

Head Edmund Selous, Esq. & Co. London.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

RECONCILIATION with America is to be had, if we will take it direct from the American Cabinet.

Our Government cannot now entertain a doubt that its representative in America has justly forfeited his position. In dismissing Mr. CRAMPTON, the United States Government resents a series of personal acts—acts of illegality, of subterfuge, and diplomatic deception. Perhaps the deception has gone farther than the Foreign Office has suspected. However the question has been simplified, and not another provocation need be given to America. That is, unless our government, worked upon by external influences, has a rabid propensity to war. Mr. DALLAS is empowered to settle the question, in principle and detail, or to negotiate a basis of arbitration. Or, if Lord CLARENDON be willing, he and Mr. MARCY may meet, and adjust their differences by a conversation. But the problem is whether, after our Minister at Washington has been cashiered, and sent home with a double stigma on his name, and after Lord CLARENDON, who may have been misled, has for months been endeavouring to justify him, the punishment of Mr. CRAMPTON should not be represented as violence done to the British Empire. Imagine human blood poured out like water, national interests destroyed, civilization repeating the barbarities of the last century, and CRAMPTON at the bottom of it all. We must have a mad and wicked Government if the settlement remain long unconcluded.

The settlement of Paris, meanwhile, does not seem to have been so perfect but that a new European war is possible. The Revolution has banked its fires, but they glimmer, at intervals, from Spain, from Italy, from France, from Germany, and the Slavonian borders. Lord CLARENDON tells Count CAVOUR, explicitly, that the occupation of the Papal countries by French and Austrian armies is a cause of discontent, and may be a cause of rebellion. What does Count CAVOUR say? That Austria contemplates the conquest of Italy, that Sardinia will resist her, and that Sardinia, being unequal to the conflict, claims the active alliance of the Western Powers. There is a hint that he has applied to Russia also; but Bonapartism is the ruling foreign influence at Turin. What the Piedmontese Government is really doing for Italy is the creation of a political and moral power

hostile to Austria. It ought to be understood, however, that the lenitive rule of VICTOR EMANUEL would not be acceptable to one half of Italy in combination with a NAPOLEON Court established in possession of the other half. Suspicions of this character stand in Count CAVOUR's way, and in the way of MANIN also, when he attempts to lead the Liberal party over to the House of Savoy. The best claim that House can put forward to the confidence of the Italians is the manifest alarm and hatred of Austria. The Imperial dragoons of Lombardy—protectors of the Bourbon Duchess of PARMA, of the Tuscan sensualist, and the Modenese gold-hoarder—do not conceal the irritation and fear produced by the new attitude of Piedmont. Besides bringing their armies to the front, and menacing the line of the Ticino, they are getting up a defence, and accusing Count CAVOUR of revolutionary designs. They attribute to that statesman principles which he does not favour. When the general Italian movement takes place, he will not be at the head of it, though his promotion of constitutionalism in Sardinia is a conspicuous service to the Italian national cause.

It is true that rumours are circulated in Italy—circulated probably by Austrian agents—that England has addressed a note of remonstrance to Sardinia, blaming the violence of Count CAVOUR. These rumours have found their way westward. They are totally unfounded, though it is not impossible that such a proceeding has been suggested by the Austrian Ambassador at the Court of St. James. The change of Ministry reported to be imminent at Turin will not, we believe, modify in the least the position of Count CAVOUR, which is equivalent to that of our Foreign Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer united. From Naples we hear whispers of an amnesty; the King is said to have invited POERIO to sue for pardon; but that noble gentleman, who has been chained at the galleys since 1851, replied that his condemnation was unjust, and that he will never use the language of a repentant offender. Meanwhile, Cardinal RARIO, who counselled the King to mercy, has fallen into disgrace.

The Pope also gets up a defence, and pleads not guilty to the charge of misgovernment and cruelty. It is of little consequence to him how ANTONELLI misgoverns, while his scarlet flutters at the side of the BONAPARTE purple. The red-robed PATRIZZI is introduced at the Tuileries in shining harmony with the plush of CAMBACERES,

and on this day NAPOLEON THE FOURTH will receive a benediction and a name.

NAPOLEON THE THIRD has been dispensing state charities with a prodigal hand. The waters have begun to subside, and the inhabitants of the inundated districts, undeterred by the fate of Babel, have resolved, if possible, to rebuild their houses higher than floods can reach them. But the disasters that have happened cannot fail to be felt severely during the rest of the year. To the public subscription in Paris is to be added a public subscription in Rome and in London. With reference to the last, Sir ARTHUR ERTON has written a letter to the newspapers, complaining that the advertisements are so worded that he cannot contribute to the fund without being supposed to compliment the Emperor NAPOLEON.

Those thirteen departments, however, ravaged by an inundation, throw a black shadow on the coming autumn. A third year of scarcity, a commercial panic in the distance, the rousing of the community from its gambling dream, the irritation of the provinces at being taxed to cheapen the bread of Paris,—these are threatening signs, in conjunction with the mutterings of an opposition in the Assembly.

From other quarters there is little intelligence this week. There has been a hurricane at Ratisbon, a rumour of a visit from Queen VICTORIA to the Court of Berlin, a new development of the Concordat in Austria, and a preliminary meeting of the Commission for regulating the Danubian frontier. The Polish refugees in London, in reply to the offer of an amnesty by ALEXANDER THE SECOND, declare that they are at war with Russia, and will never assent to conditions of peace "until restitution be made."

Bigotry has this week sustained a defeat by no means new to her, but from which she has always hitherto recovered by the grace of the Lords. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER—the Attorney-General of Christianity, or rather of that narrow sect which abuses the name—moved in the House of Commons on Monday an amendment on the Oath of Abjuration Bill, the effect of which was to re-introduce the words, "upon the true faith of a Christian," and thus to save the country from Judaism, Atheism, and general ruin. Forced to give up asserting, as on a former occasion, the necessity for preserving a form of words which was framed in an earlier day merely to keep out the descendants of the STUARTS, all of whom are now extinct, Sir FREDERICK yet clings to that part of

the oath which can be twisted into a meaning not legitimately its own, and be made to serve as a proscription in that House of the professors of the old Hebrew faith. All the while these opinions were being expressed, the Israelite Lord Mayor of London looked down from the gallery on the seat he was forbidden to fill, and had the pleasure of hearing his friend Mr. SAMUEL WARREN oppose his right to the seat, and tell the House that the prosperity of this country is owing to honest members commencing their deliberations every evening with Christian prayer. But the House, as on previous occasions, went against the champions of orthodoxy, and decided by 159 votes of 110 not to entertain the amendment. The bill thereupon passed—to be thrown out again, in all probability, by our Constitution-loving Peers, who are so jealous of their own prerogatives that they will not suffer the Crown to touch them, but who cannot allow the Commons to arrange their own internal affairs as they may think best.

The two Legislative Houses, during the last few days, must have been in a mood peculiarly susceptible to the reception of truth in connexion with religious matters. The Commons tolerated, with an occasional laugh, Mr. HAYWOOD's assertion, in committee on the Cambridge University Bill, that, throughout the length and breadth of the land, ninety-nine out of every hundred medical officers do not believe in the Thirty-nine Articles, and that therefore it is absurd to insist upon the Professor of Anatomy at Oxford signing those declarations of faith: which is a truth, no doubt, but rather a startling truth for our orthodox representatives to listen to. The Lords tolerated a discussion on the propriety of consecrating chapels in burial-grounds; allowed the Earl of MALMESBURY to accuse the Bishops of being disagreed on the subject; and did not fall into hysterics at hearing the Bishop of CASHEL repeat, approvingly, the systematic neglect of the latitudinarian Archbishop of Dublin to administer the sacrament in the chapels of cemeteries. Noble Lords listened to all this in patience; though Lord DUNGANNON objected to the "unhallowed" proceedings of the Archbishop, and Lord CAMPBELL prudently advised that the subject should be allowed to "drop." Again: the House of Commons cried "Hear, hear!" when Mr. EWART, in moving for a select committee to inquire into the question of capital punishment, said he would not enter into the Scriptural argument, "because, when the House embarked in theological discussion, it always deserted common sense." Some progress, assuredly, has been made in the two branches of the Legislature towards a better frame of mind on matters of faith.

But progress has not been made in other matters—as, for instance, with regard to our penal code. PALMER drifts on towards his legalized death in the midst of great doubt on the minds of many whether, in the absence of absolute proof of COOKE's death by strychnine, the execution should take place at all. We do not share in those doubts as regards this particular case; but it is notorious that Judges and juries do sometimes make mistakes in matters of life and death, and only find out the blunder when it is too late. Here is a case with a peculiar difficulty, felt by many thoughtful persons; yet the Commons will not listen to any plan with reference to the general question of removing from the agents of the law the frightful responsibility of mating fallible human judgment with an irrevocable sentence—an exercise of power fit only for the unerring hand of Divine Wisdom. Accordingly, our representatives throw out Mr. EWART's proposition by 158 votes to 64, and declare by a majority of 92 that the obsolete Hebrew code of morality shall be the governing rule in a state of society altogether dissimilar to that of ancient Judaea, and under a dispensation which essentially modified the Mosaic moral system.

In the meanwhile, PALMER is inexorably left to his fate. Sir GEORGE GREY refuses to commute or postpone the punishment; and this day, in all human certainty, will be pregnant to him with whatsoever of new and wonderful experience may lie within the awful change from Life to Death.

Some degree of satisfaction is derivable from the fact that Government has promised to inquire next session into the state of the laws affecting the property of married women. Sir ERSKINE BARNES gallantly took up the cause of the fair oppressed, and, in a clear, concise speech, showed the cruel sacrifice of "equity" to "law"—the gradual overriding of the old manly English rule by the

mere dicta and interpretations of Judges, who decide from what Sir ERSKINE calls the "husband" point of view. As the law now stands, a woman may be ill-used by her husband as to be forced to surrender from him, and yet be obliged to yield to him every farthing of her property or her income, at the risk of wanting necessities for her own subsistence. "She may protect herself in the court of equity," says Mr. MALINS, who thinks it would be "contrary to the law of God" if the interests of man and wife should not remain identical—which is precisely what they are not at present; but we all know the slow and doubtful proceedings of law courts. The discussion, however, was remarkable, if only for Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE's assertion that England is an example to all other countries in the relations of the married couple. In proof, refer to the police courts for wife-beating cases, to the law courts for actions for adultery, and to the House of Lords for divorce bills.

Our social system receives another illustration from the strike of the miners in the west of Scotland, which has this week been brought to a termination by the surrender, as usual, of the men, after a sacrifice in wages alone of 500,000*l.* The strike originated early last March, owing to the desire of the masters to reduce the wages of their labourers from five to four shillings a day, in anticipation of the conclusion of peace. Great distress has been experienced by the men; and at length, in the fourth month of the strike, the garrison is starved out. Here is a lamentable comment on the want of co-operation and agreement; here also are materials for Mr. MACKINNON's committee. But we have discussed the subject at large elsewhere.

From these gloomy questions it is pleasant to turn even to the Cockney pleasure-grounds of Cremorne, where we find the QUEEN visiting the flower-show, or to the Ascot races, where Royalty may again be seen unbending in the presence of the people. And still more pleasant is it to behold a true alliance between the English and French peoples, in the shape of charitable contributions from the former for the sufferers by the terrible inroad of the waters over the fields of Southern France.

A pithy and sterling letter of advice from Mr. ROEBUCK, the newly-chosen chairman of the Administrative Reform Association, to the members of that body, forms an admirable make-weight to the political history of the week. It will be no fault of the energetic Sheffield Radical if the society do not rub off the rust that has prematurely gathered around it, and set vigorously to work, with a prospect of achieving results that shall be worthy of the pretensions it puts forth.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—A public meeting, convened by the Society for Promoting the Abolition of the Punishment of Death, was held at the London Tavern on Monday evening in support of the motion to be submitted by Mr. Ewart on the following evening to the House of Commons. The speakers were—Mr. Edward Webster, a Chancery barrister; the Rev. Henry Christmas; the Rev. H. Richards, secretary to the Peace Society; Mr. Farmer, apparently a working man, and Mr. Mason, who sought, amidst much opposition, to justify capital punishment; the Rev. Dr. Burns, a dissenting minister; and some others. The arguments advanced by the advocates of abolition were of the usual character. Resolutions in favour of the objects of the meeting were carried almost unanimously; and a petition to Parliament was agreed to.

FIRE.—The premises (situated in the Blackfriars-road) of Messrs. Norton, Haytor, and Co., patentees of the wool company for making wool out of worsted stuffs, were burnt down, with the exception of a small portion, last Saturday. The machinery also was partially destroyed.

MORMON EMIGRATION IN PRESTON.—Large numbers are emigrating from Preston to the Salt Lakes. "We find it is not unusual," says the *Preston Guardian*, "for husbands to return home at night and find wife, daughter, and children fled, the house stripped, and a pretty long list of debts incurred on the eve of departure left unpaid."

STRANGE DISCOVERY OF A DEAD BODY.—A dead body, much decayed, and dressed in very tattered clothing, was discovered a few days ago among some lumber in a loft over a stable in Bristol. An empty phial was discovered in one of the pockets. It is the opinion of medical men that the deceased must have been dead at least fifty years. An inquest has been opened and adjourned for further evidence.

KILLED BY A NEEDLE.—The young Irishman mentioned in our last as having been dreadfully wounded in the chest by a needle which broke in the muscles, has since died.

GENERAL DE LA MARMORA has left the Crimea for his own country.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, June 9th.

THE FOREIGN LEGIONS.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord DONOUGHMORE asked the Secretary for War what the intentions of the Government were with respect to the foreign legions?—Lord PALMERSTON replied that the foreign legions, when disembarked, were to be sent to their homes, or to be located in some British colony, at the expense of the Government.

THE SEES OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, adverting to the vacancy in the Bishopric of Gloucester and Bristol, caused by the death of the Bishop, made some remarks advocating the separation of the two dioceses—a step which he believed most of the county gentlemen desired to have taken, on the ground that the see is too large.—Lord REDESDALE also expressed an opinion in favour of separation.—Earl GRANVILLE said the question which had been raised was one of a very difficult character and required much consideration. There were several sees with respect to which there had been great complaints of the necessity of dividing them; and therefore it was obvious that if anything was to be done in such a matter it should be by means of a general measure, and not one applying only to this particular case.

OUR AMERICAN RELATIONS.

In answer to a question from the Earl of CARNARVON, Earl GRANVILLE said he had understood that the Asia had arrived, and that she had brought some news of a private character which was not very clear or intelligible. There was, on the one hand, a report that letters had been received which extended to the 27th, and which announced Mr. Crampton's departure; and, on the other hand, a telegraphic message was said to have been sent on the 28th, stating that there was no further intelligence. It was not quite clear what that telegraphic message meant—whether that there was no further intelligence besides Mr. Crampton's dismissal, or that Mr. Crampton had not been dismissed. (*Laughter.*) Her Majesty's Government had received no official communication.—A similar statement was made in the Lower House by Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. DISRAELI.

MERCANTILE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The House having gone into committee (on recommendation) with respect to this bill, Lord OVERSTONE protested against clause 1, the object of which is to abolish the necessity for having written contracts in cases in which the amount of value exceeds 10*l.* Speaking in the name of the merchants of the City of London, he said there would be great danger of such a repeal leading to fraud, by making mere casual conversations assume the nature of actual contracts. However, he would not divide the House.—After a brief conversation, the clause was agreed to, and the bill passed through committee.

ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in answer to Colonel GREVILLE, Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD (the Attorney-General for Ireland) said he was prepared to advise the Government to introduce in due time (but not during the present session) a bill for the continuation of the system of the Encumbered Estates Court.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, said it was not the intention of Government to propose any bill during the present session for appointing a Public Prosecutor. The Attorney-General, however, intended to frame a measure during the recess.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.

Mr. BOWYER called attention to the fact of the Master of the Rolls in Ireland having intimated his opinion that Government ought to interfere in the affairs of the Tipperary Bank; and wished to know whether Ministers had taken any steps in consequence.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD said that on the previous Thursday morning, for the first time, he saw by chance in a Dublin paper the report to which Mr. Bowyer had alluded. He immediately communicated with the Crown Solicitor with reference to attending the judgment of his Honour upon the case. (*Hear, hear.*) The course which had been all along open to the learned Judge was a perfectly clear one: he had only to direct that the matter should be brought under the attention of the Crown Solicitor, who would have placed it before him (Mr. Fitzgerald) for his consideration, with a view that, if necessary, he might put the law in force.

OATH OF ABJURATION BILL.

