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The Reader.

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

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SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1855.

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News of the Week.

VIENNA speaketh not—although the Plenipotentiaries met on Thursday. The guns of Sebastopol are silent; although the town has been set on fire by rockets. The Balaklava railway probably attained its full growth just at the time that the Vienna diplomats began to nib their pens. Literally, this is the report both from Sebastopol and Vienna.

We have a flock of reports and some documents relating to the position of all the chief Governments concerned. From St. Petersburg there are statements that the position taken by the new Czar is decidedly more pacific than that of his father; but besides the text of his manifesto to the nation, declaring that he intends to carry out the wishes of PETER, CATHERINE, ALEXANDER, and NICHOLAS, we have his address to the Guards, conveying to them the last message of NICHOLAS, the expression of the late Czar, that if they were faithful to the family "woe to the enemies of Russia," is followed up by a warlike address on behalf of the new Emperor himself. There is nothing peaceful here. Nor is there anything peaceful in the continuance of General WEDELL's travelling backwards and forwards between Berlin and Paris, with new expedients to put off the decisive answer for which the Allies are pressing. Austria is said to be backing into a more peaceful mood; but the latest official act that we have under the hands of the Austrian Government is the note of the 8th, addressed to the German States, and repeating the argument in a previous note, showing that Prussia cannot be permitted to remain neutral, and that the German contingents are to be mobilised for the service outside the confederation. This is a sign that Austria has persevered since the death of the Czar in the course which she had previously been pursuing.

In Parliament, the Ordnance and Commissariat Estimates have passed; and Lord GREY has taken the occasion "à propos des bottes," to discuss the Ordnance Estimates in the House of Lords. He made a kind of general complaint that Parliament was passing large votes without examination, although those votes involved items manifestly of an extravagant kind. He did not object to the plan of forming large collections of soldiers, where they can be trained in camp or brigade exercise, but he objected to the disproportionate amount of the sum set down for the

cost of erecting the barracks. Another objection was, that Government proposed to spend money in fortifications which Lord GREY, supposed to be expensive fortifications of stone; whereas the whole tendency of theory and experience in regard to the fortifications confirms the opinion that earthworks are superior as a means of defence, less expensive, and not necessary to be constructed until within a short period of the anticipated attack. A very faint reply was made to this objection. Still fainter have been the answers to renewed complaints about the deficiencies in the supply of the commodities or the services for which these large sums are paid. Lord MONTFAGLE detected in the Exchequer Bills Bill, where Government have taken a margin of about 500,000/., a species of covert advance of money which he thought quite inconsistent with Mr. GLADSTONE's disapprobation of loans; for such an advance is a loan without calling it so.

The Sebastopol Committee goes on, and we have more of the delinquencies of the transport, commissariat, and medical departments, established on evidence of men like the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, Lord CARDIGAN, Lord LUCAN, and other practical officers. The positive want does not appear to have been so extensive or so excessive as the earlier reports made out; but the confusion, the absence of system, the disregard of necessary duties, while slavishly taking shelter under forms, perhaps exceeds anything that ordinary newspaper reporters could either convey or discover. It is now quite clear that the misappropriation of labour in supplying the want of land transport,—the travelling of cargoes backwards and forwards between Constantinople and Balaklava while they were actually wanted at Balaklava,—the loss of ships detained outside that confined port on a lee-shore,—were disasters chargeable to Admiral BOXER and Captain CHRISTIE, and other subordinates, in the first instance; and to the Commander-in-Chief who permitted those officers to continue in office after their deficiencies were proved.

There have been motions in Parliament on other things not connected with the war, the chief of which, perhaps, is the passing of the motion by 87 to 53, for leave to bring in Mr. HEYWOOD's bill, authorising the marriage of a widower with his deceased wife's sister or niece. There have been 12,000 such marriages within the last twenty years; and while the existing law inflicts pain upon the conscientious, it gives impunity only

to the vicious. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER summed up the usual arguments founded on "divine right," "social confusion," "sanctioning a breach of the law," &c., with which we have been annually familiarised; but Lord PALMERSTON settled the whole question by applying to it the rule "nil prosumt leges sine moribus"—laws can be of no force unless based upon the customs of the people. Here the law and custom are at variance: Mr. HEYWOOD proposes to connect them; and the House of Commons sanctioned the proposal by 87 to 53.

Mr. COBBETT has endeavoured to introduce a bill to amend the Factory Law as it was established in the acts of 1847 and 1850. The first of these acts made it unlawful to employ women or young persons for more than ten hours each day in a factory. The second act lengthened by half an hour the daily time on the five first days of the week, and curtailed the time on a Saturday. By the system of "shifts," however, many millowners are enabled to keep their mills working for a very extended time during the day; and here one calculation of the working classes was frustrated. They expected that if the women and young persons were prevented from working so long a time, the whole business of the factory would to some extent be stopped; but relays of the short-time workers prevent that necessity, and thus the adult male labourers make no progress towards short time for themselves, while practically the working day is in many cases extended, even for the women and young persons, although the hours of actual labour do not exceed 10½ hours. These abuses Mr. COBBETT proposes to correct, but it is evident that at the present time it would be impossible to engage the House of Commons in further interference, and we are convinced that the working classes must look to themselves. This, however, is a point that we shall reserve till next week. Meanwhile, the refusal of Mr. COBBETT's motion is not likely to allay the feelings of angry discontent which we have already mentioned as mouldering in the factory districts.

Among public proceedings of the week, one of the most interesting has been the dinner to General VIVIAN at the East India House. The General is appointed to command the corps of the Turkish Irregulars. He will be aided by a selection of Indian officers, and the dinner was to him that complimentary greeting on his taking office which Sir CHARLES NAPIER had at the Reform Club on taking command of the Baltic Fleet. There was

less boasting on this occasion, and we trust the result will be more commensurate with the hopes.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON has manifested in the House of Commons the same tender anxiety which Lord DERBY had displayed in the House of Lords, for the dignity, sensitiveness, and convenience of our colonies ~~during the absence of Lord JOHN RUSSELL~~. It is shameful, cry the Tory leaders and journals, to appoint a Colonial Secretary, and then send him to transact foreign business at Vienna! Now the fact is, that the Colonial difficulties which really exist are not likely to be settled by Lord JOHN's return to London.

The prospect of a Cape disturbance appears to have been exaggerated. According to the recent accounts, PRÆTORIUS, the chief of the Dutch Transvaal Republic, and the colonists of Natal, had inflicted severe blows upon the Kaffirs and the cognate tribes, while ANTA and SANDILLI were threatened with a demonstration by the Governor-General towards the Amatolas. Should the savages have been growing confident, these checks will keep them in order.

The gold-seeking disturbance in Australia appears to be really put down; though the question of convict exclusion, which interests a much larger and more influential class, still remains open; and the local Government is evidently afraid to carry out the instructions sent to it from Downing-street, which would facilitate the passage of discharged convicts from Van Diemen's Land.

The island Government of Cuba, apparently with the sanction of that at Madrid, is endeavouring to supersede the chances of revolution and invasion by giving a constitution to the island with a representation in the Cortes. We should hail such a measure on every ground. If Cuba were to remain Spanish, it would be a manifest advantage to the inhabitants and to all countries with whom Cuba is in commercial relations; for it must develop the resources of that island, and so strengthen it to co-operate in the advances of civilisation. Should Cuba ultimately prove to be destined for annexation, the constitution will afford the means of effecting that change peaceably. For the present, the outward signs are rather against any effective invasion of the island. The Know-nothing movement is swallowing up every other in the United States, and concentrates the attention of the citizens almost entirely upon a species of political Protestantism, while incidentally it is swallowing up Abolitionism, Southernism, and every "ism;" suspending while it lasts the two immortal parties of Whigs and Democrats.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

IN the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord LUCAN again brought forward his case, and read certain letters bearing reference to his renewed application for a court-martial, and to the second refusal of the Commander-in-chief to grant him one.

SECRETARIES OR STATE BILL.

On Lord GRANVILLE moving the second reading of the Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State Bill, the object of which is to make it legal for more than two Secretaries or Under-Secretaries of State to have seats in the House of Commons at the same time, a rather desultory debate ensued, in which Lord GREY, Lord PANMURE, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, the Earl of ELLESMORE, and other peers, took part.—Lord GREY observed that he understood this to be a bill arising from the consolidation of the former war-office with the new department of Secretary for War; but he conceived that the measure fell very far short of what was required for the reform of the military departments. He objected to the large vote which had recently been taken in the House of Commons for barrack accommodation, and for fortifications at home. The latter had been pronounced by competent military authorities to be worse than useless. The Government, he thought, would do well to take the advice of our civil engineers, rather than that of officers wedded to routine.—Lord PANMURE stated that he agreed with a great deal of what Lord Grey had uttered, and as-

sured the House that all Ordnance works which could safely be suspended had been suspended. Nevertheless, he thought it necessary that the works for the defence of the country should proceed; and he hoped he should be able in a few days to bring forward a comprehensive scheme for the consolidation of the military departments.—The bill was read a second time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAL.

In the House of Commons, on the order for going into Committee of Supply, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON called attention to the state of the Colonial Department, and made strong objections to the fact of Lord John Russell holding that office while he is absent on a diplomatic mission, in consequence of which the Home Secretary has to perform the business of the colonies as well as his own. At the present moment—with the Cape of Good Hope threatened with a frontier war, and South Australia in a state of insurrection—the presence of a Colonial Minister is more than usually required; and neither Sir George Grey nor anybody else could discharge at the same time the duties of two such departments as the Home and the Colonial. He also dwelt upon the evils arising from the delay of the Colonial Constitutional Bills.—Mr. ADDERLEY took the same view of the matter; but Sir GEORGE GREY denied that any public inconvenience had been suffered from the temporary absence of Lord John Russell, asserting that he felt himself equal to the two offices for a short time; and Lord PALMERSTON observed that himself and the Government generally were responsible for the proper management of the Colonies, which could not, therefore, be said to be neglected.—Ultimately the House went into Committee of Supply on the Commissariat Estimates, when

Mr. PEEL said the amount voted last year was 600,000*l.*, but the Committee would now be asked to vote four times that amount, namely, 2,400,000*l.* The fact was, the sum last year represented merely the commissariat charge for the army in our colonies, and about the same amount would be required this year for that department; 600,000*l.* would also be required for the commissariat service of our army at home. Mr. Peel explained that up to last year the soldier had to pay a varying price for his rations, according to the fluctuations of the market; but, as this was a great hardship, the Government fixed the stoppage to be taken from the pay of the soldier at 4*sd*. The cost for the militia was about 500,000*l.* The remainder of the vote—1,200,000*l.*—represented the cost of the army in the Crimea. With respect to the transport service, Mr. Peel alluded to its being henceforth divided from the commissariat; and, speaking of the largeness of the vote for transport, he said the men employed upon the Balaklava railway would be paid out of it. He also stated that a large addition had been made in the rations issued to the soldiers at the seat of war.—After considerable discussion, the votes were all agreed to.

EXCHEQUER BILLS (17,183,000*l.*) BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, Earl GRANVILLE moved the third reading of this bill; and Lord MONTEAGLE drew attention to the fact that this was not, as it professed to be, an ordinary Exchequer Bill, but a covert return to a principle which had been abandoned last session. He was glad that Government had made the change, but he thought they should have done it openly. Last session, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had resolved to meet all the extra expenses of the war by direct taxation; but as some of the ways and means then voted would not come in course of payment for some time, he had issued Exchequer-bills that might be held to discount the future taxation. The sum thus required was 1,750,000*l.* It was stated that the Exchequer-bills then raised differed from ordinary Exchequer-bills in simply anticipating by a few months the supplies which had been voted; and that they would be paid out of those supplies, and no more would be heard of them. He now found, however, that without a word of explanation these Exchequer-bills had been converted from short bills chargeable on the revenue into a permanent debt, although the obligation of renewing them continued from year to year. Thus, it was now sought to add 1,783,000*l.* of Exchequer-bills to the national debt. He had taken the liberty of warning their lordships last year that the course then pursued, coupled with a disclaimer of any intention to contract a permanent debt, was not to be justified by common sense. It was peculiarly impolitic to condemn the use of credit in conducting the financial affairs of a country like this, because, superior as was the wealth of England compared with that of other countries, her credit was immeasurably higher. They were not, however, to have recourse to a loan in every conceivable case—that would be a gross perversion of an otherwise sound principle; but if a national exigency arose, so greatly exceeding the existing taxation of the country that additional revenue to meet the wants of the State had to be obtained by the imposition of enormous and oppressive new burdens, then they ought to consider whether, even for the interests of the remotest posterity, it would not be infinitely wiser that the money, or a portion of it,

should be raised by a permanent or a temporary loan than that they should crush the resources of industry by ~~over~~ taxation. In conclusion, Lord MONTEAGLE expressed a hope that the Government would not abandon the penny stamp on newspapers—an important and improving branch of the revenue; and above all, he trusted that, whatever their policy might be, they would avow it openly and pursue boldly.

Earl GRANVILLE denied that the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had laid it down as an inflexible rule never to have recourse to a loan. Mr. Gladstone, it is true, had seen these evils in loans—that they had a tendency to make Governments and Parliaments more lavish than they would otherwise be of public expenditure, and that they throw the debt incurred by the present generation on the future. He believed that among eminent political economists it is a maxim that these loans injure trade and labour, by diminishing the capital available for ordinary business. It was impossible for him to anticipate what budget the present Chancellor of the Exchequer might propose; and he declined to give any information with respect to the Stamp Bill.

The Earl of DERBY said that what Lord MONTEAGLE had complained of was, that a departure had been secretly made from a specific promise held out last year, and that it was no answer to say that the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had not bound himself at future periods to adhere to the plan of payment within the year.—The Duke of ARGYLL defended the conduct of the Government. It seemed to him a trivial dispute to contend about the question whether the million and a half which Mr. Gladstone had borrowed was a loan or not, since, even if it was proved that it was, it would afford no ground for charging the right hon. gentleman with a departure from the principle he had laid down.—Earl GRANVILLE considered that Parliament had not been dead with candidly; and that, instead of the taxes imposed defraying the sums borrowed, we had incurred a debt which he believed would be found to reach if not exceed, 7,000,000*l.* Bills were drawn for year or two, and then renewed, at large interest; and yet the country was told that it was to have no debt.—Eventually the bill was read a third time, and passed.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. Heywood moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister or a deceased wife's niece. He referred to the statute of the 32nd of Henry VIII., and believed that, if they were recognised by the judges, the marriage question would be perfectly legal. In 1835—owit as he believed, to the desire of the Duke of Beaufort to have his second marriage sanctioned—an act was passed, by which all preceding marriages with deceased wife's sister were rendered legal, while those to be contracted in future were to be illegal. Since the passing of that act, no less than 12,000 such marriages had taken place. The restriction, he thought, should be removed. Neither in the United States nor in Germany did any such prohibition exist; and Dr. Adler, the chief Rabbi, held that the marriages were not opposed to the Jewish law. The accomplished Hebrew scholar, Sir William Jones, had expressed his matured conviction that the 18th chapter of Leviticus had nothing to do with the law of marriage. The law had its origin, during the four century of the Christian era, in the Greek and Roman canon law; and it was irreconcilable with natural affections.

Sir F. THESIGER opposed the introduction of the bill. He denied that the violations of the law had been so frequent as Mr. Heywood alleged, and protested against the precedent of legislating for the relief of deliberate offenders against the law. He insisted that the precept of the 18th chapter of Leviticus was part of the moral law; that the Hebrew marriage-law was binding upon Christians still more stringently, if possible, than upon Jews; that it was the Papal abuse of dispensations that had placed the Romish Church in a dilemma with respect to the marriages; and that, if once the limits of the marriage-law were extended, they would only end by abrogating all the degrees of affinity, and confounding the prohibition to relationship by blood. He disapproved of the compromise of 1835, and opposed the present bill because it was against the law of God and tended to the introduction of discord into families.

The motion was supported by Mr. BOWYER, M. E. BALL, Mr. MILNES, Mr. SPOONER, Lord PALMERSTON, and Mr. COBDEN; and was opposed by M. R. PHILLIMORE, Mr. DRUMMOND, Admiral WALCOTT, and Mr. WALPOLE, the last of whom observed that the measure was repugnant to the general feeling in Ireland and Scotland, and, as he contended, to a large, if not the largest, portion of the people of England. At the close of his remarks, Mr. DRUMMOND advised Mr. SPOONER to "get rid of the prohibitory degrees altogether, and marry his grandmother like a man. (Laughter.) He had better do this than sneak about in lanes. The hon. member had better set aside the word of God as contemptible in the cod-

of morality, than sneak and snivel over the opinions of a canting Methodist rather than those of a bold infidel."—The motion was carried by 87 to 53.

EDUCATION OF PAUPER CHILDREN IN IRELAND.

Mr. J. BALL moved that it is expedient that more effectual means should be adopted to improve the education of pauper children in Ireland. According to public returns, the average population in the workhouses of Ireland in the year 1853 amounted to 150,000, more than one-half of which consisted of children under fifteen years of age. No fewer than 40,000 of these pauper children were either orphans or had been deserted by their natural protectors during the horrors of the late famine in Ireland. Their number had, no doubt, somewhat diminished since 1853; but there certainly could not be less than 30,000 of that helpless class of children at present requiring support and instruction from the State. The education is very defective, owing mainly to the insufficiency of the teachers, who are paid at the most miserable rate. Another evil is, that the religious instruction given to the children is at present imparted in too sectarian a spirit. In Ulster there are thirteen unions in which there is no Roman Catholic teacher, though the great majority of the poor profess the Roman Catholic religion. In one case, there was not a single Protestant pauper in the workhouse, and yet the board of guardians thought themselves justified in refusing to appoint a Roman Catholic officer, and of placing a Protestant teacher exclusively over the inmates. On the other hand, there are instances where the power possessed by a Roman Catholic board of guardians has been similarly abused. The practice of sending children to the gaol instead of the workhouse, because of the cost being spread over a larger district, was another reprehensible custom. In England, Parliament gave an annual vote for the payment of teachers, and Mr. Ball asked the House to extend the same principle to Ireland.—Mr. KENNEDY also appealed in behalf of the Irish teachers, the incomes of many of whom scarcely exceed the wages of the humblest labourers in England.—Mr. HORSMAN admitted that the existing system is very deficient, and that the law requires such an amendment as will enable it to act compulsorily upon the local guardians; but said that, as a great improvement is coming over Ireland, it was unreasonable to ask the Government to contribute pecuniary aid towards the desired object.—Lord PALMERSTON, alluding to the claim made upon the Consolidated Fund, said that Ireland already receives 730,000*l.* from that source, while England only obtains 362,000*l.*—an assertion against which Mr. FRENCH and Mr. GROGAN protested, as not containing a complete statement of the case.—The motion was negatived by 80 to 32.

THE FAST DAY.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in answer to a question by Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, said he was informed it was not the practice in the departments of the Admiralty, Ordnance, Board of Works, Post-office, or Custom-house, to stop a day's pay of the workmen on any Fast Day.

DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS BY THE ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

Mr. WRIGHTSON moved for leave to bring in a bill to alter and amend the Act 6 Anne, c. 7, so far as it relates to the vacating seats in Parliament on the acceptance of office, and explained that its simple object was to provide for the case of persons exchanging from one office to another.—The motion was agreed to.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES BILL.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, on the order for going into committee on the Friendly Societies Bill, the object of which is to consolidate and amend the law relating to these societies, Mr. Scrope questioned the policy of appointing Government officers to associations which undertook contracts they were unable to fulfil, and which were not to be depended on for a long term of years.—Sir GEORGE GREY thought the object of the bill most useful. Great care, he believed, had been bestowed upon it; the subject had not come before the House for the first time; it had been considered by a select committee, and this was the same bill which had come from the select committee. Some points adverted to by Mr. Scrope deserved consideration; but he should reserve his observations thereon until the committee.—Mr. BRIGHT and Mr. PELLATT having spoken in favour of the bill, the House went into committee.—In the discussion which ensued, clauses 6, 7, and 8, constituting a central unpaid commission were withdrawn, and clauses 19, 36, 40, and 44 were struck out. The rest of the clauses and the schedule were agreed to.

MUTINY BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, on the motion for the third reading of the above bill,

Lord GREY inquired on what principle first commissions in the army were granted. He should be unwilling hastily to abolish the practice of granting commissions by purchase, but, on the other hand, he was certain that a system of purchase could not be

maintained unless there was confidence in the public mind that the officers were perfectly competent for command.

Lord PANMURE answered that it had been the practice to give first commissions without purchase to some of the cadets who had distinguished themselves at the Military College at Sandhurst; next to the sons of officers who had distinguished themselves in her Majesty's service; and next, as he was informed by the Commander-in-Chief, to the sons of poor deserving clergymen. When the names of all these classes were exhausted, commissions were given to those who stood first on the list of applicants. A great many commissions had recently been distributed among the last class of persons. To meet the present demand for officers, the age for qualification was extended from eighteen to twenty-two years.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH wished to ask whether the report was correct that not less than 10,000 European troops were to be withdrawn from India. He saw also that volunteering was allowed from among those who had enlisted for service in India into regiments about to proceed to the Crimea; the effect of which was to reduce the Indian army materially below the ordinary number, and also to deprive the regiments at present in India of the recruits necessary for filling up the vacancies.

Lord PANMURE said that it was the intention of Government to withdraw only two regiments of cavalry, the 12th Light Dragoons and another; and that with reference to the reduction generally of the number of European troops in India, he could assure the noble earl that the greatest caution had been, and would continue to be, observed, and that none would be withdrawn without the strongest necessity.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

THE EMBODIMENT OF THE MILITIA.

The Earl of MALMESBURY rose to put a question to her Majesty's Government respecting the militia, as to the furlough to be given to married men, and also as to the maintenance of their wives and families. He regretted to say that the impulse which had at first been given throughout the country, and which had been acted upon most nobly by the great mass of the people, seemed to have died away. He thought the first cause of the cessation in recruiting was an apparent, if not a real, breach of faith on the part of the Government and Parliament. In 1852 the militia was raised upon the understanding that the men were only to serve twenty-eight days in the year, except in the case of an invasion. In 1854 war was declared, and a new bill was necessary for embodying the militia. The men who then enlisted received a larger bounty than those who joined in 1852, and very naturally so, because a greater demand was made upon their time, and greater liabilities were imposed upon them.

But the matter was never sufficiently understood by the men of 1852, if he might so call them, that they were liable to be embodied, and to be subject to permanent service for five years. The consequence was, that a great number of married men, who would not have enlisted in a force that was to be permanent, but who had no objection to devote a month during the year, found themselves drawn into liabilities of which they had no conception. This had the effect of throwing a great number of their wives and children upon the parishes. He had understood that the men were not to go abroad except with their own free will; but this had proved not to be the case.

Lord PANMURE said that, by a circular issued from the War Office last November, the commanding officers of militia regiments were directed to call out such men as they deemed fit by age, employment, &c., and then to report as to the expediency of granting furloughs. With reference to the disembodied and embodied militia, the case was totally different. And, as the circular pointed out, with regard to the embodied militia, when it was found that families were thrown upon the parish by the absence of the head of the family engaged in the militia, it had been decided to allow those men to go to their homes upon repaying the enlistment money, 18*s.* 6*d.*, which they had received; but, failing that, it was determined to let them have a free discharge.

REAL PROPERTY OF INTESTATES.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to introduce a bill for better settling the real estates of intestates. His proposition, he said, was simply this, that where a person died possessed of landed property, the law should make for him a just will, and divide the property among his relations; precisely such a will as the law made now when an intestate died leaving personality only. He denied that this was an attempt to introduce the French system. With regard to the argument that it was for the advantage of a country that the land should be divided into large estates, he could refer to the property which existed in Ireland when that was the case. By the present system, a great amount of misery and distress had been caused. Mr. King proceeded to cite various cases

which had been brought to his notice, in which, notwithstanding the known wishes of the deceased person that his property should be equally divided among his children, it had, upon his dying intestate, gone to the eldest son, and the remaining children had been left destitute; and also cases in which wives of persons possessed of real property had also been left in poverty. Among other cases, there was one of a plumber and glazier who married the daughter of a respectable farmer, who gave her several hundred pounds. No settlement was made, and some time after the marriage the husband laid out the whole of this money in the purchase of a piece of land. He subsequently died intestate and without children. The land went to the heir-at-law, a nephew, and the widow was left entirely destitute. She is now a menial servant in a farmhouse. He did not ask that those who had already succeeded to property under the present law, should give up that property with a view to a more equitable distribution. All he asked was, that the House should prevent the repetition of the occurrences he had mentioned. At present the younger children of intestate landed proprietors were not acknowledged by the law, but were treated as illegitimate; and he hoped the Legislature would raise them from the degraded position in which they were placed.—The motion was seconded by Mr. MASSEY.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL opposed the motion, on the ground that such an alteration of the law was fraught with danger to the institutions of the country; that it struck at the root of primogeniture, and would effect the indefinite subdivision of landed property and the destruction of the aristocracy. In the course of his speech, he made the strange admission that "the question was not to be discussed upon the abstract principles of natural justice, but upon the principles by which the constitution of the country was established;" a remark which was favourably received by the House with cries of "Hear, hear!" He denied that the principles of justice were violated by the present state of the law; but thought that it would not affect the argument if they were.

Mr. EWART and Mr. WARNER supported the motion; and Mr. LOCKE KING, in reply, denied that his object was to strike at primogeniture.—Upon a division, there appeared—for the bill, 84; against, 156; majority, 72.

PROBATE DUTY.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved the following resolution:

"That, in the opinion of this House, real property and inappropriate tithes should be made to pay the same probate duty as is now payable on personal property, and that property belonging to corporations, universities, colleges, bishoprics, and deans and chapters, should pay a duty equivalent to the probate and legacy duties levied on personal property."

The injustice of which he complained arose in 1796. Mr. Pitt in that year brought in a bill, subjecting all descriptions of property to the payment of probate and legacy duty; but the landed aristocracy contrived to obtain an exemption in favour of real property. This injustice had been in some measure removed by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he levied legacy duty upon real property to half the extent of that which was levied upon personal property. The motion which he now proposed related to probate duty alone; and his object was to apply to real property the same tax as was paid upon personal property. The argument formerly used against him, that landed property was subjected to much heavier duties for stamps than other descriptions of property, could no longer be urged, because those duties had been reduced five years ago. The necessities of the war demanded extra revenue; and the bill which he proposed would realise at least 2,500,000*l.* a year. He denied that the land was more taxed than other property—an assertion which had long ago been disposed of; on the contrary, he could easily prove that the poor were taxed more than the rich. The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that Mr. Williams appeared to have confounded the legacy and the probate duty, and had omitted to state the precise nature of the probate duty, and the distinction between real and personal property on which the probate duty is founded. The present state of the law has grown out of the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts, which jurisdiction was confined in such matters to personal property. A will devising real property need not be proved in the Ecclesiastical Courts; and the probate duty, being a duty on the proving of wills in those courts, is necessarily confined to wills affecting personality. The alteration demanded would necessitate a complete change in the powers of the Ecclesiastical Courts; and this was a matter of great difficulty. Mr. Williams should have submitted, in a Committee of Ways and Means, some distinct plan of overcoming the obstacle. In the extensive measure relating to the legacy and succession duties, introduced two years ago by Mr. Gladstone, a settlement was come to which it would not be prudent now to disturb. It

must further be borne in mind that the land is subject to many charges from which personality is exempt. As to the latter part of the motion—that which relates to lay and ecclesiastical corporations—the subject is now under the consideration of Government.—Mr. PEACOCKE contended that the land is over-taxed, and that, on the restoration of peace, a more equitable adjustment of burdens must be demanded by the agricultural interest.—Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND urged Mr. Williams not to press the motion to a division.—Mr. CROSSLEY supported the motion; and Mr. MUNTZ opposed it because he objected to the tax altogether.—The motion was lost by 84 to 61.

FACTORY LABOUR.

