fact that the general public is now, for the first time, to make acquaintance with the treasures of poetry concealed in the works of our dramatic writers, "the plan upon which the work is arranged furnishes the means of following the course of the drama historically, and tracing in its progress the revolutions of style, manners, and morals that marked successive periods." To announce the appearance of such a book is enough.

Five Dramas, by an Englishman, and dedicated to Samuel Phelps; and *The Siege of Silistria*, by William Thomas Thornton, the author of *Zohrab*, conclude our list of poets; unless, indeed, we are to include a *Waterloo Commemoration*, by Michael Thomas Barry, in a short advertisement to which the author has the audacity to tell us that the composition of the poem occupied fewer hours than its progress through the press did days. Such a statement at the very commencement of a book is a sufficient reason for closing it at once. Why should any one write a book, if it is necessary to preface it by an excuse?

FIFTY YEARS IN BOTH HEMISPHERES.

Fifty Years in Both Hemispheres; or, Reminiscences of a Merchant's Life. By Vincent Nolte. Trübner and Co.

WHO does not love a well-written autobiography? You may call us curious, and impertinent, and whatever hard names you choose; you may flee from our society as though we had inherited the mantle of old Boswell; but we confess, without a blush, that life would lose half its charms except for that instinctive sympathy which each man takes in the history of his fellows. What a dull cold affair would living become, if we were all bounded by our own narrow circle of hopes and fears, of joys and sorrows! Archbishop Whateley told a friend that he knew no better cure for a headache than Bishop Stanley's book about birds. For an Archbishop, that was well said; it proved, at least, that the mitre had not robbed him of all kindly affection. But, for ourselves, if we happened to be in the headache predicament, we should vote in favour of an autobiography. The memoirs of a Grammont, the diaries of our Pepyses, the daily records of doings and sayings, the unvarnished narratives of how the world treated a brother man on such and such a day—all these have charms, if not to soothe the savage breast, at all events to ease an aching heart, and cool a throbbing brain. But what does all this mean? Why are we repeating what everybody knows, and has been said a million times? For the very laudable purpose of introducing the *Reminiscences of a Merchant*. Now do not let the title disgust you. You have been shut up all day in that dull counting-house in the City, and you are sick of merchandise and Three per Cents. But you will find nothing in this book that smacks of the shop. To be sure, Herr Nolte was a merchant; but he was a merchant who passed through every phase of existence. He was a millionaire, and (listen to it mammon-loving Englishmen) he tells us how he made his money. He was born in 1779, and he wrote the last lines of his autobiography in May, 1853. He knew every corner of Europe and America; he was in habits of familiar intercourse with royal persons of every description, with the kings who reign by divine right, and the kings who reign by right of brains or money. In one page you have an anecdote of Napoleon, in the next a pleasant bit of gossip about Byron. In short, there is scarcely a notoriety of the last fifty years, on either side of the Atlantic, of whom you do not hear something. It would be a sin to tempt you to impatience by any farther delay. Here, then, is a picture of Bonaparte at Leghorn. Vincent was then a boy, and had been sent to Leghorn to learn business with an uncle. Bonaparte has just arrived, and found that, thanks to Nelson, the British residents had escaped with all their property:—

"About eleven o'clock on the ensuing day all the foreign consuls waited upon Bonaparte who was dismissing them very abruptly, when his glance happened to fall suddenly upon my uncle in his red consular uniform. He instantly accosted my worthy relative thus:—'What's that? An English uniform?' My uncle, overwhelmed with confusion, had just presence of mind enough left to stammer out. 'No, *Padrone*' (this word was probably borrowed from the street corners). '*No, questa é l'uniforma di Amburgo!*' 'No, master (or *boss*), this is the uniform of Hamburgh!' Having thus delivered himself, he tried to get away; but Bonaparte went on with a fierce diatribe against everything that even looked English, thought English ideas, or could have any intercourse whatever with England. 'These Englishmen,' said he, according to the recital of my uncle when returned to the house, 'These Englishmen shall get such a lesson as they never heard of before! I march now on Vienna, and then farther northwards, where I will destroy their hiding places at Hamburgh and other places of resort, and then ferret them out in their own piratical nest!' My uncle told me that upon this outbreak, he could not keep himself from exclaiming aloud, *Birbante!* (villain!) before the whole company present, but that the sound of it was lost in the general buzz of the throng.

"However, any one acquainted with my uncle, is well aware that with him the deed was often far behind the thought, and such was, no doubt, the case in the instance just mentioned."

A whole chapter is devoted to the history of Ouvrard. Napoleon and the great capitalist were never good friends. Among other reasons for the dislike of the Emperor to a man whose riches exalted him into the position of a rival, perhaps the following was not the least:—

"Napoleon, who, up to that time as a mere general, had found no special occasion to plume himself upon any great success with the fairer half of creation, was more fortunate as Emperor, and was readily listened to by the rival beauties of the day. In Mademoiselle Georges, the loveliest woman of her time, he flattered himself that he really had made a complete conquest, looked upon her as his exclusive property, became enamoured and jealous. Among the intelligence which he received from Paris, on the day after the battle of Austerlitz, was a message from his Minister of Police, informing him that Mademoiselle Georges had passed several days at Ouvrard's pleasure-palace of Raincy, and had there performed one of her very best parts. General Berthier, who had hastened onward four-and-twenty hours in advance of the Emperor, on his return from Vienna, instantly sent for Ouvrard, and intimated to him that this circumstance had in no light degree contributed to exasperate the Emperor, and accelerate his hasty return to Paris.

"I had seen and admired Mademoiselle Georges the preceding year, during the short period I spent in Paris, on my journey to Amsterdam; and limited as my sojourn in that capital had been, I still had found an opportunity to get a peep at life behind the scenes of the new imperial *régime*. The literary circles of the capital were just at that moment taken up with a new tragedy, which the celebrated play-writer and poet Renouard was then preparing to bring out in the Théâtre Français, under the title of 'Les Templiers' (The Templars). The part of Ignaz de Molay, the Grand Master of the Templars, was in the hands of Talma; the parts of the King and the Queen were given to Lafond and Mademoiselle Georges. The rehearsals had been finished. The time for the first performance fixed upon, and the intended presence of the Emperor and Empress everywhere announced.

"Paris at that time was in a buzz with all kinds of anecdotes about the remarkably splendid set of diamonds which had been presented to the Empress by the court jeweller Fossin, and which consisted of a diadem, necklace, and pendants for the ears. The price which had been asked for this superb ornament was half a million of francs; and, unless my memory fails me, I recollect to have heard at that time of another smaller sum, that is to say, about three hundred thousand francs. Josephine, whose purse was always empty, in consequence of her propensity for extravagance, had expressed a desire to obtain possession of these diamonds, but the Emperor would not hear of either of these sums. Paris had a great deal to say concerning the scenes that passed between Josephine and Napoleon in consequence of this affair; they were the ever-recurring topic of conversation among the ladies generally, to whose curiosity the jeweller was indebted for very frequent visits. People wanted to see what it was that an Emperor could deny to his Empress.

"On the appointed day, placards announcing the first representation of "The Templars" were visible at all the street corners.

"I had been so fortunate as to procure a parquet ticket for a seat on the second row of benches, from which I could get a good view of the imperial pair. I saw them enter their box, on the left of the house, and take their seats, Napoleon foremost and Josephine close beside him. In the beginning of the second act, their majesties the king and queen appeared upon the stage. Mademoiselle Georges, in the full splendour of her incomparable charms and her splendid figure, heightened the imposing scene by a dazzling diadem, ear-drops, and necklace, all glittering with the most superb diamonds. As she approached the imperial box, Josephine, who was leaning forward on the front rail, betrayed a hasty movement of surprise, and then suddenly, as if struck by lightning, sank back into her seat—for in the magnificent adornment of the actress she had recognised the jewels she was so anxious to possess. During this little episode in the imperial box, Napoleon remained, as might have been expected, entirely unmoved. For the Parisian world such an incident as this was a regular mine of fresh anecdotes concerning the scenes which they opined must have taken place in the private chambers of the Tuileries, after their majesties returned from the theatre."

Very interesting is this account of the Baring family:—

"I will take this opportunity of saying something about the Baring family, particularly its most distinguished members, Sir Francis, and his second son, Alexander, as well as the honourable chief of the Amsterdam house, Mr. Henry Hope, whom I have already named. The last of these, when I first made his acquaintance, had reached his seventieth year, and was somewhat deaf. He had never been married. It was he who opened the way for the autocratic power of Russia, under the Empress Catharine II., to the confidence of the then wealthiest capitalists in Europe, the Dutch, and thereby laid the foundation of Russian credit. Always treated by the Empress with great distinction, he had been honoured with the gift, from her own hand, of her portrait, the full size of life. This picture occupied the place of honour in the superb gallery of paintings fitted up by him in his palace 't' Huys ten Bosch' (now a royal pleasure-palace), which he had built in the wood of Harlem. Upon his emigration to England, he had taken this splendid gallery, entirely composed of cabinet-pieces, with him, and I had the pleasure of seeing it frequently, at his residence in Cavendish-square. To the tone of a refined gentleman and man of the world he united a certain amiable affability which spoke to and won every heart. The whole-souled cordiality with which he always met me, when I came to his dwelling in the city, or to his country-seat. Eastsheen, in the neighbourhood of Richmond, has always remained fresh in my memory, Yet a secret trouble seemed to be weighing on his mind. This annoyance arose from the notorious relations of his niece, Madam Williams Hope, with a Dutch officer of dragoons, by the name of Dopff. I had attracted his confidence, and he one day seized me suddenly by the hand, led me to the window, and could not restrain his tears, as he told me that he must close the door of his house against her, if she ventured to bring this man with her to England. The larger part of his considerable fortune, which he had bequeathed to Henry, the eldest son of this niece, and who died unmarried, passed, at the decease of the latter, to Adrian, the second son, who left no male heirs, but from whom it descended to Francis, the third son, born several years afterwards. This third inheritor is the rich and well known Mr. Hope, now settled in Paris, and the only surviving member of that branch of the whole family.

