

Alfred Edmund Galloway, 1st. Chanc.

# The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"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, DECEMBER 15, 1855.

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## News of the Week.

**K**ARS has fallen to the Russians—at least, such is the probable event. General WILLIAMS was left by the few who escaped in a state that must necessarily end in his capitulating under the pressure of hunger. Amongst the few was General KMETZ, who would have fared badly if he had fallen into Russian hands; his safety is hailed with satisfaction by every Englishman. The fate of General WILLIAMS is a reproach to the Turkish Government. A force should have been sent far sooner to support him; it was not sent, and he is a prisoner of war in the hands of the CZAR. This reverse, however—taking it as one for the Allies—bears no proportion to the successes that have been attained. It does not materially affect the position of the belligerents.

The reported rising of the Kurds against the Russians is in that state which is commonly described as "wants confirmation."

Peace is now in everybody's mouth, but not in any shape of certainty. Russia is said to have made those direct overtures without which our Government would not listen; yet our Government is listening, and the direct overtures are not explicitly stated to have been made. Austria, in fact, is mediating, and is proposing terms which Russia will offer if acceptance be assured beforehand. This is a suspicious position. Austria has before now undertaken for Russia, and Russia has not performed. Austria agreed to the abatement of Russian preponderance in the Black Sea, and then so prevaricated on that half of the third point as almost to agree with Russia in slipping it. That the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH desires to terminate a state of affairs perilous to himself is evident, but that he is acting with power of attorney is doubtful; and there is every sign that his mediation is not so well trusted as it might have been three years ago.

Whatever may be the feeling of the Government, by the public these reports are not received with much satisfaction or attention. There have been many occasions for declaring the popular feeling;

and the declaration has answered to all previous samples. We might almost compile a standing list of the places with the persons that have pronounced, and post up the names of Lord HARRY VANE, at Darlington; Mr. SPOONER and Mr. NEWDEGATE, at Birmingham; Sir ROBERT PEEL, at Burton-upon-Trent—a sort of recantation of his attack upon the navy; Viscount NEWPORT, at the "Shropshire Cattle and Poultry Show;" Mr. FLOYER, at the "Birmingham Agricultural Association;" Mr. LANGTON, at the "Yeovil Agricultural Association;" and Mr. MANGLES, at Guildford—Mr. DRUMMOND, of course, being nondescript. It will be observed that among these Mr. SPOONER and Mr. NEWDEGATE are not of the Ministerial party; while Viscount NEWPORT and Mr. FLOYER are decidedly Tories. Viscount NEWPORT says JOHN BULL wants to know what he is fighting for; but to prevent Russia from threatening the dominions of the SULTAN, or to preserve the peace of Europe, is an object for which he will support any Government in the war. This is just the old story, whether it is told in Dorsetshire, Warwickshire, or any other shire.

Even the Irish feud has not proved so successful as our enemies might desire. The trial of the Reverend VLADIMIR PETCHERINE resulted in acquittal. This was to be expected. There was every proof that Bibles were burned in his chapel-yard—none that he had caused the books to be placed there. The prosecution, therefore, was made to wear very much the appearance of persecution; and all the more for the sectarian twang in the charge with which Judge CRAMPTON began. The acquittal, therefore, is the glorification of the saint over the schismatic. Dublin was illuminated, and we might have expected a grand burst of Anti-Protestant irritation. The press, however, has very generally given expression to moderate feelings; and the excitement appears to be rapidly dying away.

Another step taken by the Roman Catholics may also tend to diminish sectarian divisions by giving a tangible and material guarantee for community of feeling with the rest of the country. A very interesting meeting was held at Birmingham Townhall, on Tuesday, entirely of Roman Catholics,

to establish a reformatory school for children of The Faith. There appeared to be three grounds for this movement. One, an idea, somewhat exaggerated by the speakers, that the Roman Catholics are repelled by the Protestants, and that the destitute children find greater difficulties in procuring aid; another, that if Roman Catholic children are admitted into Protestant reformatories their faith may be undermined; and, a third, that the Catholics ought not to be behind the Protestants in doing good for the community. The Roman Catholic noblemen and gentlemen took the lead with their clergy; and the juvenile reformatories will be speedily established at Charwood, under the Cistercian order of monks in the monastery of Mount St. BERNARD. The mitred abbot of that monastery informs us, that the rule of the school will be those of "La grande trappe." Hard fare and hard labour we can understand for a penal school; but *silence*—is it expected that the boys will for ever hold their tongues?

Birmingham has also been the scene of another triumph; it has this year a magnificent cattle show, which bangs Baker-street like Banagher, although Baker-street is improving. There are this year only two specimens of those highly cultivated beasts that scarcely breathe for their own developments. For the rest symmetry and good solid flesh have taken the place of fatty bulk. But a further improvement is promised; for prizes are not only given for fat beasts, but for pregnant essays.

Birmingham also has to boast of an important concession by the Imperial Government. The *London Gazette* has notified that the Bank of England is empowered to increase the securities in the issue department to £475,000 beyond the £14,000,000 specified in Sir ROBERT PEEL'S Act. Sir ROBERT PEEL, however, contemplated this step. The act of 1844 authorised the Bank to reissue two-thirds of the notes ceasing to circulate through the failure or discontinuance of country banks. Those who are calling out for relaxation have pointed to the neglect of this power; it has now been exercised.

A more important event in the money world—for really the short half-million will make no material difference in our currency—is the election of Chief Justice CAMPBELL in the case of *CA*.

**NON** and **Another v. IRELAND**, that nobody needs attend to the crossing of cheques. A solicitor's clerk conveying cheques to the banking-house, appropriating one to his use, got it cashed by a tavern-keeper, at whose house he was a customer, deposited £15 and some shillings to his employers' account, and absconded with £33. The solicitor brings an action against the tavern-keeper, for that balance, on the ground that the tavern-keeper had improperly cashed the cheque in spite of the crossing. The tavern-keeper's reply was, that he had reason to believe the clerk to be a respectable man, and the **CHIEF JUSTICE** decided that he was not bound to exercise any peculiar caution on account of the crossing. The crossing of cheques, therefore, in future will be a precaution of that kind, which, by giving a fallacious appearance of safety, renders the document less secure. The safety fails at the very moment when its operation is required. If people choose to observe the precaution—that is, if they are perfectly regular and respectable people—it will be observed: if irregulars get hold of the instrument they may neglect the crossing with impunity. Now so many people have no bank, and find the crossing an obstruction, that undoubtedly it will be disregarded, and evidently some new arrangement is needed. The *Times* suggests an Act of Parliament; the *Globe*, the reversal of the position of the crossed banker's name and the payee's putting the banker's name in the body of the cheque, the payee's across. Meanwhile the public should know how invalid this security is.

The Assize Courts have continued in full play, and an unusual amount of the romance of real life has been recited before them. The most conspicuous case is that of **JOSEPH SNAITH WOOLER**, accused of poisoning his wife **JANE**. In interest it exceeds the case of **LAFFARGE**; for the crime of poisoning is ascertained, it is traced by the same careful analysis and accumulation of evidence, but to the surprise of everybody the husband is acquitted,—is pronounced to be manifestly innocent; while the **JUDGE** on the bench declares that his fancy points to some other person, and the medical men stand convicted on their own testimony of strange reserves and equivocations.

Another romance, too, is kept before the public. Just at the time when the publication of a succinct account of the affairs of **STRAHAN, PAUL, and BATES** has been laid before the public at the Bankruptcy Court—just at the time when, from this more complete survey, some degree of leniency is extended to the unhappy men by observing the degrees with which they were led into their fatal crime—just at this time they are subjected to an additional punishment: they are pilloried in effigy, amongst the figures of **MADAME TUSSAUD'S** Exhibition, with “the benevolent **PIUS** the **NINTH**.”

The several districts of London have now appointed their new vestries; the vestries have elected their representatives in the Board of Works; and London City even, after making some wry faces, has appointed its three to sit with the forty and be swamped—for such is the expectation in the City. In the election of the vestries the contest has lain between the continuance of the old members under the new law, and the constitution of really new bodies—and the new bodies have prevailed. We have a new broom, then, in the vestries, and must expect an overruling energy in the new Council of Forty presiding over the federal republic of the metropolis. We trust that the fears of the City will be verified, for what we apprehend is not tyranny but apathy—not innovation but routine; in short, not the health we hope to have, but the chronic disease of neglect and dirt under which we have laboured.

The name of the **PRINCE CONSORT** appears among the officers of the Guards, memorialising the Crown to retain the privileges of that body as distinguished from officers of the Line. Officers in the Guards hold a titular rank above their real rank; but, moreover, they expect promotion according to their titular, and not to their real rank. A Captain of the Guards is called “Lieutenant-Colonel,” and has hitherto been permitted to be made a General as if he had been Lieutenant-General from the date of his Captain's commission. The present Government has overridden this rule in reference to the war, placing the Guards and the Line on a level. The Guards complain; the **PRINCE** is Colonel of the Grenadier Guards; and he has suffered his name to follow the memorial. There can scarcely be a doubt that **HER MAJESTY** will refuse; and, as the *Times* remarks, the

unadvised use of the **PRINCE'S** name subjects him to share in the refusal which his **CONSORT** must give!

The Reverend **B. JOWETT**, whom we have known as the promoter of the pedantic civil-service school, has published a work which contains passages throwing a new light on the doctrine of the atonement. From the passages, published separately, the reader must infer, that he does not hold God to have been reconciled to man by the sacrifice of Christ, but men to have been reconciled to God by the sacrifice. Philosophy would mention many arguments to this second view; but **DR. MACBRIDE** and **MR. C. P. GOLIGHTLY**, made an appeal to the **VICE-CHANCELLOR** of Oxford, asking him to challenge **MR. JOWETT** again to sign the thirty-nine Articles, one of which distinctly expresses the exact opposite view. **MR. JOWETT** signed at once—believing one way officially, another intellectually!

**MR. F. O. WARD** continues vigorously his contest with the “eminent engineers,” against whom he is pitted; and who, to say truth, have by no means the best of the battle. Foiled in his attempt to get his powerful antagonists before a mathematical tribunal, and batter them with a plus  $\delta$ , **MR. WARD** proposes, with a grave simplicity in which (if we mistake not) there lurks a touch of sarcasm, to bring the dispute to a practical issue, by swimming a turnip down the Fleet river, and so timing the velocity of its current, and the discharging power of the ten-feet tunnel through which its waters roll. This float, by **STEPHENSON'S** formulæ, should only go two miles an hour; **MR. WARD** backs it to go ten miles an hour; and the rate-payers, he observes, have £800,000 staked on this new kind of race. To the permanent interest of the question, **MR. WARD** adds that which is derived from its bearing on the election, now pending, of the chairman to the New Central Board. For **MR. JEBB** and his supporters, he tells us, back **STEPHENSON** and the low-velocity formulæ, involving the more costly and colossal works; and **MR. JEBB**, as our readers know, is chairman of the existing Commission of Sewers, and candidate for the chairmanship of the New Board now coming into office. **MR. WARD'S** unanswerable letter on this subject appeared last week, in all the daily journals, except the *Times*.

**THE TRIAL 'FOR BIBLE-BURNING.**—This trial took place on Friday week, and resulted in the acquittal of **FATHER PECHERINE**, on the ground that there was not sufficient proof that he knowingly and wilfully threw the Bibles into the fire. In the course of his defence, **MR. O'HAGAN** gave the annexed particulars of the rather mysterious Redemptorist Father:—“He is a stranger, gentlemen, coming from a strange land here; and, though his residence has been long enough and familiar enough to make him one of ourselves, he in his own land was born, I believe, even of noble family, and occupied a high position and a place of public trust in the University of his country, and had opened before him a great career of honour. And, gentlemen of the jury, he is not to be blamed for this, that he sacrificed all worldly advantages and burst all earthly ties at the mandate of his conscience and his duty. He is a stranger here; he has been some fourteen or twenty years an alien from his own land, because, with the impulses of conscience strong upon him, he felt that the opinions which were early his, could not be so for any longer time; and he abandoned home and family, country old associations, cherished friendships, fair hopes, and a fair ambition, to devote himself in utter poverty and self-negation to the advancement of the immortal salvation of his fellow men.” A scene of the most tumultuous exultation followed the declaration of the verdict; and the greatest joy has been manifested by the lower orders in Dublin at the acquittal of their priest. **JOHN HAMILTON**, a boy, has also been acquitted on a similar charge; but **EDWARD HAYDON** was found guilty of an aggravated assault upon one of the witnesses examined for the Crown during the trial. He was recommended to mercy; but the court sentenced him to three months' imprisonment.

**MR. GEORGE L. PURCHASE** has addressed a letter to the shareholders of the Crystal Palace Company, recommending that the “government” of the concern should be “constitutional,” and under the control of the shareholders; and suggesting various improvements in the management with respect to the surplus property, the means of access and departure, the revenue and working expenses, the refreshment department, &c.

**REVOLT OF THE BASHI-BAZOUKS.**—The **Bashi-Bazouks** in English pay have committed excesses at Adrianople. Others have revolted on board the **Tancred**, but were arrested by the brig-of-war **L'Olivier** at Smyrna. The resisted, and caused some deaths, and many were wounded.

## THE WAR.

**FIGHTING** has again commenced in the Crimea. The French Minister of War has received a telegraphic despatch from **Marshal Pelissier**, communicating the substance of a report from the General in Command of the First Division of the First Corps, who says that a body of from two to three thousand Russian infantry, and about four or five thousand horse, attacked **Baga, Orkoust, and Skvaka**, at daybreak on the morning of last Saturday. After a sharp fusillade, which lasted for an hour and a half, the enemy retreated, leaving some thirty prisoners (two of whom were officers) in the hands of the French, whose loss was insignificant. “**Baga, Orkoust, and Skvaka**,” says the *Daily News*, “are three villages situated at the eastern extremity of the valley of **Baidar**, and form the extreme right of the French position as well as that of the Allied army. Our Allies are posted very strongly here, and their reserves are close at hand.”

Recent despatches (dated, however, previously to the foregoing news) say that the Russians are fortifying their position near **Inkermann**; that they are removing from their lines of defence, and concentrating troops at **Baktchi-Serai** and **Simpheropol**; that the corps on the **Belbek** has been reduced; that the northern forts do not fire much now; that the Allies have constructed twenty-six batteries to attack those forts; and that three hundred and sixty cannon are in position on our lines of the **Tchernaya**. Russia still holds on with a determined, though perhaps desperate, grasp; and the winter will not, as was at one time supposed, see her expulsion from the Crimea. Winter, indeed, will offer her some facilities for maintaining her stand; and we are already told by the *Kreuz Zeitung* that, since the snow has been covered with a crust of ice, enormous trains of “sleds,” six miles long, have entered the peninsula by **Perekop** and the Spit of **Arabat**, loaded with provisions and other articles for the use of the army. The closing of the navigation of the Sea of **Azof** is looked on by the Russians as securing their left and rear in the Crimea, and as releasing several of their troops from mere purposes of defence. The **Neva**, also, is becoming closed. Ice showed itself there for the first time on November 23rd, and on the morning of the 25th the river was frozen over below the town.

The fall of **Kars** appears now to be certain. The news is announced and criticised with the utmost confidence by the *Morning Post*, which adds that “**Ismail Pacha** (General **Kmety**), with another officer, who succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the Russian outposts, have effected their escape. When they quitted **Kars**, General **Williams** had been compelled by famine to send a flag of truce to the Russian camp, offering capitulation.” It appears that, on the 9th of November, ten thousand men, under **Selim Pasha**, left **Erzeroum** to relieve the beleaguered city; but the assistance was too late. The smallness of his force, and the alertness of the Russians, have prevented the arrival of **Selim** to the succour of his distressed countrymen. The **Muscovites**, therefore, have for once had a triumph; but the heroic defence by a handful of men, under a scarcity amounting almost to starvation in the case of the human beings, and quite so in that of the horses, is a triumph also, and one which the world will know how to honour.

**Omar Pacha** was left by the most recent advices, on the banks of the **Marini**, at a very short distance from **Kutais**. He was waiting the arrival of the division of **Mustapha Pacha** and the Egyptian division, 12,000 strong.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes the following intelligence from **Kars** and its neighbourhood, relating to a period antecedent to the submission of the town:—

“The Turks have reinforced their **Kobouléti** detachment by a landing of **Nizams**, and, after having occupied **Logvy** and **Ochkaunour** with regular troops, they commenced their offensive movement. On the 29th October (10th November), about four hundred men left the **St. Nicholas** station, and took the direction of the **Tchokhat** bridge, which had been destroyed by us, but met on this point by the **Curul** militia, they withdrew with a small loss of killed and wounded.

“On the 30th October (11th November), heavy masses of the enemy's infantry and cavalry advanced on the village of **Likhaour** (south of **Usurketti**), but on this point also after an hour's combat, they fell back on the river **Tchlok**. We had three militiamen killed and three wounded. It is reported that the



enemy's loss was considerable. Before the 28th of October (9th of November), the Kobouléti detachment had received additional reinforcements, and its effective strength now amounts to 15,000 regular infantry and 3,000 cavalry, with fourteen pieces of artillery, without counting a considerable number of Bashibazouks."

As a set-off against the Muscovite triumph at Kars, a condition of embarrassment in monetary matters, amounting to a financial crisis, has commenced in Russia. The Czar has been obliged to have recourse to a new loan; but trouble is gathering round him, and a question of money may decide the war.

#### DESTRUCTION OF STORES IN THE SEA OF AZOF.

SIR EDMUND LYONS has transmitted to the Admiralty a report from Captain Sherard Osborn, dated November 7th, and containing a detailed account of operations in the Sea of Azof. The squadron under command of that officer destroyed a large amount of stores at Vodina on the 3rd, and on the same day committed similar havoc at Glofira and Gheisk. At the former place, the marines who landed were opposed by Russian troops, who, however, were speedily driven back; and at both the success of the expedition was complete. Captain Osborn proceeds:—

"Throughout the night, the stores were burning fiercely, a sheet of flame extending fully two miles; but the town of Glofira, except where the troops had used the houses against us, remained untouched.

"At an early hour on the 6th of November, we weighed and proceeded into the Liman, steering towards Gheisk; the valuable services of Mr. George Perry, acting-master of the *Vesuvius*, and Mr. Parker, second master of the *Recruit*, came here into play; and, at an early period I had the satisfaction of seeing all the gun-boats anchored just in their own draught of water within long gunshot of the east extreme of Gheisk and the neighbouring steppe, along the edge of which, for four miles, corn and hay were stacked in quantities far beyond what I had conceived to be possible, and at the base of the steppe, as well as that part of the spit commanded by the town, timber-yards, fish stores, boats, &c., in numbers were accumulated.

"To attack upon as many points as possible was, I thought, the only way to foil the troops that had now had thirty-six hours to prepare for us; the gun-boats *Grinder*, *Boxer*, *Cracker*, and *Clinker* were left to cover the landing party. To Lieutenant Ross, of the *Weser*, I signalled to prepare to land, and divided the force in the Liman into three bodies; the left under Lieutenants Day and Townshend, consisted of boats and men of the *Recruit* and *Boxer*; the centre I intrusted to Commander Kennedy, having under him Lieutenants Hamilton, Campion, Marryat, and Mayne, with all the boats of the *Curlew*, *Ardent*, *Grinder*, and *Cracker*, and port rocket and gun-boats of the *Vesuvius*; the right division, under Lieutenant Chatham Strobe and Lieutenant Hudson, consisted of the starboard gun-boats of the *Vesuvius*, and those of the *Clinker*, together with some marines, Mr. R. Farquharson, midshipman in charge of the latter. Lieutenant Ross, on the west side of Gheisk Spit, had the boats and small-arm men of the *Weser*, with a small force from the *Curlew* and the *Ardent*, under Lieutenant Myall, and Mr. Tilley, second master, in readiness to co-operate.

"The different parties pulled in and effected a landing at appointed places, fully a mile apart; the Russian troops, within light breastworks, attempted to prevent them, but failed, and in a few moments a screen of flames and smoke rolling from our men towards the enemy prevented the latter seeing where or how to manoeuvre in order to cut off any of our small detachments.

"On the right and centre, the enemy mustered strongest, and at one time, observing a column of some 1,500 Cossaks moving rapidly off to the left, I directed Commander Kennedy, who by that time had connected his fires with those of Lieutenant Day, to re-embark all but the marines, and with them to proceed to his right, and I reinforced him with the marines of the *Recruit* and *Weser*, under Lieutenant Campion. This answered perfectly; the enemy arrived too late to save anything on the left, while our men steadily worked towards the right division, under Lieutenants Strobe and Ross, who, in spite of a heavy but badly directed fire from the houses on the heights, steadily held their ground, and effectually destroyed a great accumulation of materials for boats and ship building, fish stores, cavalry camp gear, and gunnaries.

"When everything but the town of Gheisk was destroyed, I ordered the embarkation to take place, and detached some boats to cover Lieutenant Ross, between whom and his boat the enemy were throwing a body of men, who, by their uniform, I believed to be regular infantry.

"By two p.m., everything was finished, and all the parties safely re-embarked on board their respective gun-boats, the casualties amounting to only six men

wounded in all, one of them dangerously, and another severely.

"During these proceedings, we never had more than 200 men engaged; the enemy had, from the concurrent testimony of Lieutenants Ross and Strobe, and from my own observation, from 3,000 to 4,000 men in Gheisk alone."

Another visit was paid to Glofira on the 6th of November, and the flames which had died out were again kindled.

In consideration of the services mentioned by Captain Osborn, Commander John James Kennedy will be promoted to the rank of Captain as soon as he shall be qualified; and Lieutenant Hubert Campion has been promoted to the rank of Commander.

Sir Edmund Lyons says that ice is now (Dec. 7th) forming on the shores of the Sea of Azof.

#### WAR MISCELLANEA.

**SYMPTOMS IN THE CRIMEA.**—The writer of a letter from the camp, dated November 23rd, says:—"We have just had a telegraphic message—at least, I heard so on good authority—to suspend all hutting and road-making. What does this mean?—can it be peace? They can hardly intend to move us, now that we have made ourselves snug for the winter. Report says, too, that the Russians are about to evacuate the Crimea. Are we to go to Simpheropol? They will not leave us very comfortable lodgings there."

**THE EXPLOSION AT INKERMANN.**—The same letter-writer gives the following account (which confirms that already published by the *Times* correspondent) of the cause of the explosion at Inkermann:—"In the distribution of the property found in Sebastopol, the gunpowder fell to the lot of the French. It was brought up from the Russian magazines and batteries in temporary boxes. At the time of the occurrence of the explosion some of this gunpowder was being transferred from the temporary to more secure and durable cases. Three men were employed in the operation. One had charge of the box in which the powder had been brought up to the siege-train dépôt, the second held a copper tube or funnel, through which the powder was passed into the permanent powder case, and the third man had charge of this receptacle. The artilleryman who had the first box, while pouring out the powder into the funnel, found in it a piece of shell. Without heed, he inadvertently threw it down upon the ground, and from the catastrophe following instantly, he concludes that the iron struck fire against a stone, and so, by a spark, ignited the gunpowder, of which a considerable quantity was lying scattered about. The two men who were assisting him in transferring the powder were blown away, and not to be recognised; he, much stunned and scorched, escaped with his life, and is still a patient in the French ambulance."

**CONTRABAND OF WAR.**—It is now several weeks since the British consul-general at Hamburg, Colonel Hodges, was instructed by the government to present to the Senate of Hamburg an energetic note, strongly protesting against the laxity with which the government of this city observed their so-called neutrality, and the glaring and open manner in which contraband of war (and more especially the articles of sulphur and saltpetre) was sent from here by the Prussian railroad to Russia.—*Hamburg Correspondent of the Daily News.*

**FORTIFICATION OF ST. PETERSBURG AND MOSCOW.**—At the Grand Council at St. Petersburg, it has been resolved to fortify St. Petersburg and Moscow, and commissions of engineers have been appointed to make plans of defence. General Delu is the president of the commission for St. Petersburg, and General Todleben of that for Moscow.

**PROSPECTS FOR 1856.**—In 1856, we shall make war with an army numerically proportioned to our position and a fleet sufficiently large to accomplish anything that a fleet can well accomplish. Besides the large ships of this year's Baltic fleet, we have many new vessels like the *Marlborough*, *Conqueror*, *Brunswick*, *Victor Emmanuel*, *Sutlej*, *Shannon*, and *Pearl*, which have first floated within the last few weeks, and will be ready for service when they are required in the spring. Each week that passes witnessed the *débarquement* upon the waters of some half-dozen little gun-boats—*Bites*, *Snappers*, and *Teazers*—whose deeds we are sure will not belie their names. Altogether, we may calculate upon having available next summer some forty line-of-battle ships and large frigates of the new heavy-armed class, about twenty corvettes and smaller vessels of war, with not less than 170 or 180 gun and mortar boats of light draught, each mounting from one to four guns of very heavy calibre.—*Globe.*

**"URGENT PRIVATE AFFAIRS."**—In spite of General Simpson's order regarding leave of absence, "urgent private affairs" continue to take away a great number of our officers since General Codrington took command. During the last seven days—from the 13th to the 20th inst.—no less than seven colonels and lieutenant-colonels, three majors, five captains, two lieutenants, an adjutant, and an assistant surgeon, have found "urgent private affairs" sufficient excuse to obtain leave from the camp for longer or shorter

periods, some for two, some for three months. The cavalry division appears to have fewer of these marvellous "urgent private affairs" than the rest of the army; the brigade of Guards unquestionably the most. So much so is this the case, that, what with officers absent on sick leave, on staff employment, and on "urgent private affairs," one battalion of Guards, that of the Coldstreams, has hardly any officers doing duty with it. A lieutenant in the regiment (although of course a captain in the army) Thelluson, who only entered the service in 1847, is in orders to act as a field officer with his corps, so few effective officers of rank are there present.—*Letter from the Crimea.*

**POLISH SOLDIERS FOR THE EAST.**—A detachment of forty-four Poles, including eight officers, sailed on Saturday from Deptford, on board the *Ottawa* steamer, for Turkey, to join the division of the Cossacks of the Sultan, commanded by General Count Zamoyiski, which is now in the British service, and forming part of the Turkish contingent. The present is the fifth transport of Poles from England since the war commenced, thus making a total of four hundred Polish volunteers, among whom there were about two hundred prisoners taken at Bomarsund. As the steamer was leaving Deptford Dockyard, several hundred workmen assembled, and gave three cheers for Poland, wishing the Poles speedy success in their undertaking.

**THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY REDUCTION.**—*Le Nord*, reporting the reduction to a peace-footing of the Austrian advanced army corps opposed to Russia, namely, that of Galicia, claims the fact as a proof of the confidence of the Austrian Government in that of Russia, and exhibits it as an answer to those who boast of the Alliance between Austria and the Western Powers. It is a corroboration, according to the journal quoted, of a significant passage in the King of Prussia's recent speech, and a repudiation of any part or lot in the aggressive policy of France and England.

**THE BALTIC.**—The whole of the English flying squadron, composed of seventeen ships, has quitted the Baltic. Not a single British ship now remains. All have returned to England.

**SEIZURE OF THE ISLAND OF URUP.**—Two French frigates, belonging to the naval expedition sent to the coast of Kamtschatka, took possession on September 3rd, in the name of the Allied Powers, of the island of Urup, the centre of the Russian trade in the Kurile Archipelago, and captured there a Russian cutter, laden with a rich cargo of furs. The Russian name of the island has been changed to that of Alliance. The French frigate *Sibylle*, of fifty guns, was allowed to enter Okasaki without any opposition, and was received in a most hospitable manner by the local authorities.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE ON THE WAR.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, in the course of last week, delivered a lecture at the Mechanics' Institute, Dudley, on "The treatment of criminals in this country;" and, during his stay at Dudley, explained to a meeting of his constituents his opinions on the war. He was entirely in favour of it; but on the subject of "dismemberment" he thus expressed himself:—

"Did they want to dismember and partition the territories of Russia, and to set up independent states on her borders? or did they mean simply that they did not think the securities mentioned in the papers sufficient to prevent her again breaking the laws of Europe? He was not prepared to recommend the dismemberment of Russia. It might be desirable to take from her some of the possessions she had gained by recent conquests—to take those points which gave her the supremacy of the Euxine, and made her dangerous to Turkey, but he was not for her dismemberment. He thought if they could induce her to give up her peculiar privileges in the Black Sea, the protectorate over the Christian subjects in Turkey, and to disarm herself in those parts, they might then rely on the force of public opinion, and the known and proved powers of their army to maintain peace."

##### LORD HARRY VANE ON THE WAR.

At the Darlington Fat Cattle Show Dinner, Lord Harry Vane, M.P., made some strictures on the impolicy of our entering into "an indefinite war without any definite purpose." He was met by some murmurs of impatience; but he proceeded, and remarked:—

"His views had been stated with the utmost goodwill and with the greatest deference to the opinions of others; but he felt that if we were to carry on a war for indefinite purposes, and if we were to go on heaping up mountains of debt with the prospect of a doubtful issue to a protracted war, those very interests which were now deriving a temporary benefit by reason of high prices must in the end greatly suffer, and those who now perhaps heard him with little favour would come round to the opinions he had expressed."

##### SIR ROBERT PEEL ON THE WAR.

Sir Robert Peel was entertained last week by

the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Anglesea troop of the Staffordshire Yeomanry Cavalry (of which body he is captain), and of course made a speech on the war, in the course of which he stated his opinion that peace is not probable, and, if negotiated by Austria, not desirable. He denounced the conduct of Austria as treacherous, and as cloaking a real hostility under an appearance of friendship; and he concluded by saying that we must not be satisfied with "the Four Points," but must retain possession of the Crimea.

Messrs. Langton, Floyer, Newdegate, and Spooner have also made speeches in favour of the war—the two former to their constituents, the last two at a meeting of the Rugby and Dunchurch Conservative and Agricultural Association. Mr. Spooner also advocated, as the best means of maintaining the "sinews of war," a repeal of the Bank Charter Act of 1844.

#### THE GLASGOW ATHENÆUM SOIRÉE.

The third grand *soirée* of the Glasgow Athenæum took place on the evening of Thursday week in the City Hall. The chair was occupied by the Earl of Eglintoun, who delivered a long and able address, in which he described the immense advantages, in the way of intellectual and moral improvement, which are sure to result from such institutions. The meeting was also addressed by the Lord Advocate, Mr. M. S. Stewart, Professor Swinton, Mr. Alexander Hastie, M.P., Mr. Walter Buchanan, Sir Archibald Alison, and Professor Blackie, the last of whom, in moving a resolution declaring "That in addition to the more direct advantages resulting from literary institutions, they necessarily tend to elevate the taste of their members, and lead them to an appreciation of the high and ennobling influences of literature, the fine arts, and science," remarked that it was literature, and not science, that cultivates men's humanity. Too much time and attention, he thought, is given to politics and money-making, and too little to the study of literature. Men who could keep their souls in their shops for six days, and go once a week to church, were very shabby Christians. He therefore urged young men to study literature, to get out of their shops, and to expand their human souls.

#### CARDINAL WISEMAN ON THE PERCEPTION OF NATURAL BEAUTIES.

Cardinal Wiseman, on Monday night, delivered, in the Hanover-square Rooms, a lecture "On the Perception of Natural Beauties, by the Ancients and Moderns." The main tendency of his discourse was to show that the classics, with all their genius, had not the same intimate knowledge of Nature that the modern poets and artists possess. Yet he admitted that the ancients were by no means deficient in this quality:—

"Who could doubt the perception of natural beauty among the ancients when he contemplated the glory of their temples, and who could read their poets without feeling in every page that their eyes seized on the beautiful in Nature, whether exhibited in the grandest scenery or in the minute graces of the flower? Their pastoral poetry was full of descriptions the most vivid of all that is delightful in rural life; and yet there was one ingredient wanting to make their descriptions of natural beauty perfect: he did not think they entertained more than an admiration of Nature—it hardly rose to the point of love. Their gardens combined the idea of a vineyard, an orchard, or an olive-ground, being ever connected with the profitable cultivation of the earth. No sylvan grandeur, no richness of flowers, no natural streamlets, but the still watercourse for purposes of irrigation, enlivened their pictures. That they had landscape painters and flower-painters, we could not doubt; but the walls of Pompeii attested the all-absorbing taste for figures. He believed that Nature's beauties had found more real love among the moderns than among the ancients. An intense love of the beauties of Nature was observable in Chaucer, the father of our poetry. Narrow as was the limit of his knowledge or the range of his observation, he had an instinctive perception of Nature's gifts in all that he saw and knew. Spenser, too, was full of this love of Nature."

The superiority of the moderns to the ancients in this respect, the Cardinal attributed to the deep religious feeling inspired by the Bible, the beautiful and sublime descriptions of natural scenery in which he pointed out to his auditory. His Eminence exhorted all his hearers to study and revere the works of Nature and of God, and especially commended them to the wonders revealed to our perceptions by the microscope.

#### OUR STATE RELIGION.

We mentioned last week that Dr. Lushington had given judgment in the main in favour of Mr. Westerton and his friends, in the great cross, altar, and altar-cloth question. We now reproduce, from the *Morning Post*, an analysis of the very long and elaborate address of the ecclesiastical judge, as an edifying specimen of our national conceptions of religion, "as by law established." A more humiliating spectacle of the sacrifice of the spirit to the letter—of essentials to non-essentials—than the whole case presents, viewed from either side, it would be difficult to discover.

The point to be decided was the lawfulness or unlawfulness of certain ornaments in the two churches of St. Paul and St. Barnabas respectively. These are described as consisting of—1. "An altar," or "high altar," or "piece of church furniture whereon to celebrate the Holy Communion, with the cross elevated thereon, and attached thereto;" 2. Gilded candlesticks and candles therein;" 3. "The credentia, preparatory altar, or credence table;" and 4. "Several divers-coloured altar coverings." Thus much relates to St. Paul's. What refers to St. Barnabas differs in detail, though involving the same points of law. The objection lies against, 1. A certain communion cloth, trimmed with lace; 2. The chancel screen and cross thereon, and bronze gates attached thereto; 3. The absence of the Commandments at the east end of the church.

On the stone altar question Dr. Lushington follows the judgment of Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, in the celebrated case of *Faulkner v. Litchfield*. He has no choice in doing so, being bound by the decision of the Court of Arches as the Superior Court. What Mr. Westerton calls a high altar, turns out to be only a massive wooden table. The law decides that the material shall not be of stone; but it does not determine the exact pattern and shape. The communion table at St. Paul's is, therefore, not open to legal objection because it is of wood; but that of St. Barnabas, being of stone, is, by the decision above referred to, illegal; as are also the credence tables in both churches, and they are accordingly ordered to be removed. Thus far Dr. Lushington's task was easy—the Court above having decided for him. But in the matter of the crosses, the altar coverings, and candlesticks and candles, the matter was not so simple; and a wide field of inquiry, of an intricate and difficult kind, lay before him. In pursuing this he has taken for his guidance:—1. Parliamentary sanction; 2. The canons in force; 3. The ecclesiastical common law; 4. Judicial decisions; 5. Usage and custom. Dividing the appointment of a church into—1. Articles of necessity and utility; and 2. Articles of ornament,—he placed the cross in the latter category, and proceeded to apply to it the law respecting ornaments. At the first glance, it would appear that nothing could be simpler than to follow the notice in the Prayer-book, that "such ornaments shall be lawful as were in use by the authority of Parliament in the second year of King Edward VI." But the difficulty consists in the fact that there is no legal evidence of what was so in use at that period. As Dr. Lushington said—"I am ordered by Act of Parliament to conform myself to what has been prescribed by authority of Parliament, and nothing has been prescribed by that authority." The voice of Parliament being mute, the evidence of contemporaneous exposition of law and usage is all that remains; and, in interpreting this the distinctive principles of the Reformation, and the known opinions and practices of the Reformers, as being nearest the period referred to in the Prayer-book, must be taken into account. After citing various instances in support of the historical presumption that crosses were not in use by authority of Parliament in the second year of Edward VI., and that they were disallowed by the principle that the Reformers abolished whatever was abused to superstitious uses, Dr. Lushington decrees the removal of the crosses from both churches. Passing on to the question of the divers-coloured altar-coverings, he decides that they are not in accordance with the notice in the Prayer-book, the Rubric before the Communion office, and the 82nd Canon, and he orders their removal accordingly. The candlesticks and candles remain to be disposed of. These being, to a great extent, articles of utility, and having the sanction of usage in cathedrals, royal chapels, and colleges, are allowed to remain.

The *Morning Post* concludes by hoping that, as the ecclesiastical law has spoken, the Puseyites (whom it rather pats on the back) will behave like good boys, and obey their betters; adding that the Supreme Being will not be offended at the loss of the altars, table-covers, &c., but, submitting to the decree of the Court of Arches, will take the will of Mr. Liddell and his followers for the deed! Lest it be thought we are scoffing or exaggerating, we refer the reader to the leading columns of the *Morning Post* of Monday.

#### A CHARNEL-PIT IN HOLBORN.

At a meeting of the City Commissioners of Sewers, on Tuesday, Mr. Daw laid before the court a report by Dr. Letheby, with respect to the hideous condition of the graveyard of St. Andrew's, Holborn. The Doctor says:—

"I visited it on Saturday last, and found it to be in so unwholesome a state that I lose no time in directing your attention to it. The churchyard consists of three parts or divisions. One of these is on the north side of the church, next to Holborn hill, and is but little used. The other divisions are on the south side of the church, and they are literally crammed with dead bodies. One division—namely, that on the immediate south of the church—abuts on Shoe-lane; and, although the soil of the churchyard is from ten to fifteen feet above the level of the road, yet it is rising higher by the daily addition of fresh bodies—in fact, very lately the grave-diggers have found it necessary to support the earth against the railings, by means of planks, in order that the soil and bones may not fall upon the passengers as they travel the public road. When I was in Shoe-lane on Saturday last the policeman on duty directed my attention to the human bones which were actually protruding from the earth, which stood high above the level of the coping to which railings were fixed.

"On going into the churchyard, I witnessed the active preparations which were being made for the next Sunday's burials. Several graves were already dug, and at the bottom of one of them I noticed a coffin, barely covered with earth. In the side of another, a coffin was exposed, which the gravedigger said had been buried only a few days. Everywhere on the surface of the ground, bones and decaying wood were abundantly scattered about, and the soil itself was saturated with decomposing organic matter; indeed, it exhibited in a very marked degree that peculiar oily or unctuous quality which is characteristic of the overcharged soil of the London graveyards. I took away a portion of the earth for experiment, and I place before you the disgusting fetid liquor which I obtained by a distillation of only two ounces of the soil. This will convince you that churchyard earth is not so innocent or innocuous a thing as many have supposed.

"In all directions the ground was considerably above its natural level, and at my request the gravedigger and his assistant explored it in several directions, in order that I might ascertain at what depth the coffins were buried. In several places they were not more than three feet from the surface, and in one case the coffin was covered with less than two feet of earth."

On the 9th of May, 1853, the Home Secretary ordered the closing of this very yard; but, with only one day's exception, it has remained open ever since, in defiance of the law. Since the commencement of the present year, 1,026 bodies have been interred within the ground, giving an average of about twenty-one burials a week; and the entire area is considerably less than an acre. A motion, to the effect that a copy of the report be sent to the Home Secretary, was unanimously carried.

One observation irresistibly intrudes itself:—This is the very place for Archdeacon Hale.

#### WAR WITH THE DEAD.

The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the *Daily News*:—

"Sir,—Last Wednesday week an afflicted family was preparing to perform the last sepulchral duties to a mother, justly beloved and esteemed by all who knew her. Widow of a soldier who had served in Egypt, and whose whole life had been one long struggle for the republican cause; mother of one son who died for that faith, and of another who has been several years an exile for his unassailable attachment to democratic principles; Madame Caussidère was destined to experience the honours of persecution even after death. It was feared that the funeral procession, arranged to take its departure at nine a.m., might attract a number of pious souls to render a last homage to an honourable and worthy woman. Measures were accordingly taken by the police. At the early hour of seven a.m., the employes of the undertaker came to take away the body. The family of Madame Caussidère opposed this irregular proceeding, and only gave way when the overseer produced an order for the departure of the procession at half-past seven a.m., and intimated that he would employ force to carry the order into execution.

"The procession accordingly set out, and was conducted to the cemetery by side streets and the long round of the outer boulevards. A remark being made upon this singular selection of a route, the overseer replied that he had a right to take the road that was most convenient for him. In addition to these manoeuvres, agents, stationed in the streets adjacent to the domicile of the deceased, took care to tell all who arrived to join the procession that the interment was to take place in the cemetery of Père-la-Chaise, although the procession proceeded to the cemetery of Montmartre—in a direction diametrically opposite to



that indicated by the police. Several citizens who expressed aloud their indignation at this arbitrary conduct were arrested.

"I leave these facts to the appreciation of all: in such circumstances a son has only one duty to fulfil—to remember."  
—MARC CAUSSIDIÈRE."

#### TRIAL AND ACQUITTAL OF MR. WOOLER.

THE trial of Mr. Wooler for the murder, by slow poisoning, of his wife, took place at Durham, at the conclusion of the last and commencement of the present week, and has extended over three days. The facts of this case having been stated in the *Leader* at the time of their disclosure before the magistrates, we need not here repeat the evidence, which was very voluminous, and shall therefore confine ourselves to the speech of Mr. Serjeant Wilkins for the defence, and to the summing up of the Judge. Mr. Serjeant Wilkins commenced by imploring the jury to discharge from their minds all calumniating prejudices, and said that he was delighted at a request they had made, through their foreman, to be allowed to attend a place of worship previous to coming to their decision. He observed:—

"Mrs. Wooler was a lady having perfect control over her own household. The prosecutor was her brother. No one can doubt that he is actuated by bitter feeling towards the prisoner. The prisoner was an indulgent husband. The prosecutor, although her brother, had never, from the day of her marriage till the day of her death, crossed the threshold of her door. Unless you believe that the prisoner has violated all the instincts of our nature, it is impossible to believe him guilty. It is said Mrs. Wooler died by arsenic. I admit it. But if, as Professor Taylor says, it might have happened by accident as well as design, I do not think that I damage my client by this admission. When I recollect that one of the medical witnesses has stated that another patient whom he attended died, as he believes, by arsenic, I say that, but for the infamous conduct of the medical attendants, Mrs. Wooler might not have died."

Glancing at the chief allegations, the Serjeant said:—

"The prisoner requests Dr. Haslewood to write out a history of his wife's symptoms, to be sent to his nephew, in order to be laid before Sir John Fife. Dr. Haslewood was requested to give a faithful statement. He left out the last symptom—the tingling of the hands. Why did he suppress it? Then with regard to his letters. It is said, that the prisoner wrote to his brother-in-law in London, who could not come, but not to his brother-in-law in Gateshead. However, he did write on the 16th and 19th to the latter, and on the 23rd to his son. It is untrue that he gave a false account of the cause of death when the registrar was at his house; he had received the medical certificate of Mr. Jackson. It is untrue that he left his house on his wife's death and did not return till after the funeral. It is said, the doctors desired him to inform them of the tingling when it should take place. They have all denied that they desired him to do so. Then, it is said, that he substituted other urine than his wife's on the 23rd. After having furnished his wife's for many days before, they would have you believe that he imposed upon them on this occasion. He sent afterwards the urine he had all along sent. Ann Taylor says she brought the urine out of the coachhouse. One of the medical witnesses denies that any urine was there that day; but Dr. Haslewood suggests the solution of this. He said at the time a mistake had been made. Miss Lanchester slept in the deceased's room. Other persons were there also; might not the wrong urine have been taken without any evil intention on the part of any one?"

Mr. Baron Martin summed up with a minute recapitulation of the evidence. He observed:—

"It is clear that the prisoner had a large collection of drugs in his possession. Dr. Jackson and Dr. Haslewood state that Fowler's solution was among them. At the inquest it is said that this bottle was not produced, but no importance appears to have been then attached to the circumstance. It does not appear but that, if the prisoner had been asked about it, he could have produced it or given an explanation of it. The next circumstance relied on was, that the prisoner had not furnished proper medical advice for his wife. Of that you must judge. Having called in Dr. Jackson, he finds fault with him. [Here the Judge recapitulated the evidence on this head.] The next matter urged was that the prisoner kept a book in which he entered his wife's symptoms. We may assume that no entry appears to make against him, or it would have been read. But indeed Dr. Haslewood fully explains all about this book. The next matter is very important. It is that the doctors having desired the prisoner to communicate to them the tingling of the hands if it should occur, he omitted to do so. Upon this point the counsel for the prosecution has been misinstructed. Dr. Jackson and Dr. Hasle-

wood say they never so requested the prisoner to inform them of this, neither do they agree as to the exact time or manner in which the prisoner did communicate the circumstance. [Here the Judge read their evidence on the subject.] The learned counsel for the prisoner has spoken in harsh terms of the medical witnesses. I do not adopt those terms, but it does seem to me, that their conduct, as detailed by themselves, was reprehensible. People, however, are often wiser after the event, and I believe that those witnesses now think that their suspicions were stronger at the time than they really were. Why did they not sooner find out this symptom of tingling of the hands by asking Mrs. Wooler herself? If they suspected that arsenic was being administered, they should have gone before a magistrate, instead of simply twice using an antidote. [The Judge commented severely upon Dr. Jackson's statement, that he had withheld from Dr. Haslewood his suspicions.] I think that Mr. Henzell was the first to suspect, and that the others did not pay much attention to his suspicions. The conduct of the prisoner at the time of his wife's death is said to have been improper. You have evidence on this head on which you must form your own opinion; but I would recommend you not to attach much weight to it. Different men have different modes of evincing their feelings. As to his conduct on receiving the note from Dr. Jackson, it was thought that he gave a false account of the cause of death. Would a man who believed he was writing to a murderer have written in the terms Dr. Jackson used? Does the prisoner take the letter as an imputation upon himself of murder? It seems to me not. The will had evidently been prepared by a lawyer, and it would require a curious imagination indeed to discover from that will any intention to murder. As to the correspondence, the opinion of Dr. Haslewood and Dr. Jackson did not quite concur. There remains the discovery of the arsenic in the enema pipes. How it got there is involved in more mystery than I have met with in any other case. No motive is suggested. The prisoner's supposed knowledge of drugs is a two-edged sword. He pays Dr. Taylor for examining parts of the body, and does not evade the charge by absconding. I have commented on this case, and am prepared to read through the evidence if you desire it. [The jury intimated they did not.] The law requires, not suspicion only, but plain and natural consequences, not far-fetched ones, from the evidence. It is for you to say whether you can safely come to the conclusion that the prisoner administered the arsenic. I am unable. I may observe that, if I were to make a surmise, there is a person upon whom my fancy would rest rather than upon the prisoner."

The jury retired at a quarter to six o'clock, and, after an absence of ten minutes, returned with a verdict of NOT GUILTY.

Mr. Baron Martin observed: "The country are indebted to you for your great attention, and I myself feel extremely thankful for the care you have bestowed. I would have interfered sooner, but thought it more satisfactory to allow the case to be fully heard."

During Mr. Serjeant Wilkins's speech, when that gentleman was alluding to the mental sufferings the prisoner had to undergo, particularly in consequence of the repeated examinations of his wife's body, Mr. Wooler was attacked with a violent hysterical fit of sobbing, which lasted some time.

#### THE MONOMANIA OF JEALOUSY.

THE madness of jealousy was exhibited in a very fearful degree in a case tried at the close of last week at the Taunton Assizes. Robert Handcock, a labouring man, was indicted for the murder of his wife. The couple had been married for several years; and, until within the last two years, the man had been very quiet and inoffensive, but at that time he became possessed with an idea that his wife was on terms of improper intimacy with a man named Puncher. This belief amounted to a monomania, and induced the most violent outbursts of passion. One of the witnesses, a woman named Maria Mules, said that, on one occasion, Handcock "was like a wild man, like a person mad. He took up a hatchet and said he would destroy a wheelbarrow, as it had been down at Puncher's. He asked his wife to give him poison. I have seen him pull out his hair by handfuls. He asked for a razor to cut his throat. His wife told me to call for assistance. His wife wanted him to be taken to the asylum, and she said when he came back cured she would live with him again." On the first of August, Handcock and his wife quarrelled at the house of Mary Ann Heale. He threatened her with death, and she made no reply, but "sat very so' in the window." Subsequently, she said that he had threatened her so often that she would rather be alive than dead; adding, "Why don't you do it? and then I should be out of my misery." Heale induced Handcock to leave the house, which he did, but, as he was going out at the door, he said to his wife that "It might be quicker than she thought for." She

looked at him and laughed, and he grew still more enraged, but left the house, only to return, however, in a few minutes. Heale then said to him, "Robert, don't say any more to your wife. I have been talking to her not to aggravate you, for fear you should do this murder. If this dreadful deed was done, consider the consequences to her soul." He answered that he did not care; that he was determined to kill her; to gulf her in the lowest pit of hell, and to follow her himself. When he was intoxicated, which he would sometimes be, he was worse. He mentioned his intention of murdering his wife to several persons; and, on one occasion, when he was given in charge for violence to his wife, he said to the constable, "I will have murder in this house to-night." His wife, next morning, brought him some breakfast; but he refused to have it, saying, "I'll have no more breakfast of you. You're going to send me away: send me where I may never come back again." To the constable he observed, "People say I am mazed (mad); but I am no more mazed than they that say so." In consequence of this suspicion of madness, Handcock was examined by a medical man, who came to the conclusion that he was labouring under monomania, but said that he might remain at large, though he confesses to have had a fear of the consequences. Another medical man who examined Handcock after the murder said that the unfortunate man told him that the offence of which he complained had been committed "as often as the hairs on his head"—thousands of times; and his manner altogether was incoherent. "Strong religious feelings," says this medical witness, "were mixed up with revenge against Puncher. He spoke of the day of judgment, when he should meet Puncher again. He said that the last word he should speak on the gallows would be that Puncher was the ruin of his wife." Mrs. Handcock's brother stated on the trial that he disbelieved the charge brought against his sister by her husband; but added some particulars rather destructive of his opinion. He said that "the prisoner wished her not to go to Puncher's house. She said she would go to Puncher's when she liked. That was more than six or seven months ago. I have heard her say 'If I had sixpence, I would give Puncher threepence.'"

On the night of the first of August, Handcock quarrelled with his wife, with whom he supped at home. At the time of retiring to rest, the woman would not allow her husband to come to bed. He then went out; returned; was again told by his wife that he should not come to bed; and, being enraged, struck her "a light knock on the head" with a hammer. These facts were stated by Handcock when in prison, to the woman's brother; and he thus continued:—"I fancied I saw a little blood, and I thought I might as well go through it as not. I raised my hand, and struck her very 'lusty,' and the blood gushed out. I threw the hammer directly down, and then I cut her throat; I thought I would put her out of misery as soon as I could." He remained in the house for some time, and then went out, but afterwards came back, lit a candle, looked at his dead wife, and "felt very sorry." Ultimately, he fled, but was arrested the next day.

At the trial, Puncher was examined, and swore that he was innocent of the offence charged against him. He and Mrs. Handcock were about forty years of age. The accused was acquitted, on the ground of insanity.

#### OUR CIVILISATION.

THOMAS TUTTON was tried on Thursday week, at Taunton for attempting to murder his father by poisoning a dish of which the parent partook. The facts will be within the memory of our readers. The jury, considering that the evidence was not conclusive, acquitted the prisoner. The reporter for the daily papers observes:—"It is impossible to imagine a more painful case than this—a father and mother giving evidence against their own son, and four sisters giving evidence against their own brother for an endeavour to take away the life of his father. The screams and cries of the women when being brought into court to give their evidence were appalling, and made one indeed regret that justice required their presence."—Thomas Woods, Samuel Eastwood, William Foyle, William Blackman, and David Smith, alias White, "navvies," were charged at Kingston, with the murder of John Donaldson, a police inspector, in the course of a drunken riot at Haslemere, Surrey. Smith was acquitted, but all the others were found guilty of manslaughter of an aggravated character. Smith, however, pleaded guilty to a second character. Smith, however, pleaded guilty to a second indictment charging him with assault and riot. The sentences varied. Woods, as being the most implicated in the death of Donaldson, is subjected to plicated in the death of Donaldson, is subjected to twenty years' transportation; Eastwood, Blackman, and Foyle, to six years' penal servitude; and Smith and two years' hard labour.—Jonathan Haywood was tried at Liverpool for the murder of Martha Jones at Rochdale, on the 21st of last July. A connexion existed between the man and woman; and on the night of the murder they slept at the Halfmoon

public-house at Rochdale. The next morning, the woman was found with her throat cut, and the man had disappeared. The case was singular from the fact of the prisoner having made arrangements which should give the appearance of suicide. A razor was found in the hand of the dead body; but only one spot of blood appeared on the blade, and the woman's face and throat were covered with a pillow. The medical men were of opinion that, after cutting her throat with the force and completeness which were clearly exhibited, the woman could hardly have summoned sufficient strength to change the razor, and place the pillow over her. The jury pronounced a verdict of "Guilty," and sentence of death was recorded.—Robert Rogers Harvey was indicted at Exeter, for shooting at the Rev. George Tucker. No motive was assignable for the act, and it was evident that the prisoner was insane. He kept making uncouth gestures, smiles, and winks, during the trial; and, among other evidences of his state of mind, it was mentioned that he was once before the magistrates for a quarrel, when he said it was because a man's wife had sat cross-legged in his presence. He was acquitted on the ground of lunacy.—Henry Bacon and Henry Marchant have been sentenced at Chelmsford, to six years' penal servitude for a murderous assault on a policeman in a field at night, when attempting to arrest them under suspicious circumstances.—Thomas Franks has been found guilty at Nottingham of cutting his wife with a razor, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation. The two lived apart; and jealousy was the cause of the act.—Elizabeth Kennedy has been found guilty at Oxford of the manslaughter of her husband, and sentenced to only two years' hard labour, as it appeared that the stone which she threw at him had been flung without the design to kill.—Two Irishmen, at the York Assizes, have been convicted of the murder of a policeman, and sentenced the one to transportation for fifteen years, and the other to one year's hard labour.

