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The Spectator.

"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.	
NEWS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE
Imperial Parliament	74
The War	75
The Crimean Medal	77
Arrival of the Retribution	77
Loss of Life in St. James's Park	77
Diplomatic Notes	77
"The Four Points"	78
Peace Soirée at Manchester	78
Continental Notes	79
United States Mediation	80
Our Civilisation	80
Comingham v. Urquhart	81
Execution of Emmanuel Barthélémy	81
Melbourne	81
The Crystal Palace	82
Mr. Lucas's Mission to Rome	82
The Public Health	82
Varieties	82
Miscellaneous	83
Postscript	83
PUBLIC AFFAIRS—	
The Ministerial Crisis	84
Our Prestige in France	84
The French Loan	85
Dark Deeds	85
Postal Service in Australia	86
"A Stranger" in Parliament	86
OPEN COUNCIL—	
Non mi Ricordo	88
Capital Punishment	88
LITERATURE—	
Summary	89
William Etty, R.A.	90
The Governess and the Trades-woman	91
Literary Fables	91
Four Novels	92
THE ARTS—	
Olympic	92
Births, Marriages, and Deaths	92
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
City Intelligence, Markets, Advertisements, &c.	92-93

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News of the Week.

THE real session has scarcely commenced before the ABERDEEN Ministry is run down under the tragic honesty of Mr. ROEBUCK; Lord JOHN RUSSELL assisting in the process, tripping up his colleagues behind. The track of events along the surface is pretty smooth, however dark and intricate the unseen workings may be. Simply narrated, the case is this. Parliament resumed its sittings on Tuesday, and everybody expected a series of slashing debates—except Lord JOHN RUSSELL. It was on Tuesday that Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice that on Thursday he should move for a select committee to inquire into the condition of the army before Sebastopol, and the conduct of the departments whose duty it is to minister to the wants of the army. Lord ELLENBOROUGH, Mr. DRUMMOND, and Mr. ADAIR gave similar notices. Lord JOHN, who has shared hitherto all the doings of the Coalition, suddenly professed to feel dismayed; his "civil valour" departed from him—or his uncivil astuteness got the better of it; and he sent in his resignation. The next day Ministers took council, and Lord ABERDEEN had an audience of the QUEEN. The process was repeated on Thursday; while Mr. HAYTER in the House of Commons, and the Duke of NEWCASTLE in the House of Lords, officially announced that Lord JOHN's resignation had been accepted by the QUEEN. There was nothing for it but to adjourn; and with an air of confidence, to request Mr. ROEBUCK to wait until Friday. But the Opposition, who had waited for the effect of Mr. ROEBUCK's bombshell, now struck in to master the situation. Lord LYNDHURST gave notice of a resolution, the terms of which amount to a heavy censure on the Government. Mr. ROEBUCK may truly say, *Veni, vidi, vici*. At the aspect of his motion the strong RUSSELL resigns, and the Cabinet—shall we say—falls to pieces.

When made, Lord JOHN's explanation amounted to this—that he had disapproved of the conduct of the War Department, had wished to hand the Secretaryships of and *at* War to Lord PALMERSTON; that he was shocked by the statements in the *Times*, and while soldiers in the Crimea were dying at the rate of ninety or a hundred a day, he could not conscientiously resist Mr. ROEBUCK's motion, and so he resigned. Which, on his present showing, observed Lord PALMERSTON, Lord JOHN ought to have done months ago. It

is surmised that Lord JOHN's idea will be adopted, and that some changes will take place within the Ministry, but that the defection of the noble member for London will not break up the Cabinet. Mr. ROEBUCK proceeds with his motion, but is arrested *in limine* by his own sad defection of health, and Ministers are left without their Lord President or their opponent!

The bills which Sir Marylebone HALL introduced to amend the Health and Nuisance Acts look like an improvement. The Nuisance Act is rendered more stringent, in order to force local officers to do that in all parts of the country which Mr. JOHN SIMON has succeeded in doing in the City. The other bill continues the existing Board of Health. It abolishes the present mode of extending the jurisdiction of the Health Act by means of local acts obtained on petition from each district spontaneously; substituting a simple vote of the inhabitants, in public meeting or at poll, for that cumbersome process of annual legislation. And it leaves much more to the administration of the local bodies. Whether the people of this country have really made up their minds to be corporately clean, we have yet to ascertain. They refused to be so on the dictate of EDWIN CHADWICK, C.B., but possibly they may consent on the conciliatory showing of Sir Marylebone HALL.

While the most conspicuous of our journals is declaring that the army in the Crimea is gradually decaying at such a rate, that "it will have ceased to exist by the 15th of March," the advices from the spot report the continual arrival of reinforcements, ammunitions, and stores. And while General CANROBERT is said to have reported to his own Government that the disorganised English army, however gallant in spirit, is a burden rather than a support, he has issued to his own soldiers an address promising them that, in a short time, his body shall be their flag to lead them to the breach of Sebastopol. We have already stated that Omar Pacha had been consulting with the French and English leaders apparently some combined plan of action, including the engagement of the external army as well as attacks upon the town. These few sentences constitute the intelligence from the Crimea.

We seem rapidly to be drifting to the day when the Crimea will be only a secondary and subordinate part of the field of war. All the Powers have been at diplomacy, and every one of them, except Prussia, writes in a manner fatal to the

idea of renewed peace; and we may say that the pacifics of Prussia are more fatal to peace than the most out-spoken arrogance of the CZAR. The correspondence which is current in the papers this week, may be said to breathe a spirit of defiance; even Prussia herself negatively takes that tone. We have already had the subject of these despatches so far as the feeble reflex of brave newsmongers could convey it; but it is in the expression, in the tone of the whole, that the real force will lie. Austria calls upon Prussia to do her duty, if not under the Treaty of December 2, under that of April 20, and to stand prepared with her mobilised forces for the defence of territory pertaining to German Governments. M. MANTEUFFEL replies, that there is no danger of attack from Russia, who is sincere in the love of peace; that the *casus* contemplated by the Treaty of April 20 has not arisen; and that, excluded from the Conference to interpret the Four Points, Prussia has no interest or part in the existing stage of the Eastern Question. The rejoinder of Count BUOL is addressed to the German Governments generally, calling upon them to do their duty, and showing that Prussia stood self-excluded from the Conference. The question thus raised will have to be decided by the meeting at Frankfort-on-the-Maine. Even if the entire Diet should not adopt the course proposed, constituent members of that body might do so; but the present signs lead to the anticipation that a majority favourable to the mobilisation will prevail in the federal body. If the Mecklenburgs, much praised by Russia, faithfully adhere to the policy of Prussia, Bavaria is already mobilising her guard, and others of the German States appear likely enough to follow the example already set by Piedmont, who has so handsomely placed 15,000 of her army at the disposal of the Allies. Russia herself raises her voice in that despatch to Baron BUDBERG, the Russian Minister at Berlin, in which the Mecklenburgs are praised: the despatch proclaims that the policy of Austria is one calculated to involve the whole of Europe in the struggle. And France makes her appearance on the diplomatic stage by M. DROUYN DE LUXE, who may be said to put in her answer to Prussia, convicting the apparent Power of self-exclusion, and contrasting her own and treacherous conduct with the straightforward conduct of Austria. The Frenchman of M. DROUYN DE LUXE breathes no peace, war, and he says that our Government is in agreement with those of Austria and France.



war!" is the cry in every State of the great Powers, save that of Prussia, where the deluding echo cries "Peace!"

While the public business of Sardinia is suspended in the demonstration of grief, sincere although thus publicly demonstrated, for the death of QUEEN ADELAIDE, who has followed her mother-in-law, QUEEN THERESA, to the tomb, the war movement begins to affect Italy. Austria, concentrating her forces, withdraws them from Tuscany. France has withdrawn some of her troops from Rome. On the way through Florence they received the compliments of the Grand Duke, expressing friendship for the Emperor NAPOLEON and his army; significant demonstration in the younger Austrian house which has been so far behind the elder branch in generosity and boldness.

His French guard being thus weakened, the Pope is strengthening his own military resources. Austria and France are evidently preparing, while confronting formidable enemies, to take the chance of what may occur in Italy. Naples, it is said, has been, or will be, summoned to declare on which side she intends to be, and if on ours, to lend us 100,000 men.

Meanwhile King FERDINAND is torn between fears at the approach of conflict, and hopes based on the recent enunciations of the Immaculate Conception. His youngest child, just born, is named by that dogma, and the house of Naples is strengthened by the birth and baptism of a little girl christened "Immaculate Conception."

Spain, blessed by her new constitution—may the guarantees be carried out!—and threatened with a Carlist insurrection—may the threat be immortal, and never become deed!—is said by an American paper to be relieved for the time from the pressure in respect of Cuba. Mr. MARCY, it is reported, has prevailed over the balancing inclinations of President PIERCE, over the impetuosity of Mr. CUSHING, over the foresight of Mr. BUCHANAN, and has resolved not to seek the annexation of Cuba in a legitimate way, leaving that necessary stamp to the filibuster interest. Fudge! There has been no change at all.

London witnessed the execution of capital sentence on Monday morning. Barthélemy was hanged for the murder of Collard, the man that stopped him when he was flying after the murder of Moore. The motive of the first murder still remains a mystery. The fact whether Barthélemy believed, or did not believe, religiously, has become a controversial question between the authorities of the prison and his Roman Catholic priest. The motive to his crimes remains a mystery—a mystery the writer of the letter signed "Sophie," which he held in his hand. He died "game," and if philanthropists may question the moral benefit of capital punishment, there is no doubt that few criminals are able to undergo it with so little discomfort to themselves, so little horror for the bystander, as the stout Frenchman; whose faith, such as it was—and he seems to have been faithful to it—carried him by a straight path into the noose?

INDIA, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIA.
From a telegraphic summary of the Overland Mail, we learn that—

The mission of the Burmese Ambassador will, in all probability, lead to a treaty.

India trade is dull, money is scarce, and freights are low.

In China the Imperialists have recaptured four towns in the north. Canton is in great distress, and business is stopped.

In Australia, the predominance of imports over exports is still excessive. The prices of wool are maintained. Accounts from the gold fields are steady and satisfactory.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

PARLIAMENT reassembled, after the Christmas recess, on Tuesday. Very few members were present, owing, probably, to the comparatively unimportant business fixed, and, possibly, in consequence of the very severe weather. Lord Cardigan was present in the House of Lords, and attracted much attention.

NOTICES OF MOTION ON THE WAR.

The evening was conspicuous for the various notices of motion relative to the war. In the House of Commons such notices were given by Mr. Drummond, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Roebuck; and in the House of Lords by Earl Grey, the Earl of Ellenborough, and the Earl of Winchelsea. These notices were given for Thursday, but when Thursday came, the announcement of the Ministerial crisis put a stop to all business. In the House of Lords, the resignation of Lord John Russell was announced by the Duke of Newcastle; Earl Fitzwilliam attempted to elicit some reasons for the resignation, but was overruled by the Marquis of Lansdowne, who thought explanations should only come from Lord John Russell himself.

In the House of Commons the same announcement was made by Mr. Hayter, and it was agreed that Mr. Roebuck's motion should have precedence of those already on the papers for yesterday.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Introducing his promised bills on Tuesday, Sir BENJAMIN HALL reminded the House that towards the close of last session a bill was introduced for the purpose of continuing the system of the Board of Health, with certain modifications, and an intimation was given that a select committee would be moved for at an early period of the present session for considering the manner in which the act of 1848 had been carried out, and for determining what alterations should be made. The House of Commons, however, decided that the system should be put on an entirely new footing; and it was enacted that the department relating to the public health should be presided over by a member responsible to that House. As he had accepted that responsibility, he did not consider it consistent with his duty merely to move for a select committee, and then leave the question wholly to that committee; but he deemed it more convenient and more proper to bring in a bill making such amendments of the act of 1848 as he conceived to be advisable. Sir Benjamin briefly reviewed the various bills and amendments that have been passed during the last few years. It is unnecessary for us to enter upon such details, but the main objections to the standing act of 1848 may be stated. Plurality of votes; the combination of inspector and contractor for local works in one person; the power to force local officers upon local boards, without the power to enforce the payment of salary, are instances of imperfect working which provoked a resistance amounting to positive obstruction and nullification of the whole law. It is the aim of the present bill to place the several parts of the public administration, central and local, into harmonious relations. The provisions of the new bill consist of 170 clauses, and may be divided into three parts—the first relating to the constitution of the General Board of Health; the second, to the manner in which the act is to be adopted and applied; and the third, to the powers and duties of the local boards. It is proposed that the General Board of Health remain substantially as it is at present. The new act, however, up to a certain point will not be compulsory. The act may be "adopted" by a general meeting of the inhabitants of districts which may be in favour of it; but in cases of divided opinion the poll would be employed, and the Board would act or not, according to the decision. With respect to places having no defined boundaries, a petition signed by one-tenth of the inhabitants would cause an Inspector to visit the place, and the Board would act on his report. With regard to the compulsory application of the act, power would be given to the General Board of Health to put the act into operation in places in which it should appear from the Registrar-General's Report that the mortality exceeded 28 in 1,000. There would also be power to attach portions of places, in which the mortality was found to be excessive, to adjoining districts in which the act was already in force. With respect to the Improvement Bills on Water Supply, gas, and markets, that had been introduced since 1850, Sir Benjamin Hall said that the total within those years was no less than 428. He had been informed by those who were best qualified to advise him as to the probable cost of prosecuting these bills that if he put down the sum of 2,000/- for each, exclusive of the expenses of opposition, he would be quite within the mark. Therefore, a sum of not less than 856,000/- had been spent in the prosecution of private bills from the year 1850 down to the present period. His proposition was, that where the local boards desired to acquire land, either in or out of their locality, for purposes of drainage works, water supply, and the like, it should be in their power to acquire it without the necessity of coming before a committee of the House of Commons. For that end the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act would, under certain restrictions, be incorporated with the present bill. It is now proposed to put a stop to building houses back to back. Slaughter-houses could

not be built without a license. Local boards would be compelled to make an annual statement, in order that ratepayers might know to what purpose their money was applied. The Board of Health had sanctioned the raising of a sum of 1,585,477/- on mortgage, for their purposes, and the bill contains a provision to the effect that the board shall make an annual statement to Parliament as to what they have accomplished. It is further proposed that the bill shall continue for two years, and thence to the end of the next session of Parliament, by which time it will have had an ample trial.

The bill then introduced did not at all interfere with the metropolis, but Sir Benjamin Hall had another to facilitate the removal of "nuisances" which would affect the metropolis most materially. It was found that on necessary occasions—such as the cholera outbreak—the various departments became very active, but very useless. They were all at sea, and very little was done; directly the illness abated, even activity ceased, and no better provision was made for the future. Some very disgraceful mismanagement was exposed. Recently, in Lambeth, a parish containing 139,000 persons, and property of the rateable value of 500,000/-, proposals were made to medical men to treat diarrhoea patients for 1s. 6d. each, and cholera patients for 2s. 6d., whilst a penny rate on the annual rental would have immediately raised a sum of 2,083/-, which would have met the case thoroughly. St. James's was deplorably bad, but other parishes had set good examples. The model-lodging house system had been found most productive to health. Sir B. Hall read some reports of Mr. Simon, which showed how valuable his assistance had been, and how gratifying were the results arrived at. Newcastle presented a very flagrant case. In 1846 the corporation obtained full powers to take every sanitary measure which would be beneficial, but when the period arrived, they took no steps, and the town became celebrated for its peculiar mortality, and those parts belonging to the corporation were decidedly the worst. The cost to the town was 35,000/- The success of experiments in the metropolis gratified the belief that similar results on a larger scale would be the consequence of employing similar expedients on a larger scale at Newcastle and elsewhere. It is presumed that much opposition will be offered by persons carrying on offensive occupations, but it is proposed to empower local authorities to inspect places between nine in the morning and six in the evening. It is expressly asked, also, that houses unfit for human habitation shall be at once shut up. Some facts were given relative to the condition of Wild-court, Drury-lane, which showed the necessity of immediate interference. With regard to the non-performance of duties under the act, it is proposed—as in the case of the surveyor of highways, who is liable to a fine of 5/- for neglect of duty—that in every case where notice of a nuisance has been given, and no steps taken for its removal, it should be lawful for a justice, on the oath of one witness, to inflict a fine on the inspector or person appointed by the local authorities who should appear to the justice to be liable for such neglect. Sir B. Hall wished, also, that the House would insist on an annual account being made by the local authorities to the rate-payers, of the money paid and received, and of the steps taken by them under this act.

Mr. WILKINSON made a little friendly defence for the "Creators of Nuisances." Some minor questions were asked and answered, and leave was given for the bills to be brought in.

MEDALS FOR BALAKLAVA.

Some discussion has taken place on this subject, which, it will be seen in another column, has been by a general order decided in favour of the "charge."

The Duke of RICHMOND moved (motion subsequently withdrawn) for a return of the Crimean medal order. His object was to secure a clasp for Balaklava. The old plan was to reward only the commanders, but that system was exploded. He was eloquent in praise of the charge of the Light Brigade, and also wished to know what course would be pursued with regard to the sailors, and the survivors of those who had fallen.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE, in reply, adverted to the difficulty of the proper distribution of medals. He announced that a clasp would be given for Balaklava, and that it was never intended to deprive of similar honours the sailors who had manned the guns. It was also intended to give medals to the family representatives of every man who had fallen. Some delay must occur, but he hoped it would not be attributed to neglect.

The principle of giving medals to those soldiers who had not been actually under fire was strongly reprehended by the Earl of HARDWICKE. The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH reiterated this argument, and once more Curtius was mentioned in comparison with the Light Brigade. The Duke of RICHMOND professed himself perfectly satisfied, and, placing himself in the hands of the Duke of Newcastle on the matter, withdrew the motion.

NEGOTIATIONS AT VIENNA.

In reply to Mr. LAYARD, Lord JOHN RUSSELL recapitulated all that is known to the public on this subject. In conclusion, he stated two new facts:—On the 28th ult. Prince Gortschakoff stated, that he could not adhere to the interpretation of the "Four Points," but would apply for instructions, which he subsequently received. At the next meeting he read a "memorandum," to which the other ambassadors would not listen, saying

it Russia must, as a preliminary to everything, accept Four Points as bases of negotiation. They were then once accepted. The next point is, that although the government professes to be ready to negotiate on those bases, no power has, as yet, been given to the English minister at Vienna to do so.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF THANKS.—In both Houses a letter from Lord Raglan to, severally, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker, was read, expressing the gratitude of the Commander-in-Chief and of the entire army for the Vote of Thanks passed in December. The letter is accompanied by a similar acknowledgment from General Canrobert. Ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Houses.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE NAVY.—On Tuesday the RED CHANCELLOR read a letter from Admiral Dundas, announcing the transfer of command to Admirals Lyons & Bruat, and also expressing the deep gratitude felt throughout the fleet for the Vote of Thanks passed in December. The letter was entered on the minutes of House.

COLONIAL SYMPATHY WITH THE WAR.—Sir George is laid on the table a number of resolutions which had been passed in the colonies expressive of the liveliest sympathy with England in the present war, and containing offers of assistance.

BOUNTY AND BOROUGH POLICE.—In answer to Mr. PALMER, Lord PALMERSTON said that, after the illness of last year, he should not be induced to propose this on this subject in the present session. If any other gentleman were to do so he hoped he would be successful. He was sure such a measure was wanted.

INSTAMPED PUBLICATIONS.—On the motion of Mr. GIBSON, there was ordered to be laid before the use a copy of the correspondence between the Board of Inland Revenue and the publishers of unstamped publications to the 31st of December last, in continuation of a former return.

NOTICES OF MOTION—CONDUCT OF THE WAR.—Lord LYNDHURST, that on Friday, the 21st of February, he would move the following resolution:—That in the opinion of this House the expedition to Crimea was undertaken by her Majesty's Government with very inadequate means, and without due attention or sufficient inquiry into the nature and extent of the resistance to be expected from the enemy; and the neglect and mismanagement of the Government in the conduct of the enterprise have led to the most disastrous results."

he Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, that on Monday, in inquiring for certain returns, he should make some observations on the general conduct of the war.

arl GREY, on Tuesday, that an humble address should be presented to her Majesty on the subject, as understood, of the office of the Minister of War.

Ir. ADAIR, on the 5th of February, to address her Majesty on the progress and maintenance of the present

Ir. RICH, on the 6th of February, for a select committee to inquire into the efficiency of our military academies and other provisions for preparing officers for mental and staff appointments.

BURIAL ACTS.

Ir. A. PELLATT (Feb. 6), for a committee to inquire into the operation of the various burial acts. Also the question of the compensation of owners of private grounds, and whether it would not be morally religiously for the advantage of the community to have all burial grounds from the control of the church and clergy, and to place them under local boards.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT.

Ir. HENWOOD gave notice that on Thursday next, 1st of February, he would move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law as to marriage with a deceased's sister, or with a deceased wife's niece.

LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

Ir. CARDWELL, on Monday, for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of partnership.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

HE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.—On Monday a resolution in committee of the whole house, with view to the introduction of a measure relating to law on newspaper stamps.

SUCCESSION TO REAL ESTATE.

Ir. LOCKE KING (Feb. 6), for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of succession to real estate in cases of intestacy.

BLOCKADE IN THE BLACK SEA.

A following telegraphic despatch has been received from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons:—

Being informed that considerable consignments of contraband of war have taken place from the ports of the Mediterranean to those of Odessa and Sevastopol, the admirals of the English and French navies have determined on establishing an effectual blockade of the principal Russian ports in the Black Sea, to notify the strict enforcement of this blockade from 1st February, 1855. Steps have been taken to provide for an efficient force being, prior to that date, posted before the principal ports which are to be blockaded, furnished with due authority for the purpose he names of the two Governments."

THE WAR.

THERE appears to be an established state of things before Sebastopol. Daily telegraphs announce as novelties that the French are ready and waiting for the English. Daily does Menschikoff announce that nothing has occurred, and that the casual fire of the Allies is harmless. The last message is as follows:—

"The siege operations do not advance."

"Two successful night sorties were made on the 13th and 15th of January."

"We took fourteen English and nine French prisoners. The Allies lost a considerable number in killed."

"Arab deserters say that the Turks are treated with very little consideration by the Allies, who employ them to carry projectiles, provisions, and other loads from Balaklava to the camp."

More reliable news, however, says that the English are now all but ready, and that the soldiers cannot be restrained. Letters from the Crimea of the 12th state that the Flagstaff Battery had been mined by the French, who only waited a favourable opportunity to blow it up.

Omar Pacha has entirely completed his arrangements of co-operation, and issued his orders accordingly. The divisions of the Turkish army, consisting of 25,000 men, were to be in their appointed position by the 25th of this month. This is an important fact, because it affords some data by which we may more correctly speculate when Sebastopol will be stormed.

A letter of the 19th, from Vienna, says:—"The embarkation of Turkish troops for the Crimea has proceeded with such activity, that on the 14th the last transports had set sail."

During the night between the 11th and 12th 150 Russians attacked our lines. After a hand-to-hand fight that lasted a few minutes, they were repulsed, leaving in our works seven dead and two wounded prisoners. Our loss amounts to seven wounded.

According to intelligence from Warsaw, the Russians on the 9th made a rather important sortie from Sebastopol. It was directed against the English, who repulsed the Russians, and forced them to retreat with loss. The combat was finished when the French came up to the assistance of their allies.

General Osten Sacken has detached forces to cover the road leading to Bakschi-Serai, and that on the Perekop side General Pauloff had placed himself between Tultschuck and Kontugan.

A correspondent of the Vienna *Wanderer* writes from Warsaw that the exertions made to send large bodies of troops to the Crimea from the Danube are incessant. Prince Gortschakoff, on the 5th, ordered the recent diversion into the Dobrudscha, in order to prevent the Turks from leaving Varna for the Crimea. Large bodies of Russian troops have been ordered to concentrate themselves at Perekop, so as to afterwards advance on Eupatoria and attack the place by assault, if necessary. At the beginning of January two traders of Sebastopol, disguised as Tartars, and two Russian officers, dressed up as priests, were arrested at Eupatoria, and shot as spies. Prince Menschikoff lately offered an amnesty to such of the Tartar population as would return to their villages, but not more than about 100 individuals—men, women, children and old men—left Eupatoria to avail themselves of the prince's offer.

The abandonment of the advanced works by the sentries of the 7th Regiment, on the night of the 20th ultimo, has ended in a court of inquiry into the matter. It seems that the sentries were not sufficiently advanced, so that the enemy came upon them before they could rouse their pickets; and it also appears that there was an absence of the proper defences, or of any attack upon the enemy. Major-General Codrington, now in command of the division, published, the next day after the repulse, the following

"DIVISION ORDER."

"The Major-General regrets that, in the attack made last night by the enemy on the advanced works of Frenchman's-hill, the breast-work was quitted; the enemy entered it, and have caused a loss of 1 officer (missing), 4 killed (men), 18 wounded, and 12 missing.

"The loss of life, this risking of credit and character, appear to have arisen from the sentries remaining so close to the works that they could perceive nothing until too late. The alarm could only be given when the enemy was upon the work, and thus a handful of Russians, whom the troops would eagerly have attacked by daylight, was enabled to take our ground from us for a time.

"The attention of the field-officers, and particularly of the senior officers, present in the advanced work, is now particularly called to these circumstances. They must see, by frequent visiting, that the sentries remain well to the front, and in their proper advanced positions.

"And it must be an order positively carried out, so near the enemy, that at least one half of the troops there remain up, in a compact body, with their arms in hand, ready either to fire upon the enemy, or to charge vigorously with the bayonet, by which he is sure to be driven back at once."

"This is to be read to each company by officers. (Signed) "W. CODRINGTON, Major-General."

On the occasion of distributing the crosses, General Canrobert delivered a short address to the troops. He alluded to the obstacles to the taking Sebastopol and the delays that had hitherto occurred, owing to a variety of causes; but he added that these delays would only render the capture more certain, as the lives of the soldiers were carefully attended to, and unnecessary loss avoided. The address of the General was cheered, and cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive Canrobert!" were uttered in reply. The General said that he was delighted to hear the cry of "Vive l'Empereur!" but that they ought to reserve that of "Vive Canrobert!" until he led them to the capture of Sebastopol.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.

The Austrian Government have ordered all the Jews residing near the frontiers of Poland to move immediately into the interior, so as to be more under the surveillance of the police. This measure has been taken in consequence of several Hebrews having acted as spies to the Russian Government, and carried news of movements of troops, &c., across the frontier. Rewards have been offered for the apprehension of several Jews who are suspected of being Russian spies, and who have absconded, and probably found a refuge in Poland.

An experiment as to the range of the cannon on the heights of Inkerman, occupied by the English riflemen, was made on the 4th against the Russian fleet in Sebastopol. The balls flew in the midst of the fleet, and broke the mast of one of the vessels.

The French hospitals at Constantinople can accommodate 10,000 sick and wounded. The grand hospital at Pera contains 1,200 beds; the barrack of the Imperial Guard Dolma Batche, 500; Ramisch Tiflich, 1,000; Daoud Pasha, 800; Bosphorus Quanledja, 200; Gulhané, at the Point of the Seraglio, 1,000; Maltepe, 230; and at Scutari, in the Isle of the Princes, at the Polytechnic School, the Russian Embassy, and the two floating hospitals, 5,000.

"The invasion of the Dobrudscha was effected, not, as it has been said, by General Luders, but by General Pawloff, the commandant of one of the divisions of Luders' army. According to these accounts the Danube was crossed on January 8 by 3000 Russians—rather a large 'detachment.'

"Marseilles, Thursday.

"The Duke of Cambridge and Admiral Dundas arrived from Malta this morning, at eight.

RUSSIAN FACTS.

"According to Russian reports of the 18th, from Sebastopol, many men of the allied armies desert to them."

Menschikoff says, that in a sortie on the 15th the Russians made fourteen English and nine French prisoners."

"A letter from Odessa, of the 9th, in the *Ost Deutsch Post*, says:—'I am able to inform you positively that the Russians have taken all the necessary measures for assuming the offensive in the Crimea, and you may shortly expect to hear of their moving forward, as they have received the necessary reinforcements.'

NOTES OF THE SIEGE.

THE ZOUAVES BY NIGHT.