"A close examination into the origin of the Baring family traces it back to a certain Peter Baring, who lived in the years from 1660 to 1670, at Gröningen, in the Dutch province of Overyssel. One of his ancestors, under the name of Francis Baring, was pastor of the Lutheran church at Bremen, and in that capacity was called to London, where, among others, he had a son named John. The latter, well acquainted with cloth-making, settled at Larkbeer, in Devonshire, and there put up an establishment for the manufacture of that

article. He had five children—four sons, John, Thomas, Francis, Charles, and a daughter, called Elizabeth. Two of these sons, John and Francis, established themselves, under the firm of John and Francis Baring, at London, originally with a view of facilitating their father's trade in disposing of his goods, and so as to be in a position to import the raw material to be required, such as wool, dye-stuffs, &c., themselves directly from abroad. Thus was established the house which—after the withdrawal of the elder brother John, who retired to Exeter—gradually, under the firm-name of Francis Baring and Co., and eventually, under the firm-name of Baring, Brothers and Co., rose to the highest rank of mercantile eminence in the commerce of the world.

"Sir Francis, who, under the Ministry of the Count Shelburn, father of the present Marquis of Lansdowne, had become his intimate friend and adviser in financial matters, having in the year 1793 received the title of Baronet, was already styled by the latter the Prince of Merchants. He had become somewhat feeble and very deaf when I first got personally acquainted with him. On the occasion of one of my visits to him, he told me that he had kept at his business for thirty years before he considered himself entitled to keep an equipage. Upon another occasion, when I spoke to him of my project in establishing myself in New Orleans, after the termination of my mission, he remarked, 'Usually, my young friend, that commission business is the best in which the commissions take this direction'—here he made a motion with his hands, as if throwing something towards him—'but where the business goes thus!'—motioning as if he was throwing something from him. This amounted to saying, in other words, that receiving consignments was a better business than executing commissions. Three of his sons, Thomas, Alexander, and Henry, entered the London establishment; but the first, who was intended to have carried on the father's name, after the death of the latter, on the 12th of September, 1810, assumed the name of Sir Thomas, and withdrew from the house, as the third also found occasion to do at a later period. The latter was passionately fond of play, and indulged in it with so much success, that he several times broke 'Entreprise Générale Des Jeux,' of Paris. But the sight of one of the heads of such a house, one night after another, in the great gambling establishments, produced a bad effect; and even if it did not impair his credit, it in no slight degree damaged his respectability. This was felt at head-quarters, and an understanding was come to for his withdrawal from the firm.

"Alexander Baring, the second son of Sir Francis, had received a portion of his education in Hanau, had then completed it in England, and commenced his mercantile career in the house of Messrs. Hope, where a friendship sprung up between him and Mr. P. C. Labouchère, which led to the latter's marriage, at a later period, with his sister, Maria Baring. When the Messrs. Hope retired to England, in consequence of the occupation of Holland by the revolutionary French army, under Pichegrüe, and after Alexander Baring had left the House, he determined to visit the United States of North America. At his departure, his father confined his advice to two especial recommendations, one of which was to purchase no uncultivated land, and the other not to marry a wife there: 'Because,' said he, 'uncultivated lands can be more readily bought than sold again; and a wife is best suited to the home in which she was raised, and cannot be formed or trained a second time.' However, Alexander had not passed one year in the United States before he forgot both branches of his father's advice. Not only did he purchase large tracts of land in the western part of the State of Pennsylvania, and lay out a not inconsiderable capital (100,000 dols. at least) in the then District and now State of Maine, and that too under the annexed condition of bringing a number of settlers thither within a certain term of years, but also, in 1798, when just twenty-four years of age, he married Anna, the eldest daughter of Mr. William Bingham, in Philadelphia, who was at that time considered the richest man in the United States, and was then a member of the Senate. The inheritance he had to thank her for, at the death of her father, amounted to 900,000 dols. She bore him nine children, of which seven are still living. The eldest of these, called William Bingham, after his grandfather, is the present Lord Ashburton, and has reached the age of fifty-tree. His wife is a Lady Sandwich, and their marriage has remained childless. After his death, his title, along with the greater part of his fortune, will pass to the second son, Francis, who is married to a daughter of the Duke Bassano, a former State Secretary of Napoleon. This gentleman usually resides at Paris, and is the eldest head of the London house, in the management of whose business, however, he seldom takes any active part. He has two sons. The favourite from the first, of his father and mother, both title and fortune will pass entirely, according to their wishes, into the hands of him who in their eyes deserved the preference."

In 1822, Nolte is at Paris. He tells us of his interview with Lafitte, the Paris banker:—

"I had more or less extensive connections with all the great bankers of Paris, except Jacques Lafitte, who, as a native Frenchman—he came from Bayonne—kept himself at the head of the others, who were mostly Swiss. A very pressing letter of introduction, from Alexander Baring himself, made me at length acquainted with him. He was then owner of the former Hotel de l'Empire, and had his various offices on the ground floor. His own counting-room was in a great hall, where, upon a very broad dais of mahogany, four steps high, stood his huge writing-desk. Before him, at the foot of the dais, were some twenty arm-chairs, in half circle; behind him, right and left, a dozen speaking tubes in the hall served as means of communication with the heads of the various departments which composed his establishment. The arrangements were princely. As I entered I found most of the arm-chairs filled by exchange brokers. I mounted the four steps, and presented to the chief of this gathering my letter of introduction, which, after a glance at its contents, he laid behind him, and graciously waived me to one of the empty chairs. After some minutes a word was whispered into one of the speaking tubes, and a clerk appeared from within, to whom Mr. Lafitte gave my letter, and then beckoned to me. With all due reverence I drew near his mercantile majesty, and received from his own mouth a polite invitation to visit him on next Sunday, at the Maison sur Seine, a country-seat which he had just purchased from Government, and which Louis XIV. had built. 'Come early,' he said, 'and we will talk at our ease, while promenading in the park.' I made my appearance on Sunday, about three o'clock, was received by the steward, and shown into the reception rooms, library, billiard room, saloon, &c., after which I was told that I would find M. Lafitte walking in the park. Thereupon I took for my companion an elderly Englishman, who appeared to be boring himself in the library. We soon met the master of the house, in company with two very simply-dressed, well-mannered Englishmen, one of whom wore something then unusual in French society—a summer costume, white drilling trousers, fine cotton stockings, and shoes. Both spoke French well. The perfection of English cotton manufactures appeared to be the topic of conversation; and when we returned to the house I had decided that the two gentlemen were great Manchester spinners. M. Lafitte, as usual, led the conversation, as the French say, '*il tenait la corne*;' that is, he spoke out whatsoever came into his head, interrupting others, and starting countless topics that had nothing to do with the matter in hand. On reaching the drawing-rooms we found Madame Lafitte, with her only daughter, now the Princess de la Moskowa, and several gentlemen, most of them opposition deputies in the chamber, among them M. Cassimir Perrier, and M. Grammont, to whom M. Lafitte introduced me personally. At table one of the Englishmen was placed at Madame Lafitte's right hand, the other at her husband's. I concluded, by this distribution of the places of honour, that they must be, probably, owners of several great cotton factories, with enormous credits at Lafitte's, which regulated the proportion of his great politeness to them. M. Lafitte, whose talkativeness had as yet found no obstacle, rattled away. He told a great deal about the 'hundred days,' and said he had never admired Napoleon; and that during the time when he was daily sent for, and consulted by the emperor, he had learned to know him well, and had discovered that he possessed the art of making himself popular in the highest degree. 'He was quite confidential with me,' said Lafitte, 'spoke without any reticence, and once made to me a notable remark about our nation. "The French," he said, "are a people whom one must know how to govern with arms of iron, but with velvet gloves."' My readers may have heard this; but a remark which fell from the lips of Madame Lafitte's right hand neighbour is newer. 'Right,' said he, 'it is so—but he very often forgot to put his gloves on.' This was so true, and so apropos, that all who heard it burst out laughing. I asked my next neighbour who the witty gentleman was, and learned, to my surprise, that he was no less a person than the celebrated Marquis of Lansdowne; his companion was Lord Bristol.