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY.**—George Barker, Samuel Breaze, and Robert Hopkin, were found guilty at Derby, of robbing a labouring man, named Barney Cosgrove, of four sovereigns. Cosgrove was returning in the evening after harvest work, when he was met by Breaze and Hopkin, the latter of whom called upon him to stand, while Breaze rushed upon him. He kept Breaze at bay with his stick, but was at length overpowered by the two, knocked down, and ill-used. They then tore away his fob containing the money; upon which, Barker, who had been looking on, came up, said they had "given him enough," and induced them to leave. Hopkin and Breaze were sentenced to six years' penal servitude, and Barker to four years'.

**MANSLAUGHTER.**—James Ratcliffe, a labouring man, was drinking in a public-house at Horsley together with several other men, among whom a quarrel took place, and, after a good deal of scuffling, the whole of the company was turned out of the house. It was a dark night; but the men kept lingering about, and Ratcliffe told some of his friends that a man named Clarke had pulled his nose in the public-house, and that he would have "a stroke" at him. Clarke was afterwards informed that Ratcliffe was "hunting" him; upon which he said that he had something in his pocket to quiet him, and subsequently he explained that this meant a knife. In about half an hour, Ratcliffe and Clarke met; the former advanced in a fighting attitude, and was stabbed by Clarke, death ensuing in the course of a few days. The assailant was tried at the Derby Assizes, found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

**PERJURY.**—A trial in the Court of Queen's Bench towards the latter end of last week, exhibits a very cold-blooded and heartless piece of perjury. In December, 1851, Captain Robert Blair Kennedy instituted a prosecution against Alexander M'Geachy Alleyne, his brother, James Holder Alleyne, and Thomas Buchanan D'Arcy, all of whom at that time held commissions in the army. The indictment charged them with having conspired to defraud Captain Kennedy out of £7,800, the amount of a wager between that gentleman and Mr. James Holder Alleyne, as to the capabilities of a certain mare; and the principal witness on the trial—one Ignatius Francis Coyle—swore that in November, 1846, he had been present, at Cheltenham, at a conversation between James Holder Alleyne, and Alexander M'Geachy Alleyne, when it was agreed to impose upon Captain Kennedy by telling him that the mare had fallen lame and could not run the match; in consequence of which, Captain Kennedy was induced to pay the amount of the wager (£7,800) to Mr. Holder Alleyne. This evidence induced the jury, on the trial in 1851, to find a verdict of "Guilty" against the Alleynes and D'Arcy, and they were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. A writ of error was subsequently brought by the Alleynes, and was at first allowed, but was afterwards set aside on the ground of collusion. Alexander M'Geachy Alleyne, however, laid an indictment, in the course of last

February, against Coyle, charging him with perjury, and he was found guilty, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment; but a new trial was moved for, and took place on Friday week, on the ground that fresh evidence in favour of Coyle had been obtained. This second trial resulted in a confirmation of the former sentence against Coyle. Mr. M'Geachy Alleyne swore positively that he was not at the place mentioned by Coyle on the day in question; and he was supported by other testimony. One of the witnesses in favour of Coyle—a Captain Price—gave the following choice account of himself in the course of his cross-examination:—"I am not now in the army. I left in 1840. I have been on the turf. Until I went to Australia, I lived upon my own private fortune. I went to Australia as the manager of a bubble gold-mining company. I was there two years. I was in a mess at Cheltenham in 1847. I then tried to take away a young lady—a ward in Chancery—from a boarding-school. That did not occur in 1848 or 1849. I recollect sending a letter to a friend of mine, stating that I did not know anything about the affair of the Alleynes and Coyle. That letter is a deliberate falsehood, to which I have put my name."

**MR. ROPER AND HIS "BLIND WOMAN."**—Our readers will recollect Mr. Roper, the enterprising and large-hearted individual who combined in his own person the whole of two associations—the Needlewomen's Society and the Blind Sempstresses' Fund—and who had always on hand an indefinite number of blind women, for whom he collected subscriptions. It will be borne in mind that Mr. Ferguson, chief clerk to the Mendicity Society, suspected one of these afflicted females to have no other entity than in Mr. Roper's imagination; and that the case was brought before the Lambeth magistrate. Since then, Mr. Ferguson has followed up his inquiries with much pertinacity; has hunted Roper from place to place, invaded the premises of the Benevolent Society, cross-questioned the housekeeper, harried the matron, elicited the most contradictory and self-contradictory disclosures, and finally discovered that Mr. Roper is at this present time an inmate of Whitecross-street prison for a debt of £300. Thus the whole fraud is revealed; and Mr. Norton, the magistrate, says that, should any person complain before him of having been induced to give money to Roper on account of the blind women, he will treat it as a case of obtaining money under false pretences.

**ARSON.**—John Pager was indicted at Liverpool for setting fire to his house in Chapel-street, Salford. The neighbours were aroused between twelve and one o'clock on the morning of the 20th of August by a cry of "Fire!" at the prisoner's shop, and, upon gaining admittance to the house, they found a large volume of smoke issuing from the shop. Going into the cellar, the gas there was found blazing, and the floor between that place and the shop was considerably burnt. On continuing their search through the shop, they found underneath the counter a shawl, a pillow filled with flock, and pieces of paper partially burnt. On the same day Pager had sent his wife and children away to Stockport, the servant girl remaining in the house with him. He had effected an insurance in the Anchor-office for £300, and a recent fire had taken place on his premises, through which he had obtained a claim from the London and County insurance-office. Pager, moreover, had said, in a conversation with Mr. Lamb, a grocer in Manchester, who supplied him with goods, that he should soon be able to make his payments more regularly, because he should have a fire shortly, and should then be in a condition to go into the market with ready money. He was found guilty, and sentence of death was recorded.

**THE HOMELESS IN WHITECHAPEL.**—A gentleman, residing in the Whitechapel-road, near the Workhouse, called the attention of Mr. Yardley, the Thames magistrate, to the appalling scenes which were almost nightly presented at the gates of the workhouse, where men, women, and children, insufficiently clothed, and suffering from hunger, disease, and privations, asked for shelter and food in vain, and lay huddled together as closely as possible on the pavement to keep each other warm. On Saturday night, a person in the applicant's employ called his attention to seven destitute persons lying on the stones at the gates of the workhouse. He looked at and aroused them. Some of them were quite benumbed with cold and could not stand. They all said they were without food and shelter, or the means of procuring any, and that application for admission had been made in vain. He provided them with food and a lodging for the night. On Sunday night there was a similar scene at the gates of Whitechapel workhouse. The sufferings of the half-famished creatures were appalling, but they were denied that relief of which they were in need. The night was intensely cold, and one poor man, who could not stand when he was put on his feet, would have perished if he had not been provided with stimulants and food. He provided the unfortunate persons with food and shelter for another night, but he thought it was shameful that those who were paid to look after the poor did

not do their duty. Mr. Yardley said he was very sorry to hear this statement. The greater part of the parish of Whitechapel was in the district assigned to the Thames police-court; but the Whitechapel workhouse, on the north side of the road, was in the Worship-street district. He referred the applicant to the Worship-street police-court. A subsequent application there resulted in the magistrate ordering a warrant-officer to lay the facts before the workhouse board. Some other similar instances of neglect on the part of the same workhouse have been brought forward.

**ALICE GREY** was brought before the Birmingham magistrates on Saturday; but in consequence of a message from the Home Office, stating that it was the desire of the Government that she should be removed to Wolverhampton, the case against her was not gone into, and she was taken away in custody. Some evidences of sympathy for her are beginning to be manifested.

**JUSTICES' JUSTICE.**—A poor man named John Bugbins, living at Stratford-on-Avon, was returning from work on the evening of the 26th of November. On his way home, he had to pass through a turnip-field, and, seeing an inviting looking swede, he pulled it up, and was just in the act of eating a slice when a rural policeman suddenly pounced upon him, charged him with stealing the turnip, and demanded his name. That being complied with, he was led to Miss Knight's house (the owner of the field), who considered the matter so paltry that she declined to notice it in any way. So kindly a conclusion, however, was not at all to the satisfaction of the policeman, who subsequently served a summons upon poor Bugbins, and he was brought up before two of the county magistrates, at Stratford-on-Avon, on the charge of "stealing one uncultivated root, commonly called a turnip, of the value of 1d." The poor fellow in his alarm pleaded "Guilty," and he was mercifully fined 1d. with costs, amounting to 15s., or in default to be committed to prison for one month. He urged the hardship of going to gaol, his perfect ignorance of having committed any crime, and the absence of the proprietor of the "one cultivated root;" and he was allowed three weeks to obtain the money.—*Correspondent of the Times.*

**FORGERY BY A CLERGYMAN.**—William D. Beresford, aged fifty-six, a fine-looking man, apparently in broken health, and meanly dressed, was indicted at the York Assizes for uttering, at Bradford, on the 4th of November, 1848, a forged endorsement of a bill of exchange for the payment of £100, with intent to defraud Samuel Laycock and others. The case excited considerable interest from its being known that the prisoner was a clergyman, highly connected, and next heir to a peerage. At the latter end of October, 1848, the prisoner called at Bradford Banking Company's Bank, at Bradford, and produced a bill of exchange for £100 drawn on Samuel Hibbert and Co., of Billiter-square, London, by Marcus Beresford, which he asked the manager of the bank to discount. He gave his own name as the Rev. Mr. Beresford. The manager said he would discount the bill if endorsed by any one whom he knew. Mr. Beresford said he had been on a visit at Manningham-hall, near Bradford, to Mr. Kay, and asked if that gentleman's endorsement or that of his son would suffice, and the manager replied that he should be perfectly satisfied with either. A day or two afterwards, he called at the bank and asked if there was any letter there addressed to him. One had arrived addressed to him. Out of this letter he took the bill he had before produced, which purported to be endorsed by Mr. John Cunliffe Kay, and handed it to the manager. The manager looked at the endorsement doubtfully, and said it did not look like his handwriting; but Mr. Beresford said Mr. Kay was ill in bed, and had endorsed the bill in bed, which would account for its appearance. The manager then cashed the bill, deducting 14s. for commission and interest. This signature was a forgery, Mr. Kay not having endorsed it, but, when asked to do so by the prisoner, having positively declined. Having obtained the money, the prisoner had not afterwards been heard of until last summer, when Mr. Kay accidentally met him in Regent street, London, and gave him into custody. He was found guilty, and sentenced to transportation for life.—At the Gloucester Assizes, John Sampson, a surgeon was found guilty of forging a £10 Bank of England note. The sentence was transportation for fifteen years.

**ADULTERATION OF FLOUR.**—Mr. East, a miller at Lincoln, pleaded guilty before the magistrates to a charge of adulterating his flour with plaster of Paris, &c. He was fined and the flour was condemned. Subsequently analysis was made by Dr. Letheby, who said he could not detect the presence of plaster of Paris; but considering other evidence that had been received, the magistrates abided by their decision.

**FORGING PRUSSIAN NOTES.**—Edmund and Louis Schole, Germans, were brought before the Marlborough-street magistrate, charged with having made a fraudulent imitation of some Prussian thaler notes. They had gone to the house of Mr. Rudolph Appel,



a lithographer and patentee of the Anastatic mode of printing, and producing a Prussian thaler note, requested to have it imitated. Mr. Appel said he would do as they wished if he had proper authority; and they left the note with him. He communicated with the Prussian ambassador, and for some time the Schele continued to pay visits to Mr. Appel on the subject of the imitation. Mr. Appel made several copies on plates, and submitted proofs; and when the men were sufficiently criminated they were taken into custody. Both were remanded for a week. The impressions were exhibited, and proved the striking and dangerous fidelity of the new process.

**WOMAN-BEATING.**—An artificial flower maker, named Henry Hancock, was charged at the Worship-street police office with beating and half-starving his wife. One night, about half-past twelve o'clock, he came home intoxicated after having been absent all day. The poor woman and her two children had been without either money, food (except one pound of bread), coals, or candles. Mrs. Hancock remonstrated with him upon his conduct, and he then seized her by both arms, struck her a violent blow on her side, and dragged her furiously about the room. She called for the police, upon which he ran out of the house, and his wife saw no more of him until after he was in custody. Hancock was constantly in the habit of beating or ill-using his wife, and came home every night thoroughly intoxicated. Once he beat and kicked her because she followed him to a gaming-house where he was squandering his money, and another time she was obliged to stay away a whole night from home out of fear of his cruel treatment. She was still very weak, and suffering greatly from the effects of her husband's behaviour, so that she was obliged to be seated while giving her evidence. The mother of Mrs. Hancock stated that she was compelled to stint herself in food in order to save her daughter's children from utter starvation; that the children were extremely ill from scanty feeding, and that Hancock had a very good business, from which he might earn £5 a week, if he properly attended to it. Mr. Ham-mill sentenced Hancock to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and told him that at the end of that time he must find substantial bail for his future good behaviour.—A journeyman cooper, who gave the name of Walter Scott, was sentenced to three months' hard labour for an attack, of the usual character, upon a woman with whom he lived. The man was a confirmed drunkard, and the woman frequently suffered from his violence.

**FATAL PRIZE FIGHT.**—A prize fight, which took place on Tuesday in the Kentish Marshes, at Long Reach, has resulted in the death of one of the combatants, a man named John Jones, who received the fatal blow in the twenty-third round.

**CHILD MURDER.**—William Aspinall and Mary Aspinall, man and wife, were indicted at the Liverpool Assizes for the manslaughter of Emma Aspinall, their daughter. The evidence showed the most systematic ill-treatment of the children of the prisoners, ending in the death of two from starvation and neglect. The woman was a confirmed drunkard, and she appears to have been chiefly to blame. The man was acquitted; but the wife was found guilty of manslaughter. Sentence was deferred.—Johanna Dutton has been acquitted at Derby of a charge of drowning her child in a pond. The evidence, however, showed great ill-usage on the part of the mother.

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

**PEACE PROSPECTS.**—The Governmental *Morning Post* of Tuesday contains, at the head of its leading articles, and in very conspicuous type, the following observations:—"The nature of the terms necessary for peace is patent to all the world. Not a Russian ship in the Black Sea—not a Russian fort at Sebastopol. No Muscovite gripe on the very throat of the Danube. No more protectorates and interferences—no more overawing, because no more means of menacing weaker neighbours. These main terms sealed in a treaty, secured by material guarantees, would, there is not a doubt, secure peace if Russia would yield to them, but no other terms are possible, and we are sure that neither the people of England nor of France—neither the English Cabinet nor the Government of our Ally—would listen to any other proposals for a settlement. Austria, though perhaps hitherto lacking the decision which would have become so great a power, is not wanting in sagacity; and, matters standing as they are, it will not surprise us to learn that Austria accepts as certain the defeat which Russian pride may yet refuse to foresee, and that the Cabinet of Vienna, having made up its mind as to the final triumph of the Allies, had resolved to urge, even now, a peace upon their terms, preparing even to break altogether with Russia in the event of her refusing them." The language held by the principal continental journals is unfavourable to the prospects of peace; it is denied that Austria has made any propositions to Russia; and the *Debate* says that the chances of a pacific solution "have lost rather than gained ground during the previous week."

*Le Nord*, the Brussels Russian organ, ridicules the idea of the Czar coming into the terms demanded by the Allies, and denies the exhaustion of the Empire.

The object of General Canrobert's diplomatic journey to the northern courts continues to excite considerable discussion. The writer of a letter from Vienna, of the 6th inst., says:—"The mission of General Canrobert, if I am rightly informed, comprised two parts, perfectly distinct—one had for object to obtain an immediate diplomatic action; the other, the eventual co-operation of the Scandinavian States. No one supposed that the French Government meant to drive Sweden and Denmark to an immediate declaration of war against Russia, and at the very moment when, in consequence of the advanced season, the campaign was at an end in the Baltic as well as in the Crimea. What the Western Powers were anxious to obtain from the Scandinavian States, as to the present, is clearly defined in the address delivered by the Emperor Napoleon at the closing of the Exhibition, and in the circular despatch of M. Walewski." Bavaria and Saxony, it is said, have notified to the Russian Government their desire to see peace concluded on the basis of the four guarantees.

The Marquis de Turgot has appealed to the law tribunals of Madrid, relative to an article inserted in a journal, insulting to the Empress Eugénie. A report is current that the Minister of Finance is about to resign. The faction Gersa, the only one which remained in Catalonia, has been annihilated.

The King of Sardinia, after a second brief stay in Paris, left that city for his own dominions on Sunday morning, and arrived at Turin on Wednesday.

Colonel Blomfield, who had been sent to Bucharest in consequence of the arrest of Colonel Turr, died almost suddenly on the day after his arrival, from the fatigues of his journey. The Ottoman troops of the garrison and the Wallachian Staff paid the usual military honours at his funeral. The Agents and Consuls of the Foreign Powers were invited by the English Consul-General to attend the funeral, as well as the superior civil and military authorities.

The *Czas* states positively that it is the intention of the Russian Government to effect the immediate emancipation of the serfs of the whole empire. The Emperor personally is favourable to the measure, and the land-owning aristocracy, who have been sounded, offer no opposition.

The vote of confidence in Marshal O'Donnell, which has been recently passed by the Spanish Cortes, arose in this manner:—M. Oreuse, the leader of the democratic party, made a speech denouncing the Minister of War for persecuting the democrats and progressists in Catalonia, and for concealing a policy hostile to freedom under the vague title of "Liberal." He also proposed a vote of censure. Marshal O'Donnell replied by giving a sketch of his struggles and sufferings for liberty, and by reminding his audience that, for conspiring in favour of a revolution he had been shut up in a room five yards long. He concluded by declaring his continued adherence to Espartaco; and the Chamber carried a vote of confidence by 110 votes to 6.

An ex-dragoon, named Morandi, has been arrested at Rome, while in the act of writing a letter to Mazzini, in which he said that, when that triumvir should receive the communication, he need be under no anxiety about his arrested friends, as by that time all would be over. The Roman *sbirri*, therefore, fear an incipient revolution, and weigh with redoubled tyranny upon the unhappy victims of their suspicions. A prominent member of the police body has recently been assassinated. Gennaraccio, which was the name of this champion of law, order, and religion, was a man of such notoriously bad character that it was found necessary to remove him from a post he held at the Custom-house; and he was once imprisoned six months for causing the assassination of a French soldier. Nevertheless, he enjoyed a pension from Government, was still employed as a member of the police, and used to accompany his Holiness's equipages. Such are the guardian angels of the Infallible Church!

The mediation of France and England has effected a reconciliation between the courts of Tuscany and Sardinia, their differences being arranged in a manner which the *Constitutionnel* describes as "equally satisfactory and honourable to both parties." Perhaps the Liberals of Europe may not be so easily convinced of this.

The Paris organ of the ultra-Papistical party—the *Univers*—is greatly perplexed as to how it should regard the late reception in France of the King of Sardinia, who, to a certain extent, lies under the ban of the Pope. It is therefore contented that Victor Emmanuel is only censured, and that in fact the censure applies not so much to him as to his ministers, for the Sardinian monarch is a constitutional sovereign, and his government officers are the proper persons to bear the responsibility. Yet, as the *Times* Paris correspondent points out, Victor Emmanuel sanctioned the acts of "sacrilege and plunder" for which his government has been "condemned," and to

hold any communion with persons lying under the displeasure of the Vatican is to be involved in the same shadow. But the French clergy have not only received the "bad boy" from Sardinia, but their highest dignity has accepted from him the Grand Cross of a Piedmontese order. The *Times* correspondent adds:—"It was said that the Papal Nuncio had resolved on absenting himself from Paris during the stay of the King; that a remonstrance had been sent to Rome, and that a telegraphic despatch from the Papal Court ordered him to remain at his post, and to pay his court to his Majesty with the other 'sacrilegious' diplomatists." The clerical papers of Turin have been very indignant with Victor Emmanuel for receiving deputations from Protestant religious bodies during his visit to London; and the Radical journals have been offended at his sending a courteous message to Monsignor Franzoni, the exiled Archbishop of Turin, who resides at Lyons.

The Papistical Church is rampant in Austria; and the Concordat seems to have made priestcraft raving mad. In the Vienna correspondence of the *Times* we read as follows:—"There is, perhaps, no country under the sun in which the authorities so much delight in vexatious measures, which have not even the merit of being of service to the State. Every person who frequents the Exchange is obliged to take a ticket, for which he pays a trifling sum; and on the 1st of this month notice was given by the police authorities that in future every ticket would, in addition to the name and address, have the *religion* of its possessor inscribed on it. This new regulation has excited extreme indignation among the Hebrew frequenters of the Exchange, and its consequences will assuredly be felt when their assistance is again required by the State. When the national loan was being raised, the wealthy Jewish bankers were enojed, and led to expect that their political position would be greatly ameliorated. In the hope that their patriotic feeling would be properly appreciated, they one and all subscribed very largely, and now they find themselves exposed to what they justly consider a gratuitous insult." In the same letter we find the annexed particulars with respect to the Credit Mobilier and other financial matters:—"It is not doubted that the subscriptions for the Credit Mobilier will far exceed the sum (15,000,000*fl.*) which has been placed at the disposal of the public. One of the founders showed me a list of private applications which he had received from friends and acquaintances for shares, and the sum total was somewhat less than 7,000,000*fl.* There is seriously a question of the construction of a railroad from Cronstadt to Bucharest, and some of the wealthiest of the Wallachian Boyards display an inclination to share in the speculation."

The export of horses, lead, saltpetre, and sulphur, to Russia and to Turkey, with the exception of the Principalities, has been prohibited at Vienna.

Correspondence from Berlin states that the Russian Emperor is seeking to flatter the French Emperor. A St. Petersburg journal was lately about to publish an article indicating the speech of Louis Napoleon at the close of the Exhibition as a threat addressed to the Conservative interests of Europe; the article in question, however, was suppressed "by command." Anything that can be construed into an offence by France is anxiously avoided, and it is no longer the fashion to designate her policy as revolutionary and forming a contrast with that of Russia. The Emperor Alexander's words in his general orders addressed to the army of the Crimea, which speak of a "powerful and valiant enemy, that shuns no sacrifices," are understood in St. Petersburg to be intended solely for France.

The Emperor Alexander, it is said, has determined to confer on his brother, the Grand Duke Constantine, the dignity of Viceroy of Poland, on the death of Prince Paskiewitch, which is now hourly expected. Constantine is believed to be highly popular in Poland.

In addition to the accounts already published of the fearful condition of Russia, various other confirmations of the opinion, now generally entertained, that exhaustion is beginning to manifest itself in the territory of our enemy, are continually finding their way into the papers. A letter from Russian Poland, dated the 28th ult., says:—"The Chamber of Public Relief of St. Petersburg has been obliged to sell by auction the property on which it had made advances, but which it was impossible for the borrowers to pay when the moment arrived; and the number of insolvent debtors increases daily. The population itself has suffered from this state of things. A census has been taken of the male population, and, though four years have passed since the last, yet the numbers remain still the same. On certain points of the empire it is less than in 1851, owing, doubtless, to the numerous levies since then. It is not the loss on the field of battle which is solely the cause of this decrease; of battle which is solely the cause of this decrease; of the general health of the army has much to do with it, and the last report of General Pautin on the mortality among the troops is actually frightful. These unhappy wretches are decimated by epidemic diseases which assume every sort of character. For several years past the cholera has not ceased a single

day at St. Petersburg; the number of cases may vary, but the malady never disappears. It is not in Russia only that it exists; it rages in Finland, in the Baltic provinces, in Poland, in the Crimea, and in the Caucasus, and wherever troops are assembled in numbers cholera is sure to be in the midst of them. One fact which is now beyond dispute, and which has particularly attracted attention, is that the female population exceeded the male in proportions far greater than in any other European country, and the great difference between them is now more remarkable than ever. It would be difficult to give an exact notion of the misery which prevails in several provinces of the empire, and particularly in Poland. I have just traversed the whole southern part of Volhynia, and I have found everywhere the same evils. The most ordinary articles of consumption are so dear that the peasants are deprived of a portion of what is most necessary, and those who can afford to purchase arrive in crowds to empty markets, from which the greatest part return empty. The harvest has not, however, been bad; indeed, it may be said that we have had an average year, but the corn is taken off for the Government and sent to the south, to form immense magazines which are destined to become the prey of flames, and are consequently lost to everyone. In certain provinces the grain intended for seed has failed, and I can declare, without fear of contradiction, that, at the very least, one-fourth of the arable land will remain out of cultivation for want of seed and of hands. We had counted on the potato crop, which at first presented a favourable aspect, but the blight has made terrible ravages, and fully one-third of the whole is affected with it.

A money panic has commenced in Russia. At Moscow, Nishi-Novgorod, Astrakhan, and other places, bank-notes are refused. People are hiding money. It is feared that the interest of the public debt will be suspended; and already the Government has ordained that, to facilitate payments from the State Treasury, the normal proportion of bullion to be held by the Bank against notes in circulation shall be diminished. The new Russian loan of fifty millions of roubles has been concluded at Hamburg at the price of eighty-two, with five per cent. interest. A third part will be issued at Hamburg, and the two others at Berlin and Amsterdam.