Mr. COBBETT moved for leave to bring in a bill to limit the hours of work of females and young persons in the factories of the United Kingdom to ten in the course of one day; and to provide the means of more perfectly inspecting the said factories. The bill was the same as that which he had introduced two years ago. In 1847, Parliament passed an act by which it was provided that no young person, and no female, should work more than ten hours a day; but unfortunately there was a flaw in an act to which the act of 1847 necessarily referred; and the manufacturers, in consequence, were enabled to evade it. They adopted a mode of working called the "shift" system, by which they kept women and children in and out of the mills in such a manner as to extract from them twelve, thirteen, and even in some cases fifteen hours' labour. This was acknowledged to be an evasion of the law. It was decided in 1849 that the course adopted by the manufacturers was not an infringement of the law, though, at the same time, the judges were of opinion that the evident meaning of the statute was adverse to the construction placed upon it. The Ten Hours Bill of 1847, in point of fact, was abrogated by the fatal flaw to which he had referred. In May, 1850, Sir George Grey brought in a measure by which the term of labour was extended to ten hours and a half; but at the same time it was said that a great boon was conferred upon the workpeople by limiting the hours of labour from six in the morning till six at night—an hour and a half being given for meals. The measure was immediately resisted, by the workpeople, merchants, bankers, manufacturers, clergy, and tradespeople, of Manchester, Preston, Bradford, and other large towns; but the bill passed notwithstanding, and was immediately violated by many of the manufacturers. To so great an extent was this done, that the more honest manufacturers presented a memorial to Government, in which they requested some amendment of the law, in order to place them on an equal footing with those who broke the law. Last session he presented a petition in favour of a Ten Hours Bill, signed by the then Mayor and late Mayor of Oldham, both large manufacturers, and by a great portion of the Town Council. With regard to the Ten Hours Bill, which had been abrogated, he knew that it effected a great deal of good. He knew that under its operation the people enjoyed better health and greater domestic comfort, and that, whereas before the young women had not time to make their own clothing of any kind, they had, after the passing of that act, and during its operation, been able to perform many needful domestic duties. This was the reason why he felt so strongly on the subject. The House should recollect what was the condition of the factory people before any factory legislation took place. One consequence of the long hours of working was that it affected the recruiting for the army. It was ascertained that the working people in the factory districts were to a great extent unfitted for the army. Sir J. Elliott stated, that when he was engaged recruiting at Leeds, he found a prodigious number of persons rejected, as compared with the agricultural districts. When he formerly brought this subject before the House, he mentioned, on the authority of Dr. Fletcher, of Bury, the astounding mortality that prevailed among the children of factory operatives. From the fact of the mothers working in the factories, and being thereby kept away for long periods of time from their children, great numbers under two years of age died. Dr. Fletcher stated that, of every 100 deaths among the factory workers, a fraction over 61 were infants under two years of age, while among the other operative classes in the same locality the deaths of infants under two years of age were a fraction under 33 in 100. Mr. Clay, chaplain to the Preston House of Correction, had stated at a meeting of the British Association, that during the celebrated six months' strike of the Preston operatives—part of the time being a severe winter—the number of infant deaths in Preston, among the working spinners, was 497, whereas the number six months before the strike was 594. He would now ask the house for leave to bring in this bill, the objects of which were—firstly, to restore the ten hours; secondly, to give the factory-inspectors some power of enforcing the law; and lastly, to place a restriction on the motive-power at the end of the time which was proposed as the limit of labour. He knew that the last clause would meet with great opposition; but he had gathered from manufacturers

themselves that it was the only way to protect those who observe the law against those who are disposed to break it.—Mr. DUNCOMBE seconded the motion.

Sir GEORGE GREY considered that no case had been made out to justify the introduction of the bill. The only facts alleged by Mr. Cobbett, with reference to the condition of the factory population, had reference to the state of things in 1840; but great benefits had resulted from the act of 1847, in conjunction with that of 1850. In his opinion, it would be most prejudicial to all parties if this question were reopened. He strongly dissented from Mr. Cobbett's proposal to shut up the mills and stop the motive power after the expiration of the ten hours, as this would be a great restriction upon the whole adult male factory population.—The motion was supported by Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and Mr. E. BALL; and was opposed by Mr. ELLIOTT, Mr. CROSSLEY, Mr. WILKINSON, Mr. BRIGHT, and Lord PALMERSTON, the last of whom, speaking from his experience when in the Home-office, said that the violations of the law were very few, and were confined to five minutes before the time of opening, or five minutes after the hour of closing. The chief argument used by the speakers against the motion was the old one—that it is inexpedient for legislation to interfere between employers and employed. The division showed:—Ayes, 101; noes, 109. This bare majority gave rise to loud cheers.

THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. F. DUNCOMBE moved an address for copies of any despatch or correspondence between Lord Raglan and the late Minister for War, relative to the wants of the army in the Crimea. He stated his reasons for the motion. He believed, he said, that Lord Raglan did write home for supplies, and he assumed that the Duke of Newcastle had attended to his applications, and that the supplies were sent. If the papers were refused, it would be most unfair to both those persons. Great blame rested somewhere; and he thought the Sebastopol Committee would have done well to call for these papers, as they would have afforded a very useful guide to their inquiries.—Lord PALMERSTON said there was no desire to withhold from Parliament any information necessary for the investigation of the matters which the committee had been appointed to inquire into; but it would not be useful to carry on two parallel inquiries. The committee had full power to call for those or any other documents, and it was far better to leave them to judge as to the information they required.—After some discussion, the motion was negatived without a division.

THE OLD AND THE NEW CZAR.

CONFICTING stories of the causes of the death of Nicholas, and of the policy of his successor, are in circulation. Pulmonic apoplexy, congestion of the brain, poison, and other modes of assassination, over-exertion, and over-excitement, bronchitis and consumption—all these have been in turn, or simultaneously, put forward as the agent by which the late Czar has been removed from the scene. The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—

"My own persuasion is, that Nicholas I. of Russia died a natural death, but there are persons who aver that he was shot in the abdomen while walking with one of his adjutants three days before his death. The story is most improbable, and it is only mentioned because it obtains credit with persons who ought to be well informed on Russian matters. It is related that, some of the high nobles having raised objections to the levy en masse, the Emperor was imprudent enough to declare that if he met with any opposition he would altogether abolish vassalage. That the late Emperor once entertained the idea of so doing is a well-known fact, and it is also notorious that he only refrained because he was afraid of his great nobles."

Of the new Emperor the same writer records:—

"The Emperor Alexander is much inclined to peace, but fears are entertained that the war party will get the upper hand. Prince Paskiewitsch has been summoned from Warsaw to St. Petersburg, and this is considered a very good sign, as the experienced Marshal Ilias from the very first been opposed to the war."

According to other authorities, the new Emperor is good-tempered, lazy, sensual, and easily led,—having regard for nothing but smoking, card-playing, and the pleasures of the table.

From Paris we learn that it is there generally thought there is a better chance now of obtaining peace, than there was during the life of the late Emperor. "It is alleged," says a writer on the subject, "that the successor of Nicholas could not, at the very commencement of his reign, suddenly proclaim a policy opposed to his father, and that a more moderate proclamation would be, to all intents and purposes, the condemnation of his father." The whole of the German states are said to be most anxious for peace, and we hear much of the pacific disposition of the young Emperor Alexander. Nevertheless, it is said that, at a Council of Ministers held by the new Czar, it was decided that the course of hostilities should not be interrupted.

At Berlin it is stated that the funeral of Nicholas is to take place on the 19th instant; but the 20th also mentioned. The Prussian army sends a deputation in the persons of a Major, Captain, and Lieutenant of the regiment of Cuirassiers, the 6th, which bears the name of the Emperor of Russia.

A letter from Hanover of the 6th, in the *Moniteur* says:—

"It is now known from different quarters that the Emperor Nicholas had been suffering for the greater part of the winter. The attacks of vomiting to which His Majesty had been subject had assumed, during the last few weeks, so alarming a character that his physician urged him to give up all violent exercise, but the Emperor paid no attention to these warnings, and it was only with great reluctance that he at last consented to keep his bed."

We append the following particulars of the Emperor's last illness and death, from the *Prussia Staats Anzeiger*. It must be borne in mind that this source is philo-Russian, as, indeed, is evident from the style of the narrative:—

"On the 22d of February the Emperor, though warned of the danger by his medical men, got into his sledge in rather cold weather, and drove to the Exercising House, to see some men of the Infantry of the Guard that were about to march into Lithuania, to make up the complement of the regiments there. At this inspection, which was the last occasion of the Emperor's being seen in public, he was evidently very unwell, coughed violently, expectorated excessively, and said, as he went away, 'I am in a perfect bath although it was anything but warm in the Exercising House. The Emperor then drove to Prince Dolgorouki the Minister of War, who was ill, cautioned him not to go out too soon, and then returned to the Winter Palace. In the evening he was present at the prayers for the first week of Lent, stayed some time with the Empress, but complained of being cold, and kept his cloak on in the room."

"From that evening the Emperor did not quit his little working cabinet. It was there, on 23rd February, that he received his Flügel Adjutant Colonel von Tettenborn, and despatched him to Sebastopol; all the while lying on the sofa, and covered up with his cloak. After that his Majesty transferred all business into the hands of the Grand-Duke Alexander."

"During the whole time he was ill, the Emperor lay only on his camp-bed, i.e., on a casing of Russia leather filled with hay, a bolster of the same kind, and with a blanket and a cloak over him."

"It was not till February 28 that his state was looked on as decidedly serious. On that night he became rapidly worse. The physicians apprehended a paralysis of the lungs. On the evening of March 1 they despaired of his recovery. The Empress and the Crown Prince begged him, at the request of the physicians, to take the sacrament. It was not till then that the Emperor seemed to have recognised the real danger of his state; but hardly any shock is stated to have been noticeable in him."

"In the night, from the 1st to the 2nd instant, Dr. Mandt communicated to the Emperor that he was dangerously ill, and that more particularly his lungs were violently affected, and gave great ground for apprehension. On this the Emperor very calmly and collectedly took the sacrament, took leave of the Empress, their children, and grandchildren, kissed each, and blessed each one with a firm voice, and then remained only the Empress and the Crown Prince with him. This was about four o'clock in the morning. The Emperor said subsequently to the Empress, 'Do go now take a little rest, I beg of you.' She answered 'Let me remain with you; I would I could depart with you, if it were only possible.' To this the Emperor replied. 'Go now; I will send for you when the moment approaches.' The Empress could not do otherwise than obey this distinct expression of the Emperor's will, and left the room."

"The Emperor then sent for Graf Orloff, Graf Adlerberg, and Prince Dolgorouki, thanked them for their fidelity, and bade them farewell. Subsequently the Emperor had all the servants immediately about him sent in, thanked them for their services, blessed them, and took leave of them, on which occasion he is said to have been himself very much affected. Last of all, the Kammerfrau von Rohrbeck was sent for. The Emperor thanked her for the fidelity she had always shown the Empress, for the care with which she had always tended her in sickness, begged her never to quit the Empress, and ended with—'And remember me kindly at Peterhof that I'm so fond of.' The Emperor pressed Dr. Carell's hand, and said to him, 'It is no fault of yours.'

"Whilst the Emperor's father confessor was speaking with him he took the Empress's hand and put it into the priest's, as if he would confide the Empress to the ecclesiastic. After this the Emperor lost his speech for a while, during which time he was engaged in prayer, and crossed himself repeatedly. He subsequently regained his voice, and spoke from time to time up to his decease, which took place without a struggle in the presence of the whole family, March 2, at ten minutes past noon."

"Almost the last articulate words that the Emperor spoke were—'Tell Fritz (the King of Prussia) always to remain faithful to Russia, and not to forget the words of his father.'

THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER'S MANIFESTO.
The following is a *verbatim* translation of the new Czar's Manifesto, of which we gave an abstract last week:

"St. Petersburg, February 18 (March 2).

"By the grace of God, We, Alexander II., Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias, King of Poland, &c., &c.,

"To all our faithful subjects make known:

"In his impenetrable ways it has pleased God to strike us all with a blow as terrible as it was unexpected. Following a brief but serious illness, which at its close was developed with an unheard of rapidity, our much-loved father, the Emperor Nicholas Paulowitch, has departed life this day, the 18th February (March 2). No language can express our grief—which will also be the grief of our faithful subjects. Submitting with resignation to the impenetrable designs of Divine Providence, we seek consolation but in Him, and wait from Him alone the necessary aid to enable us to sustain the burden which it has pleased Him to impose upon us. Even as the much-loved father, whom we mourn, consecrated all his efforts, every moment of his life, to the labours and to the cares called for by the well-being of his subjects, we, at this hour so painful, but also so grave and so solemn, in ascending our hereditary throne of the Empire of Russia, as well as of the kingdom of Poland, and of the Grand Duchy of Finland, which are inseparable from it, take, in the face of the invisible and ever present God, the sacred pledge never to have any other end but the prosperity of our country. May Providence who has called us to this high mission, so aid us that, guided and protected by Him, we may be able to strengthen Russia in the highest degree of power and glory; that by us may be accomplished the views and desires of our illustrious predecessors, Peter, Catherine, Alexander the Much-Loved, and our august father of imperishable memory.

"By their well-proved zeal, by their prayers ardently united with ours before the altars of the Most High, our dear subjects will come to our aid. We invite them to do so, commanding them to take, at the same time, the oath of fidelity both to us and to our heir, his Imperial Highness the Cesarewitch Grand Duke Nicholas Alex- androwitch.

"Given at St. Petersburg the 18th day of the month of February (March 2), of the year of grace 1855, and the first year of our reign.

(Signed) "ALEXANDER."

THE WAR.

WE have been without any news of importance from the seat of war this week, excepting the intelligence, derived from Paris, of the firing of Sebastopol by the French; and this comes to us merely in the form of a bare announcement, without any details from which we could form an opinion as to the ulterior effect of the exploit.

Peace still remains as doubtful as ever; and what may be the policy of the new Russian Emperor is as yet quite inexplicable.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

SEBASTOPOL ON FIRE.—The *Moniteur*, on Thursday, contains the following telegraphic despatch:

"Port of Kamiesch, Montebello, March 7.

"The news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas arrived at Kamiesch the 6th inst., at 7 o'clock in the evening. For some days we have been throwing rockets into the town, which have succeeded in setting fire to it in different places. Two Russian officers have deserted and sought refuge in the English lines. The siege works are pursued with activity."

DESPATCHES FROM BALAKLAVA, of the 3rd, state that the railway now extends half-way to the camp; that the position of Balaklava had been strengthened; and that the weather and the health of the troops had improved.

ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND RUSSIANS.—The *Journal de Constantinople* gives details of a fight which took place on the 23rd of February before Sebastopol. A battalion of Zouaves carried by assault the plateau of Malakoff Tower, spiked eighteen guns, and drove the enemy out of their trenches, retiring ultimately before a body of 8000 Russians. In this heroic struggle 380 French were put *hors de combat*. General Monet was wounded in both arms. The *Presse* of Constantinople estimates the Russian loss at 1000, and reduces the French loss to 250. Some journals say that General Monet received five slight wounds while dispersing a Russian column, which attempted to cut off his retreat.

THE BLOCKADE OF THE DANUBE.—A supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday, March 9th, publishes the official notification of the raising of the blockade of the Danube on and from the 18th of February last; and adds, "It is hereby notified that the cruisers of the allied fleets are, and will remain, stationed off the mouths of the Danube, to capture any vessels laden with contraband of war destined for the use of the enemy."

THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL.—The reported death of the Grand Duke Michael before the walls of Sebastopol is not true.

THE RUSSIAN COMMAND IN THE CRIMEA.—The *Kreuz Zeitung* says:—"Admiral Prince Menschikoff, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces in the Crimea, was, on account of his ill-health, and at his own request, relieved of his command by the late Emperor Nicholas. The entire army of the south has been placed under the supreme command of Prince Gortschakoff. The commanders at the separate theatres of war are General Von Osten-Sacken in the Crimea, and General Von Luders on the Pruth."

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—A Toronto paper states that the Six Nation Indians on the Grand River, deeply sympathising with the sufferers by the war against Russia, have contributed the sum of 100*l.* sterling towards the Patriotic Fund. It appears from the same source that many of the municipalities of Canada intended to petition the Provincial Legislature to double the amount (20,000*l.*) already voted and remitted, and that meetings were being held from one end of the province to the other to promote individual subscriptions in aid of the fund.

ACCORDING to an Odessa letter of the 27th ult., in the *Militärische Zeitung*, the Russian troops are to be formed into two armies about the middle of this month—one under the command of General Osten-Sacken, occupying the banks of the Tchernaya; and the other, under General Read, operating against the Turks at Eupatoria.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE DANUBE.—The *Moniteur* of Tuesday says that the Russians have withdrawn their permission for the free navigation of the Danube.

GENERAL DE LA MARMORA has left Paris for Turin to take command of the Piedmontese army, which is about to embark for the Crimea.

THE MILITARY CONVENTION WITH SARDINIA, which has just been signed, provides that the King of Sardinia shall furnish a contingent of 15,000 men, which he undertakes to pay and provision; and France and England guarantee the integrity of the Sardinian territories, and engage to defend them against any attack during the continuance of the present war.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

MR. CLAY, the owner of three steamers hired by the Government as transports, was examined on Friday week before the Sebastopol Committee. In answer to the Chairman, he stated that the harbour was in a most filthy condition, from the dead bodies of horses, camels, and sheep floating in it; that the roads were almost up to the knees in mud; that the men in the cavalry camp were ragged, dirty, and overrun with vermin, and that they ate their food raw, though, "in spite of that, they seemed pretty jolly, and full of pluck—as many as were left of them;" that the condition of the French troops was much better; that he had been told twenty of the sick had died on one day on board the ship *Monarchy*, and that the legs had dropped off some of the frost-bitten men, and been thrown overboard. He spoke of the state of the horses as being miserable. They had been shipped so badly, that many died in consequence. The private exporters from Hull adopt such a mode, that in one thousand horses shipped for St. Petersburg and Riga, there was not a single death. They are enabled to lie down; but the Government horses are boxed up in a space two feet three inches wide, and cannot lie down at all; so that if the voyage lasts six weeks, the horses are that length of time without lying down. The harbour was very badly organised. He saw no ill-treatment of the Turks, nor did he know how they were fed. They died rapidly, and he supposed they were badly fed. The cavalry horses were treated as well as they could be under the circumstances; those of the Scots Greys were picketed in rows about three or four feet apart, with their heads tied down. Their manes and tails appeared to have been gnawed or eaten. The captains of transports could have cleared the harbour in a week if they had been provided with the means. He knew a gentleman named Priest, part owner of two vessels in Constantinople, one loaded with hay from Cork, the other with stores from Woolwich. They arrived on the 4th of February. He had seen a letter stating that on the 12th of February they were still detained there because they could get no orders. At this time Lord Raglan was complaining of the want of hay, and he had seen a letter in the *Times* stating that the artillery horses were suffering from the want of hay on the 15th of February. Admiral Boxer was a very intemperate old man, and used to give very strange orders. Every one thought him a strange sort of man to have a command. It was the duty of the captains of transports to report their arrival to Admiral Boxer, and to apply to him when they wanted coals. He would tell them to look for coals themselves, and get them where they could.

The Rev. E. G. Parker said he was chaplain to

the First Division of the army of the East. Speaking of the hospital-marques, he observed that in one there was a tub in the middle of the tent, upon which two or three men would be sitting while he was engaged in his ministerial duties. Those scenes could have been prevented if there had been constructed, as he believed there had been since, tents adjoining the marquee for the use of the patients. He believed, too, that now the patients who were too weak to move were supplied with bedpans. The bodies were carried to the grave wrapped up in blankets, which were removed when the bodies were placed in the earth. The blankets were taken away in consequence, as he was told, of the graves having been opened for the sake of the blankets. In answer to a question whether it might not have been wild animals which disturbed the graves, the witness said there were wild dogs, but they were too well fed upon the flesh of dead horses and camels to need to tear up the earth to obtain food. In reference to the Commissariat as it affected the First Division, he stated that they were well supplied, the Commissariat officer attached to that division (Mr. Blackwood) being an excellent officer. Fuel was very scarce, but he had never heard that the men ate their food raw. At first the men obtained fuel by pulling up bushes and roots from the ground; but they were soon consumed. When the snow came, it of course increased the difficulty of collecting wood; but the snow never remained long on the ground. He had no doubt that want of fuel had increased the sickness and sufferings of the troops, and also their living in bell tents, where fires could not be maintained. In December, the Guards mustered 1350. He knew that they were now reduced to 312 men. The men sometimes did duty in the trenches, as he had been informed, two nights out of three. He had never in his life seen Lord Raglan in the hospital tents; nor the Quartermaster-General, nor the Adjutant-General, nor, as far as he knew them, any member of the staff. He had made representations at head-quarters as to the state of the sick; but he believed they were not attended to. He had heard that the Jason, with 2000 or 3000 great-coats on board, carried them three times to and from Constantinople.

On Monday the Duke of Cambridge was examined. He said, the condition in which he found the men of his division at Scutari was that of perfect good order; but still the commissariat operations were not as satisfactory as he could have wished. The troops were not actually in want of provisions, but only now and then. The supply was not so regular as could have been wished. The forage for the horses was often very irregular. Personally, his Royal Highness reconnoitred some twelve or fourteen miles of the country round Varna, and should have imagined that there was an opportunity of furnishing the horses with food from thence, and that they might have obtained a large supply. His division encamped further from the water than the light division did, thinking it objectionable to be so near. He had no opinion as to the salubrity or otherwise of the place from the medical officers of the division, but considering they were obliged to encamp near the water, they took up such ground as they thought most advantageous under the circumstances. When they were there, their horses were not very regularly supplied. They were well supplied as regarded barley, but not as regarded hay. There was at first a deficiency in the attendance of medical men. He attributed the sickness at Varna to the climate; not to mismanagement. The men had no tents, nor had the officers. In fact, nobody had anything. (Laughter.) He, personally, had a sort of dog-kennel tent. The men remained quite uncovered from the 14th of September to the 14th of October. While out, the First Division were never a day without rations, with the exception of being a little short of rum; but they always had bread and biscuit, and from the latest accounts he had received their supply was good now. He attributed this not only to the care and circumspection of the officers, but to the energy and activity of the commissariat. He was very well served by the commissariat himself. Those of that body attached to his division were particularly good men. Notwithstanding this assertion, his Royal Highness shortly afterwards said he attributed the general ill-feeding of the men, and the want of forage for the horses, to the heads of commissariat department. There could not be two opinions on the subject as to the troops having been very much over-worked—worked beyond their strength—and no men could be worked to such a degree without being seriously affected in their health and physical strength. Much of this illness and fatigue was owing to the want of roads and conveyances. They had to carry things themselves that ought to have been brought up for them. He did not know whether the baggage animals had any supplies of food when they arrived. All he could say was, that his baggage animals had not, and that he was obliged in consequence to shoot them down. In his own division he had to shoot twenty-four ammunition ponies, on one morning, at the end of October, owing to the dreadful

state they were in. (*Sensation.*) He believed the commissariat might have got supplies from the southern shores of the Black Sea had they tried. The ambulances were not what they should be. When his regiment arrived at Scutari, no arrangement had been made with regard to hospitals for the sick and wounded. He had no hesitation in saying that the commissariat ought to be constituted a military instead of a civil department. It would be better that it should be a separate department. It was so in India; and in the French army it was an essentially military department. The tools supplied to the troops were very bad. The billhooks were quite useless. It was chiefly in consequence of this defect that the troops were unable to supply themselves with fuel. The tools were supplied by the Ordnance Department. He believed the health of the French troops was as bad as that of the English. With regard to diet, rice was a very common and abundant article in Turkey; and the only reason he could conceive why the army was not provided with it was that it was not an ordinary soldier's ration. If proper reinforcements had been poured in, much of the sickness would have been prevented.

Colonel Wilson, of the Coldstream Guards, denied that the men ate their meat raw. In reference to change of clothing, he said that from the 14th of September, when he landed in the Crimea, until the 26th of November, when he reached Constantinople, he never changed his clothes. He had no change of linen, and never was led to expect any. He did not know which to praise most, the admirable and surpassing bravery of the men, or their pious resignation.

Colonel Shakespear, captain of the Horse Artillery, was examined before the Committee on Tuesday. The effect of his evidence was chiefly to show that the men whom he commanded were well provided with food, clothing, medicine, tents, and huts. He considered the commissariat good. He admitted, however, that he had lost several horses from over-fatigue, that the state of the roads was very bad, and that the tools were not of good quality.

Mr. Joseph Crowe, correspondent of the *Illustrated London News*, testified to the disordered state of Balaklava harbour, and contrasted it with the more favourable condition of the French quarters at Kamiech harbour.

Captain Kellett, of the Himalaya, screw steamer, used as a transport, made the following astounding statement:—"A quantity of charcoal, 650 sacks—an article much wanted by the troops—was put on board at Constantinople by Admiral Boxer, and consigned to the agent of transports, Captain Christie, who would not receive it; he had to take it backwards and forwards two or three times, and finally back to Admiral Boxer at Constantinople." This story was rather strangely received by the Committee with laughter.

Colonel Sparks, of the 32nd Regiment, said a large number of his men died from cholera and the severity of the climate. Sometimes they were out in the trenches twenty-four or thirty-six hours. Scurvy broke out, owing, as he believed, to the men having too much salt meat. There was a deficiency of medicine, and the tents were old. He thought the number of medical men sufficient, and, when he left in December, he conceived the regiment was tolerably well supplied with winter clothing.

Sergeant Dawson, in the staff of the Grenadier Guards, said he was wounded at Inkerman, and it was found necessary to amputate his left arm. When he was wounded he was put into an ambulance-waggon. These waggons were very inconvenient. While he was being conveyed, he was obliged to lean on one side, and hold tightly by the right hand, in order that his wounded shoulder might not strike on the other side. He frequently slept in the open air during the line of march in the Crimea. Many of the men fell ill in consequence. He was received with great kindness at the hospital at Scutari. Good accommodation was supplied in the ship Talavera, in which he came home. The clothing in the Crimea was very bad, especially the shoes. Witness also complained of the tools, and said that the bills would not cut a bit of wood, pieces being chipped out of the edges an inch long; that the pickaxes were always coming off at the handles, if they did not break; and that the shovels were worse than the picks.

On Wednesday, the Earl of Cardigan was examined. He said no preparations were made at Varna for the reception of troops. While at Devna, his men were very healthy until the cholera broke out; but, when afterwards encamped about three miles from Varna, the health of the men was not so good, owing, as it was reported, to the exhalations from the lake half a mile off. During his stay at Old Fort, in the Crimea, there was a fair supply of forage. The want of it commenced after the action at Balaklava, the cause being, as he believed, deficiency in the transport. They were eighteen days without hay. He believed there was a large quantity in Balaklava, but it was found impossible to bring

it up, owing to the hilly nature of the country. The horses suffered very much from want of forage: four hundred had to be shot. In November, the sickness of the men increased very much. The hospital tents were in the rear of the lines. He visited them, and was sorry to see the condition of the men in them. There was no fuel for firing, and the men had to lie on their second horse-blankets and cloaks usually. The horses suffered very much from exposure in November. He could not say that the Light Brigade ever suffered much from a deficiency of medical attendance. The duties of the commissariat were performed well as regarded his own brigade. The officers exerted themselves to the uttermost, and did everything in the world they could; indeed he never saw more zealous officers. When he left the Crimea on the 8th of December, the clothing of the troops was becoming very bad indeed; and he should say a great deal of it was worn out. No winter clothing had then been received; but the quarter-master-general and non-commissioned officers of each regiment had been sent off by steamer to Constantinople to buy warm clothing, and boots and shoes; and when he got to Constantinople they were still there, and had not succeeded in getting the articles they required. He could not say when it was first known that the army would winter before Sebastopol, but it was not generally believed or supposed that the army was going to remain there during the winter. This was after the battle of Inkerman. It had by this time become extremely wet. It rained night and day. Nothing, as regarded cleanliness, could be worse than the state of the harbour at Balaklava. No attempts were made to remove the offal or dead animals. There were a great many seamen unemployed in the harbour; and if they had had instructions, he thought they might have cleared it in a couple of days. He was aware that large amounts of stores and forage had come in vessels to Balaklava, and had gone away, made one or two trips, and returned with the same cargo. One vessel came with the hold filled with boots, and went away with them. He did not know whether that was at the time when the men wanted boots most, but they always wanted them. With regard to the management of those harbours and ports, he was of opinion that an officer should be placed there with supreme command, and that his orders should be instantly obeyed, whatever those orders might be. No quays were provided at Balaklava for the landing of the horses, and he remembered seeing some of them fall into the sea in consequence. Mr. Filder never came to his division to inspect it. The original number of men in the Light Division was 1250; but when he left the Crimea there were only 300 men and horses remaining. The tents he had were not old, and he had heard of no complaints against them.

