

Alfred Edmund Talloway, 15th Strand.

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.*

Contents:

REVIEW OF THE WEEK—	PAGE
Imperial Parliament	194
The War	196
War Miscellanea	196
The Peace	197
America	197
Ireland	197
Our Civilisation	197
Continental Notes	200
The Orient	201
Naval and Military News	201

Miscellaneous	201
Postscript	202
PUBLIC AFFAIRS—	
Russia after the Peace	203
Police Bill Resistance	203
Sadler our Witness	204
The People's Sunday	205
Education for Officers	205
Labuan and Borneo	205

OPEN COUNCIL—	
Letter from an "Old Soldier"	206
LITERATURE—	
Summary	207
Rymer Jones on the Animal King- dom	207
Christian Churches and Sects	208
Scottish Heroes	209
The Incas of Peru	209
The Poets and Poetry of America	210
Two Novels	210

THE ARTS—	
The British Institution	211
Mr. Anderson's Farewell	211
The Gazette	211
COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
City Intelligence, Markets, Ad- vertisements, &c.	211

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Review of the Week.

NOTHING decisive from Paris! The Plenipotentiaries met on Monday, round a green cloth table, right under the dread eyes of NAPOLEON THE THIRD, whose portrait was the *présens dieux*, and they then and there agreed to an armistice—by land. Yesterday our own capital was full of rumours,—that one of our Plenipotentiaries had come home,—that ORLOFF had referred to St. Petersburg for further instructions: the Funds felt "affected," but the official countenance was unmoved, and told nought.

The first steps of the Conference have been watched with anxiety, and on the whole with a declining rather than an increasing confidence. If the signs of public trust have continued, it is the result, less of belief in the proceedings of the Plenipotentiaries, than of self-reliance. The high price of the public funds after a loan is remarkable; but to a certain extent this is a reproducing cause. Finding that neither a foreign war, nor doubtful relations with intermediate powers, nor borrowing, can bring down the price of funds, people are astonished at their own wealth, their own courage, and their own consistency; they undergo a paroxysm of self-reliance, and speculate in the funds upon the strength of it. There is, indeed, another cause, in the unquestionable proofs that still continue of our commercial steadiness. The returns of the Board of Trade, show an increase of nearly a million and a half last month as compared with the previous month, and an increase slightly above a million and a half on the month just concluded. The reaction is partly owing to the renewed exports on the expectation of peace and the armistice on the continent, and partly to a satisfactory reaction after the fall in the exports to Australia; while the home consumption, with one striking exception, continues. The exception is sugar—a trade that has undergone violent fluctuations from speculative causes. Here, however, is substantial ground for public confidence, and our commercial world, like Brahma, has so completely fallen into the habit of self-contemplation, that any upward tendency it exhibits is

certain to be increased in an impulse of self-sympathy. If commerce falls off, the commercial world is panic-stricken, and trade is more injured by the moral feeling. If commerce improves, the commercial world is intoxicated with hope; and trade improves because it is improved.

Looking to home affairs in the political world, there is nothing to cause an increase of confidence; for if there is no crisis, there are many signs of mismanagement somewhere. The real fault in the Government at present seems to be in its not copying the trading world closely enough. Notwithstanding the power it has been able to obtain in Parliament by virtue of its military position, it shrinks from the exercise of that power. Thus, when the official Commissioners corroborate statements from the Crimea, and show that Sir RICHARD AIREY, Lord LUCAN, and Lord CARDIGAN, have been guilty of mismanagement—that they are inefficient in the very duties for which it is to be presumed the Horse Guards promoted them—Lord PANMURE and his colleagues take upon themselves the responsibility of promoting the officers, and name another commissioner to revise the report of the first. They might have taken the matter into their own hands, have made inquiries, and dealt justice to the Horse Guards; and Lord PANMURE would be supported in such a course. But it seems to be too bold for them. The commission that they have appointed, headed by Lord SEATON, is respectable; but it is more military than the first, and is more likely to sympathise with the Horse Guards, and is thus calculated to afford a less distinct ground for any further ministerial action.

It is the same with the WENSLEYDALE case. The Peers have roundly asserted their right to set aside the prerogative of the Crown and the law of the land. They claim to decide the question in which they are parties, without any appeal; and Ministers, who could readily find a mode of confronting them and vindicating the law, acquiesce; simply, it would seem, because they are not prepared to be so audacious as Lord LYNHURST and his colleagues. Defeated last week in the Committee of Privileges, they did not venture to resist the reception of the report by the whole House, and they almost intimated their willingness to go along with Lord

LYNHURST in a scheme for supplying the want of efficient appellate jurisdiction. Thus though in enjoyment of a political power not possessed by any Government for a long series of years, they shun from the exercise of the power they hold in their hands, and prefer to court the fate of weakness rather than enjoy the immunities of strength.

The matter was taken up by Lord DERBY, on Thursday, with all the self-possession of confident success. With real majesty he dropped his friends, the oppugnant Law Lords, and uttered his dispensation for the defeated Ministry. What he proposed was, a select committee to consider the necessity and mode of improving the judicial arrangements in the House of Lords. But he suggested a particular plan of doing it. It is to summon the judges in a body, both from the Equity and Law Courts, to sit as assistants in the House, and to deliver judgments in the name of the Peers. For, if Lord DERBY will not give up the nominal authority of the Peers, by this arrangement he would enable them to act through deputies, and would so place the House of Peers on a level with the Crown. Lord GRANVILLE introduced an addition, charging the select committee to consider the effect of any proposed change on the House itself; and with that amendment the committee was agreed to.

The subject of local dues is more complicated. If the passing tolls levied in the names of certain ports on the Channel were not justified by any use in those ports for the shipping of our days—if the local dues levied by the maritime boroughs are in many cases the overgrown form of antiquated privileges by which moneys are taken from the shipping for purposes not naval, there are some cases in which the impost is justified by equity and expediency. There is unquestionably abuse, but it is not so absolute or unmixed by other considerations that a case cannot be presented on the side of the towns. They have made it a *triumph* of "local self-government" against centralisation. There were evidences that Mr. Lowe could have rallied round him the inland boroughs, but his colleagues did not dare to support him. Overwhelmed by the resistance on Monday night, Lord PALMERSTON came forward in person on Tuesday

to withdraw the bill, and to recommence the consideration of the subject "in select committee."

Mr. MUNTZ dashed in amongst the currency on Thursday night, and Birmingham had a revel in the House of Commons. The honourable and gallant member bearded all the Chancellors of the Exchequer, past, present, and future, and called them roundly to account for their stupidity and treason. They had not yet been able, he says, to answer the question, "What is a pound?" Nor has any currency given to that question a practical answer since the days of WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. At that day, he says, "a pound of silver was worth a pound." Mr. MUNTZ, we presume, would propose to revive that silver age. He wishes to make money "cheap," and to have a pound worth a pound. If he were to bring in a measure consistent with the laws of WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, every cabman would expect a nugget, or at least a piece of paper; for Mr. MUNTZ seems faithful to the Birmingham idea that large masses of silver and little pieces of paper will be the exact equivalents of each other, if we will only call them by the same name. How much of this controversy would be spared, as Mr. PEACOCK remarked, if four sovereigns were made from an exact ounce of gold; and, we may add, if each sovereign were called the quarter-ounce, and made the unit. The slight discrepancy between the name and the thing, although we know very well that we mean something less than a quarter of an ounce, constitutes an obscurity for weak minds, and is the opportunity in which the Birmingham philosophy has become immortal. All the JEREMIAHS of the Little Shilling party came forth in strength; the MUNTZES, the SPOONERS, the NEWDEGATES. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER showed himself for the sake of decorum; but DRUMMOND, the banker and wit, is the proper person to answer men under the currency delusion. He proposes a summary stopper. ARTHUR YOUNG advised that the clerk of the Convention of Paris should thrust his inkstand down the throat of the first man that should talk about coin, and Mr. DRUMMOND prescribed the same application to people under the MUNTZ malady. Mr. MUNTZ repudiated the pill, and the House repudiated his motion by 116 to 58.

The question of Marriage Law and its judicial treatment was brought before the House of Commons on Thursday night, by Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, who narrated the painful story of Mrs. TALBOT. We shall have to deal with that subject and some others next week. The House declined to reopen a subject judicially decided, and the motion was withdrawn. It was stated, however, distinctly, that a Divorce Bill had been introduced into the House of Lords, that in the course of the next month, at the second reading, witnesses would be examined on oath as to the truth of the statements; and that at last we are likely to have a redress of injustice. It is to be hoped that there is no doubt as to the prosecution of the Divorce Bill, but that it will be pressed to its final stage.

There are a few parliamentary elections going forward, but they are not of a kind to call forth any political feeling. They will be decided almost entirely by personal considerations. Mr. SADLER having vacated Sligo, three or four gentlemen have started, and the simple question is, who has mustered the largest amount of individual and local influence? As a tribute to the country gentlemen section in the House of Lords, by bringing a thorough-bred recruit to their ranks, Sir WILLIAM HENRI COCKE has been created Lord AVELAND. He will be succeeded by his son, Mr. GILBERT HENRI COCKE, in the hereditary position as member for Rutlandshire, which opens the gates

of Boston to Mr. HERBERT INGRAM, a native of the Lincoln town, and one of the most successful men of our day.

The LORD MAYOR has been hospitably entertaining Mr. BUCHANAN—in his absence, for the American Minister had a peremptory invitation on the same day to dine with the QUEEN. At the Mansion-house Mr. COBDEN said some excellent things, which will show to America what is real English feeling; and will tell reckless men at home what would be English risks in a war with the United States.

While administrative reform is arrested at headquarters, the want of it has been allowed to accumulate the most frightful and disgusting miseries in a metropolitan workhouse. St. Pancras is the scene. Remember that the officers there have to deal with a people in a state of peculiar need and weakness—with the debilitated, the sick, and the insane. We find, then, the out-door poor patients crowded into pens, in such an atmosphere, and for so long a time, that the women who come for bread, faint from exhaustion, and numbers are kept until half-past three o'clock before they can be released. In the sick ward, ten male patients and two women are lying on the floor; in another the children are so crowded, that cutaneous disease spreads by contact; and the air is charged with 1.14 or 2.75 per cent. of carbonic acid gas. From this workhouse, so inadequate to its purpose that the very insane ward is crowded, many are entirely excluded. Niggardliness is the avowed cause of this mismanagement; but the new Board of Guardians, which has helped to expose the condition of the house, is responsible for its improvement. What, however, is the defence of the poorer classes when such a state of things can arise to continue through successive years?

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The returns of the London registrars continue to show a very satisfactory state of the public health. In the week that ended on Saturday, the deaths of 1,062 persons, viz., 541 males and 521 females, were registered. In the corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,200, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,320. Hence the deaths returned last week were less by 258 than would have occurred in the present population under the average rate of mortality at this period of the year. The six epidemic diseases which contribute more to the total mortality than any others in the same class, with the exception of cholera at particular seasons, were fatal last week in the following order:—Typhus caused 57 deaths; whooping cough, 40; scarlatina, 28; measles, 17; diarrhoea, 11; and small-pox, 10. Eight deaths from typhus were returned from Islington West, the sub-district in which the Fever Hospital is situated. Hoxton and Haggerstone seem to suffer from it to some extent. Mr. Upjohn, the registrar of Pentonville, states that whooping-cough has lately been very prevalent in his district; but in the London districts generally it was less fatal last week than is usual in the month of February. Twelve children died of croup, one of purpura, one of intermittent fever, two of infantile remittent fever. One person died of influenza, and one of rheumatic fever. Last week, the births of 885 boys and 933 girls, in all 1,818 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,554.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

A STRANGE STORY FROM MALTA.—"A lady, well known in Maltese society," says the *Malta Beacon*, "the wife of one of our most respected fellow-citizens, who has herself a son in the Turkish Contingent, is accused of having entered into a plot to betray the city of Tripoli, and the garrison of our Turkish ally, into the hands of the rebel Ghouma. The lady in question is well known in Malta for her liberal sympathies. The documents disclosing this plot have been brought to light, and his Excellency the Governor was written to, to know who and what the lady was, and we believe that she has already been sent for to the palace three times upon the subject."—It is said that the Turkish Government has come to a compromise with Ghouma, honourable to both parties. The pretensions of the rebel have been acknowledged, and he has been reinstated as governor of his native province.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 25th.

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS. LORD LYNDEHURST, in the HOUSE OF LORDS, gave notice that, unless some other noble lord should make a motion on the subject, he should in a few days call the attention of their Lordships to the state of judicature in that House, with a view to applying a suitable remedy.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

LORD REDESDALE brought up the report of the Committee of Privileges on the Wensleydale Life Peerage, when LORD GRANVILLE declared that the Government had no intention of again dividing the House on the question. The position of the Government was one of no little difficulty, inasmuch as a large majority of the House had declared the illegality of that which the law-officers of the Crown pronounced to be legal; but they desired to consider the question in the calmest light, and they relied on a corresponding feeling on the part of their Lordships. Lord Wensleydale would put himself entirely in the hands of the Government, and would not attempt to take his seat until time had been given for due consideration. LORDS CAMPBELL and DERBY expressed their great satisfaction with the assurances given by Lord Granville; and Lord Derby stated his opinion that it would facilitate the further consideration of the question, if the Queen were to create Lord Wensleydale an hereditary peer. The introduction of life peerages he thought would be highly injurious. As regards any good resulting in the way of greater facility in the discharge of judicial duties, the remedy would probably be worse than the disease. He concluded by giving notice of his intention on Thursday to move for a select committee to consider the expediency of making provision for the more efficient discharge of the duties of the House as a Court of Appeal.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE congratulated the House on the temperate tone which the discussion had assumed. Nothing could be further from the desire either of himself or of his colleagues than to impair the hereditary character of the House, which he regarded with great veneration; but the creation of a few peers for life would not affect that principle. Their Lordships should recollect that there is another prerogative growing in force every day, the prerogative of public opinion, which would be sufficient to override both the prerogatives of the Crown and the privileges of that House, if either of them were strained beyond their due limits.

After some further discussion, in which LORDS MALMESBURY, BROUGHAM, CAMPBELL, GREY, GRANVILLE, and others, took part, the report of the committee was received.

TASMANIA.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. LABOUCHERE, in answer to Mr. DUNCOMBE, stated that he had no objection to lay on the table the papers explaining the circumstances connected with the proroguing of the Legislative Assembly of Tasmania, by Sir Henry Young. The Government had sent out instructions which would prevent a recurrence of the like interference with the legislative functions of the colony for the future. Mr. Labouchere was of opinion that the Governor had committed an error of judgment in putting himself in opposition to the Legislative Council, on a point in respect to which he was in the wrong, and he (Mr. Labouchere) had stated his opinion to the Governor; but he could not say whether the Governor was wrong in proroguing the Council.

COMMISSION UPON THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice that, on Friday, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, he would move the following resolution:—"That to appoint a commission of general officers to report upon the report of Sir J. McNeill and Colonel Tulloch is to substitute an inefficient for a very efficient means of investigation, and that such appointment will tend to strengthen an opinion already prevalent that the real purpose of such proceeding is to shelter incompetence, and to excuse the misconduct of those by whom various departments of our army have been subjected to the command of proved incapacity."

The reports of the Committee of Supply, and of the Committee of WAYS AND MEANS, were brought up and agreed to.

In a Committee of WAYS AND MEANS, on the motion of Mr. WILSON, a resolution was agreed to for a grant upon the Consolidated Fund for the amount of the Supplemental Estimates.

LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER moved to defer the second reading of this bill for six months. The principle involved in the measure—that of taking away corporate property without compensation—tended to stake the security of all such property. The first portion of the bill, relating to passing tolls, which are not private property, did not call for opposition; nor did the fourth part, concerning charities. But great injustice characterised the second part, which proposed to transfer all rates, dues, duties, and imposts upon

ships and goods, from corporate towns to the Customs, to be applied as directed by the Board of Trade; and the third proposed entirely to abolish the differential dues, on the plea that corporate property is public property. A corporation which is invested with a public trust without any beneficial interest might fairly be dealt with by Parliament; but corporations which were created to be the medium of conferring rights and privileges upon individuals, in which each individual possesses a right to, and share in, the privileges and property of the corporation, should not be subjected to such measures as that before the House. In respect to the dues which it was intended to transfer to the control of the Board of Trade, the change would not be of the slightest benefit to the public, while the principle was one of most dangerous tendency.—Sir FRANCIS BARING seconded the motion.

Mr. LOWE said that Sir Frederick Thesiger had construed taxes into private property. Now for himself, he could understand property in land, and property in capital; but he could not understand property in other people's property. Such arguments as those which had been employed would not fortify alleged corporate rights; but they might suggest to the public that private property rests upon no firmer foundation than corporate property. Public bodies are but means for the attainment of certain ends; and, when they cease to answer those ends, they ought to give place to something better. The sweeping municipal reform of 1835 offered a perfect precedent for the measure then under discussion; and it should be recollected that those who pay the taxes have as good a right to be heard as those who receive them. Mr. LOWE therefore asserted that it was he who was standing up for the inviolability of private property, the principle of spoliation being in fact advocated by the opponents of the bill. Whatever cases might occur to which the general principle of the measure does not apply, the necessary exception would be made in committee.—Mr. COLLIER, Mr. BAINES, and Mr. INGHAM, also supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. HORSFALL (on behalf of Liverpool), Mr. RIDLEY (for Newcastle-on-Tyne), Mr. TOLLEMACHE, Mr. HILDYARD (who thought that the arguments with respect to property used by Mr. LOWE were unparalleled in that House), Mr. ROSE (speaking on behalf of Dover), Mr. LIDDELL (who feared that such assaults on corporate property would lead to similar attacks on ecclesiastical property), Mr. CAIRNS (who, referring to Mr. LOWE's sneer at "musty charters," said that the scuff was directed against the tenure by which all the property in the country is held, and that taxes were described as "property" in the bill itself), and Sir FITZROY KELLY (who remarked that the effect of the bill would be to deprive creditors at Liverpool, to the extent of two millions and a half, of the security they now possess in the town dues).—Finally, the debate was adjourned till the following day.

METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT ACT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL obtained leave to bring in a bill to explain and amend the Metropolitan Local Management Act of last session. He explained that, in the bill of last year, it was originally intended to give to the vestries to be elected under it the power of levying rates and the management of the poor. By alterations effected in committee, that intention was changed, and, as the act now stands, there is great doubt who has the right to levy rates and to manage the poor. The recent act declared that, as soon as the new vestries are constituted, they should supersede all others; but exceptions had been introduced in committee which rendered it doubtful whether the management and levy of the poor rates fell within their scope; and it was to remove the existing doubts that the present bill was framed.

ST. JAMES'S-PARK.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL moved for a Select Committee "to consider the best means of communication between those parts of the metropolis which lie north of St. James's park and those parts which lie south and south-west thereof, and to report thereupon to the House."—An attempt was made to defer the motion; but, after a short discussion, in the course of which Lord PALMERSTON stated that no particular line had been contemplated, the motion was agreed to.

Tuesday, February 26th.

THE MERCANTILE LAW COMMISSION.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR called the attention of the House to the second report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Mercantile Laws of the United Kingdom, and moved the first reading of two bills on the subject, with the understanding that they should be referred to a Select Committee. The object of these bills is to assimilate the laws in various parts of the United Kingdom, and to remove those contradictions which in many cases are productive of great inconvenience. In some instances, the Scotch laws are to be assimilated to those of England; in others, the English laws are to be made conformable with the Scotch.—Lords BROUGHAM and CAMPBELL expressed their satisfaction with the proposed measures; and the latter called attention to the disgraceful state of the Scotch marriage law, which he said is so lax that no one can

tell whether he is legitimate or not.—The bills were then read a first time.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE SYSTEM.

Viscount DUNGANNON moved for a return of the number of convicts to whom tickets of leave have been granted; and also the number of convicts who since receiving such tickets of leave have returned to their former course of crimes; specifying the character of the crimes which they have been charged with or convicted of.—Earl GRANVILLE said there was no objection to grant the returns moved for, but he begged to inform the noble Viscount that similar returns had been already ordered to be laid before the other House of Parliament.—Viscount DUNGANNON said those returns would answer his purpose. He proceeded to ask whether the Government proposed to continue the ticket-of-leave system, which he believed to be fraught with evil consequences.—Earl GRANVILLE said it was not their intention to bring in any bill on the subject.—In the course of a desultory conversation which ensued, the Earl of HARROWBY remarked that, naturally, if no transportation be allowed, criminals, after a certain period of imprisonment, must be turned out again on the country; an observation which the Earl of MALMESBURY considered to be "one of the most alarming he had ever heard in his life. Earl Harrowby declared it was perfectly impossible to retrace our steps with regard to transportation."—The Earl of HARROWBY disavowed this interpretation of his remarks; and, after a few more observations (in the course of which Lord CAMPBELL spoke against the ticket-of-leave system), the subject dropped.

ERZEROU.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. EWART, stated that the English Government had made strong representations to the Ottoman Porte in favour of the construction of a serviceable road from Trebizonde to Erzeroum, and similar representations would again be made.

THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON gave notice of his intention to move the following amendment to Mr. Roebuck's motion on the subject of the Crimean report:—"That the House regretted that her Majesty's Government had not transmitted the report to the Commander-in-Chief before it was submitted to the House, thereby giving ground to suppose that there was a want of confidence between the War-office and the Horse Guards, and causing the construction of a military commission, which was inadequate in its nature to inquire into the matters contained in the report; and that the House observed with regret that the Government had appointed to responsible posts officers whose conduct was impugned, and while the inquiry into their conduct was still proceeding."

In answer to a request from Mr. ROEBUCK, Lord PALMERSTON stated the names of the Commissioners appointed to report on the report of Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, which are as follow:—Lord Seaton, General McMahon, Sir John Bell, General Rowan, Earl Beauchamp, General Peel, and General Knollys. His Lordship then laid the warrant containing the names on the table.

THE LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.

On the resumption of the debate on this bill, Lord PALMERSTON explained the intentions of Government with respect to it. They felt as much convinced as ever in the justice and policy of the principle involved in the measure; but it had become manifest in the course of the discussion that, in the cases of some of the towns affected by the bill, there were circumstances of far greater complication than the Government had been led to anticipate. These difficulties lay with that part of the bill which related to the differential and town dues; and the consideration of the cases in a committee of the whole House would be highly inconvenient. The Government therefore proposed to withdraw the bill; to refer the questionable part of the measure to a select committee; and to see whether a separate bill might not be made out of the remaining materials.—Mr. DISRAELI expressed his satisfaction at the determination which the Government had come to; the speech of Mr. LOWE on the previous evening being of a nature more calculated than any he had ever listened to in that House to disturb and alarm the public mind, and to unsettle all confidence in prescription. It was evident that the Government had introduced the measure without due forethought, or they would not now require to refer it to a select committee. The position of the Government was by no means dignified, as they had to endure defeat in both Houses by their own followers, brought about by their mischievous crusades against the peerage in the one place, and the municipalities of England in the other.—Mr. LABOUCHERE replied by taunting Mr. Disraeli with party purposes, and with pouring forth, though very inappropriately, the bitter eloquence which he had designed for the adjourned debate, and of which he found it necessary to relieve himself. The bill having been founded on the report of a commission, it could not be said that it had been crudely brought forward.—After a few words from Mr. HEADLAM and Mr. HADFIELD (the former of whom approved, while the latter regretted,

the withdrawal of the bill), the order was discharged, and the bill was withdrawn.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

The Select Committee on the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill was nominated as follows:—Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland, Sir James Graham, Mr. Edward Ellice, Mr. Henley, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Keogh, Viscount Monck, Mr. Cairns, Mr. Macartney, Mr. Henry Herbert, Mr. William Fitzgerald, Mr. Whiteside, Mr. De Vere, Sir Erskine Perry, and Mr. Kirk.—The following names were also brought forward as those of the Committee on St. James's-park:—Sir Benjamin Hall, Lord John Manners, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Disraeli, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Hotham, Sir Joseph Paxton, Mr. Stephenson, Sir John Shelley, Mr. Hutchins, Colonel Boldero, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Colonel W. Patten, and Mr. Milnes.

The CHARITABLE USES BILL was read a third time and passed.

Wednesday, February 27.

CONTRACTORS' DISQUALIFICATION REMOVAL BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. MITCHELL, the introducer of the measure, said he intended to withdraw it, in consequence of the strong prejudice against its tendency—a course which he was further moved to adopt since Mr. Ricardo had announced a motion for a committee to inquire into the whole subject.—Mr. DUNCOMBE, Mr. WALPOLE, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, spoke in favour of the design of withdrawing the measure; and, after a few observations from various speakers, the order for the second reading was discharged.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE QUALIFICATION BILL.

Mr. COLVILL, in moving the second reading of this bill, stated that its object is to enlarge the qualification, and to extend it to personal property.—Mr. DEEDS and Mr. VANSITTART opposed the bill, which was supported by Mr. KER SEYMOUR, Mr. BASS, Mr. HADFIELD, and Mr. EWART.—Sir GEORGE GREY declined to offer any opposition to the bill; and it was read a second time.—In the course of the discussion, Mr. DUNCOMBE asserted the crying necessity for a paid magistracy in the country; but a contrary opinion was expressed by Mr. MUNTZ, who, nevertheless, admitted the gross inefficiency of country magistrates.