"After dinner M. Lafitte continued his discoursing, and displayed great power of retaining the attention of his guests: he always had a little circle round him which I joined the more willingly because it gave me an opportunity to observe the remarkable superiority of an English parliamentary speaker, like Lord Lansdowne, over a French *faiseur de discours*, and phrase-hunter. Lafitte, in his attempts to develop and render comprehensible the use and method of the French Chamber of Deputies, met with constant difficulties in the answers and remarks of his English listener. 'Faire preuve de capacité,' said he, 'c'est le premier devoir d'un deputé quand il s'agit de parler.' The simple answer of the marquis was, 'Chez nous on ne prend la parole que pour pousser à la roue et avancer les affaires—to do the business of the nation—*comme nous disons en Anglais.*'"

The next anecdote is not new, but deserves repeating:—

"Chantrey was a farmer's son, and had studied painting in his youth, but with no great success. At a family feast, where his mother wished to regale her guests with a pasty, he conceived the idea of moulding a hen in dough, and putting it on the top of the pasty. This hen was his golden egg-laying goose, for it commencad that fortune which grew before his death to 15,000*l.* per annum. The fowl was so exquisitely natural, that the fame of it spread far and wide, and Chantrey, after several other attempts, recognised his proper vocation to be that of a sculptor, and went to London. Here he earned a poor livelihood by portrait painting, and at last saved enough to procure a little sculptor's studio. He then went to the celebrated Horne Tooke, who had broken a stout lance with Junius, and had been prosecuted by Pitt as a demagogue and public disturber, and obtained from him several sittings. When the bust was finished, Chantrey had not money enough to cast it in plaster; but he got it at last, and took the bust to the sculptor Nollekens, at that time at the head of the art world in London. He was too late, however, for the exhibition. Though a man of cool phlegmatic temperament, Chantrey was 'cruelly disappointed.' 'Let us see what you have here,' said Nollekens, and Chantrey uncovered the bust. At the first glance, Nollekens started with amazement. 'What!' he cried, 'is that your first work?' Scarcely had Chantrey said yes, when he added, 'Well, it is too perfect to be kept from the public,' and though the exhibition was full, Nollekens took back one of his own works, and placed the ticket upon Tooke's bust and the bust in the exhibition. The consequences were unexampled, but well merited. I have seen it fifty times, and always with fresh pleasure; for it bore the unmistakeable stamp of Truth, and to all who had seen Took or not, it appeared like a living being, who would answer if addressed. Before the forty days of exhibition were over, Chantrey told me he had received orders for 5000*l.* worth of busts."

In 1837, Nolte has an interview with Queen Victoria, and gets into sad trouble thereby. He had determined to do a favour to "a very worthy young artist," as he calls him, Mr. Henry Weeks, who wished to make a medallion portrait of the Queen. This honour Nolte was resolved to procure for him. He succeeded, and here is the result:—

"She gave him three sittings, and this bust, the first of the Queen, was a real masterpiece, and obtained a great deal of attention at the Exposition of 1838. I had suggested to Weeks to fasten up the great quantity of back hair which the Queen wore on the back of her head, and to replace the comb by a small crown. The suggestion was successful, and pleased everybody, particularly her Majesty, when she first saw the bust. The medallion portrait was also successful, and the plate taken from it by Bogardus' 'self-acting tracer,' was the finest specimen of art that had yet appeared. Neither Collas' machine, nor the stiffly moving one of Bates, had the soft well formed lines of Bogardus' invention which imitated the best productions of Raphael Morgher.

"The Baroness Lehzen had procured permission for me to present some twenty copies of this to her Majesty, and Weeks and myself were requested to come to Buckingham Palace. I could not avoid remarking that all persons seemed to have a very favourable impression in reference to the Queen's personal appearance, and that the usual answers to any interrogations on that subject were,—'she is most beautiful—you never saw the like.'

"On my arrival at Windsor, I was sent into a room, where the baroness soon came in her riding dress, with the skirt thrown over her arm.

"'Ah!' she said, 'you are there. I will tell her Majesty. You will not have to wait long.'

"She had just returned from accompanying the Queen in a ride. In a little while I heard a rustle, and said to myself, 'In a moment the Majesty of England will stand before thine eyes.'

"The door opened, and a young lady, with a couple of heavy locks fallen about her face, entered hastily, followed by the baroness and two ladies of honour. The Queen entered suddenly, and evidently without premeditation, and went directly to the bust which was placed on rather too lofty a pedestal, and repeated two or three times, 'It is very fine.'

"Her Majesty then came to me, who had opened a handsome portfolio, containing the engravings. She was astonished at the relief; lifted one of them, and turned it to see if it were not embossed.

"I had prepared answers to expected questions on the nature of the machine, but, in a moment, she gave me a nod, and Weeks another, and with one more glance at her bust, departed, followed by a lady of honour. The other lady, Lady Caroline Cavendish, and the baroness remained, and having somewhat critically examined the engravings, asked me a great many questions. Then the baroness inquired if it were my intention to get the portraits of other European sovereigns. I answered yes; and mentioned the King of the Belgians as the next, because I knew that he was her friend and patron, and had procured her her post near the Queen.

"As I returned from the castle, I met with Mr. Fozard, the Queen's riding master, with whom I had become acquainted on my former visits to Windsor, who entered into a lively conversation with me in reference to her Majesty, narrating several anecdotes, calculated to illustrate her natural buoyancy of spirits and unaffected simplicity of heart, when released from the trammels and restraints of her royal position.

"Mr. Fozard seemed justly proud of having been the Queen's equestrian preceptor; and spoke highly and even enthusiastically of her Majesty's manner of riding, and stated that he had seen but few ladies who, in his opinion, were more graceful and more dexterous in the management of their high-bred steeds.

"In the Court News appeared a short notice of the honour her Majesty had done me; and I saw no result, save a good one, from it all. Nevertheless, two days afterwards I was arrested in my house, in Edgeware-road, at the suit of Duke Charles of Brunswick. I had taken a contract from his companion, Baron Andlau, for sabretaches, sword and bayonet sheaths, and knapsacks; for which the duke had paid 50,000 francs on account, and had promised to pay all within two months. This contract was not fulfilled, and the belligerent duke instantly commenced a suit, without a word of advice to me. The question was, simply, whether I was bound by the whole contract before the duke had fulfilled his part; but he was fond of lawsuits, as his numerous cases in England proved.

"I had hitherto lived unsued, and this one only served to complete my distress. So soon as Baron Andlau heard of this suit, he brought me 8000 francs, out of 10,000 which had not been paid in the above-named sum of 50,000, and said that the agent in the transaction would be accountable for the other 2000. The baron had served the duke as long as the unworthy nature of the latter would permit, but there were other grounds for their separation, which took place soon after. He now brought me back the money, for fear of certain possible expositions, which would have lost him the duke's confidence. The case was decided against me, and I was condemned to pay back the whole sum, without regard to the fact that I had expended 30,000 francs in the contract. There should have been an appeal, but my clerk, whom I left in Paris, on my journey to Rome, seeing how difficulties were thronging about me, lost his head, and did nothing, except sell all the sheaths and knapsacks that had been bought for about half their cost. I was utterly helpless on my return from Rome, and was nearly penniless when I went to England.

"Of course I could do nothing without money. The duke had sworn in London to my indebtedness, and that sufficed to put me in prison. He knew my circumstances perfectly well; and although assured that my imprisonment would not procure restitution of his advances, yet his evil nature forbade him to be kind to any one whom he had in his power. I learned, too, that he was angry because the Queen had received me, while he was forbidden the court for ever. I could have gotten bail, but was unable to pay a lawyer, and so I determined to bear my fate as it came. I had two reasons for this. First, that the House of Commons was then occupied with the question of imprisonment for debt, and everybody was waiting for the result of their deliberations; and second, that my honest friend Emanuel Bernoulli, then resident in London, was in hopes of arranging matters with the duke's solicitor.

"My old friend Siegmond Rücker discovered my whereabouts by accident. He came to see me, and promised to get me the 'liberties,' namely, four square miles about the prison

of 'Queen's Bench,' by going bail for me. But week after week passed without my hearring further from him. I supposed him to be ill, but afterwards learned that he had followed the advice of a mutual acquaintance, to have nothing to do with a matter which must cost him trouble, and might cost money. I was again the plaything of a ruthless fate, and only got out of one scrape that I might fall into another.

"I heard no more of friend Rücker, and remained a member of the large and varied society of the Queen's Bench; among which I found one old acquaintance, an Englishman, named Swaine, with whom I had become acquainted thirty years before in New York; whom I had frequently seen during my visits to London, and whom, from his neatness of dress, I had supposed to be wealthy, although a hard drinker.

"There ought to be interest enough among my readers to accept here a description of the Queen's Bench prison, of which I was an inmate for three months and a half. After passing through three well-watched gates, you enter a large oblong court, girt by a wall 50 or 55 feet high. To the right, in a corner, is a well-built three-story house, which is let at a high rent to noble prisoners. One gentleman had inhabited one story for fourteen years; another, the great William Cobbett's son, had been eight years in the prison. From the left corner to the outer wall of the place stretched a double row of houses, the furthest of which could be hired, furnished, by such as were able to pay; the others were for those who lived on the allowance of their creditors. At the end of these houses is a small covered market, where one can buy at eight o'clock, A.M., fresh fish, flesh, vegetables, eggs, butter, &c. You either buy for yourself or trust servants, who are not always very conscientious. From the market you take your purchases to one of the cookshops in the neighbourhood, and get it prepared for your table. You get your breakfast from female attendants, who are here in plenty, and who are the wives of poor debtors. The large oblong place between the furthest row of houses and the wall is a ball-ground and promenade, where, when the weather permits, you can breathe the air, and, if you choose, imagine yourself at liberty. The space between the other row and the wall is much narrower. As soon as the doors are opened in the morning, in pours a torrent of outsiders, shop-keepers, visitors, newsmen, &c. To an Englishman, the newspaper is the first necessity; the breakfast comes afterwards; with poor prisoners as long after as possible. 'Time is money,' is not true in prison; there time is a burden, which grows day by day heavier, and must yet be borne with patience. A postman helps you to communicate with your friends, and a circulating library within the prison-bounds furnishes you with intellectual pastime."