Mr. James Macdonald, the gentleman deputed to distribute the funds and clothing collected through the instrumentality of the *Times*, spoke mainly to the state of the hospitals at Scutari, which were two in number—the general hospital and the barrack hospital. He could not tell how many cases there were in the two hospitals, as there were no records kept. Of the whole number of patients, he should say that one-third were on bedsteads and two-thirds on the floor. In the general hospital, with the exception of want of beds, the patients were well provided for. With regard to the barrack hospital, he found that small provision had been made for converting it into a hospital at all. In the barrack, or supplemental hospital, he should say there were from 1500 to 1800 patients at the time of his arrival. Not being head-quarters, it had not the repose of the general hospital or other facilities. The medical staff was insufficient. Two supplemental ship hospitals were in the Golden Horn. There were no beds for the men, except twenty-five in the Turkish convalescent hulk for severe cases. The other was called the Bombay convalescent. The men were very poorly clad: many of them had nothing but their coats. Those who had no beds lay on the floor in the clothes in which they came from the Crimea, or in their blankets. There were about 650 men in these two vessels. There were about 2800 patients of all descriptions in the hospitals at the time of his arrival. He visited these hospitals before and after the battle of Inkerman. When he was first there the men were cheerful and hopeful; but on his second visit they were desponding, and on wet days they wrapped themselves in blankets and were buried in silence. The purveying department was not worthy the name. The first purveyor who was sent out was Mr. Ward, a person upwards of seventy years of age, who was exhausted by a walk from the general to the barrack hospital, a distance of a quarter of a mile. He had two assistants and two boys—a most inefficient staff. No language could describe the deplorable state of the poor fellows who came down sick and wounded—almost without clothing, and sometimes without medicine, &c. Sometimes it happened that in bad weather the poor fellows were taken to the hospitals without any covering, the rain pouring down upon them. Some of the men who had been put on board

at the Crimea came down to Constantinople without shoes, or with such shoes as one saw upon beggars in this country. Their shirts were thrown away with utter disgust at their filthiness, or torn into shreds. Sometimes they arrived without coats at all, while others wore the coats of comrades who had died on the passage. If it had not been for the supplies which he was the means of affording, the poor fellows must have gone without. During the first five weeks after his arrival in the East there was no washing. The patients' clothes were put under their beds, covered, not only with vermin, but with discharges of wounds and maggots. (*Sensation.*) There were no means of washing the hospital floors; but Miss Nightingale made a great change in these matters as soon as she arrived. He attributed the mismanagement of the hospitals to want of organisation under a single head. While at Balaklava he noticed the state of the harbour. Unlike the rest of the Euxine, the water of which was black, the water in the harbour was grey and green. In fact, it was a great cesspool. There was a terrible effluvium from the burial grounds; but that met one in every part of the Crimea—at least, as far as our position was concerned. He returned to Scutari in February, and found great improvements. Dr. Cumming had become medical inspector, and for the first time the hospitals had a head. New hospitals had been opened at Rhodes and Smyrna, and additional supplies had been sent out. No arrangements had been made for hospitals previous to the arrival of the English armies, but the French had, previous to their armies being sent out, provided hospitals which, in their general arrangements, were as good as hospitals in London or Paris. There was a great deal of submission and resignation on the part of the patients, none of whom were ever heard to complain.

The examination of Lord Lucan, on Thursday, elicited no new facts, but added confirmation to those already stated by other witnesses. His lordship spoke of the gross deficiency of the Commissariat, many of the officers being youths from the Treasury; of the want of proper arrangements for landing at Old Fort; of the scarcity of forage, of which they never had more than one day's store on hand, though ships full of hay and barley were in the harbour; of the sufferings of the horses from insufficiency of food, and exposure to the weather; of the inattention of Mr. Commissary-General Filder to his lordship's urgent representations; of the ragged condition of the men; of the imperfect nature of the transport service, for the remedy of which he made a proposal to Lord Raglan, which was not heeded; of the defective character of the ambulance waggons; and of the general absence of management and supervision. With respect to their want of forage, his lordship said—"Between the 14th and 20th of November, General Canrobert was kind enough to furnish them with chopped straw sufficient for thirty days. In January, the French were short of forage; but they complained that this was caused in consequence of our commissaries not fulfilling their engagements, and returning the chopped straw they lent to the English." (*Murmurs of disapprobation from the public.*)

SIR CHARLES NAPIER AND SWEABORG.
The *Times* of Monday last contains a letter from Sir Charles Napier, giving his reasons for not attacking Sweaborg and the other fortified places in the Baltic. One of the main difficulties he conceives to have arisen from the sunken rocks and shoals, on which he avers that it is impossible in winter to place buoys and beacons. Several days, he states, would be required for this operation, while the men employed would be under fire night and day. He adds that the Russians themselves could not navigate these seas without beacons, and that they have taken care to remove them all. Sir Charles also complains of "having had neither gun-boats nor mortar-boats to cover the approach of the vessels." With respect to the much-mooted topic of "discretion" versus "daring" he observes:—

"I served with Sir Sydney Smith on his attempt on Boulogne in November, 1805. He did not weigh difficulties and forestal contingencies, and he lost all his boats, and very nearly lost his ships. Nelson had not my difficulties to contend with, either at the Nile or Copenhagen. At the former, his enemy was at anchor in an open roadstead in August. At Copenhagen, in the month of April, he had a safe harbour to lie in to make his arrangements; no gales of wind could affect either his ships or boats, he could choose his day—as the wise men at the Admiralty told me to do in the month of October—but I will engage not one of them would have found the day had they been in my place. Lord Exmouth attacked Algiers in the middle of summer, and there were neither rocks nor shoals there. He did not capture it, and I doubt whether he would have tried it again. At Acre the weather was fine and no difficulties, and, had the Egyptians held out, notwithstanding the explosion, its capture was doubtful, and with a Russian garrison impossible. Sir James Saumarez, with a very superior force, was beat off at Algesiras, and lost a ship;

and Admiral Dundas had no reason to be satisfied with his attack at Sebastopol. Will you tell me why Lord Nelson and Lord Collingwood did not attack Toulon or Cadiz? Neither of them was so strong as Sweaborg or Cronstadt. Why did not Lord Howe, Lord Bridport, and Lord St. Vincent attack Brest, Lorient, Rochefort, &c.? Because they knew they would have been defeated. Why did the French admiral and myself refuse to attack Sweaborg? Because we had not means, and because the narrow entrance was blocked up. Had it been opened (even without gun-boats) the allied flags would have been flying on the inner road of Sweaborg. A ship attack on a strong fortress is at all times difficult; add to that the intricacy of the navigation and bad weather, and it becomes impossible."

In answer to Sir James Graham's assertion, that Sir Charles had stated in May, and again in July, that Sweaborg was unassailable either by sea or land, the latter makes certain statements and quotations from letters written at the time, but puts these forth in so confused a manner that it is not very easy to discover his meaning. It would seem, however, that he only stated the fortress to be unassailable without the assistance of a greater number of "men"—by which we understand him to mean soldiers. "Had there been 30,000 men," he says, "instead of 10,000, we should have gone to Sweaborg." Sir Charles, who writes very wrathfully, calls Sir James "this man," and concludes as follows:

"As to keeping my flag up under Sir James Graham, no consideration on earth would have induced me to do it. No officer of honour and character is safe in his hands. I leave him now before the public, accused by me of wilfully perverting my letters and goading me to risk her Majesty's fleet."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

THE first meeting of the Congress took place on Thursday. There were present one French, two Ottoman, two English, and two Austrian plenipotentiaries. The discussion on the general principles of the basis of the negotiation terminated satisfactorily. It is said that the proceedings opened with a pacific speech by Count Buol.

The Sardinian Government has issued a circular to the foreign ministers at its court, and to its own diplomatic agents abroad, in which it declares war with Russia, and thus defends itself from the charges of treachery and ingratitude contained in the despatch of Count Nesselrode of which we gave an abstract the week before last:—"His Majesty has not seen without painful surprise that while the act of accession, unratified, had not yet any absolute legal value, and was in no ways executive, the Emperor Nicholas, by a note of Count Nesselrode's, and in language full of bitterness, taking the initiative in hostilities, has accused him of violating the rights of nations, by sending an expedition to the Crimea without a previous declaration of war, and reproached him with forgetfulness of the marks of friendship shown in past times by Russia to Sardinia. Concerning the pretended violation of the rights of nations, it is sufficient to compare the date of Count Nesselrode's circular (5th (17th) of January last) with that of the ratification of the act of accession (4th of March), to be convinced of the astonishing flippancy with which the Chancellor of the Russian Empire has advanced so grave an accusation, and which is so inappropriate to the Prince of Savoy, and, above all, to a Monarch to whom the voice of the whole people has accorded the title of Loyal. As to the reproach of ingratitude, the Emperor Nicholas, instead of recalling the marks of friendship which two of his predecessors formerly showed towards Sardinia, ought to have recollected that in 1848, without any personal motive, he withdrew his Minister from the Court of Turin, and hastily sent the Sardinian representative at St. Petersburg his passports; that in 1849 he refused to receive the letter of notification of the accession to the throne of King Victor Emmanuel II., a refusal highly injurious, which finds few precedents in the history of diplomacy, and which appears to indicate, on the part of the Czar, the strange pretension to interfere in our interior affairs, affecting not to recognise the transformation—not revolutionary, but legal—which had been made in our political institutions."

It is said that already nearly 30,000 signatures have been attached to petitions in favour of the Sardinian Convention Bill.

Don Carlos died at Trieste last Saturday. He was the second son of King Charles IV., and was born on the 28th of March, 1788. On the death of his brother, Ferdinand VII., his claim to the throne gave rise to those protracted civil wars which are associated with his name; but in 1845 the deceased Don, who was then in France, abdicated all his rights to the crown of Spain in favour of his eldest son, the Infante Charles Louis Marie Ferdinand, who took the title of Count de Montemolino.

Owing to the breaking up of the ice on the Rhine, there have recently been some terrible inundations in Holland and North Brabant. Houses were undermined and beaten down; and, in a village near Dusseldorf, the inhabitants had not time to effect their escape, and many

were in consequence drowned. At some places, people might be seen sitting on the roofs of their houses, only just out of reach of the waters and the drifting ice. The church of Veenendaal, being situated on a rising ground, is almost the only building in that locality uninjured by the flood; and it is filled by the shelterless victims of the inundation. Dykes have been broken down, bridges carried away, and the town of Bois-le-Duc completely islanded in water. The King has given a thousand florins towards the relief of the sufferers; and subscriptions are in progress.

From Copenhagen we learn that the Committee of the Volksting appointed to examine the late ministers has begun its sittings. The ministers were charged with having illegally exceeded the budget, and arbitrarily spent money not voted by the Diet; and their defence is, that they felt it their duty, in the present disturbed state of Europe, to put the army and a part of the navy on a war footing. They add, that they did not take the opinion of the Chambers because they thought it undesirable to make the preparations then going on known to the public. The committee has resolved to ignore the whole of the sums thus arbitrarily spent, and also to impeach the late Ministry.

The *Espana* states that the printing of the Protestant Bible, which had been commenced in Madrid had been prohibited by the authorities.

The Spanish Cortes have sanctioned, by a majority of 200 against 12, the measures introduced by M. Madoz, intended to effect a great reduction of public expenditure.

Mdlle. Doudet has been convicted before the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Paris, of having voluntarily given blows and inflicted personal injuries on the four daughters of Dr. Marsden, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, 200f. fine, and the costs; which is the maximum penalty. It will be recollected that she was acquitted upon the charge of manslaughter.

The *Moniteur* announces that General de Wedell was received on Thursday by the Emperor.

A telegraph has been received at Paris from Constantinople, dated March 10, which says that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe is seriously ill.

The journey of the Emperor of the French to the Crimea continues to be the subject of many contradictory rumours. According to some authorities, the idea is given up; according to others he will still infallibly go; but, at any rate, the date of his departure is unknown. It has been asserted that preparations are being made in Constantinople for his reception.

Rumour attributes a sort of death-bed repentance to the Emperor Nicholas, who is said to have told his heir that it was necessary to make peace, even at the cost of reducing the Russian power in the Black Sea; that France and England were too strong for Russia; and that God had humbled him at the close of his life for having carried his pride too high. The story is evidently a fiction.

The new Emperor Alexander has issued two addresses to his army, communicating to them the news of his father's death, and thanking them for their past services.

At the sitting of the Federal Diet at Frankfort, on February 22, M. de Prokesch von Osten (the Austrian representative) made a statement with respect to the troops assembled and ready to take the field to cover the territories placed under the common protection of the Confederation, in virtue of the resolutions of the 24th of July and 9th of December, 1854.

FREE-TRADE IN AMERICA.—The American Congress has passed an act for lessening the duties on imports. About twenty articles which have hitherto paid duty are now to be admitted free. No doubt is felt that the bill will pass the Senate.

THE MAXON of NEW YORK has published a letter denouncing the plan pursued by Belgium, Switzerland, and other European states, of sending over their paupers to America, and leaving them there helpless. This is the more absurd in the case of Switzerland, since in that country "a pauper resident in one canton is not permitted to become a resident in another canton." Efforts have been made to induce the Government to take the matter in hand, and compel the offending countries to observe the laws of nations.

A HORRIBLE AFFAIR.—Accounts from the Transvaal Republic announce the return of General Pretorius, after inflicting signal punishment on the Kafir chief Makapan, for the murder of Field-Cornet Potgieter and seven or eight men, and the massacre of several women, accompanied by circumstances of the most horrible cruelty. The General reports that towards the end of October his force, united to that of Commandant-General Potgieter, reached the subterranean caverns in which the enemy had entrenched themselves. The former then blocked up the caverns with stones and trees, and imprisoned the Kafirs. This lasted from November 8th to 21st, during which time the savages would sometimes burst forth to procure water during the night. On the raising of the siege, the Kafirs surrendered; and it was found that upwards of nine hundred had been killed outside the caverns, and a much greater number inside.

NATAL.—From Natal we hear that an expedition against the chief Dushani, of cattle-stealing celebrity, has been successful, and without bloodshed. Dushani, being terrified, made an abject submission, and agreed to pay a fine of 10,000 head of cattle.

THE AUSTRALIAN RIOTS.

The Australian disturbances are, for the present at least, at an end. The encounter between the military and the diggers has apparently quelled the spirit of the latter; and, order having been restored, Sir Charles Hotham issued a proclamation on the 8th of December, revoking the martial law which had been proclaimed on the 6th. On that day the Legislative Council of Melbourne pledged itself to aid the Lieutenant-Governor in maintaining order; on which occasion the Colonial Secretary gave the following particulars with respect to the rioters:—

"Most of the disaffected, who did not form the bulk of the diggers, and many of the leaders, were foreigners, while the real hard-working diggers were delighted with the timely intervention of the Government. Order was now entirely restored, and 417 licenses had been issued in one day. He was also truly happy to say that the majority of the prisoners, as well as of those killed, were foreigners."

The Legislative Council passed a vote of thanks to the military.

We find in the *Melbourne Argus* the subjoined details of the composition of the insurrectionary body:—

"I am informed that about thirty of the one hundred and fifty in the stockade were of those who had been convicts, and that of these thirty, twenty might be regarded as induced to connect themselves with the agitation with a view to plunder. Even a temporary success would have furnished the most favourable opportunity for aggrandisement. Besides the robbery of the stores, &c., a course which was commenced and carried to some extent, many shafts were known besides in which valuable washing stuff had been collected, and there was every probability that even a few days of successful rebellion would leave these heaps in the power of the rebels."

A letter from Ballarat, dated December 14th, says:—

"The speech of the new Colonial Secretary has given great satisfaction, as well as the manner of the Lieutenant-Governor, in paying such marked attention to the deputation from the diggers of Bendigo, and the prospective repeal of the unjust license-tax is taken as a popular triumph. In fact, this law is impracticable as well as harassing; one-half of the diggers never paid the tax, and the other half never will again, and it is doomed to be thrown out of the Legislative Council."

"At the Ballarat Police Court, on December 8th, several of the rioters engaged in the Eureka riots were committed on the charge of high treason. An inquest had been held on the body of one of the diggers killed in the attack, which resulted in a verdict against Arthur Purcell Akehurst, clerk of the Bench at Ballarat, who had volunteered to accompany the troops. The jury also presented that they viewed with the greatest horror the cool-blooded butchery of the troopers, in cutting down many innocent persons of both sexes."

"The orderly and respectable portion of the colony are using all their efforts to promote peace and security, and counteract the designs of the rebellious. But it is confidently spoken that concessions and amendments on the part of the Government must be made—an export duty instead of a license tax. Everything is improving in Ballarat."

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.

THE condition of our great manufacturing towns has not greatly improved since the cessation of the frost. A little more activity is observable in some branches of industry; but the general tone is that of depression. The reports from the iron districts of Birmingham are gloomy; orders are scarce, and many of the works are only partially employed.

The *Birmingham Journal* of last Saturday says:—

"Rumour is again busy in attributing insolvency to several houses of note in the district, and this time, we regret to add, there is some foundation for the reports. The embarrassments are less serious, however, than is generally supposed, and the actual stoppages are confined to two firms. Other firms still more eminent are spoken of, and we cannot say that the reports are wholly unfounded; but this we know, that their embarrassments arise, not from insolvency, but from the slackness of sales and the difficulty of realising the means to meet pressing engagements. We believe that in the majority of cases this temporary difficulty will be overcome, and credit maintained. At the meeting of the two firms specified, it came out that their embarrassments have chiefly arisen from the free use of accommodation bills."

The notice to the puddlers has expired; and the greater number have consented to resume work at the reduced rate of wages, though some still hold out. It is thought that an endeavour will be made to lower the wages of their mine workmen in the collieries; but the present demand for coals renders such a step unlikely for the next few months. A Chamber of Commerce has been established at Birmingham; and, with two exceptions, it was unanimously desired that the members, in their discuss-

sions, should avoid all allusions to the peculiar currency doctrines, known as those of "the Birmingham school;" but it was ultimately decided to leave the question an open one.

The hosiery trade of Nottingham has improved; but that of Leicester still experiences great depression. In the neighbourhood of the latter city, the operatives are suffering great privations; and the number of those who have applied for relief at the Hinckley workhouse, is nearly treble that of the same period of last year. The Leicester wool-market, however, is firm; while at Leeds and Bristol it is unusually dull. At Leeds, the cloth-markets have experienced a change for the better; but in the flax trade, and the machinery-making trade, no alteration has taken place. The stock of most descriptions of leather is but small; and the large government demand for boots and shoes for the army and navy has caused prices to advance. From Bristol we learn that light hides have been taken at extravagant rates for the army; and the market has in consequence been strengthened.

The unusually hard frost of February has had a very great effect upon the coal trade of London. During that month the importation of coal into London by sea, amounted to 244,226 tons, being a decrease upon the month, as compared with the same period last year, of no less than 205,664 tons. The supply by rail and canal was 132,872 tons 18 cwt.; same period in 1854, 154,902 tons 15 cwt., showing a decrease of 22,036 tons 17 cwt.

The City article in the *Times* of Monday has the following with reference to the state of trade in Australia:—

"From Sydney the latest dates were to the 25th of November, at which period the depression in the import markets continued to be increased by constant arrivals. From Adelaide, South Australia, the accounts were to the 29th of November, when the stocks of goods were still considerably in excess of the demand, not only from the pressure of direct arrivals, but also from receipts from Melbourne, where the markets were in a still worse position. The colony, however, was generally prosperous, in consequence of a good trade having been carried on in the shipment of breadstuffs, hay, &c., to Melbourne, and an improvement in the labour-market, which gave a good prospect for the progress of the copper production at the Burra Burra and other mines. The facilities afforded by the navigation of the Murray for the transmission of wool from the interior had likewise operated favourably. Some drawback, however, had been experienced from a rather deficient harvest, in consequence of drought."

The guardians of the Newton Abbot Union in Devonshire have tried the experiment of renting land for the employment of the youthful and adult paupers. The balance-sheet for the last year has just been published: we have given the statistics contained in it in another column.

The Hebrides and the West Highlands are in a state of terrible destitution. We see by an advertisement in the daily papers that a subscription is being set on foot for the succour of the people of those districts. The advertisement states that, "owing to a more extensive failure last autumn of the potato than in any previous year, and a wet and bad harvest of the scanty cereal crops grown by the poor inhabitants of parts of the West Highlands, and of the Hebrides, including Skye, Mull, and Islay, not merely want and hunger, but destitution of an alarming character, afflicts numbers of the population. By the existing Poor Law of Scotland, no able-bodied person, however destitute of the means of subsistence, possesses a claim, as in England and in Ireland, to workhouse or out-door relief, as a refuge from starvation."

THE LITERARY FUND.

At the annual general meeting of the Literary Fund, held on Wednesday last, Mr. Dilke made some singular revelations with regard to the management of the body. He said, that owing to the great expenses of the Association, with respect to house-rent, secretaryship, clerks, &c., every draught drawn for the benefit of applicants for the Society's aid cost 11*l.* 17*s.* in addition to the sum voted by the committee for their relief. He therefore moved the following resolution:—

"That whereas during the ten years from 1844 to 1858, both inclusive, the cost of assisting 429 applicants to the Literary Fund amounted to 5094*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, exclusive of collector's poundage, advertisements, and expenses attending the anniversary dinner; and whereas the cost of assisting 569 applicants to the Artist's General Benevolent Fund within the same ten years, amounted to 904*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* (also exclusive of collector's poundage, advertisements, and expenses attending the anniversary dinner), this meeting is of opinion that the expenses of managing the Literary Fund are unreasonable and enormous, and that a great change must be made in the administration of its affairs."

The motion, however, was lost by a majority of four.—Mr. Dickens, in an admirable speech, wittily

pointed out the absurd nature of the so-called "Council," which never meets, and has no duties or functions whatever. He said:—

"He had had the honour to be elected some years ago upon the council, and he had hoped that by study and fasting (*a laugh*) he might be fit to discharge the high duties which he supposed devolved upon that august body. For months he never left home without leaving word where he might be found in the event of the Literary Fund wishing to take his counsel. (*A laugh*) The Literary Fund, however, seemed to get on in its own manner, without requiring his aid; but when the council met, and where it met, and what it did he never could learn. The fact was that it never could meet, never did meet, had no place of meeting, and nothing to do—that it was, in short, the only thing in creation that had no purpose, end, or object in existence. (*A laugh*) What would the public say of a board of directors that did not direct, of a bench of judges who did not judge, of a jury that did not deliberate or find a verdict, of a physician appointed never to prescribe, of a surgeon directed never to set a bone, of a fireman enjoined never to go within fifty miles of a fire, or of picked officers of the Humane Society being tied up not to approach the water? (*Much laughter*) That was the case of the council at this moment."

Ultimately it was resolved that a committee should be appointed to apply for a new charter, or an act of Parliament.

THE ELECTIONS.

THE MONTROSE BOROUGHS.—On Friday week the sheriff of these boroughs announced that Mr. Baxter had been elected in place of the late Mr. Hume.

DUDLEY.—Sir Stafford Northcote was returned on the same day for Dudley.

BARNSTAPLE.—Mr. Buck (Conservative, but in favour of the Sebastopol committee) was elected last Saturday for Barnstaple.

FORFARSHIRE.—Lord Duncan, having accepted office under the present Government, as one of the Lords of the Treasury, presented himself again to the electors of Forfarshire last Saturday, and was returned without opposition.

PORTSMOUTH.—Lord Monck has been re-elected for this borough by a majority over Mr. Serjeant Gaselee of 1005.

TAMWORTH.—Sir Robert Peel, who has accepted office as one of the Lords of the Admiralty, was on Wednesday re-elected for Tamworth without opposition. Speaking of our present policy, he said:—

"We must no longer be either paralysed or humbugged by Austria; neither must Prussia, under the cloak of neutrality, be permitted to be the Russian ally. (*Cheers*) Let Moldavia and Wallachia be set up as an independent kingdom, as a check upon Russia and Prussia, as Belgium was a quarter of a century ago. (*Cheers*) Let Poland be restored to its place amongst nations—another efficient bulwark against the aggressions of Russia. All this we had the power to do, without sending an armament to the Crimea, and proclaiming that England was not a military power; her strength lay in another direction, and she might use it with effect."

He added that he thought there was now a fair prospect of peace, as the death of every Russian Emperor caused a change in the policy of Russia.

LORD DUNDONALD AND HIS SECRET.

LORD DUNDONALD has sent to the daily papers a copy of a petition presented by him to the House of Commons, having reference to a plan by which he undertakes to destroy Sebastopol and Cronstadt in a day each. In his letter to the *Times*, he says:—

"The means I contemplate are simple, cheap, and safe in execution. They would spare thousands of lives, millions of money, great havoc, and uncertainty of results. Their consequences might, and probably would, effect the emancipation of Poland and give freedom to the usurped territories of Sweden."

The petition sets forth that the petitioner discovered in the year 1811 a new and more effective instrument of destruction; that a commission, appointed the following year, made a very favourable report; that the plan has been subsequently approved on more than one occasion; and that the petitioner prays that he may be allowed to put his plan in execution, "reserving the encased batteries and steam gun-boats entire, and ready for the brief and easy task of destroying the hostile fleet." Foreseeing the usual objections made to new plans by all officials, Lord Dundonald gives the said obstructives a capital anticipatory rub:—

"Your petitioner begs that, should these premises and the prayer hereunto annexed seem to your hon. House exaggerated or unreasonable, you will be pleased to take into your consideration that, had electric communication and photographic delineation been privately known and publicly announced, these incontestable realities would have been received as an insult to the understanding."

OUR CIVILISATION.

ELIZABETH LOWND, a servant, aged eighteen, has been tried before Mr. Justice Coleridge, for the murder of her illegitimate child. The prisoner had been delivered at the workhouse on the 24th of last August, and exhibited a great disinclination to suckle the infant. She was heard to say she wished God would take it, as she had no home to go to; and on September the 1st she buried it alive. Being questioned with regard to it, she gave several contradictory accounts, and seemed to be in a state of great agitation and excitement. Ultimately she confessed the truth, was taken into custody, and, being found guilty of manslaughter, was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years.

At the Westminster Police Court, on Saturday last, a ruffian-looking man, named Walter Buckley, was charged with having committed various assaults on the occasion of his mother's funeral. The prisoner, who was intoxicated, had entered the room where the mourners were being dressed, and, having picked a quarrel with his sister, on the ground of his wife not being invited to the funeral, he kicked her twice in the abdomen, and cut her eye severely. Upon a policeman being sent for, he assaulted him, and succeeded, together with his wife, in forcing his way into the mourning coach. His conduct at the funeral was very indecent and disorderly; and he afterwards returned to the house, and broke some of the windows. For the assault on his sister he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour; and for that on the policeman to one month.

It will be recollected that the case of the two Irishmen who had obstructed the performance of a funeral in a Protestant burial-ground, which we recorded last week, was adjourned, in order that the Bishop of London might be consulted with reference to dispensing with the Protestant ceremony in the case of Romanists. The Bishop has since given his judgment, which is emphatically against the omission asked for. We may, therefore, expect further scenes of the same kind, since it is declared *ex cathedra* that decency and toleration shall be sacrificed to sectarian punctilio.

John Manley, a boot a shoe maker living at Kingsland, was charged at Worship-street with cruelty to a parish boy, his apprentice. The statement of the lad, who is fourteen years of age, was made with a very pathetic simplicity. He said:—

"I was apprenticed, nine months ago, to the defendant, who has been in the constant habit since of beating me severely with the strap produced (a stout strap, tied in two large knots at one of the ends). The last time was on Wednesday afternoon, when, while at work, without either waistcoat or coat on, he beat me in that manner severely for about five minutes; then pulled my hair out of my head; then beat me again for five minutes more; and after that a third time beat me, because I could not tie up my work fast enough. He has beaten me in this manner every week since I have been apprenticed to him. I have often had but one meal a day, and one day, about a month ago, I had no food at all till 6 o'clock in the evening, and then I had only some tea and bread and butter, though I had worked all day. For a week together I have had nothing but bread and cheese and butter twice a day, with only sometimes something to drink; and this has happened for several weeks. I have been very ill for the last month, with a very bad cough, so that my master was obliged to take me to a chemist's for medicine. I sleep in the workshop, on straw, and did have two sheets, a blanket, and rug, but have had no sheets lately for some time, and have latterly been very cold. I was a strong healthy boy when I went to my master, but am not so now; and the doctor told me yesterday that I was so altered he should not have known me. I was too weak to do the work that was set me. My master had four meals a-day, while I had but two for three times a-week, and for weeks together. Three times a-week I had no tea or coffee, only water, and had to work from 8 in the morning till 10, 11, and 12 o'clock at night; this was on two meals a day. A fortnight ago I worked from 8 in the morning till 12 at night for two days running, and one night that week I worked till 1 in the morning following. I had no breakfast two of those days, bread and butter for dinner, and the same in the evening; one day no coffee, but bread and cheese for dinner, and the same with some tea, when I went to bed. My master told me I might go away if I liked, but I thought they might not take me back into the union, and that I should be obliged to thieve, and therefore stopped. If I had left to tell the parish officers how I was used he would have known where I had gone to, and perhaps treated me worse. While upon trial with him he fed me better than I was fed in the workhouse, but never since."

These statements having been supported by the evidence of the parish-beadle and others, and by the certificate of the medical man who examined the boy's person, and who said he perceived indications of consumption arising from bad treatment, the prisoner was remanded for a week, in order that the verbal evidence of the surgeon might be taken.

Joseph Cleasby, a lad about fifteen years of age, was charged at Guildhall on Wednesday with robbing his employer of 21*l.* The theft had been committed on two separate occasions. In answer to a question by the Alderman, the boy admitted that he had taken the money, and said he had spent it in going to different places of amusement at the West-end. He went to the Panopticon, the Great Globe, the Diorama, the Colosseum, and the Polytechnic during the day, and at night he went to the theatres—"to the boxes." When the theatres were over he slept at the nearest coffee-shop each night. He was remanded in order that his companions might be discovered.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. E. M. WARD, A.R.A., has been elected a Royal Academician. We congratulate the Academy on the accession.