This bill was read a third time. On the question "that the bill do pass,"

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER moved, as a substitute for clause 2, a clause which, while it omitted those portions of the oath that have become obsolete, reintroduced the words, omitted in the oath which was proposed by the bill, "upon the true faith of a Christian." Repeating the arguments he had used on a former occasion, he contended that, as our institutions are laid deep in the foundations of Christianity, there should be no avenue to the House of Commons except through a profession of that faith; and that, at any rate, the object desired by those who advocated the measure ought to be effected

and of a bill openly framed for that purpose, and a side wind. Mr. BOVVER quited a passage letter he had received from Dr. Cullen, to the effect that Sir Frederick Thesiger, on a former debate, represented Dr. Cullen's intention in publishing a collection of Papal bulls. Sir Frederick's interpretation, remarked, implied an unfounded doubt as to the of the Roman Catholics. Lord JOHN RUSSELL at Sir Frederick Thesiger, by framing a new oath, actually admitted that the old oath is absurd. But his proposed by Sir Frederick contained a provision would operate in an oppressive manner against Jews; and he (Lord John Russell) therefore opposed it. SAMUEL WARREN supported the amendment, and he thought it impossible for Jews and Christians to work well together in a legislative house; he thought the oath proposed by the bill would effect an change in our political structure; and because, a Jew would thereby be placed in the hands of the

Alluding to the Lord Mayor, who was then under the gallery, he spoke of him as "a valued and complimented him on his mode of conducting his office; but he could not allow that should be permitted to sit in a House which is an, and which every evening commences its sessions with Christian prayers—prayers which have answered by the bestowal of prosperity on this country. Mr. BYNG opposed the amendment, as did INCOMBE, who said he thought it was admitted that all parties are ashamed of the abjuration oath, and there is no occasion, therefore, to disavow it any more. He trusted they would not see some six hundred and fifty members of that assembly as well as some hundreds in another place, who to represent the intelligence of the nation, so calling God to witness that they abjure that which has ceased to exist, and which cannot be possibly restored. But it appeared that hon. gentlemen admitted that it was not the family of the they were apprehensive of, but that they had mountable objection to the house of Rothschild. However, they had had a Jew as a churchman, and it did not appear that the duties had been performed: the present Jew Lord Mayor, also, had been present in St. Paul's on the Thanksgiving day. It was then asked whether things could be suffered to remain as they are, even if one hundred Jewish members should be admitted to the House as a consequence of altering the present oath, and omitting the words "the true faith of a Christian."

The House then divided, when there appeared—
 For the amendment ... 110
 Against it ... 159—49
 The question that the bill do pass was then put and carried.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BILL.
 Consideration of this bill in committee was resumed on the 27th. Mr. WIGRAM's amendment, stipulating making changes in the application of endowment "due regard shall be had to the main designs of the donor or donor," was negatived by 97 to 78. Numerous divisions were called for by Mr. HEYWOOD and members, on verbal amendments, but without

clause 31, which had reference to tests, Mr. RUSSELL said there was a professor of anatomy at Cambridge who was obliged to sign the Thirty-nine Articles. (Hear, hear.) He believed the professor of anatomy was about the last person to believe in the Thirty-nine Articles; and that, if we took the medical men throughout the country, ninety-nine out of a hundred did not believe in those Articles. (A laugh.) Commissioners objected to the test of the Thirty-nine Articles; but if the House allowed two-thirds of the House to object, they might have a similar case occur at Cambridge. At present, dissenters are admitted even without a revision of the statutes. Amending clauses were then agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be reported.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY BILL was read a second

time, and repeated divisions, the second reading of the DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL was adjourned. The House adjourned at two o'clock.

Tuesday, June 10th.

RE-CONSECRATION OF THE BLANDFORD BURIAL GROUND.

Acts connected with the ceremonies performed to the opening of the cemetery at Woolwich were brought forward in the House of Lords by LORD ALBERT, who, after affirming that he had made inquiries, the answers to which confirmed his relation, charged the Bishop of Oxford with having made two inaccurate statements on the previous evening, viz., that there was a communion table in the church; and that the practice of his diocese was the same as that of the Bishop of London, when such was not the fact. Lord Portman reflected on the Bishop for having violated his oath in adopting the practice of the diocese of London when he was acting for the Bishop of Oxford. In answer to these strictures, the Bishop of Oxford said, when he consecrated the chapel, he found "a covered, with decent red cloth," which he took for

granted was a communion-table. As regarded the alleged difference of practice, as between his own diocese and the diocese of Salisbury, he wished to observe that some years ago he did consecrate a cemetery adjoining Newbury, which had no chapel. Not having then duly considered the subject, he followed the course which was prescribed by those who drew up the programme of the proceedings; but the rule of his diocese was now, as indeed it had been for many years past, similar to that of the diocese of Salisbury. As regarded his alleged violation of his conscience, he thought the question turned on the meaning of the word "essential." He held that by the canon law and by the law which the Church of England had established, there was no complete consecration of a cemetery chapel or church without the celebration of the holy communion; but, supposing that the Bishop of London consecrated the cemetery only and not the chapel, he (the Bishop of London) had not been guilty of any violation of principle in adopting a form which left the chapel unconsecrated.

Some further conversation ensued, in the course of which the Earl of MALMESBURY observed that there appeared to be great uncertainty and disagreement among the Bishops as to consecration; and the Bishop of CASHIEL said that the difference of opinion on this subject was even greater than had been stated. If the Bishop of Oxford was right in saying that the consecration of a church or chapel was ineffectual without the administration of the sacrament, he (the Bishop of Cashiel) could only say that the greater number of chapels and churches which he had undertaken to consecrate were not consecrated, for he was never in the habit of administering the sacrament at the time of consecration, although he always gave directions that it should be celebrated the next Sunday. He knew of cases in which the Archbishop of Dublin (who he might remind them was an Englishman, not a disorderly Irishman) had walked into the church, signed the act of consecration, and then walked out again; and, when asked why he had not read any prayers, replied that he did not think anything he could read could give holiness to a place already formally handed over to the purposes of religious worship. Viscount DUNGANNON expressed great regret at hearing these statements, and was sorry to say that "the irregular and unhallowed mode of consecration" described by the Bishop of Cashiel was sometimes adopted by the Archbishop of Dublin. It was high time that some understanding should be come to on "this most serious matter." Lord CAMPBELL advised that the subject should be allowed to drop; which was done.

AMERICA.

The Earl of CLARENDON, in answer to the Earl of CARNARVON, stated that at a late hour on the previous night he had received a letter from Mr. Crampton, written on the 27th ult., at the last moment. He stated that up to that time he had received no intimation of the intentions of the United States Government.

The SHERBURN HOSPITAL BILL—the object of which is to enable the commissioners of the hospital, which was originally devoted to lepers, to apply the funds to the purposes of a general hospital—was read a second time. The motion of the Bishop of OXFORD, that the correspondence between the Bishop of Durham and the Charity Commissioners in reference to the hospital should be laid on the table, was agreed to.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNICATIONS.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE, replying to Lord RAVENSWORTH, said that a fresh and inexpensive scheme for opening a communication between Pimlico and Pall Mall was under the consideration of the Government, and would in due time be submitted to the House of Commons.

The JUVENILE CONVICTS PRISONS (IRELAND) BILL, the PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENTAL BILL, and the HAY AND STRAW TRADE BILL, were respectively read a third time, and passed.

REFORM OF THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL presented a petition, signed by four thousand and upwards of the inhabitants of the City of London (three hundred of whom were amongst the most wealthy firms in that city), in favour of the bill before the House for the reform of the corporation.

Mr. DISRAELI presented a petition from the liverymen of London, stating that they had heard with surprise the provisions of the bill before the House for the reform of the corporation of the City of London, and praying the House would not consent to the provisions of the measure.

ST. PANCRA'S WORKHOUSE.

Mr. BOUVIER, in answer to Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, said that he had been informed, by an inspector whom he had sent to see whether the desired alterations in St. Pancras Workhouse had been carried out, that those alterations had not been effected. Under these circumstances, a letter was despatched from the Poor-law Board, stating that, unless a material improvement took place within two months, the Board would take steps to put the law in force. The two months would expire in July, and in this position the matter stood at that moment. He believed the directors of the poor in St. Pancras meant well; but they were not absolute, and no doubt they had had difficulties to encounter.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

Mr. MACARTNEY asked the Secretary to the Treasury

what provision would be made for the conveyance of the Australian mails between England and Suez, in case parties tendered for carrying the mails to Sydney from Suez, via Point de Galle. Mr. WILSON said that there was a contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Company which included the carrying of mails to Australia. It would therefore be obviously improper for the Government to offer a contract for the conveyance of the mails in the way alluded to; for, if they did, the Oriental Company, having already one contract, would be enabled to tender at a lower price than any other party, and would, if its tender were received, be taking double pay for the same service. There would, however, be no objection on the part of the Government to make up a mail for the vessels of other companies, provided they would receive it on such terms as the Government might offer.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. EWART moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the law imposing the punishment of death. He felt convinced that that punishment was not authorized by Scripture; but he would not enter into that argument, because he always felt that, when the House embarked in theological discussion, it deserted common sense. (Hear, hear.) Dismissing this, then, the question came to one of expediency merely; to determine which he would ask, in the first place, what was the just definition of punishment? He thought that any punishment which was worthy of that name should possess the following requisites:—In the first place, it should be effective; in the second, it ought to be as fair as possible, not falling heavily upon one man and lightly upon another; in the third, it should be as far as possible certain; and in the fourth, it should be reversible and revocable. He contended that the punishment of death failed in all these requisites. Frequent cases had been known of men committing murders on the very days on which they had witnessed executions for murder. The inequality of the punishment was shown by the fact that, while some people meet it with the greatest unconcern, others (as in the case of the woman who was executed fainting at Jersey, and in that of Bousfield) are overcome with an agony of terror. Juries are inclined to acquit, and in some cases have acquitted, even when the guilt of the accused has been obvious, rather than send a fellow-creature to death. Judges also exhibit reluctance; and the recent commutation of the sentence of Celestina Somner, because of her sex, will render it very difficult to hang any woman hereafter. How, then, could the punishment be retained in the case of men? It appeared, moreover, that there is the greatest uncertainty in the Home Department, and that one year they may have a merciful secretary, and the next, one with contrary tendencies. He (Mr. Ewart) contended that all punishments should be reversible, as he could produce numerous cases in which persons had been executed whose innocence was subsequently established. For the present state of things, various remedies had been suggested. In another place, private executions had been proposed; and that would certainly get rid of such indecent exhibitions as he was informed were taking place, namely, of special trains advertized for next (this) Saturday at Stafford. (Hear, hear.) But then the people would not tolerate executions in private. Besides, such executions would get publicity through the agency of the journals. Another remedy proposed was what were called occasional punishments; that was to say, an execution now and again, for the sake of example. But in his opinion that would be nothing better than gambling with human life. (Hear, hear.) A more lenient punishment, however—such as imprisonment for life—would be more certain in its operation, would check false sympathy for the criminal, and would carry with it public opinion.—The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

Mr. DRUMMOND opposed the motion, observing that the precept contained in the words "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," was too plain to be controverted. He suggested that, with a view of relieving secretaries of state for the Home Department from importunities from the advocates of condemned criminals, whereby the course of justice was impeded, a certain number of persons, including the Judge who tried the case, should, if there be any fresh evidence, decide whether it were fit that the prerogative of mercy should be exercised.—Mr. BLACKMORE, Mr. BROTHWORTH, and Mr. WARREN, supported the motion, which was further opposed by Mr. LIDDELL and Sir GEORGE GREY, the latter of whom argued that statistical records show that the punishment of death is looked upon by criminals with greater dread than any other; that it is not more unequal than other kinds of punishment, nor more vindictive in its character than imprisonment for life; that so far from those crimes which are not punished by death having decreased since the abolition of the capital sentence, while murder has increased, the fact is exactly the reverse; and that the objection as regards the uncertainty of the punishment applies equally to all other punishments.

Upon a division, the motion was negatived by 158 to 64.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

Mr. HEYWOOD rose to move for a select committee to inquire what public measures can be adopted to advance science, and improve the position of its cultivators. Acknowledging the steps in the right direction which Government had recently taken in establishing a depart-

ment of science and art under the control of the President of the Council, and in starting various schools and seminaries, he was still of opinion that much more might be done, and that the different separate efforts might be systematized. The British Museum being overstocked, it might be advisable to remove the Natural History department to the west end of the town. The merits of scientific men are not sufficiently recognized by Government; and, as he wished to see a greater recognition, he suggested that there should be an order of merit for men of learning, as well as for generals and admirals, and that patents should be granted for less money.

At this and at three subsequent periods of the discussion, motions were made that the House might be counted; but, before the glass had run out, sufficient members dropped in to secure the requisite forty, and, having stayed during the count, again left the House with about twenty members in it.

Mr. MACKINNON objected to the proposed plan. Grants of public money would never aid science; they never had done so; all the greatest discoveries were made by men of genius, not by university men. He believed that mathematical knowledge was far more extensive in France than in this country.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER observed that the terms of the motion were so vague that he did not think any good could result from it; and he therefore advised its withdrawal.—Mr. TITE supported the motion, and Lord STANLEY suggested that Mr. Heywood should not press his motion then, but consult eminent scientific men as to the specific measures which it was desirable for the Government or the House to adopt for the furtherance of his object.—Lord PALMERSTON concurred with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in thinking that the motion had no practical tendency; and Mr. Heywood consented to withdraw it.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

Sir ERSKINE PERRY called attention to the state of the law of property as it affects married women, and moved the following resolutions:—"That the rules of the common law which give all the personal property of a woman on marriage, and all subsequently acquired property and earnings, to the husband, are unjust in principle and injurious in their operation. That the principles of Courts of Equity which recognise separate property in a married woman, and invest her, with respect to such property, with all the rights of ownership, are in accordance with the requirements of the age, and in conformity with the opinions and usages of the wealthier and better instructed classes of society. That in the opinion of this House, the conflict between law and equity on the subject ought to be terminated by a general law, based on the principles of equity, which should apply to all classes." By the old English law there could be no doubt that a wife succeeded on equal terms to the common property of her husband; she took one-third of the land, and a third of the personal property; but, except in Scotland, no such early distribution exists in this country at the present day. The decrees of the legal tribunals of the country have abrogated this old English law, and deprived married women of their rights, while the husband has acquired the right, from the same source, of dealing with the property of his wife just as he thinks fit. The law had not been changed by any act of the Legislature, but solely by the decisions of the Judges. According to the dictum of the common law, a married woman has no right to personal property; but the equity courts recognise and act upon the very opposite principle. Equity deals with the personal property of a wife as though she were a single woman; but the common law holds that it belongs to the husband. These diametrically opposite views of the law had arisen out of the decisions of different Judges; and the object of his bringing this question now before the House was to elicit an opinion as to which of these two principles is the sound one to apply to the case of married women. He thought also that the absurd law should be abrogated by which a husband is made responsible for debts his wife may have contracted before her marriage, and of which he may have been utterly ignorant.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL admitted the truth of Sir Erskine Perry's strictures on the present state of the law, but urged him not to press his motion, as the Government has determined to introduce a measure on the subject next year.—Mr. MALINS considered the alterations uncalled for, and that they would be contrary to the law of God. The interests of husband and wife should be held to be perfectly identical; and, if a woman had not full confidence in a man, let her refrain from marrying him. Sir Erskine Perry wished to set up a separate establishment for man and wife. As the law stands, however, a wife can protect herself by applying to the court of equity.—Mr. MUNTZ pointed to the necessity for some better law of divorce.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, while acknowledging the grievances complained of, urged the withdrawal of the motion.—Mr. WHITESIDE and Mr. COLLIER thought the discussion showed the necessity that exists for a Minister of Justice.—Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE believed that some amendment was required in the law of divorce, but he trusted that the legislature would maintain unbroken the identity of interest between husband and wife. Nothing could surely be more frightful than to teach wives that their interests are on one side, and those of their husband on

the other. (Cheers.) He thought there were many matters in which we might usefully follow the example of foreign nations; but, if there was one thing in which foreigners might learn of us, it was the relations which existed in this country between husband and wife. (Loud cheers.)—Mr. CHAMBERS regarded the proposed principle as vicious; while, on the other hand, Mr. W. J. FOX advocated a change in the existing law.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY, in consenting to withdraw his motion, on the faith of the Government promise, remarked that all the arguments which had been put forward against the resolutions were from the "husband" point of view, but that the House was bound to consider other interests as well.

MR. ARCHER'S PATENT FOR POSTAGE LABELS.

Mr. WHITESIDE moved for a select committee to inquire into the circumstances of the purchase of the machine and invention for perforating postage labels by the Government, from Mr. Archer, the inventor; and also into the circumstances under which the existing agreements between the Government and the contractors for gumming and printing the postage and receipt labels were made. Mr. Whiteside complained of the shabbi-ness, if not injustice, with which Mr. Archer had been treated by the Treasury in their determination to perpetrate a job in favour of other parties.—Mr. WILSON made an explanatory statement, with a view to showing that Mr. Archer had nothing to complain of; and expressed a hope that the House would not consent to unsettle an arrangement made, with the utmost deliberation, so long ago as 1853.—Mr. GROGAN and Mr. MUNTZ supported inquiry; the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER opposed it.—Mr. LLOYD DAVIES did not see that Mr. Archer had any grounds of complaint, but he would support inquiry into the other points.—Mr. WHITESIDE replied; and the House divided, when the motion was negatived by 57 to 39.

The House was counted out at midnight.

Wednesday, June 11th.

THE NAWAB OF SURAT.