These gallant but eccentric troops are gaining a distinct reputation by their various capacities. They fight equally well with any other troops, and are, additionally, able to trail along the earth with a fox-like facility which is almost unearthly. Here is a description of an enterprise from a French writer; it sounds precisely like the prowling of a Pawnee followed by the success of a Sioux:—

"The other night, in a deluge of rain and in complete darkness, some twenty of those intrepid volunteers known in the army as *enfants perdus*, because they risk their lives in the most daring enterprises, passed out of our trenches. Two led the way, one behind the other at the distance of five paces. The rest of the band followed, commanded by an officer called Benner, formerly of the 7th Regiment of the line. They all crept along on their bellies in dead silence. Their chief, an old Zouave, had taught them how. As each man lies down he glides along his rifle to the full stretch of his arm, he then glides on himself, and thus gets on without noise or embarrassment, always ready to bound to his feet should an enemy surprise him. The first in advance acted as a guide; he felt the way; the second communicated with the officer surrounded by his band. Every man had his eyes and ears on the alert. The path they took made a circuit. They had to leave on the right an earthwork occupied by Russians. To fall upon it, carry it, or kill its occupants, would not have been a difficult task, but it would have given the alarm. It was necessary to double it and glide between it and the ditch, inspect the enemy's works, and return without letting them be aware of the danger they had incurred. Before entering the narrow strip which separates the fossé from the Russian post, the officer left more than half his men on station. Should his party be discovered, they were to fall upon the post. He himself, with five or six determined men, enters the dangerous path, and proceeds alongside the fossé; with his hand he tries the strength of the defences; they are bound firmly together, and are fixed fast in the ground. The fossé is six feet deep and full of rain-water. It seems possible to scale

the *fosse*; to tear up the defences would require time; it would be better to burn them; the *chevaux de frise* are connected together by chains. If the one burns the other will remain; it is more advisable to carry them off some twenty yards—once there, they are ours.

"The night is pitch dark. A few steps ahead a man appears. Astonished he glides towards him. It is one of his own men. If they all get up they are lost; a trench stops him; he hears the sound of the spade and the pickaxe in the rock; he hears the workmen converse, the guard splash with their feet in the water, the men cough. What does this mean? The sound is hollow; it is a mine. It commences here and leads there. But the rain continues to pour down. It is bitter cold, and the flash of a gun may lead to their discovery. The officer gives the signal to retreat. They return the way they came. Their track on the moist earth guides them. They pass again the Russian out-work. The Russians little suspect a mortal foe is so near to them. The men speak low together; they might take them all prisoners, but it would be imprudent. There are other parts of the defences to be examined. The success of the enterprise is more valuable than the death of ten Russian soldiers. Finally, all having been explored, they rejoin the remainder of the band who are waiting for them lying down in the mud. 'Anything new, boys?' says the officer. 'Nothing.' 'Then let us return.' And these twenty brave fellows, wet to the skin, pass our sentries, who were becoming anxious about them, in the same silence as before.

"It is said that in the night between the 28th and 29th of December the same men destroyed some works which annoyed our troops; took a prisoner, despite of themselves, and carried off some sacks of powder. One of them received a ball in the foot."

The *Times* published on Wednesday a full page from their correspondent before Sebastopol. We are only able to give a few extracts.

EFFECTS OF "ROUTINE."

"Each hut weighs more than two tons, and, somehow or other, I fear it will so happen that no effort will be used to get them up till men are found frozen to death in their tents. As to the 'warm clothing,' the very words immediately suggest to us all some extraordinary fatality. Some went down with the ill-fated and ill-treated Prince, some of it has been lost, and now we hear that a ship with clothing for the officers has been burnt off Constantinople; that some of it has been saturated with water; and I had an opportunity of seeing several lighters full of warm great-coats, &c., for the men, lying for a whole day in the harbour of Balaklava beneath a determined fall of rain and snow. There was no one to receive them when they were sent to the shore, or rather no one would receive them without orders. In fact, we are ruined by etiquette, and by 'service' regulations. No one will take 'responsibility' upon himself if it were to save the lives of hundreds."

MENSCHIKOFF.

"We hear from the deserters that the Russian soldiers are led to believe that the two Grand Dukes are still there with the General-Commanding. I heard from one of these men that when the Grand Dukes beheld the fearful slaughter of the Russians at Inkerman they were greatly affected, and that when they saw the day was lost, and that the English and French had signally defeated their troops, they burst into tears. As they retreated into the town with their staff, they implored Menschikoff not to continue the struggle any longer, and to abandon Sebastopol, making the best terms of capitulation that he could. Menschikoff is said to have promised that he would do so, and to have led them quietly away till they recovered their spirits. This is the mere gossip of a soldier, and it may be from this story that the report has sprung that Menschikoff has written to ask the French and English Generals what terms they propose, should he capitulate. Those who know the Prince well declare he will fight the place to the last. This is his war, and there can be no doubt he will hold out as long as there is a prospect of obtaining reinforcements and provisions.

A NEW METHOD OF DYING.

"The cold is developing itself, and I regret to say our efforts to guard against it have been attended with mischief. Captain Swinton, of the Royal Artillery, a gallant and excellent officer, was found dead in his tent, suffocated by the fumes of charcoal from a stove which he had placed in it for the purpose of warmth. Great numbers of iron stoves have been brought out here from Constantinople, and are not used with proper caution, and several officers have been half-killed by carbonic acid gas generated in these deadly apparatus."

AN INDIGNANT ZOUAVE.

"There are some few degenerate wretches who grumble even among this *corps d'élite*. An officer commanding a fatigue party, who happened to fall in with a party of Zouaves engaged in a similar duty, brought them all off to the canteen to give them a little *goutte* after their day's labour. While he was in the tent a warrior, with a splendid face for a grievance, came in, and joined in the conversation, and our friend, seeing he was not a private, but that he had a chatty, talkative aspect, combined with an air of rank, began to talk of the privations to which the allied armies were exposed. This was evidently our ally's *champ de bataille*. He at once threw himself into an attitude which would have

brought down the pit and galleries of the Porte St. Martin to a certainty, and, in a tone which no words can describe, working himself up by degrees to the grand climax, and attuning his body to every nice modulation of phrase and accent, he plunged at once into his proper woes. Our gallant friend had been expatiating on the various disagreeables of camp life in the Crimea in winter time: 'C'est vrai!' quoth he, 'mon ami! En effet nous éprouvons beaucoup de misère!' The idea of any one suffering misery except himself seemed to the Zouave too preposterous not to be disposed of at once. 'Mais, mon lieutenant,' cried he, 'regardez-moi—moi! pr-r-r-r-remier basson du 3me Zouaves! élève du Conservatoire de Paris! Après avoir sacrifié vingt ans de ma vie pour acquérir un talent—pour me r-r-rendre agréable à la société—me voici! (with extended arms and legs) me voici!—forcé d'arracher du bois de la terre (with terrible earnestness and sense of indignity) pour me faire de la soupe!'

OBJECTS OF FLAGS OF TRUCE.

"A flag of truce came in last night from the enemy with a request that all similar flags might in future be received at the parallel now constructing in front of the Second Division. This request Lord Raglan instantly refused. His lordship added that all flags must be received at the broken bridge on the Tchernaya-road, and at no other place. To receive flags of truce in front of the Second Division would be entirely to open our camp to the enemy's view, which, without doubt, was the object of the request."

SUPPLIES OF COMFORTS.

From the *Morning Post* we obtain an actual list of clothing and kindred articles received up to the 9th inst.

"A great deal has been written about the paucity of stores for the army during the last two or three months. The following list of 'comforts' actually disembarked gives a brighter side to the picture, and will be 'gall and wormwood' to that class of grumbling letter writers, of whom it is to be feared there are too many in this camp. The annexed list does not include a very large quantity of goods of a similar character, which still remain on board ship in Balaklava harbour, owing to want of store-room:—

Woollen Jerseys	49,480
Flannel drawers	41,448
Socks, pairs	65,288
Comforters, woollen	13,500
Boots, pairs	29,280
Shoes, ditto	4,120
Trousers, ditto	6,000
Coatees	5,934
Great coats	10,000
Gloves	50,284
Buffalo robes	12,061
Blankets (beyond the one carried by the men)	44,650
Rugs	24,200
Palliasses	19,200
Bolster cases	21,800
Sheepskin coats	1,515

However, the following paragraph shows what has to be done besides receiving them:—

"The army has all the comforts sent out that a generous nation can give; they know it. Even the meanest man in the ranks knows it. But Balaklava harbour and the Sebastopol heights are two places. An immense gulf separates them, and this is the stumbling-block of all their luxuries. A distance of ten miles here is less surmountable than the whole journey from England. Requisitions are freely given for everything required by the quartermaster-general's department; but then comes the rub—the articles are at Balaklava."

PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF THANKS.

Very great satisfaction was felt throughout the army by the publication of the vote of thanks. Lord Raglan issued the following

"GENERAL ORDER.

"Head-Quarters before Sebastopol,

"January 8, 1855.

"The Commander of the Forces has the highest satisfaction in publishing to the army the unanimous resolutions of the Houses of Lords and Commons, expressing their sense of the conduct of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers in the operations in which they have been engaged in the Crimea, in the brilliant and decisive victory on the Alma, and in the signal defeat of a very superior force of the enemy on the heights of Inkerman.

(Here followed the vote of thanks.)

"Lord Raglan congratulates the army upon receiving this unequivocal recognition of their arduous services by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and he is glad of the opportunity of declaring that the manner in which the troops have borne the privations and hardships they have had to endure, and in which they have performed the arduous duties they have had to discharge almost without an interval of rest, entitle them not only to the approbation, but to the admiration which is felt, and has been manifested for their conduct throughout the United Kingdom.

"The Field Marshal has the pleasure, at the same time, to announce to the troops, that the Houses of Par-

liament have desired that the same tribute of thanks may be conveyed to General Canrobert and the French army, for their gallant and successful co-operation with her Majesty's forces in the attack on the enemy's position at Alma, for their energetic and timely assistance in repulsing the enemy at Inkerman, and for their distinguished exertions, in concert with her Majesty's troops, in the siege of Sebastopol.—By order.

(Signed) "J. B. B. ESTCOURT, Adj.-Gen."

SCRAPS FROM THE CAMP.

No matter what the hour of the day you enter Balaklava, you are sure to see a dead Turk.

The English force here does not exceed 16,000 effective men at this moment—about the same as previous to Inkerman.

Iron saucepans, stoves, and general canteen utensils, are in great request, and fetch any sums when they are to be had, which is seldom.

Only fancy a party of the officers of the Guards eating an Irish stew, with their fingers for knives and forks, out of the lid of a saucepan.

Yesterday, January 5, I was at Balaklava; all the ships are covered with snow and long icicles, and the hills which enclose the bay look like gigantic icebergs. Altogether, it gives a tolerable idea of the Arctic regions.

The huts are the most complete things of the kind that could possibly be sent out. The framework is admirably arranged, and strong without being heavy. The whole is packed in the best manner, and bound with thin bands of iron in such a way that one horse can carry two—one on each side.

Only fancy a vagabond buying a cargo of geese and turkeys at Sinope and Samsoun; the former cost him there 6d. each, and the latter 1s.; he charged at Balaklava, on the 20th—turkeys 15s., geese 5s.; on the 23rd—turkeys 20s., geese 15s.; and on the 24th (all the turkeys being sold)—geese 22s. each, skinny fowls 5s. each, and everything in proportion extortiate.

As to our officers, do not believe half what is said respecting their indifference to the comforts of the men; for I assure you that with a few exceptions to the contrary, take them as a body, and they are the best and bravest set of men in the world. We love them—yes, that is the word; they are identified with us in all our trials, as in all our glory.

While men remain, they will do their work; and such an idea as not taking Sebastopol—such an idea of giving up the object—is never heard of. One but sets one's teeth the harder, and faces the hard fact the fuller; it must be done; "coûte que coûte," and, as I tell my men here, when they say a thing can't be done, "Can't! There is no such word as 'can't' for us out here. The word for us is 'must,' and that alone is to be used in its place." I do wish they would let us get at those Russians.

THE MILITARY SYSTEM.

A correspondent of the *Times* complains of the injustice done by Lord Hardinge in promoting Lord Eustace Cecil, son of Lord Salisbury, from a Lieutenant in the 88th Regiment to be Lieutenant and Captain in the Coldstream Guards without purchase. The value of one, the commission of the 88th, being about 700*l.*, that in the Coldstream a little over 2,000*l.* (the correspondent of the *Times* erroneously says 3,500*l.*) Lord Eustace, when promoted, had been only three years in the army, and was not on active service, having been attached to the dépôt of the 88th since he exchanged into the regiment last spring. The correspondent complains, "There are," says the writer, "many hundred Lieutenants, of more than twice Lord E. B. Cecil's standing, to whom this promotion would have been a boon, by purchase even. Lord E. B. Cecil is supposed to be the most deserving man to get it without purchase."

EVERYTHING FROZEN BUT FLEAS.

An officer writes—"I have put the inkstand by the little fire of charcoal in the grate to thaw, having accomplished which proceeding, I may tell you that a Russian winter is at present upon us, and has commenced in all its rigour. Last night was most severely cold; we had a tremendous snowstorm during the day, and the north wind to-day may be described in the language of novel writers as a 'piercing blast.' Our hut is buried in the snow, and icicles encircle the canvas roof, the interior of which was this morning a sheet of frost and ice; all the jolly warm things you sent out are most *à propos* indeed. I have as yet kept clear of a little parasitical animal the name of which sounds very horrid with you, but whose presence is very familiar with us—in plain English, officers and men are almost equally in a state of vermin, and it is amusing to hear the inquiries made of each other as to their condition in this respect. One of our generals has particularly suffered in this way; in fact, every rank and grade have done so alike."

A RURAL SCENE.

An officer gives a capital account of a reconnaissance on the 30th. It is very artistic and amusing:—

"On crowning the rocky ridge a magnificent scene was spread before us, the whole country being laid out (like a model map) at our feet, the village of Kamara being immediately underneath us. The lines of the French cavalry were pushing on beneath, and those of the French battalions extended on the shoulder of a brown hill, and from those proceeded the sound of arti-

lery we had before heard; for the French were blazing away on a Russian battalion on an opposing hill, who were making replies from their own field guns. Meanwhile the cavalry advanced across the Tchernaya; fires were lit by the troops below who were not in motion, and we followed suit on the hills, piling arms and rendering the ridge one line of smoke. The French below burnt many Russian huts (for the troops), which blazed away beautifully. Their cavalry force returned, and the whole of it moved to its right along the valley in front of this range of hills. We also were soon in motion, and marched back to the Russian picket-house, which was in a blaze, having been fired by the Marines. Then we again pushed on in front, over a second range of hills, to support the French cavalry, some little amusement being caused on the way at a dodge about to be carried out by the Rifles for the 'circumvention' of some apparent Russians on the hill in front, who turned out to be an advanced company of Marines. The cold had now left us, and a beautiful sunshine rendered the winter scene more cheerful, but we were not prepared for the sudden transition from winter to summer which awaited us. Below, to our front, suddenly appeared a lovely smiling vale, green fields, all sunshine, prosperous-looking homesteads, wood and water in abundance, and high hedgerows—thoroughly English scene, had it not been for tall distant cliffs and the pure white sides and brow of the lofty Tchatur Dagh, and, still more unlike England, a long line of glittering cavalry, whose progress was marked by densely rising columns of smoke, as the Russian forage in the villages was destroyed. Close above this happy valley we halted and lighted huge fires with the abundance of wood around us, till the return of the French cavalry by one road, when we all returned together, delighted with our military country ramble, and expressing our intention of marking the 30th of December with a white stone. I wish you could see a picture of our progress, the Zouaves picturesquely skirmishing among the brushwood; the Highlanders halted with their colours by the roadside, intent upon making as much flame and smoke as possible; the dark green of the Rifles ranged along the fields near the roads on our flank, and the tableau before us. We burst into a roar of laughter at an unfortunate Russian young lady (probably taking a walk before luncheon), who, on our approach by a sudden turn of the road, set off as hard as she could run, and displayed her agility in clambering over an intervening gate."

The writer of the above is evidently not an Irishman. Had he been one, he would have followed the young Russian lady's example, and concealed nothing.

INCIDENTS.

DIVERS.—The Government have further engaged the services of James Bell and Son, and Carr and Rowden, working divers, of Whitstable, practically versed in the conduct of submarine explosions. These able men are to proceed forthwith to the Crimea, there to join Messrs. Dean, Edwards, Rigden and Allen, who some time since went out in the Robert Lowe, and who are at present, we believe, waiting further orders at Constantinople.—*Dover Chronicle*.

TOBACCO FOR THE CRIMEA.—A correspondent at one of the outports informs us that the Commissioners of the Customs have ordered that all tobacco under seizure shall not in future be destroyed, at all events during the present war, as heretofore, but that it shall be stored and packed up at the several ports in casks, and transmitted to such places as may be ordered for shipment, to be forwarded to the Crimea.

PATRIOTISM AT NEWCASTLE.—This town attends more to matters warlike than domestic and sanitary. At the requisition of a large number of inhabitants, the Mayor has convened a meeting to discuss the "negotiations for peace," which the inhabitants consider will be "humiliating to Great Britain." They wish to bring the war to such a termination "as shall restrict the dangerous power of Russia, assure the independence of Turkey and the security of Europe, and tend to the advancement of the welfare and glory of our country."

TRANSPORT OF CANNON OVER MUD.—The authorities at Woolwich have now under trial a vehicle constructed to meet the great difficulty at Balaklava—the transport of cannon over mud. The cannon is slung under a pole resting between two high wheels, which, as they revolve, lay down a block or paddle, surmounted by an iron rail, and dovetailing at its extremity with a succeeding block, continuing the line. Thus the carriage lays down its own railway as it progresses, while the sleeper from which it recedes acts as a lever, and lifts up the wheels from the bed of mud. It is found that the carriage will transport the heaviest guns in this way through a perfect slough.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.—The following regiments are forthwith to be augmented to 1600 bayonets, viz.:—2nd battalion 1st Royals, 3rd Foot, 4th ditto, 7th Fusiliers, 17th Foot, 18th Royal Irish, 19th Foot, 20th ditto, 21st ditto, 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 28th Foot, 80th ditto, 83rd ditto, 84th ditto, 88th ditto, 89th ditto, 42nd Highlanders, 44th Foot, 46th ditto, 47th ditto, 48th ditto, 49th ditto, 50th ditto, 54th ditto, 55th ditto, 57th ditto, 62nd ditto, 63rd ditto, 66th ditto, 68th Durham Light Infantry, 1st and 2nd battalions 71st Highland Light Infantry,

77th Foot, 79th ditto, 82nd ditto, 88th Connaught Rangers, 89th Foot, 90th ditto, 91st ditto, 92nd ditto, 93rd Highlanders, 95th Foot, and 97th ditto. Third battalions of 1000 men each will be added to the 1st Royals, 60th Rifles, and Rifle Brigade. Cavalry regiments to be increased to 800 sabres:—1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Dragoon Guards, 1st Royal Dragoons, 2nd Scots Greys, 3rd Light Dragoons, 6th Enniskillens, 7th Hussars, 8th ditto, 11th ditto, 13th Light Dragoons, 16th Lancers, and 17th ditto.

THE CRIMEAN MEDAL.

(From the *London Gazette*.)

CLASP TO BE GRANTED FOR BALAKLAVA—MEDALS TO SURVIVORS AND TO THE SEAMEN.

War-Office, Jan. 23.—General Order.

Horse Guards, Jan. 19.

THE Queen having signified her intention to confer a medal for service in the Crimea upon the surviving officers and men, with clasps for those who were present in the battles of the Alma and of Inkerman, is further pleased to command that a medal and clasps shall, in like manner, be conferred upon the nearest relative or representative of such as may have there fallen; the General Commanding in Chief desires that her Majesty's gracious intentions shall be made known to the army by general order.

Field-Marshal Lord Raglan has been requested to forward lists of the individuals who may have been killed in action, or who may have died whilst on service in the Crimea, or in consequence of wounds.

By command of the Right Honourable

GENERAL VISCOUNT HARDINGE,

Commanding-in-Chief.

G. A. WETHERALL, Adjutant-General.

ARRIVAL OF THE RETRIBUTION.

THE Retribution steam-frigate, Captain Tatham, steamed into Portsmouth harbour on Wednesday morning, and ranged alongside the dockyard jetty, to disembark her wounded and invalid soldiers. Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, the Commander-in-Chief, was present on the jetty when the ship was lashed alongside. The military authorities were also promptly on the alert. Nothing could exceed the attention paid by these officers to the careful landing of those who were so helpless as to require stretchers. A number of vans were at the spot, and received all those who were able to be conveyed to their sick quarters by those means, about forty in number. The body of a deceased soldier, John Thompson, of the 19th, was removed from the ship in a shell, covered with the union jack. The most urgent cases have been taken to the garrison hospital, and the rest are berthed in the new auxiliary hospital adjacent to the Milldam; all are receiving the utmost attention of the medical staff. The Retribution came home with a temporary rudder, a temporary mizenmast, and only her own foremast standing. When struck by the sea in the awful gale of the 14th of November, at Balaklava, such was the violence of the gale that one of her heavy upper-deck guns was sent "flying right aft and carrying everybody with it," but happily killing none. She was also struck by lightning, which shivered her foretopsail yard; she at the same time carried away her rudder. She threw her upper-deck guns overboard to lighten her top-hamper, and lost her mainmast at Sebastopol in the bombardment of the 17th of October, when several of her beams were smashed; the mainmast went right through the upper deck, main deck, and into the engine-room, where it luckily rested. She has done her share of the work in the Black Sea during the present war with credit. She was, indeed, the first British ship of war which entered the Black Sea. Her services therein, and at Batoum, Varna, the Sulina mouth of the Danube, along the Circassian coast, in making prizes (18) in conjunction with the French steamer Descartes and our own Niger, after the firing on the flag of truce at Odessa; also her expedition with the Sidon to destroy the forts at the entrance of the Danube, and her participation in the bombardment of Odessa, and other services, have been appreciated. She must now have a thorough repair. Her officers and ship's company have brought home abundance of small trophies from the Black Sea and other places, and Lieutenant O'Reilly some most artistically executed drawings of the places she has visited and the service she has participated in. She went into Portsmouth harbour with her figurehead dressed in a sailor's white hat, with numerous streamers of ribands, &c., and excited much attention.

LOSS OF LIFE IN ST. JAMES'S PARK.

For a few days there was a considerable number of skaters in the parks. The ice was very unsafe, and many persons got in the water. The only fatal accidents occurred on Saturday in St. James's Park.

Four youths were in the act of crossing from the bank to the Wildfowl Island, when, on arriving about midway, the ice broke, and precipitated them all into the water. A loud cry for assistance was raised, several adventurous persons hastened to the

spot, and endeavoured, by throwing hurdles towards the struggling persons, to enable them to keep afloat. In a few moments the number in the water had increased to eight, and an awful struggle for life took place amongst them. Only one of the first four succeeded in getting ashore. Three others, who had boldly gone to render assistance, and in so doing had become themselves immersed, were got out, but one poor fellow, intent on the same purpose, fell a sacrifice to his exertions. This was a young man, aged about twenty, five feet eight inches high, and poorly clad. His body was the last recovered. It had been under water about twenty minutes, and on being got out was conveyed to Charing-cross Hospital. The other three persons were conveyed to Westminster Hospital.

A coroner's inquest has been held, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned.

DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

THE GERMAN COURTS AND THE WESTERN POWERS. THE following series of diplomatic papers indicate with some particularity the relations of Austria and Prussia to each other and to the Western Powers, in the present stage of the war. The first document, of which we subjoin a brief but sufficient abstract, is the demand made by the Austrian Home Minister to the Berlin Cabinet to mobilise the Prussian army. Prussia had declined to accede to the alliance of December 2nd between Austria and the Western Powers.

Count Buol, writing to Count Esterhazy on the 24th of December, begins by stating that he had waited for the answer of the Prussian Cabinet to the official communication of the treaty of December 2nd, since it was clear that "Prussia's adherence or non-adherence to that treaty" would "cause her to modify her military measures" thereupon. It had been the "earnest" wish of Austria to "resume with Prussia the deliberations for the joint military preparations of Austria, Prussia, and the entire Germanic Confederation, in a line of exact political equality." But as Prussia "postponed a decision on this subject," Austria reverts to the terms of the Austro-Prussian Alliance of April 20th, and the resolutions of the Diet of December 9th consequent thereupon. Prussia had eventually engaged "to mobilise 100,000 men within thirty-six days, and again to place another 100,000 men on its eastern frontier within three weeks after placing in readiness the former," this engagement to operate when necessary, and the necessity to be decided upon by the contracting parties.

"There can hardly be a doubt now, however, that the necessity for this mobilisation is actually at hand."

"Russia is ready to take the field on her eastern frontier, and can concentrate, in a very short time, her forces, now ready for action, so as to strike a vigorous blow at the empire. For making its appearance at the Upper Vistula, the Russian army requires far less time than is requisite for the equipment and concentration of a Prussian army 100,000 strong. If the fulfilment of Prussia's engagement to assist in defending Austria from all attacks is to be realised, it becomes, under such circumstances, more urgent every day that Prussia should have in readiness the military forces required for the purpose of common defence. Baron Hess is decidedly of opinion that the moment has arrived when Prussia should commence the mobilisation of a part of her army according to the treaty. He declares that our forces stationed on the eastern frontier will not suffice, until joined by the 100,000 Prussian troops, for enabling him to commence the contest with the prospective certainty of success. (*Mit der Aussicht auf einen Schweren Erfolgen Rumpf aufnehmen zu tonnen.*)"

In the opinion of Baron Hess, if Prussia should accede to the treaty of December 2,

"Nothing further would be imperative save the immediate and simultaneous mobilisation of this aggregate force of 200,000 men, which can be concentrated at Posen and Breslau."

"With respect further to any military measures on the part of the Bund, we indulge in the hope that Prussia will be willing to co-operate with us at the Diet for promptly and vigorously calling out what was agreed on the 20th of April should form the minimum of the Diet's contingent."

Assuredly the Diet would see the urgent importance of following the example of the two great German Powers.

The remaining states would hold half their contingents ready for action; each to be joined later, if required, by its remaining half, and these federal corps combined to effect a junction simultaneously with the Austrian and Prussian armies. The chief object is to avoid delay in having the federal troops ready for action, and in the strength prescribed.

"Should Prussia's accession to the alliance of December 2 take place later, the two Powers would, doubtless, be induced at the same time to extend their joint motion in the Diet to the calling out of the whole grand contingent of the federal army, in order to give to the military position of the entire Germanic Confederation."

ration a greater force, stringently necessary for the offensive."

Count Buol concludes by pressing for immediate information of Prussia's intentions.

The Prussian reply is in the form of instructions from M. de Manteuffel to Count Arnim, Prussian ambassador at Vienna. M. de Manteuffel admits the necessity of coming to an understanding, but his Majesty had "from the same point of view uninterruptedly directed his attention to the course of events" long before Count Buol's despatch of Dec. 24. "By the measures taken larger bodies of troops were ready for action within a much shorter period than that conditionally appointed in the military convention of April 20," and therefore Count Buol's apprehensions might be reasonably set at rest. Prussia cannot believe that Russia "will assume the offensive if not attacked." There is no immediate necessity for joint action, or for exceeding the terms of the Austro-Prussian treaty of April, providing for mutual aid in case of aggression from without. Prussia has every reason to believe in the sincerity of Russia's desire for peace. As she is excluded from the conference for the interpretation of the Four Points, she declines to enter into the Eastern complication.

A week after (Jan. 14) Count Buol rejoins in a communication addressed to the several ministers of Austria at the secondary and minor states of the Germanic Confederation. He suggests the hollowness of Russian overtures for peace, and on the necessity of the German Federal contingents being fully armed and ready for action, so as to place Germany "in a position to command respect." For this purpose a Federal commander-in-chief should be appointed.

By far the most important, however, of this series of diplomatic documents is the despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the French ambassador at Berlin, rejecting the claim of Prussia to take any part in the settlement of the great European quarrel, from the danger of which she stood aloof. We take our analysis from the *Indépendance Belge*.