The Turkish Government has made a reclamation to the Austrian Government on behalf of Colonel Turr, on the ground of his being at the time of his arrest in possession of a firman from the Sultan. It has also consented to the Government of Moldavia's extending the permission to export timber to the article of salt also.

The election of the various Presidents of the Prussian House of Deputies took place on the 6th inst., and exhibited the overpowering majority of the members of the Right. The President, Count Eulenbourg, the first Vice-President, Herr Von Arnim Heinrichsdorff, and the second Vice-President, Herr Von Buchtemann, belong, however, to the ultra-Conservative party. It is now no longer intended to dispute the election of Count Schwerin.

REVOLT OF THE KURDS AGAINST THE RUSSIANS.—The Russian journal, the *Caucasus*, states that General Lonsdoff had been obliged to send a detachment of troops to Van, beyond Alladagh, against the Kurds, who had revolted against the Russians.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

TRANSMISSION OF MONEY BY SOLDIERS.—A memorandum has been issued from the Horse Guards, dated November 30th, enclosing a new form for the transmission of money by soldiers in the Crimea to England, the object of which is to give facilities for such remittances. In the new form, the signatures of the officer commanding the company to which the soldier belongs, and that of the soldier himself, are omitted. The circular also requests commanding officers of regiments not to sanction the transmission of coin by soldiers which is not only unsafe but unnecessary, now that such facilities are given for sending money.

THE ASSISTANT-SURGEON'S PETITION.—The answer of Lord Panmure to the petition, alleging certain grievances, which was transmitted to him by the assistant-surgeons in the Crimea, has been published. The War Minister severally denies or disputes the various causes of complaint, and conceives that the youth of the objectors, and the fact that at the utmost they have not seen more than two and a quarter years' service, while in some instances their experience is limited to six months, detract considerably from the worth of any opinions they may put forth. The reply states that "Lord Panmure will not be indisposed to consider the case of the medical officers in respect to the length of service which gives a claim for retirement; but upon this point, as well as the general propositions following, his lordship can give at present no other reply than that they shall receive fair consideration in any change of the medical department that may take place."

ADMIRALTY PROVISION CONTRACTS IN IRELAND.—Certain provision merchants of Cork have had an in-

terview with the Lords of the Admiralty on the subject of the provision contracts of 1854-55. Mr. Fagan, who acted as spokesman, said that the provisions had been treated in a very improper manner in the Government stores, the casks at Gosport being piled on each other in such a way as to cause great injury to the meat; while, on dry days, the convicts were employed to "hose" them, in consequence of which the timbers shrank. As to the measly meat, it was contended that it could only have got in through the carelessness of the persons employed by the contractors. The Lords of the Admiralty, it is understood, consented to the following arrangement:—"That all measly meat be replaced by a sound and good article, and all found discoloured to be returned to the contractors, they substituting good meat for it, and the Admiralty paying the contractors the difference between the price of the meat to be supplied and the value of that returned."

LAUNCH OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.—The launch of a magnificent iron screw steamer, which has received the name of the heroic Florence Nightingale, took place at Hartlepool on Tuesday. This vessel has been built by Messrs. Richardson, Brothers, by whom the rapidly extending trade of iron ship-building was introduced into the port of Hartlepool. She is a beautiful specimen of the clipper class now in vogue. The prow is ornamented with a full-length figure of the lady whose name she bears, and who is represented as in her usual hospital dress, having in the one hand a cup, and in the other a handkerchief.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The royal family arrived on Monday at Osborne.

INCENDIARISM IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—Early on Sunday morning there were two incendiary fires within about a mile from Nottingham. A quantity of agricultural produce, belonging to Mr. Baker, of Colwick-park Farm, the value of which is estimated at £1,500, was consumed. Within half a mile of the same spot, about twenty tons of hay, in the stack-yard of Mr. James, of Carlton, were also destroyed by fire. This is the third incendiary fire that has occurred within a short distance of Nottingham during seven days.

AN UNFORTUNATE BANKRUPT.—The affairs of Mr. Thomas Masters were brought before the Bankruptcy Court on Saturday last. The case was one of great hardship. Mr. Masters, relying on the provisions of the Crystal Palace charter, which disenabled the company from serving the public with refreshments, built at Sydenham an immense tavern called the Crystal Palace Hotel. The speculation at first answered very well; but the company subsequently obtained a power of serving the public within the palace; the attendance at the hotel necessarily fell off, and Mr. Masters found himself unable to proceed. He therefore called his creditors together, that none might obtain a preference, and was enabled to offer about ten shillings in the pound. In addition to his money misfortunes, he had recently sustained a fracture of the leg. His creditors offered no opposition in the Bankruptcy Court; and Mr. Commissioner Gould, after complimenting the bankrupt on his honesty, said the court had much pleasure in granting him an immediate certificate of the first class.

CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY REPORT.—The report of the Crystal Palace Company was issued on Saturday, together with that of the committee of shareholders. Up to the 30th of June last, the total expended was £1,231,000, and the further want was then estimated at £45,000, exclusive of a balance of £56,000 falling due in 1858, in connection with land purchases. Instead of £45,000, however, the amount now required to close the capital account will be £70,000. To meet this, and to repay £63,500 which has been appropriated from revenue, it would be necessary to raise £133,500. Under their charter, the borrowing power of the company is limited to a sum equal to a third of their capital—namely, £333,000; and the authority granted at a meeting last year to exercise this to the extent of £300,000 has already been used up to a point which leaves only £74,225 available. Between now and the 30th of April next, the directors "hope the state of the money-market may admit of these remaining debentures being placed upon favourable terms." The plans of the directors seem to have been chiefly confined to cutting down expenses. In the next session of Parliament, a bill is to be introduced to facilitate the disposal of land, to enable further capital to be raised in case it should be desired to repay, in the shape of dividends, the sum borrowed from revenue, and to authorise the issue of life-tickets in exchange for shares. With regard to the report of the committee of investigation, the principal recommendation it contains is for the appointment of a general manager, whose remuneration shall be proportioned to the dividends paid on the original shares. In relation to the prospects of the undertaking, it is stated that, from the experience of the past year, its revenue from all sources may be estimated at about £100,000; while its future ex-

penses, including interest on preference capital, &c., will be about £73,000, "leaving a balance of £27,000 to pay interest on such new capital as may be required, and go towards a dividend on the original stock." In relation to the recommendations of Mr. Fuller, Mr. Sotheby, and others, for a reduction of the charge on Mondays to sixpence, the creation of various classes of life-tickets, the setting apart of two days for season-ticket holders (Thursday and Friday), instead of Saturday, and a system of Sunday admission, the opinion of the committee is that they are all inexpedient, or at present impracticable. To the issue of life-tickets there are legal objections, which, however, they desire to see removed; and a Sunday opening, even for shareholders, would, they still conceive, bring the validity of their charter into question. The report was not unanimous, two of the committee, Messrs. Fuller and Price, declining to concur in it.—*Times*.

THE TICKET OF LEAVE SYSTEM.—Mr. Serjeant Adams has written to the *Times*, to point out what he considers to be the evils of this system. Rapidly glancing over the history of transportation, he imputes the original fault to an abandonment of the principle of assigning transported convicts, after a while, to persons of respectability in our various colonies, with whom they lived as servants without wages. When this system was no longer pursued, the colonists, having lost the advantages which they derived from the unpaid labour of the convicts, saw only the evils resulting from a large criminal population. The convicts were then all transported to Hobart Town; but they speedily increased to so large a number of males with but few females, that a state of things ensued, the reports of which to the Colonial Office are unfit, says Serjeant Adams, for the public eye. The Cape of Good Hope was the next place to which the off-scourings of our population were sent; but the colonists violently resisted being compelled to receive them; the Home Government yielded, and the present system, deprecated by Mr. Serjeant Adams, was the result. Of that system the Serjeant observes:—"I would ask, if the wildest dreamer of dreams ever hit upon such a system of reform—young men in the prime and vigour of manhood, youths at the most dangerous period of their lives, and even children—homeless, houseless children—sent indiscriminately to their old haunts and associates in the worst parts of the metropolis, with, on the average, £5 in their pockets to celebrate their return, but with no provision for their future employment or well-doing, and no certificate of character but a ticket of leave. The working of the system has not tended to diminish my preconceived opinions; and I still think that if the victims of our wretched system of criminal jurisprudence, as regards juvenile offenders, had been, either before or after their respective imprisonments—and I care little which—been dispersed in different settlements where population is scanty and labour scarce, not as convicts, but under proper guardianship and superintendence, the State would have been better and more cheaply served, and the offenders have enjoyed a far more rational chance of becoming honest members of society than will ever be attained by their retention in the mother country, either with or without the aids of gratuities and tickets of leave." In connexion with this subject, "G. W. E." writes to the *Times*, calling to mind that an expedition from the English Government, about ten or twelve years ago, discovered, on the north-west coast of New Holland, two fine rivers which must have their source in a fertile though unexplored land; and he suggests that this locality is worthy of attention as a possibly available "dust hole" for our refuse population.

AMERICA.—The question between the English and United States Government continues to occupy the attention of the journalists; and from the Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* we learn that the representations of the American cabinet regarding the alleged violation of the neutrality laws by Mr. Crampton have been met, as it is generally believed, in a very straightforward manner. The mission of the West India squadron has been stated by Lord Clarendon to be the protection of English commerce from privateers said to be fitting out in American ports, the case of the Maury being cited in justification; but this excuse appears likely in itself to lead to further difficulties, for the committee appointed by the New York Chambers of Commerce to ascertain and report the facts connected with the seizure of the Maury have come to the conclusion that the character of the owners of that vessel has been needlessly assailed, owing to a want of proper inquiry on the part of the English diplomatic agents, and that those agents have not properly apologised to the owners of the Maury for the "infamous impeachment" against them. The same report asserts that the American Government has always strictly upheld and enforced the laws of neutrality. There seems to be a probability that Mr. Crampton will either resign or be recalled.—The government of Colonel Walker in Granada is being rapidly established. An additional force of two hundred men have left San Francisco to join the Colonel, who still retained quiet possession



of Granada and the transit route. He was daily receiving accessions. On the 13th of November, Mr. Wheeler, the United States' Minister at Nicaragua, formerly recognised Walker's Government. General Corral, having been found guilty of treason, has been shot, and Espinosa had been banished. Colonel Kinney remains at Greytown; but fifty of his followers have joined the Walker party.—From Mexico we learn that General Alvarez entered the capital about the middle of last month with five thousand men, the garrison having evacuated. A cordial feeling exists between the General and Vidaurri.—At New York, the financial circles are experiencing a hopeful feeling. Capital is abundant, and the banks discount liberally.

**WARD OF BREAD-STREET.**—At the close of the poll on Saturday for the election of an alderman for the Ward of Bread-street, in the room of the late Alderman Lawrence, the numbers were—for Mr. Lawrence (son of the deceased alderman), 43; for Mr. Nicoll, 31; majority for Mr. Lawrence, 12.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—In the week that ended on Saturday, 1,099 persons, of whom 554 were males, 545 females, died in London. The total number differs little from that of the preceding week, which was 1,124. It may be stated, in general terms, that the present mortality is not high for London at the beginning of December. Of 242 deaths assigned to diseases of the respiratory organs, 119 were caused by bronchitis, 93 by pneumonia, 17 by asthma, 13 by pleurisy, laryngitis, &c. Phthisis, which made a larger contribution to the mortality than any other special disease, was fatal in 137 cases, about one half of which occurred to persons between the age of 20 and 40 years. To the class of zymotic diseases, 239 deaths are referred, and they are thus distributed:—small-pox 14, measles 27, scarlatina 53, hooping-cough 39, typhus 45, croup (which was unusually fatal) 18, diarrhoea 17, erysipelas 10, metria 4, thrush 3, remittent fever 5, syphilis 2, rheumatic fever 1, and dysentery 1. Scarlatina shows a disposition to decline; the greatest number of cases occurred in the Eastern districts, the disease being rather fatal in Bethnal-green, where seven deaths from it are recorded. Two persons died of disease brought on by intemperance; and two from delirium tremens.—Last week, the births of 780 boys and 751 girls, in all 1,531 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1,463.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

**THE WARWICKSHIRE REFORMATORY SCHOOL.**—The committee for establishing a reformatory school for the county of Warwick has accepted a very generous offer made by Lord Leigh of thirty acres of land at an annual rent of five shillings per acre, situated at Weston, about four miles from Leamington, and which, we understand, is peculiarly eligible for the purposes of a county juvenile reformatory. It is also announced that in the proposed institution the system adopted at Mettray will be adhered to as far as possible. The committee intend to commence operations at an early period.—*Birmingham Gazette.*

**WELLESLEY v. LORD MORNINGTON.**—A bill filed by Lady Victoria Long Wellesley against Lord Mornington has been occupying the attention of the Vice-Chancellor's Court for several days during the present week. The object of the proceedings was to set aside a deed-poll of Lord Mornington, dated November 2, 1850, appointing £7,000, in addition to certain previously-mentioned sums, to the plaintiff, and another deed of the same date appointing £20,000 to James Wellesley, and £5,000 to the plaintiff—all the sums to be immediately raised and paid. James Wellesley, who was a son of Lord Mornington, died on the 23rd of October, 1851, intestate and unmarried. Lady Wellesley, daughter of Lord Mornington, having been advised that the appointments were invalid, as being frauds upon the powers granted by the original settlement executed upon the marriage of Lord Mornington and Miss Tylney Long, filed the present bill. The Vice-Chancellor declared the deed of appointment invalid, and ordered them to be delivered up to be cancelled, as prayed. His Honour considered that there was a great disparity between the sums given by the deeds, and those necessary for the requirements of the son, who was ill both in body and mind at the time the appointments were made, and whose dangerous state must have been known. There is something extremely repugnant to natural feeling in these cold-blooded law proceedings of child against parent.

**ERRATUM.**—Mr. John W. Leather, of Leeds, writes to us to say that, in the list of parties to whom medals have been awarded at Paris, the notification, "C. E. Leather, London," should have stood, "John W. Leather, C.E., Leeds."

**THE CATTLE-SHOW.**—The December Cattle-show opened on Monday. The results are various. The Devons, which used to be well represented, are this year inferior both in quality and number. The Herefords, though there are not many of them, include some fine specimens, and in this breed the display

made is above an average. In shorthorns there are only two or three animals worthy of much notice, the majority falling much below the standard of former years. The Marquis of Exeter's ox, however, which carries away the gold medal, has some splendid points about him, and will be much admired by the sight-seers during the next few days. There are some good polled Galloways, and one remarkably fine Welsh ox, exhibited by Colonel Pennant, and placing in a very favourable point of view the improvement of which that breed is susceptible. In sheep, the Leicesters come out well compared with previous years. The display of Southdowns and Cotswolds is inferior; but there is a splendid show of crosses; and here one may readily recognise a genuine element of success, for these annual displays of the club will only develop it as it deserves. The cross between the Cotswold and the Southdown is particularly worthy of notice from the size and shapeliness of the stock produced and its excellent marketable qualities. The cross-breeds of sheep and pigs form the strongest features of the present show. The latter are quite as good as we ever remember to have seen them in Baker-street, Mr. Coates's pen, which carries away the gold medal, approaching perfection. In addition to the show of stock, the Bazaar contains a fine and well-arranged collection of agricultural implements and of roots.—*Times.*

**STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.**—A question having been raised as to whether the estate of the nominal firm, Halford and Co. (which is said to be nearly solvent), could be taken apart from the other business concern of the bankrupts, Strahan, Paul, and Bates, Mr. Commissioner Evans on Monday said it appeared to him that there must be a joint account, and that all the creditors must come under it. The adjourned examination in the bankruptcy took place on Tuesday, when the prisoners were in attendance, but were not brought into court. The balance-sheet prepared by the accountant was produced; and from this document it appeared that the bankrupts were solvent as recently as December, 1851. At that period, the books showed a deficiency of £65,542, which was increased to £110,000 by an advance on the Mostyn colliery; but unencumbered property was possessed by Mr. Strahan to the amount of £100,000, and by Sir John Paul to the extent of £30,000. In 1852 commenced the fatal advances made to the Gandells, to enable them to carry out their railway and drainage schemes in France and Italy; and these advances were made on the slight inducement of a half per cent. commission on all payments, and the expectation of recovering a debt of £1,800 which had been considered bad. The actual deficiency of the bank is stated at £652,593—of which sum £483,000 have been lost in the Mostyn collieries and the transactions with the Gandells. The assets are estimated at £127,070, which will give a dividend of 4s. in the pound. The proceedings are further adjourned to March 11th.

**"THE MISSING CLERGYMAN."**—The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* states that the explanation of this affair, which has unfortunately attracted so much public notice, is as follows:—It is said that some expression fell from the lips of the intended bride during the last interview which was misconstrued by the gentleman into something like a regret at the step she was about to take, and that, without even seeking an explanation, he pondered over the words, which preyed upon his mind as he walked into Gloucester, and got worked up into such a state of distraction that nothing could satisfy him short of flight. He now writes (from America), in the deepest agony of despair, regretting the pain which he has caused to all parties concerned—confessing, on cooler reflection, that he had put a wrong interpretation upon the words then uttered, and taking all the blame upon himself. Will the gentle pair come together again, and live happily ever afterwards?

**FIRE IN ALDERSGATE STREET.**—A large fire broke out on Wednesday morning in the distillery of Messrs. Cash, Wright, and Co., Aldersgate-street, but was subdued in less than an hour without any loss of life.

**EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON.**—A most unusual and singularly beautiful phenomenon was witnessed at Hartlepool a few days ago. The wind during the day had blown strongly from the N.N.W., accompanied with frequent showers of rain, hail, and sleet, dark patches of clouds flying at intervals across the sky at a very low altitude. About four o'clock p.m., a large patch of more than the usual density crossed over the town, enveloping it in darkness for two or three minutes. Shortly after it had cleared away, the inhabitants were startled by the appearance of a flash of lightning, resembling a ball of fire of a bright purple colour, which shot over the town at a very low level, appearing almost to touch the tops of the houses in the higher part of the town. This was succeeded by a tremendous peal of thunder. A little damage was done, but nothing serious.

**MADemoiselle JULIE,** who was seriously injured while dancing at the Plymouth Theatre, in "The Good Woman in the Wood," has, we regret to say, expired from the shock to the nervous system, con-

sequent on the accident. She was the chief support of her mother and a young brother; and we are therefore sure that the subscription which has been opened on behalf of her bereaved relatives will be augmented by all who have the power to devote a portion of their incomes to works of charity. The dress of the poor girl, who was only eighteen years of age, caught fire from some concealed burners illuminating the representation of a fairy lake; and at first she was unconscious of the accident. The audience shouted "You're on fire!" but Mademoiselle Julie misinterpreted this for a few moments, and the mischief gained head. The scarf of one of the other ballet girls caught the flames, which in this case were speedily extinguished. The accident is an exact repetition of that which, about eleven years ago, proved fatal to poor Clara Webster. Cannot something be done to render these ballet dresses non-inflammable?

**FIRE AT ALDERSHOT CAMP.**—Several of the wooden houses in this camp were destroyed on Saturday evening by a very serious fire. The soldiers mustered in great force; but there was no supply of water or other aids for quenching or isolating the fire, the delay in sending which has excited great indignation. The fire, however, was at length got under. It is said that the stoves are too close to the highly ruinous wood of which the walls of the huts are composed.

**METROPOLITAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT ACT.**—The City Court of Common Council has determined on appointing Deputy Harrison, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Hall, to serve on the Metropolitan Board for the better local management of the city, under the provisions of the act of last session.

**THE LATE FATAL COLLISION ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.**—The inquest on John Moore, breaksmen, was concluded on Wednesday. The verdict was to the effect that the man had been killed by the collision, which was occasioned by the lines of the two railways crossing each other on the same level.

**ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—The tire of one of the wheels of a second-class passenger carriage on the Great Northern line broke on Tuesday evening while the train was going at great speed, and some fragments were driven through the floor of the carriage with such violence as to smash the lamp and a portion of the roof. The oscillations of the carriage caused an alarm-bell to ring, and the driver speedily stopped the train without any further accident.

**THE ROMANCE OF A BANK-NOTE.**—Carelessness in money matters of the most extraordinary kind was revealed the other day in a case before the Liverpool police court, the investigation of which occupied five hours. Mr. Thompson, a railway contractor, has an office in Blackstone-street, and close by is the shop of Mr. Kelly, a provision dealer. On the 16th of November Mr. Drenfield, Mr. Thompson's cashier, sent an Irishman, named Brady, to Mr. Kelly's with a £20 note to be changed. He did not mention the value of the note, and Brady, having frequently changed large notes, said to Mr. Kelly, "Please change me a £100 note." Incredible as it may seem, Mr. Kelly did so without looking at the note, and Brady, having made some purchases, took back to his employers £82 3s. change. The amount at first caused some surprise; but Mr. Drenfield concluded there might have been some mistake, and therefore altered his cash-book. Mr. Thompson, some days previously, had given his cashier some notes, but neither had looked very carefully at the amounts. In the meanwhile Mr. Kelly found that he missed a £100 note, and possessed a £20 which he could not account for. He communicated with the police, mentioning the loss of the former, but, as if to carry out the singular spirit of carelessness and reserve which moves over the whole story—saying nothing about the possession of the latter, while Mr. Drenfield and Mr. Thompson were equally silent about the £82 3s. which they had over. Brady was subsequently interrogated by the police; and a quarrel and fight which he afterwards had with a nephew of Mr. Thompson brought the affair before the magistrates, by whom the mystery was cleared up. All the parties were reprimanded for their extreme carelessness; and certainly the narrative is an instance of gigantic and almost incredible stupidity.

**FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE ICE.**—The early winter of the past week has already led to one death in the parks. Many persons ventured upon the ice in St. James's Park on Thursday, although it was in a dangerous condition. In the afternoon, while numbers of persons, chiefly boys, were skating or sliding near Buckingham-gate, the ice gave way, and several persons were immersed in the water. They were, however, all recovered, except one lad.

**THE RAJAH BROOKE.**—A communication from Lord Palmerston to the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, dated August 6th of the present year, has just been published. It conveys the opinion of the Government that the report with respect to Sir James Brooke, issued about that time, and an analysis of which has appeared in the *Leader*, fully exculpates the Rajah from the charges brought against him.

## PIEDMONTESE POLITICS.

(From our Correspondent.)

TURIN, Dec. 4.

CONSTITUTIONAL government is being put to a very hard trial in this country; and after the English people have expended their enthusiasm in welcoming Victor Emmanuel—whom they probably applaud partly as an expiation for their applause of the Emperor Napoleon III.—it is good that they should know some of the difficulties with which he, or rather the system which he represents, has to contend. For my part, if I did not fear to be thought eccentric, I should begin my notices of the state of politics in this part of the world by what may seem to be a very cynical confession. And why not tell the truth? We are getting too much accustomed to square our phrases to circumstances. Every Englishman aims at playing the diplomatist; and whilst he hates or despises tyranny, learns the articles of the leading journal by heart, and consoles himself by cant about the gentleman King, and the brilliant prospects of Parliamentary Government in this ill-assorted little collection of States—this miniature representation of Austria—late entrusted with liberty, called the kingdom of Sardinia.

I shall confess, then, that, so far, I have very little confidence in the ultimate success of any of the attempts made to introduce abroad the artificial system of Government which has so long flourished in England. It was never, with us, anything more than a prudent compromise between principles and circumstances. The circumstances existed; the principles started up by their side. There was a contest, in which neither party obtained complete victory. Rather than exhaust our strength in perpetual conflicts, we consented to an arrangement which was consonant to our national character. We resolved to wait the result of the action of Common Sense, entrusted with a share of power, upon the mass of absurdities inherited from feudal times; and Common Sense has at length nearly got the upper hand. We have been many generations at work; and, seeing the goal draw nigh, most persons are content to admire the constitution—or rather the absence of a constitution—by which we have been favoured. This is why we think we cannot bestow a greater blessing on foreign nations than to teach them how to imitate our machinery; and why our statesmen and diplomatists are always ready to give their advice, and promise their assistance, to all peoples who will consent to record their political life in an exact imitation of *Hansard*; and also why we are as indignant at liberals who promise to go a step further, as at tyrants who prefer to remain as they are. We have invented a bed of Procrustes, and we hate all who will not lie in it.

One of the points on which Englishmen most insist, and without which they withhold their sympathies from any attempt at self-government, is the existence of an Upper House. Laws must be passed through a double strainer before they are good for digestion. We never inquire whether there exists any class from which it is possible to make more than an arbitrary selection to compose this said second chamber; nor do we reflect that we have often considered the House of Lords as a nuisance, talked irreverently of doing away with it, and compelled it, by our ill temper, to be very diffident of exercising its right of interference in important measures. In discussing the doings of our continental friends, we cannot forgive them for attempting to be wiser than we. Their aristocracy is gone. No matter. They must create one for the nonce. Accordingly, obeying our impulse, and disregarding the suggestions of original minds, all nations who have escaped from government by right divine, hasten to put the idea in action; and in Piedmont, as elsewhere, we have a constitutional King, a Senate, and a Chamber of Deputies superposed on a society which knows them not, and is still full of the habits of passive obedience. No nation left to itself, when it became tired of allowing all its business to be transacted by a single man, would think of substituting anything else than the application of this principle—"Every man is the best judge of his own affairs." A single assembly, proceeding direct from the people, and obeying its immediate impulse, would at any rate be understood. It seems quite certain to me that the Piedmontese do not appreciate, by any means, the complicated and exotic system with which they are expected to identify their sympathies.

It is just possible that it would be for the advantage of this country, and others similarly situated, to fall into a different state of mind and learn to appreciate what now so much puzzles them. Indeed, as all recent experience tells us that England is fated to be the godmother of liberty in Europe, and as theory has chosen to mould itself by her example—we may suppose, that in spite of the absence of legitimate materials, it is proper, now that the first step has been taken, to endeavour to accustom the Piedmontese, the Savoyards, the men of Genoa, of Nice, and Sardinia, to the government of representatives—"on trial," of course, for the electoral body is restricted—checked in

its operations by a factitious Senate, and a King acting by the medium of "responsible" ministers. If so, it does not appear to me that the persons or classes who principally influence the action of government are going the right way to work to produce the desired result.