ANNUITIES BILL.

On the second reading of this bill, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, adverting to the debate upon the first order of the day, repeated that he had no doubt of the rectitude of the decision of the committee of last year; nevertheless, he could not shut his eyes to the fact that persons of great weight entertain doubts upon the point, and it was necessary to clear up those doubts one way or the other. He proposed, therefore, to introduce into this bill, when in committee, a clause of indemnity for subscribers to the existing loan, which would not throw any doubt upon the decision of the committee of last year.

Thursday, February 28th.

THE IRISH BAR.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from several members of the Irish bar, praying that they might be put on a footing with their English brethren, and that Ireland might be treated as an integral part of the United Kingdom. His Lordship (who spoke in the highest terms of the Irish bar) did not think that any preference is shown to the English bar over the Irish.—Lord CAMPBELL also spoke highly of the Irish legal body.

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE.

The Earl of DERBY moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire whether it is expedient to make any, and what, arrangements to secure a more efficient exercise of the judicial functions of the House as the Supreme Court of Appeal. Disavowing any intention to interfere with the motion of Lord Lyndhurst (which he said would be an act of the greatest presumption), and expressing a desire to prepare the way for that motion, Lord Derby criticised the nature and functions of the House as a Court of Appeal. The power to sit as such was inherited by the Barons from the great council of the realm, which exercised it in the earliest times; but the privilege is not essential to the other functions of the House, and is in fact a mere pretence—a legal fiction. Appeals are not heard by the House, but by a few law lords, the lay lords paying no attention to the proceedings (though as a matter of form they must attend in sufficient numbers to make a quorum), not even affecting to give an opinion, but merely assenting to any proposition put to them by the Lord Chancellor. Complaints also had been made against the slowness of the judges, the uncertainty in their number, the want of any power to compel their attendance, the probability that cases of appeal may be heard and decided by the same judges who have already pronounced judgment on them in the court below, the fact that the House sits only half the year, and the want of any adequate tribunal for the decision of Scotch appeals. To some of these complaints exception might be taken; but many improvements

were grievously needed. Several suggestions had been made; among which, the best was that judges should be admitted to sit with and aid their Lordships when met in a judicial capacity. As it is, they may be summoned as councillors on difficult occasions; but it would be better if they were regularly admitted, with power to speak and vote as well as advise. On the hearing of Scotch appeals, it would be well to allow certain of the Lords of Session to take a part in the proceedings. But all such considerations would be left in the hands of the select committee.

Earl GRANVILLE consented on the part of the Government, to the appointment of the committee. He thought, however, that certain words should be added to the motion, instructing the committee to inquire further what effect any such provisions as might be proposed for the better exercise of the appellate jurisdiction would have upon the general character of the House. By this addition he simply wished to enlarge the scope of the inquiry so as to include some of the questions arising out of the Wensleydale peerage.

Lord CAMBELL, Lord ST. LEONARDS, and Lord BROUGHAM supported the motion for a committee, which, as amended, was agreed to, after some observations by the LORD CHANCELLOR, who denied that the appellate jurisdiction of the House is a mere pretence, as asserted by Lord Derby.—The committee is to be thus formed:—The Lord Chancellor, the Lord President, the Duke of Somerset, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Stanhope, the Earl of Caernarvon, Earl Grey, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Redesdale, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Brougham, Lord Abinger, Lord Elgin, Lord St. Leonards, and Lord Glenelg.

THE RECRUITING SYSTEM.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Sir DE LACY EVANS gave notice that, on the House going into committee on the war estimates, he would propose a resolution disapproving the conduct of the Government, in repeatedly refusing offers from most respectable parties in Canada, to raise troops for service in the Crimea from among our colonial fellow-subjects, whilst at the same time abortive attempts were being made to enlist recruits for the same service in the adjoining territory of a neutral state, contrary to international law.

MR. FILDER.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON asked whether a reply which Mr. Filder had addressed to Lord Palmerston, with reference to the charges brought against him in the report of the commissioners, would be laid on the table of the House.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said he had only just heard of the reply; but there would be no objection to lay it on the table.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

In answer to Mr. Heywood, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said the Government could not abolish the office of principal librarian and secretary to the British Museum, without an Act of Parliament, and it was not their intention to introduce any measure.

THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. STANLEY, mentioned that (although somewhat contrary to practice) the inquiry to be instituted by the board of general officers into the Crimean report would be open to the public, with certain exceptions at the option of the board. With regard to examination upon oath, the board, he apprehended, had not the power to administer an oath.

THE MONETARY SYSTEM.

Mr. MUNTZ moved for a select committee "to inquire how far the present monetary system is in accordance with the requirements of the country, and to consider if it cannot be improved and amended." Six years had elapsed since he opened his mouth in that House on the subject. He had waited to see what effect would be produced by the large discoveries of gold in California and Australia; but, although those discoveries had done a great deal towards remedying the evils of the present system, they had not done all that was required. It was due to himself, however, to deny what had been asserted of him in the newspapers—that he was an advocate of inconvertible currency. The late Sir Robert Peel and himself differed only as to the rate of convertibility. Amidst the laughter of the House, Mr. Muntz said he would go back to the time of William the Conqueror, and take a retrospective glance at the history of our currency. In those days, a pound was a pound's weight of silver; but it had passed through many changes since then. When, in the year 1810, the Bullion Committee was appointed by Parliament, the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England showed in their evidence the most remarkable ignorance of the very first principles of monetary science; and if, in accordance with the suggestions of that committee, the Bank had taken, within the time specified, to cash payments, this country would have been a province of France. The absurdity consists in adhering to a fixed price for gold, when no legislation can define the value of that precious metal. The results of minking the attempt are to be seen in periodical stagnations in the supply of money,

in extravagant rates of discount, low wages, &c. He therefore asked for a fair and well-constituted committee, to consider these matters.

Mr. PEACOCKE supported the motion, because he wanted an inquiry into the working of the Bank Charter Act; but he dissented from Mr. Muntz's fundamental principles.—Mr. DRUMMOND pointed out the difficulty of discussing such a question, which was one of pure science, in that House. If it was not borne in mind that, in speaking of value, the precious metals must be held to be a fixed and unalterable quantity, all would be confusion. To talk of the rise and fall of the precious metals is downright nonsense. They must be the sole measure of value. He believed the soundest advice that could be given to the House on this subject was that which Arthur Young had given to the French Convention, in Paris, when summoned before it, to say what laws they should pass respecting the price of corn: "Order your clerk to thrust his inkstand down the throat of the first man who talks about corn!" He (Mr. Drummond) believed that, if the same thing were done now, and an inkstand were thrust down the throat of every man who talks about the currency, it would be the very best arrangement they could come to. (Laughter.)—The motion was also opposed by Mr. POLLARD URQUHART, Mr. WILKINSON, Mr. BAILLIE, Mr. GLYN (who, however, thought that there are many important questions for the consideration of Parliament arising out of the Bank Act of 1844, and who remarked that the directors of the Bank of England have a most difficult task to perform, and have performed it admirably during the last few months), Sir WILLIAM CLAY, Mr. HEYWOOD, Sir CHARLES WOOD, and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

The latter argued that the present is a most inopportune time for the inquiry. The circumstances of the country are exceptional and extraordinary, and the investigation would be almost confined to the state of things during last autumn, and not to the general operations of the act of 1844. There is nothing perilous in the condition of the Bank of England. The returns show that the circulation amounts to £19,254,000; that of bullion to £10,575,000; the notes to £24,390,000, and the reserve to £5,848,000. Nevertheless, there are some parts of the act of 1844 which require investigation.

The motion was supported by Mr. MALINS, Mr. BAILLIE, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and Mr. SPOONER, which Mr. CAYLEY, though agreeing with some of Mr. Muntz's principles, advised him to be satisfied with the discussion without a division. After a reply from Mr. MUNTZ, the motion was negatived by 115 to 68.

THE CASE OF TALBOT v. TALBOT.

Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE moved for "copies of the judgment pronounced by the Hon. Mr. Justice Torrens, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland, in the case of Talbot v. Talbot, before the High Court of Delegates in Dublin, in the month of May, 1855; and of the written proceedings and depositions taken in the same cause before the Consistory Court of Dublin, from which the appeal was made to the said Court of Delegates, and which were laid before the said High Court of Delegates." The assertions with respect to this case were that the lady had been the victim of a foul conspiracy, in consequence of which she had become insane, and that the judge who tried the cause was incapable.—The motion was seconded by Mr. EWART, but opposed by Mr. WHITESIDE, who contended that the judge had given a correct decision; asked why Mr. Justice Torrens was to be singled out, as there were four judges on the bench besides himself; and maintained that such motions are fatal to the independence of the bench.—He was followed on the same side by Mr. PACKE, Mr. WALPOLE, Lord PALMERSTON, and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR IRELAND; and Mr. PHILLIMORE consented to withdraw the motion.

THE DRAINAGE ADVANCES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL was read a third time and passed.

THE WAY THE SABBATARIANS PETITION.—Mr. George Jones, of Bristol, has petitioned the House of Commons against the abuse of petitions against opening the Museum on Sundays, by the signatures of infants and persons of tender years being attached to such petitions. We can corroborate the complaint of Mr. Jones by testimony, furnished to us by an eye-witness, who beheld a street boy, of face and form familiar to the readers of *Punch*, confer his signature upon an open-air petition in favour of the bitter Sabbath, and, after performing the solemn act, retire behind the nearest corner to grin at another of the same fraternity who succeeded him at the table for the same purpose.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.—At a meeting of the Administrative Reform Association on Tuesday evening, at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, a motion was carried setting forth "That the meeting strongly deprecated the appointment of a new commission, to sit with closed doors upon the commission sent to the Crimea, whose report originated several general officers as to their conduct in the Crimea."

THE WAR.

FORT Alexander was blown up, in three explosions, at one o'clock on the 11th ult. The northern forts continue to fire on Sebastopol; and an order of the day, issued by General Codrington, at Bala-klava, recommends the English officers to provide themselves with the articles of equipment necessary for a forward movement. Two general officers have been sent by the Czar, one to the Crimea, and the other to Asia. The Russian Emperor heard with astonishment that, notwithstanding his adhesion to the propositions of Austria, the Generals-in-chief of the two expeditionary corps continue the contest with fresh ardour. It is said that the mission of these Generals is to moderate this warlike vigour; but the Armistice just concluded at Paris will ensure peace on the land for the current month. The English army ardently desires the continuation of the war.

There has been some talk of a battle between the Russians and the Turks near Sugdidi, resulting in a loss to the Turks of ten guns and some baggage; but the news seems to be doubtful. The districts which recently submitted to Russia are now tranquil, but an insurrection of a rather serious character broke out recently at Ghoel, situated to the north of Kars. It seems that Aslan Pacha and his brother, Iser-Bek, assisted by a party of four hundred men, incited the inhabitants to rise, and occupied the villages of Seint, Khorovanha, and Tchoul-Penek. They were, however, unexpectedly attacked by three sotnias of Cossacks with four rocket batteries, and defeated. Ismail Pacha has been sent to Asia to replace Omar Pacha, who will be superseded in the command of the army. The Russians threaten to blockade Erzeroum in the spring.

General La Marmora has set out on his return to the Crimea.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

NICHOLAIEFF is not merely a port of construction, as is generally believed in Europe, but a port for arming vessels of war. In difficult circumstances, the Russian squadron of reserve used to be stationed there, and, if that has not taken place during the present war, the reason is that Prince Menschikoff desired to have, from the beginning of the war, under his orders in the port of Sebastopol, all the armed vessels which were in the Black Sea. In order, too, that vessels of war should be able to navigate between Nicholaieff and the sea, the Russian Board of Admiralty has had a channel made the whole way down, from which every rock or impediment has been carefully removed, and in which, during eight months of the year, there are twenty-three feet of water. That depth becomes considerably greater when the river rises. The Russian fleet in the Black Sea at the commencement of the war consisted of sixteen ships-of-the-line, among which only three were of the first-class; the others, all of the third and fourth class, only drew twenty-two feet of water when fully armed. The arming of these vessels had been effected altogether at Nicholaieff, and they arrived at Sebastopol without the slightest difficulty by following the channel already mentioned, each having her guns on board, as well as her full complement of men, and an entire supply of provisions and stores. It results from what has just been said, that ships of the line can be built and armed at Nicholaieff, and can then, during the greater part of the year, proceed to sea quite ready to fight. As to vessels of 120 guns and upwards, they can take all their guns on board with the exception of those of the lower deck, and complete their armament at Sebastopol. It may thus be seen what advantages can be derived from Nicholaieff. Both that place and Sebastopol are classed in Russia among the ports of the Black Sea, just as Rochefort and L'Orient, which are some way inland, are in the list of the ports of France.—*Moniteur de la Flotte.*

THE RUSSIAN FLEET IN THE BALTIC.—You are probably aware (says a letter from Stockholm) that by next spring the Russian steam fleet will consist of eighteen line-of-battle ships and frigates, fourteen corvettes, and seventy gun-boats, which formidable force may ride secure behind an impassable barrier, and defy the united navies of the world, thanks to the fortifications planned by Admiral Schanz, at which 30,000 men are now working under his direction. This formidable work consists in a triple row of piles right across the Gulf of Finland, about six miles from Cronstadt, and, should the ice be strong this spring, may be finished this year.

THE BLOCKADE OF THE BALTIC.—The advanced squadron of the Baltic fleet, under the command of Captain Watson, C.B., has left the Downs, and, in accordance with a telegraphic message from the Admiralty, has sailed for Kell.

"There are serious questions as to my interest in the Grand Junction and other undertakings.

"Much will be lost to the creditors if these cases are not fairly treated."

"The Grand Junction the East Kent and the Swiss railways, the Rome line the Coal Co are all liable to be entirely lost now—so far as my assets are concerned."

"I authorise you to take possession of all my letters papers, property, &c &c in this house and at Wilkinsons and 18 Cannon-street."

"Return my brother his letters to me and all other papers—The prayers of one so wicked could not avail or I would seek to pray for those I leave after me and who will have to suffer such agony and all owing to my criminal acts."

"Oh that I had never quitted Ireland—Oh that I had resisted the first attempts to launch me into speculations."

"If I had had less talents of a worthless kind and more firmness I might have remained as I once was honest and truthful—and I would have lived to see my dear Father and Mother in their old age—I weep and weep now but what can that avail."

"J. SADLEIR."

"Robert Keating, Esq., M.P.,
Shamroque-lodge, Clapham."

The reading of this letter produced a great sensation in court. Mr. Keating, who read it, was much affected, and when he came to the touching reference by the deceased to his aged father and mother, his emotion became so great that he was obliged to pause till it had subsided.

The communication to Mrs. James Sadleir, the deceased's sister-in-law, was then read. It will be seen that it was written in great agitation; that it does not commence with the usual form of address; and that it is not signed:—

"James is not to blame—I alone have caused all this dreadful ruin."

"James was to me too fond a brother but he is not to blame for being deceived and led astray by my diabolical acts."

"Be to him at this moment all the support you can. Oh what would I not suffer with gladness to save those whom I have ruined."

"My end will prove at least that I was not callous to their agony."

With reference to these letters, Mr. Wilkinson said:—"I do not think there was a single person who had Mr. Sadleir's confidence. He was a most reserved man. It was extremely difficult to get any information from him beyond what he chose to impart. I believe Mr. Sadleir wrote the letters which have been produced under great excitement. I know much of his affairs, and believe there is much in those letters that is not correct."

Mr. Norris stated that Mr. Gurney had told him that he gave Mr. Sadleir £13,000 in bank-notes before he left the city on the Saturday afternoon before his death. (No trace of this sum has since been discovered.)

The coroner observed that at present there was no evidence of Mr. Sadleir having been of unsound mind at the time he destroyed himself; but, with the exception of the forgeries mentioned by Mr. Wilkinson, it was not clear that the crimes with which the deceased had charged himself were not merely hallucinations. If so, it would be obvious that he was in a state of insanity; if not, he was guilty of *felo de se*, and all his property, whatever it might be, would be forfeited to the Crown. Under these circumstances, it would be necessary to adjourn the inquiry again. It was consequently adjourned till next Tuesday week, March 11th.

The amount of Mr. Sadleir's delinquencies (though it is known to be very large) is at present undefined. "The undertakings with which he was chiefly connected," says the *Times* City article (Wednesday), "were the Royal Swedish Railway, the East Kent Railway, and the London and County Bank. He was likewise greatly interested in the Tipperary Joint-stock Bank, of which his brother, the member for Tipperary, was chairman, and he also acted as receiver, or agent, for some Irish landowners. Urgent inquiries are consequently being made as to the special nature of his transactions in relation to each of these bodies. As regards the Royal Swedish Railway, of which he was the chairman, it appears to have been ascertained without doubt that he has issued an immense amount of the shares and obligations of the company without authority, although with genuine signatures. Whether he has put forth any which are forgeries seems not yet to have been clearly established. The capital of the company is £416,070, in £5 shares, on which it enjoys a guarantee from the Swedish Government of four per cent. interest and one per cent. sinking fund, and the shares are payable to name or to bearer, at the option of the shareholder. A considerable number were forfeited for non-payment of calls, and some time back, in order to avoid unnecessary sacrifices, the company obtained power to raise £100,000 on debentures or obligations. They required the signature of two directors and the secretary, and Mr. Sadleir, having obtained possession of the unissued quantities for the purpose of completing them with his signature,

seems to have got rid of them in the Stock-Exchange, or in any quarter where he could raise money. The nominal amount thus made away with is reported to range between £200,000 and £300,000, although probably the advances he received upon them were not more than a fourth or a third of that total. With regard to the East Kent Railway, it is stated that, with the exception of some arrears of calls, Mr. Sadleir is not directly indebted to that undertaking. In his capacity of deputy-chairman, however, he induced the board to deposit £8,000 of their unemployed capital with the Tipperary Bank on deposit notes, which fell due at the beginning of last week and were dishonoured. In the case of the London and County Bank, it is affirmed that no loss whatever has been sustained. The most serious features of fraud remain still to be adverted to—namely, those committed by means of his opportunities as agent for the landed estates of noblemen and others, and also by direct forgeries of titled deeds. The trust property made away with is supposed to be extremely large, and many deplorable circumstances are likely to arise in this part of the history, the full scope of which will probably never come before the public. At present, many of the sufferers are themselves ignorant of the position in which they stand, and most likely several months must elapse before all the actual facts can be unravelled. As respects the forgeries of titled deeds from the Encumbered Estates Court, it is satisfactory to be able to state that only two cases have thus far been discovered, although very general inquiries have been made by some leading solicitors in Dublin."

A MURDER IN THE OPEN STREETS.

TOWER-HILL was, on Sunday morning, the scene of a robbery and murder of a nature which, when taken with other circumstances of recent occurrence, induces us to ask whether we are lapsing back into a state of utter lawlessness. About half-past two o'clock, A.M., a man, whose name has been subsequently discovered to be George (or William) Brown, was stopped while returning homeward by a woman and two men, robbed, and, on resisting, knocked on the head with a life-preserver with such force as to break the skull and occasion death within a few hours. He was discovered by a policeman lying upon the pavement near the Crooked Billet public-house, Sparrow-corner, in a state of insensibility from the severity of the blow and bleeding profusely. His pockets were turned inside out. As he still breathed, a constable by whom he was discovered obtained assistance, and carried him on a stretcher to the Leman-street police-station. Thence he was taken to the London Hospital; but he died on Monday afternoon, from concussion of the brain, having never recovered his senses. He had been spending the evening with some friends, and was on his way home when a woman stopped him at the corner of the Minories. He was rather intoxicated at the time, and, while in conversation with the woman, the two men, who appeared to have been lying in wait, rushed on him, and one of them knocked him down with a life-preserver. They then rifled his pockets and made off. The police are making inquiries after the two men and the woman.

SUPPOSED MURDER OF A WOMAN AT PORTSMOUTH.

ANOTHER of those tragical events which have lately been common throughout the country, occurred about a week ago at Portsmouth. A steward in the navy, named William Ansell, who has recently returned to this country from the Crimea, has been examined before the borough magistrates on a charge of murdering his wife. On the afternoon of Friday week, Ansell and the woman went out together, and Mrs. Ansell returned home first. Ansell himself came home shortly after ten o'clock, and, a little before eleven, one of the neighbours heard him quarrelling with his wife, and, almost immediately afterwards, heard the report of a pistol. Previous to the report, there was a cry of "Murder!" and the woman exclaimed, "Oh, William, give me time to make my peace!" Several people from the adjoining houses went into that of Ansell, and, on entering the room where they had heard the noise of the quarrel, they saw Mrs. Ansell lying on the floor quite insensible, and bathed in blood, which gushed profusely from her left temple. Some of the fingers of her left hand were shot away, as if the hand had been lifted up to screen the temple. Medical aid was instantly obtained, but the woman died in an hour. Information of the affair was then given to the police, and Ansell was apprehended. After he was in custody, he stated to the constable that it was all an accident; that the pistol chanced to be in his hand cocked, and, his wife having touched the trigger, the weapon exploded. He added that, when the pistol went off, he was so stupefied by the occurrence as not to hear the noise, and when he recovered and saw his wife bleeding, he exclaimed, "Amelia, what have I done?"

On the next day, Ansell was taken before the magistrates and formally remanded until Monday, when, being again brought up, some additional facts transpired. The man and his wife do not seem to

have been on good terms for some time past; the latter had been beaten by Ansell, and had complained of his violence to one of her neighbours, and requested help in case "anything should happen." Ansell appears to have suspected his wife's fidelity, for on one occasion he threatened to shoot her "if she did not behave herself." He accounted for the possession of the pistol, and also for a six-barrelled Colt's revolver which was found in his house partly loaded, by saying that he bought them for the better care of a handsome silver shrine in his possession, which he had purchased of some sailors who had taken it from one of the churches at Kertch. He was committed for trial at the Winchester Assizes, for wilful murder.

Another murder and an attempt at murder are alleged to have taken place at Portsmouth within the last few days. The first is the case of a marine artilleryman, who died in Haslar Hospital last Saturday from the effects of poison supposed to have been administered by a woman named Louisa Bullock at a public-house in Portsmouth. The other is a charge against a man who is accused of having attempted to drown his wife by throwing her into the deepest part of the milldam, Portsea, on Saturday night.

A BURGLARY AT A FARM HOUSE.

JOHN JUST, aged 25, and Thomas Just, aged 23, labourers, were indicted at the Carlisle Assizes for a burglary in the dwelling-house of Andrew Little, at Kirkandrews-on-Esk, on the 10th of August last, and for stealing £2 10s.

The prosecutor, it appeared, is an old farmer, living alone with his wife, who is also aged, at their farm, in a secluded part of the country. About a week before the burglary in question was committed, he had £60 in his house, and this fact appeared to be known to a man who had lodged with them, who was a friend of the prisoners. On the night of the burglary, Mr. Little and his wife had gone to bed, leaving the house safe, and the former had been asleep, when he was awakened by a noise, and asked his wife what it was. She said she thought it was the cat, and got up and struck a light. Seeing nothing, she put the light out and got into bed again. In a short time there was another noise, and Mr. Little exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy! what's that?" His wife said it was the cupboard door which had flown open. Presently, however, there was a louder crash, and Mr. Little saw the two prisoners come in at the window of his bedroom, one of them having his face blackened. They advanced to the bed, and one of them, using violent threats, demanded to know where his money was, striking him at the same time with a stick. He pointed to his waistcoat, and said all the money he had was in the pocket of it. They searched it, and, not being satisfied, one of them dragged him out of bed by the legs, and on his shouting out seized him by the throat. The other threw himself on the old woman, and appeared to prevent her crying out. Mr. Little begged of them not to hurt his "auld wife." She was then let alone, and the husband giving no further information about his money to satisfy them, was beaten till he was insensible, and the burglars fled, leaving him on the floor. The old man was so injured that it was thought he would have died next day. Early next morning the two prisoners were met on the road leading from the prosecutor's house, and, suspicion alighting on them, they were taken into custody, both Mr. Little and his wife swearing to the identity of both prisoners by their voices, size, and appearance. The prisoners (who were undefended) endeavoured to prove an alibi; but the jury found them guilty. Sentence of death was ordered to be recorded; but the judge informed them that it would not be carried into effect, but that they would be transported for life.—A farm-house near Sheffield has been entered in the middle of the day, during the absence of the master, and ransacked. A boy, eleven years of age, was the only one left on the premises; and he was found manacled in the cow-house, and gagged by a piece of turnip stuck into his mouth.

ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE A PESTHOUSE.