After recapitulating the claims of Prussia to participate in the settlement of the basis of peace, "not from her adhesion to such or such a particular convention, but from her rank as a great power," the French Minister of Foreign Affairs proceeds as follows:—

"The French Government has to observe that there are in this statement two kinds of ideas—one concerning the relations of Prussia and Austria, and the other relating to the situations of Prussia in Europe. France will not make any reference to the former, which belongs only to the Germanic Confederation; but as to the second, she is disposed to speak distinctly. France does not deny the rank of Prussia as a grand power—the French cabinet itself has often, during the last two years, reminded Prussia of the obligations involved in that rank which she puts forward with so just a pride. But the quality of great power is a permanent matter, and cannot be abandoned one day, because of its burdens, to be resumed the day after, for the sake of its conveniences. Its rights and its duties are correlative, and cannot be separated."

"There are no reasons for supposing that England and Austria take a view of these things different from that of Austria; but be that as it may, it is very certain that France will not admit that a power may of its own will hold itself aloof from great events while they are taking place, and not maintain its pretension to regulate their consequences. The gains of a war are only for those who have carried on that war, and the advantages derivable from the present war—advantages essentially moral—will be the right to participate in the deliberations which are undertaken in the interest of Europe for the restoration of peace. What has Prussia done to have a right to such participation? She has refused to proclaim her neutrality—a very honourable course no doubt—but on what side is she, and on what side will she act, if the war continues? No one can say."

"Can Prussia complain of the great confidence which France accords to Austria? The conduct of the latter power and that of Prussia are widely different."

"Russia evacuates the Principalities by a movement which she declares to be purely strategical. Prussia at once declares herself satisfied, whilst Austria immediately therupon exchanges the Notes of the 8th of August. Prince Gortschakoff adheres on November 28 to the Four Points, Prussia flatters herself that she has attained the object of her efforts; whilst Austria, on the contrary, signs the treaty of December 2 with the Western Powers. On January 7 the ambassador of Russia accepts the interpretation of the Allied Powers. Prussia, completely satisfied, sends a refusal to Austria to fulfil her military engagements resulting from the treaty of April 20; Austria, on the contrary, writes the next day to her allies that the re-establishment of peace not having been assured, she has to propose to combine with them her military plans, in execution of article 5 of the treaty of December 2."

"Will Prussia pretend that Austria finds in the

alliance advantages which she could not enjoy? If so, what are they? Since she proposes to make a Prussian treaty by the side of the Austrian one, she ought certainly to signify the precise signification of that proposition. Is that the object of M. Usedom's visit to London? The mission of that diplomatist has been carefully invested with so much secrecy and so many confidential forms that, to the present time, the secret has not come to the knowledge of the French Cabinet.

"But the more pains are taken for concealment, the more will be used for discovery. All, however, that the French Cabinet knows of that mission is, that Prussia has been endeavouring to prevent the Allies from carrying the war to the most vulnerable point of Russia, and to interdict the passage of their troops across Germany. What did she offer in compensation? She offered to place a *corps d'armée* on the frontier of Poland—that is to say, that Prussia with one hand should turn aside the sword of the Allied Powers, and with the other hand cover the Russians with a buckler. One would, in truth, imagine that M. d'Usedom has several treaties in his portfolio, and that he produced at London by mistake that which he ought to have brought forward at St. Petersburg.

"The French Government is very far from wishing to wound the feelings of Prussia. It is in a loyal effusion of feeling that it expresses itself thus. It wishes that its words should be listened to at Berlin, in order to make Prussia escape from a situation in which it should have been happy not to see her if its previous efforts had succeeded."

"THE FOUR POINTS."

In the present state of the negotiations it may not be uninteresting to our readers to place in juxtaposition the interpretation of the so-called "Four Points" as understood by the Western Powers and Russia respectively. They are as follows:—

WESTERN INTERPRETATION RUSSIAN INTERPRETATION
AS CONTAINED IN THE AS EXPRESSED IN THE
PROTOCOL OF AUGUST 8, NOTE OF NOVEMBER 6,
1854.

The Western Powers will be contented:

1. If the Protectorate of the Principalities on the Danube to be exercised in future by the Five Powers collectively, under the same conditions as those stipulated in their favour by our treaties with Turkey.

2. If the navigation of the Danube be freed from all hindrances at its mouth, and the principles set forth in the act of the Congress of Vienna be duly acted upon and applied in this case.

3. If the treaty of July 13, 1841, undergo a revision, with the sanction of all the contracting parties, for the better re-establishment of the balance of power in Europe, and for the purpose of restricting the power of Russia in the Black Sea.

4. If Russia gives up her claim of exercising an official protectorate over the subjects of the Porte, to whatever religion they may belong, provided that France, Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia do not mutually agree to take the initiative to obtain from the Sultan the confirmation and due observance of the liberty of conscience of all the different Christian churches in the dominions of Turkey, and in the common interest of their co-religionists to profit by the liberal intentions so disinterestedly expressed by H. M. the Sultan, but without lessening the dignity and independence of his throne.

PEACE SOIREE AT MANCHESTER.

This customary demonstration previously to the re-opening of Parliament, was held last Friday in the Corn Exchange, Manchester. The meeting was of course convened for the purpose of giving the Peace-party an opportunity of stating their views, and, as members, facing their constituents.

After some introductory remarks from the Chairman, Mr. WILSON,

Mr. T. M. GIBSON said it was customary for Members of Parliament to give an account of themselves, and the war ought not to prevent it. He and his friends had

been accused of voting in minorities, but it would be found that they had had the distinguished companionship of her Majesty's Ministers often on those occasions. He regretted the withdrawal of the Reform Bill, but thought it the wisest course. Alluding to the matinée of the Bribery Bill, he said that the only preventive against bribery by intimidation was the ballot. Government was apparently contemplating the repeal of the newspaper stamp, which, he thought, should be followed by repeal of the paper duty. It thus became a fiscal question, and that, of course, led him to the war. Mr. Gibson then went over the well-known "objects of the war," with none of which he agreed. It was a dry, diplomatic, purely theoretical question. The balance of power was a most fallacious doctrine, and many statesmen agreed with him that we had nothing to do with Turkey. We might have resisted without invading Russia. He concluded with a denunciation of the Government which had put the country in an unnecessarily unenviable position.

Mr. BRIGHT was received with loud and renewed cheering. He said:—"I most fully coincide in everything that has fallen from my hon. friend. There has been something like a hurricane of feeling passing from north to south, and from east to west; for this wind seems to have blown from every quarter at once; but I don't admit at all, because a hurricane of feeling like this which has arisen, because there is this state of opinion, that therefore that opinion is right, and that we are wrong. Opinions, real opinions, form slowly; it is passion that gathers strength with this rapidity, and I take it to be a thing capable of demonstration, that when in this or any other country a question is really submitted to the test of argument and reason, and decided alone by that test, such are the different circumstances of men, such the different points from which they view a question, it is almost, perhaps absolutely, impossible that there should be that torrent of feeling in one direction which we have lately witnessed so much of in this country; but I wish to draw your attention to one of the most dangerous symptoms in our public condition, and illustrate it by the fact of the strong feeling which has existed in favour of the war. I suspect that we are daily becoming a more credulous and excitable people; and, rely upon it, if there be a credulous man anywhere, there is somebody at his elbow not unwilling to avail himself of his credulity."

After describing the dismay at the Catholic aggression and the contemplated French invasion, Mr. Bright reviewed the circumstances of the present war, and cast derision upon some social results which have been considered gratifying. The French alliance, he thought, might have been obtained without it.

"When the Emperor of France's ambassador was at Constantinople, he had express instructions not to excite the Turks to refuse the demands of Russia. Our Minister alone excited them to refuse those demands. When the Vienna note was offered to the Russian Government, the French Government urged the Russian Government to accept it, on the ground that 'its general sense differed in nothing from the general sense of the original proposition of Prince Menschikoff.' And when, after that, the Emperor of Russia offered renewed assurances and guarantees to Lord Westmoreland at Olmütz, the Emperor of France, conjointly with Austria and Prussia, admitted that these assurances sufficiently guarded all the points on which England and France had been concerned, and that he was ready to give his ambassador at Constantinople orders to sign those propositions, and to give them to the Turks in lieu of the rejected Vienna note. Thus up to that point he had done nothing that could promote war; on the contrary, he had honestly accepted every mode by which peace could be secured; and our Government, on the contrary, acting in a manner opposed to Austria and Prussia, and also opposed to France, took a contrary course, and, although the Emperor of France did not agree with our policy, yet so anxious was he to have the English alliance, that he plunged his country into war rather than separate himself from the policy of this country."

After remarking that the press generally had had much to do with causing the war, Mr. Bright said:—

"But, sir, there is one class of newspapers of which I would speak even in other terms—that class which has become somewhat numerous of late, called the religious newspapers, established apparently to show how little they are influenced by religion. (Applause.) I presume a member of the Christian religion tells from his pulpit that a single immortal soul weighs more in the eye of God than all the temporary concerns and interests of this planet. 80,000 men at least have been slaughtered, or have died in the course of this war, in the various armies engaged; but the appetite of the religious newspapers is not sated. I should like to know what affinity there is between the salvation of the soul and the mangling and slaughter of the body? Well, but I am opposed by other great authorities besides the public press. Statesmen of long standing, of long experience, of great reputation, came forward, and we find them in direct opposition to the views which we have propounded. I speak of two of them in particular—Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell—men sitting together now on the

same bench, under feelings, doubtless, of the highest patriotism as regards the country, and of an incurable but for the moment suppressed, animosity against each other. (Laughter.) Now, take Lord Palmerston as a case in point. Lord Palmerston now is a great authority with some people, and they say, 'If he had been War Minister he would have struck terror into 10,000 Czars; he would not have crossed the Pruth, and, if he had, he would have gone back faster than he came;' and every description of inflated language is used with regard to this experienced statesman. Now, Lord Palmerston is no great friend of liberty, after all. If he is, he has been wonderfully clumsy in exhibiting it to the country. (Laughter.) A few years ago there was an insurrection in Hungary, and there appeared for the moment a great probability that Hungary would obtain her independence. The sympathy of this country was almost universal—I do not mean the sympathy of the Government and its lords, but of the people. (Cheers.) Russia then entered the Principalities—Russia entered Hungary—and Turkey was advised not to object to Russia entering the Principalities. Our Minister, Lord Palmerston, refused apparently—I don't say intentionally, of course—(laughter)—it is the easiest thing in the world not to see a thing if you don't want to see it—(laughter)—nobody could persuade him that the Russians were going to interfere with Hungary. Everybody else knew it, and his Minister at Vienna specially advised him of it. But did he protest against it when some of its citizens have since been heard by us with admiration? No. But what did he do? He made a speech in the House of Commons on some other subject, and went out of his way for the purpose of saying that the invasion of Hungary by the Russians was not contrary to the law of nations; in point of fact, he justified and sanctioned it. I don't believe that the man who does that is fit to be trusted with the liberties of Europe." (Cheers.)

Mr. Bright then read, with severe commentary, the Queen's letter on Lord Palmerston, of February 1852, and thought that any person holding office after such a letter, was contemptible. He thought Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell were mainly responsible for the war, as they had delivered warlike speeches. He then described some former civilities of Lord John Russell towards Russia.

"Lord John Russell said the other day in the House, showing how much this country had done, that 53,000 or 64,000 men had been sent out, which was equal to one corps d'armée of the Russian Emperor; and he said that the Russian force was equal to 800,000, or 900,000 men. If England was at war with Russia at an equal distance from each other, we, with our supremacy in maritime affairs, could have transported an equal number of men. But was there ever out of Bedlam a lunacy so apparent as that the Government should send out 50,000 men 3300 miles by sea to invade a country which has an army of 800,000 or 900,000 men? It is stark staring madness. (Laughter.) It is not statesmanship, and the men who committed that blunder twelve months ago in the swamps of negotiations have made this still more fatal blunder. I say that if the constituency of Manchester asks me to put my confidence in statesmanship of this kind, I am not the man at all to do their work." (Cheers.)

Mr. Bright then spoke bitterly against the evils which commerce had sustained, and remarked that even the press was "tainted."

"You know that I have never flattered either Court or Cabinet, and I will not now stoop to flatter even the people. (Applause.) I know that passion forms no part of reason, and can be no solid foundation for the truth. I behold the abuses in which multitudes would plunge this country. If I cannot save them from it,—if they will not save themselves,—at least I will warn them of their danger; and I will be no partner in deeds which I am convinced in my conscience will receive, as they merit, the condemnation of posterity." (Great applause.)

It is unnecessary to enter upon the speech from Mr. CONDEN, which followed. The speech of last week, which we gave, thoroughly exhausted his arguments.

The proceedings were delayed to so late an hour that the press were unable to give a very full account of General Thompson's speech. The present will be found as correct a version as could be given.

Major-General THOMPSON said:—

"Manchester knew he could be brief. It was not given to every man to renew his strength like the eagle, and, after the lapse of a dozen years, which sweeps away so large a portion of human beings, to find himself in the same room, with the same friendly faces before him and around him, engaged all in a work not less important than former works begun in the same place. (Applause.) He had heard them called a minority. Those present were not afraid of being minorities. There were omens hanging about those rafters, which told them their minority had only to do as it had done before. He would not have troubled them after all that they had heard, if he had not thought he might be in a position to make some contribution to their cause. We were involved in war. Who had brought us into it? What was their title to bring us into it? What were we to do now we were in

it? (Cheers.) He desired to say by way of apology for himself, that he could not agree with those meritorious friends who thought we might have done without it if we only chose to do so. War was like surgery: the less we had to do with it the better; but what we had, let it be good. What, then, were the pretensions of the men who brought us into the war? Compare it with surgery; for war is a science as well as surgery. 'Did you ever perform an operation?' 'Never.' 'Did you ever witness one?' 'Never.' 'On what, then, do you build your prospects of success?' 'We are men of education and general reading, and there is an article on surgery in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.' (Laughter.) 'And on the strength of that you mean to cut for the stone?' 'We do.' 'And how will you proceed?' 'We shall take a patient and make incision.' 'But the patient will die?' 'We know that, so we shall take another.' 'But, he will die too?' 'Probably he will, but we shall take another and another, and at last we shall find out the way.' (Laughter.) This was, *verbatim*, the system avowed for the management of the war. They had sent a brave army to perish, and they were to send another and another, till at last they were to gain their point. They said they were gathering knowledge, and were very valuable for what they had acquired. They were studying with the utmost zeal. They had finished the siege of Troy, and they had got into the siege of Gibraltar, and when they had got through that, they were to go into the campaign of Moscow. Why, they had arrived at the discovery that after summer comes winter. (Laughter and cheers.) They had settled the invaluable fact, that if a force was sent into a stormy climate at the autumnal instead of the vernal equinox, it was very likely to be prejudiced in consequence. Would it be rational that they should be superseded by somebody who would have all this to learn over again? (Laughter and cheers.) For his own part, he was also a believer to a considerable extent in the possibility of what was called international law, whereby nations should agree to unite against the wrong doer, and he had thought the case of Turkey came clearly within the law. And why did he mention these differences now? Simply because he would exhort all who might happen to agree with him to allow no such differences to stand in the way of acting with all who are willing to join to a certain extent. The right principle is, to go with every man who will go with you, and never to divide but when you cannot help it. Supposing, then, it to be settled that Turkey was to be helped, how had the Government gone about the work? They took a pair of compasses, and found the point most distant from the scene of action, and there they sent their troops. And when, contrary to all expectation, the Russians had been repulsed from Silistria, and nothing seemed wanting but to follow them up and push them beyond the Pruth, they chose the moment, as if for the express purpose of relieving the Russians from the consequences of defeat, to transfer the troops to the Crimea, where Sir Howard Douglas, a good military authority, tells them now, and could have told them then, there would be required a force of two hundred thousand men. They sent seventy or eighty thousand men into a position where an enemy, known to possess eight or nine hundred thousand, was at liberty to bring as many as he chose, by easy marches, all the way from Moscow. Everybody knew, who knew anything, that the worst position into which any army could by ingenuity be thrown was, to be set to attack a fortress which they were not sufficient to invest, and which consequently kept its communications open with the whole forces of its friends. It was literally the case he had described to his countrymen of Yorkshire, of setting a dog to draw a badger from a box, with an interminable succession of badgers to be put in behind. (Laughter and cheers.) The people of Manchester claimed to have some influence on the Government of the country. They had representatives than whom it was impossible to have more energetic or able. (Loud cheering.) Great interests were on their side, and they had only to set their faces like a flint against going with a multitude to make fools of themselves. (Cheers.) This was the commercial interest, which was suffering by the transfer of wealth and employment from those engaged in peaceful fabrics to the makers of warlike engines. For instance, he was told that Bradford was 'very bad,' and Bradford could not find out the reason why. There was that other great interest, to whom the raising of the price of bread made the difference between comfort and misery. If anybody doubted, look at the report from Cork, in the *Times* of the 15th, and read of the 'panic' which took place among the provision dealers and agriculturists. And there was that great interest which was concerned in Parliamentary reform. The war had put down reform, why should not Reformers put down the war? (Cheers.) Could there be a better time for the negroes of the Constitution to press for admittance within its bounds? (Cheers.) To do this they must use the means, and one of the best was to support the existing movement for the Ballot. There was a youth present from the Ballot Society who would gladly receive their contributions, if the men of Manchester would let loose some of the imprisoned angels. In conclusion, he would hope to take their opinion again on the subject of the war in six months' time, and in the interval may God send a good deliverance from present dangers. (Great cheering.)

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE cold has been more intense this week in Paris than in London.

A Bill to call out 140,000 men of the class 1854, has been adopted by the Corps Législatif.

M. Pierre Dufaure, Count de Montmirail, a retired cavalry officer, formerly aide-de-camp to the Duke de Nemours, was the other day convicted on the charge of having circulated false news at the Bourse, and spoken against the Emperor. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 500 francs.

M. Eggis, a writer in a theatrical journal, was expelled from Paris the other day with unexampled haste. He had been for some time a *cher ami* of an actress at the Français, who had formerly a *liaison* with "his betters." An intimation had got abroad that certain letters of hers in his possession were likely to be published. The police made a descent upon the house, seized his papers, and ordered him to leave Paris in four hours.

The municipality of Bordeaux, in consequence of the dearth of wine, has entered into an arrangement with a company for establishing places for the sale of beer at 30c. the quart, and it has reduced the octroi duties on beer to one-third of the former charge.

The Emperor has ordered a bust of Marshal St. Arnaud to be placed in the hall of the Council-General of the Gironde.

A tax upon paper is apprehended in Paris, which will raise the yearly subscription to every Paris journal at least five francs. A meeting of printers has been held to petition against it.

We deeply regret to hear of the total destruction by fire of the beautiful Théâtre de la Monnaie, the opera-house at Brussels. In two hours it was reduced to ashes. The fire is said to have been caused by an escape of gas.

Baron de Koller, Austrian Ambassador at Hanover, is now rumoured to be the new Internuncio at Constantinople.

The First Chamber of Prussia has passed, with a very large majority, the bill opening the Prussian coasting trade, on a basis of reciprocity. In the report on the bill, a complete adhesion was given to the doctrine of free-trade in its fullest sense, accompanied by a statement *raisonné* that protection in Prussia had been the exception and not the rule, and that where it had been adopted it had been forced upon the Government by the legislation of other States. M. de Vanderheydt, the brother of the Minister of Commerce, and deputy for Elberfeld, took exception to the doctrines laid down in the report, which, he said, had been smuggled into it by the free-trade party. "England had grown great under protection, and Prussia had adopted that policy in her rising iron and cotton manufactures." The vast majority of the Chamber, however, concurred in the doctrines of the report.

The Royal House of Sardinia has been heavily afflicted of late. On the 12th of this month the Queen Dowager, widow of Charles Albert, died, after a week's illness, at the age of fifty-five. While the Chambers, theatres, and public places were still closed out of respect to her memory, the Queen, who had just been confined, became seriously ill. On the 20th, the day when the Chamber was about to renew the discussion on the Suppression of Convents Bill, the news of her death arrived, and the sitting was at once suspended. All classes of the people, without distinction of opinion, expressed or silently manifested the sincerest sympathy with the King in his heavy afflictions. The Queen, who was justly beloved, and who was only thirty-four, was the daughter of the Austrian Archduke Reinier, sometime Viceroy in the Lombardo-Venetian provinces. Her death, caused immediately by puerperal fever, is believed to have been hastened by grief at the death of the Queen Dowager. But the afflictions, or at least the anxieties, of the King are not yet at an end. The Duke of Genoa, who behaved so gallantly in the war of independence, and who, it may be remembered, visited England two years since, is in a most precarious state of health; it is even feared that he is falling into a consumption. He is devoted to his profession as a soldier, and chafes at his inability to accompany the Sardinian contingent to the Crimea. The Ultramontane priestly party has had the cowardly cruelty to improve the calamities of the royal family, and to declare that "the finger of God" had made itself visible in these successive blows to the enemies of the Church. The royal family has retired to the villa of Moncalieri. The Chambers have adjourned for a fortnight.

It is stated that Hanover, Brunswick, Baden, and the two Hesses have declared for Austria. Saxony and Wurtemberg are against the mobilisation of the federal contingents, and Bavaria is undecided.

Duke George of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who is married to a grand duchess of Russia, and who has several times fulfilled missions to the German states in the interest of Russia, has lately quitted St. Petersburg, and is daily expected at Berlin.

Baron Hubner has delivered to Louis Napoleon an autograph letter from the Emperor of Austria.

Count Buol has received the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, that of the Order of S. Stephen, in Austria.

The Correspondance, of Berlin, states that the Offensive Alliance has reached its conclusion, but that it will not be made known until the time shall come for carrying it into effect.

General Wedell, Governor of Luxembourg, is to proceed on a special mission from the King of Prussia to Louis Napoleon.

Austria is reported to have informed Prussia that should she not obtain a majority in the Diet on the question of mobilisation, she will accept the active alliance of such Germanic states as may choose to join, apart from their federal obligations.

The Bavarian Minister of State has presented to the Chambers a bill for the eventual mobilisation of the Bavarian contingent, and demanded a vote of 15 million florins for the purpose.

It is expected that the Emperor of Austria will be named Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Forces mobilised by the Diet.

The proposition for excluding individuals of the Hebrew profession from electoral rights in Bavaria, by the new law, was thrown out in the Munich Second Chamber on the 17th.

The following is a corrected version of Baron de Bruck's recent speech at Constantinople:—

"The Sultan has resisted a most unjust aggression, and his brave army has most valiantly defended the territory of their fathers. One thing we know well, and in it we may rejoice, come peace when it will—before or after the struggle—the pride of Russia will have been subdued. Yes; thus will it be, and Turkey shall enter upon a new era. Henceforth the prejudice of race will be removed, all religions will be freely exercised, right will triumph over force, and the great resources of commerce and industry be developed. Happy am I to know that the Sultan is resolute upon all these important matters; aided by a devoted and able body of ministers, his will be the privilege of fixing his mighty empire more firmly than ever, upon the sound basis of a wise and liberal administration. Such a solution of the Eastern question (exclaimed the Baron, in concluding his speech) will be truly in accordance with the civilisation of our day."

There is still agitation and uncertainty in Spain, and a sort of intermittent Ministerial crisis. M. Sevillano, the Minister of Finance, has resigned, and is succeeded by M. Madoz. Malaga is tranquil again. Carlist insurrections are apprehended. General O'Donnell has again announced to the Chambers the dangers surrounding the Government.

The mobilisation of the Swedish army is again reported, and again denied.

The motion for the impeachment of the late Danish Ministry has been rejected in the Volksthing by 63 votes against 32. The budget has passed the second reading.

The army and naval (gun-boat) force of Norway are to be considerably augmented. Orders have been given to raise 1000 sailors.

The French cavalry, en route from Rome, has passed through Tuscany, and the colonel has been received by the Grand Duke.

At Naples the system of arbitrary arrests continues. The line of electric telegraph connecting Rome with the rest of Europe, by the way of Bologna, is now completed, and nothing interferes to prevent Pio Nono from entering into confidential conversation with either of the Emperors of France, Austria, or Russia, except the erection of the intermediate stations, which are actively proceeding, so as to enable the Government and the public to make use of the line at the beginning of next month.

The establishment of the electric telegraph, which, passing from Belgrade, reaches to Alexinatz, the extreme frontier of the Principality of Servia, and thence to the Austrian lines of telegraph, will be completed before the end of the month. The completion of this important work will diminish by thirty hours the time employed in conveying intelligence between Paris and Constantinople.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has quarrelled with the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

The Porte is said to be disposed, through the influence of M. de Bruck, to resume relations with Greece, and to accept a treaty of commerce.

A new establishment has been opened in Neuwied (on the Rhine), which is occupied exclusively in slaughtering cattle for the eventual consumption of our troops in the Crimea.

A standing bridge over the Rhine at Cologne, the want of which is particularly felt in weather like the present, is really at length about to be substituted for the bridge of boats that has hitherto constituted the means of communication. The bridge is to be built by the State architect Lescze, who constructed the bridge over the Vistula, and on the same plan, viz., of connecting the piers, not by arches, but by a species of trellis work.

GENERAL SIR DE LACY EVANS, K.C.B. The first public recognition of this gallant officer's services since his return to England from the Crimea, took place at Folkestone, when a congratulatory address, accompanied by a sword valued at 150 guineas, was presented to him by a deputation from the inhabitants of the united parliamentary boroughs of Hythe, Folkestone, and Sandgate.

The gallant General said he could assure them that he felt most highly gratified at the compliment which had been paid to him. He believed that all men felt pleasure in visiting their homes after an absence in foreign countries, particularly in critical times; and it certainly could not fail to afford him additional satisfaction to receive such a cordial welcome on the very spot where he had landed. He was self-complacent enough to know that the compliment was not intended for himself alone, but that it was also an exemplification of feeling for the gallant army with which he had the honour of serving. He did not consider, under the circumstances, that the progress of the war had been slow, and he was sure that the result would show the correctness of his opinion. No such war as that in which they were now engaged could possibly be finished in so short a time as some were unreasonable enough to expect, particularly where such a country as England, with its small military strength, was not the aggressor. England was not a military power; and the aggressor in the present war was a very important military power, possessed of vast resources—one who always maintained a very large army, and was always prepared for war, if not, indeed, for aggression. Hence, at the sudden outbreak of the present hostilities, England had not been prepared with a large standing army. It was impossible we could always have a perfect war establishment on a military scale. We had happily enjoyed forty years of peace, and opinions would not admit of the continued maintenance of a large standing army. He would recall to their minds the many military wars in which this country had been engaged, and it would be found that the British forces seldom attained decisive success till at least a third campaign had set in. He might instance the war which immediately followed the breaking out of the French Revolution. England was great and powerful as a commercial nation, and he had no doubt that the present contest would be brought to a termination as decisive in its results as it would be glorious to British arms. The army sent to the Crimea, though young, had vindicated the honour of its country. There was no other army to send. It was young, but it had done its duty. Many mistakes in details had certainly occurred, but they had been the result of inexperience. No want of judgment, in his mind, had been evinced by any officer of that staff in which he had had the honour of holding an humble post. Some battles had been fought in which our army had gathered glory in alliance with the arms of France—an alliance he would pronounce the most devoted and loyal, and which the spirit of this country fully appreciated. He again begged to return them his best thanks; and at the present moment he almost wished he was not a soldier, as he might then have been a better orator. Having returned home, however, he was glad to find that his humble exertions had been considered deserving of acknowledgment, and again he thanked them from the bottom of his heart.

Incidental to some remarks from one of the deputation, Sir De Lacy Evans observed that he had of late read many statements on the condition of the troops. It was not his province, on that occasion, to enter into this question; but he had no objection to say one thing, and that was, that when he left head-quarters, the army was not in the condition described in some reports. More he could not say. He would again remind them that at the commencement of a war many mistakes generally took place, and after forty years' peace such mistakes ought not to occasion much surprise. He would take this opportunity of saying that he fully appreciated the kind sympathy now so generously evinced by all classes for the army, and he had no doubt the course of conduct pursued by the people would be the forerunner of great results.

The gallant General has since written to the *Times* that he did not offer any opinion or utter one word concerning the Staff, at home or abroad, because he did not feel it incumbent on him to do so.

UNITED STATES MEDIATION.