THE DIARY AND LETTERS OF MADAME D'ARBLAY.

The Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay. Edited by her Niece. Seven Volumes. Published for Henry Colburn by his Successors, Hurst and Blackett.

A CHEAP reproduction, by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett, of the more expensive edition published by their predecessor, Mr. Colburn, in 1842. At less than a third of the price, we have seven handsomely got up volumes, though we could have wished that a little more care had been taken in the correction of the dates and references to suit the present time, and that the biographical notes at the end of each volume had been made somewhat fuller and more general. In such an age of low-priced literature as this, the public has a right to expect a new edition to be correct as well as cheap.

Madame D'Arblay, better known by her maiden name of Miss Fanny Burney, had the good fortune to live through a busy and interesting time, and to make herself famous at a comparatively early age. Her Diary, beginning with the success of her first novel, *Evelina*, in 1778, is one of the right sort, easy, pleasant, and gossipping, with much in it about the notabilities of the day, of whose sayings and doings the world is always glad to hear. By her Diary Miss Burney would fain persuade us she was only "in her teens" when her first book was published. But, as the whole world knows, she was six-and-twenty at the time, her birth having taken place at Lynn, in Norfolk, in 1752. *Evelina* is forgotten by the present generation, but in its day it made a wondrous sensation. The work was published anonymously, and many were the guesses at its authorship. Once known, Miss Burney became a celebrity of the day. She was taken up by Mrs. Thrale, petted and complimented by Dr. Johnson, domesticated at Streatham, and installed as one of the great lights of that once famous coterie. The Diary from 1780 to 1784 chronicles her life during this time, and if we have rather too much about Miss Burney and her book, and too many repetitions of the flattering things that were said to the one, and about the other, they may fairly enough be set down to the score of pardonable and allowable vanity. For after all, Miss Burney's heart was in the right place from first to last. Witness her strong family affections, and her correspondence with her father's old friend and her own "second daddy," Mr. Crisp. Nothing can be more charming than the letters of this literary recluse and "his Fannikin," as he termed her. The fondest affection and respect on her side, the kindest consideration, the most sensible advice, the gentlest chidings upon his. Through Mrs. Thrale, Miss Burney made acquaintance with all the famous people of the day, including, of course, the "blue-stocking ladies" and their set. But it is the foolish, not the wise people, that make pleasant reading. "Sweet Sophy Streathfield" with her pretty face, and her tears at will, is better far than Mrs. Montague, Mrs. Chapone, or Mrs. Crew. The old gentleman at Brighton, with the initial letters—small need surely for such mystery, seventy-five years after date—with his opinion of Johnson, "Not much of a fine gentleman indeed, but a clever fellow—a deal of knowledge, but a deuced good understanding," is better reading than all the wise sayings of the Doctor himself.

Four years after *Evelina*, Miss Burney brought out her second novel of *Cecilia*, with nearly equal success. The growth of her literary reputation in the time is shown by that best of all tests—the money one. As the unknown authoress of *Evelina*, she got twenty pounds, and was thankful for it—for *Cecilia* she is said to have had two thousand.

It was about this time, and when at the highest of her reputation, that Miss Burney lost her early friend, Mrs. Thrale, who had estranged herself from most of her old associates by her second marriage. Miss Burney and Dr. Johnson were amongst the number. The latter was furious, he burnt their correspondence, and, in his wrath, passed sentence on his former favourite. "I never speak of her, and I desire never to hear of her more. I drive her wholly from my mind."

It says much for Miss Burney, that all through her life, as far as her Diary makes it known, she had the good fortune to meet with kind, fast friends. Mrs. Thrale was gone, but her place was more than supplied by one who was, in all respects, her superior. Mrs. Delaney, henceforth her principal adviser, was a lady of high birth and connexions, and still higher attractions. At this time she had taken up her abode at Windsor, at the request of George the Third and the Queen, who honoured her and themselves much more by cultivating her acquaintance and special intimacy.

Thus placed, Mrs. Delaney was in a situation to put in a good word for her little favourite. The Queen wanted a keeper of the robes at the time, and it was thought, no doubt, a good opportunity, for dispensing a little literary patronage, to give the place to one who was just then its female representative.

The appointment was offered and accepted in 1786. With it came five long years of a very dreary existence for poor Miss Burney. In these days one wonders what made her take it, for she was at this time the most successful novel writer of the day, and a brilliant literary prospect lay before her. She had small liking for the place herself, and had anticipated, what turned out to be true, that she was not suited for it. However, Mrs. Delaney advised, and her father, a courtier and a tuft-hunter to boot, warmly approved. So poor Miss Burney accepted suit and service in a post that was almost menial. The consideration—a man and a maid, board and lodging, and two hundred a year—the offsets, constant and irksome attendance on the royal person, the giving up of all old friends and occupations, and worst of all—a forced companionship with one Madame Schwellenberg, an old German she dragon, the first keeper of the robes, and therefore Miss Burney's immediate superior. This woman, too, was a very incarnation of "hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness;" and her treatment of her colleague literally infernal. The outer world knows that attendants on kings and queens must be crab-like, walk backwards rather than forwards, and neither be tired, hungry, nor thirsty in royal presence. But the world scarcely expects that acceptance of a court place requires the giving up of old friends or early habits. Yet so it was in the present case. The time was one of high party strife; the king and the prince at daggers drawn, and the friends of the one perforce the foe of the other. Poor Miss Burney had friends on both sides, but she soon found that she must know none but those of the Court, and she was given plainly to understand that all literary avocations were inconsistent with the discharge of the important duties of second keeper of the robes.

Yet it is but fair to say that in the Diary before us, the queen and the royal family are almost always drawn in a pleasing and amiable light. The blunt, dull old king, with his "What! what! how was it, how came it!" just as Peter Pindar makes him talk, and as his sons talked after him. The queen, as considerate as it was in her nature to be, and the princess always smooth and gentle. Yet it gives a strange idea of the strength of court trammels and the bad effect of royal etiquette, that this family, so observant, should be apparently quite unconscious of the many discomforts the observance of such rules entailed on all about them. Even when after five years of a dreary, monotonous court life, Miss Burney's health entirely gave way, under the effects of uncongenial duties, constant confinement, and the annoyances of an existence spent with Madame Schwellenberg, it was the queen alone who did not notice the change or its cause. Indeed, when Miss Burney at last mustered up courage enough to resign, the queen was more annoyed at her for retiring, than at herself for having obliged her to go.

During Miss Burney's court life the king's first attack of insanity occurred, and she was at Kew and Windsor at the time of his strange medical treatment and final recovery. It was on the latter event that the king, being at Weymouth, was saluted, as the royal head emerged from the waves, after its first plunge, by loyal strains from a loyalist in an adjoining bathing-machine. It was here, too, that the one-legged mayor, on presentation to the queen, shocked an indignant equerry by taking the royal hand. "You must kneel, sir," says the offended official. "Alas! sir," replies the crest-fallen functionary, "I cannot kneel, I have a wooden leg!"

In 1791 Miss Burney proved herself once more a free woman. Naturally enough she took advantage of the situation, and, within little more than two years, married General D'Arblay. He was a French refugee who had come over from France in 1792, in company with that more prudent section of the Royalist party, who had vainly tried to stem the torrent of the coming revolution by temperate counsels and attempts at constitutional government.

It may have been the romance of her disposition, or possibly because she was on what we may venture to call the wrong side of forty, and not likely to have another offer; but Miss Burney certainly made, what the world calls, a bad match, though, like many such, it turned out a happy one in the main. They had nothing to live on but her literary court allowance of 100*l.* a year, and what her writings might bring in. But on this they got along in a humble, scrambling, yet pleasant, free-and-easy way enough. Her husband was a very Monsieur de Vertpre in his love and ignorance of horticulture. He dug up the asparagus, taking it *pour les mauvaises herbes;* he planted in the autumn what he should have sown in the spring, and *vice versâ;* he carefully cut the young wood out of his fruit trees; in a word, in all "common things," he was remarkable for a zeal without knowledge.

During this early part of her married life, Madame D'Arblay wrote her third and last novel, *Camilla*, but with a success far inferior to that of *Evelina* or *Cecilia*. In fact her day was gone by, and from this time the world ceases to hear of her as an authoress. In 1799 her husband was permitted to return to France, where, later, he obtained a civil appointment. His native country from this time, till nearly the close of the war, became that of Madame D'Arblay's, who returned to England more French than English in tastes, habits, and ideas. But, as with other ladies, the reader's interest in her ceases when she changes her name. Before her court service the Diary is amusing, because her early fame brought her in contact with a society worthy of being chronicled. The account of the next five years of her life, as Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte, is also interesting as a picture of court life and court discomforts. But when Miss Burney becomes Madame D'Arblay she ceases to be anything more than any other middle-aged married lady.

On this account, indeed, the later volumes are rather painful than amusing. The record of the deaths of early friends and associates grows more and more frequent, and between the earlier and the later volumes almost all the well-known names of Miss Burney's early time have disappeared. A new generation has grown up—the French Revolution and its consequences have given the world new notions and wider ideas. Madame D'Arblay, though still interesting as a connecting link between a past and the next generation, has ceased to interest us in herself or her concerns.