BANQUET TO GENERAL VIVIAN.—The Directors of the East India Company gave last Saturday evening a banquet in honour of General Vivian and the other English officers appointed to the command of the Turkish contingent. The dinner took place at the London Tavern; and the speakers were—The Chairman, Colonel Oliphant; M. Musurus, the Turkish Ambassador, who spoke in French; General Sir C. Pasley, General Vivian, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Vernon Smith, Lord Panmure, and the Duke of Argyll.

EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER-MILLS.—About ten minutes after 9 o'clock two explosions took place in two gunpowder-mills, which adjoined each other, at Dartford. The disaster has not been attended with loss of life; but a man named Millar, who was employed in the works, has been seriously burnt, and is considered in danger, and another workman has been injured by a portion of the machinery striking him on the back. The damage to the firm has been very serious, and the concussion caused by the explosion was so great that all the houses in the town of Dartford were shaken. The origin of the calamity is not known.

OPPOSITION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.—A meeting of manufacturers was held on Monday night at the Bridge-house Hotel, London-bridge, for the sake of agitating against Sir Benjamin Hall's Nuisances Removal and Public Health Bills. The chief arguments of the speakers were to the effect that the acts tended to a despotic centralisation, and would entirely prevent many manufactures of great importance.

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—An inquest was held at Camberwell on Tuesday upon the body of Mrs. Sarah May, aged forty-five, who had been found dead in a field near Forest Hill, Sydenham, on Sunday morning. It appeared that the poor woman had been wandering in her mind; and, having gone out on Saturday to make a call, had probably strayed about until she perished from cold and fatigue. A policeman had met her on Sunday morning about one o'clock, A.M., and had found her then walking without shoes or stockings; and the medical man who made a *post mortem* examination, said she had, apparently, been crawling about on her knees, but he was confident she had not been abused, as was at first thought. A verdict of "Natural Death" was returned.

THE RECENT ESCAPE FROM NEWGATE.—The convict Bell, one of the three prisoners who recently escaped from Newgate, was arrested the other morning between the Kingsland and Hackney roads. The other two men had been previously captured. A committee of aldermen is inquiring into the circumstances of the case; and two of the turnkeys have been suspended.

DEATH OF SIR GEORGE LARPENT, BART.—This gentleman, formerly well known in political and commercial circles, died on the 8th inst., at his residence in Conduit-street, aged about sixty-seven. Sir George, in 1847, was a candidate, on liberal principles, for the City of London, and he ran Mr. Masterman to three votes. He had previously been M.P. for Nottingham for a short time.

FINCHLEY CEMETERY.—The new cemetery for the parish of Marylebone, situate at East-end, Finchley, was consecrated by the Bishop of London on Tuesday last. The ground, consisting of twenty-six acres, was purchased by the burial board of the parish, under the provisions of the new Metropolitan Buildings Act.

ACCIDENT BY MACHINERY.—A man named James Brown was killed by machinery at Salford on Monday afternoon. He was employed to manage a hoist in the machine-making shop of Messrs. Higgins, and in consequence of the damp weather, it became necessary to put soft soap on certain parts of the machine to make it run easier. For this purpose he had to get about eight feet higher than the hoist; and, at a distance from him of only seventeen feet, there was a ladder to be used for this purpose. To save trouble, however, he got into the hoist, and then upon a cross-bar over it, and so began to ascend, putting the soap on as he went. In this way he appears to have lost sight of the danger he was in, and, the hoist going to the top of the building with him, his head went against the pulley, through which the ropes pass, with such force, that he was crushed to death almost in a moment. An inquest was held before Mr. Rutter, county coroner, when the jury found a verdict of "Accidental Death."

A NEW CAPITAL FOR EGYPT.—A letter from Alex-

andria, of the 24th ult., in the *Pays*, says:—"Said Pacha has paid several visits recently to this city; on the last occasion he took a trip by sea to the environs, and afterwards left for the barrage of the Nile, where he has resolved on building a town, which appears destined to become the capital of Egypt. The position is excellent in every respect. The barrage is established at the southern point of the Delta-formed by the two branches of the Nile, of Damietta and Rosetta. It is the centre of Egypt; the air is pure, and there are no marshes for some distance; in addition, the Delta is the most fertile province. As a military position, it can be fortified in a formidable manner. General Gallici-Bey, of the engineers, who is employed by the Viceroy with the authorisation of the French Government, to whose service he belongs, has been commanded to prepare the plan of the fortifications of the new town. The Viceroy intends to lay the first stone himself, and on that occasion a grand *fête* is to be given, to which a vast number of persons of Alexandria and Cairo have been invited. All the steamers of the Government and of the Indian Transit Company are to be placed at the disposal of the guests.

ADVICES FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE up to the 29th of January inclusive, state that the colony was tranquil.

FATAL OCCURRENCE ON THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—On Saturday morning, on the arrival of an early luggage-train at the Brick-lane station, Bethnal-green, from Cambridge, a guard was found to be missing from his usual position near the tender. Search was immediately made down the line, and the missing man was discovered lying across the rails, with the upper portion of his head cut off, and various parts of the body shockingly injured. The medical gentleman who was sent for gave it as his opinion that the train had passed over him, and that death had been instantaneous.

FROM NEW MEXICO we have reports that the Indians were becoming exceedingly troublesome. At Pueblo, on the 25th of December, fourteen men were massacred by the savages, and several women and children carried off. The inhabitants of Santa Fé expected an attack from a large force of Apaches, who had determined to take the town. The 1st Dragoons had a fight with a party of Indians at Sacramento Mountain on the 25th of January, when twelve of the latter were killed. A captain and three privates, however, were slain by the Indians. Lieutenant Sturges completely routed a party of Apaches sixty miles from Santa Fé, and recovered a number of stolen cattle. Great disapproval was manifested at Santa Fé to the refusal of the Governor to adopt summary measures for the suppression of hostilities.

THE FAST DAY.—A numerous meeting has been held in Liverpool, to protest against days of Humiliation and Fast by command. Mr. Robertson Gladstone presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. W. Rathbone, Rev. Mr. Graham, Mr. White, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Shiel, and other gentlemen. The chief points in the resolutions were, the opposition to dictation in religious matters, and the inexpediency of Fast days, which deprived the poor of the profits of one working day. A memorial, which was an embodiment of the resolutions, was agreed to, and is to be forwarded to Lord Palmerston.

IN VIRTUE OF THE NEW-BEER ACT, public-houses will be closed on the Fast Day.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A public-house in Salisbury-court, Fleet-street, took fire on Wednesday morning. The policeman had perceived an unusual light coming from the house about two o'clock in the morning, and gave an alarm. The fire-escape from Bridge-street having arrived, two persons were saved; but the escape itself then caught light. A female servant appeared at one of the attic windows, shrieking for help; and the men, expanding the jumping-sheet, called out to her to leap. This, however, she appeared too much alarmed to do, and shortly after sank back into the flames. The occurrence, on more than one occasion, of the escape catching fire, suggests the query whether it would not be possible to make the machine entirely of non-inflammable substances.

LYNCH-LAW AND OTHER AMENITIES OF CALIFORNIA.—The *Times* Californian correspondent relates the following story:—"An American named Brown was found guilty, after a legal trial, of murder, and condemned to be hung on the same day with a Californian, also legally condemned for another murder. Brown's execution was ordered by the Supreme Court of the State to be stayed on an appeal, on the ground of a flaw in the indictment, which would probably have given him a new trial. The people, however, determined that both criminals should have even-handed justice meted out to them, and after the Californian was executed by the constituted authorities a mob broke open the prison and hanged Brown. The Mayor, after he had performed his part at the legal execution of the Californian, resigned his office, to enable him 'consistently to assist in his private capacity' in the Lynchings of Brown. By last accounts he was a candidate for his former office, with every prospect of success. No doubt Brown was guilty, and, as Los Angeles has long been the scene of murders and other horrible crimes, the people determined to make a salutary example by an act of stern impartiality. The three men hanged at Turner's-ferry were guilty of cattle-stealing—a crime which has of late been carried to such an extent as to have required a striking example to put a stop to it. There are several horse-stealers in custody, who were

rescued from mobs just as they were preparing to execute summary justice upon them." The same writer speaks of hunting and shooting down convicts; of the prevalence of "murders, duels, robberies, burglaries, assaults with deadly weapons, larceny, rape, and minor offences;" and of the explosion of a steamer, owing to excessive racing, by which sixty persons were killed, and thirty severely wounded.—A promising young State!

A DISASTROUS FIRE broke out on Thursday morning, at Bermondsey-wall. Several warehouses have been either destroyed or greatly injured. The damage is computed to amount to 15,000*l.*

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 17.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the course of the preliminary business, it was stated by Mr. Wilson that arrangements would soon be made to enable the public to send paper and envelopes to Somerset House to be stamped with postage stamps.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he did not propose to make his financial statement before Easter.

EDUCATION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON brought forward his motion for the better encouragement of general education in England and Wales. He had taken up the subject, believing that the Government or Lord Aberdeen had abandoned it, and he thought that his notice had induced the proposition of Lord John Russell on the same subject. He commenced by objecting to the Committee of the Privy Council as having too great an interest to manage without having a more distinct recognition as a body, and being without representation in the House of Commons; and also that sums voted for Education were misapplied by the Committee. The President of the Council was, in fact, a Minister of Public Instruction, and his department ought to be represented by a responsible Minister. He gave several instances of the want of wisdom and management in the proceedings of the council. He would give that council more power, but under a different administration. After these preliminaries, he adverted to the slow progress of education, which was proceeding at a lesser rate than it did twenty years ago; besides which, the education that was afforded was lamentably deficient. He proceeded to analyse the latest statistics of education, and commented on the large number of children shown by those statistics to receive no education at all. The cause came not from the number of children at work, but from the poverty and indifference of the parents, that indifference being caused by the want of education in the parents themselves. Yet more important were the defects of such education as was given. He read returns which showed the relative state of education in England and the rest of Europe, England being at the bottom of the scale, and that the education given was even inferior to that of almost every country. The results were shown in the great proportion of criminals to the population generally, and in the frightful amount of crime in the uneducated districts of the metropolis, and the great towns; and he stigmatised the state of things as worse than barbarism. With regard to religious differences preventing all improvement in the system of education, he thought that a greater obstacle was that a vast number of persons knew nothing of any religion at all. He then stated the plan he proposed. His bill was to be permissive in the first instance, and he proposed to frame it on the structure of the Poor Law Board. The educational areas of towns were to be those of the Municipal Corporations, and in the country those of the Poor Law Unions. It should be optional for the rate-payers to adopt or not the provisions of the act. If they did, they were to elect Educational Boards, the qualification for a member of which would be an income of 30*l.* a-year. Magistrates were to be *ex officio* members, and the Board was to have power to establish new schools, and to levy an educational rate. He believed the voluntary system could not succeed in ensuring a proper system. The rates might be assisted by grants as at present from the Consolidated Fund. He insisted strongly that the schools should be free, and he argued that such a system alone would be satisfactory or efficacious. He then proceeded to deal with the question whether the education should be scriptural or secular. He argued elaborately that the adoption of the secular system would be distasteful to the country, and he proposed that schools for persons of all denominations should receive assistance from the rates; and that every school should be open to children of all denominations, without their having forced on them any particular religious teachers; but at the same time, the prevailing religious teaching in each school should be guided by the principle that the religious tenets of the majority of persons in the district should be the test of that teaching. He showed that some such

system prevailed in Switzerland, France, and other countries, and argued that such a plan alone seemed to him to suffice to solve the difficulties of this question. He was aware that Churchmen would say he had conceded too much, and Dissenters that he had not conceded enough, but he had honestly endeavoured to make a contribution to a cause in which he believed the welfare of the country was bound up.

After some observations from Mr. HADFIELD,

Lord STANLEY, while supporting the bill generally, and urging the strong necessity of some great effort being made in the promotion of education, laid it down broadly that no success could attend any system of schools unless religious teaching were made purely optional.

Sir G. GREY, on the part of the Government, gave a most cordial assent to the introduction of the measure, and praised the diligence and liberality with which Sir J. Pakington had dealt with it, and he only wished that he could hope that it would meet the admitted deficiencies of education, which, he believed, could only be effected by something like a compulsory system of education. Much as the voluntary system had done, it was not a sufficient basis for an educational system which would be commensurate to the increase of population. He agreed that a system of rating was advisable to obtain the means of establishing schools. He urged that it was possible by mutual conciliation to reconcile the differences between the advocates of religious and secular education.

Lord R. CECIL objected that the deficiencies of education were exaggerated, and was opposed to the religious principle inculcated in the bill.

Mr. W. J. FOX eulogised the liberality of the bill, and thought it one which persons of all opinions might concur in bringing into operation; and urged the absolute necessity of using every means to increase education, and especially in the branch of elementary instruction.

Mr. M. GIBSON also said that Sir J. Pakington had displayed great liberality, and shown great respect for liberty of conscience in the measure he had proposed. It seemed to him to go far to reconcile the contending parties on the subject of education. At the same time he thought that the great difficulty would be found in the principle laid down that, in all schools paid for by rates, some form of religious teaching should be imperative. He gave notice that he should bring in a bill for the promotion of education on the secular plan.

Mr. ADDERLEY spoke in favour of the bill.

Lord PALMERSTON rejoiced in the hopes that the important subject of education might at last be effectually provided for. Recognising all the difficulties of the religious part of the question, he expressed his trust that a solution might be found for them by means of a general relaxation in those extreme prejudices which had hitherto occasioned so much perplexity.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Sir B. HALL brought forward his bill for the better local management of the metropolis. Defining the metropolis, as viewed in his measure, to consist of the district comprised within the jurisdiction of the Registrar-General, Sir B. Hall indicated the principles on which his measure was based. These involved a uniformity of the system, the consolidation of the local boards, and the election of the members of these boards by the ratepayers. Besides these local boards, he proposes to constitute, under the name of the Metropolitan Board of Works, a body who should watch over the execution of all improvements and public works extending over several districts on the whole area of the metropolis. This board was to consist of a chairman and forty-two members—two of the latter being elected by the City Corporation, and the remainder by the ratepayers of the different districts. The bill would in no way affect the City of London, which he intimated would form the subject of a distinct measure to be introduced after Easter. His bill, he contended, promised to give to all the metropolitan parishes the advantages of municipal institutions, without any of their cumbrous paraphernalia, and would, besides, secure highly beneficial results in the way of sanitary arrangements, the water supply, and other works calculated to promote the health and comfort of the dwellers in the metropolis.

After more discussion, the bill was brought in.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of ALBEMARLE, in moving for some returns, raised a discussion respecting the transport of horses by steamers.

Lord PANMURE, the Earl of LUCAN, and the Duke of CAMBRIDGE entered into some technical details on the subject. The returns were then ordered.

Some bills were advanced respectively through a step of progress, and their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to seven o'clock.

The girl who was charged with the murder of Mrs. Bacon, at Rochester, was acquitted yesterday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 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 PRESENT AND THE COMING.

We are sadly in want of a great Commoner to take the lead in public affairs. Let him come forward and the nation is ready to accept, to cheer, to follow, and to reward him. There never was a better opportunity. Hereditary wisdom has clearly exhausted itself. The aristocratic intellect, like the Nile, diminishes as it flows away from its source. It is losing itself in by-channels and marshes. Fogs and miasma hang over it as it dwindles away.

It would be a great mistake to suppose that this phenomenon is the result of mere accident. The statesmen who were begotten last century have not begotten idiots to succeed them—not in all cases, we mean. There are Dukes and Marquises and Viscounts now at the head or near the head of public affairs quite equal in aptitude for administration of a particular kind to most of the men who did our business for us of yore. The individuals have not so much diminished as appearance tells us. The claims upon them have increased. They are required to study more, to work more, to understand more, to consult history more attentively, to look further into the future, to divide more carefully in the prism of their intelligence into its primitive colours every ray of public opinion. They fail in their mission, because their education, their position, their hereditary prejudices, and, more than all, their immediate interests continue to make them fail. We might as well expect to hear a good Catholic preach the doctrines of the Reformation, as a true aristocrat become the exponent of the wants and theories of this age.

The time is not long past when a young nobleman or gentleman, fresh from Oxford or Cambridge, with his scribe full of elegant extracts, could set out to study men and manners, laws and institutions, in a six months' tour through Europe, and return quite qualified to be a legislator or a minister. If he added to ordinary physical qualifications a loose knowledge of English history, some faint notions of the law of nations, a reasonable acquaintance with ADAM SMITH and PALEY, there was nothing to prevent him from becoming a great orator and an influential statesman. He set out lightly loaded, and increased his burden by experience as he went on. In those times this was all

well enough—in these very different acquirements are demanded. The same men cannot expect any longer to hold the same position.

The best education, it is true, is that of the world. The school for a politician is the company of the men and classes whose interests he has to watch over. When England was governed solely for the benefit of a particular order, the members of that order very properly kept the Government in their hands. They knew precisely what was wanted. But times have changed. New classes and new interests have arisen. We have already passed through a transitive state. Capital, manufacture, and trade, as soon as they became great facts, obtained a share in the Government; but being essentially parasitical, and divorced from large considerations of policy, necessarily left imperial questions to men who seemed to know and care more about them. Of late years, for the first time, the nation has really made its appearance on the political scene. It is destined to produce a deep change in the aspect of affairs. With a keen appreciation of material interests, equal to that of the commercial classes, it unites the patriotism, the large views, the indomitable courage, and the disposition to sacrifice all for honour, formerly claimed as an especial privilege by the order that made government a trade. The conduct of the British people throughout this war certainly proves that influence must henceforth come from them. But they must choose their agents from amongst themselves. The young gentlemen, with their Latin quotations, their flimsy knowledge, their experience of Continental hotels, even if they ask to be the spokesmen of this new and mighty power, must not be accepted. We decline their assistance. We want men of tougher sinews, harder hands, longer heads, to do our work. The braided hero from Pall Mall may lead a gallant charge at Inkermann; but he will not work in the trenches, nor trudge about camp knee-deep in the mire during a Crimean winter. We no longer want leaders who will create feverish applause in the House at two in the morning, and wander next day from square to square, and crescent to crescent, in search of approval from the fair and the fashionable. We have to lay siege to the great stronghold of abuse—to throw up batteries, to stir a great deal of dirt, to make hideous breaches and sink awful mines. When the storming day comes let volunteers join, if they will, and we will give them a moderate share in the spoil.

There is no fear, however, that we shall be encumbered with auxiliaries. Those among the governing classes, who would willingly desert to us in hope of a good command, object only to some of our theories, but do not like our manners at all. They think us rather too absolute, and very much too rough. We say disagreeable things, and do not put on gloves to touch abuses. We are not polished enough to conceal the truth that "a lord *may* be an owl;" we apply at all times to tyrants and usurpers their proper names, not waiting until England has been foiled in a negotiation, cheated and laughed at, and shocked in her prejudices or principles, enough to fly into a passion which even courtiers must respect and pretend to share. We continue to be "ribald," even when our enemies or false friends are sneaking in order to draw us into delusive negotiations; we do not call that man "august" to-day whom we are ready to designate as a "brigand" to-morrow. Those noble arts we leave to those who claim the monopoly of gentlemanly conduct. How, then, can they act with us? How can we act with them? Let them preserve their prejudices, if they will. For our parts, we

are almost inclined to join the mob orator, and exclaim:—"England remembers what manner of man was the First Gentleman in Europe. We may live to see the day when the people will follow with brick-bats to his grave the very last gentleman in Europe."

Most of our readers have no doubt been disgusted in the course of this war with appeals coming from certain quarters, public and private, to the effect that we must not speak harshly of our enemies, that we must be kind and considerate even to the Emperor of Russia. The Paris police—very gentlemanly also—has recently arrested various individuals for selling songs reflecting on the personal character of NICHOLAS. If this moderation were urged in the name of Christianity, or on any broad and general principles, we should admire, and regret not to be able to imitate it. But it is a mere question of politeness directed to the station of the man or men whose feelings we are required to respect. We are not called upon to be merciful to our enemies, but to princes and emperors. The classes that now affect to be so gentle are the same that exhausted the vocabulary of invective and calumny against the Republicans of France when we were at war with them; and who even at present think no abuse too ferocious, no insinuation too bitter, no lie too cruel, to vomit against the partisans of liberty wherever they may venture to show themselves. We are to crawl before crowned heads even if they call up the last resources of their empires in order to injure and destroy us: we are to spit upon shoeless patriots even if they offer to become our allies. This is the gentlemanly view of politics. Are we not right in saying that we must have new men to carry out new ideas?

The fact is, that at the bottom of all this gentility lurks a very clear view of self-interest. The great feature of the present times is a growing indifference for rank, titles, and worldly distinctions of all kinds. People are not quite so much led away as of yore by mere names. The process by which this result has been arrived at has not escaped the observation of our governors. They begin to understand that the advance of England towards freedom has consisted of a series of very small steps, each debated on principles that would have legitimately involved complete reform. The royal prerogative was long attacked by those who wished to limit it, from premises that might have left us no royalty at all. Parliamentary reform was based on doctrines from which universal suffrage might have been deduced; the people did not follow those who denounced rotten boroughs, but those who told them that "taxation without representation is tyranny." In each of those great discussions something was gained in practice but more in theory. Attacks on a particular king diminished the veneration for kings in general; attacks on aristocratic abuses diminished the veneration for aristocracy. It is now felt that a little more stirring in the public mind in this way will be dangerous. The great debate is between liberty and authority. One question is being stated in an infinite variety of ways: Do there exist persons and classes who, in spite of all blunders and every kind of incompetence, have a natural right to conduct the affairs of a nation? Ought not the nation which suffers by these blunders and this incompetence to choose other men from other classes? Common-sense replies "Ay;" but there is a lingering respect for old customs—a certain shabby tendency to believe in the wisdom and capacity of old and young lords because they are lords, which says "No." Make it clear to the public that no veneration should go where there is no

virtue—do in politics what the Reformation did in religion, that is, make reason a preliminary to faith, and we shall at once have a new set of rulers. To avert this inevitable result the supporters of authority weakly endeavour to keep up the spaniel veneration for place and power. They even repeat the fantastic absurdities of past times, and try to throw the halo of beauty and elegance round the persons of all who wield authority, however iniquitously. We used always to hear of the majestic person of NICHOLAS; we now hear of the manly grace and beauty of ALEXANDER. But only women give their allegiance to bright eyes and broad shoulders. The world is sufficiently advanced to choose its leaders on other grounds. The English aristocracy cannot by such acts lead our sympathies with theirs. They must abdicate, and let others grapple with the crowned apostles of barbarism and slavery.

HUMILIATION "EX-OFFICIO."

IN no aspect does this country appear so unworthy of itself as when it receives the dictation of the official clergy in matters pertaining to religion. The QUEEN in Council has ordered that a day of fast, humiliation, and prayer, before Almighty God, shall be observed throughout England and Ireland, on Wednesday the 21st day of March. The purpose of this prayer is "to obtain pardon of our sins, and in the most devout and solemn manner send up our prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty, imploring His blessing and assistance on our arms, for the restoration of peace to her Majesty and her dominions."

The motive which suggested this observance is one that merits respect, and will command the sympathy of considerable numbers; but it will not command the sympathy of the nation. It suggests, indeed, very awkward associations, and still more awkward discords. It presents England as a State, curiously competing in importunities with Russia whose Czar, Privy Council, and people, have been for some months putting up prayers exactly for the same purpose on their side. This is a part of the subject which we cannot pursue. The species of competition in importunity which is suggested, is painfully profane. PETER PINDAR objects to those witches, mounted on broomstick nags, who

"Gallop along the air a wondrous pace,
And boldly fly in God Almighty's face."

But imagine two witches of the archiepiscopal order boldly running this competitive race in the capacity of beggars!

If we were to depend upon our official church representatives for success in this kind of competition, we could not feel confidence. We have not before us all the Russian forms of prayer, but such specimens as we have received are imbued with an earnestness direct to its purpose, and have a barbaric eloquence. The Czar boasts that he has the Almighty by his side, assures his people that they are fighting for the Cross, embodies before them a power so wide and great that in the very strength it seems almost divine, and speaks a language intelligible to multitudes. This is thoroughly genuine. Not so our polite humanitarian bishop. He seeks aid in "this time of peril and perplexity," but he does it rather with the air of a member of the Peace Society, or an old lady, than as the spokesman of a nation seeking victory as a judgment upon the right. He confesses to having deserved the divine anger, and "justly fears chastenings;" as if England dreaded the war, and regarded it, not as a chastisement which she inflicts, but as one that she endures! He beseeches the Divine Judge to "enter not into judgment," though that judgment could indeed be the

only legitimate object of prayer; but he prays Providence to "direct our Gracious Sovereign,"—of course not through judgment, but by some "favour,"—"to the preservation of tranquillity at home and the preservation of peace throughout the world." In other words, the Archbishop prays for protection, deprecates judgment, and asks for a species of partiality on behalf of "England and Wales and Ireland." The Czar tells his people to march forth, and fight for Russia and the Cross. "Let nothing," says our Archbishop in his lawn sleeves, "be done through pride, malice, or vain glory," but to "teach us to be merciful, tender-hearted, and fully compassionate." Read by the Czar's countrymen, this is the prayer of cowards; read by Englishmen who know the decorations bestowed upon staff-officers, it is the prayer of hypocrites.

It is worse. Read by Dissenters, it is the prayer of one sect dictating to the rest; and read by the working people, it is the prayer of the rich who belong to that one sect, and who keep up these mummeries not through sincere piety or reliance in the divine justice, but through a belief that the mummeries are an indirect means of sustaining the monopolies of rank and office. In the parish of St. Andrews, Holborn, the local Incumbent of the Established Church claims to read prayers over the bodies of *all* "persuasions;" although, as a contemporary observes, some persuasions, such as the Roman Catholic, verily believe that the prayers of the Protestant clergymen are a viaticum expediting the soul of the departed on the journey to eternal perdition. The Archbishop will not allow us to pray for war and victory, but his "form" teaches us, with its oily twang, that we must pray for peace and favour; and numbers even of the conforming sect stand by and sneer at the pretence, which others resist as a dictation and an interference.

It has aroused the working classes in several parts of the country. A day of fast and humiliation is to them a reality. To the other "persuasions," besides those of poverty, it only means the addition of fish and egg sauce to the usual dinner, with a closing of the place of business, as if it were Sunday. To the working man a "fast" means stopped wages and the want of dinner. Now the working men object to go without their dinner, in order that the Archbishop of CANTERBURY may, in the chapels and churches of a particular sect, approach the Throne of Divine Grace with his insincere and unworthy prayer. It is not for the want of such a form in particular chapels and churches that the knives and forks of all the community should stand still. The working classes would gladly sacrifice a day's wage for a worthy object. If the money were really needed for the benefit of the sick and wounded, for the supply of the soldiers, or for the prosecution of the war, they would give it. We know they would, because they have done it already. Many a working man has given a day's wage to the Patriotic Fund; but he does not feel that a day's wage taken from him for the sake of the archiepiscopal flam will correct blunders and retrieve disasters, or in any manner help to set this country straight before the Divine Judge.

WANTED A GENERAL OF CAVALRY.
THERE is no reason why Great Britain should not produce a corps of cavalry second to none that ever rode upon the field of victory. All the material requisites for the composition of an overwhelming force exist in these islands. We have horses, certainly the equals for spirit, bottom, and speed, of any in the world; we have men, who have always shown that they



ready to ride over guns or dash upon bayonets ; we have steel, and workers in steel, and last quite good enough to make sabres. Compounded, these elements would resolve to complete a chivalry as could be desired and a force of 10,000 such might be made to ride over or through anything. There is one thing only lacking, but without that, all the rest goes for little ; and that one thing is—what we don't seem likely to get—a General of Cavalry.

Our first venture in this campaign has been a sad failure. We had the men, the horses, the steel—but in the place of the man we had a man ; potent, perhaps, as a Peer, impotent, nay worse, as a General of Cavalry. But how can we hope to do better ? How, when influence and station carry a man to the head of a division, either of infantry or cavalry, can we expect to find genius at the head of our armies ? You cannot make a general by printing his name and civil and military titles in the *London Gazette*. We have tried that mode of manufacturing a General of Cavalry, and we obtained an—Earl of LUCAN.