On this contemplated subject the correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—

"The proposed mediation of the United States, for the termination of war between the Allies and Russia, is not gaining much favour, chiefly for two reasons. Firstly, because it is believed that the Allies have taken a position in regard to negotiating for a peace which would hardly admit of the friendly mediation of another power; and partly because it is thought that the present administration of our government does not command that respect abroad which has usually been accorded to successive Presidents and cabinets that have administered the government since its first foundation. Removed as we are from those causes of excitement which sway the mind

and inflame the passions of men and governments in Europe, we thought at one time, that our voice might be heard at the council boards of contending nations, since we could hardly be suspected of being influenced by motives that were unworthy of so great an occasion. It is in all respects to be regretted, perhaps, since the very idea of American mediation gave, for a time, a sensible check to the drift of American sympathy in favour of Russia. The danger now is that it will be considered good policy to embrace this opportunity to make the most out of it, and cultivate more sedulously the proffered friendship of Russia. It is to be hoped that designing statesmen may not seize hold of the occasion to make a speculation by urging more intimate relations between Russia and the United States. We all look forward with apprehension upon the protraction of the Eastern war into another season; and we hope that the wisdom of European cabinets may exempt the world from the enormous burthens and alarms of a great summer campaign between the vital powers of the Old World."

OUR CIVILISATION.

SNOW-BALLING ON THE SABBATH.—Four young men, one of them being Mr. John Bunyan, have had to answer for the sins of 1500 persons who, on Sunday last, in Trafalgar-square, snow-balled each other, the soldiers who were going to their barracks, and the patriotic police who interfered. The riot was so great that divine service at St. Martin's was quite stopped. They are sentenced to 40s. fine or a fortnight's imprisonment. In the latter event we may expect accounts of a rotatory addition to the *Pilgrim's Progress*.

SUSANNAH AND ONE OF OUR GALLANT FELLOWS.—Joseph Lowther, a sailor, whilst on a cruise, sent a duplicate for a watch, &c., to Susannah Dewbury, the object of his (Wapping) affections. They were engaged to be married, but on three occasions Lowther got drunk and lost all his money the day before the ceremony. He had made three long voyages without being able to effect matrimony when at home. He had, however, given the girl 120*l.* to buy furniture. On the present occasion they both refused to marry, but Susannah refused to give up the watch. The matter was arranged at a police-court by the match being broken off, and the sailor resuming his watch, after paying the lady's costs in its redemption. Miss Dewbury retains the 120*l.* as damages. All parties declare themselves satisfied.

KILLING WIVES.—Charles Lyon, a middle-aged man, was charged at the Lambeth police-court with having caused the death of his wife, by kicking her in the groin with his hobnailed boots, and causing such serious injuries that she died of haemorrhage. He has been since committed for trial.

Thomas Johnson, a bricklayer, residing in Manchester, has been committed to Kirkdale Gaol for the manslaughter of his wife, whom he had kicked down the cellar steps of his house.

Arthur Baxter was charged with causing the death by violence of Elizabeth Williams, a woman with whom he cohabited. The prisoner did not deny striking the deceased, but said she was drunk, and hurt herself by falling about.—Remanded for a week.

"MY MOTHER."—Martha Bishopp was charged at Westminster with being drunk in the road, and with leaving her infant, three weeks old, nearly naked, exposed to the severe frost. She had been having some gin with a "friend," and being unused to liquor, was overcome. She was remanded to see how the child will fare.

MURDER AT DERBY.—As a labourer was returning to his lodgings, at Sleet Moor, near Alfreton, he was waylaid by three men, who beat him about the head with a rail until they forced out one of his eyes. After ill-using him until he was insensible, and taking his money from him, they were about to complete the outrage by throwing him down a coalpit, when a collier returning from his work, alarmed them, and the poor fellow was taken home, and lingered until Sunday last, when he died. During his intervals of reason it is said he told who his murderers were, and three men have been taken into custody. The body awaits an inquest.

STRONG REASONS FOR AN ASSAULT.—Rebecca Wright was walking with her husband one night, when Alexander Hodder, a baker, approached and battered her face in a most scientific manner, with what appeared to be a shoemaker's hammer. The husband's resistance was useless. The explanation was, that Mrs. Wright's sister had formerly "lived" with the prisoner, but had since left him and married. Virtue would doubtless be the sole reward of the sister if she should meet this ruffian. Mr. D'Eyncourt has fortunately mastered the law on this point—he sees no "fortunate" clause for perpetrators of such barbarities, and has given Hodder six months' hard labour.

A "CRUEL PAYMENT."—A charge of cruelty to a child was tried at Lambeth. The details were disgusting. The child has been removed from the care of its father, and has changed in appearance, having become clean and healthy, instead of dirty and emaciated. Judgment on the father has been postponed.

EXECUTION OF EMMANUEL BARTHELEMY.

EMMANUEL BARTHELEMY, the murderer of Mr. George Moore and Mr. Charles Collard, died on the scaffold on Monday morning in front of Newgate, in which prison he had been confined since the sentence of death was passed upon him.

On the day after the sentence was passed, the Rev. J. E. Davis, the ordinary of Newgate, visited Barthélemy in his cell, for the purpose of offering his services. In the course of this visit, Mr. Davis prepared the prisoner for his fate by informing him, that although the jury had recommended him to mercy, he should not allow his hopes to be excited.

Barthélemy denied again and again the existence of a First Cause. Being pressed upon this point by Mr. Sheriff Crosley, he exclaimed, "Well, well, if there is a God, I hope he speaks French." He added that he would soon know the great secret if there were any, but he did not believe in anything of the sort. Being urged to penitence and prayer, he said, "If I pray, it will not open the prison door, nor break the rope."

On Sunday morning, Mr. Sheriff Crosley again saw him, and again deemed it his duty to speak to him on religious matters. The sheriff said: "Now, take my advice; you have but a short time to live, and while you have that time to live, try and make your peace with God." Barthélemy replied, "I am no believer; I understand geometry and the sciences, but I don't understand faith." He asserted that there were a vast number of men as bad as he, and their crimes went unpunished. He particularly mentioned the Emperor Napoleon, who, he said, had committed more daring and more violent acts than he, and that while the Emperor was now receiving the acclamations of Europe, he was sentenced to death on the gallows. The only time Barthélemy was seen to exhibit any strong emotion was during this interview. The sheriff said, "You have a father, a good man, I understand; is he a disbeliever?" He said, "No;" and Mr. Sheriff Crosley then asked, "Why do you not follow his good example?" Barthélemy went towards the fire, gazed upon it intently for a moment, and burst into a flood of tears. He was spoken to on the sin he had committed. Barthélemy passionately exclaimed, "I have committed no sin. I have done a wrong, perhaps, but no sin." Undaunted by the failure of his good-intentions, Mr. Sheriff Crosley again entreated him to ask forgiveness of God, but the answer he received was, "I don't want the forgiveness of God. I want the forgiveness of man, that I might be able to walk out of these doors." Mr. Sheriff Crosley then asked him if there was anything he could do for him, and Barthélemy expressed a wish to have "Paradise Lost" in French. After an immense deal of trouble, the Sheriff succeeded in obtaining a copy of this work, and it was read with great attention by the prisoner every day. On the Monday morning he was asked if he had made any confession or statement to Mr. Herring, his solicitor. He replied that he had made none, but the only person who knew could tell if he pleased. He asked that his clothes might not be given, as requested, to Mr. Herring, as he fancied they were wanted for Madame Tussaud. This was promised. He refused all religious counsel, but said he wished that he had faith, as it would be a consolation to him. He also asked permission to hold a paper in his hand at his execution, which paper was found to be a letter from a French girl exhorting him to repentance. He died without a struggle.

The motives which prompted Barthélemy to the commission of the murder are still involved in mystery. There has been no confession beyond a statement which he volunteered to Mr. Davis, that the young woman who accompanied him to Mr. Moore's house was the illegitimate daughter of a Catholic priest, who was to receive money from Mr. Moore. (Some political subjects connected with the French Government were mentioned in connexion with this money.) He denied that he took the formidable weapon found in Mr. Moore's back parlour with him to the house, and asserted that it was used by Mr. Moore for business purposes. Mr. Davis reports of him that he was the hardest criminal with whom he ever had to deal.

Various cases of picking pockets occurred in the crowd.

In a letter to the *Times*, the Abbé Roux contradicts the statement ascribed to Barthélemy, that the Abbé "had too much good taste to trouble him on the subject of religion." The Abbé says, that for his first three visits he had not touched upon religion for fear of a repulse, but since the fourth it had been the subject of continual discussion. On Sunday evening he had conversed with the prisoner on eternal punishment. At six o'clock on the morning of the execution, at the time he was said by the newspapers to be fast asleep, he had written the following letter to the Abbé:—

"Dear Monsieur l'Abbé,—Before it ceases to beat, my heart is anxious to testify to you all its gratitude for the affectionate care which you have so evangelically lavished on me during my last days. If my conversion had been possible, you would have converted me; but, as I have told you before, I believe in nothing. Believe me, my unbelief is not the result of pride and obstinacy: I have sincerely done my best, with the help of your counsels: unhappily, faith has not come, and the moment is near. . . . In two hours I shall know the secret of death. If I have been mistaken, and if the future that

awaits me proves you to be in the right, in spite of the judgment of men, I do not dread to appear before our God, who, in his infinite pity, will be ready to pardon my sins in this world. Yes, I would desire to share your belief, for I can understand how those who take refuge in religious faith, find in the hour of death strength in the hope of another life, whilst I—who believe in nothing but chemical annihilation—I am obliged in this supreme moment to draw my strength from the reasonings, perhaps false, of philosophy, and in the courage of a man.

"Once more thanks! and adieu.

E. BARTHELEMY.

"Newgate, 22nd January, 1855. Six o'clock

in the morning.

"P.S. I beg you to express my gratitude to Mr. Clifford."

The Abbé adds, that poor Barthélemy was mistaken; that he did not die an unbeliever: he had charged the Abbé to declare that he pardoned all his enemies, and begged the Abbé to remain by his side until he had ceased to live. "He said, as he left me, with an accent I shall never forget, 'Pray, pray, pray!' I did pray with a full heart, and I trust that the man who declared that he was born a Catholic, and that he desired to die a Catholic, may have received at his last moment one of those ineffable gifts of repentance which purify a soul, and open to it the gates of eternal life."

CONINGHAM v. URQUHART.

A QUARREL between Mr. W. Coningham and Mr. D. Urquhart came out before the Brighton magistrates on Saturday. It appeared that Mr. Coningham had lent Mr. Urquhart 20*l.*, which was considered by Mr. Urquhart as a kind of political contribution, but by Mr. Coningham as a personal loan. The difference led to some angry letters, and a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Urquhart and his friend Mr. Rolland has been issued. The following is Mr. Coningham's deposition:—

"BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX,
TO WIT.

"The information and complaint of William Coningham, of the borough of Brighton, in the said county, Esq., taken this 20th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1855, before the undersigned, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the borough of Brighton, in the said county of Sussex, who saith that late in the month of February or early in March, 1854, David Urquhart, of No. 9, Bennett-street, St. James's, in the city of Westminster, Esq., who was then occupied in organising a movement in favour of Turkey, called upon me and expressed himself solicitous of my co-operation; and after various meetings at the Clarendon Hotel, in Bond-street, London, the hotel where the said David Urquhart was staying, and elsewhere, an association was formed, under the title of the 'Association for the Protection of Turkey and other Countries from Partition.'

"That Stewart Erskine Rolland, of Worthing, in the said county of Sussex, Esq., became the chairman of the association, and I accepted the office of treasurer to it; and a working secretary, who received a weekly stipend of two guineas, was the only paid member of the association. The association was governed by a committee of some eighteen or twenty members. As treasurer, I received the subscriptions, which (including my own for 25*l.*) amounted to about 117*l.*, and were expended in defraying the cost of public meetings, and the ordinary attendant expenses of printing, stationery, &c.

"The said Stewart Erskine Rolland was at this time introduced to me by the said David Urquhart, and acted as his confidential friend and adviser. That early in the progress of the movement, the said Stewart Erskine Rolland spoke to me, privately, of the possibility of raising a fund for the relief of the said David Urquhart's pecuniary necessities, to which proposal I gave a decided refusal, saying that I should withdraw if such a plan were adopted; and I then stated to the said Stewart Erskine Rolland that I objected, on principle, to the employment of paid agitators, and that each member of the association must defray his own expenses. That the said David Urquhart afterwards spoke to me of his pecuniary difficulties, but I declined to enter into the question with him; but the subject was never brought before the committee or association, and he afterwards gave me to understand that the necessity for his immediate retirement from London no longer existed, as his difficulties had been temporarily arranged, but he did not inform me by whom, or in what way.

"It was shortly afterwards decided to hold a public meeting at Stafford, and the said David Urquhart and myself were invited to attend at the meeting, and I agreed to call at the Clarendon Hotel for the said David Urquhart on my way to the railway station. That I went there according to previous arrangement, early on the morning of the 10th April, 1854. I found the said David Urquhart in his room, walking up and down in a state of considerable perturbation, and, after some hesitation, he told me that he 'could not leave, unless he had a score of pounds.' I replied to him that I was sorry for it, as I feared we could not go to Stafford, but

after some further discussion, and my expressing to him my reluctance generally to lend money, I unwillingly consented to lend him 20*l.*, and I then drew in his room the cheque (now produced) for that amount on my bankers, Messrs. Hoare, and of which the following is a copy:—

"London, 10th April, 1854.

"Messrs. Hoare—Pay to D. Urquhart, Esq., or Bearer, Twenty Pounds. "WILLIAM CONINGHAM.

"20*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

"That the said Stewart Erskine Rolland was not present when the said David Urquhart applied to me for the said loan of 20*l.*, nor any other person, and I believe he was then out of London, as on our going to Stafford, which we did on that day, he joined us there, from, I believe, Manchester, or some other place in the county.

"That after the cheque was drawn, and given to the said David Urquhart, he rang the bell, and the clerk of the hotel took the cheque, and gave the said David Urquhart the change, after having deducted the amount of his bill.

"The said clerk I believe is since dead, but I have seen an entry in the hotel books of the Clarendon, of which the following is a copy:—

"David Urquhart, Esq. (contained in cheque for 20*l.*) 5*l.* 2*s.*; and which I have been informed, and believe is, in the handwriting of the said clerk.

"That when the said David Urquhart applied to me for the said loan to pay his personal expenses, as I understood, and was in my presence in part so used, not one word was said by him that it was for any public object whatever, nor was there anything which then transpired to lead me to infer that he so considered it.

"That the conduct of the said David Urquhart at the election for the city of London induced me subsequently to throw up the office of Treasurer to the association, and on my doing so there was a small balance of 2*l.* or 3*l.* due to me, which I left to be placed to the credit of the association. That from that time I have had no intercourse whatever with the said David Urquhart on political subjects, and I have seen him but once, when he called, with a common acquaintance, about the month of July or August, at my house in Kemp Town."

At this stage of the matter various letters passed, including one from Messrs. Westmacott, Mr. Urquhart's solicitors, enclosing the 20*l.* The deposition continues—

"That until I received the said letter from the said Messrs. Westmacott, Blake, and Blake, I had no reason to believe that the said David Urquhart considered my loan to him of 20*l.* was for any public object, or was otherwise than a personal loan to him for but personal expenses, which, at the time it was lent, he was unable to pay; and my said letter to the said Messrs. Westmacott, Blake, and Blake, was written to show the absurdity of the attempt to convert that loan into a donation for a public object."

The deposition affirms (at a meeting) —

"That the said Stewart Erskine Rolland, after some conversation, said, 'Then you have nothing to retract?' I replied that I had nothing to retract,—I had stated nothing but what was true; and as he was leaving the room, I said I had no account to render, and I begged him to take note of the observation."

Some very violent correspondence then ensued on the part of Mr. Urquhart and his friend, evidently pointing at a hostile meeting. The deposition concludes—

"That I believe the intention of the said Stewart Erskine Rolland and the said David Urquhart, in writing and sending the letters aforesaid, is to commit a breach of the peace, and to provoke me to fight a duel with one or both of them.

"And I apprehend that the said Stewart Erskine Rolland and David Urquhart intend to do me some bodily injury, and I pray that the said Stewart Erskine Rolland and David Urquhart may respectively be required to find sureties to keep the peace towards me.

"Sworn before me at Brighton, in the County of Sussex, this 20th day of January, 1855. JOHN FAWCETT, Justice of the Peace of the Borough of Brighton.

(Signed) WILLIAM CONINGHAM."

MELBOURNE.

THE people of this colony are very naturally desirous, to use their own words, that "the convict element of their population should be blotted out as speedily as possible." They therefore, in a petition to the Queen from the Legislature, pray Her Majesty "that the conditional pardons now held by many of the former prisoners of the Crown inhabiting these colonies be deemed and taken to be full and unconditional pardons." 2. That Her Majesty "will be pleased to grant her gracious pardon, without any condition, to all those now holding indulgence who may be recommended by the local Government."

There are now about 13,000 convicts in Van Diemen's Land; of these 10,000 will be entitled to conditional pardons in the course of two years. If the prayer be granted, it would have the effect of liberating the 10,000 at once, and of abolishing the conditional pardons. There seems some probability that the home Government will advise the Queen to adopt the suggestion of

the Tasmanian Legislature. But I am bound to say that if that be adopted, the Council of Victoria will devise some measure to keep out the ex-convicts of Van Diemen's Land. As to the "old offenders"—the "incorrigibles" as many of the worst are known to be—wretches who have been reduced by the cruelties of Norfolk Island to the single faculty of endurance—perhaps the best mode of dealing with them would be to transfer them to Western Australia, where the people are still willing to have convicts, though, I believe, it will be impracticable to send English convicts to any part of Australia in a few years.—*Times*.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Crystal Palace Company have issued a report preparatory to their meeting on the 8th of February, in which they recommend a division of 4s. per share, or at the rate of 8 per cent per annum, for the half-year ending the 31st of December. The amount expended up to the present time is stated at £132,338*l.*, consisting of the share capital of £1,000,000*l.* (less 14,225*l.* remaining unissued), £1,550*l.* borrowed on debentures, and certain sums from loans and current receipts. The revenue of the 29 weeks from the opening, on the 10th of June to the 31st of December, has been £13,586*l.*, and the expenditure £8,798*l.*, including about 10,000*l.* incidental to the opening ceremony. The balance nominally available is therefore £4,788*l.*; and as the proposed dividend will absorb only 39,481*l.*, a surplus will remain of 35,857*l.* to the credit of revenue account for the present year.

MR. LUCAS'S MISSION TO ROME.

The *Dublin Telegraph* has been amusing itself and its readers by detailing the opposition offered, step by step, to the progress of Mr. Lucas at Rome. Such accounts are amusing enough, but the opposition papers are furious in their denunciation of such "falsehoods." The *Nation* thus replies to the *Telegraph*:

"We have refrained from writing upon the progress of this important mission, both out of respect to the Court whose jurisdiction has been appealed to, and because the nature of such proceedings is intrinsically private. But they have been so grossly misrepresented in the Government press, that we can delay no longer in declaring that the business entrusted to the deputation progresses most favourably; and that the communications published in the *Evening Post* and *Telegraph* on the subject are shamefully untrue. It would be premature to say more at present. Our friends must bear in mind that the Holy See is slow and cautious in its decisions; and wait patiently for a result which they may confidently rely will be favourable to their just and reasonable expectations. Those best informed of what has been done are abundantly satisfied."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

The coldness of the weather has severely affected the public health—a fact which, though it is generally known by the prevalence of colds and influenza in families, is remarkably confirmed by the returns of mortality. The deaths were 1404 and 1466 in the first two weeks of this month; in the week that ended last Saturday they rose to 1549, of which 768 were deaths of males and 786 of females. The births last week were 1514, leaving an excess on the part of deaths, which is not usual except in seasons of epidemics.

Last week the births of 779 boys and 785 girls, in all 1514 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54 the average number was 1476.

VARIETIES.

ARCHDEACON DENISON.

We are sincerely glad to hear that the Bishop of Bath and Wells has, of his own accord, refused to sign the letters of request against Archdeacon Denison. The only proceeding now open to the Ditcher party is to obtain a *mandamus* from the Court of Queen's Bench to compel the Bishop to sign, and there is no temerity in asserting our conviction that there would be very little chance of the *mandamus* being granted. Failing this, the sole remaining alternative would be for the Archbishop of Canterbury to carry out the matter in person, a solution of the dispute even more improbable than the *mandamus*. The disinterested zeal of Ditcher and Co. is likely to find its charitable hunger after victims unsatisfied.

HOW TO PRONOUNCE "SEASTOPOL."

SIR WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, when in Edinburgh lately, instructed the savans by his pronunciation of Sebastopol. He laid the accent on the penultimate syllable, calling it *Sevastopol*. The Russian letter "b," the third letter in the alphabet, is pronounced *vay*. The correct pronunciation is *Sevaystópol*.

THE TRUE CARLYLIAN STYLE.

In the current number of the *Westminster Review* Mr. Carlyle relates the following anecdote of Moritz, one of

the Electors of Saxony, an immensely strong man:— "Walking once the streets of London, he came into collision with a dustman, had words with the dustman, who perhaps had splashed him with his mud-shovel or the like. Dustman would make no apology; willing to try a round of boxing instead. Moritz grasps him suddenly by the back of the breeches, whirls him aloft, in horizontal position, pitches him into his own mud-cart, and walks on."

ACTIVITY OF THE IRISH POLICE.

At Dublin, William Nolan, 167 B., brought up a dumb man, and made the following rather curious deposition regarding him:—"On this morning, the 18th instant, I found the prisoner, a dumb man, disorderly, by shouting, &c., in Exchequer-street, to the annoyance of the inhabitants and passengers in said district."

CELESTIAL MUSIC.

A company of French artists have been performing at Hong Kong, and intend to follow up their success by visiting Japan, and other remote corners of the globe, where musical art has not hitherto penetrated.

MRS. CHISHOLM.

The Melbourne people are about to raise a sum of money as a testimonial to Mrs. Chisholm for her services in promoting family emigration. They intend to subscribe £2,800*l.*, and ask the legislature for £5,000*l.* to purchase a house. There has been a meeting, and some speech-making about it, and it seems likely to succeed, at least as far as the voluntary part is concerned.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL.

We have reason to believe that the second command of the British army in the Crimea has, after due deliberation, been conferred upon our distinguished countryman, Sir Colin Campbell.—*Scotsman*.

NOVEL FEATURE IN SHIPBUILDING.

In the East Dock at Woolwich, there was a splendid vessel, the *Perseverance*. It was very complete, only every one but the builders saw that the masts were far too heavy. Every one but the builders was quite correct, for the *Perseverance* quietly laid down on her beam ends, like a prize pig at a Cattle Show.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Court has been at Windsor throughout the week. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred have been skating—the usual exercise sufficing for the other members of the Royal Family. On Monday Prince Albert came to town to preside at a meeting of Governors of the Wellington College.

The Saxon Minister, Count Vitzthum has had an audience of Her Majesty.

The Earl of Aberdeen has been constant in attendance. On Thursday he tendered the resignation of Lord John Russell.

Cabinet Councils were held last Saturday, also on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The Court is now in mourning for her late Majesty the Queen of Sardinia, and also for the Dowager Queen of Sardinia. The period of mourning will expire on February 15th.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—We understand that the maximum age of candidates for admission into the civil service of the East India Company has been fixed at 28 years instead of 22, as previously announced.

SCUTTLING A SHIP WITHOUT REASON.—George Watson, late master of the Sir Howard Douglas, of London, has been charged with aiding in scuttling that vessel on the coast of Denmark. He was fully committed to take his trial at the next assizes.

STORM AND GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.—The southern coast has been visited by a violent gale of wind from the north-north-east, and heavy falls of snow. On Saturday morning a fine barque, called the *Janet Boyd*, of Glasgow, last from Hamburg, was totally lost on the Margate Sands, with, we regret to add, every soul on board.

CONVICTS.—The report of Lieutenant-Colonel Jebb, on the discipline and encouragement of convict prisons and the disposal of convicts (1853), contains some interesting statistics. Illustrative of the increased cost of provisions, we find the victualling charge 8*l.* 19*s.* per head for 1854-5, as compared with 7*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for 1853-4; clothing is estimated at 2*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, as against 2*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for each prisoner; and clothing and travelling expenses of prisoners "on liberation," at 1*s.* 8*d.*, as against 4*s.* 2*d.* The gross total cost per prisoner is 2*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, and the number of prisoners 8,359 in 1854-5, as against 7,264 in 1853-4.

DEATH OF ARCHDEACON HARE.—The venerable Julius Charles Hare, M.A., Archdeacon of Lewes, died on Tuesday, at Hurstmonceux Rectory. The reverend gentleman, who was a very distinguished minister of the Church of England, was one of her Majesty's chaplains, Vicar of Herstmonceux, and a prebendary of Chichester Cathedral.

THE GREAT BRITAIN is being surveyed at Liverpool by Captain Bevis, R.N., with the view of chartering her for the conveyance of troops for the Crimea. Other steamers are also being surveyed at the same port; and several sailing vessels have been taken up for the conveyance of hay.

Digest.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 27.

The House of Commons assembled in great numbers last night, to listen to Lord John Russell's statement and the debate on Mr. Roebuck's motion. Every part of the House was crowded, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

In the House of Commons, Lord J. RUSSELL rose, and entered into a statement of the reasons for his resignation. He said—"On Tuesday last, when I was present in this house, the hon. and learned gentleman the member for Sheffield (Mr. Roebuck) gave notice of a motion for a 'select committee to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of that army.' I of course thought it probable that some member might move for an inquiry of this kind. I had not, however, fully considered the course that I ought to take thereupon—that course depending much upon the nature of the motion, and I should say, likewise, partly upon the quarter from which it might come. The hon. and learned member for Sheffield, it is evident, is in a position to evince no hostility to the Government which he has supported; and I could not conceive that he had any other object than that which we ought all to have at heart—the vigorous prosecution of the war."

Fully admitting the value of the power of inquiry in that house, he proceeded to say:—

"A motion for inquiry, however, may be resisted upon two grounds: the one, that there are no evils existing of sufficient magnitude to call for inquiry; the other that sufficient means have been taken to remedy those evils; and that they will best be cured by other means than by a resort to the inquisitorial powers of this House. With respect to the first of these objections, it is obvious that it was impossible to urge that. No one can deny the melancholy condition of our army before Sebastopol. The accounts which arrive from that quarter are not only painful—they are horrible and heartrending—and I am sure no one would oppose for a moment any measure which he thought likely, not only to cure, but even to mitigate, those evils. And, sir, I must say that, with all the official knowledge to which I have had access, there is something which is to me inexplicable in the state of this army. If I had been told as a reason against the expedition to the Crimea last year that the troops would be seven miles from the sea—seven miles from a secure port, which at that time, when in contemplation of the expedition, we hardly hoped to possess; and that at that seven miles distance, they would be in want of food, of clothes, and of shelter, to such a degree that they should perish at the rate of from 90 to 100 a day—I should have considered such a prediction as utterly preposterous—such an objection to be entirely inapplicable and unfounded. And yet we are all aware of the notoriety of the melancholy condition of our army. It was not, therefore, by denying the existence of the evils that I could hope to induce this House to rebut the proposition of the hon. and learned gentleman. But I had further to reflect, if I was in no position to give a faint 'no' to the proposition, not to express in vague and equivocal terms a wish that the motion might not be carried, or to use any evasion with respect to the matter of its terms, with a view to defeating that motion. It was my duty—a duty, I trust, I have performed when I was in that situation—to stand in the front of the opposition, we hardly hoped to possess; and that at that seven miles distance, they would be in want of food, of clothes, and of shelter, to such a degree that they should perish at the rate of from 90 to 100 a day—I should have considered such a prediction as utterly inapplicable and unfounded. And yet we are all aware of the notoriety of the melancholy condition of our army. It was not, therefore, by denying the existence of the evils that I could hope to induce this House to rebut the proposition of the hon. and learned gentleman. 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which contained my views on the subject. That the house will observe was very lately, but I had no reason to expect that my views would be adopted. I had therefore to consider, when I came to reflect on the course which I should adopt with respect to the motion of the hon. and learned member for Sheffield, whether I could fairly and honestly say, 'It is too true that evils have taken place; it is true that many brave men have fallen at Alma, Inkerman, and Balaklava; it is true that many brave men have perished from neglect; it is true that the heart of the whole of England throbs with anxiety and interest on this subject—but I can tell you that such arrangements have been made that a man of such vigour and efficiency has taken the conduct of the war department—that such a consolidation of offices has taken place as will enable him to have the whole and instant control of those departments, so that all supplies shall be instantly furnished, and all abuses instantly remedied—I might then meet this motion. I felt that I could not honestly say, after what I had written to my noble friend, and I mention in this place, not to cast any blame on him, because no one would impute it as a blame to him, he not having taken an active part in the direction of the war, that there was any person with any power of control, or sufficient energy of mind, or sufficiently acquainted with the details, at the head of the war department. I could not say, though an arrangement had been proposed on Saturday last, either that the consolidation of the military departments had been carried into effect, or that there was any prospect of their being carried into effect in such a manner that I could pledge my faith to the efficiency of those arrangements. Therefore, sir, feeling this, and to me it has been most painful—but feeling that I had no faith in the efficiency of that proposal, and that I must stand up to oppose that motion or stand in the way of that which many thought would afford a remedy for these sufferings and these distresses; or, at least, if it failed to do that, would point out the way to their correction and removal—feeling that such would be my duty, and that many members of the House would look to me for an assurance of that kind on my part, and would vote on that assurance—knowing that many members of this House did so honour me with their confidence, I felt that I would be betraying the confidence they placed in me if I gave that assurance when I did not feel that I could honestly do so. (Cheers.) It appeared to me that the Government could not accede to such a committee as the hon. and learned member for Sheffield asked for. It appeared to me that it would not be, I will not say dignified, but consistent with the practical good working of the constitution that there should be a Minister sitting on that bench to govern the war and other military departments, and at the same time subjected to the check of a committed up-stairs, that the Minister of war should have to consider what he was to do, not only to provide for the urgent necessities of the hour, to provide answers for the numerous requisitions which came to him from day to day, but also the evidence that might be furnished with respect to the conduct of the war after five or six months. I do not think that such an arrangement would be consistent with the efficiency of any department. I therefore felt that I could come to only one conclusion, and that, as I could not resist an inquiry, and as I could not give them the only answer which I thought would be sufficient to cement the Government and stop the inquiry from taking place, it was my duty not to remain any longer a member of the Government. It would be competent then for others, who think that everything has already been done or is being done that could be conscientiously required, to oppose that motion. But, for my own part, I could not do that."