But as a pleasant and gossiping record of a former day, the book will always be valuable, and we have little doubt that the present cheap edition will command, as it deserves, a wide-spread circulation.

Portfolio.

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

A CLERGYMAN'S EXPERIENCE OF SOCIETY.

IV.

March 10, 18—.

DURING the week it is my duty to preach two sermons to a congregation composed of very different classes. According to the general theory, my message is to be delivered to the soul. I have to awaken the consciousness of sin, to produce pain, and then to point out the remedy. I am to believe that all the members of my congregation are in earnest about their spiritual condition, have implicit faith in the doctrines that I am supposed to teach, and are willing to accept me as the authorised exponent of divine truth. I have failed—miserably failed. Of course, it may be my own fault. Possibly I am attempting to perform duties for which I have no faculties. But it is too late now to think of that. The custom is for every clergyman, qualified or not, to preach, and I must obey. * * * *

I am intensely conscious that I have a message to deliver, but, strange to say, after several months' experience I find that I cannot deliver it within the pale of the Established Church. I have only shocked my congregation when I wished to open their eyes. Here is my story. I had made acquaintance, more or less intimate, with the different classes of persons in my parish. The best streets and the suburbs were inhabited by the wealthier sort. As I have said before, they were, for the most part, without education. To be sure, they had sent their children to school; but the sons had all gone into business at a very early age, and the daughters had been taken away from school at the period when the young ladies of this century are supposed to have completed their education. The consequence of this system may be easily imagined. From first to last, they were all worshippers of wealth. The dream of their existence was to accumulate money. For what, indeed, I never could discover. I often tried to find out how they spent their days. As for the men, they went down to their places of business, in the morning, and returned home, with their whole souls intent on loss and gain, to spend their nights in feasting. I do not mean that they were vicious or immoral. You could find no positive fault with men whose notions of living were confined within such narrow limits. You could only pity them and try to rouse them from their torpor. Everything in their houses betokened their love of solid wealth. There was nothing graceful. The rooms were crowded with the most expensive furniture—massive chairs of bright mahogany, heavy sideboards, ugly portraits of different members of their families, gorgeous curtains, and resplendent fireplaces. But they were all for show. The drawing-room was rarely used. Except on grand occasions, the chairs and tables were literally packed up as if for removal. There was a cold, cheerless, and yet contemptuous look about everything. I felt sometimes as if I was stricken dumb by the sight. I knew that, in their eyes, the mere possession of so much wealth conferred an infinite superiority.

The women spent their days between buying fine clothes, gossiping, and husband hunting. Perhaps I was dull, but I thought that they did not know what conversation meant. At all events, I always felt quite isolated, as if I had not one subject in common with them. Now, what was to be done with such people? Certainly there were many, both men and women, in my congregation, for whom I had profound respect. Some ladies there were who had formed themselves into a society for visiting the sick, others professed great zeal for the conversion of Jews and heathens. With a strong faith in spiritual Christianity, and an inexplicable belief in what is called the Millennium, they literally had no place in the world themselves, and did their best to seduce everybody else from its pleasures and pursuits. But I could excuse a good deal of this absurdity for the practical philanthropy which it concealed or kept alive. It was the fine ladies and rich men who, at first, perplexed me most. As I said, I took orders under protest. I had forced myself into the profession of certain doctrines which I very soon found I could not conscientiously teach. My plan was this: It was very obvious that the people who came to church were professing Christians. I must speak to them as persons within the pale. It was easy therefore to ask them whether they lived up to their profession. I stated, in the plainest and most forcible language, the chief doctrines of Christianity, and then showed them that they were as far removed from Christian practice as the sun is from the earth—in other words, that they were a living lie. I abjured them to declare themselves. I besought them to do one of two things—either to reject the faith or to conform to the practice. I wished to bring matters to a test. I did not use vague platitudes about Heaven, Hell, and the Divine wrath. That kind of preaching had long ceased to produce any effect save that of a pleasurable excitement. I am really astounded at the grim satisfaction with which Churchgoers (I will not call them Christians) can contemplate the prospect of several millions of people suffering eternal torment. But I made fierce and repeated attacks upon the idol which they all worshipped. I tried to destroy their faith in money, and, strange to say, they took it ill. They rebelled against my iconoclasm. They called me in private hard names enough; I was everything bad by turns. Chartist, communist, infidel—such was the man whom the bishop had appointed to be their teacher. After one sermon that I preached, it was bruited everywhere that I had become a Roman Catholic! Most innocently I had quoted—with a certain eulogium upon the man—a very remarkable passage from the writings of John Newman. Because I regretted that so much genius had gone into servitude, I was denounced as a heretic. No wonder, perhaps, when I recollect the impression produced in that same pulpit by a man who applied the most opprobrious epithets to some who, however mistaken, had still given up everything for the sake of conscience, and this to people who scarce knew the meaning of the word self-denial! Again, I happened to quote an apt passage from one of Macaulay's Essays, describing the system of the Roman Catholic Church—and, behold, I was again denounced as a Jesuit in disguise. * * * *

Even the poorer classes shrunk from this kind of teaching, and I was well nigh in despair: I made, however, one more effort. Why should I not try to speak to those who, from different causes, were never found within a place of worship? Among what are called the lower classes, were several mechanics and labourers, who openly rejected Christianity. It surely was my duty, at whatever cost, if not to induce these people to come to church, at least to assist them in working out the problem of life. Accordingly, I asked about a dozen of them to give me an interview. The meeting took place in the library of an institution to which they belonged. It was a narrow room, dimly lighted by gas. There was no carpet on the floor, and a few side shelves, nailed to the wall, were scantily furnished with books. Around a deal table in the centre of the room were seated the men whom I had invited to meet me. With one exception they were all young. The elder, who acted as spokesman, was about fifty years old, but he looked more like seventy—his hair was quite grey, and the traces of thought and suffering were deeply marked on his brow. He evidently did not know whether to regard me as a friend or an enemy. He was surprised at my request, and, though apparently not unwilling to meet my advances, had planted himself in a position of resolute self-defence. The younger men seemed less suspicious, and gave me a hearty welcome. I said, at once, that I had come to speak to them on subjects which I had only studied, but which to them were ~~matters of life and~~ death. I intended to speak with perfect frankness, and begged that they would throw off all restraint. I wished to know their difficulties, religious or social, and, so far as in me lay, to lend my aid in solving them. The older man answered me thus:—"We are very much obliged to you for coming. We are surprised, because, to tell the honest truth, there is no body of men for whom we have such contempt as the clergy. But we are ready to listen to anything you have to say." I could not but know that the man was speaking the truth. The clergy, and religious people in general, had shunned his class as things "common and unclean." The doctrines of Christianity were as a wall between them. I therefore, at once, acknowledged the justice of the censure, and explained that, though I had not come to make proselytes of them, I yet wished to show, if I could, that the clergy might still be men, and that Christianity was not the repulsive system they had taken it for. Now I was not speaking to ignorance. These men were employed, for twelve hours a day, in severe manual toil, but they found more time for reading and mental cultivation than the wealthy shipowners and masters who paid them their wages. They knew, as well as I was made to know Thucydides, the writings of Charles Kingsley; they were familiar with Emerson, had learnt something of Carlyle, and were hard-working students of Gibbon. Of the social problems of the day they had no need to learn. They were mistaken, terribly mistaken, in many of their theories, but they were in earnest, and, as I soon found, were ready to be taught. They utterly scorned the notion that I was doing them a favour. The pride of honest labour sat upon their brows. I must speak to them as one of themselves or else hold my peace. They had learnt to respect themselves, and they refused to be slaves. Still, I had enjoyed opportunities which they had not; they could listen with gratitude to any honest man who would teach without despising them. And this I was willing to do. In point of religion they were what are called infidels, and, as such, rejected, as a whole, the system which contained the special doctrines from which they shrunk. I frankly said that I believed them so far in the wrong. I thought that it was quite possible to teach a social Christianity, with beneficial effect, while I ignored, for the moment, all the obnoxious articles of faith. Accordingly I made this proposition: "I do not *ask* you to come to church; I even think that listening to our services might do you positive harm. But I am ready to preach a course of sermons on social subjects directly addressed to you, and intended to carry out into practice my ideas about a social Christianity." The notion seemed to please them, and they all agreed to come to church. Now, in honest truth, I did not think that I should shock any one by preaching on such subjects. I knew, of course, the prejudice that existed against the introduction of novel doctrines, but I hoped that all earnest Christians would sympathise in any effort that I might make towards the conversion, if you like to call it so, of a large number of my parishioners. I did not, at all events, anticipate the stormy opposition that I encountered. Yesterday I preached my first sermon. I commenced by an introduction, in which I openly stated my views, and I preached a sermon on one of the subjects which I knew to be engrossing public attention. The truth was that, almost unconsciously, I had shown that I did not believe in what is called the verbal inspiration of the Old Testament, and I had besides made a somewhat fierce onslaught on vices which I knew to prevail among, at least, the lower classes in my parish. I cannot describe the confusion which ensued. Next morning I found the parish in an uproar. The churchwardens were for writing to the bishop; I was told that half my congregation would absent themselves from church. In short, the unhappy sermon was infidel, communistic, and—worse than all—indelicate. I believe that some people would have shut their doors against me. I took it all very quietly, and offered my incumbent to resign my charge if he objected to my preaching. He offered no objection, and I am allowed to complete my course. * * * *

May 17, 18—.