The HOUSE OF COMMONS was on Wednesday morning occupied for a considerable time in discussing the abstract question involved in the Nawab of Surat Treaty Bill, which purported to be a private bill, and which came before the House upon the consideration of the report of the committee.—Mr. VERNON SMITH, premising that the report expressly declared that the committee had considered themselves precluded from giving any opinion upon questions of a constitutional and political character connected with the case, and that the evidence was not before the House, moved to defer the consideration of the report until Wednesday next.—Sir FITZROY KELLY resisted delay, and moved, by way of amendment, that the bill be read a third time. He entered very fully into the merits of the case, which was a claim by Meer Jaffer Ali Khan to an annuity of 150,000 rupees, granted under a treaty with the Indian Government to the then Nawab of Surat and his heirs, the essential point in the question being, whether the grant was made to the heirs natural of the Nawab or to his heirs being successors in the Nawabship.—Sir JAMES HOGG defended the East India Company, and stated that the office of Nawab was not hereditary. If the present claimant had any just rights to enforce he should have submitted them to the tribunals of the country, and not to the House of Commons.—After a lengthened discussion, in which Mr. CARDWELL, Sir ERSKINE PERRY, Mr. WIGRAM, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, Sir CHARLES WOOD, and other members, took part, Sir FITZROY KELLY withdrew his amendment, on the understanding that the bill would be proceeded with on Wednesday next, by which time further papers on the subject would be in the possession of the House.

The SPIRIT TRADE (IRELAND) BILL was withdrawn, after a short discussion.

On the order for the reception of the report on the Earl of Perth and Melfort's petition for leave to bring in a COMPENSATION BILL for the loss of estates confiscated from the Earl's ancestors for their adhesion to the cause of the Stuarts, it was agreed to recommit the bill to a committee of the whole House next Monday.

Thursday, June 12th.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.

The presentation in the HOUSE OF LORDS of a petition from Lord Mount-Cashell, complaining of the operation of the Irish Encumbered Estates Court, gave rise to some conversation, and a statement from the LORD CHANCELLOR that it was intended to bring in a short continuance bill, in the event of the bill now before the House of Commons, providing for the transference of the powers of the Encumbered Estates Court to the Irish Court of Chancery, being rejected.

The DRAFTS ON BANKERS BILL was read a third time, and passed.

The committee on the REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL was postponed, after some depreciatory observations from the Earl of HARDWICK, who thought that reformatory schools have a dangerous tendency, as offering a premium to the parents of certain classes of children to set them to commit crimes.

THE SARDINIAN LOAN.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER brought down a message from the Crown, informing the House of the convention with the King

of Sardinia, by which England engages to furnish a loan of 1,000,000 sterling. A copy of the convention was laid before the House; and, on the motion of the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, it was ordered that the message be considered next Thursday.

COUNTY COURTS BILL.

Mr. ROEBUCK asked Sir George Grey whether it was really the intention to pass the County Courts Bill through the House of Lords. If the bill was only to be used for the purpose of staving off a very discreditable question in that House, he could assure the right hon. gentleman that he was not to be got rid of in that way, but that he should, if necessary, bring forward the subject by submitting a resolution.—Sir GEORGE GREY said that he had communicated with the Lord Chancellor, who expected that the bill referred to would leave the House of Lords in about a week or ten days. With regard to the other assertions of Mr. Roebuck, he met them with a direct denial.

THE UNITED STATES.

Some discussion arose between Mr. BAILLIE and Mr. DISRAELI on the one side, and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER on the other, with reference to bringing on the Army Estimates the following evening. In connexion with that occasion, Mr. BAILLIE had given notice of a motion on the subject of our relations with the United States, and he alleged that Lord Palmerston had promised to give him due notice of bringing on the estimates, in order that he might be prepared with his motion; but, together with Mr. DISRAELI, he thought that a breach of engagement had been committed in proceeding so suddenly with the estimates.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, under these circumstances, postponed the consideration of them, without mentioning any fresh day.—Mr. BAILLIE then said he thought it right to state that he did not intend to adhere to the motion of which he had given notice. In consequence of the important events which had taken place in America, he should give notice of the terms of his motion when the time for bringing it on was fixed.

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, considerable discussion ensued on the vote of 100,000 for civil contingencies, which Sir FRANCIS BAREING moved to reduce to 30,000. He believed that the Treasury had a balance in hand sufficiently large to render it unnecessary that they should now be furnished with a greater sum than that to which he would reduce the vote. Even then, they would have an ample margin to meet any possible chance of excess.—Mr. WILSON, on the part of the Treasury, consented to modify the vote to 90,000. 60,000 of previous votes, he stated, were to be returned to the Exchequer under the head of "savings."—After considerable, but rather unimportant discussion, the motion was withdrawn.—In the course of the desultory conversation connected with this vote, objection was expressed by Mr. BLACKBURN and Mr. LLOYD DAVIES to a sum of 100 for drawing up the Oxford University Bill, and Mr. WILSON intimated that the money was paid to Mr. J. G. Phillimore for his valuable assistance. Subsequently, Mr. GLADSTONE, who said he had had a share in advising the payment, explained that it was considered advisable to have the assistance of Mr. Phillimore's learning and experience in drawing the bill; but he admitted that the principle was one which it was not advisable to have established, and that it was right the House should view it with a jealous feeling.—In answer to Mr. MOWBRAY, Mr. WILSON said the account for the fireworks had not been received, and therefore he could not give information respecting it. The expense provided for was that which was extraneous to the department where the fireworks were made; some of the expense, therefore, was borne by that department. This explanation, Lord HOTHAM conceived to be at variance with the distinct assurance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the whole expense would be included in the 8,000.

EDUCATION.

Sir GEORGE GREY proposed a grant of 151,231, as the balance of the vote for education, in addition to a sum of 800,000 already granted on account. In the speech with which he prefaced this motion, Sir George reminded the House that, since 1839, the year in which the first grant was made for this purpose, two millions sterling have been placed by Parliament in the hands of the Committee of Council on Education, and by them distributed in aid of the voluntary efforts made in the cause of national instruction. For the first ten years subsequent to 1839, the sum annually placed at the disposal of the Committee of Council was 80,000, but in no one of these years had that sum been actually expended. There always remained a balance, which, in the course of time, accumulated to a considerable sum. Since then, however, the reverse has been the case, the expenditure exceeding the grant. The annual grants during the last six years, beginning with 1850 and ending with 1855, were respectively, omitting odd shillings, 193,000, 164,000, 188,000, 250,000, 326,000, and 396,000. Although it would appear that the expenditure had been less than the vote, he wished the House to understand that the outlying grants would fully exhaust it. The schools built in the same years were severally 285, 205, 232, 273, 312, and 414. The number of pupil teachers in course of training in these years were respectively 4660, 5607, 6180, 7007, 7768,

and 8524. With reference to these, he would remark that, on account of the time these pupil teachers are under instruction, many were included in the return of last year, who had been apprenticed in preceding years. The increase of the vote this year was to be attributed to the augmented number of schools, schoolmasters, scholars, pupil teachers, and other departments of the educational staff. Some extension had also been made in the capitation grants for the current year, involving an increase of 28,000*l.* in the expenditure; and a few grants of a novel character had been added, including one for the improvement of industrial and reformatory schools.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON made some remarks in favour of a more definite and comprehensive scheme of national education.—Mr. BARNES, in moving that the vote be reduced to the same amount as last year, complained that the education provided by the public money is not enjoyed by the children of the classes for whom it is intended, and that parents are indifferent as to sending their families.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON, though regretting that the aid of the state should still be withheld from schools conducted on the secular principle, would oppose the amendment, because he did not wish to restrict the operation of the system.—A similar course was taken by Mr. W. J. FOX for the same reasons.—Mr. LIDDELL wished to see the salaries of the pupil teachers raised.—Mr. MILES thought the present system susceptible of many improvements.—Mr. EDWARD BALL supported the amendment, as he conceived the sum proposed was much too large.—Mr. CROSSLEY also approved of the amendment, and complained of the unequal appropriation of the grant, four-fifths of which, he observed, are monopolised by schools under the supervision of the Church of England.—Approval of the increased vote, with some objections to points of detail in the plan pursued by the Committee of Council, were expressed by Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, Mr. ALCOCK, and Mr. HENRY; and ultimately, after a brief reply from Sir GEORGE BRYCE, the amendment was withdrawn, and the vote as agreed to.

On the House resuming, the OXFORD UNIVERSITY BILL was considered as amended in committee.

The WEST INDIA LOANS BILL and the ALDERSHOTT AMP BILL were respectively read a third time, and passed.

The House adjourned at a few minutes before two o'clock.

PALMER AT STAFFORD.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Stafford, June 12, 1856.

ARIS danced on the edge of a volcano; Stafford promises to eat, drink, and make merry on the eve of an execution. Publicans hope to sit at the receipt of custom while a great criminal is preparing for his last drop. Pounds of beef have been provided that for size would disgrace a hippopotamus, and perhaps equally tender. His own peculiar honours, too, will be paid to bold Sir John Barleycorn. Nor will any man, with money in his pocket, be compelled to pass the night of expectation in dull sobriety. It is not often that such felicitous occasions present themselves—when they do they must be duly improved. Similar preparations are being made in family and commercial hotels, though on a scale commensurate with their greater importance. *plentur veteris Bacchi pinguisque ferine*—they are manufacturing their wines and laying in supplies of them. The extortions practised by the Londoners during the three glorious nights of "blazes" are to be executed in Stafford. Mendacious fame relates in a whisper how sixty beds have already been engaged for the "Dodo" for a pound a piece, while the narrow and uneasy chair are each valued at a crown. *In vino veritas*. Writing from the comfortable hostelry yelet of a "Vine," your correspondent must turn a deaf ear to such Pactolian fables, and confine himself to unpoetic facts. There will be no difficulty in procuring accommodation for Friday night. Many thousands will doubt be poured into the town, but of these very few will dream of retiring to rest. The majority of spectators are not expected to arrive before midnight, and by 10 or three o'clock in the morning every avenue to the goal will certainly be crowded. It is deemed probable that at least 50,000 persons will be assembled within sight of the scaffold. To preserve order in this excited and heterogeneous host, 120 policemen will be stationed at the most commanding points, and strong barricades are to be erected to prevent undue pressure and to break the force of the mob. Immediately in front of the Lodges the gallows-tree will rear its unhallowed form, visible to a considerable distance on either side. Within a few yards and nearly opposite, workmen are busily occupied in constructing a gallery for the representatives of the press, who are greatly beholden to Major Fulford, the governor of the goal, for his uniform courtesy and consideration. Facing the long, dull, red-brick wall, that keeps out hope, but shuts in shame, sorrow, and despair, stands a neat row of cottages with well-kept gardens in front, now green with beans, cabbages, and cauliflowers, bordered with the homely daisy or the untidy London-pride. To-morrow pride will have a fall. Cabbage and cauliflower must give way to rows of benches, blossoming with "a bold peasantry, their

country's pride." Within the goal itself no one will be permitted to enter, save two local reporters and the representative of the all-dreaded *Times*. Every rule, however, has an exception, and this is not an exception to that rule. Only officials and the chosen three are to be admitted, we are told; but rumour speaks of passes from the Secretary of State for a few "bloated aristocrats," who desire to indulge a morbid curiosity by intruding upon the last moments of a fellow-creature, whose hour-glass has run down to its last grains of sand. The good people of Stafford, indeed, say that Palmer has himself alone to thank for his condemnation. Why did he not confide in the good faith, intelligence, and kindly feeling of his old associates? Why, there is scarcely a small burgess in the place who did not wish him well. At Rugeley the feeling was certainly unfavourable. The sporting doctor, who knew Lord Derby and remembered Lord George Bentinck, was an object of envy to his immediate neighbours. He who lived in that snug, unpretending cottage, with its latticed casements, could each morning, like the fool, breakfast on a nod from a real great lord. This was the sin that could not be pardoned. The man who had done this thing must surely die. Not so at Stafford. Here he had obliged many, offended none. To the small tradesman, the groom, the ostler, the female domestic, he was invariably kind, gentle, and lavish. Even at Tamworth they speak gratefully of his open hand. He would come down by express from town, alight at that station, and sometimes spend a sovereign in treating porters, constables, and commons, before proceeding on to Rugeley by the slow train. It was the same everywhere. Not long since it happened to your correspondent to be passing a weary hour at Cremorne. Round and round the platform circulated the monotonous throng, as if working on a moral treadmill. And their aspects were gloomy, like dwellers in the regions of sorrow. Sadly your correspondent gazed on the careworn grubs, who, crawling in the artificial light of coloured lamps, deemed themselves butterflies disporting in the rays of the sun, and mistook the smell of gin for the aroma of flowers. Then a perambulant syren approached him, and said:

"Why so grave to-night? You look as if you were going to be hanged with William Palmer."

"Peace be with him!"

"So say I. I am sorry for him, poor fellow. I knew him well."

"You knew him? Come. Tell me all about him. What can I offer you?"

"Well! I don't mind a glass of brandy-and-water; but I can't tell you much, except that he was a very nice gentleman, and quite a man of honour."

"What made you think so?"

"Oh, he used to come to a house where I was barmaid, down the Walworth-road. He used to order a private parlour. Sometimes a thin, light-haired young gentleman came to see him; and one or two others."

"Well! but what had that to do with his honour? Everybody pays for his room and his beer, not because he likes to do it, but because he must."

"Yes; but one day he said to me, 'Mary,' says he, 'I'll lay you 15 to 1 in half-crowns that such a horse wins.' 'Anything you please, sir,' says I. So said, so done. I thought no more about it, till one day he comes in all smiling like, and counts out fifteen half-crowns, one by one; and, says he, 'Mary, you have won the bet. There's your money.' Now, that's what I call honourable, and you won't make me believe he ever did no murder."

Again: on arriving at this place late at night and obtaining a bed near the station, your correspondent naturally fell into conversation with the waitress, who brought him a cup of privet-leaf tea. The maiden—so to speak—was warm in her praises of William Palmer. He was a perfect gentleman, very kind, and so liberal, he never seemed to care about the change. "Was he civil-spoken?" "Oh, yes, sir; he was"—(hesitating)—"just such another as you, sir." The ambiguous compliment stopped further conversation. On the subject of compliments, a very doubtful one took place yesterday. While reconnoitring the place reserved for the press, an unknown voice exclaimed, in a too familiar accent:

"Weel, sir, I'm thinkin' he'll gang to Auld Scratch."

"Auld Scratch! Ah! a Caledonian divinity, I presume?"

"I dinna ken what ye mean by a Caledonian deevinity, but if ye're pokin' yer fun at me, ye'll get yer heed crackit as weel as yer jokes."

"No offence, my good man. Come, let us have some beer, and don't look so savage. Perhaps you'd prefer a drop of mountain dew from your native heath?"

"Eh! that's weel said, my mon. And sae ye ken'd I waur Scotch. Weel a weel! It's jist on twal' year sin' I came o'er the Border. Ye maun hae an unco guid lug o' your ain. But maybe ye're frae the North yer ain sel'?"

Apropos to the North. It is said that a letter has been received from Auld Rickie declaring the intention of the writer to be present at the execution, with a view to shoot the hangman. Imagine Sawney throwing away his money on such a philanthropic piece of Quixotism! Rather is it credible that that man was a true Northern who offered his services gratuitously. True, he would

receive no actual payment, but the criminal's dress alone is worth 50*l.* to the Messrs. Tussaud, and the rope would fetch a guinea an inch, were it thrice the real length.

Among other rumours, men say and believe that the prisoner has received the present of a Bible from his leading counsel, accompanied with a touching note bidding him despair of mercy on earth, and exhorting him to make his peace with Heaven. It is thought that he will confess at the last moment. A whisper has gone forth, that he has promised the benevolent Mr. Wright to address the people from the scaffold. But for his family's sake he is more likely to die and make no sign. Mr. Wright, however, has evidently acquired great influence over his mind, and has succeeded in arousing what little moral feeling he possessed. Herein lies his weak point. He can hardly be said to have any moral feeling, to such a degree is it dormant and lethargic. While quite a young man—and those who knew him well insist that he cannot now be less than thirty-five years of age—he was noted for his sharp practice at cards and all games of chance. His conversation ran only on such subjects, coupled with horses and facile women. When no other pastime was obtainable, he could content himself with pitch and toss, provided the stakes were sufficiently high. But his honour was not to be relied upon. He would take every advantage, and screw his adversary down to the strictest rules, while he invented by-laws for his own use. His friendship—if such it could be called, which referred only to the extent of a man's usefulness to himself—was disastrous to all who experienced it. His love was fatal, either to the object of his lust, or to the obstacle that impeded its fruition. Years ago he formed a criminal attachment for a young married woman of great personal beauty. The husband, naturally prone to drink, was encouraged in the pernicious habit. One day he was urged on to the most frightful excess, and when he refused to plunge into deeper bestiality, was twitted as a milksop, and dared to go on. Inflamed with rage and liquor, the wretched man drained off another glass of ardent spirits, staggered out of the house, and fell down a corpse. He had died from excessive drinking, said his neighbours, and the Staffordshire Bathsheba was comforted in the foul embrace of her husband's murderer.