He then wrote a note to Lord Aberdeen, resigning his office, to which he received no answer till Thursday, when he heard from Lord Aberdeen that his resignation was accepted by the Queen:—

"This, therefore is the statement I have to make as far as I am immediately concerned. Those Ministers who believe they can successfully oppose inquiry, who believe they are right in what has been done, and is doing, are perfectly justified in taking the course they are pursuing. At the same time, I have heard there is a rumour—and I hope it is true—that the arrangement I proposed in my first letter of the 17th of November, or rather in my subsequent letters—that of placing the war department in the hands of my noble friend (Lord Palmerston)—has taken place. Sir, I shall greatly rejoice if that is the case. I believe it will be a great benefit to the country, that my noble friend should hold that department; and I shall be glad to think that my retirement from office has in any way contributed to that change. I think it must in some way have contributed to it—(Laughter)—for otherwise I have no doubt that my friend at the head of the Government, with that fairness and candour which belongs to him, and which I always found in him, would have answered the letter I have just read. Circumstances must, I think, have in some respect changed, for that which Lord Aberdeen said he could not have honestly recommended to her Majesty he has now thought to be necessary. This, therefore, must be a subsequent arrangement; and I shall be glad if my retirement from the less important office shall have effected that object."

The remainder of the speech of the noble lord was addressed to the general question of the war, which he

thought was not by any means in a gloomy position; and he concluded by declaring that, in office or out of office, he would do his best to procure an honourable termination to it.

Lord PALMERSTON then rose, and after a warm encomium on Lord John Russell, expressed his great regret at the course he had taken; urging that his colleagues had some reason to complain of that course, and saying that, if his feelings with regard to this motion were such as he had described, the better course would have been to have again endeavoured to obtain the assent of the Government to such an arrangement as would have enabled him to meet the motion. He then went on as follows:—

"If this proposal had been again made and rejected, and the noble lord the member for London had still retained his opinion, he would then have resigned on perfectly fair grounds to which no one could have taken any objection. But I must say that I think his colleagues are entitled to feel, not only regret for the loss of one of the most eminent and influential members of the Government and of this House; but they are also entitled to say, that the loss has occurred in a manner wholly unexpected, and which, according to the usual practice, they could not have anticipated. So much, Sir, for the noble circumstances to which my noble friend has adverted. With regard to the manner in which he has resigned, and the hasty and precipitate manner in which the grounds of his resignation were announced, I think it was a departure from the ordinary practice, which the Government would not have been justified in explaining. Having said this much, I will abstain from any further remarks on that point. In making these remarks I have acted from a strong sense of duty—('Hear, hear,' from Lord John Russell)—and not from any ill-feeling towards my noble friend. Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty, notwithstanding the great loss they have sustained by the secession of my noble friend, not to run away from the motion of the hon. and learned Member for Sheffield. They felt that flight would have been disgraceful. If that motion be successful, of course it is unnecessary for me to say what the result will be. (Laughter.) But, if, in the course of the debate, reasons shall be adduced sufficient to induce the House to reject, it will then be for her Majesty's Government to consider how far it may be advisable to adopt the suggestions of my noble friend. ('Hear,' and laughter.) The future must depend on the result of the motion; but on whatever person it will devolve to perform the functions of Minister of War, I am persuaded he will feel it his duty to act in the manner described by my noble friend: the war will be prosecuted in accordance with the feelings of the people, and I trust conducted to a successful issue. I feel, sir, the utmost confidence in the energies of this country, directed in co-operation with those of France. I am persuaded that my noble friend will prove a true prophet, and that the war will be conducted to obtain an honourable and a safe peace, which will secure not only the honour and dignity of this country, but the future repose and independence of Europe."

The subject then dropped.

THE MOTION FOR A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

Mr. ROEBUCK then rose to bring forward the motion of which he had given notice, that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the condition of our army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of the army. The hon. gentleman having spoken of the condition of the army and its reduction from 54,000 to 14,000, said he proposed to divide the matter into two parts—first, what was the present condition of that army, and how was its condition brought about! He had not gone on for more than ten minutes when he declared that his strength would not permit him to go further, and sat down, merely making his final motion.

After a long pause,

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT rose, and in an able speech pointed out that all the circumstances connected with the condition of the army arose from the long-established peace system, which had reduced our forces into mere regiments, unused to acting in bodies. He entered with great minuteness into all the preparations which had been made by the authorities at home, and showed that all the difficulty lay in the seven miles between Balaklava and Sebastopol. He stated that the Duke of Newcastle and himself had been labouring to create a system in the War Department which would tend to greater efficiency, by bringing all the heads of departments into unity of action. He strongly protested against such a motion as the present, declared that the Government would not submit to it, and urged that the house would come to an immediate decision on the question.

Mr. DRUMMOND followed in a very condemnatory speech, taunting the Government with undertaking the war with insufficient and inadequate knowledge of the state of the Crimea.

Colonel NORTON, Mr. M. MILNES, the Marquis of GRANBY, and Mr. LINDSAY having spoken, all except Mr. Milnes in favour of the motion,

Mr. LAYARD, in a short but comprehensive speech, dealt with the details in Mr. Sidney Herbert's speech, ridiculing the arrangements of the Government, which

produced abundance of returns but nothing for the troops. He pointed out the failings of the Ministry in their diplomacy, and prophesied that next Russia would overrun Asia, have Persia on her side, and threaten India, while the Allies, failing Austria either by treachery or want of power, would not be able to prevent Russia reaching Constantinople. He should be guilty of a crime if he did not vote for the motion, which was one of no confidence in the Government.

Sir G. GREY strenuously resisted the motion, expressed his regret and astonishment at the course taken by Lord John Russell, and decidedly accepted the issue on which the fate of the Government depended.

Mr. WALPOLE supported the motion principally on the ground that after the decided course taken by Lord John Russell, it was impossible not to acknowledge the necessity for inquiry.

Mr. VERNON SMITH, while ridiculing the notion of any confidence in the Government, and believing that the appointment of Lord Palmerston as War Minister would be the best and wisest course, yet declined to vote for the motion on account of its impracticability.

After a few words from Colonel SISTHORPE and Sir J. FITZGERALD, the debate was adjourned to Monday, on the motion of Mr. A. STAFFORD.

The House rose shortly before twelve o'clock.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of ABERDEEN made a statement explaining why Lord John Russell had resigned, and announcing that Government would resist Mr. Roebuck's motion.

Some explanation from the Duke of NEWCASTLE, in answer to Earl GREY, with regard to the movements of some regiments at the Cape followed.

The Earl of WINCHELSEA brought forward the question of the course pursued by the *Times* in the comments on the war, and inquired whether the correspondent of that paper had not regularly drawn rations from the public stores.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE without going into the general question of the conduct of the press on the war, expressed an opinion that some want of discretion had been exhibited by the newspapers. Some one not authorised to do so, had offered the correspondent of the *Times* a passage to Malta in a troop-ship, but it was prevented by the interference of the Government. He admitted that for a time that gentleman in question had received rations; but the moment he (the Duke) knew it, it had been forbidden. Lord Raglan had complained to him that the letters which appeared in one of the papers had conveyed information to the enemy, and he (the Duke) had appealed to the editors of all the papers to suppress such intelligence. From some he had received no replies, others had promised to avoid such a course in future; but these promises had not been exactly fulfilled, and he had received a letter only a day or two ago again making similar complaints, but he felt that he could take no further step in the matter.

A short discussion followed, which was not of importance, and the House adjourned at a quarter to seven o'clock.

THE WAR.

The following, from Lord Raglan, was received yesterday at the War-Office:—

"Before Sebastopol, Jan. 6.

"My Lord Duke,—The weather has been so bad since I wrote to your Grace on the 2nd inst., that I have not yet been able to disembark the 39th, with a view of encamping the regiment, and it still remains on board the Golden Fleece, in the harbour.

"The ground is thickly covered with snow, though not very deep.

"All my endeavours are directed to the speedy disembarkation and getting up of the huts, which have now arrived in considerable numbers, and the establishment of the depot of provisions, which I alluded to in my last despatch, near head-quarters, which I am now enabled to do, with the assistance of the 18th and 39th Regiments, the first encamped near Balaklava, the last still sleeping on board the Golden Fleece.

"There has been no movement on the part of the enemy.

"I inclose a copy of the casualties that have occurred up to the 4th inst.—I have, &c., "RAGLAN."

A letter from the frontier of Bessarabia speaks of numerous reinforcements of Russian troops moving on towards the Crimea. The plan of the enemy is said to be first to crush the Turkish army at Eupatoria, and then attack the French and English armies, and "if possible," drive them into the sea. The same letter states that the Russians are very sanguine of success, owing to the debilitated condition of the English army.

Letters received in Paris from Sebastopol, to the 12th, state that the works of the besiegers had advanced to within forty-five yards of those of the besieged.

OUR LUNATIC POPULATION.—More than 19,000 persons are under restraint as lunatics in England and Wales. Dorsetshire "abounds" in lunatics and idiots, having as many as one in 640 of the population.

THE BLACK SEA TELEGRAPH.—Something went wrong with the vessel containing the telegraph. A valve burst, and they were obliged to put into Harwich. The injuries are serious, but will be soon rectified.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 7, Wellington-street, Strand, London. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1855.

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 MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Is the convulsion which has seized the Cabinet a crisis preceding dissolution, or improved health? The very nature of it indicates feebleness. Conducting a great war in the field, and a greater war in diplomacy—accused of mortal disasters in the Crimea, enabled to boast considerable successes in Vienna, the Ministry meets Parliament to commence the ordinary business of the session; Mr. ROEBUCK gives notice of a motion for inquiry; and the Ministry is thrown into a crisis. It cannot maintain an army before Russia, it cannot hold together before the invalidated member for Sheffield!

All the world is discussing Lord JOHN's purpose. Some assume that he is purely honest, and really shocked at the losses; others that he is purely dishonest, and that his object was to embarrass his colleagues. Why not both?—for men can be the most opposite things at once. Lord JOHN is an impulsive man, and likely enough to take his views from the *Times*: his party had evidently been aiming at some modification of the Cabinet; they had been grumbling at the larger share of power possessed by the "Peelites;" the loss of patronage sustained by their own leader, without office, or only Lord President of the Council, was felt severely; when irregularities in subordinate ranks induced some question as to officials whom the Whigs had appointed, the measure of party wrath was full. But how could the Peelites be ousted? Lord JOHN could not make the Peelites resign; he could resign himself, and so break up the Cabinet; all then must topple to the ground, office would be vacant, and the Whigs could enjoy their own again. If such was the calculation, it was plausible;—it failed. Other members of the Cabinet did not fall in with the move—they kept their places, Lord JOHN lost his. The Cabinet may be modified, or may resign; but not with a sudden crush, leaving the ground vacant for the victorious recusant. After the summary disregard of royal convenience, of faith with colleagues, Lord JOHN is not likely to be "sent for" in a hurry.

Lord JOHN has been neither discreet nor chivalrous; but to expose his fault does not rehabilitate the administration of the war. He has upset the Cabinet—but our soldiers perish. The excuse for the responsible Cabinet Ministers is, that they have done their best, but that they are thwarted by their own subordinates in office. Believe their story, and we are to understand that the most powerful auxiliary force which is

sustaining Prince MENSCHIKOFF, is not that of LIPRANDI or OSTEN SACKEN, but the army of officials in our own departments. It is they who have delayed or kept back arms, food, clothing, shelter, and recruits. Now we believe this story; we remember a parallel to it. When FREDERICK I. of Naples was marching from Laybach with an Austrian army under NUGENT, to conquer his own beloved country, FRANCIS was the War Minister charged with supplying arms and ammunition to PEPE's army of defence; he supplied such arms and ammunition as ensured the safety of the invaders. It seems that we have our FRANCIS, but his name is Legion. The CZAR finds his honest friend in TAPER and TADPOLE.

Granted. Let us realise to ourselves the situation. Our beloved Sovereign is like a traveller in Spain, whose own servants care not to act effectively against the brigands. What then is the course? Evidently to turn the war upon the TAPER and TADPOLE Legion. If that is the enemy, why stand still, and only point to the cause of defeat? Remove the cause. Is it to be confessed that our statesmen have courage and devotion enough to confront the CZAR and all his men, but not the civil servants? The Whigs have probably been the grand obstructives to any disturbance of the placemen, who have "claims" as faithful supporters; the defeat of Lord JOHN's dashing intrigue has broken the power of old patronage, and has left the Ministers, who remain immovable, all the power to serve their QUEEN, by scattering her enemies, even in the public offices. If not, the Ministers themselves are enemies. They have taken a new lease of office; they are shaken free of a reluctant colleague, and may shake free of any incompetent subordinate, and if they do not now show some vigour—we shall ask whether Cabinets and aristocracies are not themselves obstructive lumber.

OUR PRESTIGE IN FRANCE.

Few campaigns have cost England so much as that of 1854. The 20,000,000^l, for which it will probably figure in the national accounts, do but represent a small part of the real sum. The lost ground will have to be recovered; and, to render "the third campaign" successful, we shall have to spend in 1856 more than would have been demanded by a successful campaign in 1854. For we have lost ground fearfully—with our allies, with our enemy, and with ourselves. The proofs of our own weakened state are seen in the confessed falling off in the recruitment, which is serious; in the toleration for such opinions as those which haunt Mr. COBDEN and Mr. BRIGHT; and in the tangible results of war failure. We do not believe in ourselves as we did until we tried what we could do. Our army is not large enough: it is ill-equipped: its staff, aristocratic favorites, can lead their men to victory, but cannot regulate the camp; our public departments are not compelled to administer the war generously, diligently, nor even faithfully: the trust is abused, and the abuse passes without censure.

The way that our allies regard the matter is plain enough. We speak from personal knowledge, extended by information on the best authority, of what is passing in France. The power of this country was not forgotten there. England was wont to be proud and dictatorial, and she had the power to enforce her will. During forty years of peace her strength has been increasing, and although her spirit of dictation has slumbered, it was fully expected in France that upon occasion her power had only to be put forth to be felt more heavily than ever. But lo! her power is challenged, she puts it forth, it fails, and

she appears exhausted. Her fleet, with immense effort and boasting, is sent to the Baltic, and returns—nothing done. Her army is sent to the Crimea, and perishes as fast as it is sent. It cannot support itself in camp. It is helpless. And the recruitment to strengthen and rescue that army languishes. It was said in France, as well as here, that the two countries had never been able to know their full strength while they were opposed; that united they would discover it. That England united to France by sea, France united to England by land, would be irresistible. So it was thought. They are united, but France is not for that the better able to conquer in the Baltic. They are encamped side by side in the Crimea, and the Frenchman finds that the Englishman is an invalid, a novice, a helpless charge upon the aid of his neighbour, by whom he is housed, fed, and clothed. General CANROBERT, who, united with the countrymen of WELLINGTON, was to come, see, and conquer, is obliged to take up his lodging in a camp prison; and he reports to his master that the English are a burden rather than a help. Gallant, no doubt, full of high qualities—excellent material; but not soldiers. The military strength of England was in demand; she supposes herself to put it forth; but she puts forth the Crimean army—her best. She has no military strength. With what feeling does France learn that result? With profound astonishment.

But other feelings succeed. England was once regarded as formidable; recently the alliance disarmed her towards France, but she was still respected. Now? Both feelings are reversed. How can the conquerors of Algeria respect the lodgers of the Crimea? The respect is succeeded by something very like contempt.

Nor does the succession of feelings stop there. During the better time, of recollection and hope, the military sympathy with England's supposed greatness led to a feeling of friendship under which old rancours were stifled; but contempt, especially in the Frenchman, begets dislike; and the ancient enmity to England revives.

Do we stop even there? No. Party in France takes advantage of this reawakening jealousy. The anti-British feeling resides chiefly among the Legitimists, partly because they owe England a debt; partly because England has not redoubled the favour conferred upon LOUIS DIX HUIT by sustaining the imbecile pretensions of HENRI CINQ. The Liberal party, which would naturally be in alliance with England, takes advantage of this dawning dislike, makes political capital of our disasters, and, turning round to the Emperor, exclaims, "Here is your boasted ally!—this is the companion in arms that you have given us!" And it is one of the bitterest of reproaches to a NAPOLEON that he is associated with the helpless countrymen of WELLINGTON.

We have only reported French impressions. They may be exaggerated, but they are confirmed by our own leading journal. They may be erroneous, but they are a political fact. They stultify for us the alliance, since they represent us, England, as the accomplice but not the support of LOUIS NAPOLEON—his honorary but not effective followers!

And if France regards us thus, how does Russia? The *Times* reports the condition of our troops. The *Globe* itself lifts up its voice from the abysses of ministerial optimism to proclaim the check to the eagerness of our national spirit in the decline of the recruitment. Mr. COBDEN and his associates proclaim the manufacturing aversion from war, the dislike of its barbarities, the fear of its

danger; General CANROBERT proclaims our imbecility in campaign; our Ministers pitifully represent that they have done their best—*this* being their best; and Russia hardens in her obstinacy. We almost hail as a rescue the adhesion of Sardinia—but Russia feels no corresponding alarm. It will take more than one successful campaign to counteract these impressions on the Continent; and our successful campaigns, says General DE LACY EVANS, are not to begin till 1856. Mr. GLADSTONE's followers tell us that we are to pay for the unsuccessful campaigns in cash down. We must pay for armies though we have them not; contribute to the funds of glory, though we attain it not; endure the contempt of our allies and the confidence of our enemies; and begin to retrieve this losing game in 1856.

THE FRENCH LOAN.

THE partisans of LOUIS NAPOLEON are ever in search of some proof of popularity to stimulate their faith and to sustain their adulation. They have quelled all opposition, but cannot help debating the great question in a perpetual soliloquy, through which the truth peeps out. Like priests who begin to doubt what they are compelled to preach, they try to silence their own objections by the loudness of their dogmatism. At the very moment when the ill-concealed joy with which the news of checks and reverses suffered by France in the East is received, reveals to all unprejudiced students of events that, in Paris at least (and Paris is France), patriotism has become quite a subordinate feeling to hatred of the imposed dynasty—at such a moment our free and independent papers sound a chorus of exultation, antistrophically proclaiming what no one dare contradict over the water, that never was the Emperor so popular—because, forsooth, the new Loan has been completely successful.

It is important to ascertain the real value and significance of a fact which cannot be denied. Although not disposed to take the *Moniteur* for gospel, we think there is no reasonable ground for doubting that the Loan has been completely subscribed by—we will not say small capitalists, but by persons who limit their demands to within five hundred francs of revenue, according to the suggestion of the Government. Now, the only legitimate inference to be derived from this fact, when stated in the way most agreeable to M. FOULD, is, that it is believed, that in the middle of the nineteenth century such a transaction cannot be a deliberate fraud, and that France is not about to disappear from among nations. What notable scheme can have been for a moment discussed we do not know; hence, it is difficult to account for the extreme surprise and hilarity which the success of the transaction has created in official circles. Because certain jocular financiers may have talked of acting consistently with the principles to which they owe their existence, they should not forget that France has taken the measure of their courage as well as of their honesty.

What was the nature of the offer made to the public? Taking the funds at the price of the day—a price to which they had artificially been forced down by sinister rumours—the Government proposed to grant a *rente* of three per cent. at two-and-a-half per cent. below that price. Evidently, every man who had sufficient confidence in the stability of things to invest money in public securities at all would accept with alacrity so excellent a bargain—especially as the new Loan is not to be paid up at once, but only in small instalments, one-tenth at a time. All this was dexterously arranged. The French are essentially a gambling nation. Since the suppression of the lotteries, every one dabbles

a little in the funds—from the countess to the cook, from the chamberlain to the *concierge*. What an excellent opportunity! Every one who had a few francs in his pocket rushed to put down his name and pay his deposit. At some of the bureaux the crowd continued all day and all night. The motley and dishevelled masqueraders, zig-zagging home on Sunday morning from the ball at the Opera, beheld—and trembled as they beheld—long lines of fierce-looking Robert Macaires, who had suspended their professional occupations in dark streets, besieging the doors of the succursales, eager to subscribe a few francs, obtain the acknowledgement, and be ready to dispose of it for a *prime* calculated in centimes. Had these gentlemen been asked whether they intended to testify their confidence in Government, they would have grimly referred to the new police. Many of the subscribers had sold a coupon for seventy francs, in order to pay a deposit on half a dozen new coupons in embryo; many, who never purchased anything in their lives, represented the great speculative inventors of this new kind of vote of confidence. One capitalist, it is ascertained, stirred up the population of a whole district to invest, and actually marched with them up to the Mairie. The officials stared in amazement at the sudden prosperity of the people, many of whom, recommended for their piety by the clergy, had the day before received “orders for bread!” All, without exception, asked for five hundred francs of revenue! Incautious speculators, will it be said—the coupons must be in the names of those who ask for them. True; but three lawyers had worked all right, and this worthy manufacturer of “confidence” is in possession of documents which place his clients in the alternative of giving up the coupons, or going to prison.

All this seems very extravagant—it is true, nevertheless; so that the public now knows exactly what to think of the rush of “small capitalists” who are supposed to have eagerly testified their confidence in the imperial Government. We do not for a moment deny that there are a good many *bona fide* subscribers, attracted by the opportunity of investing their money at five per cent. at a time when they can turn it to no advantage whatever, subject to the alternative of placing it in the hands of Government, or of burying it unproductively in cellars, or in old stockings sewn into mattresses. No doubt, if it were generally believed that a revolution was about to take place to-morrow, the case would have been different. After the revolution of February, people hid their money and their silver spoons—just as they put away their consciences for a better season after the *coup d'état*. But in the former case the alarm was only momentary, because based on no reason whatever. At present it cannot be said that there is any general belief that the Bonapartist dynasty is established for a perpetuity: meantime, people cannot help carrying on the business of life, just as the South Americans persist in building cities that are shaken down every dozen years by an earthquake. There is nothing wonderful nor perplexing in this; or, if there be any great lesson concealed in so simple a fact, it is that France at length begins to understand that her own future rests in her own hands; that the various Governments by which she has been pestered are mere accidents; and that, after all, there is not likely ever to be a *régime* less prepared to meet its engagements than the present. Public faith is even now under the guardianship of public opinion. Investment is a necessity. What to-morrow is to bring forth cannot be known; but this is certain—security can only increase.

DARK DEEDS.

JUSTICE is said to be blind, but might more properly be said to squint. She often inflicts her punishments upon the right person, for wrong reasons; though it seldom happens *vice versa*. BAETHELEMY was tried for the murder of COLLARD, and was hanged for the murder of MOORE, which was not proved, and the motive of which was unknown. It is assumed that the ruffian committed that crime deliberately, with a weapon taken for the purpose; whereas, probably he found the weapon on the spot, and possibly he committed the act under an impulse. He had pistols: it is likely that he always had them. Having killed the man, his only chance was to escape; COLLARD barred his way; he shot his captor in “self-defence,” but he was already a murderer, and he was proved to have killed COLLARD. It aggravated his crime that he was a French democrat, reputed to be an infidel. If you were to say that BAETHELEMY was a reckless, daring man: that he set himself against the world: took his chance of life or death: lived for a time, and then died in the natural course of his audacious career, with some rough justice in the vengeance inflicted upon him for violence done—the story would be correctly told. But how would English law be satisfied with that version? Yet, if BAETHELEMY was not sacrificed for the satisfaction of English law, he was sacrificed for the satisfaction of our minds.

It would be desirable if justice could do her work accurately; for while she bungles as she does, she renders it difficult for the unlearned to distinguish correctly between right and wrong. Mr. EDWARD GRAHAM AUSTIN, an under-graduate, is travelling in a railway carriage; a fellow-traveller, WILLIAM SMITH, an ex-groom, offers to bet upon a common trick with cards, after the manner of “thimble rig.” Mr. AUSTIN understands that it was a trick, and “regards it as fair,”—so he said in the police court—“if any gambling is fair.” Nevertheless, he prosecutes the man; and the Magistrates confiscate the proceeds of the bet. “*Volenti non fit injuria*” is a rule reversed in favour of young men of the world who gamble with their eyes open, and who would certainly not prosecute their companions if they had won.

Another case stands before us, which is as yet entirely unproved. According to the tale, Mrs. PAYNE, of Chipping Camden, a lady who was left a widow at twenty-five, in 1842, had been for many years in a state of ill-health; and for years she was attended by an established physician of the neighbourhood. He retires from business, and is succeeded by a Mr. COOKSEY. Reports get abroad concerning the lady’s illness fatal to her character. She applies to her medical man for a certificate, negatively testifying to the nature of her malady. He writes out the certificate, and offers to give it her, upon condition that she will be “his.” Supposing the rumours against the lady are true, how can a medical man stand exculpated for so taking advantage of his position, unless indeed he can totally falsify the whole tale?

It would be difficult to believe that in this day educated men can be guilty of conduct so base, if we had not rather a remarkable instance of the deeds which well-informed men can contemplate as possible. Mr. COBDEN believes that the present Government have concluded a peace with Russia, but have roused the popular feeling in favour of the war, are ashamed to declare what they have done, and intend to let the storming of Sebastopol go forward as a popular entertainment! Mr. COBDEN deplores by anticipation the wanton effusion of blood, and threatens to denounce “a deed so dark.”

We do not know whether this presumptive story can be received as evidence that Lord ABERDEEN and his colleagues are villains of the basest stamp, out-Heroding the bloodiest bravo of a melo-dramatic theatre; but, at all events, the statement enables us to measure the credulity of a well-informed Englishman, and his moral sense of what is possible. Evidently "dark deeds" are contemplated in the British House of Commons, though not always by the persons said to perpetrate them. Yet MR. COBDEN asks us to condemn a Barthélemy Cabinet on such constructive evidence; and 800 persons in soirée assembled, temperately enjoying the drink which "cheers but not inebriates," ratify the condemnation which the accuser asks!

POSTAL SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA.
The subjoined challenge ought to arouse attention and endeavour in the Australian colonies:

(To the Editor of the "Leader.")

"16th January, 1855.

"Sir.—In a recent number of your journal you expressed the opinion, that if the colonists of Australia wanted steam communication with this country they must not look too much for assistance, but take the initiative for themselves, and strenuously endeavour to settle this question upon a principle worthy of the importance of their position and the future which is before them.