Altogether I have been successful. I do not mean to take any special credit to myself, but I am sure that if clergymen would reject that narrow theory, which confines their teaching to the inculcation of spiritual Christianity, and be content to deal, even with infidels, upon *common ground*, they would have an abundant reward. Believe me, a splendid career is before you! Why, if you really hold the truth in your hand, do you think that it applies only to the world beyond. What did your Master do? He was the foremost man in creation—and that, because there was not a human joy in which he could not share, no human woe with which he could not sympathise. Out with you! Proud Pharisees! Preach loudly in your pulpits, hurl forth your bitter sentences, slay this one and that one with the breath of your nostrils, condemn all the world, be worshipped by the few who surround your altars, but separate yourselves from all and everything that looks like heresy.

June 10, 18—.

This cannot last. The Church of England is to the full as despotic as the Church of Rome. Every sect confines salvation within the pale of its own

believers. Was there ever such a spectacle! Rightly are you named Protestant, for every sect [and almost every individual is in a perpetual state of protest. Here is an Established Church unable to understand the signs of the times. She cannot see that she has lost her hold upon the hearts of the people. Her doctrines are not believed, her ritual is not observed, and yet, if a man tries to adapt the teaching of the Church to the wants of the age, he is forthwith denounced as a heretic.

The Arts.

THE OPERA.

MONDAY, the 7th of August, 1854, was a day to be marked with black in our operatic annals. The noblest singer of her time, endowed with all the gifts of exuberant genius, and with all the spells of imperious beauty, GIULIA GRISI, sang her last farewell to an English audience. Never did the dying swan on the banks of the Mæander pour forth diviner music! She did not leave us in the decline of her powers, and in the decay of her charms—not in the fading twilight of her fame: this, at least, would have been a bitter consolation; but in all the rich maturity of her genius and beauty she bids farewell to the scene of so many of her earliest triumphs and most glowing recollections, and to a public who, for nearly a quarter of a century, have been among the most constant of her votaries. Let not, however, the just impatience of our regrets betray us into injustice to one who for so many seasons has shed warmth and light on the lives of the dullest and hardest of us: even to remember those evenings is a privilege.

If there was one feeling more dominant than another in that valedictory audience of Monday night last, it was, *Who shall fill her place?* Who shall replace Grisi in all that the name of Grisi represents to the eye and ear of memory? It was this dearth and absolute poverty of the stage that added, perhaps, a more poignant emotion to the parting, as the majestic grace of the *Diva* passed slowly and sadly from the gaze of her worshippers.

The performance was worthy of the occasion. Never was *Norma* more august in beauty, more superb in song: never were *Raoul* and *Valentine* more graceful, more passionate, more pathetic. And then came the supreme moment when the artist, no longer the actress but the woman, appeared before the curtain to receive the crowning triumph. Ladies waved their handkerchiefs till they were faint with agitation; men shouted and cheered till they were hoarse; the orchestra rose *en masse;* the stage was buried in flowers.

It was one of those nights when an audience is possessed by a sort of electric sympathy. Three times did Grisi come forward with Mario, and a fourth time alone; and when she found herself alone in that tempest of tumultuous emotion, she shed tears—the last and most womanly acknowledgment.

The theatre was far from being inconveniently crowded, as had been expected. Many stayed away for fear of the crowd and the fabulous prices asked by speculators, and the result—at a season when the town is half empty—was a comparatively thin house. But as time is not to be reckoned by hours, but by sensations, so the character of that audience was not its density, but its enthusiasm. * * * *

We shall defer any detailed notice of the production of Rossini's delicious opera, *Le Comte Ory*, till next season, for the simple reason that we have not heard it this week. Why it should have been brought out for the two last nights we do not pretend to divine: the directors have not been otherwise punctilious in observing their programme.

Le Comte Ory has always been a favourite in Paris, and we see no reason why it should not be a cherished companion to the *Barbiere* in the repertory of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA. We hear the *ensemble* of the present cast highly approved—we know that Madame Bosio vocalises like a fountain, and is always sparkling (and cold) as crystal; Tagliafico cannot be ineffective, and Zelger is at least familiar with the traditions of his part. But we have our doubts about Signor Luchesi. We know he *has been* a finished light tenor, and enjoys a continental reputation for that Rossinian singing which the robust and patriotic audiences of Young Italy have been taught by Verdi to despise. We know that, as the faded beauty observed, a *has been* is better than a *never was*. But the audiences of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA have a right to the best, and none but the best, voices, and have nothing to do with the *remains* of tenors. It is a pity that journals of influence should encourage the directors of the opera in palming off these substitutes on an indulgent public. We can but humbly protest. We look with dismay to the prospects of next season, now that Grisi and Mario have departed. Perhaps the success of the *Comte Ory* may suggest the natural direction in which success is to be found—we mean in the return to pure music and to *Italian* Opera.

While we are on the subject of farewells, we may take the opportunity of giving a bit of news from Paris by way of compensation to our own losses on this side of the Channel. We hear that Mademoiselle Rachel, who has been living in close retirement at Brussels since the lamented death of her sister, has, after many sudden and contradictory changes of mind, resolved to withdraw her resignation as a *sociétaire* of the THEATRE FRANCAIS, and to continue to sustain the fortunes of that classical stage with renovated powers. She will appear in the gratuitous performance next Tuesday: her definitive *rentrée* will take place in September. We congratulate the THEATRE FRANCAIS and the great *tragédienne* herself on her return to the scene of her many triumphs. We trust she may be furnished with opportunities of new 'creations' in the modern drama. Meanwhile, a new drama by George Sand is said to be under consideration of the reading committee of the THEATRE FRANCAIS.

Madame Grisi and Signor Mario sailed on Tuesday last in the 'Baltic' for New York. They are announced to appear in the first week of September. All the good wishes of the old world attend them. May their success be worthy of America, and their return to Europe crowned with happiness and repose in their own loved Italy!

E. P.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, Aug. 8.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM ROBERT NIELD and WILLIAM HENRY HUGH COLLANDER, Cannon-street West, shawl warehousemen—CHARLES WILLIAM NORMAN, Shoreditch, tailors' trimming seller—HENRY TURTLE, Mount Etna-place, Mile-end-road, cheesemonger—HENRY TAYLOR, Newbury, grocer—JAMES BISHOP, Southampton, bootmaker—HENRY COPPINGER, Hawkhurst, Kent, tailor—EDWARD DAVIES, Harrow-road, Paddington, and Park-terrace Regent's-park, oilman—THOMAS JOHN HOLLOWAY, Salisbury, rope-manufacturer—THOMAS KIMPTON, Liverpool, carrier—WILLIAM ARMSTRONG and WILLIAM OLDROYD HANKEY, Shrewsbury, tailors—GEORGE HENRY FOURDRINIER, Stoke-upon-Trent, paper manufacturer—THOMAS BELSHAM HUTTON, Birmingham, wine-merchant—WILLIAM HOOPER, Bristol, cabinetmaker—GEORGE EDWARDS, Newport, Monmouthshire, grocer—STEPHEN TROTMAN, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire, corn-dealer—GEORGE HINGESTON, Lyme Regis, money scrivener—JOHN SUGDEN and GEORGE WEBSTER, Bradford, Yorkshire, woolstaplers—GEORGE JEEVES, Sheffield, brush manufacturer.

Friday, Aug. 11.

BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE TAPLIN, Wood-street, Cheapside, carpet warehouseman—HENRY BENNETT, Christchurch, Hants, linendraper—MICHAEL SOLOMAN, Lambeth-walk, china dealer—FREDERICK HAWSE KING, New Shoreham, carpenter and builder—JAMES WILD, Hurst, Ashton-under-Lyne, cotton spinner—JAMES WOVENDEN, Manchester, eating-house keeper—THOMAS MELLOR and SAMUEL EASON, Liverpool, merchants—MOSELEY NATHAN, Liverpool, watch manufacturer—JOHN FFOOKS, Sherborne, Dorset, brewer—SAMUEL GARRATT, Perran-wharf, Cornwall, contractor—JOHN STURGES, Maidstone, Kent, baker—JAMES ABRAHAM SMITH, Lambeth, lighterman—THOMAS FREDERIC GOODGER, Bromley, omnibus proprietor—GEORGE LOWRY, Salford, flax spinner—WILLIAM GELDART, North Shields, shipowner—EDWARD STAPLES, the younger, Soham, Cambridge, miller—THOMAS BELSHAM HUTTON, Birmingham, wine and spirit merchant—WILLIAM YORKE, Cheshunt, builder.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

ANSON.—August, 3, at 32, Devonshire-place, the wife of Sir John W. H. Anson, Bart: a son.

ELMSLIE.—May 29, at Macao, the wife of Adam Wallace Elmslie, Esq., H.M. Acting Consul at Canton: a son.

NORMAN.—August 8, at Bottesford, Lady Adeliza Norman: a son.

STOPFORD.—August 8, at Penlee Stoke, Devon, the Hon. Mrs. Montagu Stopford: a daughter.

TYRWHITT.—August 7, at the Hall, Ashwell Thorpe, Norfolk, Lady Tyrwhitt: a son.

MARRIAGES.

ACOURT—CURRIE.—August 5, at St. Peter's Church, Pimlico, by the Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man, Charles Henry Wyndham à Court, Esq., M.P., only son of Lieutenant-General à Court, to Emily, eldest daughter of Henry Currie, Esq., of West Horsley-place, Surrey.