Such are the stories people now tell of one whom they lately envied and marvelled at, though they neither loved nor respected him. The family, in general, was not deemed any honour to the place. The surviving daughter alone has entirely escaped the breath of censure. And yet for how many years longer would their presence have been borne, and his crimes passed undetected, had not the insurance-office refused to pay the policy on Walter Palmer's life. This sum of money would have relieved the guilty man from his most urgent liabilities. His friend's death would not then have been necessary for his temporary extrication. But the office dared him to proceed against them; and to gain a few days' breathing-time he took the life of his most confidential associate. Has not Mrs. Walter Palmer a claim on the office for this policy, now that the grand jury has ignored the bill against William Palmer? Walter Palmer's death was certainly accelerated by gin, but then his intemperance was of old date, and well known to the office. However, this is not to the point. It is more appropriate to mention that this morning the Rev. Thomas Palmer, the solicitor, and George Palmer, took leave of their wretched brother. The Vicar of Rugeley has also been with him, but with what success is not known. According to report, the family intend to fix their future residence in Italy. Will they take the vows in olden fashion, assume the tonsure, and make an edifying end? The poor little boy, at least, as yet enjoys the bliss of ignorance. Some day the terrible tale must reach his ears, and then he will be fain to proceed to America and content himself with the office of President. But it is no matter for idle jesting. The child is now in bad hands, though no doubt kindly treated. He is living with his grandmother, under the moral surveillance of the noted Jeremiah.

One of the most impressive incidents connected with this sad history, was Palmer's return to this place after his condemnation. It had struck midnight. Not a star was to be seen. The rain fell drizzling and damp. The prisoner walked from the station to the goal in the midst of some sixteen or twenty policemen, and followed by a multitude of people in solemn silence. Not a sound was heard but the occasional clank of the chains and the measured step of the crowd, impressed into discipline. So still were the streets, that two sighs were heard to escape from Palmer as he passed the house of the venerable Dr. Knight, the kind-hearted guardian of his wife, where the few happy moments of his troubled career were passed. The sound was so mournful that many sobbed audibly, and the crowd melted away.

Friday Afternoon.

Time presses, while matter hourly accumulates. It is impossible to preserve any sort of method. All that can be done is to jot down each particular as it rises on the recollection.

At eight o'clock precisely the prison-bell will toll as the procession sets out from the inner compartment of the building. Walking slowly to the gate, the prisoner will ascend the steps of the drop—a moveable machine attached to iron hooks in the solid masonry on either

side of the gateway. And when the chaplain shall have pronounced the awful warning, "In the midst of life we are in death," the bolt will be drawn, the drop will fall, and a ghastly corpse will be all that remains of William Palmer. For thirty yards in every direction an open space will be barricaded off, and kept by police and javelin-men. Within ten minutes after the first tolling of the bell all will be over. An hour afterwards the body will be cut down, and buried within the prison walls, enclosed neither in coffin nor shroud. A quantity of quicklime and a few buckets of water will be thrown upon the felon's corpse; the earth rapidly shovelled in, and the place smoothed down to the ordinary level, so that, within a short time, not a vestige will remain of the murderer Palmer. He will have been obliterated, physically annihilated.

P.S.—By order of the high sheriff and the chairman of the gaol-committee, the gallery intended for the representatives of the Press has been countermanded, in spite of the remonstrances of Major Fulford and the kind interposition of Dr. Knight. Possibly some other arrangement may yet be made, or little chance will there be of witnessing the last moments of this consummate criminal.

THE CONVICT PALMER.

By the time these lines are in the reader's hand, Palmer, in all probability, will be a corpse. The particulars of his last week, however, must be related.

The convict clung to the hope of a commutation of his sentence, being encouraged in that anticipation by his brothers, who appeared confident that their exertions would end in success; but the Rev. Mr. Goodacre, the chaplain of the gaol, and Major Fulford, the Governor, impressed on the condemned man the extreme improbability of his life being spared. He continued vehemently to deny his guilt, and was fond of arguing on the facts of the case, in order to show that there was really no proof against him, and that he had not been fairly dealt with. He persisted in charging the witness Newton with falsehood; but, on being reminded, a few days ago, that the fact of his having purchased strychnine was proved by another witness, he replied:—"Oh, I don't deny that I purchased six grains on the Tuesday; but, if I had wished to kill Cooke with strychnine, there was no necessity for purchasing such a quantity as that, which would have been sufficient to kill half a dozen men. It is well known that I used the strychnine to poison dogs, and I could have proved it." Immediately afterwards, he added that he could not prove his assertion, because the only witness he could have called for that purpose was his own groom, "and he would not have been believed."

He is stated to have been mindful of his religious duties, and to have paid attention to the advice of the chaplain; but it is also reported that, after having exhibited great penitence and pious fervour (though without any admission of the murder) to Mr. Wright, a gentleman who is authorized by Government to visit the different gaols of the country, he resumed his usual manner on the departure of his visitor, who had been greatly impressed in his favour. To those about him, it was evident that he had merely been acting.

Mr. Thomas Wakley, the coroner, writes to the daily papers under date June 7th:—"I trust you will allow me to state that a pamphlet entitled, '*The Cries of the Condemned, or Proofs of the Unfair Trial and (if executed) Legal Murder of William Palmer, &c., by Thomas Wakley, Esq., Coroner*,' is a vile fabrication, and that I never saw a line of it until this day, when it was sent to me in print."

Mr. Charles Pooley, writing from Cirencester, communicates to the *Times* the results of some important experiments he has made with regard to the influence of antimony on strychnine. He states:—"A day or two before the conclusion of Palmer's trial, it occurred to me that the presence of antimony might possibly interfere with the detection of strychnine by the ordinary tests. The first experiment I made confirmed my suspicions. I found that the existence of a fractional part of emetic tartar (tartrate of antimony) with a large amount of strychnine is sufficient to destroy the characteristic indications exhibited by that substance when treated with bichromate of potash and sulphuric acid. I repeated the experiment several times with invariably the like results. Should the inference I have thrown out ultimately prove to be true, namely, that the usual mode of finding strychnine is useless when antimony is present, the minds of the jury will be relieved from the conflicting evidence of the chemical Professors, since it will account for the inability of Professor Taylor and Dr. Rees to discover its presence in Cooke's body."

Dr. Letheby writes to the same paper to discredit this opinion; and Messrs. J. E. D. Rogers, Lecturer on Chemistry at the St. George's School of Medicine, and G. Prent Glanville, Assistant Surgeon, Grenadier Guards, emphatically contradict it. On the other hand, Mr. Henry Ansell, formerly lecturer on Forensic Medicine at the School of Anatomy and Medicine adjoining St. George's Hospital, agrees with Dr. Taylor in thinking that strychnine may be absorbed; and he remarks:—"Those who take exception to the conviction in this case say, 'First prove that a homicide has taken place,'

and 'the detection of the poison is essential to the proof.' There are many vegetable poisons as powerful and as portable as strychnine, for the detection of which, in the animal body, no tests have yet been discovered. Would it not be monstrous if our Legislature or our Courts were to adopt such a principle? The murderer need only select one of these in order to murder with impunity. In Cooke's case, the proofs of the poisoning and the conviction of the prisoner developed themselves *pari passu* from the beginning to the end of the trial."

A memorial to the Home Secretary for signature by the medical profession of Leeds, praying for a respite or reprieve for Palmer on the ground that the medical evidence was unsatisfactory and inconclusive, was recently laid on the table of the Leeds School of Medicine. Out of thirty-four medical gentlemen, thirty-one refused to sign the document.

A meeting in favour of staying the execution of Palmer until further investigations should be made, was held on Tuesday evening in St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, and was very numerously attended. A petition in accordance with the objects of the meeting lay outside in the lobby, and was signed by several persons, though many others passed it by without attaching their names. In the Hall itself, the proceedings were rather riotous. A man named Bridd would insist on addressing the meeting on the side of immediate execution, while another person was still speaking; but the disturber was at length quelled by a policeman. Mr. P. Edwards was called to the chair, and in the course of his address remarked that an important fact bearing on the case had been made known within the last few days. Professor Rogers, an analytical chemist in London, had this week dug up a dog which was poisoned by strychnine fourteen months ago, and, though the body of the animal was completely rotten, he found strychnine in its stomach, its tissues, and its skin, at this day. Mr. Rogers had communicated the fact to Sir George Grey, by whom he did not doubt it would receive the consideration it deserved. The other speakers were—Mr. Baxter Langley, Mr. R. Hart, Mr. T. Ball, Mr. H. Harris, Mr. Bridd, and the Rev. Mr. Pope, the last two in favour of amendments on the resolutions proposed. These amendments, however, were lost; the resolutions, affirming that the execution should be stayed, were carried by large majorities; and the meeting separated.

Sir George Grey on Wednesday was waited upon at the Home-office by some of the persons who promoted the meeting, who requested him to name the time when he would receive the deputation. The Home Secretary, however, refused to receive any deputation on the subject, but said he would carefully peruse any documents that might be forwarded to him, and that an immediate answer should be returned if one was necessary or requested.

Sir George Grey has refused to grant the prayer contained in the petition of Mr. John Smith, Palmer's solicitor, for staying the execution.

MR. ROEBUCK ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

THE member for Sheffield having been appointed Chairman to the Administrative Reform Association, has addressed the body in a letter containing some admirable suggestions, and written throughout in an excellent spirit and with great force and clearness. He observes:—

"Hitherto, although the efforts of the association have been strenuous and earnest, I am induced to believe that the success of those efforts has not been equal to the expectations of those by whom they have been made. I do not mean to say that the association has done nothing during the year of its existence; but I do mean to assert that the members of the association are not satisfied with the result of their labours; and that, therefore, they have determined to adopt a new plan—to pursue a different course from that which they have hitherto followed."

The causes of the comparative failure of the body are thus pointed out:—

"There are three ways by which political power may be obtained in this country—viz., by military, legal, and Parliamentary renown or influence. The first two means you cannot obtain, and the third, which lie within your grasp, you voluntarily relinquished. These facts, then, —first, that you were a body not belonging to the governing class; and next, that you resolved to work out of doors, and not in the House of Commons,—were the first circumstances that brought about your want of adequate success."

"The next important circumstance that contributed to make your success partial and incomplete was the peculiar situation held by the House of Commons in this country. The House of Commons is, in fact, the sovereign power of the State; by its determinations it governs the land; and, as every resolve is followed by a practical result, its deliberations overpower and supersede all others. No rival deliberative body can stand in opposition to it; and you, who were, in fact, a rival body, were absolutely put out by the House of Commons. This fact is so incontestable that I need only to point it out—any further illustration is unnecessary."

The "new plan" which is suggested is "to adopt a mode of proceeding which shall give the association power in the House of Commons. Mr. Roebuck adds:—

"Now, then, comes the inquiry—What are the means by which this Parliamentary power can be obtained? In order to explain my views upon this most important point, I will describe the constitution that I should propose for your association. The association, then, in my judgment, ought to be governed by the following responsible officers:—1, a chairman; 2, a finance secretary; 3, a corresponding secretary; 4, a statistical secretary; and 5, a general secretary. These, to compare small things with great, would constitute your ministry. The constituent body, to whom these officers should be responsible, ought to be the whole body of the subscribers to the association, acting by means of the general committee, the constitution of which I propose to leave as it at present exists, and which will exercise its power, as it now does, from time to time in general meeting."

"The chief great end of all the labours of this executive body should be to form an efficient Parliamentary party. To this end, three separate means conduce:—1, to obtain influence with the separate constituencies; 2, to correspond and act with such representatives of the people as may be willing to act with you; and, 3, to employ the powers of the association in gathering together such information as may be useful to these friendly and co-operating representatives."

The gentlemen who have consented to act with Mr. Roebuck in the capacities above indicated are:—Mr. Travers, as finance secretary; Mr. Morley, as corresponding secretary; Mr. Gassiot, as statistical secretary; and Mr. Revans, as general secretary.

AMERICA.

THE alleged dismissal of Mr. Crampton still remains in doubt. The intelligence received by the *Asia* brings dates from New York to the 28th ult.; and, although the impression of the passengers is that the dismissal has taken place, there is no certain information to that effect. Captain Lott, of the *Asia*, was in conversation with the British Consul half an hour before his departure from New York; but the Consul had not at that time received any intimation of Mr. Crampton's dismissal. In reply to a telegraphic message he had despatched to Washington for information, he was informed that there was none to send by the steamer. On the other hand, the Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald*, writing on the 28th ult., asserts the fact with the utmost confidence, and so does the *London Morning Post*, adding that the dismissal of Mr. Dallas must follow.

A Committee of Investigation appointed by the House of Representatives has waited on one of the members, Mr. Sumner, and taken his testimony with regard to an assault committed on him in the Senate. He was in bed during the examination, and was in a very weak state. His account of the outrage, given on oath, is as follows:—"I was addressed [while writing in the Senate-chamber] by a person who approached the front of my desk; I was so entirely absorbed that I was not aware of his presence until I heard my name pronounced. As I looked up, with pen in hand, I saw a tall man, whose countenance was not familiar, standing directly over me, and at the same moment caught these words:—'I have read your speech twice over carefully; it is a libel on South Carolina, and on Mr. Butler, who is a relative of mine.' While these words were still passing from his lips, he commenced a succession of blows with a heavy cane on my bare head, by the first of which I was stunned so as to lose my sight. I saw no longer my assailant, nor any other person or object in the room. What I did afterwards was done almost unconsciously, acting under the instincts of self-defence. With head already bent down, I rose from my seat—wrenching up my desk, which was screwed to the floor—and then pressed forward, while my assailant continued his blows. I had no other consciousness until I found myself ten feet forward in front of my desk, lying on the floor of the Senate, with my bleeding head supported on the knee of a gentleman whom I soon recognized by voice and manner as Mr. Morgan, of New York." Mr. Sumner is an anti-slavery advocate; Mr. Brooks, the assailant, belongs to the opposite party. The subject has been discussed in the Senate, when several members strongly condemned the assault. Mr. Wilson, while remarking that Mr. Sumner had been stricken down by a brutal, murderous, and cowardly assault, was interrupted by Mr. Butler with the exclamation "You are a liar." The conversation was summarily arrested by the admonition of the Speaker. The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed, by 187 against 23, resolutions denouncing the attack, and demanding the expulsion from the Senate of Mr. Brooks, and of any members concerned with him. The students and professors of Amherst College have met and passed some strong resolutions respecting the outrage, afterwards hanging and burning Mr. Brooks in effigy. On the other hand, the *Richmond Whig* "trusts that the ball may be kept in motion," and thinks that "Seward and others should catch it next."

Civil war has begun in Kansas. The town of Lawrence is destroyed. General Pomeroy has surrendered into the hands of the slave-party all the arms in his possession, without resistance, and is now at liberty at Lawrence; according to one account, though, according to others, fears are entertained that he is murdered.

It is stated in Washington that preparations are being made by the Government to put down the Free-soilers.

Dr. Kane is reported to have declined Lady Franklin's renewed offer to take the command of an expedition to be sent out by her, with the assistance of the English Government, to endeavour to find the remains of Sir John Franklin and the relics of his ship.

Seven hundred Mormon emigrants have left Albany for the Salt Lake; 427 were Welsh, and the balance English and Scotch.

It is reported from Texas that a terrific hurricane had passed over a portion of Dallas county. Its course was from north to south, a distance of sixteen miles, extending from east to west. The tract over which it swept was completely devastated. Nine persons were killed, and a great number wounded. The loss of stock of all kinds was very serious.

"Considerable excitement," says the *Times*, "has been created by a protest just issued by Señor Camacho, who was sent out last year to enforce the claims of the English bondholders. Señor Camacho having addressed a memorial to the President Monagas, exposing the flagitious course of the Finance Minister in neglecting the foreign debt of the Republic, although the revenue is ample for every requirement, was at once expelled the country. He retired to the island of St. Thomas, and thence put forth a protest, with a copy of his memorial, which obtained extensive circulation in Venezuela, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government for its seizure and suppression. A short time back, a change seemed imminent, owing to the Dutch Government having resolved to chastise President Monagas for an outrage on Dutch citizens; but, to the surprise of all, the representative of Great Britain was stated to have interfered to avert the danger, and it appears that, by the exercise of his 'good offices,' he has contributed to enable the President to continue his career."

The New York commercial advices report that in the money and stock markets no important change has taken place.

IRELAND.

PROGRESS OF PROTESTANTISM.—Another pastoral, and of gigantic proportions, from the prolific pen of Archbishop Cullen, was read last Sunday from all the altars in Roman Catholic chapels of Dublin. The staple of the document was the usual denunciation of proselytizing societies, which, it is now admitted, have of late been making sad inroads upon the faith and morals of the flock over which Dr. Cullen heretofore exercised unbounded sway. In fact, to such an extent has this system of oppression reached, that the Roman Church in Ireland, or, at least, at head-quarters here in Dublin, has taken the alarm, and hence the necessity of these frequent pastoral warnings against the dangers which threaten from without. Upon the authority, it is believed, of Dr. Cullen himself, it is asserted that there are at present hundreds, if not thousands, of the children of Roman Catholic parents who are constant attendants at the Protestant free schools which are opened on all sides of the Irish metropolis.—*Times*.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—A cause petition has been filed in the Court of Chancery, on behalf of all the creditors, against George McDowell, Esq., as official manager of this bank, to restrain the official manager from disposing of the property of the company, and a receiver to collect the assets, so as to secure to all the creditors an equal rateable distribution of the funds, the proceeding under the Winding-up Acts have been declared by the Court of Exchequer to be wholly inapplicable to this case.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

A MR. JAMES HOLMES, writing to the *Times* from Calcutta, gives an account of "the bloody rites of the Churruch Poojah, or swinging festivals which take place annually in honour of the god Shiva," and which have been recently celebrated. "The spot where the tragic scene was to be enacted," says Mr. Holmes, "was a large square, surrounded with houses, on the tops of which were seated crowds of Indians of every age, and all more or less excited with an intoxicating compound called 'bhang.' In the centre of this square was erected a long pole sixty feet high, at the top of this was another about forty feet long, placed at right angles to the former, working in a socket in the centre, and capable of being whirled round; and to each end was attached a rope. Having waited for ten minutes or so, the infuriated native who was to be swung came in, amid the beating of Indian drums and the shouts of the people. The man had a wild expression of countenance, with his eyes glaring, being under the influence of bhang, of which he had consumed great quantities during the three previous days to deaden the pain. This unfortunate native had two large iron hooks (not unlike those used by butchers at home for hanging up meat) thrust through his back, three inches apart, and making a wound four inches in length, from which the blood streamed down. This being done the men tied the rope which was fixed to one of the ends of the horizontal pole to the two hooks in his back, and likewise passed it through a cloth, which was tied

slackly round his breast to prevent him falling to the ground should the flesh give way, which it sometimes does. They then pulled down the other end of the pole, which of course raised the one with the man along with it, and then ran round at a great speed for the space of a quarter of an hour. All this time, the poor man was suspended in the air by the hooks in his back, and whirling round fifty feet from the ground; and, from the manner in which he kicked about his legs, he appeared to be suffering great agony. When he was let down, and the hooks taken out of his back, he was more dead than alive, and the laceration caused by them was frightful. Men who undergo the swinging seldom survive it." The writer advises that Government should interpose to put a stop to this detestable practice. The middle and higher classes of natives, he is informed, do not now approve of the ceremony, which is only popular among the lowest orders.