"This view of the case, I am happy to inform you, is now largely concurred in by those in England, who have interested themselves in the question, for they are convinced that it can be better decided, to please the various interests concerned, by the local authorities than by the magnates of Downing-street, who only proceed upon official reports, or the partisans of rival steam companies, who only have in view the subsidy granted by the Government. And surely, Sir, this is the most reasonable way of treating the colonies. It is their question as much as it is that of this country's; they have the best information as to their peculiar wants; they have wealth, steamers, experienced commanders, and the whole of the machinery necessary to organise a powerful and effective service. It may be that jealousies and differences of opinion may arise between the various colonies, but I have as much faith in their being amicably arranged by the advocates concerned at the antipodes, as by capitalists on the Stock Exchange or elsewhere in England.

"Be this, however, as it may, the colonists of Australia are entitled to legislate for themselves on this subject. It is upwards of ten years since, in England, that steam was first proposed for these distant settlements, and what has been done? We have tried the route by the Cape and failed! We have left untried the route *via* Panama, and now, with a tightened money-market and a great European war, is not the time to look upon it as practicable! We have been making experiments on the Indian line, which have been abandoned because, it is said, of a positive loss of 40,000*l.* per annum.

"Now, then, it is time to let the question be considered by other parties, and the colonists, I know, will not shrink from their responsibilities, for they think it consistent with their intelligence, their increasing importance, and their principles of self-government that they should have such duties imposed upon them. But it is only natural if they grant subsidies to steamers already in the colonies, and devise in their respective legislative councils a line of communication which shall connect the colonies with one or both of the great steam routes belonging to the eastern or western hemisphere, that some portion of the postage should be conceded by the English Government, and that their efforts should be met in a wise, liberal, and comprehensive spirit.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PURDY."

This letter is written by a man who perfectly understands the subject, and is responsible for his statements. As manager of the Bank of South Australia, Mr. PURDY is in a position to observe, and to state a case with absolute independence; and there is nothing here that can be gainsaid in the colonies of Australia. Attempts have been made lately to charge those settlements with the overtrading which, by its reaction, threatens such serious inconveniences to our commerce; but the charge is incorrect. Trade and industry were disturbed in Australia; the wool-clipping was suspended, because the shepherd

preferred gold-digging; farm labour stood still, and at one time Adelaide was almost deserted; while Melbourne, a city of gamblers, exhibited the extraordinary suburb of Canvas Town. But speaking generally, there was no "overtrading" there. The extravagantly-overcalculated supplies were sent from home: cotton goods, ironmongery, slop-clothing, and other consignments, were sent in quantities, as if the *nouveau riches* of Australia wanted nothing but coats, waistcoats, and trousers, or fire-irons, or cotton prints; and of course much was returned on hand.

One item we may set down against Australia: this was the overtrading. The charge for postage was a comparative trifle, but, as the service was a loss, it ought to have been borne at least in part by the colonies. The difficulty which at once presents itself is the diversity of interest and of view which prevails in the different Australian colonies; but these differences are not greater than those which existed between the thirteen colonies of America when they agreed upon the declaration of independence, and what is more, upon the war of independence. They carried the day, and succeeded in establishing a republic; cannot the Australian colonies so far agree in action as to establish a postal service?

"A STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[Our readers will welcome the reappearance of our esteemed correspondent. The independent and almost personal view which he takes of personal qualities on the stage of public affairs is well-known, and it must be equally well understood that we are desirous of preserving to our correspondent perfect freedom for his pen, even when it differs from our own opinions. It is equally necessary to the independence of the critic and of the Journal, that the personality of the one and the impersonality of the other should be kept entirely distinct. We desire to state once for all, that the "Stranger" speaks for himself, not for the *Leader*; although, starting from the same point, we may often be glad to find him expressing the feeling and the policy of this Journal.]

QUEER consequences may come from the Ministerial crisis. But, whatever we may see, what we do see, is this—that the political quidnuncs are looking remarkably foolish. There is no doubt that they ought to have foreseen this. There was something so unusually absurd in the conduct of Lord John Russell on Tuesday night in proffering a "statement" about foreign affairs which was utterly unintelligible, and which was unintelligible because, among other reasons, Lord John obviously knew nothing of what was going on at Vienna,—there was something so suspicious in the circumstance, that when Lord John was boggling over his explanations, in answer to the ironical entreaties of Mr. Bright to be good enough to make himself understood, not one of his colleagues would whisper a hint in his ear—that one ought to have seen there was again another of those hitches in the class conspiracy which are denominated Ministerial crisis. And, on general grounds, one ought to have suspected that a man like Lord John Russell, distinguished by unscrupulosity in politics and feebleness of intellect intensified by a disease of vanity, would be certain to select a disjunction like the present to hit upon the coincident baseness of playing the *deuce* and playing the *fool*. But— distrust the sagacity which awaits events to ratiocinate—you may rely upon it that when Parliament met at Westminster on Tuesday, no one—certainly not Lord John Russell—calculated on a crisis. Mr. Roebuck, for one, did not think he was doing anything extraordinary in moving for his Select Committee to inquire into the catastrophe of the British governmental system; and Lord Ellenborough's notice of motion was taken as a matter of course. And, though it stood as a possibility, and irrespective of these notices of impeachment, that there would be a reorganisation of the Coalition—and Lord John and Lord Derby are alike fooling them-

selves if they now count on anything more—that reconstruction—a handy-dandy change of offices to make all comfortable—would have taken place, without this eccentricity, in as quiet a manner as the last moving on the congenial Lady-day, when the Duke of Newcastle stepped down one pair of stairs and stepped up another pair of stairs in Downing-street, and when Lord John Russell, having nothing to do, condescended to take a salary for doing it. Lord John Russell is in ecstasy in a fuss: but, after all, the probability is that they will think as little of it at Vienna as they did of the analogous act of that celebrated student who travelled to the source of the Danube, and, stopping the spring with his old hat, gloated over the confusion he hoped to produce in the many cities watered by the great stream.

Yet we should be grateful to Lord John Russell. What have we, outside English public, to do with the causes and the consequences? He had no thought of England when he said on Wednesday to Lord Aberdeen, by way of remodelling the old joke—"By-the-by, let us swear eternal enmity;" and England has little very to hope from the results." The great families did not consent to partition the English Government for the benefit of the English: it is not English policy that Lord John has condemned or proposed; and the reconstructions he may compel will not be based upon any aristocratic admission that the men of brains and business members ought now to be brought in in preference to a new relay of old lords. Is a great nation to be excited because a Duke of Newcastle is to be put down in order that a Lord Palmerston may be put up—because one set of Peers, Peelites, have excited the jealousies of another set of Peers, Whigs? Is an empire to be convulsed because a club is agitated? Tweedledum is getting the advantage over Tweedledee by taking advantage of the popular disgust with Tweedledee, because Tweedledee, being highly bred into intellectual stagnation, and being by misfortune placed, during a great war, in a responsible position, has managed, punctually attending his bureau at 9 A.M., and never going to bed before midnight, and wearing overshoes in this weather with conscientious assiduity, to sacrifice 20,000 gallant plebeians—and the national prestige. We cannot but conclude that Tweedledum, who is old and crafty, deserves his triumph over Tweedledee, who is young and not crafty, not dishonest. But let the outside British public have the self-respect to hold aloof from these miserable intrigues of heartless incapables—and, sympathising with neither, leave Tweedledum and Tweedledee to fight it out until such time as the brains and business members of England are prepared to relegate both Tweedledum and Tweedledee to their important duties of country gentlemen. The enthusiastic alacrity of liberal-popular-papers to name this and that man for possible vacant places is pleasant, as an unexpected simplicity in our century, but is too hopeful. Those journalists who have for some years been suggesting to the British press that our aristocracy is an imposition, not only politically but intellectually, may rejoice that their day is coming—when another coalition of crack lords is required to sustain a little while longer the public delusion. But the day has not come yet. Nearly every Peer and Peer's relative, of presentable appearance for public life, has been tried and has broken down: the standard is so reduced that capacity to speak the English language is no longer insisted on, for doesn't Lord John get on without that? and it is only under extraordinary circumstances that common decency of moral character is insisted on, for isn't there — and —? But there are one or two more left: and they will now have their chance. There's Lord Derby—he was a frightful failure in Peace—but isn't there War? There is Lord Grey, omitted from the first coalition; he drove all our colonies into rebellion, but the Crimea is not a colony. There is Lord Ellenborough; he was the jest of mankind for being a Brummagem Bonaparte in India: but a Brummagem Bonaparte might manage in a sham war. There's Lord Dalhousie—there's Lord Elgin—they are heroes still, for we know nothing of them, and therefore havn't found them out. We havn't exhausted the Peerage.

yet, and when we have, her Majesty has a fine choice still in the squirearchy to make new Peers. Let democrats—such democrats as are pointing to invalid Mr. Roebuck as the master of the situation (that is, of the Ministry of War)—reconsider the resources of our glorious country.

Parliament, then, being still merely a public amusement for the public, let us be grateful to Lord John Russell—as a drole. Perhaps he may ruin himself: he has—he is so fond of symmetry in affairs—turned Downing-street into a Balaklava of abortive campaigning; and he may ascertain that the Premiership is *his* Sebastopol. But then, fortunately, his prescient colleague, Mr. Gladstone, has just brought in a Superannuation Act, so that in Richmond Lodge he may affluently edit Schedule A and B in the serene retirement of the baulked British statesman. Let us consider, in calculating the compensation due to him, that, last Tuesday, Parliament had nothing whatever to meet for—Lord John himself could only think of an Educational measure until he hit on this happy idea of being Curtius—*minus* the gulf. The fearful, blank prospect, for Parliament, was so thoroughly understood at the beginning of the week, that at the meeting on Tuesday there were not thirty members present in the Commons—there wasn't “a House.” There would not have been thirty, only that there were ten new members who were eager for their privilege of being bored, and ten Irish members, who had peculiar reasons for coming to an early, definitive settlement with Hayter as to what he is going to stand this session. And the pervading look of the assembly—the same look that comes over Convocation at its annual bathos in Jerusalem-chamber—was the look of men who were interrogating their souls as to what they were there for. Sir Benjamin Hall made a serious mistake in supposing it was for him and his bills: no sooner had he risen, than the House fled. Ministers evidently didn't know. Each tried to say something, and to give some notices of something sounding like business. The Coalition being about to break up, Mr. Cardwell announced with complacency that he had a new Law of Partnership. There being no news, Mr. Gladstone said he was going to make the newspapers cheap; and so on. Lord John pitied the House: he tried a make-believe of public affairs, and said something about the negotiations. But it was a dead failure. He had nothing to tell, and he broke down, under the pressure of Mr. Bright, with the confession that, after all, “the position of the negotiations” seemed to be, so far as he knew, that there were—no negotiations. It was absurd. Nobody—not one of the thirty—would have appeared again on Thursday only for the Club circulation of Lord John's lucky expedient—which is paralleled by that of Guy Fawkes—for he intended to blow up the Parliament, and has only ruined himself:—then, of course, there was a crowd. Clearly, if we hadn't had a ministerial crisis, we should have had a session in which there would have been nothing but a dreary, though, perhaps, constitutionally gratifying illustration of what all our constitutional writers assert as the inalienable right of the English people to—tax themselves.

There was, of course, a great crowd of *gobe-mouches* down at the new Palace of Westminster yesterday evening; it was the period of *gobe-moucherie*; and the Great Briton did not sound as sensible as the metropolitan Great Briton should while enjoying the ludicrous gossip and insane rumours prevalent among London clubbists, innocent of the actual political position of their enlightened country, on every such occasion. Concentrated was the attention while Lord John passed up the lobbies, while he sidled up the House, and took his seat on that back bench which his figure and character so well become. Excited was the sensation of the House—if feeble—very feeble—the cheers which from a few friends appeared to greet the unfortunate as he mounted the scaffold on which he was about to commit his conspicuous *felon de se*. The dramatic proprieties of such House of Commons spectacles were observed. There was going to be a scene; and there is nothing the House of Commons likes so well as a scene. The strangers credited the crisis: the clubbists were confident there would be a revelation: the new members settled themselves into their seats with dignity: only the old inhabitants who

comprehend their country were cognizant that they were going to be pazzled—but still, which amused them, interested. It was interesting to observe the solemnity with which the habitual prolixion was got through. As if the truth was ever told at such times! As if there were not court reasons and cabinet reasons, and reasons of conspirators and diplomats, who preserve the honour of predators, why the truth cannot be told. As if there was not always an understanding as to the pretext to be protruded on a nation distinguished, among other symptoms of greatness, by its simplicity! Who, of the outside public, even those who have votes among us, and may have the advantage of returning an Apsley Pellatt or a W. Williams to represent us in our Commons' House, knows the truth of the row, but a year ago, between Russell and Palmerston? Who of us is now likely to ascertain the facts as to the row between Russell and Aberdeen?

The pretext is not clever this time. We are being led to wonderful political conclusions just now. One growing faith is that the governing classes must give up being the governing classes. A proposal was made in the course of the last night's debate (by Mr. Henry Drummond) and was not groaned down—was, indeed, hear-heard as a capital idea—probably by those who had welcomed Lord John, and thought that the Cincinnatus was not far off—that we should, in our national scrape, resort to a Dictator. These ideas may be premature; but there was one conviction which must have been yesterday forced on the minds of all who witnessed the parliamentary proceedings—that representative institutions now and then admit of great public silliness. Lord John Russell, who gave the tone to the Government, could not have impressed himself on the oldest Whig as a man of genius. Take not only the pretext—in which you are welcome to believe, if you will—but the manner in which it was put forward.

In a low voice, a husky manner, mispronunciation in every second word, bad grammar in every sentence, this eminent Parliamentarian commenced his vindication by answering the bold *Times*' severe sneer at his recess oratory at mechanics' institutions: he had been overworked, he assured them—in leading the House!—last Session; and he had a right, so he had, to go into the country in Recess, and make little speeches. Then, he went on—the House more and more wondering—he had not intended to resign on Tuesday morning: he resigned on Tuesday evening on hearing Roebuck's motion, because he admitted there had been mismanagement in the Crimea, and because he had proposed in November that Lord Palmerston should take the Duke of Newcastle's place. That was the defence: he had refused to resign when Lord Aberdeen refused to do that which he (Russell) believed to be vital to the welfare of the army and the safety of the nation; but he resolved on resigning—without again offering Lord Aberdeen the alternative—when, as if he must not have calculated in December on some such motion, an hon. member, at the meeting of Parliament, proposed that there should be an inquiry whether the Government was responsible for the failure in the Crimea. Well, as he got tediously at these facts, every one admitted that he had had a perfect right, in his conceit of Lord Palmerston, to resign; but every one also saw, that it was due to the conceit of himself that his resignation should have taken place as a patriot protest in November, or last spring, and should not have been delayed, as a freak, till January. But Lord John was not content with this silliness; with increasing dignity he went on to plunge deeper into bathos. His peroration was to show that, on his own grounds, he ought not to have resigned; for, said Lord John, the public impression that our national position in this war is rather bad is a complete mistake. Our allies, France and Austria, may be relied on; and we must win in an immediate peace or after a safe war. More: he gloried in the course he had taken (in sacrificing the Whig party) in joining the Coalition Government. Lord Aberdeen was a Christian, but a statesman: fond of peace, but with a horror of an unreal peace. Mr. Gladstone was a great man, the genius of finance, whose intellect was so splendid, that it had cast light on all his colleagues. To the patient cleverness of Lord Clarendon was it to be attributed that Austria had been secured. Lord Palmerston was a man of pre-eminent capacity. The Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Sidney Herbert had only failed because they were not old enough, with the authority of experience, to bully the public offices. *Et cetera*. Yet he had resigned.

There is no describing the perplexed expression of the House at these gratuitous criticisms—to be explained only on the supposition that Lord John, hesitating to burn his ships behind him, was eager to compliment all the alternative Premiers all round. But the singularity of the exposure of his shallow nature did not end here. He had heard a rumour, that afternoon, that Lord Aberdeen, in a fright, had given way, and made Palmerston War Minister. He stated that to the House: he congratulated Lord Palmerston and the House, and he gloried in his

retirement as having led to that result. Poor old Lord John: there is not even that result! Lord Palmerston blandly denied the whole story!

When Lord John Russell sat down, amid a few pitying cheers, the House, disgusted, was in a drowsy mood: and there was—the crisis notwithstanding—the poor army, victim of these jocularities, notwithstanding—anxious and alarmed Europe notwithstanding—decided merriment. There was something humorous in Lord Palmerston's position: he, the friend for whom Lord John had sacrificed himself, had to rebuke, inevitably satirical, Lord John's ludicrous conduct; and, apart from that, there is always something gay, reckless, laughing, in his voice, even on his serious occasions. The fun now was obvious: and when, vigorously seeking to be grave, he assured Lord John that bygones were bygones, and that they were excellent friends, and that they need not be the less friends because, as separated Ministers, he (Palmerston) had to assure his late colleague that his late colleague had on the whole behaved somewhat ungenerously, not very patriotically, and unequivocally foolish—why then the House could not help it—the House grinned on every bench. Mr. Disraeli, an excellent actor, was laughing outright; and Mr. Gladstone was exercising all his mental energy in keeping his countenance. And when Lord Palmerston, with his unhappy habit of perorating, went on, following Lord John's suit, to compliment Louis Napoleon, the responsible House of Commons, satisfied that the personal matter was over, and perfectly indifferent to a mere speech, even about our “admirable ally,” was in a buzz of jocose and insouciant conversation. Considering that this was Lord Palmerston's first appearance as leader in the House of Commons, the disrespect did not promise well for the new arrangements. They were always inattentive to Lord John; but they never laughed at him—he was too awful a leader for that.

The farce went on. Lord Palmerston had announced (Lord Aberdeen was at the same time, with still greater coolness, notifying it to the other House), that the Government would venture to face the battery of Mr. Roebuck. Mr. Roebuck rose: paralytic, but patriotic—but the House went to dinner. Mr. Roebuck was at this moment getting his first chance of a Ministry; the chance was in connexion with Lord John Russell and the Whigs. But, observe the grand independence of this honest Englishman, whose life has been of little use to the England which puts its Roebucks by in favour of old lords. He commenced, pointing his finger at Lord John Russell: “You have said you will take no part in debating or voting for my motion—the motion that you, as a Minister, could not venture to resist; and I therefore say, my lord, you are not so patriotic as you suppose.” That was cheered by the remaining bedded; and the cheers encouraged Mr. Roebuck. He began to speak in a clear, ringing voice, in his own old sharply-cut sentences—model style for House of Commons talk. But it was an expiring gleam of a brilliant intellect; the effort was too much for him; and those who had remembered in the scene between Russell and Palmerston, the scene between Burke and Fox, were now afforded another parliamentary reminiscence—the dying speeches of Chatham. Mr. Roebuck could not keep his feet: his mind wandered; he reserved strength enough to move his resolution; and then fell back into his seat—faint with five minutes' speech. The House is fond of its heroes: and it was greatly touched.

Farce recommenced, however. A great crisis—a resolution just moved which meant impeachment: and yet there were now, at 6 o'clock, loud cries for a division—nobody knowing, nevertheless, how they would vote. A Minister must speak: Mr. Herbert got up and made an elaborate defence of a great Government to fifteen senators. Fortunately it will be reported: it was exquisitely delivered, and they indeed must be desperate Whigs to whom Mr. Herbert fails to show in that one cogent and statesman-like speech, that it is not he—it is the system—which is to blame. His speech leads to the inference that he holds the general responsible; but he will live to admit that the great error was in going to the Crimea. Lord John overlooked that blunder when, in the month he was gasconading about Sebastopol, he was consenting to the appointment of that Duke of Newcastle who will not monopolise the military appointments for Whig creatures.

Then loitered into the House the indignant patriots who had been at dinner. Mr. Henry Drummond was sarcastically forcible to members in showing (in support of the motion!) that there was no use censuring individuals: the Peace had created the evils which have led to failure in War. The Marquis of Granby made a got-off discourse to no effect: his leaders absent, consulting, doubtless, how they would require the Marquis to vote. Mr. W. S. Lindsay, a man of City precision of intellect, contributed, in a speech of good delivery and well-balanced periods, a general opinion that the war was not being done as he, a man of business, would like

to see it done. Mr. Layard, with now some 150 members (half-past nine o'clock) to hear him, was wearisomely vindictive in supererogatory details against the Generals and the Peelites; and he spoiled even the details by a continuance in the sloppy, marry-come-up style of speech which answers at the Cosmopolitan Club, and never will answer in the Westminster Club. But Mr. Layard did refer to the motion; and announced that he could not vote for so absurd a thing as a select committee on a war, but that he would vote for the motion as a want of confidence motion. This gave some intelligibility to the debate; and the turn took the proceedings somewhat out of the region of aimless grumbling. Yet as to the crisis—and whom he would follow to possible office—Mr. Layard, astute in all his Gallic declamation, said nothing. This disappointed the House, which, as he was closing, had thickened into fulness.

Sir George Grey was put up to answer, and to fasten on that point of the debate, and, like a true Whig, to taunt the Opposition that they were going to vote a want of confidence on a motion which technically was merely a motion for a committee. Why had not they the manhood, &c., &c.? Sir George was frightfully fluent, as usual, and got into a scrape as usual—quoting from Sir Wm. Napier about the British soldier, and plunging into the celebrated “cold shade of aristocracy” passage quite unawares—an escapade which made his colleagues shiver, and delighted the Radicals. Yet Sir George showed some symptoms of the irrepressible tendency of the English Government to get out of red-tapery; and his honest condemnation of his old chief, Lord John Russell, must ever be remembered by the Peelites to their Colonial Secretary’s honour, if only as being the last touch needed to illustrate the abject blunder made by Lord John. Sir George, on the whole, made a “dashing” speech, as is his wont; but he left the House as he found it—puzzled, sceptical, uncertain, and resolute not to be forced to a division until parties could ascertain the practical effect of their vote—and whether the Government had not made sure of a majority in so valiantly defying the vote. Mr. Walpole, speaking as if after an Opposition Cabinet-council, only added to the hopeless confusion by his indirect admission that his side had no chance in the crisis—an admission made in his suspiciously-impartial advice to the Government to reconstruct themselves. Mr. Vernon Smith was the very voice of the universal confusion. He did not know what he was to vote for, or what would follow, or whether or not there was to be a Government, or was a Government; and, therefore—his logic astonished few on his side of the House—he would not vote for the motion. After that, from a man who ought to have been behind the scenes, it was out of the question that any decision could then be taken:—the House, adjourning what was facetiously called the debate, took till Monday to consider. And I have always noticed that Ministries are seldom turned out on adjourned debates. At any rate the reconstruction will be settled by them.

Saturday Morning. THE “STRANGER.”

Open Council.

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

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

NON MI RICORDO.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR.—Her Majesty’s 46th Regiment of Infantry have behaved so gallantly before Sebastopol, that it seems more than ungracious to recal the proceedings of the Windsor Court Martial. I hasten to assure you that my sole object in doing so now, is to invite your attention to an allusion in a characteristically-timid and “never-good-at-need” clerical contemporary. Here it is in a leading article on the “Clevedon Inquiry” in the *Guardian* of the 17th inst. :—

“We cannot help thinking that very few persons brought up with the common ideas of Englishmen now-a-days, of whatever party or opinion they may be, can have read the proceedings of the Tribunal held at Wason’s Hotel, Clevedon, without at least a secret smile. We are quite sure that if the persons and the opinions arraigned before it had not chanced to lie under a strong temporary prejudice, the wit and sarcasm which were lavished in such abundance on the Windsor Court Martial would have revelled for many days on such a singularly tempting subject.”

In your own article on the “Ditcher-Denison Case,” you dealt broadly and generously with the larger questions, and touched lightly the details of

the case. It may, however, be interesting to some of your readers to appreciate the full meaning of your clerical and cautious contemporary. I subjoin an extract from the printed report of the examination taken before the Commissioners at Wason’s Hotel, Clevedon. It speaks for itself:—

“The Ven. Archdeacon Law, examined by Dr. Phillips.

“Have you taken any part in this prosecution?—I cannot allow that I have.

“Do you know Mr. Everett, grocer, of Wells?—I know him well.

“Did you request him to give evidence in this case?—I did not.

“Did you go to his shop in the early part of last year?—I did.

“And speak to him on the subject of the Archdeacon’s sermons?—I did.

“Did Mr. Everett say anything to you about other persons having heard the sermon?—I will not say he did not; but I have no recollection that he did.

“Mr. Everett has sworn that he said to you that there were clergymen present, and that he thought they would be the proper persons to give the evidence you were seeking. Is that true?—I don’t recollect; if he did so, it made no impression on my mind.

“Can’t you recollect so remarkable a statement coming from a grocer to whom you went for evidence to convict your brother Archdeacon of heresy?—I have no recollection of any such observation having been made, or anything like it.

“Did you ask the grocer whether he knew anybody who heard the sermon besides himself?—I have no recollection of so doing.

“It would have been a rational question, would it not?—It would; but I have no recollection of so doing.

“Did you communicate with Mr. Ditcher, the prosecutor, on the subject of that sermon?—I have had frequent communications with him upon the subject.

“Did you send the sermon to Mr. Ditcher when Mr. Everett sent it to you?—I did not.

“The grocer has sworn that he asked you whether you had the sermon, and you answered that Mr. Ditcher had it; is that correct?—It is perfectly correct.

“How did Mr. Ditcher get that sermon?—On the occasion of his calling on me at Weston-super-Mare I put that sermon into his hands.

“Was that before you went to the grocer’s shop?—Yes.

“Then when you said that you had not sent the sermon to Mr. Ditcher, you meant that you had given it into his hands, but not sent it?—Yes; I did give it into Mr. Ditcher’s hands. I did not send it.

“Mr. Ditcher is your official, is he not?—He is one of my surrogates.

“You are in constant intercourse with him, are you not?—Most constant.

“Did Mr. Ditcher ask you for the sermon, or did you volunteer to give it to him?—To the best of my recollection he asked me whether I could lend it to him.

“Did you mention Mr. Ditcher’s name to the grocer on the occasion of your visit to him?—Mr. Ditcher’s name would doubtless be mentioned when I told him that I had lent the sermon.

“Did you ask the grocer to send the sermon to you originally?—He sent it to me of his own accord; I knew nothing of the sermon till he sent it to me.

“How did he send it?—By post.

“Was it accompanied by any letter?—I make no doubt it was, but I have no recollection of its contents.

“Did any conversation pass between you and Mr. Ditcher upon the subject of the sermon at the time you gave it him?—Doubtless.

“Will you be good enough to state the purport of that conversation?—I have had so many conversations with him that I do not recollect.

“Examination resumed:—Did you ask any person besides the grocer, if they had heard the sermon preached by Archdeacon Denison?—I do not believe I did.

“You know of course that it must have been heard by some of the Chapter of Wells?—Not by several, but by some. The Canon Residentiary at that time was dead, and therefore it would have been idle to put the question to him.

“Was that the reason you did not ask the Canon?—It was not.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A SEEKER OF “THE TRUTH.”

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR.—I have protested in many languages, lands, and journals, against the punishment of death. I venture to ask of you the permission to do so once more in your estimable journal. My conscience cries aloud that what one man has not the right to do—not even a thousand nor a hundred thousand men have the right to do—and that is, to kill a man! To kill judicially is to kill! I say to society what was said to the murderer: “Cruel man!”—“Cruel society!” Will it never understand that nothing is gained by capital executions? The public that rushes to gaze on the courage of the culprit, and the adroit

ness of the executioner, to see a head fall, or a body swing in the air, seeks sensations, and not moral lessons—assists at a spectacle more or less rare, and always *gratis*. Have the thousands of executions that preceded that of Barthélemy arrested his arm? Will his execution prevent one crime? It is even on evidence, that executions are often followed, if not accompanied, by fresh crimes.

There are men who have a mania for being talked about, for making an exhibition of themselves for good or for evil. There are others so tired of life, as to prefer to die by the hands of an executioner than by their own. If we may believe the words spoken by Barthélemy in his last moments, he was one of these men.