Now what do we want ? Cavalry in action depends almost entirely for victory upon good leading. An officer who commands cavalry must always know where the enemy is, sometimes better than the enemy himself, as SEIDLITZ showed at Rosbach, when the enemy suddenly found the Prussian cavalry, not only on their flank, but in among them. The Prussians knew where the French were ; SOUBISE, like Lord LUCAN, did not know, and took no pains to know, the position of the Prussians. And the consequence was, that SEIDLITZ, without waiting for orders, but attacking at once and impetuously, swept the enemy from the face of the field. Victory depends upon resolution and the glance of a moment, not upon numbers. At Marengo, KELLERMAN, riding with 200 horse on the flank of the French, saw the Austrian infantry pursuing, in some confusion, an advantage they had gained. In an instant he was in the midst of them, and they laid down their arms. Nor did he stop here. The left flank of the astonished grenadiers was covered by 1200 horse. KELLERMAN, perfectly master of his faculties, stopped his troops and sent them against the horse. At Salamanca, by seizing the right moment for a charge, General LE MARCHANT cut up the left wing of the French, and contributed in no slight degree to that brilliant victory. Take another illustration—the conduct of SEIDLITZ in FREDERICK THE GREAT's two grand battles with the Russians. In both instances the Prussians attacked the enemy in strong positions, but with very different results. At Zorndorf, SEIDLITZ watched the battle from the extreme left at the head of the Prussian cavalry. The King thrice sent him orders to charge, the third time with a menace of death for disobedience—yet thrice this great general disobeyed, saying at the third request—"Tell the King my head shall be at his service after I have won the battle." The result justified the boast. The Prussian infantry were repulsed, were flying ; the Russians pursued in disorder. This was the moment ; and ordering his movements with great coolness, SEIDLITZ made a double attack with the swoop of an eagle, and defeated both the cavalry and infantry before him. This retrieved, but did not win the day. The King made another infantry attack ; but troops which had never failed before failed him now ; and again, at the very crisis of the battle, with his squadrons reorganised and newly arrayed, SEIDLITZ, shouting, "My children follow me !" led his host of horse once more to the front, broke the cavalry, and bursting on the infantry, drove the Russians from the field. Here were displayed the greatest qualities of a cavalry leader in action—judgment and valour. SEIDLITZ

led, and always knew when to lead, his men to the charge. He only made one mistake, which can be compared to the Balaklava charge—and he made that at the express command of the King. At Künersdorff, FREDERICK, after two vain requests, ordered SEIDLITZ, "in the devil's name," to charge the Russian batteries. Feeling how rash was the order, SEIDLITZ reluctantly obeyed and repeatedly and vainly charged the batteries at the head of his cuirassiers. The Prussians were crushed by the fire of the guns ; the battle was lost.

From these instances it will be seen that the general we want is a man whose vigilance never sleeps ; whose rapid judgment never fails ; whose coolness never forsakes him ; whose actions never halt between resolve and doubt ; who is daring to rashness, yet discreet to disobedience ; who fears no amount of responsibility ; and whose personal valour carries him at the head of his men into the thick of the fray, when once he has given the signal for a charge. He should know when to bound forward, when to withdraw his troops ; he should know when to be satisfied, and when to set no limits to the sweep of his conquering sword. Such a man, at the head of 10,000 English horse, would be a pledge of victory in every field. The true secret of success is the personal leading, the personal influence of the commander, everywhere among his troops, as well in the barrack and the bivouac, as on the field of battle. Is it possible that we can get such a leader as this by taking the pick of the Court, the friend of the Minister, or the dilettante Peer ? The thing is impossible. Cavalry generals are born, not made ; opportunity develops their powers : and we should look rather in the stable and the barrack, rather anywhere than where we do look—in the peerage—for the man we want.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISE IN HUNGARY.
Not many years ago we were told of an Hungarian nobleman who was visiting Paris, and who intended to come on to London, but he was prevented by a doubt whether he could pay for his lodging. He wanted that which is common enough in this country, money ; although his household would probably have enabled him, impromptu, to furnish a very respectable company of soldiers, or his stables to mount a troop of horse. For the country to which he belonged is rich in all that constitutes the raw elements of wealth. It is fertile in the highest degree, few countries so much so. It abounds in corn and wine. It has the natural riches of raw countries—those rough and ready treasures which give the settler the means of providing suddenly for the wants of life, while he develops the larger sources of wealth. It has immense tracts of pasture land, forest land, and virgin soil. With about 7,350,000 acres of arable land, 960,000 of garden, 1,365,000 vineyards, it has 11,570,000 meadows, and 1,275,000 ponds, and 18,410,000 forests : 26,250,000 acres of forest, meadow, and morness, to about 9,750,000 cultivated land !

Hungary is rich in other things. One of the "dead" languages is there indigenous and living. "Boots" at the inn, asked what is the "schnaps" that he recommends, replies to the traveller, "Schnaps, domine, res est maxime necessaria omne mani." Need we wonder that the nobleman finds a difficulty in paying his way, where his native land is scarcely advanced beyond Canada in cultivation, and the inn servant commends a dram as "a most necessary thing every morning"—in Latin ? It seems to connect the condition of the far West with something in the midst of the Middle Ages or beyond them. No wonder that in 1825 the nobles only began

to surrender those feudal rights which belonged to our old times ; no wonder that even in 1848 they had got no further in their history than we had two centuries earlier—or rather, the wonder is that they had got so far.

Great way has been made in these five years. Austria has decreed railways, and, what is more, has made those enterprises not only State projects, but State pledges in the hands of European capitalists. The Government of Austria, in pursuit of material wealth, has embarked in the same boat with its subjects, particularly in Hungary and Bohemia. The network of Austria presents on the map two great lines which cross each other diagonally at Vienna, forming a species of cross. One of these passes north-east and south-west from Russian Poland to the Adriatic ; the other from north-west to south-east, through Bohemia to the extremities of Hungary. The northern railway, or the line of Ferdinand, rises from the Saxon Railway between Dresden and Niedergrund, with which it connects Prague ; it has branches connecting Moravia and Olmutz, where it joins lines that connect it with Prussia, Poland, and Russia. From Triebitz the principal line goes by Brünn to Vienna. The gross receipts of this part of the Austrian railways have risen within the last few years to 7,000,000^{l.} sterling ; the net proceeds returning an ample profit on the capital of 8,000,000^{l.} Bohemia and Bavaria have a population of 6,260,000 inhabitants ; they have an internal commerce with Austria amounting in the aggregate of exports and imports to 4,600,000^{l.} but a part of their traffic is only commencing with the development of the mineral resources of the district and of Hungary.

It is in Hungary that the grand prospects of the enterprise begin to develop themselves. There are railways which connect Vienna with Pesth, and will be continued even to Belgrade. The trade of Hungary with Austria amounts to about 12,000,000^{l.} per annum ; and from the nature of the country, and the condition in which it is, we must understand that the existing trade is only an earnest of that which will soon travel by the railway. At present Austria is traversed by means of the natural streams, the Danube being the chief, with its débouchement in the Black Sea ; a few canals, principally improvements of winding rivers ; and a very few main roads. The means of transit are as slow, as expensive, and as costly as the travelling of the fifteenth century. The immense villages are separated by large spaces that are deserts to the sight of the traveller. During the period of labour, the men set out in caravans to establish themselves on the lots confided to their culture. They are lodged in a species of barrack, leaving only the women, children, and aged in the village, and returning when they can on the Saturday night to pass the Sunday at home. It is a country which possesses the riches that we have already described ; which, notwithstanding its isolated position in the middle of Europe, has struggled to produce a trade of the dimensions that we have particularised ; and that is now placed by means of the railway in direct communication through Vienna with Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, and, we may say, England.

There is another trade existing only in its infancy—the trade between Austria and the Turkish possessions by land, which already rises to an amount of 3,200,000^{l.}, besides a transit of 1,600,000^{l.}

The State has taken the initiative in establishing these railways, but in point of fact the development of the commercial part of the scheme may be said to be handed over to a commercial Company, called the "Austrian

Imperial and Royal Privileged Company of the State Railways." It combines in its administration eighteen persons of the highest financial order in France and Germany. Its capital is about eight millions sterling. Branches of it comprise in their operation the working of certain mines auxiliary to its own proceedings. This Company is to the finance of Austria what the railway is to its commerce, it places Austria in direct connexion with the capitalists of Europe, on terms that secure confidence for the Government of Vienna, and profit for the Company:—

"Let us," says M. Cochut in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, "recall the position of feudal Hungary, and measure the economical bearing of these last reforms—the land freed and transmissible, the cultivator become proprietor, imposts equally spread, a guarantee of equality before the civil law, a transit easy and rapid, the means of credit, the probable planting of industrial colonies in a country where the French have always been so cordially received. Let us reflect on the inevitable necessity under which Turkey will find herself to effect a complete transformation of her own state, and to become a true European power if she wishes longer to exist in Europe. Let us observe in the perspective somewhat further off, Germany and India—the heart of Europe and the heart of Asia—seeking to traverse the isthmus of Suez which is about to be pierced. Let us dwell upon the spectacle of these great things which our own generation will see, and we shall be persuaded that a great movement is about to be accomplished in the Danube, and that a new political force is to arise which will find its principal source in Hungary. Will this force constitute itself under the form of a Danubian confederation, as the democracy desires, or will it take the form of an extension of the Austrian monarchy towards the East?—an ample compensation which will suffice to the Emperor of Austria, and might perhaps determine him to dispossess himself of Italy."

PRUSSIA PERPLEXED.

At the first Vienna Conference Prussia was not represented. For the time, therefore, her policy has only an indirect influence on the deliberations of Europe. In this circumstance we perceive no diminution, but rather an increase, of her perplexities. A majority of the Federal German States must accept the lead of Austria, and act upon her decision, or adhere to the Cabinet of Berlin, and be left to throw the dead weight of their neutrality into the balance of peace or war. At all events a diplomatic crisis is at hand. Mystification must cease, even at Vienna; and it must be known what are the positive demands of the Western Powers, what concessions, if any, the Russian Government is willing to make, and how far the Austrian Cabinet is prepared to maintain the points already defined by Great Britain and France.

A general pacification, certainly, would dispel the cloud. But, in the event of continued war, the situation of Russia becomes more involved than ever. Already is the confederate action of Germany at an end. There would then be a conclusion also to the Holy Alliance, which, with all its guarantees, must vanish at the first sound of Austrian cannon on the Danube. Thus isolated in the midst of belligerent powers, and still prolonging its efforts at mediatory negociation, the policy of Berlin may nevertheless exercise an important bearing on the issue of this European conflict. It is useless to speculate on the chance of King FREDERICK WILLIAM taking up arms in behalf of Turkey. Events may force him to set his armies in motion, in co-operation with those of the Czar; but it is a settled fact that he will never unite himself in a military alliance with France and England. The links between his house and that of the ROMANOVS are not only ancient, but necessary, not only manifold, but natural.

They are ties of blood, of principle, of interest. They were illustrated when NICHOLAS, on his death-bed, blessed his kinsman "FRITZ," and adjured him to remain faithful to Russia;

when FREDERICK-WILLIAM THE THIRD bequeathed to his son a Russian policy, and exhorted him to preserve it as the chief security of his crown; when the late Czar showered on the officers of the Prussian army decorations which they cherish more dearly than their German rank. The treaty of Adrianople was negotiated by Baron MUFFLING, a Prussian envoy, who received his instructions indirectly from the Emperor NICHOLAS, and reported the success of his mission to him personally. The plan for invading Turkey, which was followed by Marshal DIEBITCH in 1830, and by three Russian generals in 1854, was drawn out by a Prussian Chief of the Staff, who traced the lines of attack as far as Constantinople. At that very period the Emperor NICHOLAS and King FREDERICK-WILLIAM met, not at Olmütz, but at Berlin. Who then can conceive that a prince, entangled by so many relations, real and permanent, with the reigning family of Russia, could ever be seduced into a league against his most powerful supporters?

Such a contingency may be left entirely out of view. What follows? The French and British Governments, unquestionably, are pressing hard upon FREDERICK WILLIAM, to extort from him a final explanation of his policy. The position he proposes for himself is that of neutrality, which can be little else than a covert alliance with Russia. For some singular characteristics of Russian diplomacy have manifested themselves in the course of recent negotiations. It is the peculiar art of FREDERICK WILLIAM's policy to accredit envoys without instructions, and without discretionary power. These *fantoccini* exhibit all their skill, offer apologies, give pledges, refer to Berlin, and withdraw them. Prussia wins. The game is renewed; and by this jugglery alone the least courageous of German princes has resisted the united pressure of England and France during two entire years.

Since the death of NICHOLAS it has been proved, for example, that the Prussian Minister at Paris was commissioned to ask for nothing but delay. His declarations were contradicted by his master, his promises were disavowed, and the result was, simply that Prussia desired to be represented at the Vienna conference, without accepting any share in the responsibility of its decision. FREDERICK WILLIAM's envoy was like the Russian agent in Persia, who received two sets of despatches—one to obey, another to show. At Vienna his compeer eluded the difficulty, and instead of explaining what his sovereign had resolved concerning Russia, inquired what Austria thought concerning the armaments in France. The answer amounted to a sneer, and the language of the entire correspondence is reported to be rife with mutual inuendo and hostility. Here are poor materials for a quintuple alliance for the pacification of Europe. "FRITZ" knows that when the question of peace or war is settled, neutrality will not shelter him from every danger. It is therefore that he offers to sign a protocol. What is a protocol? A penful of ink, which pledges him to nothing, yet confers the privilege of unlimited delay.

What obligations such an instrument would impose on the French and British Governments it is less easy to foretel, since, with Austria in arms and Prussia neutral, a portentous shadow might be thrown across the Rhine. Attempts have already been made, indeed, to shift the difficulty from their own to the French frontier. Correspondents, who have a faculty of listening to dialogue not intended for their ears, assure the public in England that his Majesty LOUIS NAPOLEON desires to enjoy extravagant military privileges within the German frontier. Doubtless, the policy of the French Emperor has a direct bearing on Germany. An Austrian alliance gives him a friendly absolutism

to play off against the friendly liberalism of England. It is a preservative against political infection, and there is much connected with this topic, of which the discussion must be reserved for a future time. But the action of the court of Berlin is sufficiently intelligible without reference to the secret councils of Paris.

At the best, consequently, Prussia can only be neutral. At the worst, she may become the ally of Russia, not willingly, but unavoidably. It may then be shown that FREDERICK WILLIAM is, intrinsically, the weakest prince in Christendom—weak in character, politically weak, strong only since Paris was stifled. The prophecy went forth long ago, among the German race, that he was born to ruin the House of Hohenlinden. His frailties, his jealousies, his fears, were so turned to account by the Emperor NICHOLAS, that the bayonets of Prussia, which are 500,000, could scarcely be called his own. Even with them, however, Prussia, acting without the zealous support of its people, is not a great power. One blow, at Jena, laid her prostrate; one surrender, at Tilsit, degraded her from her rank in Europe; one outburst, in 1848, reduced the monarchy to despair. In 1847 FREDERICK WILLIAM took his spleenetic oath, that "no power on earth should compel him" to grant that which he was glad to offer, within twelve months, to appease the inhabitants of a single town. It will be well for the Allies, therefore, if amid the commotions of the war, they abstain from injuring the pride or the self-love of the German people.

At present, the language of the Czar's manifesto is that of defiance. It contains not a syllable to suggest pacific designs. Obviously, the Courts of St. Petersburg and Berlin have a thorough mutual understanding; and the mission of FREDERICK WILLIAM appears to be, to frighten the Allies, by representations of the perils to which Christendom would be exposed by a protracted war. When such a monitor warns us, Pozzo di Borgo's words may be remembered: "Russia will seem more terrible than she is, and the other powers will redouble their efforts to procure a favourable peace!"

PAUPER LABOUR.

We see by the papers that another Union is added to those who try to improve the discipline as well as the accounts of their district by the direct employment of paupers upon the land. The Union is that of Newton Abbot in Devonshire, and we find the following accounts of the results in the daily papers:—

"The balance-sheet for the last year has just been published, and from the following statement it will be seen that the guardians have derived a considerable profit. The quantity of land under cultivation was six acres, on which were grown 230 bags of potatoes, 13 ditto of wheat, 13 ditto of barley, 28 cwt. of cabbages, 10 ditto of swedes, 26 ditto of parsnips, 6 tons of mangold-wurzell, 840lb. of onions, 1000lb. of leeks, and 8 cwt. of brocoli. The total number of hours of field labour done by the boys was 14,218; and by the adults, 12,983 $\frac{1}{2}$. The number of boys at work five days in each week, and on an average 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily, was 13. Of the vegetables grown, 44l. 1s. 1d. worth were consumed by the inmates up to Christmas last, while 22l. 13s. 10d. was realised for those which were sold. The vegetables, &c., in store at Christmas were valued at 37l. 5s. 8d.; making a total of 104l. 0s. 7d. The rent of land, rates, cost of seeds, tools, &c., amounted to 70l. 10s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; so that, deducting that amount from the receipts, there was a clear profit of 33l. 10s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ten pigs were also kept, the profit on which was 24l. 11s. 6d. Thus the total amount realised in profit from the labour of the inmates during the year was 58l. 1s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."

We have a result that is not quite usual—a profit upon the undertaking. With good management, however, a clear profit has been shown in other Unions; and we believe that in no instance is this kind of labour resorted to without a very substantial profit, although

it may not appear in the farm account. We know well the difficulties that promoters of pauper-labour have to meet. The guardians are themselves a fluctuating body, and their diversities of council help to disturb experiments, and so to bring about the predictions of those who oppose experiments; but we have had several opportunities of observing, and in all cases we have been able to ascertain benefits very exact and substantial. In one of the early numbers of this journal we reported a visit to the Industrial Farm near Sheffield, from which we have since had reports, and always of a kind to sustain our confidence in the moral and economical results of industrial labour.

Several of our readers will remember the curious results of the Sheffield experiment. The able-bodied paupers who sought a lazy life in the Sheffield Workhouse were glad, after tasting that life, to exchange it for a life of action and industry at the farm. When they became used to the farm, they readily sought labour out of doors; and "bettered" themselves by obtaining work from farmers in the neighbourhood; thus being provided by Leeds parish with a path to those industrious feelings and habits, the want of which made them voluntary paupers in the first instance. From various causes, connected with divided councils, and with the peculiar character and tenure of the land, the profits of the Sheffield experiment had not always been obvious on the face of the accounts; but, when we look to the moral example, and to the effect in keeping paupers off the Union, we must regard the farm as a valuable outpost, the worth of which was quite evident. A correspondent in the Thanet Union has constantly reported a successful experiment of the same kind; and, even when such labours are used partially, they have a very useful effect. The Kitchen Garden at Stockport Workhouse, for example, has at once supplied resident paupers with an employment physically and morally healthy, and conducted to a saving in the expenditure. The report from the Newton Abbot Union only gives us the money results; which are interesting, but which do not at all give us the advantages to result from such an enterprise. We should be glad to receive a report as to the moral effect. It is interesting to note the influence on the labouring population who might become paupers, but who were kept off by an example of what even paupers are required to do; secondly, the effect upon the labourers actually employed, either, when they are really efficient persons, in exciting them to get work elsewhere, or, when they are weak in understanding, in benefiting their condition morally and physically; and thirdly, the effect upon the superannuated invalids and children who can often be employed with great advantage in out-of-door labours. There may be other objects to be noticed; and, in fact, no ascertained results of this experiment are without their value. As we have often said, at the time of the inquiry which preceded and accompanied the commencement of the new Poor Law, the whole subject of industrial labour, although it forced itself upon the attention of the Assistant Commissioners, was put out of sight by the prejudices resident in the central board. It was forced upon the attention of the Assistant Commissioners by very successful experiments already in existence; by the interest which intelligent and experienced men felt in the subject; by local objects, which could be attained through industrial labour; and, in some cases, by a spirit of inquiry in the Commissioners themselves. All these reasons for investigation have survived the new law, and have survived the lapse of time since its introduction. Whenever they are

brought out anew, they never fail to prove that the subject is still worthy of investigation; and we are always pleased to be the medium of collecting evidence upon the subject.

"THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.]

It is a proverb, the contempt of our present chief Ministers for "Parliamentary control;" and under Lord Palmerston's sinister management the fatal farce of representative institutions, as embodied in the English House of Commons, becomes daily more and more apparent. The House of Commons is at present divided into three committees, more or less select: one is at Vienna, engaged in the futile effort to obtain a delusive peace; a second is "up-stairs" making believe to investigate the reasons why we have broken down in war; a third is three nights out of the Parliamentary five employed in the energetic voting away of any and all sums the Minister may think fit to demand of a wealthy and innocent nation. But how are the three spare nights disposed of? They are given up to independent members, with crotchetts irresponsible and impossible, who make long speeches to one another—the audience never exceeds twenty—who cause a Minister here and there to commit himself to some sort of opinion; and who are, after some hours' absurdity, got rid of by the catastrophe of a count out, or, on a division, a minority of two tellers—one teller appearing, for the reason proffered to the House last week by Sir Joshua Walmsley, in excuse for his having seconded Mr. Crawfurd, to enable the other honourable teller to make himself ridiculous, in due form. Meanwhile, our diplomacy is employed in encouraging the minor states of Europe—say Sardinia—to develop, for themselves, the noble principles of the British constitution: and in all our society we hear regrets expressed that our cordial ally, Louis Napoleon, does not give to France real representation; while our heartiest democrats would be willing to forego their sympathy with Kossuth and Czartoryski, if the young Emperor of Austria would but give self-government—such as ours—to Hungary and to Poland.

The blessings of that liberty which has been obtained for us after a struggle of 800 years were amply exemplified last night, in the circumstance that Sir John Pakington was enabled to make a speech of an hour and a half. Now, Sir John Pakington is a gentleman to whom any House of Commons but this—in this he has some sort of party leadership, in consequence of an almost utter absence of brains among the Tories—would have refused to listen for ten minutes—and his hour and a half man be imagined—it was a terrible infliction of squirey, Sessionsy, summing up—and Sir John obviously pragmatised in the happy illusion that his familiar jury was before him—for his audience consisted precisely of twelve. The subject was education: and you could see that Sir John, and his audience, and the House as it filled afterwards, were proceeding, on this question, with the conviction—a conviction not in the least disturbing honourable members when they vote the millions required in the defence of civilisation against Russia—that the great mass of the people of this country are in a most melancholy state of moral and mental degradation—"moral and mental degradation, Sir"—that was Sir John's, and, subsequently, Mr. W. J. Fox's phrase. What but this conviction in the House of Commons of 1855 of the England of the Reformed Religion could account for the suspiciously eager fraternity with which all the sections of both sides—and for every bench there is a different set of educationists—assured Sir John that they would "gratefully consider" his unexpectedly liberal measure? Speaker after speaker complimented Sir John on the completeness of his case, on the generosity of his conception, and the (possible) practicality of his bill. You knew, Sir John especially knew, that if the bill once got into committee it would be torn to pieces, and that every honourable member would be at every other honour-

able member's throat. But the factitious enthusiasm of the moment of those intensely enlightened honourable gentlemen—in especial, the middle-aged Tory squires—was overwhelming; and Sir John went to his tea at ten, unable to endure longer the elaborate affection of the House; perhaps he was at last subdued at finding that Socinian W. J. Fox—whose dramatic but feeble affectations were intensified for the occasion—was proferring a "cordial support." One would have thought, as the debate progressed, that the House of Commons was about to convert itself into a Coalition to accomplish national education. Except Lord Robert Cecil—that long-talked-of contingent hero of the Tories, evidently with superior faculties, but without facility in the use of them—not one member had the courage to suggest the cant of the discussion. The Government, represented in Sir George Grey, forgetful that here was Lord John's pet topic getting disposed of in his absence by a Sir John, even more ridiculous than Lord John, was all welcome and amity. Lord Stanley, to whom Radicals would feel obliged if he would put the Disraelis and Pakingtons on one side, and take his proper place at the head of his father's party, was in ecstacies of cheerful appreciation. Mr. Milner Gibson, in the name of Manchester, began to speculate whether he might not find his way back to the Tory benches. It is an established theory in the House of Commons, that the country is too religious, or sectarian, to permit of itself being taught to read and write; and yet, according to the House of Commons last night, a Tory squire is now showing the way. Yet leadership in this direction is not assumed with decency or propriety by the Tories. They—the aristocracy—have had 200 years of absolute government of us, and ought not to admit that they have left us in a state of "moral and mental degradation, Sir." And, as a party professing to govern by principles independent of popular approval, it is their political business to remember that nations have been great nations without "education." The Barons made their "mark" on Magna-Charta, and the masses who won the Bill of Rights could scarcely have read it. Yet, perhaps, the Tories are right in attempting the "education" of England: in proportion to the "learning" is generally the policy that conservatively sustains established, though infamous institutions. For popular application, look to Germany: for the English moral, see Oxford.

The other distinct debates of the week illustrate with not less forcibleness the sublimity of that civilisation for the non-possession of which the back-parlour intellect of the shopkeepers of Great Britain so profoundly despises the Turk. The House of Commons is in its most curious mood when it is converted into a conventicle, and is called upon to decide points of the Christian faith or Christian morality—as on Mr. Heywood's bill for legalising marriages with defunct wives' sisters—as on Mr. Bowyer's bill for making adultery, a deadly sin in Christianity, a misdemeanour at common law. On these two occasions it was singular to observe that all the painfully-pious gentlemen of the Tory side who persistently voted against the admission of Jews into Parliament, rested all their arguments against the innovation in these respects upon the supposed prohibitions of the Jewish religion. A member for North Lancashire suggesting common sense to Christians, and the Christians down upon him with Leviticus—that is surely a spectacle for Mahomedan gentlemen perplexed with missionaries travelling in Asia Minor under the auspices of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. It was very indecorous in Lord Palmerston—though one might have expected it from a man who had informed his tenants that they were all born pure and need not bother themselves with the mystery of the Redemption—to suggest, at the close of the debate, that laws are of no avail without morals—that is, that Christianity is not of much use without Christians—and that, under the circumstances, the community being divided as to the sin of marrying a dead wife's sister, the question could only be settled by—here the Parliamentary manager appeared—taking a majority. After all, the great councils of the Church have settled our faith for us in some such manner: it has been an ayes to the right, and noes

to the left, mapping of the ways to heaven. And with a House of Commons such as ours, this is the only plan: our Christianity—our Church of England—being essentially Christianity by Act of Parliament—the New Testament being regarded merely as a “preamble” to clauses of salvation arranged by the not remarkably-inspired clerks at the table. Now—or when a third reading has taken place (and this is the only way in which you could get a practical assembly to read its Bible so often)—you may marry your dead wife’s sister: 100 members of your representative government say you will be damned; but 110 members say that Providence will not pay any particular attention to the matter; majority in favour of eternal joys and temporal possession of Mary Anne, 10. Why should not the path to Paradise be regulated by Parliament just in the method which governs its Turnpike Acts? Where would you get a piouster man than Spooner; better up in Leviticus, or more episcopal and awful in appearance? You could not catch a Cardinal to talk more technical twaddle than Sir Frederick Thesiger—a smart barrister, of a profession peculiarly governed by the Gospel, who is always on the alert, as if Providence had retained him, to resist encroachments on the Church of England. Then there are the two Phillimores—gentlemen who, when there is a doubt, will oblige you with a quotation, in any language, to any effect. There’s Mr. Walpole, too, loose on Militia franchises, but profound in ecclesiology: and there’s Mr. Henry Drummond, who has established a church of his own, on a rock of which he has bought the fee simple, and to which his wealth and wit enable him to make a considerable number of converts, for whom he contracts by the dozen. Thus, the House of Commons is a tolerable Council of Faith; and though it is doubtless the case that great errors in saving doctrine are committed, yet the country has the consolation of knowing that it is not steadfast in its errors, and that if the Tories are damned in 1850-60, the turn of the Whigs may come in 1860-70.

Mr. Bowyer did not get up the debate he expected on Crim. cons.: he is so foolish a gentleman that he is generally laughed down; and it appeared, in this case, that his bill was preternaturally silly—as might be expected from so learned a member. Thus, for a little while longer, the Turks, in or about whose territory we are defending civilisation, will have to endure their astonishment at finding it the custom of England to assess chastity after a pecuniary value; while for so long, doubtless, the back-parlour and tea-taking morality of Great Britain will continue to be shocked at our maintaining the integrity of a people whose Mahomedan religion sanctions what Mr. Bright calls “barbarous customs”—which, of course, is a good deal worse than practising civilised vices which are *not* sanctioned by your religion.

When it has not been a conventicle of gentlemen connected with “The Gospel,” the House of Commons, this week, has been a debating club. Take Locke King’s anti-primogeniture notion protruded on Thursday. Here was a perversion of Radical power to an utterly impracticable object. After the experience of the last three months, it would be insanity to doubt that the country is essentially and intensely aristocratic in its partialities. An army annihilated—an empire endangered—government at home rendered all but impossible—by the imbecilities of our ruling nobles, and of their class entrusted with all our affairs; and yet, already, the cry that was raised, and prevailed so fiercely, against the oligarchical régime, is as purely a matter of history as the Gordon riots—is an affair of “vulgar declamation.” And as the aristocratic régime rests upon the system of primogeniture—a system so absolutely national, that the commercial classes do that without reason which the landed proprietors do in order to sustain the supremacy of the land in the state, is it not singularly unwise in a philosophical Radical party to select a moment of political suspense to obtrude ideas which will be pronounced revolutionary? Mr. Locke King was put down—because, said Sir R. Bethell, who brings in three new bills a month, “nolumus leges Angliae mutari!” The debate was a debate of first principles, and after the fashion of the “Union” society; every one knowing that it was chatter for chatter’s sake, objectless and resultless. But Mr. King was no doubt satisfied that he had again “ventilated a great question.” Peculiar nation: which thinks it is free because it has a machinery for ventilation.