There have been some disturbances in Lower Bengal, owing to an apprehension on the part of the people living at the foot of the Dhore Ghaut that the native railway workmen were in quest of young children to make sacrifices of them. The riots have been checked. Some persons escorting a large amount of gold and silver in bars near the frontiers of the Guicowar's dominions, have been set upon and robbed, one being killed and others wounded after a gallant resistance. It is conjectured that the ruffians must have been under the protection of the chief of the town of Meegong.

Matters go on tranquilly in Oude; a slight tendency to mutiny in one of the native regiments, on account of arrears of pay, having been checked. Sir James Outram has been compelled to take a sea voyage for the benefit of his health, and left Calcutta by the Bentinck on the 4th of May.

ASCOT RACES.

"ARISTOCRATIC ASCOT" opened the ball on Tuesday, on which day the weather was fine and sunny, the racing spirited, and the betting venturesome. We append a list of the winning horses:—

The TRIAL STAKES, of five sovs. each, with fifty added, won by Mr. Howard's Spindle; the SECOND YEAR OF THE SEVENTH ASCOT TRIENNIAL STAKES, of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, by Mr. Bowes's Fly-by-Night; the ASCOT STAKES, of twenty-five sovs. each, won by Mr. Gulliver's Redemption; the ASCOT DERBY STAKES, of fifty sovs. each, won by Mr. Bowes's Fly-by-Night; the THIRD YEAR OF THE SIXTH ASCOT TRIENNIAL STAKES, of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Lord Wilton's Shoreham; the GOLD VASE, given by her Majesty, added to a sweepstakes of twenty sovs. each, won by Mr. T. Parr's Fisherman; Sweepstakes of fifty sovs. each, won by Baron Rothschild's Sydney.

Several horses broke down.

The races on Wednesday comprised—a SWEEPSTAKES of fifteen sovs. each, won by Mr. Howard's Spindle; the FERNHILL STAKES, of fifteen sovs. each, won by Mr. Hope's Colt by Sir Hercules; HANDICAP PLATE of 50*l*, won by Mr. J. Jackson's Remedy; ROYAL HUNT CUP, won by Mr. Marland's Forbidden Fruit; the CORONATION STAKES of one hundred sovs. each, won by Bowes's Victoria; HER MAJESTY'S STAKES, of one hundred guineas, won by Captain Lane's Middleton; and the ALBANY STAKES of fifty sovs. each, walked over by Mr. Harland's Mirage.

Thursday was the CUP DAY, and, although the weather was not fine, a large and brilliant company assembled, owing to the presence there of the Queen, Prince Albert, the Prince of Prussia, and the Regent of Baden. The Cup, which represents the story of Perseus and Andromeda, and is valued at 300*l*, was won by Mr. S. Walker's Winkfield, much to the surprise of "the knowing ones," who made sure that that honour was reserved for Manganese. The result, however, was that Manganese was third. The other races were—

A SWEEPSTAKES of fifty sovs., won by Baron Rothschild's Comedy; the VICTOR'S PLATE, of one hundred sovs., and twenty-five sovs. to the second horse, won by Lord Anglesey's Astrologus; HANDICAP SWEEPSTAKES of five sovs. each, with fifty added, won by Mr. J. M. Stanley's Oltenitza; the NEW STAKES of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Mr. Dennet's filly by Red Hart; the ST. JAMES'S PALACE STAKES of one hundred sovs. each, won by Mr. Combe's Pitapat; and the WINDSOR FOREST STAKES, of fifty sovs. each, walked over by Mr. Harland's Mirage.

LORD CLARENDON ON THE SARDINIAN QUESTION.

THE annexed letter from Lord Clarendon to Sir James Hudson, our representative at Turin, has been published. It will be seen that it is of great interest and importance:—

"Foreign-office, May 26, 1856.

"Sir,—I herewith enclose the copy of a note which was addressed to me when at Paris by the Plenipotentiaries of Sardinia."

* This is the document which we published in the *Leader* of May 17th.

"The verbal communications which I frequently had the pleasure of holding with Count Cavour, both before and subsequently to the receipt of this note, can have left no doubt upon the mind of his Excellency that her Majesty's Government take a deep and sincere interest in the affairs of Italy, and are desirous of doing everything which can properly be done by them with a view to ameliorate the condition of the Italian people.

"No fresh assurances could add weight to those already given to Count Cavour, and I did not, therefore, think it necessary to send an answer in writing to the note of the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries; but, as it has come to the knowledge of her Majesty's Government that it would be agreeable to the Sardinian Government to receive one, they cannot hesitate to declare their opinion that the occupation of the Papal territory by foreign troops constitutes an irregular state of things, which disturbs the equilibrium and may endanger the peace of Europe, and that, by indirectly affording sanction to misgovernment, it promotes discontent and a tendency to revolution among the people.

"Her Majesty's Government are aware that, as this state of things has now, unfortunately, for some years been established, it may be possible that it could not suddenly be brought to a close without some danger to public order, and the risk of producing events that all would deplore; but her Majesty's Government are convinced that the evacuation of the Papal territory may be rendered safe at an early period by a policy of wisdom and justice, and they entertain a hope that the measures agreed upon by the Governments of France and Austria will lead to a gradual withdrawal of their respective forces, and to bettering the condition of the subjects of the Pope.

"You will read and give a copy of this despatch to Count Cavour. I am, &c.,

"CLARENDON."

THE FLOODS IN FRANCE.

THE deluge (for it can scarcely be called by a milder term) which has recently desolated parts of France is now retiring; but the detailed accounts which have this week been published by the English journals of the progress of the waters, and of the lamentable catastrophes which have resulted both to life and property, possess an interest of an enduring kind. We therefore subjoin some of the more remarkable of the events, derived from the various local papers.

The *Courrier de la Drôme* states that the hamlet of Bezundun has completely disappeared. In the evening, the inhabitants of the place, which stands on the side of a highly cultivated hill, heard the houses cracking in an alarming manner, and hastily fled. In a few minutes afterwards, all the houses were in ruins. The water from the late rains had saturated the ground so much that a landslip to the extent of more than seventy acres took place. Two houses which were standing close together at a short distance from the hamlet are at present separated by a complete field. Some other houses which were before standing on an elevated spot are now in a complete hollow. The effect produced has been of the most extraordinary kind. One inhabitant of a house who a few days ago had a small vineyard in front of him has now a meadow. The Bine, which flows at the foot of the hill, and which is generally nothing more than a rivulet, is now a rapid torrent, and carries off the earth as it continues to slip down.

"A steamboat," says the *Sémaphore de Marseille*, "which had been employed by the authorities to save some persons who were exposed to great danger in the Camargue, has arrived here. The sub-prefect of Arles and an engineer embarked in this boat, which passed over the Camargue as though she had been in the open sea. These two functionaries kept on the deck of the vessel, and with telescopes looked out for the unfortunate persons who were in need of assistance, and by this means sixty people were saved, having been taken off from the roofs of houses or from rafts on which they were floating. Several of them had been without food for thirty-six hours."

The *Moniteur du Loiret* of Orleans says:—"The waters have now completely retired from the quays and the low streets near the Loire. On the Quai du Château, the paved roadway in front of the houses is torn up to the depth of a foot. The inhabitants are occupied in removing the mud which the inundations have deposited, and at every door they have exposed trunks, buffets, bedsteads, and other articles of furniture to dry. Near the baths are deposited the objects collected from the waters. Several of the cast-iron columns which supported the large gas lamps on the quays have been cast down. The Loire is rapidly declining, and now marks only four metres. The municipality is doing all it can for the sufferers, and has charged commissions to collect relief either in money or kind."

From Blois we learn that, when the inundation became imminent in the neighbouring districts, the inhabitants poured into the town, driving their cows and sheep before them, and carrying their children or their most precious effects in their arms. Efforts were made to strengthen the dykes; and not only all the soldiers of the garrison, but even thirty lancers, were called on to assist the inhabitants, and worked with great zeal and intelligence. But the waters rose above the parapets of

the quays, the dyke gave way, and the town was completely inundated. In some quarters the water was nearly twenty feet deep. "At present," says the *France Centrale* of the 4th, "all the lower quarters of the town are under water; the quays are covered, and boats have to be employed. The disasters are immense. At Ménars, St. Denis, and La Chaussée, the dykes on the right bank have given way beneath the pressure of the river. All the left bank above the town is covered with an immense sheet of water; the villages of Saint-Claude, Vineuil, Saint-Gervais, Challes, and Caudé, are entirely inundated, and in certain places the waters have thrown down houses, uprooted trees, &c. In the town, the Mairie can only be reached by boats."

A terribly interesting narrative is given by the *Journal du Loiret*:—"M. de Lataille, principal inspector of the railway, hearing that the waters were menacing in the direction of Amboise, proceeded to that town, accompanied by M. Ratel and M. Rabusson, inspectors. On arriving within a few hundred yards of the station, he found a number of men employed in strengthening the dyke of the Loire, which showed symptoms of yielding. He stopped his train, and went to give them some directions, but while he was speaking the dyke gave way, and the waters rushed through furiously. The situation was terrible. M. de Lataille and his two subordinates ran towards the station, and with difficulty succeeded in gaining it. The inundation, on reaching the station, rose rapidly as high as the first story, and the three gentlemen had to seek refuge on the roof. The waters raged furiously around them, and in this horrible situation they had to pass the night. Their alarm was increased by seeing the goods station thrown down at a few yards from them. In the meantime, the train left on the line was reached by the waters, and the engine-driver and stoker to escape being drowned climbed on the top of the locomotive. Even then they had water up to their waists, and in this pitiable plight they remained until three o'clock in the morning, when they were rescued in a boat." The French papers have since reported M. de Lataille's arrival in Paris, and his departure in the suite of the Emperor.

From Tours there are no direct accounts; but the *Journal du Loiret* of Orleans says:—"At the railway-station the waters reach as high as the fourth story; all the Mail is inundated; there are six feet of water in the Hôtel de l'Univers; fifty houses have been thrown down; boats are plying in the Rue Royale; and the printing-office of the local paper, the *Journal d'Indre et Loire*, has been invaded by the waters. A fact which does honour to Mgr. Morlot, Cardinal Archbishop of Tours, has been related. He went at the head of his clergy to the dykes, and worked vigorously with spade and shovel among the labourers in strengthening them."

The accounts from Angers state that the Maine had attained six metres, and all the lower parts of the town were under water. At Saumur, the Loire had descended to six metres, thirty centimetres, but the water, breaking through the dyke of La Chapelle, had gained St. Clément. At Champocé, the dyke of Savenières had given way, and the valley was filled. The Authion had inundated the valley of Saumur.

The *Journal du Cher* of the 5th contains afflicting accounts of the disasters which have occurred by the inundations of the Cher, Allier, Yèvre, and Auron. A number of bridges have been carried away, and the railway has been intercepted at various points. The waters have, however, commenced declining and the communications are re-established. A temporary road has been constructed on piles between Bourges and Vierzon, and it was hoped that communications would soon be free between the former town and Orleans. St. Armand suffered severely, but the victims were received with warmth by both rich and poor. The waters of the Allier resembled a vast lake, and committed innumerable ravages, but no loss of life is mentioned in its neighbourhood, though many unfortunate persons were in great danger. At a little village named Crévery, three families were surprised by the rise of the Allier, and were only saved at the last moment by the devotedness of some boatmen; a few moments after they had been taken from the roofs of the houses on which they had sought refuge, the waters swept over them. Another narrow escape took place near Vichy, where two children were surprised by the waters while fishing on a little island in the Allier. They had time only to climb into a high tree, when the island was covered. They remained in that terrible position from Thursday evening to Saturday morning, and the provisions they had taken with them were exhausted. No one dared to render them assistance, as to approach the spot was to encounter almost certain death. Three sailors from the Crimea, however, placed themselves in a boat, and, with the father of the children, set off for the island, followed by the prayers of all the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. These intrepid men succeeded in rescuing the two children, and on returning to Vichy they were welcomed with enthusiasm.

The Emperor has again started for the various localities afflicted by the late calamity.

"The Minister of the Interior," says the *Moniteur*, "has just invited the Prefects of the departments which have suffered from the recent inundations to point out to him the acts of devotion, of which there were so many, on this sad occasion. As soon as the necessary information

shall have been acquired, the Minister will immediately bring to the knowledge of the Emperor such noble actions as may appear to him deserving of some honourable reward."

In the neighbourhood of Angers, ten thousand persons have been thrown out of work by the complete inundation of the slate quarries.

The Archbishop of Lyons has issued a mandate which, Papist though he is, will gain him the respect of Exeter Hall. He attributes the floods to the violation, in his diocese, of the law of the Church respecting the observance of the Sabbath!

Serious inundations have taken place in Holland, where the Rhine and the Wahal have overflowed their banks; and in the neighbourhood of Basle in Switzerland, where several houses have been destroyed, fields and orchards devastated, and the fruit crops almost destroyed.

Subscriptions are being entered into in England for the sufferers by the French floods; among others, a penny collection has been set on foot among the visitors to the coffee-room of the Mitre Tavern, Downham-road, Kingsland.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE men concerned in the abstraction of the Government copy of the Treaty of Peace from the Imperial Printing-office at Paris have been tried at the Court of Assizes of the Seine. Besides M. Lejollivet, three other men were accused—Julien Brossard, a pressman at the Imperial Printing-office; and Charles Emard and Louis Moner, both employed in Lejollivet's business. Lejollivet kept an office of political correspondence; and to him, through the agency of Moner and Emard, Brossard transmitted a copy of the Treaty, minus five articles, under promise of great secrecy. Copies were afterwards sent by Lejollivet to *Le Nord* and to the *Indépendance* of Brussels. Brossard, it would appear, though he denies the fact, received one hundred francs for this abstraction. In answer to interrogations, Lejollivet admitted that, in order to conceal the source whence the document of the Treaty of Peace proceeded, he had got a telegraphic despatch sent to him from Brussels, as if from the editor of the *Nord*, containing these words:—"I publish to-day the document of which I sent you a copy four days back." He knew that he was not acting altogether properly in publishing the treaty, but in reality he did not see what great harm was done by the act. Moner and Emard confessed, the first to having suggested to Brossard to communicate to him any piece of news or document that might prove interesting, and the latter to having received for Lejollivet a document from Brossard. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty against Lejollivet and Brossard, acquitting the other two. The court sentenced Lejollivet to two years' imprisonment, and Brossard to fifteen months of the same punishment.

The agricultural show continues to excite great interest in Paris; but surprise is felt that England has no representative. "Scotland," says the *Times* special correspondent, "sends twenty-nine representatives, Ireland twenty, all the other European States one each, and England not even one. She has her proportion of members of the jury, but no commissioner to represent her agricultural society. Yet her position and genuine importance are at once recognized by the selection of Mr. Evelyn Denison to propose the principal toast of the evening at the public entertainment given to the foreign jurors. It was from no want of respect to France that a deputation from England was not sent, because we are assured that many of the most eminent members of the Royal Agricultural Society were most anxious to be placed on such a deputation. But there was some omission on the part of the French authorities in London in notifying to the society the desire of the French Government in reference to the appointment of a deputation, and the matter thus fell to the ground."

Cardinal Patrizzi, who is to represent the Pope at the baptism of the Imperial infant, has arrived in France. He met with a brilliant reception at Marseilles, being conducted to the cathedral by the secular and religious authorities, as well as by a detachment of military.

Prince Napoleon (says the *Moniteur*) projects a scientific voyage to the North Seas. The Prince will leave Paris on the 12th for Havre, to superintend in person the preparations for the expedition. He will return to Paris to attend the baptism of the Imperial Prince, and will return to Havre to embark on the 15th. In addition to the members of his household, the Prince takes with him a commission of staff officers, engineers of the navy, and miners, naturalists, draughtsmen, &c. This voyage, during which the Prince will maintain an *incognito*, will last about three months.

AUSTRIA.

Le Nord has been prohibited in the Austrian dominions.