REVEL—VIRY.—July 26, at Genoa, Count Adrien de Revel, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of H. M. the King of Sardinia at the Court of Vienna, and formerly at the British Court, to Emily de Viry, widow of the Chevalier William de Viry, and daughter of the late Basil Montagu, Esq., Q.C.

WILLIAMS—LEIR.—August 10, at St. James's, Piccadilly, by licence, Turberville Picton Williams, second son of the late Reverend David Williams, of Bleadon, Somerset, to Isabella Catherine, youngest daughter of Thomas Macie Leir, Esq., of Uphill, in the same county.

DEATHS.

CROKER.—August 8, at his residence, No. 3, Gloucester-road, Old Brompton, Thomas Crofton Croker, Esq., aged fifty-seven.

EDWIN.—August 3, at her lodgings at Chelsea, at an advanced age, Mrs. Edwin, formerly of Drury-lane Theatre.

ELLIOT.—August 5, at Upton-park, Slough. Edward Elliot, Esq., of Cambridge-square, Assistant-secretary to the Master-General of the Ordnance.

HARTLEY.—August 7, at his residence, No. 27, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, Major-General Humphrey Robert Hartley.

PAULI.—August 2, at Vevey, Lieut.-Colonel Pauli, late Hanoverian Consul at Genoa.

STEWART.—June 30, the Honourable Charles Stewart, of Llandovery, and Custos of St. Ann's, Jamaica, in his fifty-fourth year.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, August 11, 1854.

THE Chancellor's financial statement, the fineness of the weather, and Lord Clarendon's announcement of the Russians being forced to evacuate the Principalities, have combined to make Consols one per cent. higher than last week. Railway shares, both home and foreign, have maintained their value. Foreign securities but little doing in. Spanish have improved. Mines are still neglected; hardly a bargain in gold mines. Crystal Palaces are still flat, at about 4½. The markets all round are languid, and but little doing.

Consols close, 92¾, 92⅞.

Consols, 93; Caledonian, 64, 64½; Chester and Holyhead, 15½, 16½; Eastern Counties, 13, 13½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 58, 60; Great Northern, 86½, 87½; Great Western, 75½, 76; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 69, 69½; London and Brighton, 106, 107 x. d.; London and North-Western, 105½, 105⅝; London and South-Western, 84½, 85½; Midland, 68¼, 68⅞; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 7, 6 dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 33, 35; South Devon, 13, 15; South Eastern, 65⅞, 66½; South Wales, 35½, 36½; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 75, 76; York and North Midland, 57, 58; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6, 6½ dis.; East Indian, 2½, 2⅝ pm.; Madras, ¼ dis., ¼ pm.; Namur and Liege, 7½, 8; Northern of France, 33½, 33⅞; Paris and Lyons, 18½, 18⅝, pm.; Paris and Orleans, 46, 48; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Paris and Strasbourg, 31½, 31⅝; Rouen and Havre, 22½, 23½; Western of France, 5¼, 6¼ pm.; Agua Fria, ⅜, ½; Brazil Imperial, 3, 4; Carson's Creek, ½, ½; Linares 9, 10; Nouveau Monde, ½, ¼; Pontgibeaud, 16, 17; Peninsular, ½, ¼ pm.; United Mexican, 3¼, 3½; Waller, ½, ⅝; Australian Bank, 82, 84; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 20½, 21½; Oriental Bank, 46½, 47½; Union of Australia, 66, 68 x. d.; Australian Agricultural, 43, 45; Peel River, 4⅛, 4⅜; North British Australian Land, ¾, ⅞; Crystal Palace, 4, 4⅛.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, August 11.

SINCE Monday the supply of Wheat has been fair, and in good demand at 2s. to 3s. below the prices of that day, and all the sales have been made at this reduction, but holders generally will not give way, so that the business done has not been extensive. Barley and Oats each 1s. cheaper. There have been no sales of floating cargoes, nor of cargoes f. o. b. in the Baltic. The number of vessels now on passage from the North is very small. The harvest is proceeding well in the north of Germany, but stocks of old Corn are reduced so low, that prices are well maintained both at Stettin and Danzig and in the interior. In the north of France the harvest is going on well, and in many places will be very abundant. Two cargoes of Egyptian Barley have been sold at 19s. 6d. and 20s.—one arrived, the other on passage. The quantity of Oats shipped from Archangel up to the 28th of July, was 102,607 quarters. Prices there have been well maintained, and two cargoes have been sold floating at 23s. and 24s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	*Mon.*	*Tues.*	*Wed.*	*Thur.*	*Frid.*
Bank Stock	.....	209½	209	210½	210	209
3 per Cent. Red.	93	93⅛	93⅛	92⅝	93⅛	93⅜
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92⅝	93⅛	92⅝	92⅞	93	92⅝
Consols for Account	93	93	92⅞	92⅝	93⅛	96
3½ per Cent. An.	93⅛	93⅝	93¼	93	93⅝	93⅞
New 3½ per Cents	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860	.....	.....	4⅛	4 11-16	4 9-16	.....
India Stock	.....	225	.....	.....	.....	224
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	.....	1 p	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	.....	.....	par	.....	.....	1 p
Ex. Bills, £1000	2 p	2 p	2 d	1 d	1 d	2 p
Ditto, £500	.....	1 p	2 p	.....	1 d	1 d
Ditto, Small	4 p	2 p	par	par	4 p	4 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	99½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents 1822	99½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	...	Russian 4½ per Cents.	84
Chilian 3 per Cents.	...	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def.	19¾
Danish 3 per Cents.	...	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun.	5⅛
Ecuador Bonds	3¾	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	25
Mexican 3 per Cents.	24⅝	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	...
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc.	...	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	61⅞
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	93
Portuguese 5 p. Cents.	...		

DUTY OFF TEA.—The REDUCTION of the TEA DUTY, and the easy state of the Tea-market, enables PHILLIPS and Company to SELL—

Strong Congou Tea, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., and 3s.
Rich Souchong Tea, 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d., and 3s. 8d.
The Best Assam Pekoe Souchong Tea, 4s.
Prime Gunpowder Tea, 3s. 8d., 4s., and 4s. 4d.
Best Moyune Gunpowder, 4s. 8d.
The Best Pearl Gunpowder, 5s.
Prime Coffees, 1s., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 3d.
The Best Mocha and the Best West India Coffee 1s. 4d.
Sugars are supplied at market prices.

All goods sent carriage free, by our own vans, if within eight miles. Teas, coffees, and spices sent carriage free to any railway station or market-town in England, if to the value of 40s. or upwards, by

PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, King William-street, City, London.

A general price-current sent free on application.

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.

	s.	d.	
The Best Pekoe Congou	3	8	the pound.
Strong Breakfast ditto	3	0	,,
Good sound ditto	2	8	,,
Choice Gunpowder	4	8	,,
Finest Young Hyson	4	4	,,
Good Plantation Coffee	1	0	,,
Cuba, Jamaica or Costa Rica	1	4	,,
Choice old Mocha	1	6	,,
The Best Homœopathic Cocoa	1	0	,,

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.

CULLINGHAM AND COMPANY,
Tea-merchants and Dealers,
27, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL, CITY.

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:—

		s.	d.	
Ale or Stout	quarts	6	6	per doz.
Do do	pints	3	9	,,
Do do	half pints	2	3	,,

All Orders to be sent to the Wholesale and Retail Stores,

13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand.

Terms Cash. WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent.

The Company's Goods supplied in Casks to Families.

SHOWER and all DOMESTIC BATHS.—Purchasers of these valuable and important family requisites should immediately inspect DEANE, DRAY, and Co.'s extensive STOCK, warranted the best manufactured, both for finish and durability. Deane, Dray, and Co.'s Recumbent Shower Bath forms at the same time an excellent Sponging Bath, and may also be used as a Hip Bath, thus affording to all the members of the family the various applications of the bath. Shower baths of improved construction. Hip, plunging, sponging, vapour, and other baths, of various sizes and patterns. An Illustrated Pamphlet on Baths and Bathing may be had on application, or free by post. Established A.D. 1700.—Deane, Dray, and Co., (opening to the Monument) London-bridge.

SHOOTING SEASON, 1854.

F. JOYCE'S ANTI-CORROSIVE PERCUSSION CAPS.

THE Nobility, Gentry, and Sporting World at large, are respectfully informed, that these well-tried Detonators, warranted in every respect, which have now stood the test of many years' experience, both at home and abroad, may be had as usual of Messrs. J. Blanch and Son, 20, Gracechurch-street; H. Beckwith, 58, Skinner-street; Parker, Field, and Sons, 233, High Holborn; J. C. Reilly, 502, New Oxford-street; W. Cogswell, 224, Strand; W. Moore and Grey, 43, Old Bond-street; S. Nock and Co., 116, Jermyn-street; H. Tatham, 37, Charing-cross; T. Boss, 73, St. James's-street; and of most respectable Gun-makers and Dealers in Gunpowder throughout the United Kingdom. To prevent accident and disappointment to Purchasers, from the use of spurious imitations, they are requested to observe the name and address of F. JOYCE, ORIGINAL INVENTOR AND SOLE MANUFACTURER, on each Sealed Packet, without which they are not genuine. This precaution is rendered necessary by some unprincipled individuals having imitated the Labels and Wrappers.