I approve the verdict of the jury; I attack only the executive act, which took no account of the recommendation to commute the punishment. I repudiate the supposition of any concession to the French Government, but I think mercy cannot be too often exercised in the reign of a gracious Queen. A disciple of Germany, I will take the liberty to propose a question to the learned English Bar. If a prisoner, instead of allowing himself to be hanged, kills the hangman, should he be killed for that act alone? For if the hangman was discharging his duty, the prisoner was obeying the natural law of self-preservation. I say, then, that a man who, rather than be arrested, kills the arrester, commits homicide, not assassination. The State ought not to take what it has not given, and cannot restore—*Life!* How is it, when an innocent man is executed by mistake? In Spain the victim’s coffin was brought into court, the judges lifted up the winding-sheet, and uncovered their heads to the dead. In France, the memory of the punished is “rehabilitated,” but tardily, and with difficulty. In Russia, the punishment of death is abolished, and life is not less secure for all that. Perhaps this is the only law that does honour to the Empress who decreed it. Other States have no Siberia, but they have a Botany Bay. They have no *knout*, but the rope, or the knife which they employ, to intimidate, or, as it has been said: “A stick to frighten the dog.”—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
IVAN GOLOVIN.

STATISTICS OF TOBACCO.

Some of our readers may not be prepared for the fact that tobacco, though not food for man or beast, is the most extensively used of all vegetable productions, and next to salt the most generally consumed of all productions whatever—animal, vegetable, or mineral—on the face of the globe. In one form or other, but most commonly in that of fume or smoke, it is partaken “by saint, by savage, and by sage;” there is no climate, from the equator to the pole, in which it is not used; there is no nation that has declined adopting it. Europeans, except in the extreme East, are allowed to be the most moderate consumers, in consequence of its being—with them—generally an article of import and of heavy taxation; while their form of civilisation agrees to refuse the luxury to the gentler sex. And among Europeans our own nation figures as one of the lowest in proportion to the population; yet the official returns prove that the annual consumption here is on an average 16.86 ounces, or considerably more than a pound weight to every man, woman, and child throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Moreover, this consumption is greatly on the increase. Between the years 1821 and 1831 the increase was at the rate of about one ounce per head; during the next ten years it was somewhat less than an ounce; but from 1841 to 1851 it was three ounces; making an increase of nearly 44 per cent. in proportion to the population within the last 30 years. In Denmark, exclusive of the Duchies, the average consumption in 1851 was nearly 70 ounces per head. But this is nothing to what is used in warm countries, where tobacco is grown with facility and free from taxation. If the population of the earth be taken at 1000 millions, and the consumption reckoned as equal to that of the kingdom of Denmark, or 70 ounces per head, the produce of the whole world will amount to nearly two millions of tons (1,958,125) a year. Seventy ounces a head, of course, far exceeds the average consumption of Europe, in most of the countries of which tobacco, as before stated, is heavily taxed. It is certain, however, on the other hand, that it falls far short of the consumption of Asia, containing the majority of mankind, where women and children smoke as well as men, and where the article is moreover untaxed. The value of the quantity thus reckoned, at 2d. a pound, amounts to above 36,000,000^l sterling.

EDUCATION IN THE MIDLAND DISTRICTS.

Mr. Bowyer, inspector of schools, thus describes a “Midland” teacher:—“At my first visit the school was vacant. At my second I found a new mistress, whose ignorance surpassed anything within my experience. To the question, ‘What remarkable event occurred when our Saviour was twelve years old?’ she replied ‘I believe he was put in the bulrushes.’”

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

WE snatch the occasion of a vacant week to say a word or two on some recent articles of our eminent contemporary, the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. We may remark, by the way, how seldom this ablest and most successful of European reviews fails to surpass in strength, variety, and interest, the very best, we will not say the least heavy, of our own Quarterlies.

Whether this superiority lie in the ability of the writers or in the sagacity of the Editors we do not pretend to decide; certain it is, that for grasp of thought, for refinement of style, for diversity of topic, the *Revue des Deux Mondes* is very rarely equalled in London or in Edinburgh. Perhaps the existing régime in France has, by its very intolerance of discussion, by the constant terror of suppression impending over all written thought, intensified all the intellectual life of the nation in its highest organs, as by the perils of open speaking it has tortured into almost unnatural acuteness of reticence and allusion the brilliant suppleness of that chosen language of wit, of logic, of intrigue. France is still the brain of Europe, a little congested, it is true, politically, but, in every other direction, alert, vigorous, attentive. She almost atones for her humiliations by the freedom of her social life and the independence of her speculative thought; in the form and fertility, if not in the substance of her passing literature, she commands the world. Even in bonds, intellectual France is often superior to the clumsy license of political essayists who, in their boldest moments, never fail to "love a lord" with liberal adoration; and of philosophical inquirers, who, in their wildest heterodoxy, pause to count their beads to some theological Mrs. Grundy, who is supposed to be the bulwark of "our institutions."

It is scarcely yet understood in France that on certain subjects there is less liberty of speaking and of writing in London than in Paris. Almost any number of the *Revue* proves this. Reviews are peculiarly an English form of literature: some of our noblest classics are the collected fragments of essayists; how is it that we are beaten on our ground by our friendly and glorious rivals in civilisation? Let us seek an explanation which shall be neither too displeasing to the national vanity, nor too hopeless. Is it in the nature of the language? Certainly, for luminous precision, for transparent clearness, for delicacy, flexibility, and, as it were, gradation of tone, there is no vocabulary like the French, in many respects so poor and so thin. For richness, harmony, abundance, energy, we may be content with the tongue of SHAKSPEARE. Both are composite languages, both enriched by continual *naturalisations*, both illustrated and embellished by splendid monuments. No, it is not in the language so much as in the use of the language that we fail. It is not in the learning and the fulness of our writers, for in all the resources of intellectual culture we should be disposed to say that the *average* of English writers would be found superior to the *average* of French writers; it is then, we conclude, chiefly if not entirely, in these two requirements that our failing is detected: in real freedom of thought, in cultivation of style. As to the first, it is not that the freedom of thought is wanting to the writer: it is wanting to the readers; an atmosphere of bigotry and prejudice acts and reacts upon the one and upon the other, and in the absence of an official censorship which makes every reader an accomplice with the writer in a conspiracy of reticences and allusions, the result is, not as in France excessive refinement and ingenuity, but narrowness and vulgarity. As to cultivation of style, we think it can scarcely be disputed that the mass of our best public writing is so insufferably ponderous and incorrect, it is enough to break a conscientious reader's heart. Of course there are brilliant exceptions enough to prove the rule; but we think it may be affirmed that any ordinary French publicist with half the learning and the knowledge of his English contemporary, would at any moment produce a better article for intellectual consumption. He would be more readable, more lucid, more graceful. No doubt we may flatter ourselves with the patriotic assurance that our long habit of unlicensed printing has encouraged a certain unmeasured recklessness of writing: we can only regret that this unlimited freedom of the pen is not always accompanied by independence and depth of thought, nor redeemed from that vulgarity of form which is a positive injury to the literary sense of the nation by the strength and sincerity of the substance.

But we have been diverted unawares from the purpose of our Summary, and we have now only space enough to name the articles in the last three publications of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, to which we would invite special attention. First and foremost, we would mention an article on "Channing and Unitarianism in America," in the *Revue* of December 15. This paper excited some considerable notice in the intellectual circles of Paris, not so much for its determined strength as for its marvellous subtlety. The name of the writer, M. ERNEST RENAN, is not unfamiliar to the readers of the *Débats* as a critic, always searching and strong, often profound; he is known to the Academy as an Orientalist who may be literally said to have the primeval languages of the remotest East, and even their dialects and *patois*, at his fingers' ends; he is known to the Roman Church as a

Seminarian who traversed the vestibule of the priesthood, and drew back in disgust at the rehearsal of an imposture he failed in courage to perform; he is known to the world of thought and intelligence in Paris as a young man of extraordinary learning, of an intellect fully armed, always calm and self-possessed, of an audacity tempered by severe discipline and a perfect mastery of the instruments of spiritual warfare. A very dangerous antagonist to encounter is M. ERNEST RENAN. The Church may well detest and dread the Seminarian, who, in the strength of his best years has come over to the camp of free thought.

In this paper, taking as his text the admirable translation of Channing by M. EDOUARD LABOULAYE (of the Institute), M. ERNEST RENAN has produced by far the most comprehensive Essay on the great American Unitarian we have met with. But the pith of the article is in its incidental references to the state of religion in France and in England. Having thus briefly introduced this remarkable Essay, we shall be content to fulfil the humble office of an interpreter to M. RENAN on a future occasion. We may, however, glance at the one insuperable objection to the tendency of this article, which has been pointed out even by admirers: we mean, its inconclusiveness; unless we can accept that worst of all forms of negation, acquiescent indifference as a substitute for faith. M. RENAN, we believe, promises a conclusion. What seems inconclusiveness was the effect of fragmentary composition.

The second paper we desire to mention is one on *Gallicanism in the Church and in the State*, in the *Revue* of January 1, an Essay of marked significance at the present time, when Papal absolutism has triumphed at Rome. This admirable survey of the Gallican Church may be summarised in a single extract:—"Once more, Gallicanism reduces itself to two capital points: complete independence of the civil power, as the basis of the relations of Church and State: return to the liberties of the primitive Church as the basis of religious reforms."

In the same number there is an article on the Science of Life in its relations with chemistry, by M. LITTRE, which we recommend to the disciples of Positive Science: they will find all the amplitude and decision of the school of their choice. The latest number of the *Revue* contains an article by M. DE REMUSAT on "Reform and Socialism in England," for which Mr. GREY's Essays furnish a text, and the existing government in France a rich opportunity of contrasts, to the skilful and ingenious hand of the quasi-repentant *doctrinaire*. M. DE REMUSAT has been a careful and sympathetic student of English politics and institutions; he may be pardoned for judging them too often from a *library* point of view, too often from the dim sanctuary of his own political failures and regrets. M. DE VIELCASTEL, with the aid of Mr. FORSYTH, does justice at length to Sir HUDSON LOWE. He proves that no possible treatment could have made St. Helena endurable to such a captive as NAPOLEON; and that from the first it was a systematic policy of the caged Eagle and his followers to represent every act, however harmless or well-intentioned, of a governor whose only fault was an excessive conscientiousness unrelieved by more liberal and genial qualities of nature, in the most arduous and detestable light. In a word, the system pursued by NAPOLEON, or rather by his suite, was a perpetual *mise en scène* of martyrdom. As if the exile to that rock of a man who had held all Europe in his hand, were not enough to win back the sympathies of Europe! We can only find room at present to notice one more article in the last number of the *Revue*. The subject is the "Plurality of Worlds:" the heroes of the article are those eminent "theologians," as the writer, M. BBINET (of the Institute) rejoices to call them, Dr. WHEWELL and Sir DAVID BREWSTER.

This paper, in which logic and wit seem to vie for the mastery, while the science of the *savant* never disappears, is in the happiest vein of French pleasantry; it is a smiling and temperate castigation of that most lamentable of all buffooneries to which men of science can descend, and which is equally fatal to religion and philosophy; the attempt to foist a creed upon a scientific hypothesis, not to say a dream, and to establish the Catechism—through a telescope; the best of the joke being that the two "Theologians" find their faith confirmed, the one by looking through the big end, the other by looking through the little end of the telescope. As men of science, they arrive at diametrically opposite conclusions:—as theologians, they shake hands over the sublime result. The absurdity and mischief of these incongruous alliances of science and religion have yet to be fully exposed. It is not by "proving," with Dr. WHEWELL, that only our pin's point of a world is inhabited, or with Sir DAVID BREWSTER, that there are more habitable worlds than one, that science is made orthodox, or orthodoxy scientific.

Yesterday M. BERRYER was to be presented to the French Academy. In a few days the Parliamentary chief of the Legitimists, in his character of Academician, will be officially presented to LOUIS NAPOLEON as Chief of the State, by M. GUIZOT, the last Minister of LOUIS PHILIPPE.

Italy, the chosen land of sorrow, was said to have been endowed with the fatal gift of beauty. And the saying, true only in part, has been the apology of her oppressors. She has risen from a sleep of enervating dreams, and her fatal gift of beauty has been surpassed, in better expectations, by the more

fatal gifts of genius and patriotic devotion. Who shall count the flower of her youth struck down in the bloom of hope and aspiration? Who shall count the long train of exiles, heirs of the glory and the suffering of DANTE? Who shall count the victims of perfidious thrones, rotting in prisons beneath the sea? Mr. GLADSTONE has forgotten POERIO. "God's justice" is misplaced in the mouth of a Chancellor of the Exchequer. Let us not, the forlorn hope of freedom in Europe, while we ask the impatient to wait, forget to do honour to the martyrs of expectation. We have a sacred debt to pay to the dead. May the *Leader* never forget the obligation.

In the last week of last November the Marchesa LUCREZIA GUERRIERI GONZAGA of MANTUA died, in the twentieth year of her age. In the spring of the same sad year (a year of grief and bitterness to thousands) EMILIA MANIN was called away from the side of her noble father, whose exile had been consoled by the tender graces of her patient love. The Marchesa GUERRIERI was the sister of ANSELMO GUERRIERI, a member of the Provisional Government of Milan in 1848. Sorrow at the unhappy fate of her country and at the persecution of her two brothers, broke a young life devoted to that cause which inspired her genius. For what she felt she sang in words that will live in spite of Austrian censors. Shattered by emotions which were, indeed, a "fatal gift," she had long seemed to find death less difficult than life. The funeral of LUCREZIA GUERRIERI was attended by all the patriots of Mantua. The Austrian Governor saw the sacred flame still burning in that devoted city where TAZZOLI was hanged three years ago. The crime of TAZZOLI was the love of Italy, and the love of Italy brought the genius and the beauty of LUCREZIA GUERRIERI to an early grave. Let us say, in the words of a brother: "We knew her not, and beyond our common faith we had no right over her grave. But a ray of the democracy had flashed across her brow. That is enough. Henceforth she belonged to us by sympathy. There is mourning in Courts for their dead, let us also mourn for ours. Queens have at their funerals funeral orations: let us also compose funeral orations for the daughters of our faith. We shall then perceive by the beating of our hearts to whom God sends the better inspirations."

WILLIAM ETTY, R.A.

Bogue.

The Life of William Etty, R.A. By Alexander Gilchrist. We gladly accept this Biography, as a book which offers honest homage to the memory of a great Painter and a good man. Persuaded of the genuine intention with which the work has been undertaken, we will abstain altogether from entering on the subject of its literary execution. Our duty towards Mr. Gilchrist will have been easily, and, it is to be hoped, not grudgingly done, when we have congratulated him on the care and patience which he has displayed in collecting every available fact in connexion with his subject; and when we have expressed our thorough appreciation of the just and candid manner in which his admiration for Etty, as artist and man, shows itself, from the beginning of the biographical narrative to the end. Having said this, we have no more to add in relation to the book—except to recommend our readers to pass over its faults of manner and execution for the sake of its merits of matter and intention, with the same forbearance which, as readers ourselves, we have endeavoured to show in the present notice.—On the subject of Etty himself, we must beg permission to dwell at greater length, because we believe that subject to be worthy of all attention and honour in these columns. We will take Mr. Gilchrist as our guide in matters of biographical fact, and will only draw on our own recollections of the painter, in passages where his personal character comes specially and necessarily under review.

York was the city which, in the year 1787, had the honour of being the birthplace of the greatest colourist of modern times. Etty's father was a miller and a maker of gingerbread, famous in and out of York for its fine flavour and magnificent gilding. The painter was the seventh child of a family of ten, and his "first crayon" (as he himself wrote in after years) "was a farthing's-worth of white chalk." After receiving a school education of the slightest kind, he was apprenticed, at the age of eleven and a half, to a letterpress printer at Hull; and served his full time patiently and conscientiously. He records of himself—in an autobiography written for the *Art Journal*—that his resolution to be a painter was taken at an early period of his drudgery in the printer's office. While submitting with that modest and gentle heroism of character which distinguished him all through life, to duties that had been imposed on him by others, he contrived to fortify his resolution by following the natural instincts of his genius, at all those odds and ends of spare time which have proved the first sources of greatness in the instances of so many great men. On the expiration of his apprenticeship the necessity for his admirable self-denial ceased; and he spoke out on the subject of the great ambition of his life. It is pleasant to know that his aspirations, so nobly suppressed for so many hard years, were tenderly and fairly dealt with when he at last acknowledged them. An uncle, who was a goldlace merchant in London, opened his doors to his young kinsman, and earned the lasting honour of having been the first to start William Etty on his career as a Painter.

His earliest studies in Art were made at a plaster-cast shop in ghostly Cock-lane. Here he gained sufficient facility in drawing from the Antique to be admitted as a Probationer of the Royal Academy schools. His next step of importance was to enter the Studio of Sir Thomas Lawrence, and to submit his genius, still struggling ineffectually and obscurely to assert itself, to the teaching of the fashionable portrait-painter, who had been raised by *knock, by talent, by luck, by admirable personal qualities—by anything and everything excepting solid and genuine gifts as a painter*—to all the fame and more than the worldly success of Reynolds himself. Fortunately for his future career, Etty learnt but little from his master; but even that

little showed itself, in the faulty parts of his technical practice as a painter, to the latest day of his life. It is sad to know that he ever tried, even as a youth, to learn anything from the practice of Lawrence—but it is nothing less than amazing to hear—as we do hear from Mr. Gilchrist—that in the very last year of his life, the painter of "Judith" and the "Sirens" absolutely employed himself in making a "second copy" of one of Lawrence's pictures! Nothing we have ever known of Etty places his admirable modesty, his generous tendency to over-estimate the works of his brother-painters, and his affectionate remembrance of aid rendered or kindness shown to him, in a stronger and more characteristic light, to our perception, than this one little anecdote.

We must get on as quickly as may be to the few remaining events of the painter's life which it will be necessary to notice here. It is melancholy to know that the kind uncle died before the hard-working nephew had mounted even the first step towards that high place in Art which he was afterwards destined to occupy. Etty's faculties, like those of many other men of genius, ripened slowly. It was fortunate that his excellent uncle left him a legacy, which just helped him to bide his time. He failed and fell often before he gathered strength enough for the great leap. Even the Academy gold medal he tried for in vain. Year after year his pictures were rejected at the exhibitions of the Royal Academy and the British Institution. Still he never faltered, never despaired. Bravely, hopefully, patiently, he worked on, with a loving devotion of himself to his art, which no words can praise too highly. At last, the reward he had wrought for so long, came—came late, it is true, but came gloriously as well. Fame was his first thought; and fame he won, when, at the age of thirty-three, he exhibited at the Royal Academy his celebrated picture of the *Coral Fishers*. In 1820, the year of its production, this exquisite poem on canvas was bought of the painter for 30*l.* In 1849, it was sold in an auction-room for 370 guineas. The lapse of little more than a quarter of a century has wrought wholesome changes indeed in the public estimation of works of modern art!

After the production of the *Coral Fishers*, Etty rose to his true place as one of the great painters of the English school. Henceforward, the best history of his life is contained in his pictures. After gaining him fame, they gained him the academic honours which he prized as highly. Last of all, lingering long after Fame and Honours, came—what was to Etty—Wealth. He lived long enough to see, and, as he deserved, to profit by that change for the better, in the appreciation of modern art, which it is the glory of the merchant-class in England to have been mainly concerned in bringing about: he lived to win by his own brush 17,000*l.*, accumulated, at the end of his life, in the short period of eight years, after all his finest pictures of earlier days had been sold at prices which seem almost incredibly insufficient at the present time. Living to enjoy this deserved compensation, he also lived to taste a greater triumph still. Worn and broken down by illness, he was yet spared long enough to see the room in the house in the Society of Arts, where, in the year 1849, all his greatest works were gathered together for public exhibition. In this room, day after day, he lingered lovingly among the children of his fancy—himself, in his guileless happiness, his gentle gratitude for the smallest word of praise, spoken by the humblest visitors to the collection—hardly less interesting and less ennobling sight than the glorious works that hung around him. To the last, the old man lingered near his pictures. When they were dispersed, and each work had been safely returned to its owner, he retired to his native city, to his second home, never again to leave it. In little more than six weeks after his last return to York, he died of a lung disorder, at the age of sixty-three. No truer man ever lived: no kinder, purer, braver heart than his ever beat. His brother-academicians, his friends among famous men in literature—students, models, servants—the high in this world's estimation and the low, all grieved over the loss of the gentle, simple-hearted painter. It was his happy privilege to win affection and regard wherever he went. Among his inferiors in art he was always modestly ready to help: among his equals, always honestly ready to praise. If ever it could be said of a man that he had no such thing as a real enemy in the world, those words might well be spoken of William Etty.

On his genius as a painter, it is not now necessary for us to dwell at any length. He had met with the warm recognition which was his due, from all whose opinions were worth having, long before he died. If in the minds of any intelligent persons, of any class, doubts had ever arisen, of late years, as to the validity of his claims to fill a foremost place in the ranks of the English School, those doubts were assuredly set at rest when his pictures were formed into one magnificent collection by the Society of Arts. The so-called "moral" objections to some of his works, we propose to leave entirely unnoticed in these columns. We believe that the nasty-minded people who infest the world may be divided into two classes:—First, the frankly nasty, whose admiration of the "nude" in pictures is an openly lascivious admiration; secondly, the hypocritically nasty (or worst class of the two), whose horror of this same "nude" is a secretly-lascivious horror. Any attempt at reasoning with either of these two classes we consider to be utterly useless. If no sensible person ever took any notice of them or their objections, we are firmly persuaded that they would be more damaged as a party than by all the moral and logical confutations in the world. A second objection urged against some of Etty's pictures—the smaller almost exclusively—we are willing to treat with greater deference, for it is not altogether unfounded. It seems, indeed, undeniable that this great master of his art suffered his own healthy and pure admiration of the human form to lead him, on too many occasions, into condescending to a species of painter's-work which was unworthy of his powers. His mere studies from the living model, in which the picture was done first, and the subject found out afterwards, are unrivalled specimens of flesh-painting, and nothing more. In the case of a second-rate man, this would be much to say; in the case of the painter of the "Sirens," it is simply a fault; the only important fault that can fairly be charged against him on a general view of his works. Still, when every due allowance has been made for this defect, the great achievements of Etty remain to speak for him indisputably before all contemporary rivals in his own line. Among his historical pictures on a large scale, works like the "Judith"—especially the noble first compartment in which the

maid is waiting outside the tent,—and the grand and fearfully-beautiful “Sirens,” present such a combination of majestic truth and poetry of sentiment, of superbly vigorous composition, and of gorgeous perfection of colour, as distance, in our opinion, all competition on his own ground by any men of his own age. His smaller works are, in the same manner, as pieces of exquisitely-peculiar fancy, entirely unique in their kind. “The Cupid Sheltering his Darling,” and the lovely “Diana and Endymion,” among many others, have a luxuriant grace, a quiet, melting tenderness, especially Etty’s own. If we want to see him really and formidably rivalled at his best, we must go to Venice, and judge him by Tintoret and Titian. Even then, he holds his ground so firmly, that none of his admirers need fear the effect on their own minds of making the comparison. Some years have passed since Etty’s death; young men have risen, and are rising, with a wider and better choice of subjects than his was, to do probably as good service to English Art, in their way, as he once did in his; but the place that he left vacant, when the brush dropped for ever from his hand, no man since has filled. Exhibit his pictures, at this day, with any others—English, French or German, which you please—and they will still stand out characteristically alone—the works of a great original genius on that account, if on no other.

THE GOVERNESS AND THE TRADESWOMAN.

Maternal Counsels to a Daughter. By Mrs. Pullan. Darton and Co. The thing most worthy of note in this little book is its strong common sense—the result of natural shrewdness and varied experience combined. The usual advice to young ladies, à la Chapone, is followed by further advice in the style of Benjamin Franklin. And this last we recommend especially to our readers, for its novelty as well as for its practical utility. After speaking with force and truth about the absurdity of all young women who are compelled to earn their livelihood turning governesses, when not one in ten has any inclination for the employment, and not one in a hundred the proper qualifications, Mrs. Pullan proceeds to show in what other ways the unintellectual and the untaught may maintain themselves, and yet make themselves respected in the world:—

It is a great pity that the science of book-keeping is not made a more prominent study with the young ladies of the present day. Very many would be earning liberal salaries who can now barely find bread. Why should not an Englishwoman be as accomplished a book-keeper as her French sister? How seldom in Paris do we see men acting as cashiers or book-keepers in any large business. There, women are allowed to be far more efficient, more safe, and more trustworthy. Hundreds of Parisian women earn liberal salaries as accountants. Why should we not do the same? Men are required for other labours. Every day they are called on to fulfil more important duties to the state and to themselves. Why should not women fit themselves for such occupations as are not incompatible with their sex and their abilities? It seems to me a libel on both sexes when men are handling ribbons and gauzes, earning women’s wages, and doing women’s work, while women cannot find employment at all.

It is a state of things that must terminate if it is not to result in misery to thousands. At this moment, when tens of thousands of our strongest are engaged in war, when like numbers are departing for the colonies, when labour of every sort is becoming too much for the number of hands to perform it, it is incumbent on every young girl who does not possess a fortune to find some channel for the exercise of the faculties with which she is endowed; and, whether in her own family or in that of a stranger, to have some fixed pursuit in life which shall render that life itself a blessing to her and to all with whom she is connected.

And let no Englishwoman, in selecting her occupation, forget that the pride and boast of her country is its commerce. That all the greatest institutions of our land, its schools, its hospitals, its libraries, its wealth at home, and the civilisation it has diffused abroad, it owes to its merchants and its trade. In remembering all this, she will cease to think it a degradation to be termed a tradeswoman.

If Mrs. Pullan could succeed in making her own sex appreciate her wisdom, we should soon see the advertising columns of the *Times* shorn of their governesses, and the unmarried women far happier than they are.

• LITERARY FABLES.

Literary Fables, from the Spanish of Yriarte. By Robert Rockliff. Longman and Co. A second edition of Yriarte’s “Fabulas Literarias” in a fitting English dress is proof sufficient that they are as popular as they ought to be in this country. We use the word *ought* advisedly, for they cannot, from their nature, be universally popular like those of Aesop and La Fontaine, seeing that the public which they address is restricted to the republic of letters. Within that republic “every gentleman’s library” should contain a copy, in Yriarte’s sonorous, brilliant Spanish, if the owner be fortunate enough to understand it; if not, he should certainly possess himself of Mr. Rockliff’s version. We confess honestly that “our havings in Spanish are but a younger brother’s portion”—not more, perhaps, than Shakespeare’s “havings” in Greek; therefore we cannot say positively that the English translation is as good as Yriarte’s Spanish, but we can say truthfully that the fables are very good fables, and that the English is very good English. For the variety, ingenuity, and finish of the versification, the translator deserves great praise. It often reminds us of our own Hood, and of all the world’s La Fontaine.

The fables themselves are, as many of our readers know, sharp satires upon the faults of authors and critics. Indeed, the whole duty of critics may be gathered from this little volume, and all professors of the unkindly craft would do well to heed its lessons. Our author was well aware that his countrymen are not the only writers who might profit by his teaching. The moral of his introductory fable runs thus:—

My fables, in their application,
Refer to every age and nation;
For authors, just as dull and vain

As any who abound in Spain,
Have perpetrated prose and rhyme
In every land in every time.
But, though I solemnly disclaim
All personality of aim,
If any scribbler, conscience-smitten,
Should wince at aught that I have written—
Should find, in short, the cap to fit,
The fool is welcome unto it.

There are sixty-seven of these fables—a few of them we remember to have seen in *Blackwood*. None of them are without the distinctive mark of the author’s genius, and most of them are very witty. The following is an average specimen:—

THE OSTRICH, THE DROMEDARY, AND THE FOX.

Although they never meet like men
To play at hazard or écarté,
The beasts assemble now and then,
And hold in some sequester’d glen
A conversazione party.

And thus it chanced one evening, that
A troop of them had got together,
When, after some prelusive chat—
Some twaddle, just as stale and flat—
As Englishmen’s about the weather—

They straight proceeded to descant
And comment on the different merits
Which every creature—from the ant
Unto the mighty elephant—
According to its kind, inherits.

“Of all the animals that live,”
The Ostrich cried, “and with all deference
For others’ sentiments, I give,
Without a single ‘but’ or ‘if,’
The Dromedary much the preference.”

The Dromedary, thus preferr’d,
Repaid in kind the obligation,
And said in language as absurd:
“In aught that may become a bird,
The Ostrich ‘whips’ the whole creation.”

The rest, who heard them with surprise
And laughter which they scarce could smother,
Were sorely puzzled to surmise
What motive such a pair of “Guys”
Could have for praising one another.—

Was it, perchance, because the twain
Had scraggy necks and burly bodies,
And heads too little to contain
A greater quantity of brain
Than might be lodged within a noddly’s?