The condition of St. Pancras has for some time been so disgraceful that the Poor Law Board thought it necessary to interfere, and to appoint Dr. Benoe Jones and another inspector to institute a searching investigation. The report of these gentlemen was on Tuesday read at a meeting of the parish authorities, and was found to disclose a most startling and dreadful state of things. The poor of St. Pancras have, in fact, for some time past been systematically poisoned and half starved. The report states there are three hundred more in the house than there were in 1846. The wards are described as being offensive, and almost without ventilation. In four of the six principal wards there was a draught of air from without, passing through the privy into the ward. The medical officer is reported to have stated that the crowding of the wards accounted for the slowness of the recovery of many patients. On one occasion, ten male patients and two women were lying on the floor. Both the medical officers of the workhouse stated that the offensiveness of their wards was excessive, and

that fever had been the result. Phillips, the nurse, had seen several persons made ill by the foulness of the room, and she herself had suffered from it. The rooms were so crowded that many had no beds or even ticks to sleep on, so they had to lie on the floor, the table, or forms. The occasional ventilation in some of the wards, by opening the windows, alone prevented the inmates dying of suffocation. In the men's casual ward, it is reported by the surgeon that ten men had passed the night lying naked, as close as possible, on one of the planks. The stench in the night-nurses' sleeping room is described by Mrs. Gray as terrible. Testing the air, it was found to contain 2.75 per cent. of carbonic acid. The men's dayrooms and insane wards are mentioned as being fearfully overcrowded. One sleeping apartment is described as a cellar, where fifteen persons sleep. There was no chimney to the room and no means of ventilation, except one small window in the door. The arrangement for the administration of out-door relief is depicted as most defective. As many as nine hundred are sometimes relieved in one day. The applicants are crowded into pens, the air being most offensive, frequently causing women to faint. "At half-past five o'clock, as many as one hundred and fifty still remained unrelieved. They had no food all day, and many of them stated that they did not expect any until seven o'clock. Mr. Birchmore, the relieving overseer, states that his predecessor died from the effects of the foul air of this underground office, into which the directors were unwilling to come." Dr. Jones adds—"I cannot sufficiently strongly express the opinion I have formed of the evils which result from the cold, wet, foul air, and fasting, which the poor endure. While endeavouring to obtain out-door relief, they are exposed to disease, and even to death." No attempt was made at the parish meeting to deny these assertions—indeed, they were admitted to be true; and the adoption of the report, as well as of another report by the vestry committee on the same subject, was agreed to. A committee appointed to take the report into consideration has recommended several sanitary reforms.

A WIDOW BEWITCHED.—A painful case of wrongful accusation came before the Lambeth magistrate on Wednesday. The names of the persons concerned have been suppressed in the papers, and the initials only are given. Mrs. G. (a widow of high respectability) was riding in a Clapham omnibus with Mrs. H., another widow equally well connected. The former lady accused the latter of stealing her watch; and, though all the passengers avowed their disbelief in any such thing, she persisted in the charge. Mrs. H. then consented to go to the station-house; and here the inspector suggested that Mrs. G.'s watch might have got concealed in her dress, and recommended a search, but was cut short by the lady emphatically saying that "perhaps he might wish to search himself." Mrs. H. was given in charge, but was admitted to bail; and at night, on going to bed, Mrs. G. discovered the watch concealed in her dress. She therefore offered an apology on the following morning before the magistrate; and the accused was discharged.

BONDED STORES ROBBERIES AT BRISTOL.—A custom-house officer at Bristol has recently been convicted of participation in the robbery of Mr. Alfred Phillips, wholesale wine and spirit merchant; and further investigations have been made by Mr. Brown, one of the surveyors-general, Mr. Weale, chief locker, and Mr. Beverley, solicitor to the Customs—investigations which have terminated in the suspension of thirteen Custom-house officers, and in an examination conducted with closed doors. A report has been presented to the Board of Customs, and their decision is in substance as follows:—"Dismissed summarily, with forfeiture of all arrears of salary, Henry Pallin, first-class established locker, who for the last three or four years has been acting as a re-dipper; T. R. Francis, James Oliver, and Richard Matthews, established weighers. These four officers were accused of having carried away wine and spirits from the cellar of Mr. Phillips. The following have been reduced, with forfeiture of all arrears of salary:—Richard Weaver, inspector, of patrol in tide-surveyor's department, to the bottom of the list of second-class tidewaiters; Thomas Green, acting-inspector of patrol to the bottom of the list of second-class tidewaiters; Nathaniel Bedford, first-class established locker, Miles Spickett, Henry William Godfrey, James Hamilton, William D. Sage, and William Ellbrooke, established weighers of the first and second classes, to be severally reduced to the bottom of the lists, and to be removed to other ports. Acquitted:—Peter Pope, first clerk in the warehousing department."

COMMITAL OF A CLERGYMAN FOR AN ILLEGAL MARRIAGE.—The Rev. R. M. Benson, M.A., student of Christ Church College, Oxford, and perpetual curate of Cowley, has been committed for trial on a charge of marrying a couple without duly publishing the banns, and without any licence. The couple had been married at the office of the superintendent-registrar. After the birth of twins the woman applied to be churched; but Mr. Benson refused unless she and her husband

were remarried according to the rites of the Church of England; and this was subsequently done, without the publication of the banns and without licence. Mr. Benson was admitted to bail.

"THE SPIRIT OF MURDER WORKS IN THE VERY MEANS OF LIFE."—Tennyson's terribly true line has received many confirmations lately; but none more full of a cold-blooded, mechanical, systematic villany than is afforded by a new trade which has sprung up between Ballydehob, in the county of Cork, and Liverpool. "It consists," says a Cork paper, "in the exportation of large quantities of a material called barytes, which is sent to Liverpool for the purpose, it is said, of adulterating flour. This substance—chemically termed sulphate of barytes—is admirably adapted for the adulteration of flour, being an impalpable powder, of perfect whiteness, and great density, its weight being nearly equal to that of lead. It is not poisonous, but, being quite indigestible, its effects on the animal economy must be prejudicial if taken in large quantities. Some of it is used for a more laudable purpose—the manufacture of earthenware, for which, in conjunction with other clays of a siliceous character, it is well adapted. Manganese is also said to be exported to England to some extent, for the purpose of adulterating black lead."

ASSIZE CASES.—John Kenyon, a plasterer, has been found guilty at Lancaster of the manslaughter of his wife by continued ill-usage, while she was suffering from consumption. He was sentenced to transportation for life.—William Brown, a letter-carrier, has been convicted at the Appleby Assizes of stealing a post letter containing eight half-crowns and a half sovereign. The money had been returned by the prisoner's friends shortly after it had been stolen; but he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

A SPIRITED THIEF.—Patrick Collins (the boy who formerly acted as one of the agents of King, the ex-detective policeman) has been found guilty, together with another boy, at the Middlesex Sessions, of stealing a purse. The two were sentenced, the former to four years' penal servitude, and the latter to four months' hard labour. The prosecutrix, in giving her evidence, addressed herself to the bench, when Collins said, "Look at me, ma'am, will you, and not there." On the Assistant-Judge remarking that he had been punished on other occasions, Collins interposed—"My lord, my having been in prison before does not make me guilty of this charge."

ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.—Burglaries and robberies in houses on Sunday evenings while the family is at church have been very common of late; and an instance is stated to have occurred last Sunday at a house in Sutherland-square, Waltham-road. Three men entered the house by means of skeleton keys, and commenced plundering the rooms. The servant girl, who was by herself, resisted the men with great courage; but they knocked her down, and inflicted a severe wound in her neck. They then departed. On the return of the family, the girl was found bleeding profusely, and was taken to St. Thomas's Hospital. Such was the girl's first account; but she has since confessed that the house was entered during her absence, and that she inflicted the wound on herself to prevent suspicion falling on her.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS.—The magistrates in petty sessions at Chester have made an order of payment of four shillings a-week upon the father of a boy who lately absconded with his clothes from a workhouse, but who is now in the reformatory at Bradwall. The parents, though in prosperous circumstances, had neglected the boy; and the Home Secretary, in accordance with the act rendering such parents liable for the support of their criminal offspring, made a demand which resulted in the order just described.

A "ROWDY" MAGISTRATE.—One of the borough magistrates of Nottingham, and the ex-mayor of that town, has made an attempt to shoot a sheriff's officer, named Colton. Dr. Pigott, the gentleman in question, has been under considerable pecuniary difficulties, and a few days ago Colton and another officer went to his house to seize his effects. The Doctor, presenting a pistol and threatening to shoot them, ordered them to leave the house; but Colton seized hold of the pistol, and got his finger under the trigger. The other officer then seized a poker and struck at Dr. Pigott, who received a blow on his head, and was knocked down; after which the pistol was wrested from him, and was found to be loaded with ball. A warrant has been granted for his apprehension; but his injuries are such that for the present he lies under medical treatment. The man who struck him with a poker has been apprehended on a charge of attempting to murder Dr. Pigott, who affirms that he was struck when he had not got the poker. The sheriff's officer has been admitted to bail.

A TALK OF A DONKEY.—Some days since, a very amusing case, relating to the rightful ownership of a donkey, was heard at the Bow-street police-office. Miss Wheatley, a young lady, whose father keeps a farm near Reading, became possessed, about fourteen years ago, of a young donkey just foaled. The animal was employed to draw her about in a

little chaise, and soon became a great favourite with the family. It was also a good deal noticed in the work called "Our Village," by the celebrated authoress, Miss Mitford, who lived in the neighbourhood, and by another literary lady who used frequently to borrow it. This much-cherished family pet remained in the possession of Miss Wheatley until 1851, in the August of which year Miss Wheatley one morning discovered that it was stolen. The lady happened at that time to be living in London, and was much concerned on hearing of the loss of her favourite. She could not by any means recover it, and had long since given up all hopes of seeing it again, when one day, about a fortnight ago, she beheld the animal in the streets harnessed to the cart of a costermonger. A mutual recognition immediately took place between the two friends. The young lady, however, although she greatly noticed and caressed the donkey, would not at that time claim him as her own property, but continued talking with the man until she saw a policeman, to whom she stated her case, and afterwards took out a summons. A solicitor in court on behalf of the costermonger, attempted to prove that a donkey was not, strictly speaking, a chattel; he also stated, in order to show how difficult it to identify people or property, that in another police-office, not long since, a woman had sworn to a wrong man as being her husband. The father and mother of Miss Wheatley, as well as a friend, both declared that the donkey belonged to their daughter. Mr. Jardine finally ordered the donkey to be given up to Miss Wheatley.

HOPEFUL LODGERS.—At the Worship-street police court, a young man named John Crockett was charged with having committed two audacious robberies. The first was at the house of Miss Hudson, a maiden lady, living at Dalston, where, about two months ago, he called with an accomplice who was not then in custody, and asked to look at some apartments that were to let. Having taken a view of the rooms while he left his friend in the parlour, he promised that his "Ma" should call the next day, and then quitted the house with the other man. His "Ma," however, did not come at all, and no sooner had the two visitors departed, than Miss Hudson missed a gold watch that had hung up in one of the rooms. Thinking it possible that she might have left it in the parlour, she went there to look for it, but then found that both it and another from the parlour mantelpiece were gone. They were both in their usual places before the men entered the house. Miss Hudson saw no more of either of the thieves until after Crockett was in custody. The other robbery took place, under similar circumstances, at a house at Dalston, where Mrs. Mead, the wife of an engineer, lived. When Mrs. Mead left the court after these two cases had been heard, she met in Bishopsgate-street a man whom she recognised as the associate of Crockett. She accordingly gave him in custody. The two prisoners, who were both identified by a constable in court as notorious and convicted thieves, were remanded for a week.

SILK ROBBERY.—A large amount of silk velvet, &c. has been taken from the premises of Mr. Thomas Marshall in Spital-square, during the absence, for about half an hour in the middle of the day, of that gentleman. From the account given of two men who were seen driving away from the premises in a spring cart, they were arrested and, on being taken to the station-house, one of them, named Stuart, asked to be shown to the water-closet. Here he was observed to tear up some paper, which, however, he could not get rid of; and the fragments were found to contain the word "velvet" in writing, and to correspond with the paper which wrapped round the missing goods. Stuart (who is described as a commercial traveller), and his accomplice Hopkins, have been remanded at Worship-street.

A SUTTEE WITHOUT BEING A WIDOW.—A woman, in a state of stupefaction from habitual drunkenness, was brought before the Worship-street magistrate, charged with attempting to burn herself to death. A policeman stated that, on the previous night, the woman's husband ran towards him in the streets, with a petticoat in flames in his hand, saying that his wife had set fire to the bed she was lying on, with the determination to burn herself to death. Going to the house he found that such was the case, the bed-clothes and the woman's own linen being in flames. The woman in her drunken way, swore that she would destroy herself; but she was "rescued from death by force." She is a confirmed drunkard and has made the same attempt several times before. The magistrate remanded her.

MODEL SISTERS.—Mary Ann Prior, a young woman belonging to the class self-described as "unfortunate," has made a murderous attack on her sister, who belongs to the same order. They were in a beer-shop when the one sister detected the other (who, though living an abandoned life, is a married woman) in the act of robbery, for which she reproved her, and compelled restitution of the property. Prior was greatly enraged at this, and the sister (Hannah Kendall) returned home. Here she was followed by Prior, who beat her with her fists, and, seizing a knife, rushed at her. She fled, but was pursued and

stabbed in the face and breast. The culprit was arrested, and has been examined at Worship-street, where she has been remanded. She alleged drink as the excuse for her offence.

AN ATTEMPT TO MURDER IN THE SURREY THEATRE.—A scene-painter at the Surrey Theatre, named Frederick Quennell, made a serious attack with an iron bar, on Saturday night, on a Mr. Harcum. A quarrel had for some time existed between the two; but no precise details are at present known. Quennell has been examined at the Southwark police-court, and is remanded.

BANK ROBBERY.—A young man at Glasgow has been robbed of £250 which he was paying into the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. While counting out a pound's worth of silver, to add to the former sum (which was in notes), a man asked him some questions to engage his attention, and shortly afterwards disappeared. It was then found that the notes had disappeared also.

AN INCENDIARY IN THE FAMILY.—Joseph Lockwood, son of Mr. George Lockwood, farmer, of Arlington, near Doncaster, has been committed for trial, charged with setting fire to a stack of wheat belonging to his father. The father said he believed the cause of the crime was that the young man could not agree with his half-sister—a very unsatisfactory mode of accounting for the fact. Joseph Lockwood admitted his crime to the police, but denied it before the magistrates. All the witnesses gave him an excellent character as an honest man, but rather incongruously added that "drink had been his ruin."

A DESPERADO.—A young man, named Edward Butler, has been examined at the Clerkenwell police-office on a charge of severely wounding Ann Cox, a charwoman living at Somers-town, and also assaulting two policemen. The prisoner, who appears to be of a habitually savage disposition, was drinking, in company with the woman, at a public-house in Somers-town. After a time, a quarrel arose between them, when Butler, taking out a knife, threatened to kill his companion, and then commit suicide. The woman held up her right hand to ward off the blows, and immediately received several deep and dangerous cuts. Two policemen who came to her aid, and attempted to take Butler into custody, were bit and kicked ferociously. After he was conveyed to the station-house, and while a police-sergeant was taking him to his cell, he became so violent that it required six constables to remove him. He said he would "do" for the woman if she approached him. All he alleged in his defence was that he was drunk at the time. He was sent to the House of Correction for two months for the assaults on the woman and constables.

SUSPECTED MURDER AT NANTYGLO.—The dead body of a man has been discovered at the bottom of a shaft of one of the collieries at Nantyglo. Traces of blood in the locality of the body seem to render it probable that the man was murdered.

THE MURDER AT ISLINGTON.—Mrs. Somner has been committed for trial on the charge of murdering Celestina Christmas. It now appears beyond all doubt that the girl (who was a little turned ten years of age) was the offspring of her murderess. On being removed after the former examination, Mrs. Somner began talking with a policeman about Hamlet and Richard the Third, and of the acting of Mr. Phelps in "the tyrant" of the latter play. She added, alluding to the murder, "It is no use telling a lie: I did not know what to do for the best"—with respect to the deceased child.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE incident of the *Siecle*, the *Debats* and the *Moniteur* has been a good deal talked of in Paris, as an amusing illustration of the constant and systematic equivocation which constitutes the genius of the present Imperial government. To understand the embroglio, it should be premised that the *Siecle*, with its quasi-republican airs, and frothy patriotic *Charvinism* and bluster about the nationalities, &c., has for a long time forfeited the confidence of the pure republican party in France from its known intrigues with that branch of the Imperial family at present located in the Palais Royal, and from the intimacy of its extremely mediocre editor-in-chief, M. Havin, with the renegade minister of the Interior, M. Billault, and other congenial associates. Well, in the present instance, the *Siecle* publishes an article which finds favour in the eyes of the Emperor, not because it represents his own policy, but because it is calculated to throw dust in the eyes of the British plenipotentiaries. This article is in the form of a loud reply to a calm diplomatic *resumé* in the *Debats*, in which the probable pretensions of Russia had been alluded to. The Emperor gives orders, through M. Fould, the Minister of State and of the Household, who has the special control of the *Moniteur*, to have this article from the *Siecle* reproduced in the non-official column of the official journal. Next morning all Paris, and especially official people, astonished at this identification of the *Siecle* with the *Moniteur*, and

the patriotic gentlemen on the Bourse are aghast at their Government, unofficially it is true, demanding the destruction of Nicholaieff, the closing of the Bug, the limitation of the Russian frontier, &c. &c., as essentials to peace. Next morning, a note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appears in the semi-official *Constitutionnel*, announcing that it was by an error that the article from the *Siecle* had been transplanted into the *Moniteur*. Thereupon, hot war between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of State. Next morning again, a note in the *Moniteur* stating that the *Constitutionnel* was in error in conceiving the *Moniteur* capable of an error; that the reproduction of the article from the *Siecle* was intentional, and that the *Moniteur* always corrected its own mistakes. This note appeared in all the journals, except in the *Constitutionnel*, whose silence occasioned so sharp a quarrel between the two ministers that it is said they offered their resignations, under the conviction, we need not add, that they would not be accepted. Finally, the *Constitutionnel* was ordered to publish the note of the *Moniteur*, and its pliant editor-in-chief, M. Amedée de Césena, who had taken his orders from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has fallen a victim to the resentment of the Minister of State, and has lost his position on the journal. Such is the dignity, and such is the wisdom, with which public affairs are conducted in France. It is still asserted that the article inserted in the *Moniteur* was not the one intended to enjoy that distinction. We should add that the *Siecle* affects to treat the condescension of the *Moniteur* as an honour it had not been accustomed to of late, and to which in its Spartan virtue it was sublimely indifferent, while the *Debats*, which has certainly the best of the game, informs its contemporary with a polished sneer that it is not in the habit of taking lessons of patriotism, and that it is as much concerned in the honour of France as the *Siecle*, only it appreciates that honour differently.

Count Orloff is much remarked in Paris for his portly person, his lofty bearing, and his aristocratic manners. Baron Brunow is thought to look quite *bourgeois* in comparison.

The sale of the *Independance Belge* is now an accomplished fact. It was announced by that journal on Sunday last. The particulars were correctly transmitted to us by a private correspondent a fortnight since. M. Perrotretires, and is succeeded in the chief editorship by M. Bérard, who for the last ten years has been acting chief editor of the paper. M. Perrot receives 600,000 francs (£24,000) in cash, and preserves an interest in the property to the extent of 200,000 francs (£8,000). The remaining shares to the extent of 600,000 francs are held by Doctor Véron and two banking firms at Cologne, notably that of Oppenheim et Cie. The *Independance* insists with suspicious earnestness that its political direction will remain absolutely unchanged. No doubt any modification will be very gradual; but whether the intervention of a man of the Empire like M. Véron will be imperceptible to the readers of the journal, time must show. Already, as our correspondent informed us would be the case, M. Louis Hymans, the chief Belgian contributor to the paper, has seceded.

An extract from the private letter of a French lady contains an amusing account of the ball given to the Sultan by the French ambassador at Constantinople. "At half-past eight, when I entered the room, the Sultan was already in the palace; he had arrived at half-past seven, but was still in the private apartments. He made his entry into the ball-room at half-past eight, and took his seat upon a throne which had been prepared for his reception. His Highness looked on while a quadrille and a valse were danced; then retired for an hour; and returned to see another quadrille and polka. I danced in a quadrille close to his throne. The physiognomy of the Prince lacks animation; he looked at us fixedly by turns; but it would be difficult to say what feeling was dominant in his expression, *ennui* or pleasure. The Sultan wore a black dress, tightly fitting, something like the dress of the Turkish *attachés* at Paris; but over all he wore the white mantle of the Prophet, the collar and sleeves of which were studded with magnificent diamonds. As to his household and ministers, their dresses were covered with gold. They seemed uncommonly pleased with our amusement, *et je t'assure qu'ils nous torquaient d'une façon toute Française*. They stayed till the end of the ball."

A census of the French Empire is to be taken this year.

Several political arrests have recently taken place in the departments.

No sort of demonstration was attempted in Paris on the occasion of the anniversary of the Revolution of 1848.

Washington's birthday was celebrated by the most brilliant *fête* of the season given by the American residents in Paris, and presided over by the American Minister, at the Hotel du Louvre.

The reception of the esteemed M. Legouvé at the French Academy took place on Thursday last.

Madame Allan, one of the most remarkable actresses of the French stage, died on the evening of the 22nd inst., after a severe illness. Her loss to the Comédie

Française will not speedily be replaced. She made her début at the Théâtre Français in 1827 as Mlle. Despréaux. From the Française she passed to the Gymnase, where she was married to the actor Allan, and from the latter theatre she accepted an engagement at St. Petersburg, where she held a brilliant engagement for ten years. On her return to Paris in 1844, Madame Allan introduced the charming *Proverbes* of Alfred de Musset to the Parisian stage, enriching them with her own most delicate and refined delineations. The select public of the St. James's will not easily forget Madame Allan's exquisitely pathetic acting as the mother in *La joie fait peur*. That singularly true and touching little drama has now obtained a new and melancholy consecration in the death of her whose genius conceived a simple story of universal human interest, and of her whose subtle and accomplished art gave form and reality to the conception. Madame Allan at the time when she was seized with her fatal illness was studying the chief part in Madame George Sand's new piece *Françoise*. Justly esteemed and beloved both in the profession she adorned and in her private life, her death at the age of forty-six, will, we are sure, be universally and profoundly lamented wherever her genius and her goodness are known.

Madame Rachel has arrived in France from New York.

Madame Maria Cabel has made her *début* at the Opéra Comique in M. Auber's new opera, *Manon Lescaut*, the composer having recovered from his recent severe illness. The Court and all the *corps diplomatique*, including most of the Plenipotentiaries, were present at the first performance, which was completely successful.

A Paris paper had published a story about M. de Montalembert, to the effect that that nobleman had made himself liable to an action at law for having omitted to assume a name on condition of which he had inherited a fortune. M. de Montalembert, in a curt and caustic letter to the journal, for which he demands peremptory insertion, insists that the whole story is a fabrication—that his ancestors have borne no other name than his own since the eleventh century—and "if the journal in question will be good enough to inform him what name they bore before that date, he will be very much obliged for the information."

The Court of Assizes of the Basses Pyrénées has been occupied in the trial of a young Swiss woman, named Jenny Dufey, who made an attempt to murder Mrs. Brock, an elderly English lady, suffering from an affection of the lungs, and residing at Pau. Dufey lived with Mrs. Brock as a kind of companion; and, having ascertained that her mistress kept £49 in a pair of stays, she resolved to possess herself of that sum, and to murder the invalid. She therefore told a girl who lived with a German countess in the same house that her mistress was dying and that she wanted her assistance. Taking with her two blankets, she then entered the invalid lady's room and attempted to smother her; but the cries of the victim brought assistance, on which Dufey said, with great self-possession, "Get some hot water instantly—Mrs. Brock is dying." She was in fact discovered to be insensible, but was restored. The accused was found guilty, though with extenuating circumstances (what these are do not appear), and the court sentenced her to twenty years' hard labour.

BELGIUM.

A Belgian journal states that Rossini, who has published nothing since the *Stabat Mater*, has recently composed a beautiful melody, entitled *La Separation* for a favourite pupil, Madame de Luigi.

AUSTRIA.

The Empress of the French has received from the Austrian Empress-Mother, Caroline Augusta, the order of the Star Cross (*Stern-Kreuz Orden*). This star is only worn by those ladies whose pedigree is supposed to be without the least blemish; but the Empress-Mother, who is Protectress and Superior of the Institution, says, in the letter which accompanies the star, that the attention has been shown "in order to consolidate the intimate relations already existing between the two families."

Sir Hamilton Seymour has been unable to find a suitable house or apartments since he went to Vienna, and has therefore lived at an hotel. His rooms have been entered in the night, and his linen has been stolen. With respect to the quarters now occupied by our ambassador, the *Times* Vienna correspondent observes:—"For a long time, a Russian prince with a polysyllabic name had the very next room to that which served the British minister for his *salon de réception*, and it is highly probable he heard a great part of what was said, as Vienna doors are by no means remarkable for their thickness or for fitting close."

A conference of bishops is to take place at Vienna, to consider the subject of the Concordat, with respect to which there is great diversity of interpretation on the part of the Government and of the ecclesiastics.

The intolerance of the Austrian ecclesiastics has received a rebuke even from Government. The Rev Sebastian Brunner, had, in the Vienna *Church Gazette*,

denounced Professor Unger, a celebrated geologist at the Vienna University, as a man who brings forward unscriptural doctrines. The students thereupon sent a deputation to the Minister of Public Instruction, who assured them that the holy man had asserted an untruth.

PRUSSIA.

Baron von Manteuffel has recently made to the Prussian Chambers a statement of the extraordinary efforts of the Government to put the army on a war footing, to facilitate which, the Chambers, in the course of 1854, granted the Ministry a loan of 30,000,000 thalers.

HANOVER.