Talk to a Piedmontese of the middle classes—an instructed, experienced man; and be sure, if you know how to get at his secret—for the race is dissimulate with foreigners, especially with Englishmen, who are all supposed to be rabid Constitutionalists—be sure that you will find in his mind, unless he be a member of the progress party who would go beyond the limit which we mark, a lurking regret for old times. In the first place, the complication of the forms he is called on to understand bores him; secondly, he does not see the practical benefit. After many unbraces out comes the complaint—the population has scarcely increased and the taxation has doubled within the last eight years, since the unfortunate but glorious events of 1848. The good people absolutely presumed to identify liberty with economy. They expected retrenchment instead of profusion. They are disappointed, and whilst they are indignant at the men to whom personally they attribute their distress—exactly as they used to complain personally of their old kings when they were greedy—they begin unreasonably to be discontented with the system.

The truth is, that much of the increased expense of the Government is the result of necessity, and it is childish to attribute it to free institutions. The debts of the war are not yet, properly speaking, paid off; and the recent alliance with France and England—after all, a good and noble act—is an expensive affair. But it seems quite certain that neither M. Cavour, nor his predecessors, nor the persons and classes who support him—perhaps not even the Left Opposition—have ever thought of recommending freedom to the selfish part of human nature by identifying it with material advantages; or, if the idea has ever struck them, they have most signally failed in applying it. No one can look beneath the surface of things in this country without perceiving that there is a wide-spread and growing dissatisfaction with actual financial arrangements—that the unwillingness of many men to contribute towards public expenses is becoming complicated by bitterness—and that, with very hearty loyalty towards the House of Savoy, is strangely blended a vague anticipation of good from some other quarter. The majority of the Savoyards yearn towards Imperial France or Republican Switzerland; the Genoese are not at all convinced that a new attempt at a Republic would be a failure; and even the Piedmontese, growing dispirited as they breathe the fogs which east winds now bring every day from Lombardy, smile rather ironically as burly Englishmen compliment them on their prowess in the East, and are not so proud as we seem to think they ought to be of their Constitution and our encouragement.

I will not yet accept the explanation given by a part of the Opposition here, that M. Cavour and his friends are perfectly aware of the discontent that exists—that they set it at nought—that they are confident that they are the necessary men, and, indeed, the only ones possible at present—and that all they care about is the enjoyment of power and the advantages it gives—that they have no faith in the future—that they are disciples of Guizot and Rossi, who saw in constitutional forms nothing but convenient machinery for carrying out with a semblance of liberty certain narrow and despotic theories. It seems quite evident that as long as the war lasts, or until it becomes a war of principles—which England and France will endeavour as much as possible to avert—no great change can take place in this Government from without. The actual men, or men exactly like them, must be in power. M. Ratazzi may be immolated as an old Liberal who has lost the confidence of his former friends without gaining the affection of his present allies; or M. Cavour may attempt to lean a little more towards the Left; but this is all that is possible. M. Cavour, then, should feel that he has a great duty to perform. He ought not to be content with keeping together a good majority. He is bound so to act that the Piedmontese, and the other races agglomerated with them under the same sceptre, should have reason to be delighted with free government, instead of almost being led to curse it. Let us not attribute to them our own sentiments. They have what is called a free press, checked by the power monstrously left in the hands of the police to seize a number of a paper supposed to contain a criminal article—that is, to confiscate arbitrarily private property; and checked, also, by fear of condemnation by judges uncontrolled by a jury. They have many precious civil and political privileges. They enjoy religious freedom. They possess many admirable institutions, of which Austrian despotism deprives their neighbours over the Ticino. I am willing to believe that all the most generous-spirited amongst them think these more than sufficient to counterbalance an exhausted exchequer, an increasing public debt, and a vexatious and ignorant system of

taxation. But the majority of men—especially when new to liberty—are ever prone to look to their pockets more than their principles; and Power, if it does not condescend to this weakness at first, is unfaithful to its trust. Let us welcome Virtue when it comes forward; but let us always act as if Interest were the sole spring of human actions. The French Republic destroyed itself by supposing, in its enthusiasm, that the brutal peasantry of the departments would be delighted to contribute a few additional centimes for the sake of Liberty.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, December 15th.  
THE AUSTRIAN PEACE "SUGGESTIONS."

THE Paris correspondent of the *Post* writes—

"The best information in my possession at the present moment, as to the peace question, is this:—Russia has not officially commissioned, or countenanced, any propositions. Austrian diplomacy has made suggestions, which have been submitted to Paris and London. The Cabinets of France and England have requested that the said propositions for peace should be stated more clearly, and that they should also be fully sanctioned by Russia before any attempt is made at negotiation. At this stage of the affair, Austria is supposed to have communicated with St. Petersburg, and so matters remain. Meanwhile, every little German Court is busy in talking, and the large ones in writing. You must expect to hear the movements of German diplomatic gentlemen converted into 'missions.' We are at a period when the public read with great interest a romantic newspaper, literature founded on fiction. Russia is making immense preparations for the spring campaign. The Allies are doing the same. The Governments of France and England are perfectly agreed. Such are the data on which the public may really speculate (with the probability of arriving at correct conclusions) if they care not to be deceived by the exaggerated importance which is given to the most shadowy hopes of peace."

THE FALL OF KARS.—The *Times* contains a despatch from its Vienna correspondent, dated 11 A.M. Thursday, stating that nothing was then known in that city of the fall of Kars. We (*Globe*) fear, however, that this gives no ground for hope that the intelligence of the capitulation which has been published is otherwise than too true in every respect.—The fact is not announced in the *Moniteur*.

At Trebizonde, says a despatch just received from Frankfort, it was rumoured on the 21st of November that Omar Pacha had attacked Kutais. The reinforcements he had received were not very considerable. The Shah Bender of Trebizonde has placed between 400 and 500 beasts of burden at the disposal of the Porte.

The Circassians (according to a letter from Redoubt-Kaleb, in the *Post Gazette* of Frankfort) have not fulfilled the expectations of Omar Pacha by co-operating with him, and the relations between him and Schamyl are not friendly; indeed, he fears that, if he were to march on the capital of Georgia, Schamyl would attack him in the rear.

## INDIA.

The Overland Mail from India has arrived. It brings news of the Santal rebellion, which is not yet subdued, though the career of the insurgents seems drawing to a close. Martial law will be proclaimed. The signs of disturbance in other districts of India continue.

THE LATE MADMOISELLE JULIE.—Mr. Morris, a lodging-house keeper in Plymouth, in whose residence Mademoiselle Julie died from the injuries she had received on the stage, has refused to give up the body on account of damages done to the bed on which the poor girl had lain. The case was brought before the Mayor, and Mr. Morris was forced, though most reluctantly, to resign his hold on the corpse.

A stormy meeting of the Crystal Palace Company took place yesterday, and was adjourned for three weeks.



## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

A. J. J. (Nicholas-lane).—An acceptable hint. "Late a Middy," "B.," "An Old Indian," and "H. E. W.," next week.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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 DIPLOMATIC SEASON.

THE idea of Peace has received hitherto no official sanction. Nevertheless, a negotiation of a vague, suggestive character has commenced. It originated, to all appearance, with Austria, which fears the next campaign; and it seems to have had this effect in London: that the Government, which lately treated the struggle of 1856 as inevitable, is now weighing terms and conditions. We do not go so far as to say that any formal reply has been given to the "sounding" despatches from Vienna; it is only for young Toryism to amaze the town by hebdomadal disclosures. But it is next to certain that a general scheme of peace has been transmitted from Vienna, to part of which, at least, the Russian Government is disposed to adhere. That which may be considered positive is, that no propositions will be made by Great Britain.

The Austrian Government has many reasons for desiring the discontinuance of the present conflict. It has gained, on the Danube, substantial advantages which it fears to lose. Moreover, the war is dangerous to despotism, chiefly because it unsettles. Far as is the policy of the Allies from any project of the emancipation of Europe, the contest, as it widens, disturbs the complex and delicate system constructed by diplomacy. It approaches more closely the territories of the disaffected; it gives prominence to the constitutional State of Piedmont; it compels the German Governments to keep their military establishments, at least, on a modified war footing; and, though it increases French absolutism, and feeds with fresh blood the Papal power, it is perpetually on the verge of an incline, down which at any moment it may roll, carrying with it rulers and nations beyond the control of Cabinets—even beyond the arbitration of standing armies. This is the fear of despotism; this is still, in some quarters, the hope of Liberalism; it is only this chance that renders tolerable, to the democracy of Europe, the prospect of a new campaign. Official Austria estimates these contingencies, and redoubles her efforts to obtain peace. We may say with confidence that, among other influences exerted by her to conciliate the British Government, will be an act of dramatic magnanimity towards Colonel TURR. He will not, in all probability, be executed, or tortured, or flogged, or immured for life; and, though he may be kept within reach of the Imperial police, Europe will be spared at present the scandal of his sacrifice. Some-

thing is thus secured, for humanity's sake; but enough is not done for English credit, or for justice, until Colonel TURR is placed at liberty beyond the Austrian frontier. The incident, however, illustrates the disposition of the Government at Vienna, which takes the initiative in the movement for peace. Some mutual understanding exists between that government and the Cabinet of Berlin. Though Austria has, from the beginning, assumed a more contemptible, because a more wavering and less frankly-avowed position than Prussia, the English public feels itself so insulted by the stolidity of King FREDERICK WILLIAM, that it prefers the hypocritical expectancy of the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH.

The question, then, is reduced to one of terms and conditions. Peace is possible, if it be possible for Russia to make adequate concessions. That is the difficulty. The offer must come from her, and must be an avowal of coercion. Whether wise or not, whether just or not, we represent, we believe, the opinion of nine-tenths of Englishmen when we say that the public opinion of this country would stigmatise as dishonourable a peace concluded on any other basis. Further, the war has a tangible object—that of giving a check to Russian power. The object is not high, nor has it been sought by worthy methods; but, once announced, it must practically be accomplished:—of that there is no doubt. Any negotiations, therefore, to have a palpable result, must proceed upon the assumption that Russia is to submit, and that the Allies are to retire, as acknowledged victors in a just cause. The most moderate supporters of the war must admit this. If the Russian Government concedes so much in principle, and ratifies its moral assent by acts of practical submission, the question is settled; if not, it must be settled by a new campaign.

Of course, there will be a subtle contention among diplomatists, and a violent public debate as to what are, and what are not, suitable terms. Too many crotchets have been intruded into the discussion to render it easy of solution. What is to be done with the Crimea?—is a question put by those who ignore the possibility of its restoration to the architects of Sebastopol. Guarantees are demanded for Circassia—concessions for Sweden, as if Sweden, up to this point, had established any claim, or as if the Allies could require the surrender of Finland without having previously conquered it. Were Great Britain and France to insist on the evacuation of Finland, what more natural reply for Russia than—"Come and take it," and a prolonged and desperate war? Our claims must be in proportion to our successes; they will represent the amount of the superiority we have established, of our own power over that of Russia. We have gained nothing in the Baltic, except a temporary suppression of the enemy's naval ascendancy, and the capture of an unimportant and isolated fortress. Consequently, in that quarter we have nothing to urge in corroboration of our claims—except, possibly, that the Aland Isles should not be re-fortified.

But the Government, ignoring in public the underplot of passing negotiations, presents its account of military and naval preparations. It promises for next year campaigns of gigantic proportions, with decisive results—the most gigantic, and the most decisive ever witnessed. We shall then make war with a hundred thousand men in the field, combined with the hundred thousand of our allies. We shall not leave the Russians to choose their own field, but shall drag them, perhaps, over a vast surface, to defend the northern point of their empire. Or, it may be, that while they are

gathering in the north, they will be attacked across the Danube. Two hundred and forty vessels, including forty line of battle ships, twenty corvettes, and a hundred and eighty gun-boats, besides the French navy will range the Baltic to assail its coasts and fortresses. The utmost might of England will be put forth, the enemy must reel under her blows.

Such—results included—is the official programme. Perhaps it is designed, with its style of reverberating menace, to give the Emperor of Russia a new reason for peace. We trust that it indicates something more; that it is a plain statement of the works in progress, in anticipation of a new campaign. To relax the activity of our naval and military departments would be the worst policy for the friends of peace. We have not made that figure in the war which would justify us in relying upon the *prestige* of our feats in the Crimea, or of our indecisive demonstrations in the Baltic. We want great and well-appointed fleets, a sufficing number of gun-boats, an army in the field, and an army of reserve, a spirited attitude in the people, proofs of a better system in the public service, signs of patriotic feeling in the ruling classes, candour and fidelity in the Government, and a display of courage and honour before the world, before our allies, rivals, and foes, to enforce the stipulations on which our diplomatists may insist. Then we have to meet the result of an unsuccessful negotiation—an extended war, with new Russian armies in the field, new generals in command, and a broader scope of operations. All this will bring us to dishonour if we continue paltering with our purpose, dividing ourselves between aristocratic interests and public duties, neutralising activity in one quarter by neglect in another, disgusting our soldiers of all ranks, while requiring their most loyal exertions. We must not only prepare new forces for the campaign of 1856, but a new system.

## THE POISONER IN THE HOUSE.

If you feel a deadly sensation within, and grow gradually weaker, how do you know that you are not poisoned? If your hands tingle, do you not fancy that it is arsenic? How can you be sure that it is not? Your household, perhaps, is a "well-regulated family;" your friends and relations all smile kindly upon you; the meal at each period of the day is punctual, and looks correct; but how can you possibly tell that there is not arsenic in the curry; something more deliberate and malignant than the poison in the anchovies, or the pickles, or the preserved fruits? It literally, without exaggeration, is impossible to tell. It is quite evident that persons die of poison, the cause being unsuspected. It has been proved by the records of our criminal courts within the last few days, that poison may be detected and challenged, and yet that the *poisoner shall* escape detection. May we not have reason to doubt whether sometimes innocent persons have not been sacrificed—the real poisoner being undetected. The Borgia has not, in our days, courage to brave accusation, but he has a greater cunning for concealment.

How can we possibly affirm at the present day that Madame LAFFARGE was really guilty of her husband's death? Mr. JOSEPH SMITH WOOLER is acquitted, and we think justly acquitted. When the evidence was imperfectly stated, his guilt looked almost established; but when the complement of the evidence is brought forward—when it is shown how conspicuously affectionate he was to his wife; how he brought her friends to her; how he pressed the medical men to state her symptoms, and strove to throw light upon her illness; how he made no concealment of

the poisons in his possession, but exhibited them with other drugs; and how some of those expressions which appeared to indicate indifference, manifestly had relation to his sympathy for relatives—we have the strongest conviction, in common with the jury, that the man is innocent, and has been unjustly accused. But Madame LAFFARGE was kind to her husband; and some of the evidence in her case was far weaker than in the present. For example, the amount of poison detected was infinitely less; there were only arsenical stains on the test, not an actual ponderable amount of disengaged arsenic. Yet Madame LAFFARGE was condemned, perhaps wrongfully, as Mr. WOOLER might have been if the evidence got up against him had been successful.

WOOLER was not the murderer of his wife, but the partner who shared her calamity in a more painful manner than herself. Here then is a most astounding and alarming case—the lady was poisoned, she died from the poison, and her condition was known to her medical attendants twenty-five days before her death. She died on the 29th of June, and Dr. JACKSON suspected arsenic on the 7th of that month. The poison was regularly administered to her, and she sank under it. One medical man suspected it at the beginning of the month; another somewhat later; but there she lay, poisoned more and more daily. It was only wonderful that she could live so long. At last she died. If anybody should have been safe, it was that lady—watched over by her husband, who knew something about drugs; attended by a sister, and by more than one medical man, some of them men of standing. Her case was actually suspected weeks before the end; and yet she was sacrificed!

Turn to the case of TURTON at Bath. Here is an auctioneer in good circumstances—very good circumstances; he has made no will; his son boasts that he shall shortly come into the property; that son thrusts aside the family cook from her vocation, to prepare supper for his father; the father is poisoned, and there was poison in that supper; the young man absconds, conceals himself, surrenders himself, and is brought to trial; and a jury acquits him: he is "innocent," therefore, notwithstanding appearances. It was not he that administered the poison—it was somebody else. His mode of life was irregular, his actions suspicious; but he must be cast out of the account; and if the father of the family wishes to find who it is that has put arsenic in his supper, he must look around within his own home—to fail in detecting his murderer. He has been poisoned,—the poisoner can seek him in the very bosom of his family; and yet he cannot detect the murderer that would be!

It is true that we are not subject to the direct and flagrant crime of the Borgias. But present the case how you will, it does seem that we are doomed to assaults upon life not less fatal than those which stamp the middle ages with barbarism. Our streets are kept peaceable by help of the policeman; but the judges tell us, and the statistics tell us, that we constantly breed a band of thieves and robbers whom we try to transport. Sturdy vagrants were a curse in the time of the Tudors; but they had not their thousands upon thousands, and they did not then desire the expedient of some place to transport them to. On the contrary, the earliest poor laws enforced the remaining of the vagrant in his own district. Statesmen do not now poison; but private persons appear to have taken up the trade; and, apart from the tradesman, who poisons us in our food and abates our life, a practice is increasing amongst us that indicates the germ of horrible domestic crimes. "Education" is the cry of the day; we enforce order in the

streets, and in houses, by the strictest rules; perhaps we have in some degree placed restraints upon natural frankness, perhaps our severe regimen tends to constrain the affections, and the true guardian of home, the natural instinct which repels all hatred and envy, sickens and languishes. It is not so everywhere; but in some places, we believe, school, sect, and the pedantry of the day, have driven forth the garrison of the home.

#### TURKEY FOUNDERING.

It has long been the conviction of clear-sighted persons in the west of Europe that, whatever Power gained by the war, the Turks must lose. Not only have they been utterly eclipsed, their generals subordinated to those of their allies, their capital garrisoned and furnished with a French police, their navy lost, a large portion of their territory in Austrian possession, their Greek enemies only kept at bay by the interference of France and England, their finances exhausted, their authority contemned by their own subjects; but it has become a question how long their "Empire" is to remain in the occupation of the allies, after the establishment of peace. To desert them prematurely, it is said, would be criminal; by which is meant that to release them hastily from the Western yoke would be foolish.

A sense of generosity may induce the English people to compassionate their helpless allies, the Turks, whose cause was the original object of the war. But the result was foreseen two years ago. Turkey, as a purely Mohammedan state, has no longer a political existence. The Turks have lost their pride, their self-reliance, their privilege of oppression. They are protected by France and England, and, like all protected races, they are conquered. We recently observed that in the British camps in the East it is a joke that the successor of ABDUL MEDJID will be a Frenchman. This is a light illustration of a serious truth. Turkey is in the possession of Great Britain and France, and they are already consulting what to do with it.

The event at Kars comes to justify the opinions we have stated of the vitality that remains in the governmental system of the Ottoman empire. A single city, easy to approach, connected by a high road with the sea, with well-constructed defences, an able British officer in command, and a body of as gallant soldiers as ever fought to garrison it, has been starved into surrender. It is easy to impute this disaster as a crime to the Allies, who filled one vast arena of operations in the North, and one in the East. Possibly, OMAR PASHA was fettered in his movements, not from any desire to spare Russia—for every second-rate Russian success only protracts the war, and injures Russia; but from obstinacy, or from indifference, or from blindness. Possibly, however, his presence was necessary in the Crimea. That is a point on which it is not easy, for us, in London, to decide; but the fact remains, and is not covered by mystery, that the Imperial Ottoman Government, with the free range of the Black Sea coast, and uninterrupted communications, could not, or would not, rescue Kars. The reason being that it is a decrepid and spiritless Government.

In the presence of great armies, traversing his territory, occupying his capital, putting his Christian subjects on a practical equality with him, where is the superiority of the Mussulman? When he was supreme, it was through the power of the sword, which maintained the severity of intolerance. He dares no longer assert the insolent ascendancy of his nation. His police cower before the police of

his French protectors. Moreover, the head of his religion, the SULTAN, scolded and tutored for years by the reigning diplomatist at Constantinople, will have a treaty forced upon him, in due time, to which his consent will be a mere formality. The principalities of Wallachia and Bulgaria, integral parts of his empire, may be erected into a separate state—*will be*, if the *Times* has its way. As it is, they are under Austrian martial law, and may continue in the occupation of Austria until the Mahomedan dominion is extinct.

This is not a deplorable, because it is a natural catastrophe. A nation that pretends to rule by the right of conquest, must live by its own law, and yield to power. But the power that has unnerved the administration of the Turks, is not that of France, Austria, or England. It is that of the Christian race which has expanded, while the Turkish race has shrunk, which has taken possession of the industry of the empire, of its trade, of its commerce, of its navigation, of its schools, of its system of foreign intercourse, while the Turks have remained, immovable, lords of the sword and the soil. The sword has now dropped from their hands; every military position in their territory is possessed by the Allies; the Bosphorus is no longer a Turkish, but a French and British station; every Ottoman port is under the presidency of Europeans. To the Christian powers they owe, perhaps, that their own power has not been violently extinguished. What, then, remains of their strength or their prestige? Their navy is destroyed; their army is reduced; their exchequer is wholly exhausted. An alloyed currency, and a ruined credit, promise few resources for the future. At the same time, the Christian populations are becoming more powerful, intelligent, and ambitious, daily. Marvellous numbers of new merchant ships are being built by them—a hundred and forty for the Grecian ports alone; they are rapidly learning to supply almost every want of the great armies quartered in their territory; and, which is still more significant, they express, without reserve, in Constantinople and the other maritime cities, their scorn of the Turks, and their hope of succeeding them as a ruling race, in the east of Europe.

The incidents of the war have by no means mitigated the mutual rancour of the Turkish and Christian nations in that empire. The Christians—even those who sympathise with the Allies—have almost invariably satirised the victories of the Turks, and exulted in their defeats. We must take the truth as we find it, without lecturing the people of the Levant on the moral wickedness of not rejoicing when Britain and Gaul drive back the barbarians, &c. &c. &c. All men, when they have their own interests and passions strongly at work, look coldly at external affairs. The Christians of Turkey hate the Turk more than they hate the Russian, because they have suffered more from him. When they estimate their own strength, it is not to measure it against that of the Russians, for the most part their co-religionists; but against that of the Turks, who, during four hundred years, have kept them in a state of abject social inferiority. The Christian, when he can do it with impunity, now taunts his old oppressor with the reflection, that he is indebted for his empire to the assistance of "infidels."

The Christians have felt their power; the Turks have felt their weakness. There will be a new contest in the East when the Allied armies have been withdrawn. It may be gradual and bloodless; but if the frontiers of the Ottoman territory be really defined, and guarded by the great powers of Europe, a



revolution will commence throughout that enormous area, which must end in the supplanting of the Turks in Europe by the Christians. It is not a religious difference merely that is involved; it is a difference of national character, habits, traditions. The Turks have never been an industrious or commercial race. They are naturally landowners, dictators, soldiers. The Janissaries were necessary to their system. Such a nationality will be impossible, as a governing power, when the social developments now proceeding with more or less activity throughout Europe have reached a higher stage.

The more immediate question is, when the Treaty of Peace has been signed between the belligerent powers, this winter, next autumn, or years hence, how long will Turkey be occupied by foreign armies? Austria, probably, will not surrender the Principalities until France and England have retired from Constantinople. What will France and England do, and what will be the question that will arise between them?

#### THE UPHOLSTERY OF RELIGION.

LUSHINGTON has decreed, and the churches of St. BARNABAS and St. PAUL must be stripped of their ornaments. If LIDDELL neglect obedience to the decree, WESTERTON is to carry it out: he is to bear off the cloths that deck the altar in St. BARNABAS, to throw away the flowers, to put out the lights; and "the house of God" is to be the scene where, exulting, he will carry out that triumph over LIDDELL, and inflict pain and mortification on his brother worshippers.

On some points, indeed, the judgment failed to satisfy the protesters: the altar of St. PAUL, although highly carved, is not stone, and may stand; although very heavy and difficult to move, it can be moved, and so it does not break the law. This is bitterness to BEAL; but there is redemption in WESTERTON; so taken together they are victorious. "BELO si celebri!"—honour to BELUS, as well as to WESTERTON—for their worship is in the ascendant, their doctrine is accredited, their faith is admitted, their spirit prevails. Yet we are not sure that it is the better—that more of the life of Christianity lies in the breast of WESTERTON or flows from the lips of BEAL, than shines in the countenance of LIDDELL. Rather the reverse. There may be weaknesses in St. PAUL and St. BARNABAS, but they are not weaknesses that disturb our love. The nature may be frail that finds its piety flourish best amid flowers, or cherished best under the many coloured cloths of the altar; but what of that piety which rankles when the altar is arrayed in glory, which turns to bitterness at the sight of lilies of the valley, and is malevolent in the presence of the cross? Verily this is unchristian, barbarous, and altogether doubtful in its truth—doubtful whether it spring from above or rather below. If we were in tribulation, should we send for LIDDELL to comfort us, or WESTERTON? if we were dying should we ask our solace from BELUS, come he never so unadorned? Assuredly not: there is no such sustainment in WESTERTON, no salvation in BEAL: they can destroy, and pull down, and strip: they cannot build up or vivify.

It is an invasion—an oppression. The churches of St. BARNABAS and St. PAUL were established by Christians who cling to the flowers and to the colours of the creation, and do not feel their piety glow in a washhouse alone; and they arranged their fanes accordingly. Why meddle with them? If WESTERTON and BEAL cannot march under the ensign of the cross, visibly, let them file off to another church; there is the orthodox washhouse open at Brompton for WESTERTON, and BELUS

hath his fitting temple at hand. Why then conspire against St. PAUL and St. BARNABAS? Why, instead of carrying the cross among the heathen, malignantly turn back to pull it down among the faithful? Why appeal to the letter of the law, and set up a tyrant minority to disturb the majority at their devotions, and so kill the very spirit of Christianity?

As to the law, who can settle it? Not LUSHINGTON. *Unde derivata?* The Protestant ELIZABETH, the judge confesses, clung to cross and sacrifice; and was she not the "head of the Church?" She yielded to the remonstrances of her bishops; but BUTLER himself felt the cross to be available in concentrating his wandering thoughts. And does it not? Is there a Christian who can look upon the form of an upright beam crossed by another, whose memory is not touched? Alas for him, if there is! Can a man give a keepsake to his affianced, bequeath a lock of hair to his child, or feel his eyes glisten at reading that CHARLES ALBERT sent his worn-out, anxious heart back to his native land, and yet look coldly on that memorial? ELIZABETH and BUTLER were better Christians, we suspect, than WESTERTON or BEAL; although BUTLER wrote, and ELIZABETH issued an Order in Council forbidding the "disorder" of eating meat in Lent.