The Austrian corps of occupation in Moldavia has begun to move, and a part of it is marching towards the Oitosh pass on the frontiers of Transylvania.

A tremendous hurricane has passed over Ratisbon. Rain has fallen in torrents at Vienna, and there has been much lightning.

PRUSSIA.

Prince Joseph Bonaparte, the son of Lucien Bonaparte, and the Princess Zenaïde, the daughter of Joseph Bonaparte, *quondam* King of Spain, is now at Berlin, whither he has come from Rome by way of Vienna and Dresden.

THE GERMANIC DIET.

It is reported that Sardinia intends to send M. de Barral as a representative of the Court of Turin at the Germanic Diet and at the Grand Ducal Court of Hesse Darmstadt.

RUSSIA.

It appears (says a letter from Berlin, of the 5th) that the proposed marriage of the Grand-Duke Michael of Russia with the Princess Sidonia of Saxony has been broken off, in consequence of the Princess objecting to the difference of religion. The Princess Mary of the Netherlands is now spoken of for the Grand-Duke.

M. Bakunin has been pardoned by the Emperor of Russia, at the intercession of General Mouravieff. Bakunin was delivered up to Russia by the Austrian Government in 1850, and it was then generally reported that he was an agent of the Russo-Panslavist party. Austria would have put him to death, but Russia insisted on his "extradition."—*Times Vienna Correspondent*.

The King of Naples has been endeavouring to induce Puerio and his companions to sue for pardon. He has not succeeded, however, as they continue to deny that they have committed any crime.

ITALY.

A conscription is being carried on in Lombardy with great rigour.

General Broglia, Inspector of Cavalry, and a Senator of Piedmont, has been selected to attend the coronation at Moscow as representative extraordinary of the Sardinian Government. He will be accompanied by a numerous staff.

From Parma we learn that Prince Soragna, who had been named President of the Special Commission for the trial of the persons accused of the late attempts at assassination, has resigned.

The Austrian Government, according to statements contained in letters from Milan, has resolved to erect the Lombardo-Venetian Provinces into a Kingdom of Upper Italy, and to place a prince of Italian birth—the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who is also an Austrian archduke—on the throne. To this determination the Cabinet of Austria is said to have been brought by its anxiety to neutralize the growing popularity of Piedmont.

The King of Naples has given up his opposition to beards, moved thereto by a row between the police and a hirsute Messina man, aided by the populace, in which the former got roughly used. The authorities have been ordered to allow all men to walk about with hairy chins if they think fit to do so.

SPAIN.

A conspiracy against the Queen has been discovered. One Redondo Marquez has been arrested in the streets in the act of presenting a pistol at her Majesty. It is said that he belongs to a secret society.

The *Gazette* publishes a Royal decree conferring on M. Salustiano de Olozaga the rank and dignity of Ambassador, in order "that he may attend in a becoming manner, and on an equal footing with his colleagues, the solemn ceremony of the baptism of the heir to the Imperial throne of France, whose august mother is a Spaniard by her family and birth."

A deplorable duel has been fought at Valencia between the Vice-Consul of England and an officer of the Staff. The former was run through the body with a small sword, and little hope remained of saving his life. The officer was likewise wounded, but slightly.

PORTUGAL.

There has been a ministerial crisis at Lisbon. Some bills relating to a new loan, and the quotation of Portuguese bonds upon the Stock Exchange, were sent from the Lower to the Upper House by the Ministers, who have generally been able to calculate upon a majority among the Peers of some four or five; but, on the present occasion, eight peers from the different provinces and the Azores, who had not been in the House for years, were induced to present themselves, and to vote against the bills. The Ministers suggested to the king to create some new peers, in order to balance this unlooked for accession of strength to the Opposition. The king declined, and the Ministers gave in their resignation. A new ministry has been inaugurated under the presidency of M. Julio Gomes da Silva Sanches.

TURKEY.

It is stated in Constantinople that Persia will send an envoy to Paris. General Shirley has received orders to remain with his staff in the Turkish capital. The affair of the bank is not yet settled, but Baron Rothschild has the best chance of success. A conscription of 13,000 Rayahs will shortly take place.

The publication of the Hatti-Humayoun has led to the destruction of two churches by the Mussulmans at Podgoriza, in Albania. Two Christians have been murdered at Nisich. To avenge themselves, the Christians attacked and pillaged a caravan coming from Ragusa, and fourteen Turks were killed. Such, at least, is the substance of statements made at Constantinople; but there is some degree of doubt as to their accuracy.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The international commission for the regulation of the Bessarabian frontier held its first meeting on the 19th ult. The persons present were—for Turkey, Dervish and Muchlis Pachas; for Russia, General Fonton, Baron Stackelberg, and the Russian Consul Cola; for France, Colonel Besson; for England, Colonel Stanton; and for Austria, Colonel Kalik. After a few preliminary sittings, the commission will leave for the neighbourhood of the Sasik Lake.

The Russian Commissioner, appointed to act with the Commission charged to settle the questions relating to the Danubian Principalities, has exhibited the instructions which direct him to retire, if Mokdir Pacha (formerly Prince Stourdza) should be admitted to take part in the deliberations of the Commission. The Russian representative, nevertheless, remains at Galatz to await further instructions.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

ATTEMPT AT MURDER ON BOARD THE STIRLING CASTLE.—A second murder has been attempted by one of the convicts on board this vessel. About seven o'clock in the morning, John Howarth, one of the warders, was letting out the prisoners from their cells to go on to the upper deck, when a convict, named Macdonald, rushed suddenly behind Howarth and stabbed him in the neck at precisely the same place where Mr. Hope received his death-wound. After this, the man ran on deck; but Howarth raised an alarm, and Macdonald, being pursued, was taken into custody and brought before Captain Warren, the governor of the ship. When interrogated, Macdonald did not deny what he had done, but confessed it, and cried loudly. He was afterwards taken before the magistrates on shore, by whom he was remanded and sent to prison. Medical assistance was immediately rendered to the wounded man, but he is still in a precarious condition. If the confessions of some of the prisoners on board the Stirling Castle are to be depended upon, there would seem to be an organized band of ruffians in the vessel, who have sworn to murder every officer on board, one after another; yet none of the officers are allowed to be armed, even with a staff, and there is not a soldier on board to quell any riot which may break out. The ship is an hospital depot for the convict prison; so that prisoners have no work: in fact, they have nothing to do but to hatch conspiracies.

RAILWAY THEFTS.—William Gallents, a young man, calling himself a teacher of music, and Mary Ann Clemson, who acknowledged herself to be a woman of the town, were charged at Lambeth with picking pockets at the Crystal Palace. A police sergeant who saw the pair at work in the building took the man into custody, the woman for the time escaping by the train to London. On the way to town, the culprit sought to corrupt the officer by telling him to take the money which had been found on him (Gallents), coolly adding that for himself "he could soon go and get more." The woman was afterwards apprehended in town. She and her companion were remanded.

A BUSINESS-LIKE PICKPOCKET.—George Thompson, a flashily-dressed young man, was charged at Guildhall with stealing a railway wrapper. Michael Haydon, a detective officer, had been watching the man about for two hours on Saturday afternoon, during which time he saw him trying a great many ladies' pockets, by tapping them on the outside, and lifting the dresses to ascertain if there were anything available in the contents. Ultimately he went into Dolly's Chophouse, in Queen's Head-passage, Newgate-street, and in about five minutes came out with a railway wrapper folded up under his arm. Haydon followed and accused him of stealing the wrapper; but Thompson said it was his own property, and volunteered to go back with him to Dolly's Chophouse. They accordingly returned, and ascertained that the wrapper belonged to a gentleman who was staying there. The prisoner was remanded.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS.—The verdict for the plaintiffs in two actions, *Manby v. Witt*, and *Eastmade v. Witt* (narrated in the *Leader* of May 17th), has been set aside in the Court of Common Pleas, the Court being of opinion that Mr. Justice Willes was wrong in not having nonsuited the plaintiffs. A rule absolute for a nonsuit was then entered.

ADULTERATION.—Messrs. White and Fairchild, of High-street, Borough, wholesale grocers, have been fined 100*l.* for adulterating coffee with caramel, or burnt sugar. Mr. White said he had for many years been in the habit of using caramel in roasting coffee, without the slightest notion that he was acting contrary to law. He also concluded that the estimate was erroneous—there was only ten per cent. of caramel. He produced two samples of coffee to show how the colour was affected by the caramel, and maintained that its use improved the coffee, giving it more strength and body, and was not injurious, but advantageous to the Excise, on account of the quantity of sugar used.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—At the instance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals, a lad named Isaac Shepherd, a driver, was summoned at Bow-street, on a charge of ill-using a horse. The animal was in a shocking state of emaciation, but was put to

very hard and distressing work. It was fastened to the back of a heavily-laden dust-cart, for the purpose of pulling against the weight as the vehicle descended a steep lane going down to the river opposite to Southampton-street, Strand, in order that the impetus might be moderated, and the shaft-horse eased of a part of the load. Evidence was given to show that the horse suffered greatly. As it appeared the boy was not to blame, the summons was withdrawn, and Westfold, the foreman of the dust-contractor, was charged with the cruelty. He was adjudged to pay five shillings fine and costs.

CRUELTY TO A BULLOCK.—John Norton, a drover, has been summoned at Marlborough-street for cruelty to a bullock. The animal was over-driven, and so lamed that one of its hoofs dropped off, and another hung by a piece of skin. It fell down, and an endeavour was made to drag it up by ropes; but finally it was found necessary to put the poor beast out of its misery by slaughtering it. The case was adjourned.

MURDER AT STROUDWATER.—A mason, named Joseph Hatherill, has been murdered on the high road near the town of Stroudwater. The body was found on Sunday morning lying in a pool of blood by the wayside, gashed with two stabs, from one of which, in the thigh, it would seem the man had bled to death. William Hoskins, a man living in the neighbourhood, has been apprehended under suspicion. His clothes were found to be bloody, and he had a blood-stained knife in his possession. He states that he encountered the murdered man on the road at night; that they quarrelled, and fought with knives; and that he left the man in the road. This story, however, had every appearance of improbability; and he has been committed for trial by the magistrates on a charge of Wilful Murder, but by the coroner's jury only on accusation of Manslaughter.

THE DRINK-MANIA.—John Conden was charged before Alderman Carden with an aggravated assault on Hannah Howell, an unfortunate creature with whom he cohabited. He had frequently ill-used her before, and it appeared he was a confirmed drunkard. He was committed to the House of Correction for three months with hard labour.—Mr. Jardine, the Bow-street magistrate, in the case of a prostitute charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, advised her in a kindly tone to avoid a habit which brought upon persons in her unhappy position much additional misery; but the woman, interrupting him, exclaimed, in a loud tone, "I'll have it as long as I can get it. I like it. I shall drink as much as ever I can get." She was sentenced to three weeks' imprisonment.

A FRENCHMAN'S DEVICE.—Among the night charges brought before the Bow-street magistrate on Tuesday was one against a woman of notoriously bad character, named Mary Daly, for robbing Eugene Tilquin, a Frenchman, whose evidence was interpreted to the court by a friend. The robbery was effected with peculiar audacity. The prisoner and one of her depraved companions meeting M. Tilquin in Oxford-street at a late hour at night, seized him, one by each arm. The prisoner thrust her left hand into his waistcoat pocket and took out a handful of loose cash—about thirty shillings. Upon his seizing that hand, and trying to take the money from her, she, with her right hand, drew his watch from his fob, and handed it to her companion. He endeavoured to detain her; but finding, after a severe struggle, that she and her companion together were likely to overpower him, he adopted the singular expedient of biting her in the cheek and on one finger of the left hand, in order to mark her, that she might afterwards be identified. She was apprehended in the morning by the police, upon M. Tilquin's description, and, though no mark was observed on her face, that on her hand was distinctly perceptible. She was remanded.

A WANDER IN TROUBLE.—John Payton, one of the warders of the Stirling Castle convict-ship at Portsmouth, has been charged at Worship-street with knowingly receiving a watch, part of the produce of an extensive burglary at the house of an elderly lady named Humphreys, at Stamford-hill, when the servant girl was tied by the burglars to a chair with ropes, and the lady herself was so injured and terrified that her life has been in danger ever since. The evidence went to show that Payton received the watch from a man who had been a convict on board the Stirling Castle, but who had been discharged a little before the burglary, and had afterwards lodged at Payton's house. The accused was remanded.

A THIEF'S MEMORANDUM BOOK.—William O'Bryan, a young man of two-and-twenty, was found guilty at the Middlesex Sessions of stealing a silver watch, at the Shoreditch station of the Eastern Counties Railway, as a special train was about to leave with persons who were going to attend a prize fight. The counsel for the prosecution handed to the Court a paper found upon the prisoner, which showed the places he intended, probably, to favour with a visit. It was as follows:—"Meetings in August and May:—York, on the 20th of August; Manchester, on the 14th of May. Races for May:—Bath and Somerset, on the 20th of May; Harpenden, on the 23rd of May; the North Herts Yeomanry will be held on Royston-heath on the 22nd of May. Market Weighton annual meeting, on the 28th of October; Lankashire Coursing Club, on the 3rd of September; Royal St. George's Yacht Club Regatta, in Dublin Bay, on the 24th of June; York August Meeting." Mr. Creasy (the Assistant Judge) said it was clear of what

sort of character the prisoner was; but the Court would prevent his keeping what appeared to be his engagements for the season. The sentence upon him was ten months' hard labour.

MUTILATING A BODY.—Edward Thomas, formerly a surgeon, but recently an inmate of Clerkenwell work house, has pleaded Guilty at the Middlesex Sessions to the charge of mutilating a dead body related in our last week's paper. He urged, in extenuation, that the offence was committed for the benefit of science, as he wished to examine the cause of the deceased's imperfection of speech. He was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

BALANCING ACCOUNTS.—John Kill, a Scotchman, has been found guilty, at the Middlesex Sessions, of stealing some iron from a shop, and has been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. The case was curious from a species of palliation put forward by the prisoner in a paper which he handed up, and in which he stated that he had been educated in strict religious observance of the Sabbath; that his mother had deeply impressed upon him the necessity of regarding the Lord's-day and keeping it holy; and that he had, in his own country, been a regular attendant at church. The Assistant Judge remarked that these facts were no justification of theft. It may be added, however, that it is among the commonest of evasions of what is right, to consider that accounts are balanced by what is called "godly" behaviour, and "regular attendance at church." John Kill is only the exemplar of a large class, who do their best to corrupt social honesty. A better palliation in the present case was that the man was in distress; but the Sabbath excuse is an insult to all genuine religious feeling.

AN INSOLENT CABMAN.—Henry Wootton, a cab-driver, was summoned at Bow-street for exacting more than his fare from, and using abusive language to, Mrs. Mark Lemon. He had to give change, and retained more than he was entitled to. Being remonstrated with, he poured forth a copious flood of abuse, adding that "he did not care if he got six months for it, and never drove a cab again." Mrs. Lemon's solicitor intimated that the language was in fact much worse than Mrs. Lemon could possibly repeat. The cabman, when questioned by the magistrate, evasively denied all knowledge of the offence imputed; but, in default of paying the fine imposed on him, he was committed to prison for a month.

AN UNLICENSED DRINKING HOUSE.—The police have recently had occasion to complain of the unlicensed shops for the sale of beer, spirits, &c., which lurk in disreputable corners of the town, and lead to great debauchery and vice. Mary Phelps, the keeper of one of these places in Golden-lane, St. Luke's, has been brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, not being able to pay a fine of 40*s.*

BURGLARY.—A cab-driver, named Robert Lister, and another man, named Alfred Jackson, have been brought before Mr. Tyrwhitt, at the Clerkenwell police-court, charged with stealing 250*l.* worth of silk from the warehouse of Mr. William Cook, a silk-manufacturer, in Banner-street, St. Luke's. A little before five, one morning, a policeman on duty in Essex-street, Bethnal Green-road, saw a cab drive rapidly up to the Barley Mow beer-shop, both the prisoners being seated on the box. He watched them, which being observed by the men, they drove away from the beer-shop, but presently returned, when the policeman ran alongside of the cab, and, seeing several large bundles of raw silk inside, he called to the driver to stop. The cabman said, in answer to a question from the policeman, that the prisoner Jackson and another man had hailed him in St. Luke's, and told him to drive to the Bethnal Green-road. The constable then took the men into custody, and afterwards went with the cabman to the house of Mr. Cook, whom he informed of the robbery that had been committed that morning on his premises. Several house-breaking implements had been previously discovered in the house by another policeman on duty near the spot. The thieves had effected an entrance to the warehouse through the area-grating, and had afterwards broken open the door. They likewise tried to force the iron safe, but failed. The prisoners were remanded.

STATE OF THE HOUSES IN PLUMTREE-COURT.—Two landlords of houses in Plumtree-court, Holborn, were summoned, together with their tenants, before Sir R. W. Carden, at Guildhall, in consequence of the recent complaints of the overcrowded and unhealthy state of their dwellings. Dr. Letheby stated that in May last he inspected several houses in Plumtree-court, and in the ground-floor room of one of them, which had no ventilation, and was very dilapidated, he found that not less than twelve persons, men, women, and children, had slept in three beds. The landlord told him that he had let the room to a man named Collins, and his wife, with strict injunctions to them not to take in any other lodgers. Mrs. Collins, in the absence of her husband, stated to Sir R. W. Carden that there were only three single women in the room besides themselves; these, however, were dismissed the moment her husband received notice. In another house in the court, as many as seventy people, of different ages and of both sexes, lodged together, some of whom slept on the floor without beds. In the first instance the accused was fined 2*l.*, or a month's imprisonment, and similar fines were likewise

inflicted on the others, with fourteen days or a month's imprisonment in default of payment. The sentences in each case were accompanied by an order to abate the nuisance.