The Hanoverian Cabinet has survived its recent crisis, the ministers who had proposed to secede having been induced to retain their portfolios. A decree convoking the Legislative Chambers for the 2nd of April next bears the signatures of all the members of the Government.

ITALY.

The official *Gazette* of Verona, affirms that the Princess Belgiojoso is authorised to return to the Imperial Austrian dominions, and that the sequestration is removed from her estates.

The accounts from Italy indicate no disposition on the part of the Lombardo-Venetian exiles to avail themselves of the "amnesty" just accorded them by Austria.

SPAIN.

It is said that the public feeling in Spain is setting against the present government in France. Recently the Madrid *Gazette* officially contradicted the rumour that General Bosquet had been elevated to the rank of a grandee of Spain. The rumour was ridiculous enough; General Bosquet has already sacrificed himself enough by his "elevation" to the rank of senator of the French empire.

PORTUGAL.

A passage of arms between the Duke de Saldhana and Count Thomas occurred the other day in the Portuguese Chamber of Peers. The Duke had accused the Count of peculation during his term of office; the Count called upon the Duke to explain. So far from explaining, however, he said he meant the imputation strictly in a personal sense, and not as applying to the official acts of the ex-minister.

TURKEY.

Constantinople is on the eve of a financial and commercial crisis. The price of goods has considerably fallen, and transactions are thereby totally paralysed. Meat and flour have diminished by one-half, sold by wholesale; but the retail prices continued as high as ever. The public, the journals, and the merchants, loudly demand the establishment of a bank, in order to reduce the difference of exchange between the Turkish and foreign coins, which already lost from fifteen to twenty per cent. The Divan has not yet replied to M. de Rothschild's proposition. A disease among cattle is extending its ravages all over the empire. The Hatti-Scheriff, regulating the position of the Christians, is being translated into several languages, and will soon be published.

The conferences at Constantinople with regard to the settlement of the Danubian Principalities were signalled by many widely-varying propositions—the English, French, and Austrian ministers suggesting constitutions similar to those existing in their own countries; but finally, the last two ambassadors gave way to the views taken by the English representative, knowing that the results of the conferences would not be definitive. No signatures were exchanged; and the question remains open for the conferences at Paris.

There has been a rumour that Omar Pasha would soon arrive in Constantinople. It appears that he has again sent in his resignation, saying that he can only remain at the head of the army on certain conditions which shall better define his powers with respect to the Ministry of War. Omar, however, has been ordered to remain at Sugdidi. Some talk has been occasioned by Omar Pasha removing from Sugdidi the furniture found at the palace of the Princess Dadian. There are also complaints against Omar for allowing the property of Count Rosemaduque, a French subject long settled in Mingrelia, to be pillaged after he had promised that it should be protected. The Count had established a silk manufactory in Mingrelia, and had given the Turkish General some valuable information about the state of the country people as well as of the Russians.

An accident has happened in one of the Bashibazouk squadrons. The Bashis had been in the habit of cutting out pieces of wood from the sides of a wooden shed in which they were quartered. At length they found that they had carried this liberty a little too far, for the shed, weakened in its foundations, fell down, killing eight and wounding eleven men, and killing and wounding forty-two horses.

Aali Pasha has been charged by the Sultan to transmit to the Empress Eugénie and Queen Victoria two diadems in brilliants. Besides horses, the Sultan has sent to the Emperor Napoleon a sabre, mounted with precious stones.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The *Fremden Blatt* learns from Bucharest that, on the 21st of January (old style), the freedom of the press was proclaimed in Moldavia, and laws for its regulation were published. On the 7th of February, the question of the emancipation of the Wallachian gipsies was decided by eleven voices against ten. There are 70,000 gipsies in Wallachia, and their present proprietors will receive an indemnification for each of them from the State.

The Moldavians express great joy at the presence among them of Mr. Allisson, the first Oriental Secretary of the British embassy at Constantinople. They regard England with great veneration, and look upon her as the natural protector of the Roumain people.

RUSSIA.

During the present year, an ukase permits the importation of salt over the frontier of Austria, and from Moldavia, and at Odessa and the Danubian ports, upon the payment of fifteen copecks per pound.

The Emperor has ordered that the two Grand Dukes, Nicholas and Michael, shall at once enter upon their respective functions, the former as Inspector of Engineers, the latter as Master of the Ordnance.

Within the last few weeks, considerable amounts of specie have been forwarded across the frontier to the address of the house of Steiglitz and Co., in St. Petersburg.

The Empress-Mother is extremely ill, and it is thought that she cannot long survive. Her nervous attacks are very violent. The Court receptions and rejoicings consequent on the marriage of the Grand Duke Nicholas have been suspended in consequence.

An Imperial ukase has ordered the immediate issue of Treasury bills, in seven series, amounting in the aggregate to 21,000,000 of roubles.

SWEDEN.

A commission of engineer officers has been appointed, with the Crown Prince at its head, to make plans for the fortification of Stockholm, and to consider other propositions for the defence of the kingdom.

DENMARK.

The conferences on the Sound Dues have just been formally adjourned.

THE ORIENT.

PERSIA.

The *Gazette Officielle de Teheran* contains a notification to the effect that the Emir Dost Mahomed Khan, Sirdar of Kaboul, having become master of Kandahar, intends to march an army on Herat; that the Persian Government considers it to be its duty to protect that province; that the designs of Dost Mahomed Khan "tend to foment a strong agitation in the province of Khorassan, and perhaps even in Beloochistan, Kerman, and the neighbouring countries;" and that the Persian Government, in consequence, feels it necessary "to maintain in Herat the rights and authority of its sovereign until new political arrangements are made." The position of Persia towards the Allied Powers, however, is to remain the same.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE commercial reports from the provincial towns for the week ending last Saturday are of a varied character, but on the whole favourable. At Manchester there has been considerable flatness, owing to a falling off in the orders for India, although the home demand is steady. The Birmingham advices show a tendency to lower quotations in the iron-market, consequent upon the limited extent of the purchases for America and the continued pressure for money. In the copper-market, however, renewed firmness is observable, and the general trades of the place are also fairly sustained. The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has resolved to petition for the introduction of "protective" clauses into Mr. Lowe's new partnership bill. At Nottingham, both the home and foreign demand for lace has been of an extraordinary character, while for hosiery it is likewise good, although checked in some degree by the late advance in prices. In the woollen districts there has been a further improvement, and a general increase of occupation. In the Irish linen-markets stocks are decreasing, and the transactions are in every respect healthy.—*Times*.

THE LATE MR. SADLER AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

—The Committee of the Stock Exchange on Monday took into consideration the peculiar circumstances connected with the issue of shares and obligations of the Royal Swedish Railway Company by the late Mr. John Sadler, and adopted a resolution, postponing the settlement of outstanding transactions, and discounting for the present any further operations in them.

RESIGNATION OF THE LIVERPOOL LOCAL MARINE BOARD.—This Board has given in its resignation, from causes which are thus stated in the *Liverpool Mail*.—"The resignation was produced, we believe, by the overbearing behaviour of the officials of the Board of Trade, who refused to sanction the recom-

mendations of the Local Board relative to the salaries of some of their officers. At the same time that these ungracious refusals are conveyed to the elite of our mercantile body, the Board of Trade make no scruple to receive from them upwards of £3,000 a-year, not one sixpence of which is expended for the benefit of the port. A few months since, the Board of Trade refused to ratify a recommendation of the Local Marine Board, till Professor Playfair, who was sent down at an expense which would have paid one year's salary of a local official, had made a special report on their application."

THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS for the month ending the 31st of January were issued on Wednesday morning, and show an increase in the declared value of our exportations still larger than that exhibited in the preceding month. It was then £1,470,969, and in the present instance it is 1,509,990. With regard to imported commodities, most of the principal articles show an increased consumption.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE OLD WOMEN AT THE ADMIRALTY.—Under date of February 8th, the annexed order has been issued from the Admiralty:—"I am commanded . . . that it is their Lordships' desire that officers of the navy should not wear beards or moustaches on board her Majesty's ships. By the regulations of the service, men are expected to be properly shaved, and it is essential that a good example on this point should be set by their officers." (!)

THE LOSS OF THE JOSEPHINE WILLIS.—The reports of Mr. Yardley and Captain Robertson with respect to this catastrophe have been transmitted to the Board of Trade. The former gentleman conceives that the collision was owing to the chief officer of the Josephine Willis having starboarded her helm under the belief that the lights of the Mangerton were those of Dungeness, and to the captain of the Mangerton porting instead of starboarding his helm. He does not think the chief officer of the Josephine Willis to blame; but he conceives that the light on board that vessel was insufficient, although the lanterns had received the sanction and approval of the emigration agent who inspected the ship. The boats of the Mangerton are described as having been in an inefficient condition. The crew of the Mangerton life-boat are thought blameable for not having succoured the crew of the Josephine Willis, the chief officer of which is severely criticised for not taking measures to the same effect after he had been rescued and placed on board the Mangerton. "The second officer showed equal apathy and want of feeling." Captain Robertson differs from Mr. Yardley "in the conclusion come to by him respecting the cause of collision, and considers that, so far from the chief officer of the Josephine Willis, who was in charge of the deck at the time, being excusable, the collision was caused by his wrongful act and default." With respect to the course pursued by the officers of the Mangerton, Captain Robertson "thinks they did perfectly right in porting their helm after losing sight of a light they had just before seen a point to a point and a half on their port bow." In other matters, Captain Robertson coincides with Mr. Yardley; and he concludes by recommending Newham and Anderson (two sailors who behaved with great gallantry) to the favourable consideration of the Board of Trade.

MANSLAUGHTER OF A SOLDIER IN THE SWISS LEGION.—An inquest has been opened at Maidstone on the body of Henry Voht, a private in the Swiss Legion. Voht made a violent assault on a comrade, named De la Vecchia, who was sent out with a patrol to bring back Voht and some other truant soldiers. A struggle ensued, in which De la Vecchia (who is an Italian) stabbed Voht in the abdomen with his bayonet, conceiving himself justified by the Swiss military law in thus meeting an obstinate resistance to the patrol. The inquest is adjourned.

LIEUTENANTS MONTGOMERY AND HODGSON.—His Excellency the Governor of Malta has granted a pardon to Lieutenant Montgomery, of the 7th Fusiliers, lately sentenced to three months' imprisonment for misbehaviour in the cathedral of Civita Vecchia, and for resisting the police. The elder offender, Lieutenant Hodgson, R.A., committed for four months' imprisonment, has not been included in this act of clemency.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and the Court still remain in town. The royal family on Tuesday visited the Zoological Gardens in the morning and the Princesses Theatre in the evening.—Her Majesty held a levee at St. James's Palace on Wednesday.

THE FOUL ATMOSPHERE IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—A vitiated and sickening atmosphere has been remarked in the Court of Queen's Bench; and at the sitting of the Court on Tuesday morning Lord Campbell said he had received a letter, of which, for the sake not only of his own health, but for that of the counsel, jury, and witnesses, he felt it to be his duty to take public notice. The writer stated that he was well acquainted with all the circumstances

which constituted the nuisance to this and the adjoining court, and that to his knowledge the bad smells by which they were assailed proceeded from an ancient cemetery over which the court was constructed. He stated that there was anciently a chapel at Guild-hall, with a crypt and burial-ground, in which were deposited the remains of deceased mayors and aldermen of former times, and that the offensive smells now proceeded from that source.

THE CONVICT CORRIGAN.—This criminal, who was to have been executed on Monday, was reprieved at a late hour on Saturday, after the preparations for his execution had advanced to a considerable extent. His friends had been labouring for this result for some time without effect; and the suddenness with which Sir George Grey altered his opinion has surprised the prison authorities. The wretched man fainted on hearing the change in his sentence. Sir George Grey came to his present determination after consultation with the judge who tried Corrigan, and who agreed with him in thinking that the act was committed during a species of insanity. The culprit will of course be imprisoned for life.

THE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Tatham, who cut his throat in the Liverpool Exchange, has expired. It was found impossible for some days to remove him from the vaults beneath the news-room, into which he had retreated to destroy himself. At length, it was necessary to lash him to a plank, and push him up the step-ladder, and through the trap-door, which are the only means of approach to the vaults. Subsequently to the act, it was found that the payments about which he was apprehensive were made on the very morning of the attempted suicide.

MARRIED OR UNMARRIED?—A singular case has been tried in the Prerogative Court, within the last few days, the question being as to whether Mrs. Campbell, an old lady who lately died at the age of eighty-one, was married or single at the time of her death. This question was raised by a Mr. Corley (the old lady's executor), who alleged that he had been married to her, though the fact was always kept secret, and who, therefore, claimed possession of the estate, to the exclusion of the old lady's son by a former marriage. It was alleged, on the side of Mr. Corley, that Mrs. Campbell, during the last few years of her life, had complained of being ill used by her son, and that, therefore, she was compelled to marry for the protection of her property. On the other hand, Mr. Campbell asserted through his counsel that his mother maintained an almost idolatrous affection for him up to her latest moment; and he therefore as well as on other grounds, disputed the fact of the marriage having taken place. The lady was a Roman Catholic, and she received the last sacraments on her death-bed as Mrs. Campbell, and the inscription on her coffin represented her as the relict of Major Campbell. The marriage, it seems, was performed secretly, in the office of the Marylebone registrar; and the age and residence of the bride, as well as the name of her father, were wrongly entered. The case had been tried before Sir Herbert Jenner Fust, and been decided against Mr. Campbell, who was condemned in costs. Two appeals to the Judicial Committee had resulted in the same decision, which was again repeated by the judge in the present instance, who pronounced that the marriage (which he characterised as "disgusting") was fully proved, and who consequently condemned Mr. Campbell in the sum of £150 costs, *nomine expensarum*. The proctor for Mr. Campbell asserted an appeal.

THE PRIZE OMNIBUS.—Mr. George Godwin, Mr. Joseph Wright, and Mr. Charles Manby, the gentlemen deputed by the London Omnibus Company to adjudicate on the designs for an omnibus sent in reply to their proffered premium of £100 for the best, have declared that none of the designs seem to them to be of supereminent merit, though exhibiting excellent suggestions in some of the details, but that the best is that of Mr. Miller, of Hammersmith. "There are points about some of the design," adds the report, "which, being combined, would aid in producing what you and the public desire—a light, commodious and well-ventilated omnibus."

A NEW ENGLISH OMNIBUS COMPANY.—It is stated that an influential Omnibus Company is in course of formation, with a view to rescuing the metropolis from the threatened monopoly aimed at by the large omnibus proprietors. It will be associated as a *Societe en Commandite*, but will use an English Company's title; and Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., and General Wyndham, M.P., who procured a reduction of duty on omnibuses last session to the amount of £40,000 a-year, are identified with the project. This new undertaking will comprise English omnibuses and English omnibus-builders. It is registered under the Limited Liability Act, and it will avail itself of all *bona fide* improvements, for the comfort and convenience of metropolitan travellers.

DRAMATIC READINGS.—The middle classes of our provincial towns are being gradually familiarised with Shakespeare through the pleasant medium of Dramatic Readings by emissaries from London—art missionaries, so to speak, who aim at exalting the tastes of

those who until recently have been removed from the influences of the metropolis. Mrs. Fanny Kemble and Miss Glyn have already added largely to their celebrity by this species of entertainment; and Mrs. Chatterley—a lady known to the playgoing world of London—has lately been making a tour through the western districts of England, where she has met with much success. She has recently read, "As You Like It" to the people of Salisbury, who have duly appreciated the intellectual and well-trained manner in which that exquisite drama was delivered.

THE LATE ROCHESTER ELECTION.—A petition was presented on Monday night to the House of Commons against the return of Mr. Martin for the City of Rochester on the ground of bribery and corrupt practices, and the seat was claimed for Mr. Bodkin by the petitioners. No further proceedings have yet been taken in the matter.

THE NEW LORD AVELAND.—The Crown has conferred this title on Sir Gilbert John Heathcote, not "for the term of his natural life," but to him "and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten."

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.—The witness mentioned as Mr. Thomas Tomlins, who was examined by Lord Lyndhurst in the House of Lords on Friday in reference to the Wensleydale peerage, was Mr. Thomas Edlyne Tomlins, solicitor and record agent, 10, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

FALL OF A STAIRCASE AT CHELTENHAM.—A stone staircase in Shire-hall, Cheltenham, fell on Friday week from the extreme pressure of a large number of persons who were endeavouring to reach the session-room to hear the trial of a case. One man was killed, and five were seriously injured.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 1.
LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS.
TORTURE IN INDIA.

THE EARL OF ALBERMARLE in moving for some papers, adverted to the evidence which showed the continued infliction of torture upon the native inhabitants in the Madras Presidency. The only effectual mode to put a stop to this practice would be, he said, to render the subordinate functionaries of the East India Company responsible to the Home Government and Parliament.

Earl GRANVILLE consented to produce the papers, but argued that sufficient responsibility existed among all the departments of the Company's service.

Some bills were advanced respectively through a stage of progress, and their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION.

In answer to Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, Lord PALMERSTON said that Sir J. McNeill and Colonel Tulloch could of course be allowed to be present at the meetings of the new Commissions, or it would be in the discretion of the Board whether those gentlemen should examine any of the witnesses. He also stated to Sir DE LACY EVANS that the Board would have full power to close the doors and go in secret at their discretion.

THE SLAVE TRADE IN TURKEY.

In answer to Mr. BIGGS, Lord PALMERSTON said that, at the remonstrances of this country, Turkey had abstained from the Slave Trade in the Black Sea; but, with regard to domestic slavery, it was a subject on which this country could not insist at the Conferences.

THE EDMONTON MILITIA.

In answer to Mr. EVELYN, Mr. PEEL said that there were some regiments of militia which were not embodied, and it was usual to wait for the application of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county to have them called out for training.

Mr. LAYARD stated that the Colonel of this regiment was Lord Enfield, the Lieutenant-Colonel was his brother, and, in short, the officers made up a family party, and it was one of the greatest jobs he ever heard of.

Mr. BYNG (one of the officers in question), said the officers were as much obliged to Mr. Evelyn for bringing this forward as any person could be; for they regretted that the regiment had not been called out for training last year.

Lord PALMERSTON denied that there was any job in this regiment; it was only constituted on the required principle on which the militia was by law established. He paid a compliment to the services of the militia officers.

Sir ERSKINE PERRY (who never had been mentioned by Mr. Layard) explained why he had felt it his duty to join the regiment, and said he would have gone out to the Crimea if necessary.

Sir DE LACY EVANS explained that a return of the names of officers in the Crimea had omitted all mention of his services, and elaborately set out those of other officers.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. ROEBUCK rose to bring forward his motion protesting against the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the report of the Crimean Commission. He entered into a history of the sufferings of the army in the Crimea in 1854-55, and of the Sebastopol Committee. He urged that the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of the army in the Crimea were most competent men, that their report bore out all that had been said of the condition of the army; and it implicated Sir Richard Airey, Lords Lucan and Cardigan, Colonel Gordon, and Commissary General Filder. The Government ought to have made the report the ground of trial by court-martial of these officers; instead of which they had issued a commission to certain general officers to report on their report.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, who had given notice of an amendment which he was precluded from moving by the forms of the House, said, although he wished inquiry into this matter, he could not support the manner in which it was sought by the motion, which prejudged the case of the officers named in the Report. Under these circumstances he should abstain from entering into the discussion on the present occasion, but would bring forward the question himself in a substantial form on a future day.

General PEEL, who had been somewhat contemptuously alluded to by Mr. ROEBUCK, protested with strong emotion against the remarks which had been made upon him.

Mr. F. PEEL argued against the course taken by Mr. ROEBUCK, and went at length into a defence of the course taken by the Government.

Mr. BENTINCK opposed the motion; and Mr. LAYARD, in an elaborate speech, urged many objections to the new Commission, which he declared was far less satisfactory than that on which it was to sit in judgment, and that by the course the Government had taken they had prejudged the case, and the Horse Guards had defied public opinion.

Colonel NORTH defended the Commission. Sir DE LACY EVANS, in a powerful speech, pointed out a number of instances in which the present Government had failed in their duty to the army in the Crimea, and he especially attacked Colonel Gordon and Lord Panmure.

Mr. A. GORDON defended his brother from the attack of Sir De Lacy Evans.

Mr. GLADSTONE deprecated the tone which the debate had taken; but objected to the appointment of the new Commission as insulting to the former Commissioners, and complicating the state of things by opening a new inquiry.

Lord PALMERSTON urged that the turn which the debate had taken showed how inopportune the discussion was. He denied that the Government intended to disparage the former Commission by the course they had taken, which was only intended to have full justice done to all parties. He defended the appointments of General Airey, Colonel Gordon, and Lord Cardigan, and contended that the imputations contained in Mr. Roebuck's motion were both unjust and ill-timed.

After a few words from Lord CLAUD HAMILTON and Sir DE LACY EVANS in explanation,

Mr. ROEBUCK withdrew the motion. A single vote of six and a-half millions for the pay of the army was taken in Committee of Supply.

The CONSOLIDATED FUND (£1,681,000 *ls. 5d.*) was read a third time and passed.

The MUTINY BILL and MARINE MUTINY BILL were read a second time.

Mr. W. PATTEN obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the fencing of machinery in factories.

The House then adjourned at half-past twelve.

DENMARK.

All the Danish Ministers impeached for misapplication of the State funds have been acquitted.

SPAIN.

Some disturbances which broke out at Malaga have been put down. Marshal Espartero, on the occasion of his *fete*, received the officers of the garrison of Madrid. Tranquillity prevails everywhere.

TURKEY.

The Hatt-i-scheriff of the Sultan, relative to the reforms in favour of the Christians, has been read in presence of the ecclesiastical, military, civil, and Christian dignitaries.

PROBABLE FATE OF THE PACIFIC.

The following has been posted in the Underwriters' room at Liverpool:—

"Glasgow, February 27.
"The Edinburgh, screw-steamer, which arrived here on the 14th inst. from New York, passed on the 7th inst. a large quantity of broken ice, and in it saw a quantity of broken cabin furniture, fine ornamental doors, with white or glass handles, such as might have belonged to a first-class steamer or ship."
The Pacific sailed for Liverpool on the 23rd ult.

Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., is seriously indisposed.

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. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. If 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.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Our TITLE-PAGE and INDEX for Vol. VI, 1855, will be given next week.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. Communication should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1856.

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.

RUSSIA, AFTER THE PEACE.

ASSUMING that the Conferences lead to a general pacification, the result of the war is, that Russia recoils before the powers combined in defence of Turkey. She surrenders her ostensible claims, relinquishes some of the fruit of former wars, and accepts, more freely than at any anterior period, the control of European diplomacy. It is indisputable that, in so far as she has not maintained her original pretensions, she has lost in position and *prestige*. But who has gained? Austria has gained, by the consolidation of her interests on the Danube; Sweden has gained a territorial guarantee; Sardinia has gained, as a compensation for her burdens, dangers, and sacrifices, the frail benefit of recognition—such recognition, probably, as Cracow obtained at Vienna. To France has been conceded the initiative in war and peace. Prussia has extended her German domination, enriched her people by the overflow of the carrying trade, and established, in comparison with Austria, a financial superiority so decided that it is her intention to create a navy, and convert into a reality that which, in Secretary GRANVILLE'S time, was a sarcasm. In eight years the flag of Prussia will rank no longer with "the flag of Frankfort." Whether, however, the plans of FREDERICK WILLIAM will be accomplished in Holstein is a separate question.

Excepting the Government of the Porte, which has been ruined, and Sardinia, which may have been betrayed, by the war, Great Britain is the only power which has not gained a moral or material advantage. In the Crimea, notwithstanding the unrivalled prowess of the troops at Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann, and their perfect constancy amid the most appalling privations that ever tried the virtues of an army, her military character has not been raised. Radical defects have been exposed in her governing and administrative systems; the exposure will be a benefit, unless apathy returns with the star of peace; but, through those defects, thousands of our best soldiers perished, and disasters in the camp were followed by disasters in the field. Diplomatically, England has fallen into the rear of France, and has sacrificed great opportunities, at the same time, that politically, she has sacrificed great principles. Her influence in Asia, instead of advancing, has retrograded. The fall of Kars has been to Russia, what the fall of Canton, in the Chinese war, was to

England. It has confirmed, among the credulous and imaginative populations of the East, the rumours of her power. Ten cities of the first magnitude might be stormed in Europe, without producing on the Oriental mind an effect equivalent to that which was the immediate consequence of the reduction of Kars.

It rests with the Plenipotentiaries, under the presiding will of the Tuileries, to decide how far this success justifies Russia in maintaining her Asiatic pretensions. We have no hope that much will be gained by Great Britain in that direction. Possibly, the question is not one of immediate importance. It must be obvious to all who have marked the course of the war, that the real struggle between British and Russian power and policy has not yet arrived.

Peace, if now concluded, will leave Russia intact, as the citadel of the military system in Europe. Russia is a young, growing, compact empire; with a political machinery which cannot be weakened except by Revolution—and there is not one Government in Europe that does not regard the unawakened Revolution with equal abhorrence and fear. That, then, is the issue of the war. It settles certain points of diplomacy; it may affix its flying seal to the spurious imperialism of France; but it leaves, unappeased, unexhausted—the Revolution.