Tubes, Foil Covered Caps, Wire Cartridges and Waddings of every description.

Wholesale Warehouse, 57, Upper Thames-street.

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ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c. For VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

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The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steamers, carrying her Majesty's mails and despatches, start from Southampton for the undermentioned ports, as follows:—

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For MALTA and ALEXANDRIA on the 4th and 20th of the month.

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For further information, and tariffs of the Company's rates of passage-money, and freight, &c., apply at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, London; and Oriental-place, Southampton.

BANK OF DEPOSIT, No. 3, Pall-mall East, and 7, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London.

Established May, 1844.

Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, and for the convenience of parties residing at a distance, may be received at the Branch Offices, or paid through Country Bankers, without expense.

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Approved of and recommended by the most distinguished Scientific Chemists, prescribed by the most eminent Medical Men, and supplied to the leading Hospitals of Europe.

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MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC TESTIMONIALS:

"THE LANCET," *July* 29, 1854.

"In the preference of the light brown over the pale oil we fully concur. We have carefully tested a specimen of the light brown cod-liver oil prepared for medical use under the direction of Dr. de Jongh, and obtained from the wholesale agents, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, Strand. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR," *May* 10, 1854.

"The pale oil, even when genuine, is deficient to a considerable extent, if not wholly, of the volatile fatty acid, iodine, phosphate of chalk, the cholinic acid, bilifellinic acid, and other elements of bile, which are found in their normal proportions in the light brown oil. The utmost reliance may be placed upon the experimental researches of Dr. de Jongh, who is one of the most eminent of European chemists; the oil prepared by him enjoys also the additional sanction of the opinion of Baron Liebig and the late Dr. Pereira, in favour of its genuineness and efficacy. Our own experience practically confirms their judgment, and we unhesitatingly recommend the light brown oil as the best for medicinal purposes, and well deserving the confidence of the profession."

BARON LIEBIG.

"You have rendered an essential service to science by your researches, and your efforts to provide sufferers with this medicine, in its purest and most genuine state, must ensure you the gratitude of everyone who stands in need of its use."

DR. JONATHAN PEREIRA.

"I know that no one can be better, and few so well, acquainted with the physical and chemical properties of this medicine as yourself, whom I regard as the highest authority on the subject. The oil which you gave me was of the very finest quality, whether considered with reference to its colour, flavour, or chemical properties; and I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer oil can be procured."

Sold WHOLESALE and RETAIL, in bottles, labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, by

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Sole Consignees and Agents for the United Kingdom and the British Possessions, at the following prices:—

IMPERIAL MEASURE.

Half pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.

*** Four half-pint bottles forwarded, CARRIAGE PAID, to any part of England, on receipt of a remittance of Ten Shillings.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. This is, of all known remedies, the most pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the blood of all morbid matter, of bile, urea, acids, scrofulous substances, humours of all kinds, which produce rashes, eruptions, salt rheum, erysipelas, scald head, sore eyes and ears, sore throat and ulcers, and sores on any part of the body. It is unsurpassed in its action upon the liver, the lungs, and the stomach, removing any cause of disease from those organs, and expelling all humours from the system. By cleansing the blood, it for ever prevents pustules, scabs, pimples and every variety of sores on the face and breast. It is a great tonic, and imparts strength and vigour to the debilitated and weak, gives rest and refreshing sleep to the nervous and restless invalid. It is a great female medicine, and will cure more complaints peculiar to the sex than any other remedy in the world. Warehouse, 373, Strand, adjoining Exeter-Hall: POMEROY, ANDREWS, and CO., Sole Proprietors. Half-pints, 2s. 6d; pints, 4s.; small quarts, 4s. 6d.; quarts, 7s. 6d.; mammoths, 11s.

TO THE ELECTORS OF HULL.

GENTLEMEN,

REPEATED efforts to communicate with you have in one way or other failed. Enough has probably found its way, to create an expectation of my being a Candidate.

I will not appear, except as an opponent of any nominee of the unseated Members.

The Commission gave bribery a shock, and the object now is to save the pieces. The plan is to bring in two nominees of the guilty parties, with an understanding to begin afresh when the ground is cleared by a new Parliament.

These men will go on till the borough is disfranchised; which is what you are driving upon. Do not trust too much in the connivance of Parliament; a tide in the national mind might make even that protection unavailing.

If there was a disposition in the town to relieve itself from the disgrace it has been brought to, it would be my duty to come forward if asked. But I will be at no expense of any kind; and there must be some demonstration of the probability of success.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. PERRONET THOMPSON.

Eliot Vale, Blackheath, Aug. 7, 1854.

STAYS SUPERSEDED.

GREAT EXHIBITION ELASTIC BODICE.—Stiff stays destroy natural grace, produce deformity, and implant disease. Curvature of the spine, consumption, and a host of evils arise from their use. MARTIN'S ELASTIC BODICE is without whalebone or lacing, at the same time furnishing a sufficient support, and imparting to the figure that natural elegance, which is quite impossible under the pressure which is the great aim, as mischief is the certain end, of all kinds of stays. The time and patience of the wearer are also spared, by a simple fastening in front, to obviate the trouble of lacing. Can be sent by post.

To be obtained only of the Inventors and Manufacturers, E. and E. H. MARTIN, 504, New Oxford-street.

A Prospectus, &c., on receipt of a stamp.

THE UNIVERSAL PURVEYOR.—The immediate object of this Institution is, to commence an Organised System of Supply for a great variety of articles of consumption, with a public guarantee for their quality, genuineness, fair price, measure, &c. It is hoped thus, within the limits of the agency, to make the operation of supply a kind of public service, not speculative, but regularly and sufficiently remunerative, and at the same time to relieve the consumer of the uncertainty arising from the impostures and unfair dealing practised by unscrupulous merchants and tradesmen. This can only be secured by making it the main object of a trust, governed by persons of acknowledged character, and administered in detail only by such as are found honest upon trial. The profits applied to the benefit of the officers of the Institution, and of those who supply its capital, are to be limited, so as to allow only fair remuneration, and all surplus proceeds to be applied to such public objects as have a fair claim on the profits of distribution.

Amongst these would be Provident Associations of persons connected with commerce or any branch of industry, also any associations of a *pacific* character for securing the due balance of interests in trade, manufactures, or agriculture, and regulating the relations of profits, labour, capital, skill, &c., with equal regard to all classes, or for equalising the supply of labour in various departments.

In the present state of the plan the chief benefit offered to the public is not any extreme cheapness, but a guarantee for the honest endeavour to supply the best article that can be fairly obtained for the price, together with the convenience, in some cases, of access to articles which are easily procurable by parties well acquainted with the best houses of wholesale supply in the city of London, but which may be difficult to find genuine, or in some cases to find at all, in retail shops. It is intended also to give the ready-money customer the advantage of his prompt payment. The system of keeping an account with the establishment, and ordering by cheques, as from a bank, will be the most complete method of doing business, and the most advantageous to the consumer.

Any persons who are desirous of entering further into details, with a view to co-operation, may communicate, by letter, with Mons. J. L. St. André, originator of the concern, 20, Albany-street, Regent's-park, London, or with the Rev. C. Marriott, Oriel College, Oxford, one of the trustees.

The Universal Purveyor is already in operation as a business concern. The establishment undertakes to execute orders entrusted to its care.

For prospectus, card, and list of prices, apply to Mr. Wm. Islip, Central Office of the Universal Purveyor, 159, Fenchurch-street, City.

THE MOST CERTAIN PREVENTION OF CHOLERA YET DISCOVERED.—Further Great Reduction in Price.—CREWS'S DISINFECTING FLUID is the Best and Cheapest for the purification of Dwelling Houses, Stables, Dog Kennels, Ships' Holds, Cess-pools, Drains, Water Closets, &c., the Disinfection of Sick Rooms, Clothing, Linen, and for the Prevention of Contagion and Bad Smells.

The extraordinary power of this Disinfecting and Purifying Agent is now acknowledged, and its use recommended by the College of Physicians. Unlike the action of many other disinfectants, it destroys all noxious smells, and is *itself scentless*. The manufacturer, having destroyed a monopoly fostered by *the false assumption of the title of a patent*, has to warn the public against all *spurious imitations*. Each Bottle of Crews's Disinfecting Fluid contains a densely concentrated solution of Chloride of Zinc, which may be diluted *for use with 200 times its bulk of water*. *Vide* instructions accompanying each bottle. Sold by all Chemists and Shipping Agents in the United Kingdom. Imperial quarts at 2s.; pints at 1s.; half-pints 6d.; larger vessels at 5s. per gallon. Manufactured at H. G. GRAY'S, Commercial Wharf, Mile-end, London.

THE CHOLERA!!! Prevented by the destruction of all noxious effluvia. CREWS'S DISINFECTING FLUID, *recommended by the College of Physicians*, the Cheapest and strongest Chloride of Zinc. Quarts, 2s.; pints, 1s.; half-pints, 6d. Sold by all Chemists, Druggists, and Shipping Agents, and at Commercial Wharf, Mile-end, London.

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"This is a scholarly little book, sweet as a meadow at haytime, and full of summer influences. We confess this little volume excites our curiosity; and as to the writer, the skill with which the metre is carried through, the almost immaculate correctness of the rhymes, and the equality of strength which pervades the whole, would indicate a poet of some standing, although the style resembles none that we remember."—*Athenæum.*

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This Day, foolscap octavo, 6d.

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