But perhaps the churchwardens are right. The Church "of England," according to these "wardens," is not the Church of Christendom, and it is well that the unsectarian faithful should not stray into it to be vexed by the discordant spirit of BELUS. It is not the Church of the people of England. It is only one of our sects—a sect with a monopoly of parish grounds and the privilege of levying rates from other sects. Let us know it for what it is. It is the fane of the spirit of BELUS, and the votaries worship at the wooden altar of WESTERTON. Christians, assuch, it excludes. Those whose thoughts sympathise with other Christians, or linger among the lilies of the valley, are to be shut out, or driven forth with intolerable bickerings. Be it so. When the people of this country know that the Parish temple is not open to them, but shuts them out with forms and brawls,—when they have perfectly caught the full spirit of the broad faith preached by ALBERT, Prince Consort, they will know that the Church "of England" at Pimlico, and some other places, is no more the Eternal Catholic Church than "the Champion of England" is all the flower of her manhood; and then they will erect fanes to admit all the children of God in this land of England, united not divided. Much doubt we whether BELUS will be the architect of that temple, or WESTERTON its keeper.

#### MUMMY WORSHIP.

A FEW of the sectional agitators among the working-classes are offering a new remedy for the abuses of the State. They are tired of progress, disgusted with reform. Self-government, in their sight, is a failure. Accordingly, instead of the franchise, the ballot, more complete control over Parliament, the extirpation of the aristocracy, they propose the restoration of Prerogative, and trace all our ills to the disuse of the Privy Council. This fantastic theory would scarcely deserve analysis were it not that some really useful men are led by it away from their proper avocation, which is that of keeping alive, in the working-classes, a sound political energy, and of aiding them in the work of self-organisation. With the best feeling towards all earnest friends of the industrious orders, we would point out the absurdity of the notions

that are now in some places paraded before the public mind.

The worst effect of such an agitation, supposing it successful to that extent, would be to produce a division of opinion in the unre-presented class—the class that is to come in, when peace restores its opportunity. This class has been taught, by its own studies, and by the counsels of its friends, to look for social elevation, and increased independence, to the possession an unfettered franchise. Whatever section takes up the new ideas is led away from this, which should be the invariable object of popular policy. Thus, new dissensions are introduced into the camp, and while the main body presses on to Reform, a division goes in search of Prerogative.

This idea, which would be too contemptible to notice, were not some of the working-classes still unenlightened, has its source in another, equally a fallacy—viz., that the one object of an Englishman, in his mortal state, is to fight Russia. War, among its other results, good and bad, has a tendency to derange the public mind. Disgust is a low form of despair, and the remedy proposed is the device of men who have abandoned their faith. With their constancy has gone the clearness of sight which enabled them in the midst of disappointments to keep their hope in view, and to struggle for their purpose, without scepticism as to the result. This courage has vanished from the recalcitrant body of the working classes, from the men who condemn their old programme, not because it had faults, but because it failed, and who now lay bare the foundations of English history and discover that to be a superficial antiquary is to be a politician. Shiremotives and privy-councils, the abolition of responsible government, and the arming of Prerogative: have the working-classes come to this?

They have not; but a few false friends, who have entered the service of a crazy zealot, would persuade them that their creed is extinct. Let us recal to them what has been their own position, during the successive epochs of English history, that they may judge whether the reorganisation of any dissolved power of the realm would be likely to improve it. It seems ridiculous to ask a working-man, at this hour of the day, whether he would choose to be what the working-man was in the age of Wittenagemotes, under the Saxon, Kentish, and Mercian kings; yet such are among contemporary phantasma; and it is not superfluous to remind the people that they were as cattle, sold and scourged, in those "good old times."

What was the value of the great councils and parliaments of our early history? Not that they governed the land wisely or humanely, but that they left room in their laws for the developments we now enjoy. The adherents of TYLER and CADE—whose histories have yet to be written—rose, not against suspicious acts on the part of a minister, but against bitter grievances. The grandeur of our foreign policy, after the fall of CHARLES the First, was not due to the vigour of any old institution or council, but to the revived vitality of the nation, and to the genius of a dictator, who could not now reign unless England had been insulted by being subjected to a *coup d'état*, and debased by being reconciled to it. To what subsequent period shall we be referred for examples of our national greatness and prosperity? What was the condition of the people under the Restoration—under the King of the Revolution, under the GEORGES? They were never free; they improved their position by slow degrees; several acts of public justice facilitated their progress to independence; the Reform bill

brought self government in sight; a sustained, and constant, and intelligent effort will place it in their hands.

A favourite fallacy with these persons is the break down of Chartism. Chartism did not succeed; it left the people exhausted; why combine again for similar objects?

Chartism was ruined by its leaders, who were ignorant, violent, and often selfish. It was a respectable cause disreputably supported, and the worst of the agitators were the most conspicuous, because they drowned the voices of calm and judicious men. The working-classes had contracted a fatal taste for declamatory speeches, and the most frothy of the ranters who mouthed from the platform were the most vociferously applauded. This was the sin of Chartism. Reckon up the objections of Whigs and Conservatives to the popular programme. You will find the most effective to consist of arguments deduced from the violence of working-class oratory. The sound and quiet men—there were many of them, but they were lost in the vapour—were never quoted by their opponents.

Some of the industrious classes have, to this day, a false conception of oratory. They imagine eloquence to consist in an interminable succession of phrases, poured forth loudly and vehemently; abounding in high-coloured expletives, daring, fierce, and gathering towards the close into a storm of rhapsody. We know, when they write about a Demosthenic speech, what they mean—it is an eruption, hot and furious, of magniloquent words.

In this matter there has been some reform lately; we observed, gladly, in St. Martin's Hall, that a speaker who described liberty as "gashed, trampled, mangled, bathed in the blood of armies, heaped about with human bones, dragged out and hung upon a scaffold," excited, not a cheer, but a laugh. It is well. Popular oratory must be improved; the people have not so much to reform in their principles as in their method of urging them.

Above all—no antiquarian pedantry, involving loss of time, middle-class satires, working-class dissensions.

When the war has ceased there will be a great field open to the working classes. The men who now stand aloof may arrive at power. At all events the basis of a reform agitation will have been enlarged. It would be interesting to explain how far the people of the various towns are keeping the future in view, and what organisations are in progress, with political objects independent of the war. The war is a great event, and men do well to study its complexities and its bearings; but Englishmen, when they have conquered Russia, have not finished their task.

#### FREAKS OF THE PENSION LIST.

A CASE of great hardship, which has been made public within the last few days, directs attention to certain anomalies in the granting of pensions—anomalies which throw a suspicion of injustice over what is designed in a spirit of generosity. Many of our readers will recollect the name of Mr. GUY, the author of several school works, on such subjects as geography, grammar, history, astronomy, &c.—books, it is true, of no great pretensions, neither exhibiting nor demanding any original or profound genius, but supplying a certain necessity in an able and industrious manner, and perhaps exercising a considerable influence on the minds of many thousands of our countrymen at the precise time when the brain is most capable of receiving and retaining impressions. The gentleman to whom we are indebted for these humble contributions to educational literature is at this moment in a condition of poverty, resulting from accu-

mulating years and adverse fortunes; and the Pension funds afford him no assistance. The story is a sad one. Mr. GUY petitioned Lord ABERDEEN, when Prime Minister; but—possibly because he was not able to write "Mac" before his name—he did not even receive the courtesy of an answer. He has subsequently written to Lord PALMERSTON, and has received a reply—though not of the nature he desired. The present Premier gives him no hopes, owing to the number of candidates for pensions, and the limited amount of the fund for meeting all demands. In the meanwhile, Mr. GUY is reduced to a condition the most painful. He is seventy-two years of age; and the small school which he has for some time kept at his residence, No. 2, Hollis-place, Camden New Town, is in danger of being broken up, on account of a distraint for rent which is threatened, and which will speedily be put in force if the money be not forthcoming. With a little pecuniary assistance, the few scholars might be held together.

Here is a case of indubitable hardship; and the questions which arise out of it are, whether the amount set apart for pensions ought to be limited, instead of adapting itself to the necessities that arise; and whether, granting that it must, in this wealthy land, be tied down to £1,200 additional for each year, it is expedient or just to apply a large part of it to the mere conferrance of honour? While Mr. GUY, at seventy-two years of age, stands in danger of starvation, Mr. TENNYSON—a man of independent property, with a constant in-pouring of money from his very successful writings, and with a Government income of £300 a-year for his poet-laureateship—is receiving £200 every twelvemonth from those very funds which are unable to find a penny for the sharp necessities of the humble literary drudge. When Mr. TENNYSON's pension was first granted to him, we believe there were reasons which no longer exist; and far would it be from us to quarrel with the continuance of that pension even as a mere mark of honour to a poet who has circled the iron progress of our age with a halo of divine aspirations, and the "haunting music" of harmonious utterance, if the conferrance of honour did not stand in the way of granting absolute relief in sore extremities. But look at the heaping up of "the sum of more" on the one hand, and the denial of the necessary mite on the other, and say whether the Pension List does not need reformation. Undoubtedly there are many now enjoying the nation's substantial gratitude who have unimpeachable titles to that enjoyment; but how many worthy claimants are there still beyond the pale! There is reason, however, for believing that Government looks upon the amount as absurdly insufficient.

Mr. GUY has been refused a pension, but we have no fear that he will not be effectually succoured; for, while we are getting up a subscription for one who is merely the god-daughter of Dr. JOHNSON, it would be strange if we neglected a worker, though a subaltern, in the field of letters. The well-to-do, this Christmas season, will, we are sure, shake some of their superfluous to him, "and show the heavens more just." But who will stir the sluggish waters of the Pension List, and show the greater justice of the Government and the nation?

STORM IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—The north of Scotland has been visited by a severe snow storm. It commenced on Wednesday week, and continued several days. The snow was lying to a considerable depth in the country, and some of the roads were nearly impassable. The wind being from the N.W., the shipping on the coast was not in danger; but a few losses have occurred.

#### THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

BY ARTHUR SCRATCHLEY, M.A.

THE various forms under which co-partnerships, or a number of persons associated together for the purposes of trade, commerce, or manufacture, the conduct of large undertakings, or the assurance of life and property, are now established, originated in that inventive genius and spirit of competition and enterprise which so eminently distinguish the British character.

Every step made in civilisation, every advance in our national and commercial importance, whether by an amelioration of the social condition of the people, or by the development of new principles in political economy, has, it would seem, tended to indicate the superior power and applicability of associative over individual capital, and energy, in all undertakings devoted either to a wide and perpetual sphere of action, or to an union of public with private advantage. The isolated energy of a single person, however gifted and persevering, and the limited extent of individual capital, appear to be unequal to the task of rearing and consolidating any scheme of magnitude.

With the increase of trade and commerce, and the consequent demand for greater facilities of transit and intercommunication, the legislature have, from time to time, been engaged in framing laws and regulations by which every species of enterprise sought to be promoted by individuals, by private or public partnerships, should be governed. The legislative functions have, however, been directed, as it might be expected, rather to a settlement of the rights and responsibilities of the co-partners, and of third parties (except where it was deemed necessary to restrain the authority in respect of the hours of labour of the employers over the employed), than to the processes of manufacture, or the economy of the institution to be matured in the undertaking to be completed.

The regulation, up to a recent period, of commercial or other concerns, conducted by the way of private partnerships consisting of whatever number of co-partners, was at the will of the partners left to be arranged by the provisions of deeds of co-partnership suggested by personal experience, and was, with very slight exceptions, unaffected by the Statute in Common Law. When, however, during the last quarter of a century there arose an intense anxiety for the formation of banks, the establishment of assurance, mining and commercial companies, the making of railways, the extension of inland navigation, the organisation of maritime companies, the development of steam and electric power, and not the least important of modern inventions, the manufacture of gas and its applications to public lights, culinary purposes, &c. &c., speculation became altogether uncontrollable, and necessitated the immediate interference of Parliament, so as to provide as far as possible for the pecuniary security of the thousands of adventurers embarking in rival schemes. It was thought necessary to reduce their constitution, management, and supervision, to a system which, if not effectual in the positive limitation of their expenditure, might afford to the public some knowledge of the persons and character of the promoters, and therefore act as a check on the misappropriation of the funds so largely placed at their disposal.

Confining our views to institutions, undertakings, and businesses established or carried out by a number of persons associated together as a corporation, such as the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, empowered by royal charter, or a company, such as an Assurance Company registered under the act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 110., being a quasi-corporation and having some of the privileges of a corporation; or a Joint-Stock Banking Company established under the acts 7 Geo. IV. c. 46, or 1 and 2 Vict. c. 96, or a Mining Company which may be said to be a pure partnership, established on the cost book principle; or a quasi-partnership, such as a Building Society, an Industrial Provident Society, or a Friendly Society—we will now proceed to enumerate the statutes or other legal authorities, by or under which they may be constituted, and also to explain so much of their peculiar features as may not be uninteresting in an introduction to the rules and regulations which are in the following pages suggested for the guidance of industrial partnerships. The legal import of a Joint-Stock Company may be best understood by first defining its attributes and its relation to a common partnership, and next by briefly considering the duties imposed on Joint Stock Companies and the regulations to which they have been subjected by late acts of Parliament, especially the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 110, passed for their public registration.

A Joint-Stock Company is an association trading or otherwise operating upon a joint-stock, or capital divided into transferable shares, each member participating in the common profit or loss in proportion to his shares in the joint-stock. Some qualification, however, must, from the non-limitation at law of the liability of the shareholders, be placed on in this supposed freedom from more than a proportion (per share) of loss. Because, though in equity, a share-



holder may, if his co-shareholders be responsible persons, recover contributions against them, yet as to third parties he is left, except in case of special contracts containing such proviso of limitation, wholly unprotected, and therefore liable to loss to the full extent of his means.

Joint-Stock Companies, established by charter, Act of Parliament, or registration under the statute differ, in several respects, from private partnerships. *First.* No partner in a private partnership, without the consent of the other members of the firm, can transfer his interest or share to another person, or introduce a new member into the partnership. Each member may, however, upon proper notice, withdraw from the firm, and, subject to the provisions of the Deed of Partnership, require payment from them of his share of the common stock or capital. In a Joint-Stock Company, on the contrary, no member can require payment of his share from the company, but each member can, without their consent, but subject in most cases to certain stipulations in the Deed of Settlement, transfer his share to another person, and thereby introduce a new member. The great distinction between a private partnership and a Joint-Stock Company, is indeed in respect of capital, however frequent and numerous be the transfers of the shares, the corpus, or actual amount of available capital, remains the same.

*Secondly.* Each partner in a private partnership is liable for the debts of the partnership to the whole extent of his property. In a Joint-Stock Company, however, each partner may, where the company is established by charter, or by Act of Parliament specially obtained, be bound only to the extent of his shares, unless there is a general and unlimited liability by the charter or Act of Parliament. But in cases where charter or special Act is obtained, the chief object of such form of constitution is with a view to a limitation of the liability of the members, in which essential point only a company so constituted differs from a company formed in pursuance of the Joint-Stock Registration Act.

*Lastly.* The business of a private partnership is managed generally by all the partners. The business of a Joint Stock-Company is usually conducted by a board or committee of directors, chosen periodically from the entire body of shareholders, but subject to the control of the general meetings, either ordinary or extraordinary—of the shareholders, the former assembling at fixed and particular times, the latter upon being specially convened as the exigencies of the company may require. The Bank of England and other Joint-Stock Banks, the East India Company, and the Corporation of the London Assurance, are examples of such Joint Stock-Companies. The laws affecting companies neither registered nor confirmed by charter, Letters Patent, or Act of Parliament, but only associated by mutual agreement or deeds of trust and arrangement, are usually the same as in common partnerships. In these associations each subscriber is a partner liable for all the debts and contracts of the concern. But the Articles of Partnership, or system of managing unincorporated companies are generally different from common partnerships. The capital, or partnership fund, is generally divided into distinctive shares of particular amounts, such as £5, £10, or £100, whereof each proprietor may hold one or more, but restricted to a *maximum* number; any partner can, under certain restrictions, transfer his shares, and the partnership is not affected by the death, insolvency, or retirement of individual proprietors. No proprietor or shareholder can, however, act personally in, or interfere with, the affairs of the company, except by his vote at ordinary or extraordinary meetings of the proprietors, held in pursuance of the provisions of the deed of settlement—the actual management being entrusted to directors, a committee, or to officers who represent the company, and for whom the whole of the shareholders are responsible.

A company may, by obtaining a charter, have the right to acquire lands by purchase and to invest its funds therein by way of mortgage; also to make by-laws, to have a common seal, to sue and to be sued in a corporate capacity, or in the name of a public officer and to exercise other privileges of a corporation. Sometimes a charter is obtained to provide a limitation of the risk or liability of the partners, or to exempt the company from the necessity of making any periodical returns of its business and financial condition to the Board of Trade, and if any exclusive privilege is denied which cannot be secured by a charter, an Act of Parliament will be absolutely necessary. Where a company enjoys some, but not all of the privileges of a corporation it is termed a quasi corporation.

If a company be incorporated, its powers franchises, and the rights and liabilities of individual members are proscribed by the Statute or Charter of incorporation. (To be continued.)

**FIRE AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—A fire broke out at the House of Commons on Sunday afternoon, and for some time it was feared it would spread; but it was fortunately confined to one of the flues, and at length extinguished.

## 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 SHALL WE GAIN BY THE WAR?

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I am far from imputing utter want of feeling to those who compose what I term the cold-blooded section of the War Party. But I do maintain that they are not truly alive to those very miseries of war which they affect so much to deplore. What they propose to gain by the war is comparatively worthless. It will not be value received. I say, therefore, they do not realise the miseries of war, for the object they have in view is poor, barren, and uncertain. The play is not worth the expense of the foot-lights. Now, a bloody and destructive war for inadequate purposes is a monstrous folly; it is worse, it is a crime. Therefore, I fear that the cold-blooded belligerents have deliberately put of sight the wretchedness of war, and when they allude to it in words, have not really pondered over it in their hearts. For what is their policy? What do they propose to do? Simply to continue to pound away at the armies, and the strong places of Russia—destroy her sea-ports—lay waste her frontiers—capture what remains of her shipping—invade and, if possible, conquer and occupy outlying portions of her territory. "Damage and devastate Russia so far as we can do so without much risk to ourselves." This is the advice of the French paper *Le Constitutionnel*. "Kill as many Russians as possible." This is the course suggested by *Le Pays*. In the Cambridge Essays there is a very clever paper on the "Future Prospects of the British Navy." The writer evidently thinks we have been, as Sir Charles Napier suggests, "too mealy-mouthed" with the Russians, and that we can scarcely be savage enough towards the inoffensive subjects of the power with whom we are at war. "A citizen who has seen warehouses and dwellings in a blaze, who has heard the shell crashing through the black ruins, who has seen at his own door the ghastly forms of wounded men, who has shuddered at the cold features of the dead—is sure to be a member of the peace party—people do not like being killed and wounded and losing all their property."

The italics are our own. The idea is that by murderous ferocity we may so terrify the "citizens" as to drive them to beg, or coerce their rulers into making peace on any terms. No limit can be assigned to this policy. It would justify the most atrocious cruelties. It is the very essence of the sort of war waged by Cromwell on the one hand, and Claverhouse on the other, and by barbarians at all times. Yet I fear that it is a policy popular in many quarters. For we ourselves happen at present to be safe against similar outrages, and when this is so, we are apt to sacrifice a principle for the sake of temporary expediency, forgetting that expediency is but for a moment, whilst principle is for ever. We are then to continue to slaughter Russians, and to devastate Russia. How long? One M.P. not long since gave an answer—"Until Russia comes on her knees to beg for peace." And what then? What will happen when this very doubtful genuflection of Russia takes place? Who will be master of the situation? Who will profit by all the hideous waste and confusion and wide spread anguish of war? I answer confidently, that it will be either the despotic powers of Germany, or the despotic Emperor of France. This phase of the question I shall examine when I come to treat of the more generous advocates of the war. Now I am dealing with quite another set of men. They desire to bring Russia on her knees. Can they keep her there? Will that be a durable peace which leaves her in a state of half-and-half prostration? Complete prostration is almost impossible in the case of sixty millions of people, brave, patient, and devoted to their fatherland. But, suppose Russia partially prostrated, would such a peace be durable? Would not the war be renewed at the first opportunity? And would not that opportunity surely come, either sooner or later? But, suppose it durable, who will benefit? I repeat, the despotic powers of Germany, or the despotic Emperor of France. What care the cold-blooded advocates of war for the nationalities? Not much, I think.

"Will they weep if a Poland fall?  
Will they shrink if a Hungary fall?  
Or an infant civilisation  
Be governed by rod or by knout?"

Not at all, if I mistake not. Consult the *Times* newspaper. That journal pretty well reflects the feelings of the cold-blooded section of the War Party. Consult the *Times* newspaper, and then determine whether there is any hope for the nationalities in the section of the War Party whose opinions are reflected in its columns. Put the nationalities then on the shelf

Pound away at Russia, and do her all the damage you can. It may lead to something—who knows? Now we will, for argument's sake, admit that the slaughter of Russians, whether soldiers or citizens, is a noble and praiseworthy object. Also that the waste and ruin of Russian property is highly to be desired, and a pleasing and wholesome occupation in the sight of God and man. Let us admit all this. But, remember we cannot do the work without loss to ourselves, and especially without loss to the great mass of our population who are in a low and suffering state.

We punish Russia, but we punish England as well. Nay, it is to be feared that the wounds we shall inflict on a comparatively young and hardy country like Russia, with huge internal resources, will heal more rapidly than those inflicted on our own complicated system with all its sensitive and fluctuating interests. However, be it so, that England suffers far less than Russia. Yet she suffers. And for what? The original objects of the war are in our grasp. We repudiate the notion of nationalities. We want, it is said, to bring Russia on her knees. If we mean this, we mean not merely castigation and restriction. We mean war to the knife,—never ending—still beginning,—exhausting all those nations immediately engaged in the struggle, and permanently benefiting only those who carefully hold aloof.

In my next I hope to address myself to the more ardent section of the War Party.

I am sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR H. ELTON.

### THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, RED LION SQUARE.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I fancy, even at the present moment, I cannot be very much out of place in embracing your courteous offer, made in "Open Council," that I may have an opportunity of saying a few words in reference to the Working Men's College. Towards the close of the year 1854, a number of gentlemen, including a few of the more intellectually advanced working men, who had gained some experience in the labour movements of the day, and having made themselves thoroughly acquainted with the condition and prospects of the toiling masses, asked themselves questions somewhat like the following,—“While every class, save the great working class, has its ‘preparatory schools,’ its ‘grammar schools,’ its ‘universities,’ with every aid to study, every appliance that can render the path of knowledge less rugged, is it right that they, who by their labour and industry had made our country what it is—that they should have no recognised institution to do justice to their merits and their wants? Can we, as men living in the same world, helping to fight the same world-battle, rejoicing in the same victory, permit such a state of things to continue? No. Then how remedy the defect? Dr. Birkbeck's system has failed, signally and most completely. Mechanics' institutions are not sufficient—they are too restricted both in structure and effect. We must establish something that will open up a wider range of instruction. We will not teach them merely to look learned, or cram them with book-learning, without teaching them how to use what they obtain, or without showing them, as well as we are able, things as they are. *Law and politics* must take high rank, history and its concomitants must follow; to which must be added, all that is taught in the colleges in Oxford and Cambridge—in short, we must establish a working men's college.” They have done so. It has been most completely successful. Each term has shown a progressive increase of students, and of subjects to study. There are at present 250 names upon the books, being an advance of 50 over any preceding term, the classes preponderating being French and drawing. They have coffee-rooms, with the daily and weekly newspapers; a library, with 1,400 choice volumes; large class-rooms, and the best teachers they can possibly procure. There are 30 classes; the entrance fee is 2s. 6d.; and the class-fee is 2s. 6d. each term. Mr. John Ruskin personally directs the drawing class, assisted by Mr. Rosetti and Mr. Dickenson. History, politics, and English poetry are taught by the Rev. Mr. Maurice, the principal; Mr. Brewer, of King's College, teaches English history. Every master thoroughly understands what he pretends to teach.

The clergymen and gentlemen who have established this institution have done so from a strong sense of duty—being neither terrified nor disgusted by fustian or any other dress a working man may think fit to wear. The success or failure of a "working man's college" is a very important fact, and one which will materially influence most practical educational movements. One college may not do everything, but it may do very much—if nothing else, it may demonstrate how such colleges may be created, how conducted, how made successful. If it prove nothing save the soundness of the principle upon which they work—i. e., the right of colleges upon working men—it will have incurred the gratitude of toiling thousands.

Yours very faithfully,

WILLIAM B. COOPER.

## 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*.

WHICH is the cheapest newspaper in the world? Bold as it may seem to answer such a question without a warehouse of newspapers carefully sorted, by way of evidence, we think *a priori* the distinction may be awarded to the *Volks-Zeitung*, published at Berlin. This *organ für Jedermann aus dem Volke* is a daily paper which costs about three-halfpence a week! It is a very decent looking journal too, quite equal in appearance to most other German papers, well printed on a quarto sheet, with occasional supplements of an extra sheet. It contains a leading article, the telegraphic despatches the Berlin news, with brief accounts of what is stirring in London, Paris, Switzerland, and America, and the "Markets." Generally it contains an article of popular science. Cheap as this paper is, it is not inferior to the mass of German papers; to many it is superior.

That such a paper could be established in so small a town as Berlin, and be made to pay the proprietors, may give our speculators matter for thought. Three-halfpence a week for a daily paper!

VICTOR COUSIN has resumed his sketches of celebrated Frenchwomen during the 17th century. To Madame de LONGUEVILLE and Madame de SABLE he now proposes to add La Duchesse De CHEVREUSE and Madame de HAUTEFORT. In the last number of *La Revue des Deux Mondes* appears the first part of his animated story of the life and adventures of Madame de CHEVREUSE, to which all lovers of anecdotal history and all lovers of romance are recommended. That queer kind of compliment, so often passed on a history, "It reads like a novel," may assuredly be passed on this chapter of the history of France. We should be glad if novels always read like it.

In the same number of the *Revue* there is an article on KINGSLEY'S "Westward Ho!" by M. EMILE MONTEGUT, who watches our literature with a careful eye, and keeps his countrymen informed on whatever is likely to interest them. GUSTAVE PLANCHE takes a retrospect of the year's productions at the *Théâtre Français*, in his accustomed style of trenchant self-sufficiency. PLANCHE is certainly one of those whom GRESSET call *les vétérans de la fatuité*—one of those

"Qui décide, qui fronde  
Parle bien de lui-même, et mal de tout le monde."