SWINDLEMENT AT PRESTON.—The manager of a cotton mill, at Preston has been brought before the magistrates of that town on a charge of having (it is thought for several years) carried on an extensive system of swindling. Robert Parkinson, the person accused, had been recently in the habit of charging his employer for over-hours on the part of some of the workmen, when there had been no over-hours; while, at other times, when the men really had been worked over their usual time, Parkinson had charged more than was due. He had appropriated the entire money to his own use in the first instance, and the overplus in the second. Parkinson erected several houses with the money of which he had thus defrauded his employer, in whose name the various materials were purchased. Having appointed a friend, with whom he was about to negotiate for the sale of his houses, to meet him at an hotel in Fishergate-street, Preston, the prisoner was traced there by the police, and apprehended. He was remanded for a week.

GAROTTE ROBBERY.—A gentleman named Dean, while passing through Draycott-terrace, Chelsea, on his way home, on Tuesday night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, was accosted by two men, who asked the way to Sloane-street. Having answered their inquiries, he was about to proceed on his way, when one of the ruffians suddenly seized him by the throat and nearly throttled him, while the other struck him two violent blows, the one on the mouth and the other on the abdomen. The result was that he was deprived of consciousness; and, on recovering his senses, some twenty minutes afterwards, he found himself lying on a heap of dirt, deprived, of course, of his watch and chain and other valuables.

ANOTHER POISONING CASE.—A farmer living at Winkbourn, a village about three miles north of Southwell, Nottinghamshire, has been committed for trial on the coroner's warrant, charged with the Wilful Murder of Mary Clarke, his housekeeper. Thomas Johnson, the accused, is a widower, and he had contracted an improper intimacy with the woman. She became addicted to drink; and, whether from this or some other cause, Johnson suddenly changed his manner to her, and, according to his own account, treated her with great brutality. She was known to have threatened to poison herself; but it would appear that, when she fell ill, Johnson was a good deal about her, and he was heard to say that he was determined to get rid of her. He refused to have a doctor sent for—a refusal in which she herself joined. The post-mortem examination revealed a large quantity of sulphate of copper, or vitriol, mixed with sulphate of iron, in the large and small intestines. Traces of these poisons were found in the cups about the room, and some powders of the same nature were discovered in one of Johnson's boxes.

AN "AGAPEMONE" SUICIDE.—An inquest has been opened at Blackshole Farm, Enmore, Somerset, on the body of Miss Mary Maber, an inmate of the notorious religious association called "the Agapemone," or "Abode of Love." The lady, who was about fifty years of age, had been depressed in spirits for some time, as she feared that she "was not a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ." It would appear that she slipped away during the night or the early morning, and drowned herself in a pond at the bottom of a pit. This being the second case of a similar nature connected with the Agapemone, the coroner has communicated to the Home Secretary, to ask him to depute some one who may watch the case on behalf of the public. The inquest was adjourned till yesterday (Friday); but the further details have not yet been published.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The seventeenth annual report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England supplies the following statistical information in a series of tabular statements:—

The population of England in 1851 being estimated at 17,927,609, it is found that the total number of marriages registered in that part of the United Kingdom during the year 1854 amounted to 159,727, including 25,928 in the London district. Of these, 15 were solemnized by special license; 21,048 by common license, 105,050 by banns; 8811 by Superintendent Registrars' certificates; and 4185 "not stated;" making the total number celebrated according to the rites of the Church of England; 184,109. There were 7188 Roman Catholic marriages; 9878 marriages between Dissenters; 7598 marriages by the Superintendent Registrar (not according to the rites of the Church), 52 marriages of Quakers, and 287 of Jews. The number of marriages registered in the first quarter of the year was 38,284; in the second, 40,518; in the third, 38,182; and in the fourth, 47,798.

181,141 marriages were contracted between bachelors and spinsters; 6826 between bachelors and widows; 14,189 between widowers and spinsters; and 7571 between widowers and widows. There were 21,760 widowers and 14,897 widows remarried, besides 9220 males and 28,097 females under age. No less than

47,843 men and 68,175 women signed the register with marks. Of 91,382 couples married in 1854, 1 man and 28 women were 15 years of age; 7 men and 187 women, 16 years; 35 men and 847 women, 17 years; 370 men and 3312 women, 18 years; 1800 men and 6733 women, 19 years; 42,682 men and 45,077 women, 20 years; 23,767 men and 18,820 women, 25 years; 9050 men and 7468 women, 30 years; 4850 men and 3755 women, 35 years; 3081 men and 2468 women, 40 years; 1816 men and 1339 women, 45 years; 1433 men and 753 women, 50 years; 766 men and 343 women, 55 years; 492 men and 188 women, 60 years; 192 men and 42 women, 65 years; 101 men and 18 women, 70 years; 30 men and 4 women, 75 years; and 9 men, 80 years of age and upwards.

The total number of births in 1854 was 634,405, including 324,069 males and 310,336 females. There were 40,735 illegitimate births—20,976 males, and 19,759 females.

The number of deaths amounted to 437,916—viz., 222,422 males, and 215,494 females. The ages of the deceased are not given.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—In the week that ended last Saturday the deaths from all causes registered were 1068, of which 539 were deaths of males, 529 those of females. To the people of London, the month of June is the healthiest in the year, and probably the mortality is now nearly as low as it will be this season. The average number of deaths in the first week of June during the ten years 1846-55, was 956; but, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, it is necessary for comparison to apply a correction to the average, which makes it 1052. The present rate of mortality, therefore, exceeds the average, though only in a small degree. For six weeks, though the mean daily temperature has been occasionally above the average, the mean weekly temperature has been constantly below it. Last week, 249 persons died from diseases of the zymotic character, of whom 174 were children; the corrected average for deaths at all ages in this class is 245. To diseases of the tubercular class, comprising scrofula, tabes mesenterica, phthisis, and hydrocephalus, 200 deaths are referred, the average being 210; to diseases of the nervous system, 109, the average being 129; to diseases of the respiratory organs, 119, the average being 133; to diseases of the digestive organs, 67, the average being 68; to diseases of the heart, 62, while the average is 41. Ten cases of small-pox are returned, 41 of measles, 42 of scarlatina, 44 of hooping-cough, 13 of croup, 58 of typhus and common fever. Three deaths from "febris" occurred in the workhouse, Mile-end Newtown, on the 3rd inst., and one on the 4th. Two persons died from intemperance, besides a young woman who was killed by falling down stairs when intoxicated. Last week, the births of 866 boys and 881 girls, in all 1747 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1454.—From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

STATE OF TRADE

THE reports of the state of trade in the manufacturing towns during the week ending last Saturday show, on the whole, a tendency to dulness. At Manchester, the market has been heavy, and there has been a gradual decrease in the amount of business. At Birmingham, the demand for iron has been limited, and prices are affected by the uncertainty of the American question. The Nottingham accounts describe increased purchases of lace for home consumption, and steady transactions, also, in hosiery. In the woollen districts, there is an absence of activity, and sales have not kept pace with production. The Irish linen-markets continue to exhibit great animation, but the advices from New York are watched with anxiety.—Times.

The Scotch Miners' strike is virtually at an end. The men, after enduring great misery and privation, have been obliged to succumb, after a loss in wages alone of 500,000*l*. They return to their work in a gloomy and resentful mood, not only on account of the successful resistance of their terms, but because of the supercilious bearing which they allege their employers always exhibit towards them. They also say that they are plundered at the pit mouth by the understrappers of the masters, who compel them to give a large quantity of over-weight. The original quarrel resulted from the proposal of the masters to reduce the wages from 5*s*. to 4*s*. per day, in consequence of the reduction in the price of iron and of other causes incident to the conclusion of the war. In this, the employers urged that they only reverted to the terms—namely, 4*s*. per day—which ruled before the war had advanced the scale of remuneration, and which had only subsisted for a few months. The miners resolved to resist the reduction, and in consequence the strike in Lanarkshire became general about the 8th of March last. In a few weeks it extended to Renfrewshire and Ayrshire; and, when it was at its height, about six weeks since, at least 40,000 men were engaged in it. The "turn-outs" were obliged to sell what furniture and clothing they possessed, and for some time they lived on borrowing; but at length all their resources were completely dried up. While the strike lasted, large quantities of coal were brought into Glasgow from England and the east coast of Scotland, and im-

mense sums of money have been sent to a distance, which, but for the struggle, would have been retained in the district. The strike began to break down about three weeks ago, when the men returned to the pits in detached bodies; immense numbers resumed work on Friday week and the following day, and the remainder, so far as Lanarkshire is concerned, turned in on Monday. There are still a few hundreds out in Ayrshire, where the strike was later in commencing, and where the men have consequently endured less; but all admit that the contest is substantially over.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

A NEW MORTAR.—Important experiments have been made with a 18-inch mortar, under the directions of a party of the Royal Marine Artillery Corps, at Fort Cumberland, one of the outposts of Portsmouth. The object of the trial was to test the utility of a peculiar contrivance for the purpose of preventing the mortar becoming heated and damaged by any lengthened firing, as was the case at Sweaborg. At one day's trial three hundred shells were discharged, the time occupied being nine hours, giving two minutes only as the average of each round. On another trial, one hundred and fifty shells were fired in equally rapid time, and three hundred more are still to be experimented with. The mortar, though subjected to this severe test, seems to have received no material injury from the fusion or cracking of the metal.

THE REPORTED LOSS OF THE DIDO, on the Pacific station, is contradicted. She was thrown with great injury on some coral reefs while on her passage from Tahiti to Pitcairn's and other neighbouring islands; but was towed off without any loss of men. The hurricane by which she was damaged has been felt with terrific violence in the islands.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund have put forth a document, in which they state what they propose to do with the money confided to their hands. They state:—"It was decided, at a meeting of the Royal Commissioners, on Tuesday, the 27th of May, that there shall be a perpetual endowment of 5000*l*. per annum for the maintenance and education of about three hundred daughters of soldiers, sailors, and marines. That there shall be a perpetual endowment for a school for about one hundred boys, the sons of soldiers, sailors, and marines. That the sums to be set apart [for the purposes specified] shall be considered and held as a fund appropriated to those objects; but until such schools shall be in full operation the dividends and interest of the sums so appropriated, or so much thereof as shall not be expended in the schools, shall be applied in aid of the general fund to the support and education of soldiers', sailors', and marines' boys and girls entitled to relief from the fund.—Also a perpetual endowment in the Wellington College to the extent of 25,000*l*., for sons of military officers. A like endowment in the Cambridge Asylum, to the extent of 3000*l*., for widows of non-commissioned officers and privates. A like endowment in the Royal Naval School at New-cross, to the extent of 8000*l*., for the sons of naval officers. A like endowment in the Royal Naval Female School at Richmond to the extent of 5000*l*., for the daughters of naval officers. A like endowment in the Naval and Military Schools of Portsmouth and Plymouth, to the extent of 5000*l*.—2500*l*. in each—for the children of soldiers, sailors, and marines."

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN YACHTS.—"A member of a Royal Yacht-Club," writing to the *Times*, reverts to the "roasting" we received in 1851 when we were beaten in yachting by the Americans, and thinks it but right that it should be known that the American yacht *Sylvie*, celebrated for her speed, has been fairly beaten by one of our own cutters of little more than half her tonnage—viz., the *Julia*.

THE COAST-GUARD AT FOWEY.—The Admiralty authorities have been pleased to mark their approval of the gallant conduct of Commander Norcock and the men under his command, in recently saving life from the wreck at Fowey. The commissioned boatman Henwood is promoted to be chief boatman, and the man Pappen to be a commissioned boatman. In addition to this, 10*l*. each have been awarded to Henwood and Johns, and 5*l*. to Pappen. The Controller-General of the Coast-guard has extended the time of Commander Norcock's present appointment from five to ten years. This officer's gallantry is also to be marked by the presentation of a sword from the Board of Trade, and by the silver medal from Lloyd's.

PRINCE ALBERT AND THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA AT WOOLWICH.—The arsenal at Woolwich was visited on Monday by Prince Albert and the Prince of Prussia, who looked over the various mechanical contrivances in use for performing the military and other work of the establishment.

EXPERIMENTAL TRIP OF THE STEAM-PACKET HAYRE.—A new steam-packet, called the *Hayre*, and intended for traffic between the city from which it derives its name and Southampton, made an experimental trip on Monday. The speed was accurately tested by several runs, with and against the tide, over the measured mile below Gravesend, and the average result was 12.95 knots, or about fifteen measured miles, per hour. This result from a vessel drawing over nine feet water, and

being furnished only with the ordinary paddle-wheels, was pronounced to be eminently satisfactory by all the scientific men on board. The motion, also, was singularly smooth and equable.

AMERICAN SUBMARINE ELECTRIC CABLE.—The screw steamer *Propontis*, Captain Goodwin, is now at Queens-town, where she has on board the submarine electric cable, to be laid down between Cape Ray, Newfoundland, and Cape North, Cape Breton Island. The length of this cable is eighty-five miles, and its weight one hundred and seventy tons. She has also on board the cable to be laid down between Cape Traverse, Prince Edward's Island, and Cape Formantino, New Brunswick; length thirteen miles, and weight thirty tons.

THE ARMAMENT FOR NORTH AMERICA.—Her Majesty's ships, *Nile*, 91, Captain Mundy; *Shannon*, 51 (new screw frigate); the *Pylades*, 21, Captain D'Eyncourt; and *Cossack*, 21, Captain Fanshawe, have been telegraphed to prepare for sea ("foreign service") with all possible despatch. Their destination is believed to be North America. The *Cossack*, it is stated, has had orders for some days for Halifax. The *Arrogant* had received instructions to fit out for the conveyance of the British Ambassador and staff from England to St. Petersburg; but she has now returned the fittings and supplied their places with something more substantial. On Tuesday evening, at half-past six, the *Arrogant* steamed through Spithead, and down Channel under sealed orders. The *Shannon* is not yet commissioned, but was put in hand on Tuesday, to be prepared for a crew with the utmost despatch, and a vast body of artificers was set upon her to expedite matters. All the commanders of the gunboats at Portsmouth were also called to the Port Admiral's on the same morning—it was rumoured, to receive instructions for having their respective vessels ready for active service at telegraphic notice. All this looks ominous of war with the United States.

MARRIED SOLDIERS.—The authorities at the Horse Guards have consented that the married non-commissioned officers and soldiers in barracks shall be provided with separate accommodation for themselves and families, instead of being quartered in the same rooms with the private soldiers. It is understood that Lord Panmure, who has made the alteration, has ordered separate rooms to be built at Chatham barracks for married soldiers, and that the sum of 60,000*l.* has been granted for the purpose.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Princess Royal, and the Prince of Prussia, visited Cremorne Gardens on Monday evening, in order to witness the magnificent show of flowers which had been opened to the public.

THE WORKING MEN AND THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—A letter, signed by nine hundred and eighty workmen employed in the Messrs. Price's Candle Company, and addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the Crystal Palace, points out that the workmen are desirous of availing themselves of the Saturday half-holiday allowed them by the liberality of their employers in visiting the Sydenham collection, but that the high price of admission on that day (five shillings) debars them from the gratification. They therefore venture to request the Directors to transfer the high price of admission to some other day in the week, the wealthy classes being better able to choose their time for visiting the building than members of the working body.

SEWAGE MANURE IN PARIS.—It is stated that a company has been formed to undertake the collection and utilization of the sewage of Paris, which will be subjected to the deodorising processes invented and brought to perfection under the auspices of the Société Atmosphérique.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—By the last mails from the colony, we learn that the great question of responsible Government has been passed by the Council by a considerable majority. The House of Assembly had previously decided on the expediency of the measure. All was peaceable on the frontier.

SEBASTOPOL.—It is said that 70,000 masons are to rebuild Sebastopol after the departure of the Allies.

THE NEW BISHOP OF CARLISLE.—The Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Montagu Villiers, recently appointed Bishop of Carlisle, will take his seat in the House of Lords, in consequence of the death of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The new Bishop of Gloucester will not be entitled to a seat until another vacancy occurs.

THE CITY OF LONDON BURIAL FEES.—The City Commissioners have declined to accept Sir George Grey's proposal to refer to the decision of Sir John Patteson the matter in dispute between the commissioners, acting as the burial board for the City, and the City clergy, as to the amount of fees to be paid to the clergy on interments at the new cemetery.

A TRAIN ON FIRE.—A train from Birmingham to Liverpool and Manchester was on Wednesday discovered to be on fire while in motion. The passengers, among whom were some dragoons, hallooed till they were heard, when it was discovered that the adjoining goods-truck was in flames. The contents were completely destroyed.