It leaves the Revolution, because it has not changed one condition in the state of Europe that renders the Revolution necessary. What has this war had to do with the civilisation to which the appeal was made, or with the liberty on which the promises were lavished? It found Europe bearing the burden of a military and monarchical system, the weight of which it has aggravated. In France, a lawless and violent despotism has been consecrated and strengthened by gratuitous complicity in England. In England itself, political and social reforms have been postponed. In Germany, some of the lesser states have lost a part of their constitutional liberty; Austria has not abated, but increased, her pressure on Italy; the Hungarians have been silenced; the populations which, in 1848 and 1849 exhibited a sympathy with the highest intelligence of the age, lie in languishing expectancy; in Prussia, where the Government is less oppressive, but not less arbitrary, the privileges of the electoral body have been attacked. The Ottoman Empire, instead of maintaining its integrity, has lost its independence, submits to the dictation of the Allies, to Austrian encroachments, and to the virtual divorce of the Danubian Principalities. Turkey, as a Turkish power, is bankrupt; the Christian race is already half in possession. As for the Circassian cause,—which, at the outset, excited a ridiculous enthusiasm in England—it has vanished among the clouds of the Caucasus. Persia is subjected, in an increased ratio, to the influence of Russia. The Fins have seen the Baltic fleet come and go, two successive summers, without a gun being fired for their nationality, and "the immortal Poles," who have furnished sentiment for Tiverton, and satire for the House of Commons, are once more consigned to the patronage of the Visionary. No Lord Chamberlain will again marshal the sympathisers on St. Martin's platform.

The war has been limited in scope, and can lead only to ephemeral results. Europe—that Europe which represents civilisation and liberty—awaits the issue of a nobler struggle. Events, not conspiracies, will create the opportunity. It is impossible not to believe in better national destinies than can be developed under the rule of armies and privileged orders. Governments—even the most ephemeral—confide in their

power and in the constancy of fortune, and prepare their successions, as though the throne of Usurpation stood under the sanction of an eternal law. Why, then, should Europe despair? It has more resources than those of Terror, more rights than those of a *Coup d'Etat*.

THE POLICE-BILL RESISTANCE.

THE resistance to Sir GEORGE GREY'S Police Bill is a middle-class and country-gentleman resistance. Its single motive is not the avoidance of rates—there are other purposes at work; although probably it is dislike to rates that stirs farmers in the field, and the love of votes that primarily actuates shopkeepers in the town. The Bill follows up a former Act which laid down the rules for the establishment of police in counties that voluntarily adopted it. That act has, therefore, been voluntarily adopted by more than half of England and Wales. It is one of those cases in which an injury is inflicted upon the communities that have adopted the law, when others refuse to adopt it also. In all counties that still hold out, there are numbers who desire to see the measure extended over their own districts. Those counties which have a police, naturally become proportionately comfortless abodes for vagrants or the ticket-of-leave class; the vagabonds gradually wander into the counties that are guarded only by the inefficient force under the Parish Constables Act. Nevertheless, on that free ground the vulgar tribe of ROBIN HOODS is kept up, and thus the neighbouring counties suffer for the *laches* of the false economists. Because the West Riding of Yorkshire, in its economical wisdom, refuses to appoint an efficient guard over highways and property, the next Riding, which has adopted such a guard, suffers by the contiguity with the thief-preserve. Now, there is no question that a minority in the West Riding feel the inconvenience as well as the disgrace, and they would, therefore, gladly adopt the measure. Thus, there is the East Riding in favour of the new law, and no inconsiderable part of the West Riding; or, taking the two Ridings together, a decided majority in favour of an effective county police. Under the practical working of the Act, then, a large majority of the country is favourable to its extension over the whole; but because a minority divided into counties works as a majority, and resists the extension of the law, the country is exposed to the maintenance of the thief-interest. This is not self-government, it is the obstruction of self-government.

Again, in towns the real objection is not to the bill. There might be valid reasons why the Secretary of State should not have a control over the police, even to the extent of dictating the uniform and pay. But however jealous the Watch Committee of a corporation might be about its privileges in these matters, everybody knows that it would care comparatively little for that amount of interference, if it were not for another clause in the Bill. The measure will extend to boroughs that prohibition which now prevents policemen from voting at county elections. Here is the great sting. The common-councillors are really the governors of the force; although they may not by direct means purchase the votes, or send the men down to elections by word of command, any one can see the degree of influence which such a position offers. Now, common-councillors and aldermen are always glad enough to replace themselves by their friends, or to get themselves in again. The police is a great reservoir of votes for such a purpose; and here it is proposed to render that force as independent of borough election matters as the county force. *Hinc illa lachryma!* Many

borough notables who would gladly join in a measure to drive away the thieves more effectually, dislike the idea of driving away the votes; and thus, under cover of resenting central authority, they join the county members; love of votes sympathising with dislike of rates.

If the true motives to the resistance were avowed it would be more respectable. We could imagine a very refined style of argument vindicating the policemen's right to vote at elections, and proving that by giving the sway over the choice of members in the Town Council to the Town Council itself, a certain unity is imparted to the borough, conducive to independence, and strengthening it as a State. We can conceive a still more refined style of argument, which would represent that if country gentlemen or bumpkins were completely protected against ticket-of-leave men, returned convicts, highwaymen, and burglars, they would lose that manliness which is characteristic of the Englishman, and be devoid of any practice to keep their hands in against the Russians, or any other foreign enemy that might invade our country. But the very same men who are pleading for local self-government would abet a Secretary of State if they expected any degree of political disturbance in the country. They would in a moment vote for concentration upon Yorkshire or Somersetshire. Let there be such riots as would follow upon a stoppage of the cotton trade, and we should have borough magistrates in a panic, like those of Bristol, placing the whole government of their city at the disposal of a Captain of Dragoons. Why, then, should the larger third of Yorkshire, or wide districts in Somersetshire, be left at the mercy of the scoundrels that may wander about, a terror to the defenceless, for the simple reason that those who resist do not see an immediate advantage to themselves personally, or to their class, in the adoption of the measure?

The fact is, that local self-government is not the real object of the agitators. If it were, we should never have had either this cry or the necessity for this bill. Because times are quiet, and they think that they can "keep down" the working class without much assistance, the country gentlemen and the borough tradesmen are willing enough to do with as little public machinery as they can, and to keep what they have got in their own hands. Sir GEORGE GREY steps in with his bill, only because they have let one of the first functions of local government go by default. If the tranquillity of the times were disturbed, they would be howling for more force, a sudden recruitment of the police, or an auxiliary army of soldiers. The very men who are calling out for local government and self-government are denying the right of the English people, to even so much as a vote at the election of Members of Parliament. It is true that Sir GEORGE GREY's bills are too much characterised by the principle of centralisation; but it is because self-government has locally fallen into an apathy. And the class that now resist dare not call forth the true life and spirit of self-government, because if they did they would have the million of the working classes loudly asking for *their* share. They are allowing the authority to drift into the hands of the central Government, because when the proper season offered they refused the full share to the great body of the people itself. They are punished by the power which the central Government is acquiring, of inflicting upon them rates and dictation; and they would be punished again when rougher times come, because they would stand exposed to the just indignation of the multitude.

SADLEIR OUR WITNESS.

"It is an exceptional case," they say, when we point at any particular instance of the results to which the present temper and custom of "good society" lead. When a Sir JOHN DEAN PAUL, chairman at so many religious and moral meetings, is found out, "the case," they cry, "is peculiar;" when the gentlemanly Mr. STRAHAN is detected, they say, "he has been led away;" when the Honourable FRANCIS VILLIERS "levants," they affect astonishment at "so remarkable a case;" when an ARTHUR GORDON is brought before a criminal court, compassion is felt for the friends and associates, who are so unlike him; when JAMES SADLEIR, an ex-lord of the Treasury, avows forgery and frauds of many kinds, they tell us that, "Such a case has never happened before." Now, how do they know? If Mr. SADLEIR had succeeded in all his manoeuvres, he would have made large sums of money; he would have redeemed the property that he has risked or counterfeited, he would have netted a fortune over and above his liabilities, and he would have been the millionaire, "commanding" a high place in the House of Commons, if not in the Upper House: for the claims of wealth are distinctly recognised in this country. How do we know that there is no SADLEIR that has not failed? How that there is no SADLEIR who, although failing, has not found friends to assist him in veiling his disgrace and their own? Do we not see advertisements in the paper, continually telling A. B. that he "may return," that "all has been arranged;" and if this in most cases applies to run-a-way apprentices, does not the language sometimes suggest the belief that a manager or director may be the fugitive whose place of concealment is kept so secretly?

Besides how is it possible, in this case, that the delinquent can stand alone? The actual forgeries that Mr. SADLEIR committed may not have been executed with the privacy of others; but the partners in his bank must have known their own means; those who had access to the books must have known the risks which their chief was running, with sums supposed to be in the coffers; and somebody must have known what was implied when Mr. SADLEIR induced the East Kent Railway Company to deposit £8,000 of its unemployed capital in the Tipperary bank. If unauthorised, the issue of Swedish Railway Shares was his own unaided act; does that issue differ very greatly from the issue which chairmen and directors of railway companies have themselves authorised? Mr. Sadleir borrowed money on the security of a deed representing landed estate. The deed was a simple forgery, representing nothing; in what respect did it differ from railway shares representing no capital at all, but simply constituting surplusage created in order that people who had contributed nothing might draw part of the dividends as if they had paid their quota. In what respect does it differ from the tradesman who professes to sell you coffee, and gives you chicory? In what, from the conduct of a great shipowner, who borrows money upon more ships than he has to stake; who undertakes to make payments without having any certainty of being able to fulfil his engagement? In all cases there is money obtained by the pretended sale of something that is a fiction, a fraud, a counterfeit; and in all cases the purchaser is cheated; the only difference being the amount of the loss. It is the same with a scion of a noble family who professes to make bets under such circumstances, that the other party may lose money and he may win it; but that he has not the money to lose, and his fellow-sportsman cannot win. Nay, there is no difference

in the case of the nobleman, whose estates have long ago been impounded for more than their value, who still has goods from his tradesmen at three years' credit, and borrows on the security of the land that has done duty so many times over to defraud the tradesman, or to screw money out of some friends and relatives that combine to compromise his affairs and conceal his disgrace. The substance of the fraud is in all cases the same. It consists in taking money out of the pockets of the unsuspecting, by telling a lie, and substituting a counterfeit for a reality.

The great excuse is the maxim, "Caveat emptor"—let the buyer beware. We are all of us so wide-awake that if we are taken in it is our own foolery, or our knavery over-reaching itself. What is this but to say that every SADLEIR is surrounded by SADLEIRS; that we are all of us more or less familiar with the stratagems that he uses, and that in fact he is not the exception that he is represented to be?

We have a right to assert that he is a type. The class is not always so completely developed; but he is only taller than the plants in the same bed. Such practical and material contradictions of truth could not exist, if it were not for what appears to us to be at this day the ruling vice of society. It is not the drunkenness of the last century, the Don-Juanesque profligacy of the previous century, the royal tyranny of the age before, the priestcraft or baronial turbulence of an earlier age. It is not the commercial depravity, which is only the ultimate symptom on the surface, though it threatens to undermine our commercial strength, by taking away nationally that character for the "sterling" which we have lost individually. It consists in the habit which has grown upon us of having a set of morals which we profess to uphold in public, and betray in private. The code of society decrees certain laws; the open infraction is punished, the open denial is treated as infamy; yet the veiled avoidance is winked at, and the wholesale infraction is tolerated, so that it be not avowed. We preach a law of marriage, while Regent-street swarms with the walking proofs that the rule of theory is not the rule of practice; but the habit of slighting the conventional law begets the habit of observing and respecting no law at all; and those who would have chased MARY WOLSTONECRAFT into exile are guilty of debaucheries, of unblushing infamies, and cowardly betrayals, at which Tom Jones himself would have blushed. We profess rigid commercial exactness: a committee of Parliament now sits to explore a system of wholesale fraud by adulteration; the leading men of the Turf are debating checks upon wholesale cheating in "debts of honour;" courts are established to deal with wholesale and habitual bankruptcy, which earns judicial *praise* when it just escapes fraud. Thus our commercial classes learn habitual laxity of dealings by the universal slight of laws which everybody professes to uphold. The only wonder is that a SADLEIR could not have hit upon some more bold and ingenious mode of transferring his own bankruptcy to unsuspecting strangers than common forgery or fraudulent sales; and that he should not have blushed to seek refuge in so foolish a device as suicide, as if a man should break his heart or hide his head because he has deceived all round and brought ruin upon others. The true shame in our day is for the deception to fail and the ruin to reach one's self. But no man who will keep his outlay and his professions going—no man who can ride in a carriage, and speak moralities from "the chair," needs yield to the vulgar fate of confession, self-condemnation. Look round you when the highest in the land are mustered

at festival or state meeting, and say if many a radiant presence there does not triumphantly establish our position.

THE PEOPLE'S SUNDAY :

HOW THEY CAN SET IT FREE.

THE representatives of the nation have, by 376 to 48, decided against Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY'S motion for opening the British Museum, National Gallery, and similar places, on the Sunday; and this, it is said, is the decision of "the country." In one sense the assertion is true. There is a mode by which any man may join in dictating to the people of England. Whether he has taken orders in the established Church, has attained a ministry in some dissenting "persuasion," or has only appointed himself on the "mission" "to convert the heathen" at home as well as abroad, he has but to put on a black coat and a white neckcloth, to quote clipped phrases at random from a sacred volume, and he is licensed to speak as presumptuously as he likes, nobody daring to gainsay him. We all know that the Christian Sunday is not the Jewish Sabbath; and yet all manners of texts derived from the Old Testament can be flung at a public meeting by a loud-voiced, or a thin-voiced, Pharisee, in white neckcloth and black coat, and the meeting ducks its head, submitting. The dictation comes in the name of the Church, but we must not, therefore, accredit the better observance to the whole body of the people in churches and chapels on a stated Sunday,—for among even those congregations are numbers of neutrals, indifferents, and submissives. The majority of the people are not inside those buildings at all—they are *outside*. If they did not go to the National Gallery and British Museum, they could not go into the churches and chapels, because there is no room provided for them. And why is no room provided? Because their coming is so totally out of the question, that it would be a simple waste of money to provide church-room for them. This is the manifest interpretation of the fact, that no church-room has been provided. Neither the Government, nor the Church, nor the white neckcloth class has thought it worth while to give churches for that majority of the English people. There is, therefore, a large aggregate majority of the people, in and out of Church, who do not at all agree with the grounds for the better observance; but they suffer judgment to go by default—they have been brought up to consider conformity in matters of faith as so identified with respectability in society, that they dare not stand up and state their own opinions, in opposition to the white neckcloth interest.

What the people would do if they were free we know, because when there are no laws to restrain them, they choose the mode in which they would observe the day. When Hampton Court is open to them, they flock to Hampton Court in large numbers; and they would continue to do so if it were not for the opportunity which the white neckcloth interest has had of starving them out by closing the houses of refreshment on those days.

In Scotland the anti-Sabbatical spirit was at one time so far roused that it broke down, bodily, the barriers constructed to exclude the people from a pier near Glasgow. Even in Presbyterian Scotland, therefore, the public is beginning to resent the dictation which makes the seventh day a day of gloom and seclusion, instead of being a free day for the enjoyment of Nature and the restoration of vitality.

One speaker set forth the true spirit of those who are dictating to the English people. It was Mr. TRITTON, at Exeter Hall, last week.

He said that "not one single hour of God's blessed day ought to be polluted by pleasure." Luckily Mr. TRITTON did not preside at the creation; neither has he had sufficient influence to get the sun, and the breezes, and the flowers, and the living creation, to be suspended even on the seventh day. It is remarkable that the divine Creator should have been so totally regardless of the observance of the Sabbath on the great principle enunciated by TRITTON. But the fact is so. We know what would have been the case if TRITTON had been substituted to give a law to the universe. He is quite correct in the statement of the position on his side; but we claim to act according to the law of the creation, which is directly opposed to his law. The House of Commons, however, has given its vote on the side of TRITTON against the Universe.

There is, indeed, one qualification which we must make in accepting this decision as the decision of the country. We must remember that in this, as well as in other matters, the country is not represented in the House of Commons, but only one-sixth of the country.

There is also another consideration. The House of Commons has a perfect right to say that it is not the dictator of opinion to the public—that it is not the originator of conviction—is not the theatre in which first principles are struck out, or public opinion shaped. It is at the best only the registrar of the well-understood wishes of the constituencies. The real formation of public opinion is out of doors. The elected chamber, which registers the edict of a sixth of the people, naturally finds the settlement of the Sabbath question beyond its power.

The real settlement of the question lies in the hands of the people itself. Whatever may have been the case fifty years ago, the bulk of the English people is no longer sanctimonious, no longer slavishly submissive to sectarian tyranny. Nothing is more remarkable than the progress of opinion in matters of religion, even during the last ten years. As bigotry has declined, a natural piety has taken the place of sanctimoniousness on the one side, and of scoffing on the other. There is a conscientious desire to spend the day, both of labour and of rest, more in accordance with the law which, after all, necessarily governs organised beings—healthy industry for one day, healthy rest for another; not torpor on either. The custom of the time, therefore, is gradually accommodating itself to this more enlightened opinion. It is quite clear that, although the House of Commons has not the moral courage to face a white neckcloth, it would have quite as little courage to face a healthy resolution on the part of the people. There has recently been an attempt to enforce the Sabbath at Preston, by a fine; but this antiquated law could not be called in force often without provoking such an outburst of public opinion as would destroy it altogether. Of all classes the working classes are, as a body, the least enslaved under the dominion of cant, and to them we look most especially for the true legislation on this point.

The defeat of Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, last week, should be to them a signal to settle this question by a great act of self-government. It can be so settled. It is a principle recorded in history, that all our most boasted liberties have been taken first, and statutorily recorded afterwards. The same course of legislation is open now. Let the people make their own arrangements for spending their holiday according to their own will and sense of right. They may defy the ministers of sect or faction to restrain them.

They may, indeed, find that sect has stolen

a march upon them, by placing lawless restraints upon those houses which minister to the feeding and rest of the wayfarer; but if houses of public entertainment are closed against them, the working classes have shown that they possess both the ingenuity and the energy to provide for their own comforts. The law which tries to entrap them by literalities can easily be set aside by literalities. There is one place of public entertainment on the river which is constantly open on the Sunday, and which may remain so. Even if houses that trade in refreshment were closed, the working men can form their own associations, and could, we have no doubt, obtain the *gratuitous* use of many grounds around large towns or further in the country.

When the public shall thus have made laws for itself, it will find the House of Commons elected by the sixth, willing enough to register some statute suitable to the actual circumstances of the time.

The working classes are apt to say that they are unenfranchised, because they do not possess a right of returning members for Parliament. Perhaps the vote-possessing class is not the freest in the country. If enfranchised in a Parliamentary sense, it is enslaved in another sense. In many respects the class not possessed of the vote is the freer; but it will not, we know, grudge the exercise of its own freedom, because there is a possibility that it may lead the way for a greater freedom of the poor sect-ridden "unenfranchised" class. We appeal for legislation on this vexed Sunday question, then, from the usurping House of the Sixth, to the real Commons of England.

EDUCATION FOR OFFICERS.

ONE fact made apparent by the war to the vulgar mind, is the military deficiency of our officers of every rank, high and low. Nobody questions their bravery; everybody reflects on their skill as a body. That we should have no general of transcendent qualities is a misfortune, not a fault; that we should not have plenty of officers, in all ranks, above the average, is a fault and not a misfortune. Whom we shall blame for it, whom we shall hang for it, are idle questions now. You can't grow a crop of educated officers as you could a crop of mustard and cress. Those who have gone before should have bequeathed military institutions to us; theirs was the omission. Some indeed are alive, but many are in their graves; it would be useless to frame indictments against the dead; we have to deal with the living alone.

The British Army is a very peculiar institution. It is, or has been, partly a snug preserve for the aristocracy, into which younger sons were sent to seek their fortune; partly a brilliant plaything with which military dilettanti did disport themselves; and partly a political institution—a sort of police, with red coats and bayonets, sustaining administrations like that of Lord LIVERPOOL, and supplementing defective municipal management. It was called a profession; but it never was a profession, except with a few earnest men who are to be found in every class. It was called a profession, but it was a pastime. As you bought a box at the Opera, so you bought a commission in the Army. You purchased the privilege of commanding your fellow-creatures in moments when life or death trembled in the balance; and you actually were not called upon to show that you had any qualification whatever for the task. In fact, almost your sole qualification was the gold, the cheque, or the notes you handed over to the outgoing-tenant as the purchase-money of the property temporarily held by him. No education, no talents, no character required—

some connexion with "society," or some influence with a Minister—it may be sometimes a claim for real services rendered to the State—that was all that Government demanded of the candidate for a responsible post in her Majesty's Army. Could anything be more preposterous? Nothing. All experience, all authority, all actual existing practice, in free, in despotic, in constitutional States, all the axioms of genius, all the examples derived from renowned commanders, all this was clean against the British system—against making the army a tool for low purposes, a plaything for pedants and martinets. Since the Duke's army was sent to the four winds in 1814, we have not had an army, or any military institutions; and we need not be surprised that we have had no great military men.

But are matters changed now? Have the possessors of power since 1853 done anything to supply the defective foundations of our military system? Where are the schools and colleges on which the military hierarchy should repose, like a column on its pedestal? In no other civilised country is there anything analogous to our modes of getting officers. We are quite original. Republican America and despotic Russia both require an elaborate training for the profession of arms from the candidates for that career. France has a dozen schools open to all competitors—the lists of honour, as they might be called, where the best man is sure to win the prize. These nations require from the persons who propose to command their troops not only ordinary information, but some knowledge of matters relating to war. We are wiser than they; and knowledge of matters relating to or that may be useful in war, these are the last things we require from the youths who have put down their names at the Horse Guards. They may be actual gowks, or they may be possible generals; but these are not what we require to know. We only require that they shall be known to somebody who is known to the authorities, and possessed of money to a certain amount. What admirable provision for victory!

Certainly, foremost among the reforms to be effected in the army, is this—the establishment of Military Colleges, in which all officers, without any kind of exception, gentle and simple, noble and commoner, must graduate, always excepting those who are, for soldierly qualities and good conduct, raised from the ranks. Above all we want a regularly-organised school for an efficient staff. This is a want of the greatest urgency. War, no doubt, educates a staff, but what a clumsy and costly mode of learning the simplest elements of the military profession! A good staff supplies, in some degree, the want of all-commanding genius; and what a bad staff can do—the operations in the Crimea attest. There is no lack of information on this important branch of military organisation; no lack of tried and approved systems upon which to model our own. What is wanted is a Premier or a Commander-in-chief, with insight enough to see its necessity, capacity enough to devise, and will sufficient to execute the founding of a solid system of military education. We do not think the question can much longer be shirked by any Government; and looking to the general aspect of our foreign relations, looking beyond the Russo-Turkish quarrel, we do not see any branch of the public service that so imperatively calls for Administrative Reform.

LABUAN AND BORNEO.

"This settlement will never prosper until it is protected against piracy, and until the coal mines are properly worked." Such are the

words of a private letter from Labuan. Lord PALMERSTON has appointed a new Lieutenant-Governor of that island, "and its dependencies;" but what is required is not a pompous official staff, but a war-steamer, to patrol the adjacent coasts, and blockade the pirate rivers. At intervals of two or three months, the little colony at Labuan is fluttered by intelligence that a great buccaneering squadron is at sea, "picking up" the Chinese and Malay traders, and reconnoitring the naval station from which, a few years ago, they were terrified by the apparition of the British flag. It is only the idea, sedulously promoted by the English residents and the friendly chiefs on the Bornean coast, that a war-steamer hides in a creek of Labuan, which has prevented an attack. Should this wholesome fiction be dissipated, what would be the chances of the little town of Victoria, with its unbuilt streets and deserted jetty? It commands, indeed, the services of a six-pounder or two, and it has a standing army sufficiently large to fire a salute or set the flag flying on the staff; but, in the event of a regularly-organised descent upon Labuan, what would the heads of the inhabitants be worth? There are some in England who have a deep and direct interest in the question. There are many who have been disappointed by the slow progress of the settlement, which was established to carry out the bold and liberal views of Sir JAMES BROOKE, the successor, in influence and genius, of Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES. But when RAFFLES founded the British settlement of Singapore, the English fleet was not idle in the Indian seas; the island, lying in one of the crowded routes of Eastern commerce, was effectually protected against the roving squadrons continually in ambush among the neighbouring groups. Wherever there was trade there was piracy, and several enterprises against Singapore were foiled. The town prospered; the population multiplied. In a few years the wretched resort of a scanty tribe of fishers was changed into a wealthy emporium; and why should Labuan, seven hundred miles nearer Hong Kong, in the route of the steam navigation, close to the populous city of Brunei, and to the thriving community of Sarawak, remain, with its lands surveyed, but not sold—its streets staked out, but not built—its wharves prepared, but laden with little merchandise? Those persons in England and in the East, who, from a desire to stimulate the growth of the new settlement, purchased the Victoria allotments, have, in many instances, abandoned them. They will not clear and drain the ground, and erect even the light and cheap edifices suitable as Chinese shops, when there is no possibility of attracting settlers. Labuan owes its equivocal safety to its poverty. Were it to be accidentally enriched, the Malays might venture, in spite of the mythical war-steamer, to do with Victoria as they have done with a hundred settlements on the Bornean coast.