He has an adroit way of paying himself a compliment in every other sentence. His slightest opinion is *une affirmation*; and he is careful to tell you that *tous les esprits délicats* will at once see the justice of what he is about to say. It is only in France such a writer could be tolerated. In France they secretly respect such colossal confidence, such absolute decision. They are not themselves given to pedantry; but, however they may laugh at it, they have a certain awe of what MOLIERE so finely calls—

"Tout le savoir obscur de la pédanterie."

(*Savoir obscur* is very happy.) Hence they have not dared to "put down" GUSTAVE PLANCHE, who for a quarter of a century has been flourishing the pedagogic ferule as if it were a sceptre.

GOLDSMITH has been a fortune to our painters. They cannot leave him alone. Every year the walls of the Academy show us a scene from the "Vicar of Wakefield," or an episode in GOLDY'S own life. Mr. BIRKET FOSTER has this Christmas taken up the "Traveller," determined on making it a gem among the gift-books. He has profusely illustrated the poem in his happiest manner; and the publishers have done their part with the "getting up." We are not sure that they have not overdone their part. The book seems to us even too splendid: on the drawing-room table it will lie an ornament which our fingers scarcely dare approach ungloved, for fear of soiling its gilding. However, when once that qualm of conscience is allayed, and the volume lies open, the visitor will not shut it until he has looked through all Mr. BIRKET FOSTER'S illustrations.

## THE DECORATIVE ARTS.

*Handbook of the Arts of the Middle Ages, and Renaissance, as applied to the Decoration of Furniture, Arms, Jewels, &c.* From the French of M. Jules Labarte.

John Murray

M. LABARTE has brought a fine taste and extensive learning to the illustration of a neglected subject. His work, though originally intended only as the introduction to a catalogue, has long been known and prized by artists and antiquaries throughout Europe. The translator, therefore, has performed a very useful task, especially as he has procured for this edition the original woodcuts, in the possession of M. Labarte. The delineations of antique enamels, embossed goblets, Moorish arabesques, Saracen swords, and Etrurian vases had been executed too lovingly to be repeated to perfection by a copyist. It is seldom that, in books of this character, we find the text to correspond, in clearness and elaboration, with the engravings; but M. Labarte's manual is virtually the mediæval history of ornamental sculpture, painting, metal-work, and pottery—the history, indeed, of refined luxury. The illustrations are remarkably varied, representing every form of ecclesiastical furniture, of arms and armour, of crowns, thrones, and jewels, of cameos, goblets, vases, urns, and ewers—even clocks and saddles. Thus has art, in the age of its highest development, passed from sacred and palatial architecture and monumental sculpture and painting into the recesses of social

life, and made Pictures of tables spread for social use. The Greek water-jar, over which we hang a veil of glass, stood in the Athenian's courtyard; it was worthy to stand by his wine-goblet or his funeral urn. In our own days a Revival is promised. The artist is employed by the manufacturer. M. Labarte's work appears opportunely to promote this *Renaissance*. It is rich in examples of exquisite design, in suggestions and practical explanations—of high interest to the student, and of obvious value to the designer.

The first part is occupied by the history of ornamental sculpture during the Mediæval and Renaissance periods. The works of the Gothic and Lombard kings, the carved thrones and chairs of wood and ivory, the reliefs on church walls, the diptychs of the consuls—appropriated by the priests—the portable altar-pieces and sacred vessels wrought upon the surface into pictures—displayed the transition from a Pagan to a Christian form. Albert Durer, Nicolas and John of Pisa, Agostino, Agnolo, Orgagna, Donatello, and Ghiberti are the great names of the Revival, as it influenced carving and decorative sculpture. Some of their works had all the breadth and grandeur of monumental art; others were marvels of minute elaboration. In Germany and France carvings were produced which contained within the space of an inch twenty figures, admirable in attitude and expression. In another form this ingenuity was carried so far, that a specimen of Mediæval painting exists, in which a bird, drawn on the corner of a leaf, is so small that it can only be seen thoroughly through a microscope, yet so perfect, that the eye is full of life and observation. The Renaissance fostered a style of picturesque decoration, covering walls, balustrades, furniture, and festal services with traceries, scrolls, arabesques, flowers, and fruit.

M. Labarte describes successively the progress of decorative painting—on walls, windows, manuscripts—in embroidery and in mosaic. It was a daring impulse that excited the mosaic artist to rival the painter in oil—to produce cartoons instead of pavements, by means of bits of marble, or glass, endlessly diversified colours. The Greeks introduced into their mosaics many new processes, and added an effect of astonishing brilliance by laying the cubes of glass on a ground of gold and silver. In the sixteenth century this singular art, encouraged by the Venetian Senate, and by Titian, who gloried in all colour, continued to flourish; but painting, under the influence of the great masters, became incomparable, and mosaic, for a time, disappeared:—

In restricting mosaic to the imitation of painting, the artists were obliged to improve its mechanical processes; instead of the little stones and the cubes of glass of which it had been formerly composed, they now employed coloured enamels, reduced to strips of various forms and sizes, the different shades of which have been estimated at ten thousand. By means of these enamels they were able to produce every colour, to emulate every half tint, and to represent every transition and degradation of tone. Possessed of such powerful resources, mosaic, towards the end of the XVIIIth century, was wonderfully restored to favour, and brought to great perfection. It was then employed to render an important service to art in the reproduction, in more durable materials, of the masterpieces of the great painters. The popes, by causing the finest paintings of the Vatican to be copied in mosaic for the church of St. Peter, have secured their immortality.\* In works of small size, mosaic has succeeded in treating with inconceivable minuteness, landscapes, buildings, and even portraits, and is enabled to render with the truth of painting, skies, water, foliage, and even the lightness of the hair of animals.

M. Labarte's chapters on Damascene work, and on enamel, abound in curious detail. There were two kinds of Damascene work—the incrustation of one metal on another, and the inlay of a brighter in a dull metal. Of enamels there were three descriptions—the painted, the translucent, and the incrustated:—

Towards the middle of the XVth century, painting in enamel had made great progress, and with the specimens before us we are enabled to explain the processes employed in making them. On an unpolished plate of copper, the enameller traced with a style the outline of the figure or subject to be represented. The plate was then overlaid with a thin translucent flux, after which the enameller began to apply his colours. The outlines of the drawing traced by the style were first covered over with a dark-coloured enamel, which was to give the outline upon the surface of the picture; the draperies, the sky, the back-grounds and accessories, were then expressed by enamel colours in tolerably thick layers, filling up the interstices formed by the dark-coloured outline which enclosed the different enamel colours, performing as it were the same office as the lines of metal in the process of incrustated enamels. There was therefore a total absence of shadow in this painting, in which the first design was expressed by thickness of colours. The space for the flesh tints was filled with a black or deep violet enamel; they were then rendered upon this ground by white enamel applied in layers more or less thin, in order to preserve the shadows, and thereby obtain a sketch very lightly in relief, of the principal bony and muscular parts of the face and the body; consequently, all the carnations in this process have a bistre or violet hue by which they may easily be recognised.

In order to produce effect in the rest of the painting in which the shadows were entirely wanting, the light parts of the hair, of the draperies and back-ground, were, most frequently, indicated by touches of gold. The imitations of precious stones applied upon the mantles of the saints and upon the draperies, are peculiar to this description of enamels, which are generally painted upon flat plates of copper, rather thick, and coated with a thick enamel at the back, presenting a vitreous appearance.

A taste was prevalent during the Middle Ages for the works, original and imitated, of ancient lapidaries—vases of rock crystal, drinking vessels of agate, cups of sardonyx and lapis-lazuli, richly mounted and engraved. M. Labarte describes, also, the wonderful progress of the goldsmith's craft—perfected in Italy, and degraded in France. Perhaps, however, the most interesting portion of his summary is devoted to the Ceramic art—to Greek and Etruscan pottery, to the varnished and enamelled wares of Spain and Italy—the jars of the Alhambra, the painted majolica of Florence, Faenza, and Urbino—the works of Palissy and his pupils, and the Flemish and German schools. The history of ornamental glass, starting from the imitation of onyx-cameo in the Portland vase, is traced through the period of the Lower Empire to the establishment of the Venetian manufactories. In the golden book of Murano nine names of glass-makers appear. This

\* Ghirlandaio used to say that mosaic was the only painting for eternity.—*Vasari Life of Ghirlandaio*.



class of artists was exalted by the praise of poets, favoured by protective laws, encouraged by accumulations of wealth.

After describing the armoury, the ecclesiastical and domestic furniture of the Middle Ages and of the Renaissance, M. Labarte devotes a chapter to Oriental decorative art. It is surprising to find, among the Chinese, so much delicacy of taste in carvings, mouldings, and painting. Were it not for the perpetual introduction of whimsical figures, their works in pottery and in the precious metals would rank with some in the best period of Italian art. The vase of pink agalmatolite, exquisitely wrought in imitation of a tulip branch, the cups of chased silver, the lacquered cabinets, and vessels in bronze, represented in M. Labarte's illustrations, are proofs of a fine taste and rare artistic manipulation.

M. Labarte's work is of a standard character, and is, in all respects, a valuable addition to the library of art. Such a book was needed in England, the English language containing none on the subject. It completes the history of Mediæval and Renaissance Art.

#### MADAME PFEIFFER'S SECOND JOURNEY.

*A Lady's Second Journey Round the World.* By Ida Pfeiffer. 2 vols.

Longman and Co.

Few things would have more astonished the encyclopædia mind of Aristotle, than the fact that a woman "unfriended, alone," had made the tour of the globe. That the world was a globe, would have not been readily admitted by him; but his scientific mind could be brought to that conclusion long before it could be disposed to receive with any patience the wild fiction of a woman having actually travelled round it. To achieve this feat a second time was of course little. The first step was the difficulty. However, Madame Pfeiffer has taken the first and the second. Twice has she traversed the perils and adventures of such a prodigious route; and she returns to us uneaten? Nay so little have "the anthropophagi and men, whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders," been disposed to eat her, "adding the cool malignity of mustard," as Charles Lamb says,—they have treated her with exemplary kindness. "It is terrible to be weighed out at five pence the pound"—when purchasers are epicures without trowsers, and pay no church-rates. It is terrible also to be thrown among "uncivilised persons" who have little regard to "proprieties." Nevertheless Madame Pfeiffer's experience does not speak so favourably for the influence of Christianity and civilisation in these matters:—

I found the ship in a great bustle, for her freight consisted of a transport of troops;—120 soldiers, 46 women, and about a dozen of children. Among the soldiers were thirty Europeans, but the remainder, as well as the women, were all natives of Java, and I am sorry to have to add, that there was much more to object to in the behaviour of the Europeans than in that of their more uncivilised brethren. I thanked God that I had no daughter or young girl with me, for I should have had to keep her locked up in her cabin. Among the half-naked Dyak savages I never saw anything that need have offended a really innocent and modest woman; but sorrowfully I must declare, that as far as I have seen the Christians of these countries, whether they call themselves Catholic or Protestant, they are far more immoral in their conduct than the Mahomedans and heathens.

Risks must be run, of course; but danger meets us at every corner (especially the corner) of our streets. In Europe there is the risk of being run over—and the certainty of taxes. Both are unknown to the undressed heathen, poor wretch!

Danger, or no danger, Madame Pfeiffer has once more run all risks, once more scampered round the globe, and here in two volumes tells us the story. She came first to London, from thence passed to the Cape, to Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Ceram, the Moluccas, California, Panama, Peru, and the United States. Enough here for twenty volumes, if the expansive tendency of travellers were allowed full scope. But Madame Pfeiffer does not seem to care much about that mystery of book-making. Her narrative is plain, straightforward, not very interesting, not very remarkable in any way, not likely to be remembered after "the season." Those who devour books of travel will devour this—and never recur to it. She has a clear eye, sees what is before her, is not addicted to exaggeration, abhors fine writing, and never attempts wit or picturesque descriptions. We have a sort of test of her powers when she describes London. We, who never were in Borneo and Sumatra, but know our London, can judge, from her account of what we know, the sort of veracity which may be found in descriptions of what we do not know. According to this standard she is accurate, though superficial. No foreigner's blunders, no foreigner's prejudices, distort her descriptions of London. Even when she criticises, we can't say she is wrong. Thus:—

This same English comfort, indeed, of which we hear so much, must be understood, it seems to me, with considerable qualifications, or must depend much on previous habits of life. I, for instance, do not find it comfortable to be almost always shivering when I am at home; and no where else have I suffered this inconvenience so frequently as in England. These open fires do, indeed, warm the fortunate person who sits immediately next to them, and who has nothing else to do than to warm himself; but not the unlucky wight who may happen to be engaged writing or sewing on the other side of the room, and pen or needle will soon fall from his or her shivering fingers.

Now, in a country that has to contend with cold eight months out of the twelve, I do not consider this a particularly comfortable arrangement; but the English are so immoderately fond of the sight of a fire, that rather than not see it they will often patiently endure the not feeling it.

Again, as every family, even in the most narrow circumstances, will generally insist on having a house to itself, the houses are of very narrow frontage, and the occupants of them have to pass a considerable part of their lives in going up and down stairs.

Again:—

It is probably on account of these difficulties and expenses that you find in English houses so little of that pleasant easy sociability to which we more southern people are so accustomed. There are dinners and evening parties in abundance, but people do not come together in an unconstrained, agreeable manner. The life of the women of the middle rank seemed to me particularly monotonous. They are mostly alone all day, and when their husbands return in the evening from their business, they are generally too tired for conversation, and do not

much like to be disturbed by visitors; but sit down in an arm-chair by the fire, take a newspaper, and now and then, I believe, fall asleep.

The Sunday, which in other countries, though regarded as much as here as a day of prayer and religious worship, is also considered as a suitable one for innocent recreation, is in England so very often made dull and wearisome that the liveliest Southlander sinks under its weight. In many of the regular old-fashioned English families the very children are not allowed to amuse themselves with their balls and playthings; a cold dinner is taken that the cook may have time to go to church morning and afternoon; several hours each time are spent in the long English service; and no book but one on an expressly religious subject must be looked into during the whole day.

She is struck by our snobbishness—our servile interest in the Court and its doings—and by our aristocratic spirit in Church. But who denies these charges?

Let us borrow an extract or two from her volumes, without staying to comment. Here is a glimpse of

#### POLITE SOCIETY IN BORNEO.

On the same day I paid a visit to another tribe further on, and found little difference from what I had observed among the first, except that I had the pleasure here of seeing a pair of handsome war trophies in two freshly cut off human heads.

These trophies had not indeed been wanting among the other tribe, but they had been dried, and made into mere skulls. These, on the contrary, had only been taken a few days before, and had a horrible appearance. They were blackened by smoke, the flesh only half dried, the skin unconsumed, lips and ears shrivelled together, the former standing wide apart, so as to display the teeth in all their hideousness. The heads were still covered with hair; and one had even the eyes open, though drawn far back into their sockets. The Dyaks took these heads out of the baskets in which they were hanging, in order to exhibit them to me with great complacency. It was a sight that I shall not easily forget!

As they took these heads in their hands to show them to me, they spat in the dead faces; and the boys struck them and spat on the ground, while their usually quiet and peaceful physiognomies assumed an extremely savage expression. I shuddered, but could not help asking myself whether, after all, we Europeans are not really just as bad or worse than these despised savages? Is not every page of our history filled with horrid deeds of treachery and murder?

In some books of travels I have read that the Dyaks are in the habit of laying human heads at the feet of the objects of their affections, by way of love token; but the Dutch traveller, Temmink, contradicts this, and I believe he is right, for human heads are not always so easy to get. A young gentleman who might wish to pay his lady-love so pretty a compliment, would often be greatly perplexed how to come by one, as a head is what an enemy cannot in general be very readily induced to part with.

I rather think this unpleasant custom of head-hunting originates in some kind of superstition; for when, for instance, a rajah falls sick, or goes on a journey, it is common for him to vow a head to his tribe in case of recovery or of safe return. Should he die, one or two heads are usually offered by the tribe as a kind of sacrifice; and in the same manner, when a treaty of peace is concluded between two tribes, a man is sometimes given up on each side to be beheaded, though it is rather more customary to make a pig answer the purpose.

When a head has once been vowed, it has to be procured at any sacrifice, and the Dyaks then go and lie in wait for an opportunity to get one. They hide themselves in the jungle grass, which is from three to six feet high, or among trees, or leafy branches that have been cut off, and lie watching for their victim; and then the first human creature that approaches, man, woman, or child, is sacrificed. They first shoot a poisoned arrow from their ambush, and then spring like tigers upon their prey. With a single blow they separate the head from the body, cutting it off quite close and smooth, with a dexterity that shows considerable practice; they then carefully conceal the body, and put the head into a basket kept expressly for this purpose, and decorated with human hair. A murder of this kind always occasions a war; for the tribe, a member of which has been thus killed, immediately takes the field, and does not rest until it has obtained one or two heads as damages; and these are then brought home in triumph, with dances and songs, and solemnly placed among other treasures of the same kind. The rejoicings and feasting that follow last a whole month.

The Dyaks are so very fond of heads that when, as sometimes happens, they undertake a feud or a piratical expedition, in company with the Malays, they only stipulate for these fancy articles as their share of the booty, and willingly resign all the rest to their more covetous allies.

Very pleasant people to live with!

The writer on "Woman," in the last *Westminster Review*, will be glad to hear what Madame Pfeiffer reports of the laws in Sumatra:—

One remarkable peculiarity of the Agamer district is, that the women possess many of what we are accustomed to consider the rights of the stronger sex, indeed, that the men often have to play the subordinate part, which would seem odd in any country in the world, but is more especially so in a Mahomedan one, where they will not allow us poor feminine creatures so much as a soul.

When, for example, a girl has reached a marriageable age, her mother begins to look out for a suitable bridegroom for her, and, when she has found one, goes and opens the negotiation with the gentleman's mother. The papas have no voice whatever in the matter, but the two ladies settle it entirely between themselves. When the day comes for the wedding, the mother of the bride goes and fetches the bridegroom, who then takes up his abode in the house of his wife's parents, and becomes a member of her family. This does not, indeed, form any obstacle to his marrying another wife, only it must not be in the same camp; and a man who is the happy possessor of several wives has no settled home at all, but lives now in one camp, now in another.

A man never refuses to take the bride offered to him; but he can, if he pleases, leave her the next day, and this is a right the bride does not possess; she can only make her objections before marriage, and, even in this case, if the bargain has been completed, she must purchase her release with a part of her moveable goods, cattle, poultry, household utensils, or money.

A man can also divorce his wife at any subsequent period, without any other cause than his good pleasure, but a woman her husband only on proof of ill-treatment. Should the married pair repent of their separation, they may lawfully come together again without further ceremony, within the space of forty days; but after that time they must be married again by the priest. A divorced wife can marry again in three months and ten days.\*

\* These laws concerning marriages, divorces, and re-unions, are the same among all the Malays.

When a wife dies the husband inherits only half of the goods belonging to her—except what she has expressly left him as a legacy; her children are her heirs and, if she has none, the children of her sister or other female relative. The man can inherit from his own race only in the female line,—from his mother or his female relatives; and his property goes not to his own children, but the children of his sister or nearest female relation.

The old Roman laws of creditor and debtor come into our minds as we read the following:—

There exists at Borneo, as I have already said, a class of slaves, partly prisoners taken in war, and partly debtors who have not been able to meet the claims on them at the appointed time, and have fallen consequently into the power of the creditor, as a forfeited pledge. In accordance with this barbarous law, the debtor must serve his creditor as a slave until the debt is liquidated; and should he die before that time, his wife, his son, his daughter, or the nearest of his other relatives, has to take his place. Whoever does not pay his taxes to the sultan for three years, becomes his slave.

We might multiply extracts; but these will suffice to indicate the sort of interest belonging to the work.

#### GILBERT MASSENGER.

*Gilbert Messenger.* By Holme Lee.

Smith, Elder, and Co

THIS book has not quite satisfied us. It does not exhibit any advance in skilfulness of literary treatment on the author's former work; and its subject is not so well chosen as the subject of "Thorney Hall." There is a favourite topic in recent English fiction which has become worn out by too much use, and there is also a favourite *personne*, of whom we have lately seen rather more than is entirely agreeable. The topic is the nobleness of sacrificing affection to a sense of duty; the character is a puritanically pious old maid. Any novel readers who will exercise their memories will, we believe, bear us out in the assertion, that a very large proportion of recent stories set forth the subject and contain the character, to the incessant reiteration of both of which we have objected. Holme Lee has, we are sorry to say, fallen this time into the error of working with worn-out materials. "Gilbert Messenger" sacrifices his love to his imperative sense of the duty of remaining single, as member of a family afflicted with hereditary insanity; and "Gilbert Messenger's" aunt is that same grim, lean, stiff, conscientious elderly female Protestant, against whose reappearance, in novel after novel, we strongly protest. The character of "Gilbert" is sustained equally and skilfully, but there is something in his dogged endurance and churlish self-restraint which may be true to nature, but which it is not agreeable to read. He gets more gracefully resigned and more gently religious as the story ends, but he is never a loveable character. His pious maiden-aunt can only, we imagine, be favourably appreciated by Calvinist readers; and his lady-love, though very sweetly and tenderly conceived, is not made sufficiently striking to contrast successfully with the dreary hero and the grim aunt. Some of the minor characters are much more successful than the principal personages of the book in exciting our interest, perhaps because they are generally associated with the more tender and winning passages of the story. Of one of these passages we will give an extract, by way of exhibiting "Gilbert Messenger" in his most interesting aspect to our readers:—

#### A CONFESSION OF LOVE.

At last the parting came—deferred certainly until the last moment; but when the clock was on the stroke of eleven, he was ashamed to linger longer, and rose to go. His kind friend shook him heartily by the hand, wishing him every success. Gilbert then turned to Ellen, who stood near him with a rather pale little face: the separation was for an eternity of three months, remember, and their mutual love was unconfessed.

"Come out into the garden, Helen, there is a lovely moon," whispered he; and somehow he got her little hand in his close, warm clasp, and drew her out of the room, while her Uncle William cried, "Messenger, don't be mad: it is a bitter frost;" then added to himself, when they were beyond hearing, "Youth will have its day."

It was indeed a cold, sharp night; but neither felt it.

"Helen, you know I love you—I cannot go without speaking," said Gilbert, quickly:—"give me a promise that you will be mine when I dare to claim you." A cold gust of wind carried Helen's answer out of everybody's hearing, save his; but it caused him to lift her in his arms, strain her to his heart, and call her his "Sweet life—his joy—his hope—his darling."

"Put your hand in mine, Helen; let me hear you say you trust me—you love me."

"I do, Gilbert—I trust you entirely;" and the frank eyes, glistening with tears, lifted themselves to his face.

"You love me?"

"Yes."

Another frantic strain to his heart, a long kiss—the first, the last—and he was gone.

Helen stood under the porch for a few seconds, and then went in. Her tell-tale eyes saved her explanation with her uncle: he understood what had passed. "Wait patiently, my pet; he will make you happy: I have seen it in his face all along. Brother Tom's warning has come true: I shall go on my travels again."

"No, uncle, you won't; you will have two people to love you instead of one, and you always say Gilbert suits you."

"Little one, Uncle William is content if his precious jewel is happy." He held out his arms to her, and she crept into them as she had done when a child; he kept her fast a long while, for she had suffered the few tears to grow to a shower, and he would have them shed nowhere else than on his breast. When she was calm again, he kissed her fondly, and bade her go dream and be happy.

"After all," was his reflection when she was gone, "it is hard to train up a nice warm-hearted thing to be the comfort of your life, and just when you have learnt that you can't do without her, to find some audacious person putting in a claim for what he has not a shadow of right to. Well, I suppose I must submit."

We write briefly of this book because we cannot write favourably of it. But, in what little we have said, it must be understood that we have judged the authoress (for we still persist in believing Holme Lee to be a lady) by an uncommon standard. Compared with ordinary novels, "Gilbert Messenger," faulty as it is, gains immensely. It is the work of a person who can think and who can write, and of whose future advance in her art we still entertain good hope. If we might venture on a guess, we should be inclined to say that the defects of this novel are mainly the result of a want

of sufficient variety in the authoress's life. We are inclined to suspect that she lives too much in the same place, mixes too constantly with the same people, holds too tenaciously always to the same intellectual habits. Her book comes too much from the world within her (as it seems to us), and too little from the world without. To observe among new scenes, and to study among new people, are very important ingredients in the materials which go towards the making up of a genuinely successful writer of fiction.

#### ARRIVABENE'S ITALIAN POETS.

*Selections from the Italian Poets, forming an Historical View of the Development of Italian Poetry from the Earliest Time to the Present.* With Biographical Notices. By Charles Arrivabene. Rolandi.

SIGNOR ARRIVABENE is an exile, and has soothed the weariness of exile by the composition of this work, which records the glory of his country—the splendour of Italian poetry. While the Austrian and French uniforms insult the eye of every Italian and every lover of Italy, it is well to remind men constantly of what a nation the Italian is—of what a noble part it has played in European culture and progress; and Signor Arrivabene has been more truly patriotic in the composition of this book than if he had written thousands of wild manifestoes, the only result of which would have been to make oppression more wakeful and more galling. Very much do we admire the tone of these notices, and the preliminary discourse: the ardent Liberalism of the writer is rather felt than seen; it does not flame out into invective—it is the steady light of a conviction shining athwart every page.

At first sight the book seems to be no more than a very useful compendium for colleges, schools, and private students. It consists of an historical essay, tracing the development of Italian literature from its dawn to the present day (an essay written in English, by the way, and very well written)—a selection from the works of all the great writers, in the manner of elegant extracts, with short biographical notices in Italian prefixed to each, and brief explanatory notes on obscure or obsolete expressions. This is the body of the book. For the student this is the plain, practical purpose it is meant to serve. But beside this practical purpose there is another: in the body there is a soul, and the soul is the breath of liberty. The student of Italian literature will take up this volume like any other educational help; he will find it portable, practical, cheap, and not too redundant. But, while the student is thus using the book, Count Arrivabene will read it at Brussels, and smile approvingly on his nephew's patriotic effort.

As already hinted, the patriotism of Signor Arrivabene runs through the book, animates his biographical notices, and often determines his selections. To cite but a single instance, what student will read that fine poem by Berchet, at page 384, "Ella è sola, dinanzi le genti"—fine as a poem, terrible as a protest against the Austrian—without feeling his sympathies deeply awakened?