Mr. William Williams, on his Probate Duty hobby, was perhaps more practicable—after many years Mr. W. Williams carries his points,—but was quite as inappropriate to the session. He did some good in eliciting something of the reserved and clumsy mind of the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Cornwall Lewis is a gentleman of great gravity of mind, whose intellect has been almost entirely washed away by a prodigious stream of learning turned on from

the reservoir in Bloomsbury; who has read so much that he has never had time to look about him; and who has as much notion of the British House of Commons as Mr. Wm. Williams has of the Areopagus. As a speaker, he rather soliloquises; and though he knows several languages, is tremendously bothered with a sentence of English. Shy, suspicious, and awkward, he cannot be popular with a popular assembly; and, so far, he has not gone on very well. In throwing over Mr. Gladstone’s Newspaper Stamp Bill, he has been guilty of the offence of timidity before the clamour of an interested class, found to be as selfish and as silly as the classes it is perpetually lecturing about the public good. In his answer to Mr. Williams, on Thursday, he indicated a curious conception of his functions as Finance Minister of a “popular,” not to say “liberal,” Government. Here was a proposition that this, one of the last fiscal privileges of the land, should be abolished: not an argument against it, though three-fourths of the Commons’ House would be opposed to it. But Sir Cornwall Lewis, the scholarly squire, who has gone into office to do Lord Palmerston’s bidding as abjectly as Mr. Goulburn did Sir Robert Peel’s bidding, was actually shocked at Mr. Williams’ attempting to interfere with the arrangements of the Government; and he superciliously advised that abashed gentleman to withdraw his motion. Mr. Gladstone managed Mr. Williams better; Mr. Gladstone always put him down, but always left him under the impression that his plans were taken up.

Was the House of Commons exercising its proper functions in encouraging Mr. Cobbett’s Ten-Hours Bill? Having nothing else to do, how proper to foment class discord! But even from this debate the reflecting Turk may gather materials for thought. For he may see that, even in Mr. Bright’s own district, peace is not synonymous with Paradise: and he may ponder over the circumstance that even in civilised England there is a war between those who toil and those who pay for toil fiercer and more fatal than that raging before Sebastopol.

Saturday Morning. “A 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 awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

WHAT WE WANT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—We have two things to reform, it is evident, ere the business of this country in its present crisis can be done. Neither Parliament nor the army do their duty; and, to my mind, the one body is just as much to blame for our present nullity as the other. We want active, and able, and fearless administrators, and Parliament does not furnish them. The constituencies think they have done enough if they furnish a good kind of a well-to-do gentleman, representing wealth and respectability, but a man who probably never thought of politics till late in life, and who then looked at them from over his ledger in his study, or through the spectacles of his connexion.

Continental empires have a horrid, slavish, intolerable and unpopular institution, called the *bureaucracy*. Men attain to authority by rising through the gradations of an administrative career. I agree with all that can be said against the *bureaucracy* of France, of Prussia, and of Russia. It is a huge mushroom bed of insolence, tyranny, and servility. But it produces capable administrators. Any *chef de bureau* makes an excellent minister, witness Drouyn de Lhuys, or Manteuffel. All our freedom cannot produce the like. Why? Because our freedom and its electors will not take the trouble, or practise the discernment; and because it is not worth clever men’s while to come forward into politics as a profession. A duke’s son may turn politician as he may enter the Guards, for his connexion enables him to turn what is on the face of it a bad speculation into a good one. But no able man of the middle class can ever enter politics till he is enriched and old, his life half done, his ideas fixed, his opinions for acquiring and originating knowledge worn out. But this is the result of the English notion, that the duties of politics, at least all the preliminary and inferior ones, ought to be done for nothing. The consequence is, that what is done is worth nothing, and that the profession of politics is merely an amateur calling.

Hence the incapacities we obtain, or are put off with in the way of ministers; hence the insolence with which the public are treated. Nothing can be plainer than that the Duke of Newcastle and his friends are to blame for the inefficiencies of the recent management of the war. Parliament holds back for months, threatens to inquire, and finding

that it has merely obtained one old official lord instead of another to manage the war-department, it insists on inquiry—when lo! up get the whole coterie of the Peelites, express the extreme of indignation against that most patient Mr. Bull, and declare they will not serve him. What would have been the fate of the Duke of Newcastle in England some hundred and fifty years ago? He would have been impeached, and run some risk of his head. What would be his reward in Russia at the present day? Siberia, no one can doubt. But the English system at present is that of the most complete impunity for error and incapacity, and the most utter absence of encouragement or reward for administrative merit. If this system continue, I dare to prophesy that England and her constitution will go, where they deserve—to the depths of Venetian annihilation.

What is wanting in legislation and politics? Fair play, opportunity, and employ for middle-class talent; and middle-class talent is above all a talent for business. What is wanting in the army? Fair play, opportunities, and employ for middle-class energies. The army is an amalgam of superfine gentry and working-class endurance. There is courage in both, but from neither, nor from both of them conjoined, has been developed that spirit of military self-management and self-subsistence which enables an army not merely to fight, but to hold together and exist. The British army at the present time is composed precisely in the same way, and of the same classes, as the armies which the unfortunate Charles I. led into the field. The middle class, the sons of farmers, the small country brewers—the Cromwells and the Iretons in fact—are as much excluded from the British army of the present day as they were in the year 1625.

Allow me here to narrate a true anecdote, illustrative of things current. A rare occurrence happened within my knowledge. A respectable farmer’s son declared (it was before the war) that he would enter the army. The farmer was surprised at the folly of the speculation. He was ready to stock a farm for his son, on which he might live and make money; but to buy a commission for him, and then allow him a smart annuity in order to enable him to live with the regiment, passed the farmer’s idea of economy and right. The son, impatient, enlisted. The good farmer, greatly affected, soon wrote to the Horse Guards to be allowed to purchase a company for his son, which, as the authorities of the regiment backed, the Horse Guards graciously allowed. And lo! young Gaffer was an ensign when the war broke out. The young officer flashed his maiden sword at the Alma, and the Russians returned him the compliment at Inkermann, but did not slay him outright. There being but one lieutenant left of all the regiment, the young ensign looked naturally for promotion. Oh, no; the Horse Guards wrote to say they would promote him only on the condition of his father paying another 300!

Do the Horse Guards or the State profit by this money? No; it is deposited merely for the sake of ensuring that officers shall be the sons of rich and prosperous people. If they were poor, they might be democratic, discontented, and, in days of sedition and disaffection, might not be to be depended on. Such is the calculation, when absurd Admiralty and War Offices exclude the sons of the middle classes from the army and navy. They are excluded by a similar system from the church, which requires an expensive education, and bishops, we know, require some fortune in those they ordain. The Bar, we know, erects the same obstacles and conditions for itself. So that professions in England, instead of performing the natural duty of professions, that is, acting as channels for the talent of the under classes to rise to eminence, have become simply modes of providing a position in society for the man who can pay for it. All this system of doing everything by money, and nothing without it, is not fifty years old. In the late war, men got ensigncies and livings, and cadetships, without money; newspaper reporters rose to be judges and chancellors. Now all is closed. And pray, survey the consequences. Look at the Bar, compare it with what it was. Look at the Church, the Army, the Navy. There is nothing and no success to be had in any career but by pounds, shillings, and pence. The talent and the supremacy of England have been bartered into that.

The whole system of England—its administration, its professions, its legislature—is Mammon; its whole science is what M. Muntz calls *money-grubbing*. We see the results.

It is not, therefore, a crusade against the aristocracy of birth that reformers of the present day are called to make, but a crusade against the more powerful, more universal, and more stupid aristocracy, the aristocracy of wealth. Why is Louis Napoleon possible in France? Simply because he has put down that aristocracy. To do the same here, though not by the same means, is the first thing we want, although it will be, I fear, the last thing we shall attempt.

I am, &c.,
A PRESSMAN.

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 have received an *anonymous* pamphlet against “*Anonymous Journalism*” (Ridgway). The writer of the pamphlet has a singular way of practising what he preaches, but let that pass. We will for the moment “willingly give credit to an instructor who, we do not know, is qualified to teach.” We will waive his own objection that “no man whose opinion was worth having would shrink from giving to his suggestions the authority of his name.” We will not stop to inquire whether this writer is “a man whose name or position gives authority to his opinion,” or whether he “has any personal grudge for a real or imaginary affront” (such as the rejection of an article) “which may be supposed to animate his pen.” We will treat him as he does not treat our brethren of the press, as “the avowed, the erect, the manly foe,” although we find his only excuse for writing with his vizor down, is that he wishes to establish “a practical proof of the evil of the system;” in other words to serve as a silly example of the iniquity he stigmatises and condemns.

There is in some quarters, we regret to say, an unhappy and ignoble disposition to extol that régime of silence and suppression which overshadows France just now, a weak admiration of despotic unity and force, a servile impatience of our own more difficult and noble freedom. It is not only Lord DERBY who pays fulsome compliments to “that great man,” who rivals DOMITIAN in dissimulation, and CARACALLA in public works—it is a whole sect of political heathens who fall down to worship—an Eclipse!

We do not say the outcry against anonymous journalism is to be chiefly attributed to the contagion of the Napoleonic régime—there are many excellent reasons against the anonymous, and many decidedly liberal advocates of the other system—but it is not too much to say, that of all the arguments advanced by the present anonymous assailant of an anonymous press, not one will bear examination, and most of them have been refuted over and over again. The writer leaves us in no doubt of the source from which his suggestion proceeds. In the first page he describes the passing of M. DE TINGUY’s signing clause by the French Legislative Assembly in July, 1850; and he very disingenuously asserts that “it was under a Republican form of Government that the change took place in France,” and that “France at the time was essentially democratic.”

Is it possible that the writer should not know that in July, 1850, France was a Republic only in name, and that so far from being “essentially democratic,” the Assembly that passed the press law was completely dominated by the reactionary and royalist factions? This *incognito* pamphleteer abounds in compliments to the existing English journals, and in panegyrics on the liberty of the press; he enters upon the discussion “in no spirit of hostility,” but “with a sincere desire to accord to it all the privilege, and to see it invested with all the power which it can fairly and legitimately claim.” We have no desire to cast any doubt upon the sincerity of this avowal; we regret that it should be appended to so inauspicious a text. Nevertheless, our *incognito* friend complains with some acerbity of the functions, the influence, and the universality of the press, as a critic, a censor, an instructor, and he insists that those who thus form opinion and criticise public men should be *known*. He indulges in the old trite nonsense about the editorial *we* “carrying with it a prestige to which it is not entitled,” and assures us that an article written by “any one of a large number of able men is commonly supposed to be written by them all,” and hence derives an unnatural importance. Is this serious? “Besides, it must not be forgotten,” he adds, “that the writer of each anonymous article assumes to speak as ‘We the people of England,’ and so completely merges his own individuality that it is very difficult to realise the fact that the true meaning of that sounding style and title is, ‘I, John Stubbs, think and say so and so.’”

Now, at the bottom of all this oft-repeated trash, there is not only a complete ignorance of the real nature, character, and functions of the press, but also a secret spirit of funkeyism which judges everything by a personal standard, and accepts no name “without a handle to it.” It is sheer absurdity to say that a public writer assumes to speak as the people of England; he does nothing of the kind: he simply exercises the right of free discussion, throws his thought into the balance of the public sense, and leaves it to be sifted and weighed by those candid and unservile minds that are ready to take it *for what it is worth*, without caring to know whether the writer’s name is ROBINSON or FITZ SNOOKS.

“The same argument,” we are told, “which is used in defence of anonymous writing might be employed to vindicate anonymous speaking.” There is but one objection to this argument, and that is its utter absurdity. “Anonymous speaking,” if it means anything at all, which we doubt, is simply impossible; and what analogy is there between representatives of constituencies and members of a senate on the one hand, and public writers without any mandate but that of their own free right of addressing the public on the other? It is a fallacy to say that journalism “professes and claims to represent the public.” It professes and claims nothing of the sort; it professes to represent a certain section of the public, and if it be the

organ of a party, it seeks by force of persuasion to extend that party and to develop its influence. In the case of a journal like the *Times*, professing no doubt to represent a very large and influential section of the public, in other words, the fluctuating prejudices and the enlightened selfishness of the *recognised* community, its power is derived confessedly from the fact that it is the journal of the four winds and of the twenty-four hours, and that, in effect, it represents most dexterously and faithfully the wind that blows, and the interest that rules the day. The *Times* is a daily pamphlet.

No doubt, this writer imagines, a journal like the *Times* would be considerably affected by the abolition of the anonymous. The *Times* unquestionably supplies opinion to the vast majority of the moneyed and easy classes. The political talk of society is nothing but a *réchauffé* of “that splendid article in the *Times* this morning.” It would, perhaps, diminish the awe in which Printing House-square is held, if the men who sit behind those tremendous inkstands and wield those colossal pens could be revealed to public gaze, and if the mystery of those Delphian lips were to be reduced to the dimensions of an imposing “dodge.” But we repeat, at the bottom of this hostile curiosity there is an inveterate, though unconfessed, funkeyism—a funkeyism only surpassed by the blind worship of the oracle. It would be inconvenient for SMITH or STUBBS, or BROWN or JONES to sign his name to articles on all sides of the same question in turn; but until the world is more honest and more sincere, the journal that best represents the prejudices and servilities of the majority will command the largest circulation. Besides, it is not to be denied that the leading journal continually exercises a very powerful influence for good. Witness the exposure of our military system. And let us observe, that the public writers who have exerted this admirable influence and wielded the power of the *Times* so well, are men whose names are known to all the world, and justly held in universal honour and respect. The meaning of the editorial “we,” to which this writer so formally objects, is not at all what he seems to suppose. The “we” may, in the case of journals representing a definite and consistent political section, represent that section; but generally speaking, it is nothing more than a form of expression employed to distinguish public from private writing, and which writers who sign their articles often employ. In France the *nous* is still habitual, and only the other day we remarked in the Oxford Essays, signed by their authors, this dignified and serious plural.

The writer of this pamphlet is gravely in error when he states that no difficulty whatever has actually occurred “in the operation of the signature law in France,” and that “it has been found to work admirably in practice.” The exact contrary is nearer to the truth. To nine-tenths of the articles in the French papers *vicarious* signatures are affixed. We have no hesitation in saying that there are not four journalists of note or name in France who have written only what they have signed, or signed all they have written since the passing of M. DE TINGUY’s law. A man of straw, entitled *Secrétaire de la Rédaction*, acts as a signing-machine, and it is under this comprehensive title that fallen statesmen have defended royalty against the Republic, and parliamentary institutions against NAPOLEONIC despotism. The law is, to a great extent, absolutely inoperative. The writer makes an exception in favour of literary reviews; but, according to his argument, we do not see why political criticism should be signed and literary criticism be anonymous. The reputation of an author is as precious as that of a politician, and far more susceptible, and this writer, who probably forgets Dr. Johnson’s reply, would insist on knowing that the reviewer of a bad novel had written a better one.

To conclude: the pith of the question lies in a very narrow compass. The abler journalists, of various opinions, who opposed the law of signature in France, opposed it upon the most disinterested and unselish grounds. They opposed it because it was injurious to the press as a *collective organ of public opinion*. Personally they were interested in abolishing the *impersonality* of journalism, since their own reputation could only gain by being known. As a matter of feeling, we believe that many of our comrades in the press militant would be glad to emerge from the obscurity of the unknown—they could only gain by the publicity; but as a matter of principle, in which the power and the authority of the press as an institution are concerned, we believe they would rather work obscurely and unknown than sacrifice to personal vanity the collective force of the “estate.”

The annual meeting of the Literary Fund this week was signalised by the publicity of its proceedings, as well as by a decided move against the extraneous patronage and the administrative laxity of the Institution. In the first place, there was an attempt made to bring about a serious reduction in the establishment, by cutting down rent, salaries of officers, and so forth. There is much to be said in favour of this economical reform: it is too much the habit of all our charities to sink into close boroughs for comfortable placemen; on the other hand, there are some who fear that too marked a tendency in the Society to stint itself in its own lodgings and service may affect its liberality towards its clients, and its social prestige. If charity does not begin at home, it is said, it is a pitiful charity that starves its own porters.

The other movement was indirectly more successful; it was to diminish the share which “Lords” have in the management of the Society, and to restrict it to literary men. This movement was headed with admirable force and

humour by Mr. CHARLES DICKENS, whose genuine and noble respect for his own calling is only one of his many titles to the esteem and affection of the literary craft. His description of the "Council," which "never could meet, never did meet, had no place of meeting, and nothing to do," was in his happiest manner; and when he asked the public what they would say "of a board of directors that did not direct, of a bench of judges who did not judge, of a jury that did not deliberate or find a verdict; of a physician appointed never to prescribe, of a surgeon directed never to set a bone, of a fireman enjoined never to go within fifty miles of a fire, or of picked officers of the Humane Society being tied up not to approach the water"—it was difficult to imagine a satisfactory reply. But as to limiting the new Committee to literary men exclusively we have heard objections, which, with all respect, we take the liberty to state, without adopting them. Since literary men, it is alleged, are, upon the whole, the recipients, and moneyed men the patrons, it is not unnatural that the latter should expect some share in the management. It is apprehended, too, that the funds would fall off considerably. Another and perhaps more serious objection we will preface by the remark that it does not apply to the men on the present Committee, but to the principle upon which the Committee is composed. When literary men fall into difficulties, they would, it is said, in a great proportion of instances, prefer to have their cases judged by men of rank and standing, rather than by their more successful fellow-labourers. There are particular cases of men who might, in the turn of fortune, become applicants to the Society, whose enemies are almost certain to reside amongst their own class, whose friendships do not lie within their own class, and whose expectations of aid would be poor indeed if they depended upon the sympathy of their literary brethren. The proceedings of the present annual meeting are subject to the publicity which gives some guarantee that any erroneous measures will be corrected; and these are points, we think, which may well be taken into consideration during the present year.

There is one case which appears to be an illustration against the objection we have heard expressed—the case of ANGUS REACH. Mr. REACH is known to the public for some very lively sketches of society; he is known to his own profession for an extraordinary degree of versatility and activity; he is known to his friends for possessing one of the kindest and most faithful hearts that have ever beat. He is a man who would have been the darling of the clan, in those Highlands from which he drew his birth; but in the fever of London life, under the severe pressure of newspaper work, with great temptation to spur his own facility for executing it, his brain has been overtaxed. His means of earning bread for himself and his family have broken down; his intellectual life is snuffed short while he survives with his affections and his responsibilities. Recovery can be hoped from no thing except repose. We are proud to notice that literary men are amongst the first to co-operate with men of leisure in procuring assistance for Mr. REACH, of a sufficient amount to be lasting in its utility. Amongst other means, a benefit performance is to take place at the OLYMPIC Theatre, on Saturday, the 31st instant, the performances (including, we believe, a pantomime) being sustained by amateurs well known in literature and in connexion with charitable efforts of this kind. Here, then, is a case where Mr. REACH's own profession steps forward to assist him; but it is a peculiar case in the severity of the affliction, and in the fact that wherever he has gone ANGUS REACH has made many friends, and not a single enemy.

Our readers probably know that the *Art Journal* commenced a new existence with the new year; or, to speak more exactly—for there was no case of suspended circulation—that the existence of the journal entered an era, promising at the outset a general freshness sufficient to tempt

Those to buy who never bought before,
And those who always bought to buy the more.

Three numbers of this new series are before us, containing matter enough to show that a real plan of extension and improvement was involved in the change. Papers on "Design as applied to Ladies' Work," with incidental remarks on dress, carry Art into regions where novelty will not be its least recommendation. It may seem cruel to enforce the severe canons of Marlborough House Tectonics against anything so ephemeral as embroidered flounces, figured silks, muslin prints, or "potichomanie;" but when we find that the censor of petticoats is a censor *in petticoats*, liable to Potichomanie and all other afflictions of the gentler sex, our chivalrous impulse to defend the weak is instantly negatived. We can but admire the eloquent earnestness with which Mrs. MERRIFIELD applies the decorative principles advocated by OWEN JONES, DIGBY WYATT, and other leading authorities, to oriental tinting, tatting, and tambouring; knitting, netting, and crochet. If there be embroidered slippers, waistcoats, or braces in store for us, we only hope that "direct imitation of natural objects" will not enter into the designs. We shall never be able to reconcile our acceptance, and consequent encouragement, of such art-manufactures with the sentiments awakened by Mrs. MERRIFIELD. The pictorial attractions of the *Art Journal* include the prints from the "Royal Gallery," a series published in a separate form. Opportunities for the employment of design are likewise afforded by a series of papers on British artists; by connected gatherings of antiquarian gossip on the subject of ALBRECHT DURER and his times; and by catalogues raisonnés of the Marlborough House collection, as well as of the different exhibitions as they open to the public. Mr. PYNE continues his "Nomenclature of Pictorial Art," and Professor HUNT begins a series of articles on "British Industries"—a wide range of subject, but not too wide

for his experience to illustrate. Of the papers, complete in themselves, which have appeared in the new series, the most important by far is a summary of the trial of "Talbot *versus* Laroche," involving the question of patent right in photography. The *Art Journal* is, with perfect justice, proud of having its former arguments confirmed by the decision of Chief Justice JERVIS. A *verbatim* report of the charge to the jury is given at length, and forms a complete exposition of the state in which this trial found and left the photographic world. That the public may be fairly congratulated on the issue is, we think, sufficiently clear, from the grounds on which Mr. FOX TALBOT claimed entire monopoly of *all inventions and improvements in photography since his introduction of the paper process*. To make this claim include the beautiful collodion process, it was contended that pyrogallic acid is gallic acid, and that the film spread over glass by means of collodion (gun cotton dissolved in ether) is practically nothing more or less than paper. The manifest absurdity of this plea was confutation enough without much need of scientific evidence. As to the plea that the pyrogallic acid, used as the developing agent in the collodion process, is the same as gallic acid, but more rapid in action, the public, including lay-photographers, might entertain some doubts, did not the evidence of Mr. TALBOT's principal witness decide the point against him. Dr. HOFFMAN admitted, on cross-examination by Mr. Serjeant BYLES, that he had published an opinion to the effect that pyrogallic acid was a *new acid*. Other chemical distinctions, of scarcely less importance, were brought under discussion, but it would be out of our province to notice such questions in detail. All who are interested to any extent in the process of photography should read the comments on this action in the *Art Journal*.

THE ART OF THE ANCIENTS.

Torso. Kunst, Künstler, und Kunstwerke der Alten. Von Adolf Stahr. In Zwei Theilen. Erster Theil. [Torso. The Art, Artists, and Art-Remains of the Ancients. In Two Parts. First Part. By Adolf Stahr.]

Brunswick: Vieweg and Son.

The books of which a reviewer can say that he has read every word, and has laid them down wishing for more, are far from being as plentiful as blackberries, especially in German literature. Professor Stahr's *Torso*, however, is one of these exceptional books: we have read it from beginning to end with delight, and are eager for the second part, which is yet to appear. The name of Adolf Stahr is well known in Germany, and not unknown in England, as that of a writer who unites thorough scholarship with refined taste, and who has that rare mastery of the unwieldy German language which makes his works charm by their form as well as their matter. There is not a trace of pedantry in his books; you perceive his knowledge as you perceive the daylight, by the clearness with which objects are presented to you. He has written a work on Aristotle, to which scholars give a high rank; but his *Weimar und Jena* may be read with pleasure by the idlest young lady, and his *Jahr in Italien* is a favourite companion of artistic travellers. His pre-eminent talent lies in description both of natural scenery and works of art; he has not only an intense susceptibility to the beautiful, but he is in possession of the magic word which will convey his impression to the mind of the reader. These excellent qualities are remarkably exhibited in his latest and yet uncompleted work, the title of which we have given above. It is more historical and descriptive than disquisitional; condensed enough to serve as an introductory manual for those who have the opportunity of immediately studying ancient sculpture, and yet so full and vivid in its descriptions, and so philosophic in its mode of considering the development of art, that it may be read with lively interest in a country town, far away from all casts and museums. To any one who is not already very wise on Greek art, and who is so happy as to have time and opportunity to study its original remains, or, what is next-best, to go to the Crystal Palace, we recommend Professor Stahr's book. It will not tell him everything, but it will do him the greater service of creating a thirst for more knowledge than it conveys.

The early chapters are occupied with the consideration of the physical geography of Greece and the characteristics of the Greek races, their religion and political institutions, as bearing on the development of art. A chapter on Dædalus, the mythic father of Greek art, whom tradition connects with Egypt, leads us naturally to the question how far Hellenic art is to be regarded as a purely indigenous, independent product of Greece, or simply as a higher development of oriental art. It is well known that Winckelmann espoused the former opinion, and his authority prevailed among German critics in maintaining a view which is opposed to all analogy and to the direct evidence furnished by oriental and Greek remains, long after it had been given up by English, French, and Italian investigators of the highest rank. It is a fact characteristic of our good friends the Germans (who, something like those Fakirs that seek for the divine light by perpetually contemplating the end of their noses, generally predetermine what things must be in their studies, and think it an idle business to inquire what things are), that when Ludwig Ross, a distinguished traveller and critic, after diligently investigating the remains of art in the countries round the Levant, enunciated the opinion that the social, religious, and artistic culture of Greece could not be understood apart from the supposition that the Greeks had been influenced by the culture of earlier peoples, he was contemptuously decried as a "Tourist." Of course, a man who had looked at the fact must be incapacitated for forming the *reine Idee*. But a truer spirit of investigation has arisen among the German critics of the last thirty years, and men such as Creuzer, Thiersch, Böckh, Schorn, and Anselm Feuerbach have recognised the influence of oriental, and especially of Egyptian, art on Greece. "The process of development in culture and art," says Professor Stahr, "is the same as that of natural products and their cultivation by man. Modern botanical research has proved that almost everything which is necessary, useful, and agreeable to us in the vegetable kingdom came in a gradual procession from Asia, until it was arrested at the western coast of Europe. And now that after a short rest it has sprung across the Atlantic this propagation pursues its course through America towards the West. But the West receives the gifts of the East only to refine the rude, to develop the imperfect, to ennoble the common."

After general considerations on the progress of Greek art from Daedalus to Phidias, and from Phidias to Hadrian, and on the criteria of relative antiquity, the author commences his descriptive survey of the principal remains of Hellenic sculpture—those remains which best illustrate the ideals of the successive epochs. The Gate of Lions at Mycenæ, and the reliefs at Samothrace representing Agamemnon seated on a throne accompanied by two heralds, bear strong traces of the abstract Egyptian manner; the one herald, for example, being the repetition of the other. So do the Lycian sculptures, consisting of from sixty to seventy statues in a sitting posture, which formed the avenue to a temple; the perfect parallelism of the feet, the stiff posture of the arms, the straight lines of the drapery, everything is Egyptian in style. A yet more important specimen of Greek art, discovered in Sicily about thirty years ago, are the remains of a temple on the citadel of Selinus, a city which was built by Dorian Greeks 608 B.C., and destroyed by the Carthaginians only 200 years later, so that the period of these sculptures is absolutely determined. Here we have an ill-proportioned Hercules carrying a couple of his tormentors slung on a pole over his shoulder, and Perseus, protected by Minerva, slaying Medusa. The upper part of all the figures is *de face*, the legs *de profil*—again an Egyptian fashion. The Medusa is a hideous caricature; how far from the terrible beauty of the Medusa Rondanini!

A chapter on temple pediments and their sculptural ornaments introduces the Cœginetan sculptures, the originals of which are at Munich, and a cast of which may be seen at the Crystal Palace. They doubtless adorned the temple erected by the wealthy Cœginetans to Minerva—a temple belonging to the earliest works of Doric architecture, and probably built in the time of Solon, for they were found in the accumulations of rubbish overgrown with brushwood which surrounded its ruins. The remarkable point in these sculptures is the high degree of truthfulness and beauty in the limbs, and the uniformity and utter unmeaningness of the faces. This inequality Stahr regards as the remains of the earlier hieratic influence, the tendency of which was to keep up traditional and conventional forms; but perhaps he is nearer the true reason when he says, that on comparing the Cœginetan sculptures with the works of the early Italian masters, Giotto and Pietro Perugino, we observe a striking difference between them in this respect: the early Italian masters were animated by the spiritualistic idea that the body was but an unworthy dwelling for the immortal soul, and hence they threw all their power into the face, where the soul might be said to look out from its tabernacle; whereas in the conception of the Greeks, a fine body was the primary condition of a fine mind—*first the body, and then the soul by and through the body*, was the order of their ideas. Hence, in Greek art, the expression of the face would naturally be the last in the order of development.