When his Excellency EDWARDS arrives at Labuan, we trust he will listen to the complaints of the British residents, and make strong representations to the Colonial Office. On the neighbouring coast of Sarawak he will observe proofs of the prosperity that arises in the Indian islands, wherever the interests of the people are secured. Sir JAMES BROOKE has not seen his capital swelled by a population of eighty thousand souls, where there had previously been only fourteen hundred, without proportionate exertions, entailing enormous private sacrifices. He is, at this moment, engaged in organising a system of marine defence; he has trained a large, faithful, and efficient militia; in the interior, as well as on the coast, the regulations of the State are respected; the civilised and Christian law, established in the

Courts of Sarawak, is known, and obeyed in the forest-villages far up the river, where nothing else of European origin has penetrated.

We must rely, we suppose, on the course of the law, to relieve Labuan from the incubus of the Eastern Archipelago Company—a stagnant monopoly, without the usual energy of avarice. We invite our commercial readers to study the last annual report of this company, which has forfeited its charter, under two decisions of the highest courts of law, but still pretends to supply with coal the steam traffic of the Indian Ocean. No Railway Board ever forced a dividend with more desperate adroitness than this company forced a profit. It was an incantation in figures, capital and receipts, being so juggled and jumbled that failure under one head became success under another.

It is scarcely to be believed that Lord PALMERSTON, who founded the settlement of Labuan, will sanction the grant of a new Charter to the Eastern Archipelago Company. The Settlement languishes under its influence. Meanwhile, the latest Dutch acquisitions flourish; Sarawak is an example of sudden and sustained prosperity; the Americans push into the Oriental Sea; everything thrives, except that which was auspiciously established, with pomp and glitter, by the Imperial Government of Great Britain. Labuan is, no doubt, a "small interest," but millions of islanders might be supplied with British exports from that dépôt, if its trade were efficiently protected, and if its mines were worked with vigour, by private or associated enterprise.

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.

SIR,—I have no wish to detract in the slightest degree from the merits of Mr. Leslie, of Belfast, in his plans for the future of our standing army; but I beg distinctly to state that the very same proposals were published by me about a year ago in the *Morning Herald*. I have long studied the question of the improvement of our soldiers, during a very lengthened service in the army, and I consider of all the means of obtaining soldiers that of giving large bounties is the most vicious. It makes a drunken rabble of soldiers, and wastes the public money in brutal dissipation.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant

AN OLD SOLDIER.

17th February, 1856.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE DUKE OF NORFOLK.—The remains of this nobleman were on Tuesday buried in state in the private chapel attached to the parish church of Arundel.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—The chairman of this line announced at the half-yearly meeting last Saturday that the disagreement between the Great Northern Company and the various competing companies had been settled. It had been agreed between the disputants that the questions at issue shall again be referred to Mr. Gladstone, who is to be requested to undertake the re-distribution of the traffic comprised in his former award, and of the towns added thereto, and such other places as can be reached by the parties concerned; the award to date from the 1st of January in the present year. The competition as regards fares is to cease.

PROJECTED REMOVAL OF NEWGATE PRISON TO HOLLOWAY.—Alderman Cubitt, in the Court of Aldermen on Tuesday, brought up the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the condition of Newgate, and also into the expediency of abolishing the prison altogether, and making provision for the prisoners at Holloway and elsewhere. It appears that the prison is extremely inconvenient, and offers facilities for escape. Finally, it was agreed "that the report be received, and that it be referred back to the committee to act therein as they shall think fit."

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*.

WHEN a few days ago we startled our readers with quoting the results of Dr. GEORGE WILSON'S researches on colour-blindness, that every one person in fifteen was more or less affected by it, we little thought a whole nation was open to the charge. Yet such, according to Mr. RUSKIN, seems to be the conclusion we must form about the Greeks in whom "the sense of colour seems to have been so comparatively dim and uncertain, that it is almost impossible to ascertain what the real idea was which they attached to any word alluding to hue." We admit the difficulty, but we cannot accept all Mr. RUSKIN'S illustrations. He mentions the "wine-faced sea," so frequently used in HOMER, and says one might think that reddish purple was meant; but wines are of various colours, from the dark purple of Burgundy to the amber brightness of Hock, and the question is, *what* wine did HOMER refer to? Probably to some dark green coloured wine, since SOPHOCLES in the *Œdipus Coloneus* calls the ivy "wine-faced" *οἰνωπα κισσόν* (v. 674). Mr. RUSKIN further objects to SOPHOCLES that in the *Ajax* he talks of the "green sand;" but on turning to the passage to which without doubt he refers, we find the phrase *αμφι χλωραν παραβον* (v. 1064), which in mere dictionary meaning certainly means green sand; but Mr. RUSKIN is too good a scholar not to know that *χλωρος* means *yellow* as often as *green*, that it is used to designate *honey*, for example, which is precise indication enough of the colour meant. Still, while questioning the instances adduced by Mr. RUSKIN the fact to which he points is unquestionable, the Greeks *did* use *χλωρος* to designate both green and yellow; and this, with many other indications, shows a great want of nicety in their language, implying a want of nicety in their perceptions of colour. ANACREON in a famous passage talks of the "purple hair" of his mistress: what does he mean by it? does he mean merely "beautiful" hair—or does he mean the *blue black* hair we sometimes see, like the colour of the raven's neck in the sun? Purple was the favourite colour of the Greeks, but no one has yet precisely told us what they meant by the word. "Purple sea," "purple hair," and even "purple death," convey little knowledge. Probably the word was used as a sort of admiring epithet; just as Horace speaks of the "purple swans of Venus," no one supposing these "purpureos olores" to have been purple-feathered.

THE literature of *Table-Turning* and *Spirit-Rapping* has not been equal to the subject. Believers have written nonsense; sceptics have been too supercilious, and have not sufficiently considered the mania as one of the forms of mental malady, which, in various ages, has presented itself. In thus reproaching the sceptics, we are reproaching ourselves; for whatever notice we have felt called upon to take of the Rappers or Table-turners, we have treated them as impostors or as dupes, without connecting these particular cases with any general forerunners. This omission is, at length, supplied in a masterly article by M. LITTRE, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* for 15th February. He therein sketches the various delusions of sorcery, possession, ecstasy, convulsion, &c., which, at various epochs, have constituted the epidemics of the mind; and he shows how spirit-rapping is allied to these delusions; and how it must be treated as a case of mental pathology. It is noticeable that certain general phenomena present themselves in all these hallucinations; and by grouping together these constant facts, and eliminating the accidental and variable facts, M. LITTRE gives the rationale of the whole. Thus one certain and constant fact is the derangement of the nervous system of the "possessed;" and these derangements are familiar to the physician, who, instead of regarding them as the operations of a demon, a spirit, or some miraculous power, classes them among the well-known phenomena of mental disturbance. Another fact is the *collective* nature of the hallucination: that thousands believe in spirit-rapping is not more wonderful than that thousands should be attacked by Cholera, or by the Black Death, or the Sweating Sickness, at particular epochs: a disease of the nervous system may as easily become epidemic as a disease of the nutritive system. Nevertheless the circle of these maladies is narrow. In every case it is some disturbance of the senses which makes the patient see, hear, or touch in a confused or heightened manner; or the nervous system is thrown into strange conditions of sensibility, and terrible convulsions give an unusual muscular power, followed by great prostration. To these general circumstances add the particular ideas or fancies of the time, and in one age you have a Pythoness labouring with the inspiration of Apollo; in another a witch calling upon Hecate, and embracing Satan; in another the angels of Heaven have descended upon earth, and inspired the persecuted faithful; in another the spirits of the DUKE of KENT and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN quit their supernal abode to assure ROBERT OWEN that his doctrine is "the truth."

One final characteristic of all these delusions is worthy of notice. The powers of Heaven and Hell, of angels, departed spirits, and the imps of Satan are in active communication with man, and, nevertheless, the favoured mortals cannot prove a single advantage derived from this supernatural aid: no man is a penny wiser (though thousands are a pound foolisher), no

man can solve a single problem of science, or predict a single political occurrence; the great mysteries remain mysteries, even for these agents of another world; and not only the great mysteries, but the simplest difficulties which can perplex a man, are without a solution from these spirits. So great an expenditure of power for so minimised a result surpasses even the parturient mountain, which did, at any rate, produce a mouse; and that one amiable rodent is far more valuable than all the revelations of spirit-rappers.

RYMER JONES ON THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

General Outline of the Organisation of the Animal Kingdom, and Manual of Comparative Anatomy. By Thomas Rymer Jones, F.R.S., Professor of Comparative Anatomy in King's College. Second Edition. Van Voorst.

WE have many medical readers, and many more readers to whom a work like the present will be a valuable and almost indispensable companion. There exists no work in our language, except Dr. Carpenter's, which can pretend to rival it, and its superiority over Dr. Carpenter's in all essential respects is very decided: it is more agreeably and less confusedly written; it is fuller in details, and incomparably better in the exposition of difficult questions—such, for instance, as the vertebral theory, which in Carpenter is an arid abridgement of Owen, and in the present volume is a new and popular presentation of Owen's views—and it is illustrated with far more numerous and more beautifully-executed diagrams. The wood-cuts of this work, four hundred in number (which gives one to every other page), have long been celebrated; and if they were only accompanied by minute descriptions, instead of the descriptions being scattered through the text (a hint for future editions), would alone suffice to render the book indispensable to all students.

Professor Rymer Jones is a very popular writer, but he is not a philosophic zoologist. The tendencies of his intellect are all in a different direction, and even when the necessities of the case force him to grapple with a great philosophic question, we see him do so reluctantly, and as if anxious to quit it. On the other hand, he spares us *bad* philosophy, in which Dr. Carpenter so profusely indulges: the absence is a charm. Professor Rymer Jones furnishes materials, and leaves the student to make what use of them he can. Hence we are indisposed to quarrel with him on his system, or want of system, in classification; although this is a cardinal point in philosophic zoology, and one which materially affects the interest and convenience of an exposition of the *Règne Animal*. It has been well said, "Le groupement seul est une clarté; il élimine ce qui est accidentel." He has, however, the merit of pursuing a different course from that pursued by most zoologists, especially the French; he does not, like them, commence with the most complex organisms to descend to the less complex, but begins with the simple and rises gradually to the complex. The Cuvierian notion of "degradation" is thus insensibly replaced by the more philosophic notion of "gradation." In each case we have the whole animal kingdom presented to our view: but in the latter we seize the true meaning of each degree of complication. A glance will detect this.

Nutrition belongs to all animals; but although the final and fundamental act—Assimilation—is the same in all, the preparatory and intermediate processes are singularly varied. Thus the Infusoria, or unicellular organisms, have no special organ whatever, the only distinction between the parts is that of "envelope and contents;" by its envelope the animal absorbs, feels, and moves; by its contents it assimilates. An Amœba, for example, may be looked upon as an assimilating surface having the property of contractility: nothing more. Gradually we observe fresh distinctions of parts: a hole is formed, by way of mouth; then we have two holes, one for reception, the other for rejection of food. Then the mouth becomes furnished with jaws; then with rudimentary teeth; afterwards with actual teeth, but all of one type; finally the teeth themselves become distinguished into incisors and molars; a tongue is added to the mouth; so that from a simple opening to a complicated mouth we trace a series of differentiations. The alimentary canal is at first a mass of cells, then a variety of assimilative sacks or spaces, then a simple canal, then a complicated canal, then a canal formed of oesophagus, stomach, small intestines and large intestines. With this increasing complication there is an accompaniment of accessory organs, liver, parotis, pancreas, spleen, &c., secreting matters indispensable to the proper preparation of the food before it can be assimilated. The same is true of all the functions; and a well-arranged disposition of the Animal Kingdom would make it evident. The arrangement adopted by Professor Rymer Jones, though far from satisfactory, will roughly indicate this progression.

In a work embracing so vast a range of details as this "Animal Kingdom," there will necessarily be errors: *aliter non fit, Avite, liber*. But our estimate must be formed on what is positive in it, not on what is negative; on solid, general excellences, not on particular deficiencies. We have already said that the general merits of the book are great; the particular errors may be left to the merciless criticism of professional jealousy. We should, however, be ill-fulfilling our office if we passed over in silence two or three points, which may mislead the student.

Page 13 we read, "The whole doctrine of cell-development, indeed, is a simple revival of the Buffonian dogma, now for the first time rendered intelligible." If Professor Rymer Jones will turn to Buffon's own exposition of his theory of organic molecules in the second volume of the *Histoire Naturelle*, or to any of the modern defenders of it—Robin and Verdeil: *Chimie Anatomique*—he will expunge that sentence as altogether inaccurate.

Pages 42 and 69, he contends—in common, it is true, with almost all physiologists—that in those animals which are destitute of nerves, the nervous matter is mixed up in a molecular state with the rest of the body; and that the presence of muscular fibre in the actinia presupposes the existence of nervous filaments. This is one of the extraordinary fallacies which physiologists seem unable to shake off. Their microscopes tell them the plain fact that no nervous matter can be detected, and no reagent indirectly prove its presence: yet they persist in saying it *must* be there. Suppose we were to insist, on the same method of deduction, that the mollusca had osseous skeletons? No bone can be detected in the mollusc, it is true; but bone is detected in all vertebrata, and must therefore be *diffused* in the molluscs.

Why? Because bone gives solid support to the muscles; the mollusc has muscles, *ergo*, he must have bones. And lest any one should think this might be answered by saying the mollusca have—for the most part at least—shells, we will substitute actinia for mollusca. Actinia, or acaliphæ, have no shells, no bones. Are their no-bones diffused? Naturalists observe that nerveless animals move and feel, and conclude that they must have nerves; but plants move and feel, and no one pretends that they have nerves.

Page 625, this extraordinary passage, obviously reprinted without alteration from the first edition, deserves notice:—"The composition of the skull of fishes is one of the most difficult studies connected with their history; nevertheless it is a subject of very considerable importance, and has recently occupied the attention of the most celebrated continental anatomists." In a work dedicated to Professor Owen such a passage may well excite surprise. A note informs us that Geoffroy St. Hilaire, Spix, Rosenthal, Meekel, Bakker, Bojanus, and Oken, are the anatomists referred to; but Professor Jones must have peculiar notions of the word "recently," if these writers are recent. Geoffroy St. Hilaire's speculations bear the date of 1824; Spix's of 1815; Meekel 1826; Rosenthal and Bakker (?), Bojanus 1818; and Oken 1807-43. Agassiz and Vogt, the only recent writers we can think of, are not named.

Page 615, the effect of animal heat upon the instincts and affections, is made the subject of a somewhat absurd speculation. Fishes and reptiles, because cold-blooded, are said to be "utterly careless of their progeny;" but "no sooner does the vital heat of the parent become sufficient for the purposes designed by nature, than all the sympathies of parental fondness become developed." It is unnecessary to refute such a speculation in any more elaborate way than by opposing two facts, with which Professor Jones must be perfectly familiar: there are fishes who build nests, and take great care of their young (the *Hassar* and *Goramy*); and there are birds who do not take care of their young (*Cuckoo* and *Cow-bird*).

Page 601, the passage declaring that man's organisation is constructed on principles the most aberrant and remote "from those of other animals, seems to us so monstrous, that we prefer supposing it misprinted, or that we do not rightly apprehend the meaning of its language.

We must not let our parting word be one of objection, however, as that would convey a wrong impression of our estimate of the book. We cordially commend it to every lover of natural history as the best, and properly considered, the *cheapest* work of the kind in our language.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND SECTS.

History of Christian Churches and Sects; from the earliest Ages of Christianity. By Rev. J. B. Marsden, M.A.

There are no less than forty-four Christian Churches and sects enumerated by Mr. Marsden in the work before us. We do not object to this variety of association—this division of labour in the "spiritual vineyard." Nor do we fear, with many earnest but morbid thinkers, that the interests of religion and piety suffer from this multiplicity of Christian communities. It is essential to the elucidation of truth that there should be many seeking after it, and that these inquiring spirits should possess different interests, different feelings, different habits of thought. So long as the question, "What is truth?" remains unanswered with mathematical precision, so long as it can only be approached by a series of approximate probabilities, the more minds that are engaged in discovering it, the better. One inquirer derives assistance from the other; the energies of each are mutually stimulated; the intellect is saved from stagnation—the lowest condition to which it can be reduced.

Mr. Marsden resolved, he tells us, to execute the present work (which "owes its existence, and something of its character, to the suggestions of Mr. Bentley") with the utmost impartiality. The task was not easy. Divest ourselves of prejudice as we may—of all conscious prejudice, in fact—we cannot eradicate those qualities—semi-mental, semi-sentient—which force us to regard adverse opinions and tenets from a personal and singular point of view. Mr. Marsden has very conveniently cleared the way for himself. Anticipating a charge of loose generalisation on account of the omission of some minor or rather minimum bodies of Christians, he prepares to meet it by observing—"It has, unfortunately, been the aim of ecclesiastical writers to enumerate sects which either never had a distinct existence of their own, or were merely private quarrels, or eddies in the current of unfixed opinion, which disappeared as soon as they existed." Thus he disposes of the unmanageable societies. He then proceeds to explain that the primitive Church, notwithstanding the innumerable sections into which it seemed broken up, consisted in reality of only two parties—the "orthodox" and the "heretical" Christians—the latter being subdivided into the Arians and the Gnostics. Mr. Marsden continues to say, "all the controversies of the Reformation hinge upon the question of sacramental grace." This simplified arrangement of disputed points will doubtless surprise many who have been accustomed to hear one profession of Christians vomiting forth the bitterest language against another profession of Christians upon dogmas that seemed hydra-headed, and to produce new subjects of discussion and invective, as, one after another, each dogma seemed to perish in the *melée*. They will naturally be led to ask why the spirit of charity has been allowed to suffer violence and brother to rise up against brother if the points of difference be so few? Again, "Questions of church governments," we find a little further on, "range themselves under three great types—absolutism, mixed government, and pure democracy." Were these premises borne in mind, the study of Church history would be less perplexing to the student; and the real unity of the Church would frequently appear beneath external, and perhaps needless and unjustifiable differences of form and name. At least it is a foolish thing to multiply and exaggerate the differences,—after all far too many,—which unhappily disturb the great Christian family. We perfectly agree with Mr. Marsden; but fear that the fable of the chameleon and the clown will, notwithstanding, be re-acted day by day. It matters little whether there be five or five hundred points of difference—all these discussions, these shades of sentiment and doctrine would have a beneficial rather than an ambiguous effect upon mankind, would men but use forbearance and cease to constitute themselves judges and masters of their fellow creatures' opinions. Mr. Marsden, in his zeal to classify Christians of many denominations under one head,

notes the anatomical coincidences of the genus. The species belonging to each are still very numerous, and disputes are still as bitter as in the days of Bellarmine and his twenty-four adversaries.

Now for the book. We open at page 3, vol. I., and read, "In 1555 the Jesuits first made their appearance on the coast of Abyssinia;" and two pages further on, "But the mission of the Jesuits failed, and they were formally recalled by a bull dated from St. Peter's, A.D., 1550." Again, at p. 16 in the same volume, "The great military captain (against the Albigenses) was Simon de Montfort, lord of a fief near Paris, and in right of his mother, an English lady, Earl of Leicester." Simon de Montfort, generalissimo of the French forces led against the Albigenses, fell in an assault against Toulouse in the early part of the thirteenth century. The first earl of Leicester was created by Henry III. in the year 1256, several years later. There can be no glory in claiming such an Apolyn for a countryman; such inaccuracies should be expunged from this work if it be designed as a standard of reference.

Nor are we prepared to arrive at the conclusion with regard to the theological doctrines of the Albigenses with which Mr. Marsden expresses himself satisfied. He asserts of the Albigenses, for example, "that Roman Catholic writers have handed them down as heretics of the Manichaean School, and that many Protestant writers have adopted and given wider circulation to the charge." "Mr. Elliott," he proceeds to say, "has, I think, clearly re-established their orthodoxy." It is difficult at this distance of time, and without more positive documentary evidence than we at present possess, to determine precisely "what were their articles of belief." Dr. Schmidt maintains, in his learned treatise, that the Albigenses held Manichaean doctrines, and the testimony he adduces seems to justify his conclusion. Still, it is difficult to ascertain what their creed really was; it is not improbable that MSS. in the public library of Toulouse, if carefully examined, would throw more light on the discussion; but these still lie buried in the dust of that ancient institution, and are likely long to remain there undisturbed. But we are not left altogether in ignorance. Even the enemies of the Albigenses leave us sufficient materials to draw a not unfavourable picture of them. It is impossible to deny to this persecuted sect great purity of manners; excessive zeal, amounting, in many instances, to fanaticism, and an unphilosophical contempt of the Church of Rome. We may regard them as the first Protestants; the earliest asserters of the liberty of thought against the spiritual tyranny of the middle ages: they were pioneers clearing away the ignorance and superstition which choked up the avenues of the mind; the heralds of a bright day of intelligence after a long night of anarchy and darkness—a light, like the false Aurora of the East, destined to be swallowed up in a still deeper cloud.

Of the Church of Rome Mr. Marsden has an able sketch. He traces her gradual rise to power, the means she adopted, the subtleties she indulged in, the materials she moulded, the organisation she employed; all and every part of her complex machinery—employed to maintain the theory—"that since to the pope all spiritual power had been delegated by Christ, so too all temporal power was ultimately vested in him for the good of the Church." He follows out the result of this doctrine; describes the security and corruption of the Church when her ambition seemed achieved; depicts the ferocity with which, awakened to the consciousness of danger by the denunciations of Luther and Calvin, she stretched forth her hand to eradicate their menacing apostacy. We are also shown how prostrate she lay at the close of the nineteenth century, and the strength she has since regained:—"In the history of the world there has been nothing more surprising than the sudden renovation of the Church of Rome. During the last half-century she seemed to be at the point of death; she has reinstated herself in her long-lost dignities, and asserts and wields a power far less, it is true, than that which she once had, but immeasurably greater than that which she professed during the two previous centuries."

We have not space to notice the fortunes of the Churches of England, Ireland, or Scotland, the Independents, the Wesleyans, or the other important bodies of Christians, that find a space in these encyclopædic volumes. "Mormonism is not entitled to be termed a Christian sect. It stands in the same relationship to Christianity with Mahomedanism. In both instances the founder of a new faith professed himself the author of a new revelation: while, at the same time, the Holy Scriptures were treated with a certain measure of respect, some of the doctrines prevalent amongst its professors are such that devout Christians must hold in abhorrence, and others are childish and absurd. It is a question of their future. It is questionable whether the Mormons will be more dangerous as one of the United States, or as an independent government; for, if their demand to be admitted into the federal Union be rejected, they will, no doubt, proclaim themselves a sovereign state. They may be crushed, or perhaps exterminated; but it seems not beyond the reach of probability that they may long continue to hang upon the outskirts of civilisation to spoil and devastate—the Mahomedans of the Western World." We can see no cause wherefore they should be crushed or exterminated. Their doctrines and practices are the result of discontent and ignorance. Why should not their union with the great confederacy bring them to reason? Patience is required. The sword of persecution is not the arm of truth.

The Oxford Tractarians are treated under a separate head as the *Anglo-Catholics*. About the year 1833, says Mr. Marsden, a cry was raised that the Church of England was in danger. A conference was held at the residence of a private clergyman, when a resolution was passed for the support of Church principles, and a tract prepared entitled the "Churchman's Manual." This was the first tract of a series which reached the ninetieth number to be interrupted by the violence of the storm it had raised. The *Christian Observer*, with sacred gall, stigmatised the teachings of these tracts. "The decrees of the Council of Trent," it wrote in April, 1834, "are not more undisputedly Popish than these Oxford tracts." The *Edinburgh Review*, in a paper written by Dr. Arnold of Rugby, also denounced them. Tract eighty-seven put forth the doctrine of Reservation. "The prevailing notion of bringing forward the doctrine of the atonement," it said, "explicitly and prominently on all occasions, is evidently quite opposed to what we consider the teaching of scripture." The unequivocal and naked ex-

posure of so very sacred a truth is "unscriptural and dangerous." Here the Sleepers Awakened detected Jesuitry. Many young students were induced to secede to Rome. A deeper argument was opened in "Tract ninety." It endeavoured to show that the thirty-nine articles might be subscribed in safety by those who held the doctrines of the Church of Rome, though not of individual members of that Church, or of certain sects or schismatics within her bosom; that it was against these errors, and not against the Church of Rome, nor against her legitimate teaching, that the articles had been drawn up. The legitimate consequence, not of the Tracts, but of the Articles, has been secession to Rome amongst the honest—hypocrisy and reservation in the noble army of preachers. Hence have arisen the squabbles about "credence-tables," "candlesticks," "crosses," "decorated altars," and the more subtle points of "baptismal regeneration," and the "royal supremacy." The tendency of such questions cannot be doubted.

Mr. Marsden's object in the present work has been not argument, but history; not reasoning, but statement. He proves his familiarity with the subject, and ably manages his materials. There is an inevitable bias in the volumes, but the narrative is, for the most part, candid and impartial. The references given at the end of each "church" will be useful to the student who wishes to extend his investigations, and is within reach of an ecclesiastical library. With these qualifications the work cannot fail to become a useful Manual of Church History.

SCOTTISH HEROES.