As a specimen of his style in writing English, and of the spirit in which his book is composed, read the following:—

Little progress was made in Italian literature in the days of the French revolution—unhappy days indeed—in which all the monuments of art were brought by the great Corsican Conqueror to the capital of his adoption. Nothing was spared in this shameful pillage by our Republican friends on the other side of the Alps—nothing from the *Laocoon* of Rome to the *Quadriga* of the Venetian horses. Yet amidst the turmoil of those days, and the general admiration of the great deeds of Napoleon, the genius of Ugo Foscolo shines brightly forth from such be-starred courtiers as Monti and Cesarotti. He cast his verses in the ancient mould of the great school, and was the chief of the romantic literature of his day. He had the right to exclaim

"I hate the verse which sounds but does not create."

I do not mean by this that Monti does not deserve a great place among the classical poets of that time, but only that the enthusiastic and chivalrous character of the Italian poet whose ashes lie in this hospitable land command our love and admiration not more for the brightness of his poetry than for the consistent independence of his opinions. He disdained singing in his adopted land (Greece) for the gratification of the barbarian foreigner, and he sought for another where he could freely touch the chords of his immortal lyre. And he was right, for the gorgeous yoke of Napoleon's empire but was exchanged for a coarser and more galling one. The Austrian rulers had power to drive their cannons from one end of Italy to the other, and thought and poetry flourish not where the air is contaminated by the smoke of foreign artillery. Unhappily it was thus during the days of Foscolo, and it is thus now. The true poets of Italy refuse to soothe with their verses the toils of bondsmen: they prefer to rend the strings of their lyres rather than submit them to the senseless scissors of Austrian censorship.

The independent and virgin power of faith and genius has found a home in a few solitary minds, who full of anxiety at the aspect of present destinies yet with imagination and enthusiasm (forces almost lost) raise now and then a protesting cry against the great usurpation of brute force over intelligence. It is true that our age announces itself everywhere in such sacred and solemn characters that we cannot but feel that something great moves within it. It is true that the triumph of science, this great instrument of progress, appears already to all minds as a necessary and glorious event in the life of the world; to wish therefore to arrest it would be a simple folly, as to deny it would be pitiful pride. The car of humanity is inevitably dragged along the road of iron and fire though the goal at which it is to arrive is, as yet, a mystery to man.

Still, while adoring that Providence who in the abyss of its designs, prepared this epoch, and admiring the works of human thought which shapes itself into such noble manifestations in the fields wherein it is permitted to work, a sorrow—a deep sorrow—a melancholy rage has taken possession of those few minds which seem destined to preserve the sacred flames of faith and genius. They interrogate the present in every direction, and where in the general condition of the world in the condition of Italy in particular can they find voices to inspire them? They ask what power governs active society at this time, and the answer is such as to make them shrink within themselves, in tears and isolation. As if to heighten their anguish, these few glorious minds, servants of God alone, are compelled to listen to politicians and critics, who accustomed to the restrictions of form and numbers, wish to compile the grammar of poetry also. Thus bewildered on the one hand by the spirit of materialism, on the other by the dread of vacancy, what course of action remains to them but to revert to the past, to reunite scattered traditions, to reanimate that corpse which at least is the body of a giant?

Every reader of Italian possesses the great classics, but very few possess the



ems of modern times; and the specimens here printed of Leopardi, Prati, Saffi, Foscolo, Berchet, Cantu, Grossi, and many others, give the name considerable interest.

## CHRISTMAS VARIETIES.

CAPTAIN MAYNE REID does not announce his "White Chief; a Legend Northern Mexico," (Bogue,) as a Christmas book; but as a Christmas book it must be taken. Three volumes or one, such a story is for the fireside, and for readers who mean to be amused, forgetful of unities, probabilities, originalities, and all the other "points" of literature. It is, the title-page confesses, legendary in substance, and its contents will appoint no one who has perused (patiently), either the "Scalp Hunters," "The Rifle-Rangers," by the same author. Captain Mayne Reid has, in it, a genius for detailing incidents of the thrilling and tropical kind. Every novel from his pen contains material for seven tragedies, or more. It opens the most fearful perspectives to your eye, hangs above them the most dismal clouds, brings upon the scenes the fiercest heroes, and compels you to fight it out with the most mortal atrocity. It is fair to add, with some seriousness, that, as a melo-dramatic fiction, "The White Chief" will that young or old readers, with a deep relish for adventures, perils, catastrophes, in perpetual *crescendo*, could wish it to be.

A better and a wiser book—but of a totally different class—is Mr. Henry Mayhew's "Wonders of Science; or, Young Humphry Davy." (Bogue.) It is "written for boys" the title-page avows, but not boys only.

They enjoy the pleasant pages in which science is made easy by a style made charming. Mr. Mayhew enters elaborately, though lightly, into the history of Humphry Davy's earliest experiments. His narrative is both genial, encouraging, full of instruction for the young, and quite as entertaining as some very good romances. It is the second example Mr. Mayhew has given of a new class of books for youth. Its graceful and happy style, its loving praises of philosophy, its tale of human hopes and struggles, interwoven with a narrative of erudite discovery, render it a sure among Christmas volumes. Fullom's "Marvels" may feed the Christmas fire; Mayhew's "Wonders" will brighten the Christmas eve, and give to young and old many pleasant things to talk of.

The author of "Mia and Charlie" (Bogue), with an irreproachable reputation, has not effected much for her child-readers. The story is poor, in a feeble style. Mr. Birket Foster's excellent illustrations are somewhat misplaced in this volume.

"Twice Married; a Story of Connecticut Life" (New York: Dix and Yards), is a peculiar example of the new order of American fiction. The facts are improbable; but the narrative flows with rapidity, and the interest is strongly towards the close.

The announcement of a new tale by the author of "Matthew Paxton," created a pleasurable sensation in the minds of many readers. Here it is—"Christian Melville." (Bogue), a touching, delicate story, with a meaning and a purpose—the purpose faintly supported, perhaps, and the meaning, a little conventional; but with a pious tone—worth a library of sermons. We should have been fascinated more immediately by the heroine, had not the piece produced an unfavourable impression, both of her shape and character.

In the preface of "Oeland; a Thread of Life," by Alice Somerton, spares criticism. It is by no means a fiction, Alice Somerton says, nor is it a collection of facts obtained from various sources. It is distinctly "a thread of life, perhaps unprecedented, but not less true." If this be not a full explanation, nothing more precise is to be gained from the "thread."

For "unprecedented" read "unintelligible." "Sabbath Bells Chimed by the Poets, with Illustrations by Birket Foster," (London: Daldy), forms an elegant season book. The illustrations are bright and graceful; the ornamental initials representing the wealth of the Whitcomb fonts. Among the poets quoted are Miss Landon, Coleridge, Keats, Cowper, Southey, Charles Lamb, Longfellow, and, most famous of all, "ANON," who appears as great an author as "FINIS." The volume is beautifully printed, and tastefully dressed in autumnal colours, brown and gold.

Mr. William H. G. Kingston writes under influence of a mission. His story is in the colonies, where he would wish the bodies of many more Englishmen, and women, and children, to be. His new book is the "Emigrants' Home, or How to Settle" (Groombridge and Sons). This is "a story of Australian life for all classes, at Home and in the Colonies," and it is a very rational story in spirit and manner. Mr. Kingston is not a man who is in the highways calling on all who hunger or thirst, or who are impatient or ambitious to go to Australia and enrich themselves. In this volume he sets out the "characters" who are unfit to succeed as Colonists, and explains the essential conditions of success, whether in Australia, or any of the transmarine territories of Great Britain. It is a timely publication, well considered, and admirably written.

Bringing together a number of translations and reprints,—Alexandre Dumas' charming novel, "The Queen's Necklace," in the Parlour Library; Bulwer Lytton's "Harold," "The Caxtons," and "My Novel," in the Railway Library; Horace Smith's "Brambletye House" and "The Queen's Necklace," of Mr. G. P. R. James's, and Mr. Ainsworth's cheap editions—we come to seem a new popular library, "The Amusing," of which four volumes are on our table, "Romantic tales of Great Men," trite and poor; "Tales of France," with a tinge of true romance; "Tales of France;" and "Tales of France;" the last being the best, not of this series only, but of many that are in the railway stalls. In "Adventures of my Cousin Smooth, or the Quibbles of Great Governments (Twecdie)," we have originality; that is, the book is neither a translation nor a reprint. In style, however, a gross caricature of "Sam Slick," the author's efforts at humouring in an outpouring of inarticulate *crambo*. The narration is intended to be a story, and the story as a satire; but Mr. Timothy Templeton has taken absurdity for wit, and violence for severity. He has published an incredibly stupid book.

"Alfred Leslie; a story of Glasgow Life," (Glasgow, Murray), is an illus-

tration of Glasgow society—not of that society alone which moves and has its being under chandeliers or on Aubusson's carpets—if there be such North of the Tweed—but of various classes: in streets, in boats, in drawing-rooms, shops, and even less recognisable places. It is amusing enough to be sent with recommendations, to rural friends; indeed, it might, if read with appropriate emphasis, exorcise the *ennui* of a party frozen in a parlour during these long Christmas evenings.

The Holly-Tree Inn. Being the Extra Christmas Number of "Household Words."

"Household Words" Office.

WHAT so delightful for Christmas reading as any book or other publication with which the brilliant, many-sided, but always cheerful mind of Mr. Dickens has been associated? From the time when—now some twelve years back—the "Christmas Carol," with its covers red as the winter berries of the holly, its coloured pictures, and its genial humanities, came forth like a glorious Christmas fruit, down to this fifteenth day of December, 1855, each succeeding Christmas, with a very few exceptions, has been associated with the genius of Mr. Dickens, and the Christmas hearth has derived an additional glow from that companionship. And now, from five shilling issues, Mr. Dickens has descended to a threepenny pamphlet, associating with himself many other intellects worthy to range beside him. "The Holly-Tree Inn"—the present year's issue—keeps up the general design pleasantly pursued for the last few years; and is in fact another offspring of the "Decameron" or "Canterbury Pilgrims" mode of setting a variety of tales within one harmonising framework. A nervous or bashful gentleman is staying at an inn at a country town, on his way to America, whither he has resolved to go because the "object of his affections" has, as it seems, jilted him; and here, despite his retiring disposition, he contrives to get at the history of each of the chief persons about the hostelry—such as, the Ostler, the Boots, the Landlord, the Barmaid, and the Poor Pensioner. We need not say that the Guest is made happy in the end, for otherwise it would be preposterously against the genial practice of Mr. Dickens.

When we add that "The Holly-Tree Inn" is only issued to the public this day, and that we made our first acquaintance with it late yesterday, it will not be expected that we should go into any elaborate criticism. But we can promise the reader the usual variety, amusement, and literary power, and we are well assured that his threepence will be speedily forthcoming, when he will judge for himself.

## The Arts.

## MR. ANDERSON'S ONE HUNDREDTH NIGHT.

TUESDAY being the one hundredth night of Mr. ANDERSON'S "bedevilments" (saving the reader's presence), the "PROFESSOR" gave an invitation to all connected with the London press to partake of "oysters and other comestibles and condiments," together with "libations of champagne and other sacrificial liquors to the infernal gods" (to quote from the circular sent round to us), after the performance. The bidding to the feast was, it must be confessed, of a somewhat alarming character, and somewhat peremptory too; for we were "summoned, cited, and commanded," in the names of "PLUTO, Lord Chief Justice of the High Court of Tartarus, RHADAMANTHUS, MINOS, and AEACUS, Barons of the Tartarean Court of Exchequer," to appear in person before the Wizard, and state fully all we know of him; seeing that he has been, "by certain of her Majesty's lieges, accused, before the solemn Tartarean tribunal or Vehmgericht, of sundry unlawful and unhallowed doings, of weaving malicious spells, of working unholy incantations, and of bewitching and insorcellating thousands of the said lieges." Now, we really know nothing of this awful Wizard, except that he is a very clever and amusing gentleman; and we positively should not like to answer for anything more, being in nowise convinced of the safety of such vouching. We were told, moreover, to fail not in our appearance, or to "beware of the Cord and Dagger;" and the invitation was surrounded by a very suspicious hieroglyph, representing daggers, Death's heads, serpents, and demoniacal faces. Nevertheless, though we have small desire to be mixed up with the powers of darkness, we attended the Magician's diabolical supper-room (being assured in the circular that we need not be terrified, nor allow our hearts to "wax faint"); and we can only say that, judging by the lateness of the hour to which some of our brethren "kept it up," they had no reason to be dissatisfied with their sortilegious night.

## JENNY LIND AT EXETER HALL.

LAST Monday JENNY LIND, Madame Goldschmidt now (happily for M. Goldschmidt) sang to the most crowded and critical audience that London could exhibit at this end of the season. Every one was prepared to decide whether the Lind's voice had faded; no one went away without resolving to return next Monday, if possible, and hear again the sweetest of the singers of Europe. Happy are they whose places are taken for the *Elijah*. The performance of that and the *Creation* we must describe next week.

THE POPULATION OF CHINA.—We may with tolerable safety estimate the present population of the Chinese empire as between 350,000,000 and 400,000,000 of human beings. The constant flow of emigration from China, contrasted with the complete absence of immigration into China, is striking evidence of the redundancy of the population; for though that emigration is almost wholly confined to two provinces—namely Kwangtung and Fookien,—representing together a population of probably from 84,000,000 to 95,000,000, I am disposed to think that a number nearer 3,000,000 than 2,000,000 from these provinces alone is located in foreign countries. In the kingdom of Siam it is estimated that there are at least 1,500,000 Chinese, of which 200,000 are in the capital (Bangkok). They crowd all the islands of the Indian Archipelago. In Java, we know by a correct census, there are 136,000. Cochin China teems with Chinese. In this colony we are seldom without one, two, or three vessels taking Chinese emigrants to California and other places. Multitudes go to Australia, to the Philippines, to the Sandwich Islands, to the western coast of Central and Southern America; some have made their way to British India.—*Sir John Bowring.*

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 11.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—HENRY OSBORN, Water-lane, Lower Thames-street, wine merchant.  
**BANKRUPT.**—WILLIAM THOMAS, Catherine-street, Strand, publisher—JOHN BOND, Ludgate-hill, shawlmaker—THOMAS BENNETT, Margaret-street, Cavendish square, tailor—RICHARD HUDSON, Church-street, Hackney, Berlin wool warehouseman—THOMAS VARTY and EDWIN HENRY OWEN, Strand, publishers—JOHN JAMESON, Honey-lane, Milk-street, shawl warehouseman—JOHN HENRY HODD, Brighton, licensed victualler—JOHN HAYWARD COLBORNE, 1, Cole, draper—GEORGE BUTCHER, Cornhill and elsewhere, coal merchant—JOHN FULMER SHALLIS, St Alban's, straw plait dealer—WILLIAM BOURNE, Barnes-place, Mile-end-road, cabinet-maker—SAMUEL WELLES, Giltspur-street, leather dealer—SAMUEL DAVIS and THOMAS BRYAN, Birmingham, engineers—HENRY ABRAHAM SHILTON, Coventry, trimming manufacturer—WILLIAM SWEET, Stoke, house carpenter—JOHN STEPHENSON, Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire, joiner—FRANK JACQUES, Droylsden, silk dyer.

Friday, December 14.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—ROBERT PEARE STEPHENS, Liverpool, shipowner.  
**BANKRUPT.**—ROBERT BLOKE, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, picture dealer—SAMUEL PROBY ERIN, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, soda water manufacturer—WILLIAM SAMUEL DUDLEY, Stationer—WILLIAM WATHEN, Hereford, upholsterer—EDWIN VERDON BLYTH and WILLIAM HENRY GODDARD, Birmingham, merchants—JAMES WHITTAKER and JOHN ELLISON, Church, near Accrington, Lancashire, iron-founders and millwrights.

## Commercial Affairs.

## MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Dec. 14, 1855.

During the week continued depression has been the feature of the Consol and heavy markets, any slight improvement in prices being checked by increasing doubts as to the probability of peace. Money continues in request in Lombard-street as well as the Stock Exchange. Consols have closed as follows each day since our last:—On Saturday, 89½ to 9, ex div.; Monday and Tuesday, 88½ to 9, ex div.; Wednesday, 88½ to 9, ex div.; Thursday, 88½ to 9, ex div.; and this evening, at 88½ to 9, ex div. The settlement of the account this day has occupied general attention, and but little business has been done. The foreign stock market has been steady.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Dec. 14, 1855.

During the week we have had fair supplies of English wheat, as well as rather larger arrivals of foreign, the latter amounting to 10,000 qrs., and 15,000 barrels of American flour. Notwithstanding a fall has been reported nearly every market day for some time, varying from 1s. to 4s., the total decline does not amount to more than 5s., or at the most 6s. per qr. from the highest on English wheat, while foreign has been held with great firmness, and only in a few instances has a reduction of 1s. to 2s. been submitted to. There are very few cargoes off the coast, and very little is doing in either wheat or maize arrived or on passage. The supply of barley is very moderate, and the trade is steady at a decline of 2s. from last week. There is a liberal supply of Irish oats, and moderate of Foreign. The trade is slow, but firm.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock .....	209	210	210½	209½	...	210
3 per Cent. Reduced ..	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½
3 per Cent. Con. An. ..	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Consols for Account ..	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½
New 3 per Cent. An. ..	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½	89½
New 2½ per Cent. ..	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Long Ans. 1855 .....	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
India Stock .....	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d
Ditto Bonds £1000 ..	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d
Ditto, under £100 ..	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d
Ex. Bills, £100 .....	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d
Ditto, £500 .....	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d
Ditto, Small .....	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d	48. d

**ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.**—Under the Management of Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.  
 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.—The Comedy of STILL WATERS RUN DEEP, in which Mr. A. Wigan and Mrs. Stirling will appear £5 REWARD, and an Amphibious Piece of Extravagance, called CATCHING A MERMAID. Titus Tuffins, Mr. F. ROBSON.  
 Thursday and Friday.—The Comedy of THE JEALOUS WIFE: principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, G. Vining, Mrs. Stirling, Misses Castleton, and Miss Bromley, after which £5 REWARD: characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Lealle, H. Cooper, Danvers, and Miss Marston. To conclude with CATCHING A MERMAID.  
 Saturday.—THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL, and £5 REWARD.

**MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.**  
 —HOLLAND, UP THE RHINE, and PARIS is now open EVERY EVENING (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. Stalls (which can be taken from a plan at the Box-office, every day between eleven and four, without any extra charge, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. The MORNING REPRESENTATIONS take place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at Three o'clock. Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

**DR. KAHN'S GRAND ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,** consisting of upwards of 1,000 highly interesting Models, representing every part of the Human Frame in Health and Disease, also the various Races of Men, &c., open (for gentlemen only) daily from 10 till 12. Lectures, varying every day in the week, are delivered by Dr. SEXTON, at 12, 2, 4, and half-past 7. Admission, 1s.—4, COVENTRY-STREET, LECESSTER-SQUARE.

**MONSTER MODEL of SEBASTOPOL,** with its Streets, Buildings, Fortifications, and Besiegers; 5,000 Troops in their national costumes; 3,000 Guns and Mortars in position. Lectures every hour, and further explained by wounded Heroes from the Seat of War. Open DAILY, from 11 to 5; EVENING, 7 till 10, at the Hanover-square Rooms. Admission, One Shilling; Saturdays, Two Shillings. Children and Schools, half-price.

## MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

EXETER HALL, Monday Evening next, Dec. 17th.

**MR. MITCHELL** respectfully announces that Mendelssohn's Oratorio of  
**ELIJAH**

will be performed on Monday next, Dec. 17. Principal Singers.

Madame GOLDSCHMIDT.

Miss Dolby, Mr. Lockey, Miss Messent, Mr. Lawler, and Mr. H. Braham.

Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock. Haydn's Oratorio of

## THE CREATION

will be repeated during the Christmas Week, on Thursday, Dec. 27, in which Madame Goldschmidt will sing the principal soprano part.

The Chorus and Orchestra for these performances will consist of more than 600 performers. Conductor, M. BENEDICT.

Prices of Admission.—Seats in the Area, 7s.; West Gallery and Body of the Hall, 10s. 6d.; Reserved and Numbered Seats, £1 1s.

Tickets and full particulars may be obtained at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

## M. JULLIEN'S GRAND ANNUAL BAL MASQUE,

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, Covent Garden.

**THIS** Grand Entertainment will take place to-morrow, Monday, December 17.

Tickets for the Ball, 10s. 6d.

Tickets for the Ball and Private Boxes may be secured in advance, at Mr. Mitchell's, Mr. Andrew's, Mr. Hammond's, and Mr. Hookham's, Old Bond-street; Mr. Prowse's, Cheapside; and Messrs Jullien and Co., 214, Regent-street. Reserved seats in the Dress Circle and Amphitheatre; Private boxes and tickets for the Ball, at the Box-office of the theatre, corner of Hart-street and Bow-street.

## ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

**LAST SIX DAYS.** To-night, Monday, December 17th, (Last Night but Five), and every evening during the Week, Professor Anderson's concluding series of Magical Performances. Immense houses. Doors open each Evening at Half-past Seven; commence at Eight. Private Boxes, £1 1s. 6d. and £1 1s. Stalls, 4s. Dress Circle, 3s. Upper Boxes, 2s. Pit, 1s. Gallery, 6d. The Box-office is open daily from 11 till 5. The Final Day Performance, specially adapted for Families and Schools, and the last which the Wizard will give in London, on Saturday, December 22nd, at Two o'clock. Doors open at Half-past One.

## Adnam's Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.

And Strongly Recommended by the Medical Profession.

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

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

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

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

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

DR. DE JONGH'S

## LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

Prescribed with complete confidence by the Faculty for its purity, efficacy, and marked superiority over all other kinds.

It is entirely free from nauseous flavour, and being invariably and carefully submitted to chemical analysis—AND ONLY SUPPLIED IN SEALED BOTTLES TO PRECLUDE SUBSEQUENT ADMIXTURE OR ADULTERATION—this Oil possesses a guarantee of genuineness and purity offered by no other Cod Liver Oil.

Extract from "THE LANCET," July 29, 1854.

"Dr. de Jongh gives the preference to the Light Brown Oil over the Pale Oil, which contains scarcely any volatile fatty acid, a smaller quantity of iodine, phosphoric acid, and the elements of bile, and upon which ingredients the efficacy of Cod Liver Oil no doubt partly depends. Some of the deficiencies of the Pale Oil are attributable to the method of its preparation, and especially to its filtration through charcoal. IN THE PREFERENCE OF THE LIGHT BROWN OIL OVER THE PALE OIL WE FULLY CONCUR."

"We have carefully tested a specimen of the Light Brown Cod Liver Oil prepared for medical use under the direction of Dr. de Jongh, and obtained from the wholesale agents, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, Strand. We find it to be genuine, and rich in iodine and the elements of bile."

Sold ONLY in bottles, capped and labelled with Dr. de Jongh's signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co., 77, STRAND, London, Dr. de Jongh's sole Consignees; and by most respectable chemists in town and country.

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints, (20 ounces), 4s. 9d.; Quarts (40 ounces), 7s. IMPERIAL MEASURE.

**ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE.—REDUCTION OF PRICE.**—HARRINGTON PARKER and Co., Wine and Beer Merchants, 54, Pall-mall, are now receiving orders for the October Brewings of the above celebrated Ale, in casks of eighteen gallons and upwards, at the reduced price. Also for

**ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN BOTTLE.**  
 Quarts, Pints, and Half-Pints, imperial measure.  
 54, Pall-mall, October 27, 1855.

## THE BEST AND CHEAPEST TEAS

In England are to be obtained of PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY, LONDON.

This is a good time to buy TEA; when Parliament meets it is almost certain we shall have an increase of duty to meet the expenses of the war.

**Strong Congou Teas, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s., 3s. 2d.**

A general Price Current is published every month, containing all the advantages of the London markets, and is sent free by post on application.

SUGARS ARE SUPPLIED AT MARKET PRICES.

## TO LOVERS OF FISH.—100 Genuine

**YARMOUTH BLOATERS** for 6s., package included. These HIGHLY ESTEEMED DELICACIES and CHEAP ARTICLES OF FOOD forwarded to all parts, on receipt of penny postage stamps or P. O. O. (preferred). Full and plain directions, County, and nearest station.—Address, THOMAS LETTIS, Jun., Fish Curer, Great Yarmouth.

"This is the third season Mr. Lettis has supplied us with Yarmouth Bloaters, and we find the quality excellent.—J. BRASHOW, House Steward, Blenheim Palace, October 20, 1854."

"Mr. Lettis.—As soon as you send out your genuine Bloaters, I shall be glad to have a supply as usual. Those I had last year gave great satisfaction.—A. F. COURBOUX, Ambassador's Court, St. James's Palace.

## FITCH AND SON'S

**CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.**

"The emporium for rich and delicious bacon is Fitch and Son's, Bishopsgate Within."—*United Service Gazette*.

"We know of nothing more exquisitely delicious than a rasher of Fitch's Breakfast Bacon."—*Weekly Paper*.

This celebrated Bacon, smoke-dried, is sold by the side, half side, and separate pieces.

THE HALF-SIDE, of 30lbs., at..... 9d. per lb.

THE MIDDLE PIECE, of 12lbs., at..... 9d.

FITCH and SON have also the honour to offer the following superior articles, extraordinary for their *recherche* quality.

**RICH BLUE-MOULD STILTON CHEESE.**  
**CHOICE RICH SOMERSET DITTO.**  
**CURIOUS OLD CHESHIRE DITTO.**  
**WILTSHIRE CHAPS AND CHINES.**  
**PICKLED AND SMOKED OX TONGUES.**  
**YORK HAMS, OLD AND NEW, OF DELICIOUS FLAVOUR.**  
**WELL PICKLED BUTTER FOR WINTER STORE.**

## HOUSEHOLD PROVISIONS.

**GOOD CHESHIRE CHEESE,** 30 to 60lbs. each per lb 7½d.

"AMERICAN DITTO," 30 to 60lbs. 6½d.

**SALT BUTTER,** 30 to 70lbs. package 12d.

All articles are securely packed for travelling, and delivered free throughout London. Prepayment, or a reference in town, is requested with orders from the country.

Post office orders to be made payable at the chief office; and these, together with cheques, may be crossed with the name of Fitch and Son's bankers, "Sir J. W. Lubbock and Co."

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