The chapters on Phidias and his works, include a survey of the sculptures of the Parthenon (by us modern barbarians called the Elgin marbles), which, alas! are the only works immediately and unquestionably his now remaining; a description of what the Parthenon was in its glory; and the history of its sad fate. It is exasperating to think that after surviving the bigotry of early Christianity, the inroads of northern barbarians, the crusading adventurers of the middle ages, who as Dukes of Athens made the Acropolis their citadel, nay, the Turkish conquest under Omar, the Parthenon was at last, nearly at the end of the seventeenth century, blown into fragments in a siege conducted by Königsmark, the German general of the Venetian army. The Turkish Pacha had deposited all his treasures and ammunition in the Parthenon, which had hitherto served him as a mosque; a bomb fell into the powder magazine, and the temple, which had stood in its beauty 2000 years, was a heap of ruins! Besides the fragmentary relics of the Parthenon, we possess, as we have said, nothing that can be regarded as the immediate work of Phidias; but we know that the glorious ideals of the Zeus and Athene were of his creation, and the descriptions of his works, which are preserved to us, assure us that, on looking at the Jupiter Otricoli or the Pallas Velletri, we are really looking at a product of the mind of Phidias, even though these may not be direct copies from his works. With Phidias are connected the Colossi on the Monte Cavallo—two groups representing Castor and Pollux, each controlling a restive horse—from the fact that one of them is inscribed with his name, and that Pliny speaks of one of the two naked Colossi “as having been the work of Phidias.” The result of the scanty evidence on the subject seems to be, that one of the colossal groups is a copy of an original work of Phidias in bronze. The other is inscribed with the name of Praxiteles.

Next in interest to the remains of the Parthenon are those of the temple of Apollo, in the city of Phigalia, in Arcadia (the Phigalian marbles in the British Museum), the work of Alkamenes, the pupil of Phidias, and discovered in 1811. The temple itself, with its six-and-thirty marble pillars gleaming through the dark green of the mountain forests, had been long known, but a startled fox first revealed to a company of English and German artists, and connoisseurs, the only aperture in the heap of ruins and accumulated rubbish which filled the interior to the height of sixteen feet. On looking in, they found that the little animal had made its bed on a splendid relief, and after immense labour, twenty-three compartments of the frieze were brought forth to the light: an invaluable addition to the small amount of Greek sculpture, the locality, date, and originality of which are beyond all doubt.

The two greatest contemporaries of Phidias were Polycletos and Myron. To the former we owe the Juno ideal, of which the Juno Ludovisi is the highest presentation, and the conception of Mercury as the Greek youth in the culmination of blended beauty and strength, the Hernies Enagonios, presiding over Palestra. Myron's genius was more realistic, and was chiefly directed to the reproduction of athletic and gymnastic subjects, and of animal life. The well-known Discobolus is, in all probability, a copy from a bronze original by him.

To this great triad of sculptors who adorned the age of Pericles, succeeded in the following age, the fourth century B.C., another triad, Scopas, Praxiteles, and Lysippus, whose style Winckelmann characterises as the *beautiful* in distinction from that of Phidias, which was the *sublime*. In the second period, the severe bronze which had hitherto been the favourite material, gave way to the more life-like marble. To this fact, that the artists of the

Phidian age wrought principally in bronze, we must attribute our almost total loss of their productions, metal in every form having been an object of Barbarian greediness. Scopas was one of the most fertile of the ancient masters; he created whole species of ideal beings, as attendants on Bacchus, Neptune, Apollo, and Venus; yet not a single original work of his remains, not even one of the seven which were dragged away to Rome in the days of Greek humiliation. The Mars Ludovisi is probably a copy from an original of his, and he transformed the ideal of the Eumenides, the personified terror of conscience, from the hideousness assigned to it in the earlier poetry and art, into an appalling beauty. Praxiteles, “The Master of Beauty,” is the one among all the artists of this age who has been brought nearest to us by the remains of his creations. To him we owe the Venus-ideal of which the Aphrodite of Gnidos was the culmination, the conception of Eros as the lovely youth, the voluptuous beauty of the Bacchus, the graceful strength and freedom of the Diana, the benignant repose of the Ceres, and the famous Satyr which an ancient art legend describes him as valuing together with his Eros, above all his other works. Even so early as the time of Pliny, it was doubted whether the great Niobe group, discovered at Rome in 1583, and now at Florence, were the work of Scopas or of Praxiteles. But we at least know that the statue of Niobe, was one of the finest works of Praxiteles, for Greek poetry, which has proved less perishable than Greek sculpture, makes Niobe say: “Me living the Gods turned to stone, but in stone Praxiteles has made me breathe again.”

To the chapter on Praxiteles follows a long and valuable one on the Social Position of the Artist in Greece, and another on the relation between Art and Freedom. Then comes a highly interesting survey of ancient Portrait-sculpture; and finally, this first part of the work closes with the consideration of the Colouring and Nudity of Greek statues. We are glad to find Professor Stahr insisting, that in the highest period of Greek art the colouring of statues was not guided by the barbaric idea of producing illusion, but by a fine sense of relief in colours, an opinion which we have advocated in these columns.

Our space will not allow us to dwell longer on the contents of this delightful work. Let the readers of German, and the lovers of art, procure it for themselves.

A STRONG-MINDED HEROINE.

Grace Lee. A Tale. By Julia Kavanagh. Smith, Elder, and Co. WHEN will the literary ladies get tired of strong-minded heroines? Here is Miss Kavanagh misapplying her powers of delicate observation, her refined feeling, and her graceful style as a novelist, for the sake of creating one of those monster model-females who are downright libels on womankind; who can win no man's admiration and excite no woman's sympathy. What have the unfortunate lords of the creation done to give offence to the authoresses?—offence, apparently of such a mortal kind, that it is hardly possible to recall to mind a single lady's novel, written of late years, in which it is not, more or less, the perpetual mission of the heroine to “put down” the men—just as it used to be Sir Peter Laurie's perpetual mission to “put down” suicide? The strong-minded heroine won't marry when she is wanted to marry; won't candidly let a man know that she likes him; won't get the worst of it in argument with a man, on any pretence, at any time whatever; won't shrink, blush, faint, kiss, sink on bosom, and grow hysterical, when all naturally-constituted women (and heroines) invariably perform one or other, or sometimes all together, of those interesting ceremonies. We have already protested, in this journal, against the new race of heroines—the blustering petticoat-bullies, who turn all the natural relations of the sexes topsy-turvy—and we now protest again—in a general way, against the whole race—in a particular way, against *Miss Grace Lee*.

Let us cite, in defence of our indignation, a few characteristics of this very intolerable woman. *Grace Lee* is, to begin with, *Monte Christo* in petticoats. She has boundless wealth, boundless power, boundless superiority over all influences which affect ordinary human beings. Of course she is not pretty—prettiness is a soft, winning, feminine quality—but she is a grand creature—fine eyes, dark hair—bust, arms, and general development to correspond. She travels everywhere alone, being “twenty-three, wealthy, and fearless.” She kneels at the Holy Sepulchre—she basks in the sun at Rome, with “a narrow-striped scarf carelessly tied around her ebon hair.” The men—all weak-minded in various ways—are also all in love with her. A Roman prince proposes—and is put down! A French dandy—put down! A Polish Count—put down! (with a thumping subscription, however, in this latter case, for the regeneration of Poland.) Having sufficiently overthrown the men and eclipsed the women at Rome, “Miss Monte-Christo” returns to England. She goes to see an old friend in the country; meets and captivates his nephew, who is too young, however, to venture beyond meek flirtation, and so escapes being put down along with the foreigners. From the country she goes to London; takes a superb house, splendidly furnished, in Park-lane; becomes an “enlightened patroness of the Fine Arts;” gets immortal books dedicated to her; engages a “matchless cook;” excites universal admiration by her “middle-age costume” at a court ball; anonymously makes the fortune of charitable institutions; carries a “shaggy Newfoundland” about with her in her carriage, to keep her company; and rides “the most beautiful, the most perverse, the most dangerous of spirited Arabians,” who has “upset the Premier,” but cannot possibly upset “Grace Lee.” As for the men she encounters, it is hardly necessary to say that she might marry any of them—but of course won't.

However, a time is near at hand when the virgin energies of Miss Grace Lee, hitherto directed to the occupation of putting down men in general, are to be all concentrated on the business of putting down one man in particular. “Mr. John Owen” is a disappointed barrister—ugly, sarcastic, misanthropical, sufficiently near the old Corsair type, when in low spirits, to fold his arms and fling himself supine in solitary places—otherwise, when in society, a merely disagreeable bore, sulky and silent, suspicious of men, and unapproachable by women. He and “Miss Lee” met in London, on solitary Welsh mountains, now in one place, now in another. He falls in love with her, of course; despising himself for the amiable

weakness, but not being able to get over it. She returns the compliment, but without an atom of amiable weakness; with every appearance, on the contrary, so far as externals go, of disliking the man of her choice most cordially. Various chances and changes, fortunes and misfortunes, understandings and misunderstandings, affect the loves of both lady and gentleman; but through two whole volumes and a half, of the book their relative sexual positions towards each other never change. Chapter follows chapter; and still "Miss Grace Lee" is the impersonation of womanly strength, and "Mr. John Owen" the impersonation of manly weakness. Towards all the rest of the world he is, in firmness and energy, a perfect Napoleon of private life; towards "Miss Lee" he is the most miserably undecided and self-reproachfully compliant of men. There is no species of small amorous persecution to which he is not subjected. If he gets up in one scene, and kicks at his treatment like a hero, he is sure to be down on his knees in the next, begging pardon like a coward. He tries to forget this ferociously coy, this grimly moral mistress of his, and to make himself happy—the poor kicked, persecuted, limp, dangling wretch!—by offering marriage to a pretty widow, in the first place, and to a pretty school-girl, in the second; but he is not man enough to carry matters to fair hymeneal extremities, even under the hottest provocation. He breaks off both matches—wanders after "Diana Volumnia Amazonia Monte-Christo Lee" (who has fairly run away from him altogether, to have the pleasure of making him run after her and beg pardon again for the hundred and fiftieth time)—finds D. V. A. M.-C. L. in a relenting, compliant humour at last, and (it being the end of Vol. III.) gets her to marry him. Even then, all the weakness is on his side, all the strength on hers. "Miss Lee's" feelings are affected; her "dark eyes fill with tears;" but she is quite vigorous enough to give him a kiss on the forehead, nevertheless, in sign that it is all made up, while he, limp to the last, has only heart enough to return the compliment by letting his head sink on her shoulder. Miserable "Mr. John Owen!" we know what a married life yours must have been, in spite of all that the biographer of "Miss Grace Lee" can tell us to the contrary.

We have made merry—perhaps rather irreverently—with the absurdities of this book. But although we believe, to speak now in sober seriousness, that Miss Kavanagh's two principal characters are ridiculously false to nature, and consequently total mistakes in art; and although we cannot congratulate her on the manner in which she has managed the construction of what little story there is in her novel, we are by no means blind to the fact that she has a real "call" to her vocation, a genuine capacity for writing a good book, if she will only give herself fair play. In this very novel, some of the minor characters—"the old priest," and "the rich, eccentric old maid," especially—show true observation of nature, and delicate dexterity in turning that observation to good literary account. If Miss Kavanagh will only clear her mind of ideal standards of female perfection and independence, and of absurd transcendental conventionalities on the subject of love; if she will let her observation guide her imagination, go where it may, and will test what she does boldly, while she is doing it, by its truth to the honest realities of human life; finally, if she will devote a little more time than we suspect she has devoted thus far, to the construction of the story before sitting down to write it, we believe she will be able to produce a novel which will throw *Grace Lee* altogether into the shade, even in her own estimation—a novel which we shall be only too glad to welcome with the warmest words of praise that can be critically bestowed upon it.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

De Foe and Churchill. By John Foster. Reprinted with additions, from the *Edinburgh Review*. 2 parts. The Travellers' Library, 76 and 77. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

The Development of the Religious Idea in Judaism, Christianity, and Mahomedanism, considered in Twelve Lectures on the History and Purport of Judaism, delivered in Magdeburg, 1847. By Ludwig Philippson. Translated from the German, with Notes, by Anna Maria Goldsmid. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

Elements of Geometry and Measurement; with Early Exercises, designed for Schools and Adult Classes. Geometry as an Art. By Thomas Lund. B.D. Part 2. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

The Golden Colony, or Victoria in 1854; with Remarks on the Geology of the Australian Gold Fields. By George Henry Wathen. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

The Autobiography of Francis Arago, translated from the French. By the Rev. Baden Powell, M.A., &c. The Travellers' Library, No. 78. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

Autobiography of James Silk Buckingham; including his Voyages, Travels, Adventures, Speculations, Successes and Failures, faithfully and frankly narrated; interspersed with Characteristic Sketches of Public Men with whom he has had intercourse, during a period of more than fifty years. With a Portrait. 2 vols. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

Letters on the Philosophy of the Human Mind. By Samuel Bailey. (First Series.) Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

American Liberty and Government Questioned. By Thomas Ryle. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

Poetical Enigma. By Frederick J. Walther. Clarke and Beeton.

The Step-mother. By G. P. R. James. (Parlour Library.) Thomas Hodgson.

The Family Foud. By Adam Hornbook. G. Routledge and Co.

The Youth's Magazine. John F. Shaw.

Sketches, Legal and Political. By the late Right Honourable Richard Lator Sheil. Edited, with Notes. By M. W. Savage. 2 Vols. Hurst and Blackett.

The Historical Pocket Annual for 1855. By Dr. Bergel. Trübner and Co.

Hoggs Instructor. No. 20. Groombridge and Sons.

An Era in the Life of a Living Statesman. By a Conservative. Ward and Lock.

Roman and Modern Greek compared with one Another, and with Ancient Greek. By James Clyde, M.A. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

Two Photographic and Panoramic Sketches, representing the Advanced Lines of Attack, and the Russian Defences in Front of Sebastopol, with a Description and Remarks. The Sketches by Captain M. A. Biddulph, R.A., Acting as Assistant-Engineer Officer in the Trenches. Chapman and Hall.

Soldiers and Sailors in Peace as in War. By Herbert Byng Hall, K.S.F. Chapman and Hall.

The Arts.

THE EXPOSITION OF THE FINE ARTS IN PARIS.

LETTER I.

On the outskirts of the Champs Elysées—not far from the Crystal Palace of the French—a vast new building is rapidly assuming a finished appearance. It is intended to contain the Exposition of the Fine Arts for 1855, which will be in some sort a supplement to the Universal Exhibition. Here foreign painters and sculptors are invited to measure themselves with the French on their own ground. What is passing in other parts of the world I know not, but in Paris the activity is great. The ateliers are closed to all but intimate friends, and every one is resolved to appear in his best colours. Art is determined to show that it has progressed as well as Industry.

I might indulge in very serious speculations on the consequences—good or evil—which must necessarily flow from this marriage of two branches of human labour so very distinct. For the present, however, let us not annoy the future overmuch with impertinent questioning. There are points of more immediate interest to talk of—facts to record which, even if they were less pregnant than they are, would be worthy of attention from us, because others have none to bestow. With the exception of a few gossiping paragraphs, in which statements, for the most part incorrect, on pictures and other works in progress by crack masters, and on the intentions of Government, are put forward, one of the most singular facts in the history of Art is allowed to approach in silence.

The Fine Arts Exposition of 1855 has quite a novel character, which I shall endeavour to bring out. In the first place it must be observed that, so far as France is concerned, it has absorbed the ordinary annual Exposition—a fact of no little significance, however natural it may appear at first sight. In truth, the solemn occurrence of the Universal Exposition has compromised—though most people, taken by surprise, have not become aware of this circumstance—the result, at present sanctioned by the experience of a quarter of a century and by undoubted success, of the struggle carried on by all real independent artists, for a long series of years, to obtain annual Exhibitions. It was in 1830, in one of those rare and fleeting moments when the voice of the greater number is listened to, when disinterested and liberal motives, usually not conversant with public affairs, have full sway, that this great boon was won. The benefit thence arising to the corporation of artists, the increase of their independence, this stimulus supplied to progress was enormous. Young men who had until then looked at fame from a distance—just as a hopeless adventurer may eye the charms of a high-born lady he can never even speak to—suddenly found their position totally changed. Art seemed at least to have reached its Plains of Promise. At any rate, in the annual Expositions, the young and independent school, of which France now legitimately boasts, had its origin. Without this assistance, whatever they may now think—I say this advisedly—the élite of French painters would never have reached their present glory; and, kept in the background by a jealous corporation, would not have met with the valuable encouragement furnished by the public and by the State that enabled them to show the strength they possessed. The regular recurrence of these Expositions, exciting and enlightening public opinion, alone enabled rising genius to struggle against the authority of an official school, the traditions of which it deserted and the discipline of which it contemned. It was at that time appeared—under previous circumstances they could scarcely have appeared—Géricault, Sigalon, Bonington, Leopold Robert—so prematurely lost by the new French school—with Messrs. Ingres, Scheffer, Horace Vernet, Delaroche, Delacroix, Decamps, Isabey, Roqueplan, Gudia, Meissonier, Corot, Jeanron, Rousseau, Dupré, Diaz, *e tutti quanti*, who now adorn the salons and fill the shop-fronts of picture-dealers with their works, which taste or fashion instantly bids for.

It is probably well known that the annual Exposition was interrupted during the past year; but it may not have occurred to many that, after the great excitement of the Universal Exposition, things will not fall back into the old channel. Genius was told to rest in '54; it will probably be told to rest in '56. We may well say, then, that an institution, which all who have studied the history of art beyond the current years know to have been most laboriously struggled for and hardly attained, is greatly compromised. A little acquaintance with the administrative spirit—so much deepened in intensity during this period of authority and non-discussion—so influential on the destiny of the most precious things in France—will increase the alarm of all who feel interested in such matters. There is every reason to believe that the Expositions will no longer be regular, but will depend entirely on ministerial caprice and convenience.

The explanation is simple enough. The annual Expositions have always been looked on with an evil eye by authority. Art in France is *subventionné*—supported by Government contributions, as are all theatres and all religious sects, not to speak of certain newspapers. Perhaps in this case necessity legislates. The French people lay particular stress on their artistic superiority, which flatters their vanity, and at the same time enables them to add so much extensive value to their works all round the circle of production. But their aristocracy is not rich, and their *bourgeoisie* is passably stingy. Support, therefore, must come from the State. That is admitted on all hands. But, unhappily, when we speak of Government contributions—that is to say, of contributions coming from all—we speak at the same time of money passing through the hands of a few. We would not suggest the vulgar notion of positive unfaithfulness—that is a weapon we leave at the disposal of reactionary parties fighting against democracy; but the spirit of justice and the intelligence of the distributors of the public funds in this particular may well be called in question. They like to do good to their friends, and are usually not very nice in their choice. He who flatters most is loved best. But whatever authority may be wielded by a minister, by the bureaux who advise him, by the corporations and coteries who besiege or coax him, annual expositions irresistibly compel the allocation of at least some portion of the money voted or taken for Art patronage according to the expressed desire of public opinion, the approbation of the French school, and the judgment of competent persons. This disagreeable necessity may now be escaped from; and this is the chief reason why it seems probable that the old system will not be returned to.

It will not be long, however, before French artists, cured of the delight which the Universal Exposition has caused them, and, perhaps, somewhat disappointed in the material results thereof, begin to regret their conquests of 1830; and, in so far as they can venture, under present circumstances, to claim their restoration. I already hear the answer that will be made to them: it will be suggested by the Institute and by the greater number of the notabilities I have above enumerated. These gentlemen who won celebrity in Expositions, and by

Expositions, have no longer any need of them. If they exhibit, it may be seen—I speak of some only—that their hand is failing. Others fear to meet dangerous competitors. It will be pretended that Art should not be vulgarised; that it is good to shut it up in sanctuaries, less frequently visited, and, consequently, more imposing for the people. Then we shall hear of the dangers of exaggerated, intemperate production, and how Art is thus degraded; with other common-places well known, but, unfortunately, always influential, though they have been always triumphantly refuted when a man of large and truly liberal ideas has undertaken to examine them.

A propos of the annuality of Expositions, it is worth while saying why, under the Empire, it was not yet asked for, and why at that time young and ambitious artists did not feel its want. The reasoning we have alluded to was then also in vogue, and it was received for good. Every one was ready to accept, without any complaint and with complete reverence, the decisions of the jury that presided over the admission of works presented when Expositions did take place. This jury was exclusively composed of members of the Institute. The exhibitors were all their disciples, their enthusiastic admirers, and it must be said, to the honour of that corporation at the epoch when it really flourished, when it recruited itself with the greatest intelligence in the most complete unity, that it was full of benevolence for the youth who studied under its direction, and in whose ranks each master pointed out with pride examples of the excellence of the principles he had instilled, and proofs that he would be worthily succeeded. At that time, in fact, there was only one idea of art in France, one school, one form, one taste, implying certainly some shades and some variations, but excluding all real opposition and contrast. The crowded atelier of David and the solitary atelier of Prud'hon; the ateliers branching from that of David and presided over by Girodet, by Gros, by Guérin; the competing ateliers of Lethière, of Vincent, of Regnault, were all of one and the same communion. But when that school, assuredly too much decreed now-a-days, and treated with a disdain passably unintelligent, began to show signs of weakness, and when other tendencies in art made themselves manifest, towards the epoch of the Restoration, when so many things in France entered upon a new career, all young ambitions and convictions found themselves to be extravagantly checked and limited by the exclusive doctrines of the Institute. That corporation had fallen into the rut of routine. The influence of its founders began to make itself felt. It was filled with the last disciples of the Davidian family—always beneath the level of their master, and then fallen from their original excellence. We need not be surprised, therefore, considering the temper of those times, if more frequent Expositions were tumultuously called for. Young Art felt that if it could only appeal to the public it would soon escape from the Academic gripe. On all sides the systematic spirit of the commission of examination, that decided magisterially on works offered for exhibition, was attacked.

The movement was so violent and vigorous that even before the Revolution of 1830, the opposition had already gained some brilliant victories. Géricault had obtained a place for his "Méduse," which the Institute had received, however, only by the majority of a single voice, yet which will ever remain one of the finest productions of the French school. Sigalon had exhibited his "Locuste," and thus led the van of the revolutionists, who left the atelier of Guérin and of Abel de Pujol—the Scheffers, the Delacroix, and the Decamps. The Institute, however, had understood the danger, and in order to suppress these terrible competitors, had decided that no other Exposition should take place for an indefinite time. But during the excitement of 1830, Young Art broke out into complete insurrection, and led by its natural chiefs, by men who had already, in some measure, been able to show their value, and win general sympathy, obtained partly by its own strength, partly by the liberal dispositions of Louis Philippe in the first days of his reign, an Exposition which may well be said to have sprung from the Barricades. It may be called the birthplace of the modern school. There were seen for the first time the remarkable and masterly works of the sculptor Barye, disciple of Bosio, of the Institute, whose works had been refused up to that period at all Expositions, and who had himself been practically expelled from the official school—because of the character of individuality and novelty of his first essays—with the salve of the second great prize at all the concours; for the second great prize, as every one knows, leads neither to Rome nor anywhere else. Barye had received many of these useless compliments in various branches of the arts of design; but though uncontestedly superior to all his competitors, was systematically kept out of sight of the public until the inauguration of the new era.

It was at the Exposition of 1831 that first appeared the landscape painter, Rousseau, now counted as one of the masters of the young school, but who so scandalised academical taste, that, during nearly twenty years that followed, though he sent his paintings with imperturbable patience before the jury, he was never received again. It seemed, as it were, necessary that a new revolution should take place to rescue this heretic from the despotism, so much attenuated, nevertheless, of the Academical Commission, and to give him the importance and the honours which the first had promised him. In 1848, in another Exposition born of the Barricades, and carried out in the midst of complete liberty, Rousseau reappeared, and he is now member of the Legion of Honour, for his talent,—has taken rank among the masters of the French school, and has ever since figured, and will always probably figure for the future, as a member of the Jury of Admission deciding on the claims of artists, perhaps of a still more revolutionary school.

It was at the same Exposition that Corot was first enabled to come out of obscurity, and begin a career very similar to that of Rousseau, though less pain-fully marked, with Marilhat, his rival, whom France has recently lost; and Cabat, a landscape painter, also celebrated. Then, or soon afterwards, appeared at last all the works which have given renown to the truly active and productive generation of the French school:—"The Liberty" of Delacroix, his "Massacre of Scio," his "Christ in the Garden of Olives," the most beautiful productions of his youth that promised so much; "The Souliote Women," the tender scenes taken from German poetry and the epic of Dante by Scheffer; "The Battle of the Cimbri," the "Turkish Corps de Garde," the "Turkish Patrol," and all the Oriental reminiscences of Decamps; the "St. Simphorien" and the "Œdipus" of M. Ingres; the "Birth of Henri IV," by Deveria; the "Mazeppa" of Boulanger; the scenes of military disaster and snow-effects in Russia, by Charlet; battles and triumphs, the "Fontenoy," the "Harold," of Horace Vernet; the scenes of the Inquisition, the Councils, all the legend of the Middle Ages and of the Renaissance, by Robert Fleury; the marine landscapes of Isabey and Gudin; the *tableaux de genre* of Roqueplan; the popular scenes, the shepherds and the peasants, of Jeanron. Such were some of the results—and no one can deny that they were brilliant—of the means suddenly afforded to young artists of becoming familiarly known to the public. As we have seen, however, the New System was presided over in an exclusive spirit. I shall say something further of its fortunes in a subsequent letter.

ART GOSSIP AT BERLIN.

(From an occasional Correspondent).

If any proof were needed of the poverty of the German stage the success of the *Fechter von Ravenna* would furnish it. That play has been quite an event, and although it has been severely handled by some critics, it has been enthusiastically lauded by others, and has made a sensation everywhere. Something of this may perhaps be due to the mystery which surrounds its authorship. It is attributed to a Prince of Saxony, to a nephew of WEBER, and more generally to Count MÜNCH BELLINGHAUSEN, whose *Ingomar* was drearily performed at Drury Lane, under Mr. Anderson's management. The subject of the piece is one which a real dramatist would have made very striking. The son of *Arminius*, brought a captive child to Rome, is reared, in ignorance of his birth, a gladiator in the school of Ravenna. The rough young German has become an accomplished gladiator, proud of his profession and eager to distinguish himself. His mother, *Thusnelda*, comes to him, reveals to him his birth, and urges him to place himself at the head of the German army, and free his country from the Roman yoke. *Thusnelda* is an impersonation of Germany. She makes terribly long speeches about Deutschland, which are meant to inflame the ardour of her son, and rouse the pit to patriotic transports. But she talks a language which the gladiator does not understand, and which wearis the pit a little. The reader sees, however, what a fine dramatic collision lies in this subject—the mother all enthusiasm for Germany, the son indifferent to Germany, and anxious only "to make a Roman holiday." Instead of dramatically presenting this collision, the author contents himself with indicating it, and making five acts of rhetoric about it. *Thusnelda*, maddened at the thought of Germany's dishonour, should her son appear in the gladiator's arena, implores him not to persist in his purpose. He is inflexible, and she stabs him while he sleeps, preferring his death to his dis-honour.

Weak as the play is, the performance here is even weaker. I except Herr DESSOIR's performance of *Caligula*, the only well-written character in the piece, and a really dramatic presentation of the effeminate and wasted tyrant. Un-happily this *Caligula* has but one scene; and one scene is not enough to enliven five acts. This same Herr DESSOIR has been playing *Richard III* with immense success, and I hope he will play it in London if ever the German troupe reappears at the ST. JAMES'S. It will give our *Richards* many a new idea, and the public will see something surpassing all they have seen since KEAN—the KEAN—electrified them with his lion-like power and demoniac grandeur. Not that Herr DESSOIR is to be compared with KEAN. He has not his qualities; but he has fine and subtle an appreciation of the part, he represents the intellect, restlessness, and vigour of *Richard* with such intelligence, that he makes this wearisome play (and you may imagine how wearisome it is when I tell you they perform the "text of SHAKSPEARE" with conscientious fidelity) worth seeing twice, as I have seen it, merely to note his reading of the part.

VIVIER is here, giving concerts, and startling the Prussian mind with some of his colossal mystifications. He is certainly a genius of the highest rank in mystification. His horn-playing—matchless as it is—sinks into insignificance beside the inventive ingenuity of his practical jokes. In his concerts he has ROGER and the WAGNER to assist him. ROGER, the French tenor, is as great a favourite here as MARIO is in London; and certainly to hear him sing German is a great treat, for not only does he sing so much better than the German tenors (a terrible race), he also pronounces German so much better than they do. Germans confess this. A slight foreign accent he has, but not enough to prevent its being agreeable, while his elimination of the guttural coarseness into which German singers are betrayed, renders his pronunciation delightful. He is performing at the Opera here. The WAGNER should never venture into a concert-room. The stage is her throne. As a dramatic singer she can have few rivals; as a concert singer she is second-rate; and if she goes to America to sing in concerts, she will undoubtedly "make a flask," as the Italians say. A propos of music, LISZT has completed a symphony in three parts on the subject of *Faust*. The three parts severally express Faust, Gretchen, and Mephistopheles. He has also in the press nine *Poésies Musicales*, which are to show the world the fruits of his Weimar seclusion.