Scottish Heroes in the Days of Wallace and Bruce. By the Rev. Alexander Low, A.M., 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

WALLACE and Bruce belong to the same epoch of Scottish history, fought in the same cause, appealed to the same national spirit, are celebrated together in epic songs, yet Bruce is the contrast of Wallace. Wallace was not more brave or devoted, or in resolution more dauntless, or in spirit more free; but he was of the pure heroic type. Into the patriotism of Bruce there entered suggestions of timidity and reserve, not unwise or ignoble, but which subdue the romantic colouring. The Scots sing of Stirling and Bannockburn, of Douglas and the Lord of the Isles; but their minstrels take up the career of Wallace when, as a youth, he slew the Northumbrian knights, and retired into the wood of Laglans, and weave a canto from every episode, to the last dismal day in London. Nothing is wanting to the attraction of the story. Part of the hero's life was obscure. Tradition, therefore, which abhors a vacuum, opens a range of pleasant myths, with green forest vistas, love passages, knightly feats, and days enriched by beauty and poetry, by recitatives, music, and all the merry round of outlaw revelry. In these scenes Sir William Wallace, in stature a Telamon, in pride an Achilles, makes a prominent figure. With his gigantic frame clothed in a surcoat and tabard, with the martial habergeon on his shoulders, an iron capelyne on his head, a collar of steel, gauntlets on his hand, a broadsword, a mace, and a dagger slung to his belt, he is the model of chivalry. Establishing among the woods and hills a commonwealth of courage, he is seen, rescuing the beautiful orphan of Leamington, taking her to his heart at a secret bridal, losing her after a fray, beholding her execution, and avenging it. Then, his night attacks on the English camps, scaling the ramparts of castles like a Red-Cross Knight, charging at the head of his Scots through the ranks of the English soldiers, and the splendid Gascon cavalry, meeting with his circular phalanx of pikemen, the onset of Edward's Earl Marshal, with the archers pouring in their arrows, fighting the great pirate, the Red Rover, hand to hand, and vanquishing him as much by magnanimity as by prowess, scouring the hill-districts of Scotland, bugle in hand, and bringing men and boys out of their glens to arm in his behalf, against one of the least scrupulous and one of the bravest kings of England. As the narrative progresses, it becomes more radiant with poetry, more inspiring, and more heroic. The climax is reached at the capture of Wallace, for, afterwards, though the great chief dies not less nobly than he has lived, his punishment is too ghastly to form a picture. Mr. Low touches this episode lightly, and he does well. Who can fix his eye on the loftiest of men, when his blood drips on the hurdle and the scaffold, when he is cut down, half dead, and disembowelled,—when his head and arms are cut off—as the trophies of victory and revenge? When such is the closing scene, it is discreet to draw over it a decent veil.

Mr. Low, though he has collected all the legendary incidents attributed to the career of Wallace, and has woven them into a narrative full of colour and variety, does not confound the supposititious with the historical. His criticism is bold, clear, and penetrating, and his authorities are, in general, entitled to respect. Therefore, however vivid the impressions created by his forest panorama, and his anecdotes of early daring, they are not confused with the results of practical research, nor has Mr. Low fallen into the error, common in Scottish historians, of blackening the character of Edward to illustrate the virtues of Wallace. He affirms, what most English writers admit, that the wars in Scotland were excited by the usurpations of the English and the unjustifiable violence and tyranny of their government. But he recounts, in a generous spirit, the excellent qualities of the English king, and has some criticism for his Scottish heroes, especially for Bruce, whose earlier career was marked by hesitation and complicity. His description of the battle of Bannockburn is honest and spirited. The English soldiers, horse and foot, exhibited on that memorable field the utmost intrepidity, charging, undismayed by failure again and again upon the Scottish lines, rushing between the squares of pikemen, sweeping forward under the storm of arrows, engaging so fiercely that the two armies broke into eight, as a fleet divides when each ship has fixed upon her antagonist, reversed all the military dispositions, and fought, as it were, four battles on the same field. The Earl of Gloucester, with forty thousand horsemen, began the action:—

The shock of the first charge of England's cavalry is said to have been dreadful, and being received on the spears of the Scottish infantry, the crash was heard at a great distance, and dashed many knights from their saddles, whose horses were stabbed and rendered furious by their wounds. The centre division, under the gallant Randolph, stood in a steady body to receive the charge of the English, and when their thousands were spread out in front of the centre, the Scottish squares, which attacked them with great bravery and intrepidity, although ten to one, were lost among the English, as if they had plunged into the sea.

When both armies joined battle, the great horses of England rushed upon the Scottish lances, as if upon a thick wood, and one mighty and horrible sound arose from the breaking of the lances, the shock of falling horsemen, and the shrieks of the dying.

The siege of Caerlaverock is described with pictorial effect: the castle stood between the forest and the sea:—

It was surrounded on all sides by numerous bodies of the enemy, each anxious to signalise its skill and bravery, and many a shining shield of silver, many a lance and pennon were alternately displayed before the walls; and as one baron and his followers were wounded, or forced to retire before the besieged, another host of knights advanced to the charge, assailing the gate, or covering the entrance, and shouting their respective war-cries. It would seem that before this insignificant fortress, which poured its rude artillery upon the assailants with courage and effect, all the chivalry of England was displayed; bearing on their shields and banners of every hue and colour, red pitchers with besants, gold lioncels, white saltire and chief, green crosses, lion rampant, the red chevron, dancette and billets of gold on blue, red and ermine, gemell of gold, golden mullets, and almost every device of that chivalrous age. When one shield was beaten back, another took its place; when one banner was torn, another was displayed; and the numerous engines, which were supplied by the English fleet, made great destruction upon the walls, where the brave defenders continually relieved each other, till neither iron cap nor wooden target could save them from wounds.

Mr. Alexander Low, minister of the parish of Keig, in Aberdeenshire, has illustrated, with considerable success, one of the most stirring periods of his national history. His scholarship is large, and he applies a sound judgment to the decision of involved or disputed issues. While, therefore, his style is picturesque and vigorous, his method is strictly historical; and the result is, that *Scottish Heroes in the Days of Wallace and Bruce*, with all the elements of popularity, is also a work of practical and permanent value.

THE INCAS OF PERU.

Cuzco and Lima: a Visit to the Ancient and Modern Capitals and Provinces of Peru. By C. R. Markham, F.R.G.S. Chapman and Hall.

Few Europeans have visited Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Incas; scarcely one has described it. Though it forms the centre of the great range of American architectural monuments, and contains in itself an epitome of the extinct civilisation of Peru, travellers have preferred to tread the worn paths round the mounds of Cholula, or through the ruins of Tlascala, without attempting to compare the Mexican with the principal Peruvian remains. Mr. Markham, when his inquiries were directed to this subject, found the written sources of information so scanty that he was compelled to choose between a sacrifice of curiosity, and a journey to Cuzco. Travelling to that dilapidated and mystic city, he carefully examined the ground, surveyed the mouldering relics of art and beauty, the traces of a cultured nation, the points of contrast and similitude, suggested by the antique monuments of Europe. The result is presented in a volume originally and specially interesting. But, unhappily, Mr. Markham was pursued to Cuzco by an inveterate assumption, which, in spite of parenthetical humilities, and in addition to some harsh prejudices that spot and streak his narrative, materially diminishes its authenticity. It is not surprising to find the old temples and palaces, ornate and solid, standing out from an horizon of theory; since the archaeology of the Western continent is, for the most part, conjectural, and the imagination wanders between poetry and logic, far in advance of exact discovery. A vast historical restoration is claimed by successive and conflicting writers, who have built up Aztec empires, and many a Babylon and Damascus of the West, which others have battered into absurdity. But Mr. Markham, who penetrates, not by a clue of his own finding, into the primal epoch of migration, owes some deference to speculatists who soar as high, and prophecy with as much authority, as he. At the outset, it is with more than warrantable confidence that he declares the monuments of Peru to be less mysterious in their history than those of Central America. Certainly, the elaborate investigations which have been made into the architecture of Axmul and Palenque, have led only to inferential conclusions, but these conclusions, in the minds of some very learned men, have been in the nature of doubts as to the long antiquity of the buildings. The use of timber by the architects of Central America is not analogous to its use by the architects of Egypt. In the dry climate of the Nilotic valley, clamps of wood were applied in concealed parts of the structure, and specimens have been discovered, hard and sound, at the lapse, hypothetically, of thirty centuries. But the sun and dews were excluded; there was no rank vegetation to clamber and drip upon the walls. In the moist region of Central America timber was used for lintels, which, in many places are found in decay, establishing a strong presumption against the idea of their remote antiquity. Nothing, at least, that is obscure in the history of Palenque or Axmul, is transparent in the history of Pachacamac or Caxamarquilla.

Mr. Markham, reciting the supposititious archaeology of the Peruvian ruins, asks whence came those mystic Incas? They have been described by an English antiquarian as a colony planted by Kublai Khan, the first Chinese emperor of the Yuen dynasty; by a Spanish chronicler as Armenians, who left their country five centuries after the Deluge; by Berreo, of Trinidad, as transfigured Englishmen; by others as Egyptians or Mexicans. Mr. Markham enumerates, in one clause, the last three notions, implying that they are equally wild. It is by no means positive, however, that the theory of their emigration from China is not at least as apocryphal; or, if they came thence, that they were not sent by Kublai Khan, who may or may not have existed. The opinion may be "generally received" because that is an elastic phrase, as indefinite as "orthodoxy," but it is, and is likely to be, disputed, and cannot be proved. Wherever there is doubt, there inevitably does Mr. Markham's dogmatism alight, though he betrays an inconsistency of opinion common to rapid and prejudiced reasoners.

So far, by way of protest against the absolutism of Mr. Markham's deductions. In archaeology, in history, in politics, in social ideas, he is an exaggerated sectarian. The few political generalisations that occur in the volume are ridiculously presumptuous; and, though the antiquarian argument is based on personal observation and peculiar studies, and in unison with the ideas of Humboldt and Schlegel, the great fabric of restored "Incarial" institutions and manners is marvellously flimsy.

Nevertheless, Mr. Markham's book contains sources of interest apart from its episodes of speculation. The writer saw Cuzco, which only Miller, Pentland, Castelnau, and Gibbon had seen before him, and which none of those travellers had described, picturesquely or in detail. Mr. Markham's account, illustrated by coloured lithographs, is both minute and graphic. He found the ruins spread over a large space in the north-west corner of a valley more than eleven thousand feet above the level of the sea, and two thousand above the summit of the Great St. Bernard. The houses are built of stone, the traditional palace of the Incas standing on a terrace of irregular masonry, with carvings of mythological figures, and a staircase leading to the structures above. In these remains the rocks are cut in perfect parallelograms, with fine edges, fitted closely together. The lintels are of a slate-coloured limestone. The Incas had chosen their military position with an admirable knowledge of strategy, the citadel of Cuzco being seated on a table-land, enclosed by rivers and ravines, and by a treble Cyclopean wall, a work of astonishing magnitude. It is built in exact parallels, with salient and retiring angles, of masses of the rock often from ten to twelve feet in length, so hewn as to rival the edifices of the Mogul architects, who "designed like Titans and finished like jewellers." In the neighbourhood are the pits whence they were quarried, in which still lie blocks of stone, in various stages of preparation.

From a description of this singular group of ruins, and of the plains around them, once the brightest habitation of the Inca race, Mr. Markham proceeds to sketch the actual aspects of Peru, combining with his antiquarian dialectics an interesting and reliable report on the condition of the Republic. His volume is one which, betraying, as it does, both shallowness and assumption, is fresh, varied, and informing.

THE POETS AND POETRY OF AMERICA.

The Poets and Poetry of America. By Rufus Wilmot Griswold.

London: Trübner and Co.

A COLLECTION of "Poems by Authors in their Teens" would not, we imagine, be very delightful reading. Here and there we might detect a form of originality which it would be interesting to compare with the fruit of the matured genius—here and there we might be startled by the precocious vigour or fertility of a Shelley or a Keats; but, generally, even genius is not original in its early efforts, and a song like Childe Harold is preluded by faint chirpings like the "Hours of Idleness." The main characteristic of such a volume as we have imagined would be feeble and stiff imitation. It would have a psychological and biographical interest, but, considered as poetry, it would be dreary.

Something of the same character, and the same order of interest, belongs to Dr. Griswold's large volume of selections from the American poets. It registers the progress of a poetic literature which may be said, figuratively speaking, to be in its teens—a literature which has hardly yet passed through the stage of Imitation, and is only beginning to put forth originating power. Viewed in this light it is a valuable addition to the library, and perhaps the sense of its acceptability is heightened by the very decided impression which a tolerably persistent reading is likely to leave—that, with two or three brilliant exceptions, it gives us quite as much as we want to know of the American poets. In more than six hundred double-columned pages, large octavo, there is room for quite satiating specimens of poets whom we may regard as the Gottscheds, the Bodmers, and the Hagedorns of America. Mere specimens of Bryant and Longfellow will content no lover of poetry, but, happily, their entire works are easily accessible. The reader should be warned, too, that the "Fable for Critics," a satirical poem by James Russell Lowell, shows a much higher order of talent than would be inferred from the samples given in this volume of the writer's sentimental poetry.

Some of the names in Dr. Griswold's collection are likely to surprise the English reader, who has been accustomed to associate them with graver business in life and literature than that of verse writing. It seems that John Quincy Adams not only perpetrated, but printed, a great deal of very indifferent verse. Mr. Bancroft, too, has published "Poems," which are about the grade of second-rate album verses—at least, if we may trust Dr. Griswold's judgment for giving us fair specimens. Perhaps we ought to allow individual poets the benefit of a doubt as to the validity of that judgment, and admit that they may have written very fine things, which Dr. Griswold has strangely neglected in favour of the very common-place things he has inserted. Still his volume, as a whole, may be presumed to present a fair average of American poetry; and certainly, with the exception of the two poets for whom we have already intimated our admiration, and of one or two flashes of originality—such as Edgar Poe's "Raven,"—it is poetry difficult to read and easy to forget. Mr. Bayard Taylor arrests us more than most of his fellow poets. "The Phantom" is a charming bit of simple pathos, and "Kubleh," a story in which an Arabian mare is the heroine, is finely told, and tempts us to quote a passage:—

Never yet,
O Arabs, never yet was like to Kubleh!
And Sofuk loved her. She was more to him
Than all his snowy-bosomed odalisques.
For many years, beside his tent she stood,
The glory of the tribe.

At last she died:
Died, while the fire was yet in all her limbs—
Died for the life of Sofuk, whom she loved.
The base Jebours—on whom be Allah's curse!—
Came on his path, when far from any camp,
And would have slain him, but that Kubleh sprang
Against the javelin-points and bore them down,
And gain'd the open desert. Wounded sore,
She urged her light limbs into maddening speed,
And made the wind a laggard. On and on
The red sand slid beneath her, and behind
Whirl'd in a swift and cloudy turbulence,
As when some star of Eblis, downward hurl'd
By Allah's bolt, sweeps with its burning hair

The waste of darkness. On and on, the bleak,
Bare ridges rose before her, came and passed;
And every flying leap with fresher blood
Her nostril stain'd, till Sofuk's brow and breast
Were flecked with crimson foam. He would have turned
To save his treasure, though himself were lost,
But Kubleh fiercely snapp'd the brazen rein.
At last, when through her spent and quivering frame
The sharp throes ran, our distant tents arose,
And with a neigh, whose shrill excess of joy
O'ercame its agony, she stopp'd and fell.
The Shammar men came round her as she lay,
And Sofuk raised her head and held it close
Against his breast. Her dull and glazing eye
Met his, and with a shuddering gasp she died.
Then like a child his bursting grief made way
In passionate tears, and with him all the tribe
Wept for the faithful mare.

Dr. Griswold's labours have not been confined to selection. He opens with a brief survey, including fragmentary specimens, of American poetry before the Revolution, and throughout the volume the selections from each poet are preceded by a slight biographical and critical sketch. His narrative is rather bold, and his criticism has the opposite defect of being more rhetorical than judicious; still, we have to be grateful to him for his diligence in putting together a useful summary of facts. If our readers share our previous ignorance, they will perhaps be interested, as we were, to learn through Dr. Griswold that "Home, sweet Home" was written by an American—the dramatist Payne.

Mr. Whittier has rather a spirited ballad founded on one of the most startling examples we have met with of Puritan intolerance in the American colonists:—

Two young persons, son and daughter of Lawrence Southwick, of Salem, who had himself been imprisoned and deprived of all his property for having entertained two Quakers at his house, were fined ten pounds each for non-attendance at church, which they were unable to pay. The case being represented to the General Court, at Boston, that body issued an order which may still be seen on the court records, bearing the signature of Edward Rawson, Secretary, by which the treasurer of the county was "fully empowered to sell the said persons to any of the English nation at Virginia or Barbadoes, to answer said fines." An attempt was made to carry this barbarous order into execution, but no shipmaster was found willing to convey them to the West Indies.

The state of society indicated by this anecdote must have found a congenial poet in the Rev. Michael Wigglesworth, who "flourished" between 1631 and 1707. Dr. Griswold tells us:—

His most celebrated performance, "The Day of Doom, or a Poetical Description of the Great and Last Judgment, with a short Discourse about Eternity," passed through six editions in this country, and was reprinted in London. A few verses will show its quality—

"Still was the night, serene and bright,
When all men sleeping lay;
Calm was the season, and carnal reason
Thought so 'twould last for aye.
'Soul, take thine ease, let sorrow cease,
Much good thou hast in store!
This was their song, their cups among,
The evening before."

After the "sheep" have received their reward, the several classes of "goats" are arraigned before the judgment seat, and, in turn, begin to excuse themselves. When the infants object to damnation on the ground that

"Adam is set free
And saved from his trespass,
Whose sinful fall hath spilt them all,
And brought them to this pass,"—

the Puritan theologian does not sustain his doctrine very well, nor quite to his own satisfaction even: and the Judge, admitting the palliating circumstances, decides that although

"In bliss
They may not hope to dwell,
Still unto them He will allow
The easiest room in hell."

At length the general sentence is pronounced, and the condemned begin to

"Wring their hands, their caitiff hands,
And gnash their teeth for terror;
They cry, they roar, for anguish sore,
And gnaw their tongues for horror.
But get away, without delay,
Christ pities not your cry:
Depart to hell, there may ye yell,
And roar eternally."

Before quitting Dr. Griswold's volume we ought to mention that it contains some well-executed portraits and is altogether a handsome book. The portrait of Bryant, from a daguerreotype, is particularly fine; the refined moral expression of the head perfectly corresponds with the spirit of his poetry.

TWO NOVELS.

Amberhill. By A. J. Barrowcliffe. Two Vols.

Smith and Elder.

The Monotons. By Susanna Moodie. Two Vols.

Bentley.

AMBERHILL belongs to the barbaric order. It is a mass of gold and colour, of superb eccentricity and grotesque elaboration. It is the history of an Agony, narrated by one who imagines that she has advanced sufficiently in her art to rebuke, with authority, the race of young, prolix, and exuberant writers. Verbal harmonies, she tells us, she utterly abhors; worshipping only the precious Idea, which is essential Eloquence. But if criticism have any value it is the repressing such offences as *Amberhill*, and the reclamation of the offender. For, here is a new writer, with a superior mind and an original pen, who tells a sad, delicious tale, with spasmodic labour, and almost blasphemous in search of effect. Should the book be a success, A. J. Barrowcliffe is for ever a failure.

She supposes that a grand moral lesson may be conveyed by a story with-

out a pleasant incident, morbid and miserable from first to last, beginning and ending with death; composed in a style of lurid exaggeration, false, fantastic, and repelling. The mortality is fearful. In chapter I., a mother and daughter are blasted by lightning. In chapter XVIII., the heroine is stricken in the heart and dies. The interval is full of weeping and gnashing of teeth. All this is designed to illustrate the evils of avarice and hypocrisy. A clergyman stifles his convictions for the sake of his phlethoric living, and from that direful spring of cupidity and duplicity unnumbered woes arise, unctiously and dimly set forth by A. J. Barrowcliffe, who, for the nonce, is Lilian O'May, of Amberhill.

Lilian O'May's first reminiscence is that of seeing her mother and sister struck into a black mass by a thunder-bolt. She yearns to follow them "on the red wings of fever;" but, through "a long penumbra of partial darkness" comes once more into the light of life. Her fate is, at an early period, influenced by the presence of a barrister, with thick lips, "like those that fatten sadly on the sugar-cane;" and by Cyril, a young poet, who accidentally utters a reproach to the conscience of her wretched father. She would sooner "have kissed his dead lips," though she loved him; "or given poison to his living ones," than heard him speak those words; "scalding marks of passionate tears;" "eternal blood-spots;" the "passion flowers of impetuous joy;" and other tropical influences, introduce a curate—a devil in holy orders—a pale Carafa, whose room is hung with allegories of outer darkness and perdition. Reproving the frivolity of Lilian's life, especially her taste for poetry—"the red wine of the vintage of hell"—he "looks like the very stoker of the infernal furnace," and "the white light of a new terror" flashes out of his eyes upon the Lady of Amberhill. This Satanic undergraduate pursues her as if "licking his chops," and she pursues us, the strange vigour of her narrative drawing us on, in spite of her sickly vanities and corruptions of style. We can promise no one any gratification from reading *Amberhill*. As to the moral, it is a truism stirred into froth. But A. J. Barrowcliffe, after severe correction, may reform, and make better use of natural powers which, in this book, have been degraded.

The *Monctons* suggests no criticism. It is the old, old story of deeds, wills, iron chests, mystic parentage, virgin brides, octogenarian suicides, pride brought to sweep crossings, virtue chastened, sweet girls, with heads hung like laburnums, with golden clusters; a peril, a rescue, gratitude, and a marriage procession turned into a funeral. Susanna Moodie thinks she has produced an original effect when she describes Moncton, senior, cursing his son in the style of the cabstand. Whereupon Moncton, junior, referring to the subterranean fires indicated by his father, remarks, that doubtless his parent wishes him to be there, that the family union may not be dissolved in the next world!

Here, near the catastrophe, we stop. Is the reader anxious to know what became of the angry father and the ironical son?

The Arts.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

TAKING into account—if such a thing be possible—all the care, labour, paint, study, linseed oil, and gum mastic; the ells of canvas, and the cart-loads of "lay" silks and stuffs, of periwigs and armour, of carved tables, crooked chairs, and miscellaneous gimcrackery; the reading up for subjects, and the private consultations about treatment and design; all the necessities, in short, which the production of five hundred and forty-three pictures implies, it is not a pleasant task to consider the result in this year's display at the British Institution. We declare that, of those five hundred and forty-three works, the odd three represents the number of pictures which will stand out distinctly and pleasantly, for any length of time worth mentioning, in our memory; that some ten pictures besides occur to us, just now, as having pleased us while we looked at them; that thirty more, perhaps, pleased us while we looked at them, too, though not even the marginal notes in the catalogue will call up a clear recollection of any one among the thirty—and that, as for the five hundred—

Let us recover our equanimity after the failure to find words weak enough to characterise the five hundred. We will begin criticism, calmly and methodically, with a notice of number one, in the catalogue. It is Mr. FRANK STONE'S *A La Ducasse, Pas de Calais*, and the first thing we have to say about the picture is, that it is one of the three we are in no hurry to forget. If the artist has never painted a less pretending picture, it is equally true that he has never painted a more complete and satisfying one. Description further than the merest statement, would be useless here. Mr. STONE has painted two real faces, and has dressed the figures belonging to them in trim peasant costumes, surrounding the faces themselves with saucy muslin caps that catching the breeze, disconcert the staidness of the wearers, just enough to make them look more piquant and more provokingly real. Once seen, the faces are sure to be remembered; and not to see them, smiling on the dreary walls of the British Institution, is to miss a real, substantial pleasure—an honest return for the time and money expended in a visit to the Gallery, and for the trouble of hunting out the particular work.

MARRIAGE.

KNOCKER—KNOCKER.—On the 19th ult., Edward Newman, second son of John B. Knocker, Esq., R.N., to Emily Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Edward Knocker, Esq., both of Dover.

DEATH.

JERDAN.—On Sunday last, the 27th instant, at Albert-cottages, Stoke, near Guildford, Surrey, aged 76, Frances Jerdan, the wife of W. Jerdan, Esq.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 26.

BANKRUPTS.—SIMON COHEN and JOSEPH LUDLINER, 37, Hatton-garden, Middlesex, manufacturing goldsmiths and jewellers—HENRY HERTON, Dunstable, Bedford, straw hat manufacturer—JOHN KING GURNEY, Uxbridge, Middlesex, cook, confectioner, and baker—SARAH BREWIN, Wisbeach St. Peter, Isle of Ely, Cambridge, miller, brewer, and corn factor—THOMAS KNOWLES, 61, Seymour-street, Easton-square, Middlesex, chemist and druggist—LOUIS BANN-

STINGL, 8, Broad-street-buildings, City, merchant—WILLIAM SMITH SLATER, Birkenhead and Liverpool, timber merchant—GEORGE GOODRICH, Dursley, Gloucester, chemist, druggist, and stationer—SAMUEL RAEVY, Cardiff, Glamorgan, outfitter—GEORGE CLARK MEND, Leeds, grocer—GEORGE UNWIN, Sheffield, scale presser and umbrella hook manufacturer—JOHN TRAVIS, Shaw, Crompton, Lancaster, cotton spinner—JOHN SMITH, Rochdale, grocer—HENRY COOP and WILLIAM COOP, Chequerbent, near Westhoughton, Lancaster, silk manufacturers—JOHN OWEN, 19, Gravel-lane, Salford, Lancaster, baker and provision dealer.