Or might it be that both possess’d
Peculiar organs of digestion?
Or was it—but in vain they guess’d,
And tried to solve what seem’d, at best,
A difficult and doubtful question.

Till just as they began to pause,
Bewilder’d in their speculation,
The Fox exclaim’d: “I think the cause
Of this reciprocal applause
Admits of easy explanation.

“The creatures are compatriots, born
And bred in Araby the Stony;
And hence, despite the general scorn,
With fancied charms they each adorn
And overrate their brother crony.”

The Fox conjectured not amiss;
And, in the commonwealth of letters,
A wretched author often is,
From motives as absurd as this,
Preferr’d and praised above his betters.

Yriarte’s fame as an author (and he has written many things besides these *Fables*) has not gone far beyond his own country. He is not nearly so well known in Europe as Johnson, Burke, and Goldsmith, whose contemporary he was, and with whom, as a thinker and original writer, he deserves to be classed; although he may not be placed side by side with Goldsmith and Burke, as a master of style. The English and the Spaniards have so many mental characteristics in common, that it is somewhat surprising the lofty Castilian tongue should not be more generally cultivated among us than it is. The gravity and the humour of Spanish authors would be heartily relished by many people here, who, in their inmost brains, do not really care very much for the very different gravity and very different humour of the German authors. Cervantes is really more akin to us than Jean Paul. Fashion, the only autocrat to whom the free-born Briton bends his stiff-necked mind and body, will probably set all the young ladies and gentlemen of the rising generation to learn Russian—or, “how will they be able to speak with their enemy in the gate” of Sebastopol or St. Petersburg? We hope she will remember how the past generation spoke with their enemy in the last war, and will caution their grandchildren against

“The school of Stratford atte Bow.”

We have one other hope concerning the power of Fashion in such matters, viz., that it should constrain every educated man to be familiar with Spanish—that strong bastard Latin.

FOUR NOVELS.

Herbert Lake. 3 vols.*Women as they Are.* 2 vols.*Oakleigh Mascott.* By L. Howe.*The Young Husband.* By Mrs. Grey.

We place *Herbert Lake* at the head of our present list because, on the whole, we consider it to be the best of the four. Nevertheless it is a provoking novel. It wants so little to improve it so greatly, and, wanting that little, wants so much. What that little is it would be difficult to describe. There is a certain flabbiness of tone pervading the book; a perpetual shortcoming which is always leaving a passage, that should have been excellent, merely fair. Perhaps this want is simply masculinity: a woman's eye for details, and her too nice regard for them, checks the broad flow of dialogue and story. The elements of the tale are by no means new. They are these: Hero, lowly-born genius—high-born family in the neighbourhood—friendly footing with high-born family—proud, stony-hearted father of high-born family—lovely daughter—hero-genius in love with lovely daughter—love secretly returned—stony-hearted parent in the way—ricketty son in love with lowly-born beauty—marriage—proud father remorseless—despair of ricketty son and lowly-born genius—an interval of a volume and three quarters—grand catastrophe—pride quelled and love free—proud parent relents—marriage of hero and heroine—pardon of ricketty son—affecting tableau of united and happy family—edifying end of ricketty son, who, as Mrs. Gamp would say, makes "a sweet corpse." All these characters and situations are nearly as old as chess-men; but as chess-men are susceptible of ever new combinations, so the author has given a new treatment to ancient friends. The first volume drags, and is dull; the second and third are stirring and interesting, full of vigorous painting of character, and vivid dialogue.

Women as they Are would more properly be entitled: "Women, as it is a blessing to fathers, brothers, and husbands they are not." Every woman, except one, is an exceptional character. The heroine, who tells the story, is morbidly nervous in body and intellect. Of plain, sensible words, for which there is so constant a demand, she has no supply; on the other hand, she has an exhaustless supply of tears and aspirations after everything that isn't as it is, for which there is no demand. The author in the preface denies being a copyist of Currer Bell. Intentionally so, of course she is not; her book is not the less a diluted *Jane Eyre*. Story there is positively none. For two volumes the writer proceeds minutely, inch by inch, laying out her ground and developing her characters with a certain ominous, mysterious hint of a catastrophe; and that catastrophe is neither more nor less than the word *Finis*. Despite all this, there is a strange, weird, although disappointing, attraction; and if the author could only get a good tale to tell, we are half disposed to believe there are few would tell it better.

The writer of *Oakleigh Mascott* apparently possesses a fairly-cultivated mind and good animal spirits, the latter finding their outlet here in pages of vivacious rattle. The story is old (is a new plot possible?), but is easily made readable with the aid of judicious skipping. The fault is that it is too long for the materials. Had it been half as long, it had been three times as successful. Sir Charles Oakleigh is a north-country baronet, and his family consists of a son, two daughters, and a foundling, commonly called Ella. The young lady came into his family by her nurse dying in a snow-storm close by his residence. They know nothing of her save that her nurse was French, and called her Gabrielle when dying; and they have a medallion which (like the spot your long lost brother always has somewhere about him) will inevitably identify her. Sir Charles adopted her, and she is heroine, possessed of an amount of beauty and virtues in direct defiance of the science of averages. The Honourable Mr. Mountjoy is hero—visits his uncle Sir Charles—falls in love with Ella, as also does, apparently, one Lord Grantham, a regular tragedy villain, with eyes like railway signals. Mountjoy is refused because Ella considers her unknown descent a barrier. Grantham is refused because she really loves Mountjoy. A lull. Presto! Ella is Viscountess Grantham in her own right—Grantham is a rascal—suppresses the proofs of Ella's identity to enjoy her money and title—is found out—and becomes plain Mister, like the rest of us. It is now Mountjoy's turn to be high-mindedly proud: he won't propose again to Ella, the Viscountess. This is the *pons asinorum* of the tale; and short work should have been made of it. That they will marry of course everybody knows, the only question is, does Ella propose to Mountjoy, or *vice versa*? Now, instead of finishing his hero and his story at a

Hurst & Blackett.
Bentley.
Hurst & Blackett.
Hurst & Blackett.

blow, our author takes both off to India, and indulges in a digression of nearly a volume about hog-sticking and other recreations, very well in their way, but quite out of place here, and finally brings the hero back to England, and marries everybody to everybody in a few rapid pages.

Of the *Young Husband*, we are sorry only to be able to speak in dispraise. It is badly put together, worse written, and of the queerest morality. The *Young Husband* is in love with an English opera singer; is virtually engaged to her. An old idiot dies and leaves the heroine all his property, and a round sum to the hero, provided he marries her. The hero does marry her, she adoring him, he hating her. The opera singer, broken-hearted, submits to her mother's influence, and marries Lord Duncan, hating him also. *Young Husband* runs away with ex-opera singer, Lady Duncan—young wife divorces *Young Husband*. Lady Duncan is drowned, after undergoing poignant remorse—*Young Husband* goes to Torquay, and perishes in full health and in the prime of life, also suffering frightful remorse; and so ends this delightful story. Now, what are these two foolish fellow-mortals stung by remorse for? For having married people they hated—surely a sin of some magnitude? Not at all; but simply for having violated some mysterious *je ne sais quoi*, which the authoress fancies there lies in an orthodox marriage, and which is, with her, all in all—in fact, which is marriage. Again, the heroine very properly (and very fortunately being rich enough) divorces her husband; surely, the best thing she could do. But the novelist actually makes her suffer poignant remorse, for having set aside the *je ne sais quoi*, although her husband was living in open infidelity. The style is pure slip-slop: "sweet creature," "dear baby," "foreign clime," and similar staring novelties, run through the book. The authoress is cruel to the last degree—creating only to kill. Men, women, and children, are called into life and killed off with no necessity as regards the story, and with reckless disregard to the feelings of a susceptible public. We close the last volume with pleasure; this is the most favourable word we have to say of the book.

The Arts.

OLYMPIC.—TIT FOR TAT.

"Tat," it appears, means making your particular friend jealous, in a general manner. "Tit" means a ferocious retaliation. Such may be called the argument or explanation of *Les Maris me font toujours rire* of M.M. Delacour and Jaime fils, and which, under the name of *Tit for Tat*, has been Anglicised, without being vulgarised, by Mr. Frank, possibly Francis, Talfourd. For plot, there are two plots very similar in conception, and almost identical in execution. Mr. and Mrs. Sowerby live with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Frankland; there is also a niece "Rose," and a "Frederick Thornby," to whom they let bachelor apartments. "Mrs. Sowerby" is the victim of attentions—the recipient of elegant bouquets, and the rejectress of indifferent verses. "Sowerby" (Mr. Robson) observes that "Thornby" (Mr. Wigan) always calls about the time when he is going to his daily labour, and from that circumstance and the bouquets he draws an agonising conclusion. "Thornby" sees all, and enjoys all. The game goes on, and "Frankland" is also jealous, but suddenly all clears up, the act drop falls, everything has been a mistake, and "Thornby" marries "Rose." So far the piece is complete in itself. In the second act everything is soon reversed. "Sowerby," whose fears are fled, is bent upon taking a terrible revenge. For this purpose he plays precisely the same game, with the same machinery, and the same results. Nevertheless, a harmonious whole is produced. There are fifty positions and elucidations impossible to describe—but a word for the performers. Miss Maskell, Miss Turner, and Miss Bromley, as the three wives, are great in art, for all are malicious—they are yet true to their natures, for all are playful and pleasant. Mr. Wigan plays a young man, of good looks and manners, deprecating marriage, yet not minding the taunts when he becomes a Benedick. More admirable acting it would be difficult to find. Mr. Robson is a plain man of business who makes himself mad through unwarrantable jealousy. He has fifty "nervousnesses" and a "good-natured friend" who constantly reminds him of them. Mr. Robson's despair is becoming chronic—his effects are falling into a "damnable iteration," his manner is a perpetual twitch; but he is always conscientious, always in earnest, and he never loses hold of the audience or of his personation. In this part, he has no good speech, no capital point; he makes his point through feeling and looking the infliction. The boxes and dress circle were generally in favour of the gentleman who had, for the time being, the lover's position. The pit and gallery were generally with Mr. Robson, possibly because the populace will not sympathise with the fortunes or misfortunes of a British dandy. Yet, somehow, the entire house was always with Mr. Robson—or, was it always with Mr. Wigan?

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 23.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN STEVENS, Fetter-lane Cheese-monger—EDWARD MURUSS, Maidstone, licensed victualler—WILLIAM PEARCE, Clerkenwell-green, gas-fitter—HENRY BINNELL HARRIS, Shrewsbury, draper—HENRY SPENCER, Ross, Herefordshire, linendrapor—JAMES LUCAS, Stroud, Gloucestershire, cheese-factor—JOHN WARD, Penistone, Yorkshire, surgeon—JOHN COXON, Macclesfield, butcher—THOMAS ESCALASTICO PEARSON, Seaton Carew and West Hartlepool, merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. KELT, Glasgow, clothier—J. FAULDS and Co., Beith, merchants—J. MC'AUL, Stranraer, bootmaker.

Friday, January 26.

BANKRUPTS.—NEHEMIAH WILLIAM PARSON, Southwark, millwright and engineer—GEORGE HALL, Brighton, upholsterer—ARCHIBALD NEVISON, Darlington, hosier—WILLIAM LUDLOW PALIN, Putney, licensed victualler—SAMUEL GLOVER FAIRBROTHER, Bow-street, printer—JOHN RICHARD WEST, Sun Saw Mills, Canal-road, Kingsland, Middlesex, dealer in hard wood—DAVID ENOCH DAVIES, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, grocer—GEORGE SMITH, Southwark, hat and cap manufacturer—GEORGE WARD, Bristol, victualler—HENRY PHILLIPS, Bath-grove-road, Middlesex, corn chandler and corn dealer—RICHARD BEAR, Blackman-street, Southwark, watch and clock maker—JOSEPH BRADFORD, Coventry, licensed victualler—WILLIAM GANDY and GEORGE GANDY, York, merchants—JOHN WATSON, Montgomery, innkeeper—

RICHARD COLLARD, Devonport, coach proprietor—JOHN WILLIAM SHAW, Liverpool, passenger broker—SAMUEL GARRATT and HENRY BUCKLEY, Sand Hill, near Mottram, in Longendale, Chester, innkeepers.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CORBETT.—Jan. 10, at Paris, the wife of Edwin Corbett, First Attaché to H.B.M. Legation at Madrid: a daughter. **GARNETT.**—Jan. 22, at Quernmore-park, Lancaster, the wife of W. J. Garnett, Esq.: a son. **PELHAM.**—Jan. 23, at Hampstead, the Hon. Mrs. John Pelham: a son.

PETRE.—Jan. 23, at Thorndon, the Lady Petre: a daughter. **WINN.**—Jan. 10, in Upper Seymour-street, Portman-square, the Hon. Mrs. Rowland Winn: a son.

MARRIAGES.

BINNEY—BLISS.—Jan. 4, at the Cathedral, Halifax, Nova Scotia, by the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon Willis, the Right Rev. Hibbert Binney, D.D., Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, to Mary, daughter of the Hon. William Blowers Bliss, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

CHASE—NORTHCOTE.—Jan. 18, at South Brent, Somerset, the Rev. Temple Hamilton Chase, Michel Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, incumbent of Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, to Elizabeth eldest daughter of George Barons Northcote, Esq., of Somerset Court.

COOKSON—AINSLIE.—Jan. 23, at St. Mary's-the-Less, Cambridge, the Rev. Henry W. Cookson, D.D., Master of St. Peter's College, to Emily Valence, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr. Ainslie, of Hall Garth, Lancaster, Master of Pembroke College.

DEATHS.

BASSET.—Jan. 22, at Tehidy-park, Cornwall, Frances, Baroness Bassett, aged seventy-four.

ROYD.—Jan. 19, at Boulogne, after a short illness, Sir John Boyd, Bart., aged sixty-eight.

HILL.—Jan. 20, at Walmer Lodge, Deal, Rear-Admiral Sir John Hill, Knight, aged eighty-one.

HORTON.—Jan. 21, at Calton, Derbyshire, Commandor Frederick Wilmot Horton, R.N., aged thirty-five.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, January 26, 1855.

The Funds have drooped very considerably since last week. The continued gloomy accounts from the Crimea, and the tone adopted by the leading journals, must have convinced even the most determined *Bull* that matters at Vienna and in our Cabinets at home were not all *couleur de rose*. Yesterday's third editions of the morning papers, announcing the resignation of Lord John Russell, caused but a slight sensation. It was only a matter of speculation who was to go; and a general regret prevailed that the retiring Minister or Ministers had not been rather Lord Aberdeen and his accomplices.

Turkish Bonds during the week have ruled about 76*1/2*, i.e. about 4*1/2* discount. There has been much activity in Spanish securities of all sorts, consequent upon heavy rates in Holland; and the market here in those securities is flat.

In the railway market, prices have been generally maintained. South Westerns declare to divide at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum; Crystal Palace Directors have issued their report, and, with the faint hope of a small dividend, the shares have improved 5*1/2* a share. Another stormy meeting of the General Screw Company to receive the report of the Committee that had been appointed to examine the accounts, has taken place without any satisfactory results. The Australasian Pacific Steam, being about to dissolve, return 10*1/2* per share, and will, if practicable, return another 10*1/2* per share hereafter. Amongst the Mining Companies, Waller Gold receives satisfactory reports and small remittances from their agents. Peninsula are in a forward state. North British Australasian Land and Loan have very bright reports from their Copper mine in the Kau-wau Island, New Zealand.

Four o'clock.—Consols, for account, 91*1/2*, 91*1/2*; French Loan, 3*1/2*, 4 pm.; Turkish Six per Cent., 76*1/2*, 76*1/2*; Russian Fives, 102.

An absurd list of a new Ministry has been in circulation this afternoon, including the old Whig party and the best of the last Conservative Cabinet.

Caledonians, 61*1/2*, 62; Eastern Counties, 10*1/2*, 11*1/2*; Great Western, 66*1/2*, 67; Great Northern, 89*1/2*, 90*1/2*; Ditto (A Stock), 72, 74; Ditto (B Stock), 125, 127; South-Westerns, 84, 85; Brightons, 106, 107; South-Easterns, 58*1/2*, 58*1/2*; North Eastern, 75, 76; Yorks, 53, 54; Birmingham, 100*1/2*, 101; Oxford, 31, 32; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6*1/2*, 6*1/2*; Eastern of France, 32*1/2*, 33*1/2*; East Indian, 1, 1*1/2*; Ditto Extension, 4, 4*1/2*; Paris and Lyons, 21*1/2*, 21*1/2* pm.; Paris and Orleans, 46, 48; Paris and Rouen, 22, 23; Western of France, 7, 8; Northern of France, 33*1/2*, 34*1/2*; Aqua Frans, 1*1/2*, 1*1/2*; Brazil Imperial, 2, 2*1/2*; Coraes, 1, 1*1/2*; St. John Del Rey, 29, 31; Lineras, 7, 8; United Mexican, 2*1/2*, 3*1/2*; Waller Gold, 8*1/2*; Peninsulas, 1*1/2*, 1*1/2*; South Australian, 1, 1*1/2*; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 21*1/2*, 22*1/2*; Union Bank of Australia, 67, 69; Australian Agricultural, 33*1/2*, 34*1/2*; Crystal Palace, 3, 3*1/2*; North British Australasian Land and Loan, 4*1/2*, 5*1/2*; South Australian Land, 34*1/2*, 35*1/2*.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

THERE has been a fair supply of Foreign Wheat and Oats since Monday, but the attendance of buyers was not large. Wheat is held firmly, and the little business which has been done fully maintains Monday's rates.

For Oats and Barley there is a fair demand without alteration in value.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	21 <i>1/2</i>	211/2	211/2	211/2	211/2	211/2
3 per Cent. Red. 91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>
3 per Cent. Con. An. 91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	90 <i>1/2</i>	90 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>
Consols for Account 91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>	91 <i>1/2</i>
3 <i>1/2</i> per Cent. An. ....	....	....	....	....	....	....
New 2 <i>1/2</i> per Cents... ....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Long Ans. 1860....	....	4 <i>5/16</i>	4 <i>5/16</i>	....	....	4 <i>5/16</i>
India Stock.....	22 <i>3/4</i>	....	22 <i>3/4</i>	....	....	....
Ditto Bonds, £1000 1 <i>1/2</i>	1 <i>1/2</i>	....	1 <i>1/2</i>	....	....	1 <i>1/2</i>
Ditto, under £1000 1 <i>1/2</i>	1 <i>1/2</i>	....	1 <i>1/2</i>	....	....	1 <i>1/2</i>
Ex. Bills, £1000.... 4	4	7	7	7	7	7
Ditto, £500....	4	7	7	7	7	7
Ditto, Small.....	4	7	7	7	7	7

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	100	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents., 18 <i>2/2</i>.....	...
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. ....	...	Russian 4 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.....	90
Chilian 6 per Cents. ....	...	Spanish 3 <i>1/2</i> Ct. New Def. 17 <i>1/2</i>	...
Danish 5 per Cents. ....	...	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun.	4 <i>1/2</i>
Ecuador Bonds.....	4	Venezuela 3 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.	4 <i>1/2</i>
Mexican 3 per Cents.	21	Belgian 4 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.	9 <i>1/2</i>
Acc. Jan. 31..... 21 <i>1/2</i>	21 <i>1/2</i>	Dutch 2 <i>1/2</i> per Cents.....	6 <i>1/2</i>
Portuguese 4 per Cents. 42 <i>1/2</i>	42 <i>1/2</i>	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 9 <i>1/2</i>	9 <i>1/2</i>

FITCH AND SON'S BREAKFAST BACON.

Now for 15 Years before the Public, and still retaining its deserved pre-eminence, is CURED and SMOKE~~D~~ at CALNE, in WILTSHIRE, a district abounding in dairy farms, and offering peculiar facilities for the breed and fattening of Hogs.

It is SUPERIOR to all OTHER KINDS for its AGREABLY STIMULATING FLAVOUR, and its freedom from altness; while it is a most excellent stomachic, and adapted for the most delicate constitution.

The price, also, is not higher than that of Bacon ordinarily sold.

WILTSHIRE CHAPS, cured at Calne.

OX TONGUES, cured upon the Premises.

YORK, SOMERSET, and BRUNSWICK HAMS.

STRASBURG BACON.

CHEDDAR CHEESE, of extraordinary richness and fine flavour.

STILTON CHEESE, of the choicest dairies, rich and full of blue mould, are all worthy of notice for their surpassing quality and moderate price.

A remittance is requested from correspondents unknown to the Firm.

Deliveries free to all the London Railway Termini Daily.

FITCH AND SON'S
ECONOMICAL PROVISIONS.

	Per lb.
Fine Rich Cheshire, by single Cheese...	8 <i>1/2</i>
Good Sound ditto ditto	0 <i>7</i>
Ditto Serviceable ditto ditto	0 <i>6</i>
Rich American ditto ditto	0 <i>6</i>
Best Salt Butter, by half flkin...	1 <i>0</i>
Very good ditto ditto	0 <i>11</i>
Fine Small Hams ...	0 <i>8</i>

A Price List of the parts of a Side of their CELEBRATED BACON free upon application.

FITCH AND SON,
PROVISION MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS,
66, BISHOPSGATE-WITHIN.

M. JULLIEN'S CONCERTS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

POSITIVELY THE LAST FIVE NIGHTS.

LES CHANTEURS MONTAGNARDS.

M. JULLIEN has the honour to announce that his Concerts will most positively terminate on Wednesday next, January 31st. The Programmes for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (varied on each evening), will include two Performances by the Chanteur Montagnards, from the Pyrenees (their first appearance); Madame Pleyel's Grand Performances; Madame Thillon's Popular Songs; a New Concert Overture, by Fetis; the Pantomime Quadrille; the Sleigh Polka; the Grand Allied Armies Quadrille; with the Guards Bands, &c. &c.

On Thursday, February 1, there will be no performance, in consequence of the preparations for the Bal Masqué.

On Friday next, February 2, the Grand Bal Masqué will take place.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

M. JULLIEN has the honour to announce that a grand BAL MASQUE

will take place on Friday, February 2, 1855, on a scale of unprecedented splendour.

The orchestra will be considerably enlarged, and consist of One Hundred and Twenty Musicians.

During the evening the most successful Quadrilles, Valses, and Polkas of the present season will be performed; also (for the first time) a new Galop, entitled "Vive l'Empereur," composed by M. JULLIEN expressly for this occasion. Principal Corinet-a-Piston ... HERR KÖNIG. Conductor ... M. JULLIEN.

Tickets for the Ball ... 10*6d.*

The Audience portion of the Theatre will be set apart for Spectators.

The Prices of Admission for Spectators will be as follows:—

Dress Circles 5*s.*
Amphitheatre Stalls 3*s.*
Amphitheatre 2*s.*

Private Boxes, for four, six, or eight Persons, 3*7s. 6d.*, 4*1s. 4d.*, and upwards.

Persons taking Private Boxes will have the privilege of passing to and from the Ball-room without extra charge.

Places in the Dress Circle and Amphitheatre Stalls, as well as Private Boxes, may be secured beforehand, on application at the Box-office of the Theatre; also Private Boxes at the principal Librarians and Musicsellers.

The Doors will be opened at Half-past Nine, and Dancing commence at Ten.

The Refreshments under the Superintendence of Mr. George Payne.

Mr. I. Nathan, jun., of 18, Castle-street, Leicester-square, is appointed Costumier to the Ball.

Persons in the costume of Clowns, Harlequins, or Pantaloons will not be admitted.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. WIGAN.

Monday and during the week, will be produced a New Comedietta, called TIT FOR TAT.

Principal Characters by Mr. Alfred Wigan, Mr. F. Robson, Mr. Emery, Miss Maskell, Miss E. Turner, and Miss Bromley.

After which, the New and Original Fairy Extravaganza, by J. R. Planché, Esq., called

THE YELLOW DWARF AND THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

To conclude with

A WIFE'S JOURNAL.
Mr. Brown Mr. Emery.
Mr. Harcourt Mr. Leslie.
Mrs. Brown Miss Maskell.

ADNAM'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS AND BARLEY.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

The important object so desirable to be obtained, has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTEES, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their Improved Process in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

To enumerate the many advantages derived by the Public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obviated, and very superior Gruel speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of consumptive constitutions, Ladies, and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon or Supper.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a delicious and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged; and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguishing character for making very superior Barley Water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each Package bears the Signature of the Patentees, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6*s.* and 1*s.* each, and in Canisters for Families at 2*s.*, 5*s.*, and 10*s.* each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

THE MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

DISH COVERS and HOT-WATER DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherché patterns. Tin Dish Covers, the set of six; Block Tin, 12s. 3d. to 28s. 9d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 58s. 6d. the set; Britannia Metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 78s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 10s. to 16s. 10s. the set; to Block Tin Hot-water Dishes with wells for gravy, 12s. to 36s.; Britannia Metal, 22s. to 77s.; Electro-plated on Nickel, full size, 11s. 11s.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.—The Real NICKEL SILVER, introduced 20 years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when PLATED by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed, as such, either usefully or ornamenteally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread of Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s.	26s.	32s.
Dessert Forks	"	40s.	46s.
Dessert Spoons	"	30s.	42s.
Table Forks	"	40s.	56s.
Table Spoons	"	40s.	68s.
Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.			60s.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.—Fiddle. Thread. King's.

Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.

HOT AIR, Gas, Vesta, Joyce's, STOVES.—**H**OT STOVES for the economical and safe heating of halls, shops, warehouses, passages, basements, and the like, being at this season demanded, WILLIAM S. BURTON invites the attention to his unrivalled assortment, adapted (one or the other) to every conceivable requirement, at prices from 10s. each to 30 guineas. His variety of registrar and other stoves is the largest in existence.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japan wares, bedding and iron and brass bedsteads), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39 OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

CHUBB'S LOCKS, with all the recent improvements. Strong Fire-proof Safes, Cash and Deed Boxes. Complete lists of sizes and prices may be had on application.

CHUBB and SON, 57, St. Paul's-Churchyard, London; 28, Lord-street, Liverpool; 16, Market-street, Manchester; and Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton.

THE LOCK CONTROVERSY SETTLED!

MESSRS. HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co. are now manufacturing their celebrated AMERICAN and ENGLISH PATENT LOCKS by their PATENT STEAM MACHINERY on the Premises, 97, CHEAPSIDE, and 33, LAWRENCE-LANE.

Messrs. H. and Co. by the introduction of their Steam Machinery, are enabled to guarantee GREATER SECURITY, and SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP, at prices more moderate than any Locks produced, either in Town or Country. In addition to which, they are applicable to all purposes for which Locks are used.

EVERY LOCK being made and finished at the MANUFACTORY bears THEIR OWN STAMP, and is WARRANTED, without which none are genuine. These Locks can be procured by order through any respectable Ironmonger in the United Kingdom.

WHOLESALE and RETAIL WAREHOUSE, 97, CHEAPSIDE. Manufactory, 33, Lawrence-lane, London.

P. S. Depot for Milner's Patent FIRE and BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES fitted with Hobbs' Patent Locks.

CABINET FURNITURE, CARPETS, CURTAINS, AND PURIFIED BEDDING. The general reduction in price of the above-named articles have induced MESSRS. HOWITT and CO. to increase considerably the stock in their various Show-Rooms and Galleries. They respectfully invite public attention to the largest and most varied assemblage of FURNITURE in the Kingdom, in ROSEWOOD, WALNUT, and MAHOGANY, and all of modern Manufacture. English and Foreign Damasks, Tapistry, Brussels and Kidderminster Carpets, in great variety, and reduced from last year's prices. Bedsteads in Brass, Iron, Walnut, Birch, and Mahogany, with Spring and French mattresses, are fitted up in a room set apart for that purpose. References to all parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies. All goods marked in plain figures throughout the entire range of the *ground floor, show-rooms, and galleries*: any article selected changed if not approved of. Books of Estimates sent free upon application, and all orders in England delivered in their own vans. HOWITT and Co., Albion House, 226, 227, 228, 229, and 230, High Holborn.

A MERICAN 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, ANDREW'S and CO., Solo Proprietors. Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s.; small quarts, 4s. 6d.; quarts, 7s. 6d.; mammoths, 11s.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1, Old Broad-street, London. Instituted 1820.

WILLIAM R. ROBINSON, Esq., Chairman.

HENRY DAVIDSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

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