While gossiping thus, I must not omit to send you a bit of news which makes the heart beat with expectation. RAUCH, the sculptor, has just shown me a letter from Athens, in which it is stated that the temple of Juno has been excavated at Argos, and as many as three hundred fragments of statues have already been recovered. Remember that this temple was, in the life of Polycletus, what the Parthenon was in the life of Phidias—that it contained the master-pieces of his art, at a time when art was at its apex of glory—and you can form some idea of the thrill which this announcement will give every lover of sculpture. The Greek government will not, it is supposed, sell the treasures, but it has no money to devote to their restoration. Casts are to be taken of them, and ere long we may hope to feast our eyes on works worthy to be placed beside the Elgin marbles!

THEATRES.

We have only space this week to record the success of Mr. STERLING COYNE'S new play, *The Secret Agent*, at the HAYMARKET. The play is founded upon an article published some four months since in *Blackwood*, and the article was founded upon a German comedy, in five acts, which are here reduced to two.

At the ADELPHI an "original" adaptation (without acknowledgment) of Madame EMILE DE GIRARDIN'S *Chapeau d'un Horloger* has been produced. The part of the servant, played by Lesueur at the GYMNASIE, has been transposed for Mrs. Keeley, who is inimitable. As for the adaptation, we can only remark that all the wit and all the finesse of the original have been dexterously expunged. We should be glad to see Mr. Buckstone in a better version of this piece.

At the LYCEUM Mr. Charles Mathews has brought out two new translations from the French. Their English names are *Take that Girl away* and *The Cosy Couple*. In both Mr. Charles Mathews is the life and soul of the scene. His incessant vivacity is irresistible.

At the MARYLEBONE *The Winter's Tale* has been revived, and at SADLER'S WELLS Mr. Phelps has had a splendid house to his benefit. He played *Wolsey* and *Baillie Nicol Jarvie* to admiration.

At the STANDARD, in Shoreditch, Miss Glyn is triumphant as *Cleopatra*, with a rather over-weighted *Antony*, in the shape of Mr. Henry Marston.

AT THE LAST HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, held last Thursday, it was announced that 4048L. 3s. 11d. had been paid by the company as compensation to sufferers by accidents on railways during the past year. In this are comprised two fatal cases—one of 500L to the widow of a mail-guard; and another of 200L to the child of a poor woman who, on returning by railway from visiting her daughter, met with an accident, and she having paid merely one penny for an insurance ticket, thus secured the amount to her family. In the collision at Croydon, on the 21st of August, where three persons were killed, seven of those injured held insurance tickets, and the sum of 421L. was paid. On the 19th of September six persons were injured by the falling in of the Bramhope Tunnel, and were awarded the sum of 449L. The total compensation paid, from the formation of the company, amounts to 16,221L. 5s. It appears that although railway accidents have not diminished in number, only 321,000 persons—a mere fraction of the vast multitude who travelled by railways—insured during the last year. The state of the funds, however, enables the directors to declare a dividend of four per cent. free from income-tax, reserving a balance to meet charges and risks.

GAMBLING.—“When I was at Venice,” Jerome tells us, “at the festival of the birth of the Virgin, I lost my money at cards, and on the next day what remained; but I was in the house of the man with whom I played. When, therefore, I noticed that he used foul play, I wounded him in the face with a poniard, but slightly. There were present two youths of his household, and two spears were hanging from the rafters, and the house-door was fastened with a key. But when I had taken from him all his money, both his own and mine, having won back early that morning, and sent home by my boy the clothes and rings that I had lost to him on the preceding day, I flung back to him of my own accord, some of the money, because I saw that he was wounded.” Having achieved so much, Cardan pointed his sword at the two servants, and threatened death to them if they did not unlock the door and let him out. Their master balancing the cost in his own mind, and finding, says Jerome, that what he had now lost was not more than he had previously taken, bade that his assailant should be suffered to go unmolested. The fierce passions awakened in the gambler made such scenes no doubt sufficiently familiar, and the Venetian either was conscious that he had provoked an attack, by being guilty of the charge upon which it was founded, or he was a hospitable, kindly man. He took the dagger-thrust in friendly part and bore no malice, for there is a sequel to the story.—*Jerome Cardan.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

GERVIS.—March 9, at Hinton, Christchurch, the wife of Sir George Gervis, Bart.: a son and heir.

GOFF.—March 9, in Dublin, the Lady Adela Goff: a son.

HOLYOAKE.—March 11, at 1, Woburn-buildings, the wife of Mr. G. J. Holyoake: a son.

LOPES.—March 12, at Maristow, Devonshire, Lady Lopes: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BARNET.—SALOMONS.—March 13, George Barnet, Esq., of Shanghai, and of Leinster-gardens, Hyde-park, to Frederica Sarah, second surviving daughter of M. M. Salomons, Esq., of Westbourne-crescent, Hyde-park.

TEISSIER.—MILLER.—at St. Peter's Church, Fort William, Calcutta, Captain H. P. de Teissier, Bengal Artillery, third son of Baron de Teissier, to Mary Shirley, second daughter of the late H. Miller Esq., and grand-daughter of the late General Miller, of the Royal Marines.

WARDEN.—RIVETT.—March 7, at Milford, Hants, John Warden, Esq., member of the Government of Bombay, to Julian, widow of Louis Charles Culling Rivett, Esq., of Everton, Hants, and youngest daughter of the late William Reynolds, Esq., of Milford, Hants.

DEATHS.

BROWNE.—March 11, in London, Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Henry Browne, K.C.H., Colonel of the Eightieth Regiment.

CARNEGIE.—March 9, at 9, Cavendish-square, the Lady Catherine Carnegie, aged twenty-five.

FIELDING.—March 3, at Park-crescent, Worthing, Copley Fielding, Esq., aged sixty-eight.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 13.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—D. L. LEWIS, Salter's-hall-court, Cannon-street, and elsewhere, merchant—J. J. and R. R. COX, Day's-court, Gutter-lane, warehousemen—R. J. HILLS, Ryde, Isle of Wight, tailor.

BANKRUPTS.—CORNELIUS AUBREY MARKHAM, Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire, currier—RICHARD RUSSELL, Leamington Priors, printer—ROBERT RIMMER, Tenbury, Worcestershire, publican—JOSEPH KELL, Brierly-hill, Staffordshire, grocer—EDWARD DAWES, Wolverhampton, licensed victualler—THOMAS FIDDES MEYRICK, Wolverhampton, commission agent—JOSEPH HARRIS, Quothorpe, Cornhill, miller—JOHN NORRISH GREENSLADE, Oakford, Devonshire, farmer—JOHN SMITH, Bradford, innkeeper—STEPHEN COOPERWAITE, Bradford, bobbin-turner—WILLIAM CLAREBROUGH, Sheffield, mason—WILLIAM BIRKS, Sheffield, brush manufacturer—JOHN JONES, Manchester, innkeeper—JOHN LOWE, Salford, slate merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. MILLAR, Dundee, latter—H. TENNANT, Glasgow, wine merchant—FLEMING and PRITCHARD, Glasgow, scented-muslin manufacturers—W. MACDONALD, Glasgow, commission agent.

Friday, March 10.

BANKRUPTS.—JAMES MATTHEWS and JAMES E. PHILLIPS, Wood-st., Cheapside, warehousemen—J. ALEXANDER HUGHES, Victoria Park-road, Hackney, builder—ALFRED TUNSTALL, Tottenham, Middlesex, electro-plater—HENRY FOWLER, Southampton, corn and coal factor—THOMAS CHARLESWORTH, Nottingham, plumber—STEPHEN KNAPP,

Coventry, printer—WILLIAM RUMSEY, Coventry, tailor—JAMES NORRIS, Peckham, late of Upper Thames-street, wholesale stationer—WILLIAM DOFFETT FRANCIS, Bridgewater, plumber and glazier—JOHN BURRELL MORGAN and JOHN LEWIS, Ystalyfera Graig, Glamorgan, drapers—ROBERT NICHOLSON, Kingston-upon-Hull, sail maker—WILLIAM JENNINGS, Bradford, linen draper—JOHN PRICE SAMUEL, Blackburn, shuttle manufacturer—WILLIAM FRENCH, Bedlington, Durham, brewer—HENRY HOLLAND, Liverpool, merchant—MARY JACKSON and THOMAS HEYWOOD, otherwise THOMAS JACKSON, Droylsden, Lancashire, skein printers—CHARLES PENNINGTON, Manchester, builder—WILLIAM GREENWELL, South Shields, shoemaker—DUNCAN MCGREGOR, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, paper manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—PETER M'LELLAN, Gorbals, Glasgow, grocer—JOHN MARTIN, Miller-street, Glasgow, clothier—HENRY GALEBAITH, Haddington, ironmonger, &c.—ALEXANDER WADDELL SHANKS, Glasgow, late manufacturer and commission agent.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, March 16, 1855.

A MARKED improvement has taken place all through the week in Consols and Shares. The belief in immediate peace has been universal in the moneyed world, and the telegraphs from Vienna give a colouring to this, as they inform us that Russia accepts the Four Points as a basis for negotiations. There has been, therefore, besides large purchases in Consols, a brisk trade in Railway Shares, &c. Turkish have fluctuated considerably, but seem now inclined to stand higher than 80. In Russian Securities there has been but little doing. Should the accounts from Vienna become more and more *courteuse de rose*, we shall see a continued rise, to be dashed down at last, perhaps, by the intelligence that in the most important part Russia flatly refuses to accede.

Railways have been very firm. Banks, ditto. Mines much neglected, United Mexican excepted, shares of which have risen from 24 to 44. Crystal Palaces are considerably higher. Consols closed at four o'clock at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$, 93 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Caledonians, 64 $\frac{1}{2}$, 64 $\frac{3}{4}$; Eastern Counties, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$; Great Northern, 88, 89; ditto, A stock, 70, 72; ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Western, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$, 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ x. n.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 76, 76 $\frac{1}{2}$; London and Brighton, 97, 99; North Western, 100 $\frac{1}{2}$; South-Western, 84, 85 $\frac{1}{2}$; Midlands, 70, 70 $\frac{1}{2}$; Berwicks, 72, 73; Yorks, 49 $\frac{1}{2}$, 50 $\frac{1}{2}$; Oxfords, 29, 31; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 84, 84 $\frac{1}{2}$; Eastern of France, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 33 $\frac{3}{4}$; East Indian, 24, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm; ditto Extension, 14, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; Centrals, 2, 24 pm; Great Luxembourg, 27, 28; Northern of France, 34 $\frac{1}{2}$; Paris and Lyons, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm; Paris and Orleans, 47, 49; Paris and Rouen, 39, 41; Western of France, 54, 64 x. d.; Agua Fria, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$; Anglo-Californian, 6, 7; Imperial Brazil, 24, 3; Cocas, 1, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; St. John Del Rey, 29, 31; Linares, 7, 8 x. b. shares; Pontigibeaud, 15, 16; South Australian (copper) par, 4 pm; United Mexican, 43, 54; Waller, 5, 6; Australian Agricultural, 30, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$; Canada Government 6 per Cent., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm; Crystal Palace, 34, 34; North British Australasian, 7, 1; Scottish Australian Investment, 14, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; South Australian Land, 36, 37; General Screw, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, 15 $\frac{3}{4}$; Consols for account, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$, 93 $\frac{3}{4}$; Turkish Six per Cent., 80 $\frac{1}{2}$, 80 $\frac{3}{4}$.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{3}{4}$
Consols for Account	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. An. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	44	.....	44	.....	44
India Stock.....	.....	227	227	227	227	225
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	14	.....	11	11	11
Ditto, under £1000.....	.....	14	.....	14	14	14
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	6	6	6	0	9	9
Ditto, £500.....	9	.....	6	9	9	9
Ditto, Small.....	6	6	6	9	9	9

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.

Brazilian Bonds	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents, 1822	100
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents	104	Russian 41 per Cents	90
Chilian 6 per Cents	104	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Danish 5 per Cents .....	.....	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Ecuador Bonds	4	of Coup. not fun.	4
Mexican 3 per Cents ...	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuela 34 per Cents.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Acc. March 15	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Belgian 41 per Cents.	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Dutch 24 per Cents.	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. ....	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 94 $\frac{1}{2}$	.....

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH.

M. R. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST, 52, FLEET-STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.

52, FLEET-STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

DEAFNESS AND SINGING NOISES.—Instant relief by Dr. HOGHTON's new and painless mode of cure. Any extremely deaf sufferer, by one visit, is permanently enabled to hear with ease the usual tone of conversation, without operation, pain, or the use of instruments. Thirty-four patients cured last week; many totally deaf instantaneously restored to perfect hearing. Testimonials from the highest medical authority in London can be seen, and persons referred to.

The above discovery is known and practised only by Dr. Houghton, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C., April 30, 1846. Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall-mall.

Just published, Self-Cure of Deafness, for country patients—a stop to empiricism, quackery, and exorbitant fees—sent on receipt of seven stamps, free.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE
Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week (Wednesday excepted, when there will be no performance), will be performed the New Comedietta, called

TIT FOR TAT.

In which Messrs. A. Wigan, F. Robson, and Miss Maskell will perform.

After which (first time at this Theatre) the Comic Drama of

A LUCKY FRIDAY.

In which Mr. Alfred Wigan will appear.

To conclude with

THE YELLOW DWARF AND THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Miss E. Ormonde, Miss E. Turner, Miss Bromley, and Mrs. Fitz-allan.

VAN LERIUS'S GREAT ORIGINAL WORK.—ADAM and EVE. At 57, Pall Mall. Daily. Ten till Six. One Shilling. Will be on view from Monday next, 19th March, 1855.

JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver an ORATION in DRURY LANE THEATRE on the Evening of Wednesday next (the Fast Day). Doors open at 7. Chair taken at 8 o'clock. Tickets of admission, 6d., 1s., and 1s. 6d. each, may be had at 337, Strand.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL, Prepared for MEDICINAL USE in the LOFFODEN ISLES, NORWAY, and put to the test of Chemical Analysis.

Extracts from Medical Testimonials:—

THE LATE JONATHAN PEREIRA, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor at the University of London, Author of “The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics,” &c. &c.

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

ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.L.S., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the *Lancet*, Author of “Food and its Adulterations,” &c. &c. &c.

“I have more than once, at different times, subjected your Light Brown Oil to chemical analysis—and this unknown to yourself—and I have always found it to be free from all impurity, and rich in the constituents of bile. So great is my confidence in the article, that usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition.”

Sold in bottles, labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., 77, STRAND, London. Dr. de Jongh's sole accredited Consignee and

CHUBB'S LOCKS, with all the recent improvements. Strong Fire-proof Safes, Cash and Dead 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.

HOBBS' PATENT AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LOCKS.

MESSRS. HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co. are now manufacturing their celebrated AMERICAN and ENGLISH LOCKS on the Premises, 97, CHEAPSIDE, and 33, LAWRENCE-LANE, LONDON; where by the introduction of their Patent Steam Machinery, they are enabled to guarantee SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP, combined with greater security, at a moderate price, than in any Locks produced, either in Town or Country.

EVERY LOCK being made and finished at the MANUFACTORY is WARRANTED, and bears THEIR OWN STAMP, without which none are genuine.

These Locks can be procured by order through any respectable Ironmonger in the United Kingdom, or at the WAREHOUSE, as above, WHOLESALE and RETAIL.

MILNER'S PATENT FIRE & BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES, fitted with HOBBS' PATENT POWDER-PROOF LOCKS, form the Strongest Safeguards against Fire and Robbery; they are made of various dimensions, adapted for the security of Money, Plate, and important Documents, Parish Registers, &c. List of prices and dimensions can be had on application to HOBBS, ASHLEY, and CO.

Wholesale and Retail Warehouses, 97, Cheapside; and 33, Lawrence-lane, London.

BUY OF THE MAKERS—BRUSHES, COMBS, and BROOMS, of every description, whether for the dressing-table, household, or stable use, 30 per cent. lower than any other house in the trade, at the manufacturers, J. and J. WITHERS, 36, Tottenham-court-road (opposite Bedford-street, Bedford-square).—Warranted tooth brushes, 3d.; superior ditto, 4d.; the best that can be made, 6d. each.—N.B. The lowest price asked and no statement.

FITCH AND SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON,

8d. per lb.,

Now for 15 Years before the Public, and still retaining its deserved pre-eminence, is CURED and SMOKED 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 AGREEABLY STIMULATING FLAVOUR, and its freedom from saltiness; while it is a most excellent stomachic, and adapted for the most delicate constitution.

The price is 8d. per lb. by the half side of 30lbs. A middle piece of 12lbs. 9d. per lb.

WILTSHIRE CHAPS, cured at Calne.

OX TONGUES, cured upon the Premises.

YORK, SOMERSET, and BRUNSWICK HAMS.

STREASBURG BACON.

CHEDDAR CHEESE, of extraordinary richness and fine flavour, 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.

	s. d.
Fine Rich Cheshire, by single Cheese...	0 7
Good-Sound ditto ditto	0 7
Ditto Serviceable ditto ditto	0 6
Rich American ditto ditto	0 6
Best Salt Butter, by half firkin...	1 0
Very good ditto ditto	0 11
Fine Small Hams ...	0 8

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

FITCH AND SON, PROVISION MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS,

66, BISHOPSGATE-WITHIN.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S 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, 220, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARIOUS VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Postage, 6d.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, and MOUSTACHIOS, are invariably produced in 2 or 3 weeks, by COUPELLE'S CELEBRATED CRINUTRIAR, the almost marvellous powers of which in the production and restoration of hair, strengthening weak hair, checking greyness, rendering the hair luxuriant, curly, and glossy, must be seen to be believed. Dr. Ure says: "It is the only preparation he can recommend for the nursery, as forming the basis of a good head of hair." 2s. per package, at 68, Cornhill; 14, Edgware-road; 154, Sloane-street; Winnall, 78, High-street, Birmingham; Raines and Co., Leith Walk, Edinburgh; and Micklegate, York; Whitaker, Sheffield; Haigh, 116, Briggate, Leeds; Jones, 5, Paradise-street, Liverpool; Gerrards and Co., Bristol; Westmacott, Manchester; Hensleigh, Plymouth; Evans and Co., Exeter; Campbell, Glasgow; and through all Chemists; or sent post free for 24 penny stamps, by Rosalie Coupelle, 69, Castle-street, Newman-street, Oxford-street, London.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 3, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 2s. 14s. to 5s. 10s. ditto with ormolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 5s. 10s. to 12s. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 32s.; Steel Fenders from 2s. 15s. to 8s.; ditto, with rich ormolu ornaments, from 2s. 15s. to 7s. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 4s. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges—

Firstly—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and

Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

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 Thread or King's Pattern. Brunswick Pattern.

Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s. ... 26s. ... 32s.
Dessert Forks	30s. ... 40s. ... 46s.
Dessert Spoons	30s. ... 42s. ... 48s.
Table Forks	40s. ... 56s. ... 64s.
Table Spoons	40s. ... 58s. ... 66s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

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.
Tea ditto	5s. ... 11s. ... 12s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japan wares, iron and brass bedsteads and bedding), 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, PEREY'S-PLACE.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing Warehouses. Established A.D. 1700. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post.

DEANE, DRAY, and CO. (Opening to the Monument), London-bridge.

BENNETT'S MODEL WATCH.

In gold cases from 10 guineas. In silver cases from 5 guineas.

Every watch is skilfully examined, timed, and its performance guaranteed.

BENNETT, WATCH MANUFACTURER, 65, CHEAPSIDE.

MESSRS. SHOOLBRED AND BRADSHAW, 34, Jermyn-street, PATENTEES, Manufacturers of every description of ELASTICAL SURGICAL BANDAGES, as recommended by all the most eminent surgeons, in acknowledging the very extensive support they have received, beg to call attention to the various improvements they are making in patent Elastic Stockings, Knee Caps, Socks, and Ladies and Gentlemen's Spine Supporters. A new description of Belt, invaluable for prevention of Cholera and the cure of Rheumatism, Lumbago, &c. N.B. Every description of India-rubber Bandages vulcanised on the newest principle.

NO MORE PILLS NOR ANY OTHER MEDICINE.—For Indigestion (Dyspepsia), Constipation, Nervous, Bilious, and Liver Complaints, Cough, Consumption, and Debility. By DU BARRY'S delicious REVALENTA ARABICA FOOD, which saves fifty times its cost in medicine.

A few out of more than 50,000 cures are given.

Cure No. 71, of dyspepsia, from the Right Hon. the LORD STUART DE DECIES:

"I have derived considerable benefit from Du Barry's Revalenta Arabica Food, and consider it due to yourselves and the public to authorise the publication of these lines."

STUART DE DECIES."

From the DOWAGER-COUNTESS OF CASTLE-STUART: Cure 52,692.—"Rosstrevor, County of Down, Ireland, 9th December, 1854.—The Dowager-Countess of Castle-Stuart feels induced, in the interest of suffering humanity, to state that Du Barry's excellent Revalenta Arabica Food has cured her, after all medicines had failed, of indigestion, bile, great nervousness and irritability of many years' standing. This Food deserves the confidence of all sufferers, and may be considered a real blessing. Inquiries will be cheerfully answered."

Cure No. 49,832.—"Fifty years' indescribable agony from dyspepsia, nervousness, asthma, cough, constipation, flatulence, spasms, sickness at the stomach, and vomiting, have been removed by Du Barry's excellent food.

"MARIA JOLLY, Wortham, Ling, near Diss, Norfolk." 1lb., 2s. 0d.; 2 lbs., 4s. 0d.; 5 lbs., 11s.; 12 lbs., 22s.; super-refined, 1lb., 6s.; 2 lbs., 11s.; 5 lbs., 22s.; 10 lbs., 33s. The 10 lb. and 12 lb. carriage free on receipt of a post-office order. Barry, Du Barry, and Co., 77, Regent-street, London; London agents, Fortnum, Mason, and Co., purveyors to her Majesty, 182, Piccadilly; and also at 60, Gracechurch-street; 49, Bishoptsgate-street; 4, Cheapside; 330 and 451, Strand; 56, Charing-cross.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

39, Throgmorton-street, Bank.

Chairman—THOMAS FARNCOME, Esq., Alderman.

Deputy-Chairman—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.

Richard E. Arden, Esq.

Edward Bates, Esq.

Thomas Campine, Esq.

James Chift, Esq.

J. Humphrey, Esq., Ald.

Rupert Ingleby, Esq.

Thomas Kelly, Esq., Ald.

Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq.

Lewis Pocock, Esq.

Physician—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.

Surgeon—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.

Consulting Actuary—Professor Hall, M.A., of King's College.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS COMPANY.

The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security.

The assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—an Assurance Fund of nearly 400,000*l.*, invested on mortgage and in the Government Stocks—and an income of 80,000*l.* a year.

Age.	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
20	£0 17 8	£0 19 9	£1 15 10	£1 11 10
30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 10	6 12 9	6 0 10

MUTUAL BRANCH.

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled at the end of five years, and afterwards annually, to participate in four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the profits. The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At

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

WILLIAM R. ROBINSON, Esq., Chairman.

HENRY DAVIDSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

The Scale of Premiums adopted by this Office will be found of a very moderate character, but at the same time quite adequate to the risk incurred.

Four-fifths, or 80 per cent. of the Profits, are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

One-third of the Premium on Insurances of 500*l.* and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50*l.* and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

SECURITY.—Those who effect Insurances with this Company are protected by its Subscribed Capital of 750,000*l.*, of which nearly 140,000*l.* is invested, from the risk incurred by members of Mutual Societies.

The satisfactory financial condition of the Company, exclusive of the Subscribed and Invested Capital, will be seen by the following statement:—

At the close of the last Financial Year the sums

Assured, including Bonus added, amounted to £2,500,000

The Premium Fund to more than 800,000

And the Annual Income from the same source, to 109,000

Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

ST. GEORGE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 118, PALL-MALL, LONDON.

Capital, 100,000*l.*, in Shares of 5*l.* each. Deposit, 1*l.* per Share.

(On which Interest, at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum, exclusive of Dividend, is guaranteed by the Deed of Settlement.)

Chairman—Viscount RANELAGH, Park-place, St. James's. Deputy-Chairman—HENRY POWELL, Esq., Ladbroke-square, Notting-hill.

Secretary—W. C. URQUHART, Esq.

POLICIES ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE.

Annuities and Endowments for families, children, and others on the most favourable terms.

Premiums payable yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly.

No charge for medical fees or stamps.

Loans granted for long or short periods, payable by monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly instalments.

Defective Titles, Reversions, &c., assured and guaranteed.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION,

No. 3, PALL MALL EAST, LONDON.

Established A.D. 1844.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY

are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution,

by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with

perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, at the Head Office in London; and may also be received at the various Branches, or through Country Bankers, without delay or expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on application.

NEW AND PECULIAR SYSTEM OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE Directors of the NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION invite attention to the New System of Life Assurance exclusively adopted by this Association—viz., that of allowing Interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on all Premiums paid, instead of the remote and uncertain System of Bonuses usually adopted.

By this plan, the Policyholder will secure to himself a constantly increasing annual income during life, as well as the payment of the sum insured to his representatives, at his death.

Tables of Rates specially adapted to this System of Assurance may be obtained at the Office of the Company, 3, Pall-mall East, or forwarded free on application.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

1st March, 1855.

GENERAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY, Cannon-street West.—Capital, 500,000*l.*, in Shares of 5*l.* each; call, 10*s.* per Share.

Every description of insurance business transacted at this office. Policies absolutely indisputable. Guarantees afforded against losses arising from robberies, forgeries, frauds, debts, insolvency, and non-payment of rent. Fire and life insurance effected on improved and safe principles.—Plate-glass insured.

Prospectuses, terms of agency, proposals, &c., can be had on application.

J. G. HUGHES, Secretary.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. OLD DR. JACOB TOWNSEND'S AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA. This is, of all known remedies, the most pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the blood of all morbid matter, of bile, urea, acids, scrofulous substances, humours of all kinds, which produce rashes, eruptions, salt rheum, cysticlas, 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 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; POMEIROY, ANDREWS and CO., Sole Proprietors. Half-pints, 2*s.* 6*d.*; pints, 4*s.*; small quarts, 4*s.* 6*d.*; quarts, 7*s.* 6*d.*; mammoths, 1*l.* 1*s.*

SOLDIERS' INFANT HOME, for the Maintenance and Education of the Children of Soldiers, orphans or not.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury—The Archbishop of York.

The Lord Bishop of London—The Lord Feversham.

The Lord Berners—The Lord Lilford.

The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P.

The Chaplain-General.

VICE-PATRONESSES.

The Countess of Manners—The Lady Lilford.

The Countess Cathcart—Lady William Wynn.

Dowager Lady Willoughby—The Hon. Mrs. Adams.

Le Broke—The Lady Leigh.

HONORARY SECRETARY.—The Rev. W. H. Foy, St. Simon's Parsonage, Bethnal-green (late Military Chaplain at Gwalior).

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.—Major the Hon. H. L. Powys.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Masterman and Co.

Office (pro tem.), 9, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, London.

The Committee most urgently appeal to the Clergy and Dissenting Ministers for their help on the Fast Day, that a portion of their collections may be devoted to the growth and establishment of this Infant Home.

NATIONAL (late Cholera) ORPHAN HOME, Ham-common. Instituted 1849.

At a public meeting held at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Thursday last, it was resolved,—

"That application be made on behalf of the National Orphan Home to the Rector, Vicar, Incumbent, or Minister of Churches and Chapels in the kingdom, requesting that the collection, or a portion of the collection made on the approaching Fast Day, be kindly given to the National Orphan Home."

Nearly ninety orphan girls have been, and sixty are now in the Home. Twenty were elected last November, in consequence of the liberal collections made at churches and chapels in various parts of the kingdom on the day of thanksgiving for the harvest. Clergymen kindly intending to send their collections on the approaching Fast Day, or any portion, will be furnished with all particulars on application.

to the honorary secretaries, the Rev. Joseph Brown, Rector of Christchurch, Blackfriars-road; and Rev. R. Whittington, Chapter-house, St. Paul's Churchyard; to whom collections and subscriptions may be forwarded; or to Messrs. Dalton, Hatchards, Nisbets, Rivingtons, and Seeleys; also to the account of the National Orphan Home, London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury; and to the Treasurer, Henry Kingscote, Esq., No. 1, New-street, Spring-gardens.

ART-UNION of LONDON (by Royal Charter).—The SUBSCRIPTION LIST CLOSES the 31st inst. Prizeholders select for themselves from the public Exhibitions. Every subscriber of one guinea will have, besides the chance of a prize, an impression of a PLATE of "A Water Party," by J. T. WILLMORE, A.R.A., after J. Chalon, R.A., together with a quarto volume of 30 Illustrations of Byron's "Childe Harold." The prints are now ready for delivery, and the volume may be seen at the office.

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