Friday, February 29.

BANKRUPTS.—JAMES TOMLIN, City, shipowner—ROBERT DILLON, Tipton, chemist, druggist, and grocer—HENRY SMITH, Sedgely, Staffordshire, farmer—GEORGE DAVY, Wigmore street, Cavendish-square, cabinetmaker—JACOB W. HENRY SCHAFER and Wm. HENRY BROWN, Finchurch-street, City, merchants—THOMAS JOHN NICKS, Coleman-street, City, rope maker—RICHARD JENKIN POLLOCK, Borough-road, Millwright and engineer—WILLIAM MCKEORNEY, Broadway, L'Anistow, Essex, merchant—JAMES BROWN, Battersea-

fields, engineer—JOHN DOUGLAS, York, hostler—CHARLES FOX, Scarborough, merchant—WILLIAM SOTHERN, Liverpool, glass dealer—THOMAS BURNETT, Blaydon, Durham, glass bottle manufacturer—WILLIAM CARTER, jun., Leamington Priory, Warwickshire, ironmonger—THOMAS SMITH, Nottingham, lace manufacturer—HENRY PRING, Old Market, Bristol, baker and flour dealer—RICHARD GRIBBLE, Milton, Devon, carpenter and builder—THOMAS EMERSON, Milton-street, City, builder—ALFRED JOHN GREEN, New-cut, Lamb, both, brushmaker.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE

London, Friday Evening, Feb. 29, 1856.
Reports of a gloomy character from Paris have depressed Consols greatly during the week. So much has been said of Lord Cowley's temporary return to England, and Coun-

A greater picture, in a higher class of art, but not so distinct and original, is LOUIS HAGHE'S *Choir of the Church of Santa Maria Novello*. It is a wonderful piece of painting—mellower, even, than the water-colour productions in which the artist excels. This work, and the well-studied piece of nature, *The Ptarmigan's Haunt*, painted by WOLF, make up the three memorable pictures of the exhibition. Essentially differing in subject, feeling, style, and even capacity of labour, these three pictures are severally as near perfection as need be. Mr. Haghe's is the work which contains the most evidence of study and labour; but in each of the three we have named, the study and labour are justly apportioned to the design; and in each there is genius, individuality, independent thought, without which the most studied care and labour would but have sufficed to make an agreeable painting, but one in no way likely to be long remembered.

We have not credited Mr. HAGHE'S, or Mr. WOLF'S, or Mr. FRANK STONE'S picture with great importance or dignity of subject. Mr. HAGHE'S has most pretension to be classed with the historical designs. But, in truth, the only thorough-going effort of historical painting is Sir G. HAYTER'S *Martyrdom of Latimer and Ridley*, a conscientiously-executed design, more than equaling the expectation we had formed from acquaintance with the painter's style, and from hearsay concerning this particular work. With all the merit of earnestness and painstaking, however, there is the old want of natural strength and grace in this elaborate picture, and the effect of its tame extravagance is to weary more than to impress.

Mr. DAWSON gives us a naval picture. It is a misfortune that his work has no specific interest, for on losing sight of it we directly confuse the design with twenty others equally meritorious by the same hand. In another part of the gallery we find a picture of a raft, with starving mariners upon it, meant to be very striking, but too obvious a plagiarism from the *Wreck of the Medusa*.

If, in looking at GEORGE CRUICKSHANK'S *Fairy Ring*, you forget—which is not difficult—that it is a painting, you will pronounce it as excellent as any work of fancy he has ever achieved. The perspective of bats, motionless on outstretched wings, and stationed at regular intervals, is a most effective conceit; while we recognise in the faces of the "good folk," scampering without any apparent purpose round a large mushroom, the perfection of CRUICKSHANK'S own inimitable humour. Unfortunately, the painting is a painting. The attempt at colour is its weak part; but, as the scene is at once moonlight and misty, there is a general shade which hides, in a great measure, the defect.

Among the landscapes will be found some of great beauty, but they all seem to be repetitions. The best works are those of T. DANBY, JUTSUM, BODDINGTON, GILBERT, BRIDELL, and JOHNSON. We reserve the name of SANT for special mention, because this is the first time we have met him as a landscape painter. His manipulation is almost as marvellous here as in his flesh painting, but he has not produced by any means a good picture. The loss of light in the centre, where it is absorbed by foliage as in a photograph (which we suspect to have served as the first sketch for the work), is a fault which strikes the eye directly. Mr. SANT should keep to the figure. We look impatiently for a picture from him worthy to be classed with *The Woman taken in Adultery*, a picture itself worthy to be classed with the works of the great masters.

MR. ANDERSON'S FAREWELL.

It is related in the *Table-talk* of SAMUEL ROGERS that CHARLES JAMES FOX and his boon companions used to sit up through the whole of a given day and night, and into the next day, frantically amusing themselves with sempiternal games at cards. Some such result is contemplated by Mr. ANDERSON, in his farewell at COVENT GARDEN. The performances are to extend through two days, and are to include farce, and opera, and melodrama, and the "squire" against Mr. MATHEWS, and Mr. MATHEWS'S own cracker (the DRURY-LANE Wizard, having kindly consented to be benevolently sarcastic against the COVENT GARDEN Wizard, in the latter's own domain, and for his special behoof), and "the great pantomime;" with a combination of the companies of many theatres, and a masqued ball for the second day, to extend through the whole four-and-twenty hours. Monday and Tuesday are to be signalled by these events. The Professor is determined to die like the Phoenix—in a blaze.

THE QUEEN paid her first visit to the ADELPHI THEATRE on Saturday afternoon, to witness the burlesque pantomime, *Jack and the Bean Stalk*. The performance was exclusively for the amusement of the royal family, and of such of the nobility and gentry as are attached to the Court. The centre of the dress circle was converted for the occasion into one large royal box, the arms being placed in the middle panel, and the draperies being festooned up with crowns and other devices in gold and with gold and crimson cords and tassels. Moreover, the box was decorated with crimson velvet, gold, and white silk; the passages were lined with velvet, and the floors and passages were covered with crimson cloth. At the conclusion of the performance, the QUEEN is said to have expressed to Mr. WEBSTER the gratification she had received.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT LIND.—A second and last performance of HANDEL'S Oratorio of the *Messiah* will be given at Exeter-hall, on Tuesday evening, March 18, at which Madame GOLDSCHMIDT will sing for the last time in London, previous to her return from a provincial tour. The Grand Miscellaneous Concert of M. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT, for the benefit of the Nightingale Fund, will take place on Tuesday, the 11th instant.

Orloff's sending to St. Petersburg for fresh instructions, that the Conference may come to an end sooner than we have reckoned. A panic now must inevitably ruin hundreds, for speculation has been mad since the first flush of peace.

Railway Shares maintain their prices. This settlement has made no great difference in them. Foreign Stocks are all very firmly held, and a considerable amount of business has been done in Turkish Six and Four per Cents. A meeting of the Royal Swedish Railway Shareholders takes place to-day, but the result will arrive too late to be sent with this. Bank and Land Company Shares are very low, money scarce, with fears for the future issue of the next fortnight.

Consols close at 91½; Turkish Six-and-a-Half, 95; Four-and-a-Half ditto, 100.

Aberdeen, 26; 7; Bristol and Exeter, 85; 7; Caledonian, 57; 3; Chester and Holyhead, 12½; 13½; East Anglian, 12½; 13½; Eastern Counties, 95; 9½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 54; 6; Great Northern, 93; 3; Ditto, A stock, 78; 80; Ditto B stock, 119; 121; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104; 6; Great Western, 59; 4; Lancashire and Carlisle, 75; 6; Ditto, Thirds, 6; 7 pm; Ditto, new Thirds, 6; 7 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 83; 3; London and Blackwall, 7; 7½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 98; 9; London and North Western, 99½; 100; Ditto South Ditto, 92½; 3½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 24½; 5; Metropolitan, 3; 4 dis.; Midland, 69½; 70; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 43; 2; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 10; 11; North British, 30; 31; North Eastern (Berwick), 75½; 6½; Ditto Extension, 61; 6 dis.; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 43; 4 dis.; Ditto, Leeds, 15½; 16½; Ditto, York, 51½; 2; North Staffordshire, 63½; 4 dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 22; 4; Scottish Central, 104; 106; Scottish Midland, 74; 6; South Devon, 11½; 12½; South Eastern (Dover), 65; 6; South Wales, 71; 3; Vale of Neath, 19; 20; West Cornwall, 6; 7½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7½; 8; Ardennes, Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 38½; 1; East India, 21½; 22; Ditto Extension, 4; 4 pm; Grand Trunk of Canada, 11; 10 dis.; Great Indian Peninsula, 20½; 2; Luxemburgs, 41; 5; Great Western of Canada, 25½; 6; North of France, —; Paris and Lyons, 49½; 50; Paris and Orleans, 49; 51; Sambre and Meuse, 9; 1; Western and N. W. of France, 33½; 4½; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 8; 8½; Brazil Imperial, 14; 2½; Cocacis, 24; 1; St. John del Rey, 26; 8.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Feb. 29, 1856.

The week just closing has been chiefly remarkable for its dullness. With very limited arrivals of English and Foreign wheat the demand has since declined, and last week's prices have been barely maintained. Barley continues steady, but the trade in oats has been very inactive.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	215	213	215	214	214	214
3 per Cent. Reduced	91½	92½	92½	91½	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	91½	92½	91½	91½	91½	91½
Consols for Account	91½	91½	92	91½	91½	91½
New 2½ per Cent. An.	92½	92½	93	92½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cent.	—	—	77	77	—	—
Long Ans. 1860	—	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
India Stock	—	224½	—	—	222	225
Ditto Bonds, £1000	—	—	2 dis.	—	—	6 dis
Ditto, under £1000	—	—	2 dis.	6 dis.	1 dis.	2 dis
Ex. Bills, £1000	par.	1s. pm	1 dis.	2 dis.	2½ dis.	2 dis
Ditto, £500	par.	1s. pm	1 dis.	2 dis.	2½ dis.	—
Ditto, Small	dis.	1 dis.	2 dis.	1 dis.	2½ dis.	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	103	Portuguese 5 per Cents.	—
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	57	Russian Bonds, 5 per	—
Chilian 6 per Cents	104	Cents	105
Chilian 3 per Cents	68	Russian 4½ per Cents	94
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish	43
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif	96	Spanish Committee Cert.	—
Equador Bonds	—	of Coup. not fun.	—
Mexican Account	20½	Turkish 6 per Cents	95
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	81	Turkish New, 4 ditto	100½
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	—	Venezuela, 1½ per Cents.	—

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. MONDAY, and during the week, will be performed the new and original comedy of **STILL WATERS RUN DEEP** (as performed before the Queen at Windsor Castle), in which Mr. and Mrs. A. Wigan will appear. To conclude with the new and doubly moral, though excessively old, Melodramatic Fairy Extravaganza, entitled the **DISCREET PRINCESS**; or, **THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS**.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM. 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open, for gentlemen only, from 10 till 10. Containing upwards of 1,000 models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures are delivered at 12, 3, and 5 morning, and half-past 7 evening, by Dr. Sexton, F.R.C.S., and at half-past 8, by Dr. Kahn. Admission, 1s.

HAIR DESTROYER, 1, LITTLE QUEEN-STREET, HIGH HOLBORN.

ALEX. ROSS'S DEPILATORY, for removing effectually superfluous hair from the face, neck, arms, and hands, without the slightest injury to the skin. A.R. will warrant it not to irritate the flesh in the smallest degree, and the hair to be entirely destroyed. — Sold in bottles, at 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d.; or applied at the Hair Dyeing Establishment as above. Forwarded for stamps, free by post, eight extra.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS. This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind; for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance, but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

Sold by **PROUT and HARSANT**, 299, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors. Price 1s. 1d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON'S GREAT CARNIVAL BENEFIT, MONDAY and TUESDAY, MARCH 3 and 4.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON most respectfully begs to inform his friends and the public, that his **GRAND CARNIVAL COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT and DRAMATIC GALA** will occur on Monday and Tuesday, the 3rd and 4th of March. It will comprise Opera, Drama, Pantomime, Burlesque, Melo-Drama, and a Bal Masque, thus constituting a round of amusement, more copious, varied, and attractive than has ever before occurred in London. In fact, it will be the first time in the history of entertainments in England that any such thing has been even attempted. In America, on benefit occasions, and when it is desired by professionals to pay a mark of respect to a deserving benefactor, a Dramatic Carnival has been organised and attended with the most profitable results. The Carnival at Covent Garden will be an effort to realise, on English ground, that which American ingenuity and enterprise has already accomplished with success in the Transatlantic Theatres. The Carnival will commence on Monday, March 3, at 1 p.m., with the Comic Pantomime of 1856, entitled **YEBELLE ALLIANCE; OR, HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR, AND THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD**. Henry the Eighth, Mr. Harry Pearson; Francis the First, Mr. W. Shalders; Clown, Mr. Flexmore; Pantaloon, Mr. Barnes; Harlequin, Mr. C. Brown; Columbine, Miss Emma Horne. The Pantomime to be followed, at 4 o'clock, by the Drama of **Real Life**, in Two Acts (with permission of T. Payne, Esq.), entitled **TIME TRIES ALL**. Mr. Leeson (a Merchant), Mr. G. Cooke; Matthew Bates, Mr. Basil Potter; the Hon. Collander Yawn, Mr. Kinloch; Charles Clinton, Mr. F. Hall; Tom Tack, Mr. Clarke; Laura Leeson, Miss Herbert; Fanny Fact, Miss Somers. To be followed, at half-past 5 o'clock, by the Scottish drama of **GILDEROY**. Jock Muir, Professor Anderson. At a quarter past seven o'clock, the favourite Opera of **LA SONNAMBULA**. Amina, Mrs. H. Drayton (late Miss Lowe); Elvino, Mr. Henry Haigh; Rodolpho, Mr. H. Drayton. At a quarter past nine (by the very gracious permission of E. T. Smith, Esq.), Mr. Charles Mathews will himself appear in the celebrated Drury-lane Farce of the **GREAT GUN-TRICK**, supported by Messrs. Tilbury, Worrell, James Rogers, Templeton, and Miss Ennis. After which, at half-past 10 o'clock, Mr. Leigh Murray will appear, in conjunction with Professor Anderson and imitate Mr. T. Mathews, Mr. Charles Kean, and Professor Anderson, in the New Squib of **WHAT DOES HE WANT?** The whole of the First Evening's Entertainments to conclude with a Grand Ballet, in which Mademoiselle Auréli, Emma Home, and Mr. Flexmore will appear. The Second Evening (Tuesday, March 4), will be devoted to the Great Wizard's **GRAND BAL MASQUE**, which will commence at 10 o'clock. — Doors open at 9 o'clock. The whole of the spacious pit will be entirely covered, the stage thrown into the *Salle de danse*. The Carnival will thus comprise a dramatic day, Monday, March 3, on which seven different performances will take place, and more than 600 artistes will appear; and a second day entirely devoted to the Bal Masque.

Admission to the entertainment on Monday will be: — Grand Balcony, 5s.; Upper Boxes, 3s.; Pit and Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s.; with the privilege of leaving the house and returning, or of taking refreshment in the theatre. Admission to the Bal Masque on Tuesday, for a lady or gentleman, 5s. Spectators — Grand Balcony, 5s.; Upper Boxes, 3s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s. Mr. Simmons, of Tavistock-street, Covent-Garden, is appointed sole costumer of the Bal Masque. The Bal Masque will positively take place on **TUESDAY, March 4th**. Masters of the Ceremonies, under the direction of Messrs. Flexmore and Caldwell.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

EXETER HALL.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

IT is respectfully announced that Mr. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT will give an **EVENING CONCERT OF SACRED and MISCELLANEOUS MUSIC**, with full band and chorus, at **EXETER HALL**, on **TUESDAY EVENING, March 11, 1856**, the proceeds of which will be presented to the **NIGHTINGALE FUND**. The Programme will comprise Mendelssohn's Hymn, "Hear my Prayer, O God," for Soprano, Chorus, and Organ, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt. Beethoven's Choral Fantasia, Piano-forte, Orchestra and Chorus; Piano-forte, Mr. Otto Goldschmidt. The 130th Psalm, for Soprano, Solo and Chorus, by Mr. Otto Goldschmidt (first time of performance); Solo part by Madame Jenny Goldschmidt. Meyerbeer's Trio, "Horst Du," for Soprano and Two Flutes, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt; Flutes, Messrs. Pratten and Rémusat. Finales to Weber's "Euryanthe," Soprano part, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt. Beethoven's March and Chorus from "The Ruins of Athens." The full Programme will be duly announced. Conductor, M. Benedict. On this occasion the seats throughout the Hall will be numbered and reserved, price One Guinea each. Applications for tickets received by Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. The places will be appropriated according to priority of application; and tickets will be ready for delivery on and after Monday, March 5. — Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT LIND.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH.

EXETER HALL, March 18th.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that the **ORATORIO OF THE MESSIAH** will be given for the Second and Last Time, at **EXETER HALL**, on **TUESDAY EVENING, March 18th**. Principal Soprano part by Madame JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT. It being her last appearance in London until the month of May next. The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than Six Hundred Performers. Conductor, M. Benedict. Prices of admission: Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), One Guinea; Unreserved Seats (body of the Hall), 10s. 6d.; West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Area (under West Gallery), 7s. The tickets will be appropriated according to the order of application; no more will be issued than the room can conveniently accommodate. Doors open at Seven. To commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Correct books of the Oratorio are given with the Tickets.

Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. MITCHELL'S, Royal Library, 33, OLD BOND-STREET.

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This Corporation has granted Assurances on Lives for a period exceeding One Hundred and Thirty Years, having issued its first policy on the 7th June, 1721.

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At a low rate of Premium, without participation in profits, or at a somewhat higher rate, entitling the Assured, either after the first five years, to an annual abatement of Premium for the remainder of life, varying in amount with the success of each year, or after payment of the first Premium to a participation in the ensuing Quinquennial Bonus.

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The abatement for the year 1856, on the annual Premiums of persons who have been assured under "Series 1831," for five years or longer, is upwards of 31 per cent.

"SERIES 1846."

DECLARATION OF BONUS.

The Governors and Directors have to announce that the Second Quinquennial distribution of profits, under "Series 1846," has been completed up to the 31st of December, 1855, and a very satisfactory Bonus declared thereon. Such Bonus attaches to all Policies effected from the 1st of January, 1846, to 31st December, 1855.

The following Table, including the addition made in 1856, exhibits the total amount of Reversionary Bonus added to Policies of Ten Years standing.

Age when Assured.	Sum Assured.	Total amount of Premiums paid.	Total Bonus.	Per Cent on Premiums paid.
30	£1000	£253	£170	£67.1
40	1000	325	187	57.5
50	1000	452	193	42.6
60	1000	661	218	32.9

The character and standing of this Corporation, maintained during nearly a century and a half, guarantee to the public a full and faithful declaration of profits.

The Corporation bears the whole expenses of Management; thus giving to the Assured, conjoined with the protection afforded by its Corporate Fund, advantages equal to those of any system of Mutual Assurance.

Premiums may be paid Yearly, Half-Yearly, or Quarterly.

All Policies are issued free from STAMP DUTY, or from charge of any description whatever, beyond the Premium.

The attention of the Public is especially called to the great advantages offered to Life Assurers by the Legislature, in its recent enactments, by which it will be found that to the extent of one-sixth of income, Life Premiums are not subject to Income Tax.

The fees of Medical Referees are paid by the Corporation.

Annuities are granted by the Corporation, payable Half-Yearly.

Every facility will be given for the transfer or exchange of Policies, for Loans thereon, or any other suitable arrangement will be made for the convenience of the Assured.

Prospectuses, and all other information, may be obtained by either a written or personal application to the Offices as above.

JOHN LAURENCE, Secretary.

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PROGRESS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

Chief Offices:—Unity-buildings, 8 and 10, Cannon-st., City.
West End Offices:—1, New Coventry-street, Leicester-sq.
It is with feelings of peculiar satisfaction the DIRECTORS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION submit the following statements respecting its progress and business during the year 1855, commencing 1st January, and ending 31st December last. It will be observed the amount of new business transacted during that period produces annual premiums exceeding £12,390. This is a very large result indeed, judged by the average amount of new business effected by other life offices, which varies from £3,000 to £5,000 per annum.

There is but one sure test by which the progress and soundness of a life assurance institution can be judged practically—viz., the amount of new business it secures. No other test is valuable or even useful for such purpose. Unless a life office continues year after year to obtain a large new business, it must rapidly decline and eventually cease to exist. STATEMENT of New Life Business of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, from 1st January, 1855, to 31st December, 1855:—

MONTHS.	Business Proposed.		Business Completed.		
	No. of Policies.	Amount Proposed to be Assured.	No. of Policies.	Amount Assured thereby.	Annual Premiums thereon.
January, 1855.	100	39,946	65	19,350	£41 6 3
February, "	130	36,150	101	27,216	8 15 10 4
March, "	167	38,650	141	33,000	9 13 17 6
April, "	147	46,025	118	31,850	9 58 0 3
May, "	187	72,260	118	39,810	1,193 0 8
June, "	115	43,950	105	27,150	800 6 8
July, "	107	41,050	109	37,250	1,128 16 6
August, "	123	72,390	103	45,250	1,998 8 10
September, "	132	49,187	95	33,285	1,003 10 1
October, "	94	32,630	109	37,122	1,156 18 1
November, "	129	42,200	98	29,100	1,0 6 13 6
December, "	89	23,275	89	22,658	688 2 9
Totals	1,520	£537,733	1,251	£383,141	£12,393 11 5

This Table shows:—1. That in the year 1855, 1,251 new Policies have been completed and paid upon.

2. That the amount assured thereby is £383,141.

3. That the new Annual Premiums thereon amount to £12,393 11s 5d.

It is very gratifying also to know that the great bulk of this business is entirely free from loan operations, as the following analysis will show:—

	Policies.	Assuring.	Producing in Premiums.
In connexion with Loans	89	£50,866	£2,114 9 9
Unconnected with Loans	1,162	332,275	10,279 1 8
Totals	1,251	£383,141	£12,393 11 5

Such are the results obtained by the UNITY GENERAL during the year 1855. They are published as facts illustrating the power and influence of its connexions, and likewise the popularity of the principles propounded by it.

MONETARY RESOURCES OF THE UNITY GENERAL.

The following facts exhibit at a glance the perfect security offered by this Association to Assurers:

1. The number of Shareholders is ..	2,037
2. The subscribed capital is ..	£309,308
3. The paid-up capital is ..	£77,334
4. The number of Policies issued is ..	3,413
5. The amount assured thereby is ..	£1,162,967
6. The gross annual income from Premiums, including that of the TRAFALGAR LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, now merged into the UNITY GENERAL, is ..	£37,497

To have achieved such a solid position in so short a period, and thus be enabled to command such extensive funds, is a success without precedent. It is attributable to many favourable circumstances. The close connexion of the UNITY GENERAL, with its powerful and kindred institution, the UNITY FIRE, has tended in many ways to advance its career. In like manner the UNITY GENERAL has benefited the UNITY FIRE, whilst the third Unity Association, viz., the UNITY BANK, will be of considerable service to the others. All three institutions, viz., the UNITY FIRE, the UNITY GENERAL, and the UNITY BANK, although perfectly separate as regards capital, liabilities, management, &c., will be conducted in the same buildings, and thus, while they feed each other with business, so will they promote economy, power, and an extension of their connexions.

THE UNITY BANK.

All the necessary capital for the UNITY BANK, amounting to £300,000, has been subscribed for, whereof £150,000 is paid up and invested. Nor has the capital stock been hurriedly allotted to persons for speculative purposes. The Directors have exercised the greatest care in this most important particular, and it is very satisfactory to know the Shares are all held by bona fide Shareholders in very small numbers. This fact is illustrated by the circumstance that up to the present period there are nearly 600 highly respectable Shareholders, whose names and addresses will shortly be published, together with an explanation of the terms and principles on which the business of the UNITY BANK will be conducted. The names of the various Gentlemen appointed as Officials to the Bank will also be published.

COMMENCEMENT OF BANKING BUSINESS.

The Directors of the Bank are not enabled to name the exact date on which the business will be commenced, in consequence of the uncertainty always attending the proceedings of the authorities at the Board of Trade. The event, however, is close at hand, and will be duly announced as soon as it is decided. It is gratifying to know that no difficulty whatever exists (with the exception of the usual formalities) to the UNITY BANK commencing operations in a very few days.

UNITY GENERAL BONUS IN 1867.

The first Bonus of the UNITY GENERAL will be declared in the year 1867, therefore all intending assurers desirous of participating are urged to make their proposals with as little delay as possible. The prospects of a large division are very good, arising not only from the great extent of business already effected, but also from the results that may be reasonably expected from the future.

Applications for forms of Proposals, Prospectuses, Agendas, and all other information, are requested to be made either personally or by letter, to any of the Local Managers or Agents throughout the country, or to

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