AUSTRALIA.—By the last advices from Melbourne (reaching on March 28) we learn that in the week ending on that day the shipments of gold from Melbourne

amounted to 60,827 ounces and 10,000*l.* in specie by the *Morning Star*, to Bristol, and 45,672 ounces and 110,000*l.* in specie by the *George Marshall*, to London. The shipments to England in five weeks were 337,000 ounces of gold and 850,000*l.* in specie. The gold-fields were yielding more largely than ever—at the rate of nearly 20,000,000*l.* per annum. The produce of the first three months of 1856 is nearly double that of the corresponding three months of 1855, being close upon 700,000 ounces. Trade continued steady. The balance was in favour of the colony. In five weeks, the value of the exports was 1,917,000*l.*, against 1,400,000*l.* imports. The necessities of life were moderate. Immigrants were wanted and invited. At Melbourne, they had been 108 days without advices from England, and the Legislature had voted 75,000*l.* per annum to re-establish a steam communication. In New South Wales, as in Victoria, the first attempts at a responsible Government were unsuccessful. In New Zealand, the natives of Taranaki were still unruly, but that colony, like Australia, was, generally, peaceful and prosperous. The Legislative Council of Melbourne has carried the subjoined resolution, after considerable debate:—"That this House refuses to sanction any measure having for its object the sale of the gold with the land, inasmuch as such a course would cause the alienation of an incalculable portion of the national wealth—a proceeding unjust in principle and mischievous in tendency." This passed without a division.

DR. MERLE D'AUBIGNÉ has been presented with the freedom of the City of Edinburgh.

THE MERCANTILE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—A preliminary meeting of merchants and bankers of the City of London, for the purpose of opposing the Mercantile Law Amendment Bill now in progress through Parliament, was held on Wednesday evening, at the instance of Baron Rothschild, who was prevented from attending by illness. The speakers included the Governor of the Bank of England (Chairman), Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., Mr. J. B. Heath, Mr. J. P. Gassiot, Mr. J. G. Hubbard, and Mr. Hankey, M.P. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That the meeting viewed with alarm the progress of a bill in Parliament entitled The Mercantile Law Amendment Bill, by which it was proposed to repeal the English law requiring contracts for the sale of goods to be in writing; that the established principle that merchants were not to be bound by contracts until reduced to writing was of the deepest importance to the commercial community, and it would be attended with risk of the most grievous fraud and perjury if contracts could be enforced in a court of law without any written note; and they, therefore, invite the assistance of the mercantile community throughout the country in opposition to this measure, which was new to the law of England, had not been called for by the commercial public, and threatened an entire subversion of the present course of business without any adequate advantage." Finally, a committee, with power to add to their number, was appointed.

COLONEL LAKE AND CAPTAIN THOMPSON, two of the heroic English defenders of Kars, arrived from St. Petersburg at Hull on Saturday afternoon. The town was decorated to receive them; the bells were rung, and cannon were fired; and the people assembled in large numbers, and cheered loudly. The two officers were afterwards entertained by the municipality at a luncheon. Colonel Lake, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, gave the credit of the defence of Kars to General Williams and to "the indomitable courage of the Turks." He added:—"To whom we are indebted for the loss of Kars, it is not for me to say. It is not for me, a subordinate, to express an opinion. The whole thing has been brought before the English public, and that public, I trust, will arrive at the rights of it. No doubt they will form their own opinion." Captain Thompson, who was suffering severely from cold and illness, briefly returned thanks; and the two officers then took their departure for London.

BOILER EXPLOSION.—A boiler has exploded at the colliery works of Messrs. Wharton, at Whittington Hall, about two miles to the north of Chesterfield, Derbyshire. One man was killed on the spot, and another is not expected to survive. George Holmes, an old man, who was attending to the engine at the time, was carried through the air a distance of fifteen yards, and thrown insensible against a hedge-bank. Two parts of the boiler were cast in different directions about three hundred and fifty yards. Want of water in the boiler is supposed to have been the cause of the accident.

LOCAL CHARGES UPON SHIPPING.—The committee of the House of Commons on this subject met again on Monday under the presidency of Mr. Lowe. The evidence against the dues having been received, Mr. Horsfall, on the part of the Liverpool Corporation, called Mr. W. Shuttleworth, solicitor and town clerk of Liverpool, who gave a history of the dues, with the design of proving that they had existed from a very ancient period, and that they were and are perfectly legal. In 1825, the Corporation had made a composition and agreed to receive a smaller sum from all parties. An action was tried in 1833, which was decided in favour of the Corporation, and since that time the question had not been raised. The committee adjourned to Thursday.

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—Two protests against the bill now before the House of Lords for the improving the Appellate Jurisdiction of that assembly have been entered on the journals. The one is from the Marquis of Clanricarde; the other from Lords Clancarty and Dungannon. They oppose the measure on the ground that it is a dangerous innovation on the constitution of the House, and might be made a precedent for further alterations of a serious nature; that pecuniary payment to members of the House nominated by the Crown is calculated to impair the independence, dignity, and character of the House; that, the principle being admitted, it would not be fair to exclude distinguished generals, admirals, &c.; that it is invidious to place men, whose learning and talents are of the highest order, on a lower footing than the hereditary peers; and that (in the language of Lords Clancarty and Dungannon) "the abandonment of the hereditary principle in the peerage may imperil its continuance in the Crown."

THE BESSARABIAN FRONTIER.—The commissioner who is appointed to mark the line of demarcation on the frontier of Bessarabia is Lieutenant-Colonel Stanton, Royal Engineers, assisted by Lieutenants James and C. G. Gordon, Royal Engineers.

THE REIGN OF TERROR IN NAPLES.—Several of the political prisoners in the Bagni di Procida, Naples, having endeavoured to escape, they were driven back at the point of the bayonet, and seriously wounded; some accounts even say that a few were killed. On the following morning, each received a hundred or more lashes, and several, it is believed, died from the stripes. "During the last two days," says a writer from the spot, "an appeal has been made to the protection of several of the foreign ministers by the political prisoners, under the following circumstances:—It is asserted that insinuations have been made to the criminal prisoners to assassinate the political prisoners, but that they failed of their effect. Whether true or not, the impression exists. Great fear is entertained, and the appeal has been made."

MR. JENKINS IN TRANSPORTS.—Nearly a column is devoted by the *Morning Post* of Monday to some "recollections" by Mr. Jenkins (*Punch's* Mr. Jenkins) of the ball given by the Royal Academy of Music, at which the Queen was present—the said "recollections" dating from the previous Friday evening. Mr. Jenkins feels uneasy in his mind at reflecting that the brief description which his classic pen gave to the public on Saturday morning did not do justice to the grandeur of the occasion. He, therefore, girdles up his loins for a more elaborate effort. The chief feature of the evening was the appearance of some ladies and gentlemen in fancy dresses representative of Cybele, the Moon, Night and her Attendant Stars, Aurora, Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, &c. The costumes appear to have been unusually splendid; and no doubt the effect was very fine. But how Mr. Jenkins simpers and sniggers over "the beautiful person" of Lady Constance! How he gloats over the "marabouts," and the "jupes," and the "cerise plumes," and the hats "worn jauntily," and the petticoats, the zones, and, above all, "the white tulle illusion!" It is evidently no illusion to him: he has been admitted to that sacred mystery. How he dazzles our eyes with gold and silver, satins and velvets, stars, and pearls and diamonds! Happy Jenkins! thou wilt irradiate the butler's pantry for a month to come.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, June 14.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of CLARENDON made a similar statement to that of Lord PALMERSTON in the Commons on the American question; after which several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned soon after six o'clock.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SAVINGS BANKS.

IN answer to Captain DANIEL O'CONNELL, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said it was desirable that there should be legislation on the subject of Savings Banks, but that he should not bring in any bill this session.

THE ITALIAN LEGION.

IN answer to Captain O'CONNELL, Mr. FREDERICK PELL said that the Italian Legion had done garrison duty at Malta. It could be disbanded in the same way as the other legions. The Sardinians in the legion would return to Italy, the other men would have the option of going to the colonies.

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. DISRAELI inquired whether the Government had received information that diplomatic relations had ceased between our Minister at Washington and the Government of the United States, and if so, what course the Government proposed to take?—Lord PALMERSTON said that Lord Clarendon received on Wednesday evening, through Mr. Dallas, two despatches from Mr. Marcy on the Enlistment and Central American questions. By those despatches it appeared that, though the United States Government is satisfied with Lord Clarendon's explanation on these questions, and considers it as settling the affairs, yet they are not equally satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Crampton and the consuls at Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and New York; and they were

about to deliver his passports to Mr. Crampton and withdraw the "exequatur" of the consuls. Of course it was not possible yet to state what course the Government would take under the circumstances.—Mr. BAILLIE asked when a day would be fixed for his motion on the Enlistment question.—Lord PALMERSTON said the honourable gentleman should have his choice either of Tuesday or Friday.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON asked if the Central American question was to be submitted to arbitration.—Lord PALMERSTON said that the opinion of the United States Government seemed to be that the matter could be best settled by direct negotiation between the two Governments.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON: "Has the American Government refused arbitration?"—Lord PALMERSTON said arbitration had not been refused.

IRISH MILITIA.

In answer to Colonel DUNNE, Lord PALMERSTON said that the disbandment of the Irish Militia would, as far as possible, be made to fall in with the period when the men are likely to obtain employment.

INDIGO PLANTERS IN INDIA.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE called attention to the complaints of certain indigo planters in Bengal, with regard to the utter inadequacy of the county courts, magistracy, and police for the administration of justice.

THE AMERICAN DISPUTE.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL here interposed, and, referring to the statement of Lord Palmerston on the American question, said that this is a most critical state of our relations with the United States, and the House ought to have information on the subject. On Monday, therefore, he should ask a question with respect to the present posture of affairs on going into Committee of Supply. He thought the House ought to deal with the matter as well as the newspapers, which were likely to give a very erroneous impression of the facts.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

In answer to Sir ERSKINE PERRY, Mr. VERNON SMITH said that he would do his best to bring on the Indian Budget at an earlier period this year than was done last session.

THE ROAD THROUGH ST. JAMES'S PARK.

In Committee of Supply, Lord PALMERSTON moved votes for meeting the expense of a road through St. James's Park, and a foot-bridge over the ornamental water. He mentioned that the Queen, of her own accord, had suggested that a part of the garden of St. James's Palace should be given up, in order that the road from Pall-Mall into the Park might be a straight one.

After some discussion, the vote for the road was agreed to, but a division took place on the bridge, when the numbers were—

For the vote	182
Against it	95
	97

The Committee then proceeded with the Navy Estimates.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN THOMPSON.

It is with the greatest pain that we have to record the death, yesterday, of Captain Henry Langhorne Thompson, C.B., one of the noble defenders of Kars. Our readers will see in the miscellaneous columns of this very week's paper that it is only a few days ago since he was entertained at Hull on landing from St. Petersburg. But he was then ill with a cold, and with fever ensuing from a wound received at Kars; and even now he is lying dead. Honour be to his memory!

H.R.H. PRINCE OSCAR OF SWEDEN.

It is said that Prince Oscar of Sweden may be expected to arrive in London on Tuesday next. Apartments have been engaged for his Royal Highness at Claridge's Hotel.

ARRIVAL OF THE KING OF OUDE IN ENGLAND.

His late Majesty the King of Oude has landed at Folkestone, accompanied by his suite and E. L. Coffey, Esq. The King had arranged to sleep at the Pavilion Hotel; but having had a beautiful passage from Boulogne, he left for London by the express train of the South-Eastern Railway.

THE INUNDATIONS IN FRANCE.

A meeting was held yesterday morning in the Mansion House for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the sufferers by the French floods, and of aiding the subscriptions now being raised in Paris for their relief. The Lord Mayor presided, and among the speakers were Mr. Weguelin, the Governor of the Bank; Sir Francis Baring, M.P., Baron Rothschild, Mr. Evelyn Denison, M.P., Mr. Raikes Currie, Lord Ravensworth, and Sir Moses Montefiore. The Lord Mayor announced that he had already received subscriptions to the amount of between 4000*l.* and 5000*l.* As the amount was to be transmitted that night to Paris, he hoped those who intended to subscribe would at once come forward. A committee was then appointed, of which the Lord Mayor was appointed treasurer, to receive subscriptions.

The waters are steadily subsiding; but it is feared that the mud left behind may breed an epidemic.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, June 18th, 1856:—Number admitted, including season ticket holders, 86,769.

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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 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.

THE LAST DESPATCHES FROM AMERICA.

OUR own readers will not have been unprepared for the dismissal of Mr. CRAMPTON; but the grounds on which he is to be dismissed have not yet been fully stated to the public in either country. It must be confessed that our Government has afforded no assistance to the United States in striving to avoid incidents which would impart a disagreeable effect to the removal of Mr. CRAMPTON from Washington. We are led, however, by the last advices received from Washington, to find some excuse for the conduct of our Government in the supposition that it has never yet been completely informed on the subject. It is not the part of a diplomatist to rake up the tittle-tattle of the country in which he lives, and to swell the despatches which he writes to his Government with gossip or scandal; but it is his part to state with perfect distinctness every important and authenticated event, and to draw a strong line of demarcation between that which he learns on hearsay and that which he knows on his own knowledge, or receives on authority. The question for our Government to consider is, not whether Mr. CUSHING has used improper language respecting this country in letters to district lawyers, or at dinner-tables and in private parties, but whether or not Mr. CRAMPTON has involved himself in endeavours to evade the laws of the United States; and whether he has so far failed in that attempt as to break the laws which he has attempted to evade. When Mr. CRAMPTON consulted with an American lawyer as to the possibility of evading the Neutrality Act (the American Foreign Enlistment Act), he showed the animus with which he acted; and the reply of the lawyer should have shown him the difficulty of evading the law without breaking it. When Mr. CRAMPTON gave HERTZ a general invitation to come to his house, he showed the friendly relations on which he stood with that agent of the enlistment. But in the despatches recently sent to Mr. DALLAS, the American Government has furnished more evidence, which shows how Mr. CRAMPTON was personally implicated to a greater extent than was known at the time when Mr. BUCHANAN received Lord CLARENDON's apology, and even at a later date. The fact is, that the American Government has treated Mr. CRAMPTON with great indulgence. He is, as we have always stated, personally liked; if he has got into a scrape the Americans would have been glad enough to see him drawn out of it without too strictly convicting him of misconduct; and if he had been promoted to a higher station, he would have escaped with credit. Our Government would have been benefited by appointing a better public servant, and the Americans would have been relieved from

the necessity of removing a man whose residence among them is positively inconsistent with the maintenance of good relations.

There is a general impression on this side, that President PIERCE is actuated in these proceedings by a desire to propitiate public opinion among his fellow-citizens, and so to secure his re-election. We have no interest in the re-election of General PIERCE, but we believe that in the present instance he is acting on the simple dictate of what appears to be necessity, and we have no doubt that when the despatches lately transmitted to this country are published, our countrymen will see that the responsible Ministers of America could not have taken any other course.

So far as the terms of courtesy go, with one painful but exceedingly doubtful exception, it cannot be said that the Americans have been behind our own official representatives. They are now doing their best to show the British Government that the demand for the recall of Mr. CRAMPTON is suggested by no caprice, but by simple necessity. They accompany that representation with a proposal which originated with Lord CLARENDON—a proposal that, if direct negotiations fail, the Central American question shall be referred to arbitration. This, we take it, is sufficient evidence that the American Government desires to meet our own half-way. Lord CLARENDON has declared his willingness to meet Mr. MARCY, if he could only find a *locus standi*. When men are really desirous of reconciliation, are eager to arrange any dispute on its true merits, they can never fail to find a ground for standing upon. The newly repeated proposal for arbitration is, indeed, a much larger concession than it appears to be. We are firmly convinced that there is a difference of opinion on the construction of the BULWER-CLAYTON Treaty, not only between American and English statesmen, but also between English statesmen themselves. An American correspondent of the *Times*, who signs himself "AMERICUS," and who is extremely well-informed on the subject, repeats a hint of our own, that the opinion of Sir HENRY BULWER on the true construction of the BULWER-CLAYTON Treaty has never yet been brought forward. After repeated challenge, this silence is suspicious. If Sir HENRY were prepared to state that in framing the BULWER-CLAYTON Treaty, he put upon it the construction now claimed for it by Lord PALMERSTON and his colleagues, we doubt whether Sir HENRY's opinion would be kept so strictly and so perseveringly in the background. We can only infer, therefore, that his opinion agrees with our own. We believe also that we are correct when we say that statesmen high in the confidence of the QUEEN put the same construction upon the Treaty that we have put upon it. When Lord CLARENDON first proposed arbitration the natural reply was, that there is nothing to arbitrate, that the Treaty can be interpreted according to the strict rules of grammar and common sense. The American Government has waived that opinion, and has consented to submit the construction of the Treaty to the interpretation of a third party.

The *Leader* is not a Government organ, and we are not enabled to state the course which our Ministers intend to take. The outward manifestations incline both ways: we might suppose the reception of this American offer to be hostile, or we might suppose it to be friendly. Of certain facts, however, we are distinctly cognizant. War ships have been sent from this country to the American coast, but the officers who strode the deck of that fine frigate the *Arrogant*,

when it was steaming against wind and tide into the mid Channel, might themselves mark the many American ships which were peacefully traversing our waters, substantial representatives of the immense wealth which, constantly repassing between England and America, constitutes the common property of both countries. For this country, a war with America is next to an economical and social impossibility. We have already stated that Manchester would not tolerate it, and the address from the people of Manchester to the people of the United States is either a proof that we correctly anticipated the sentiments of the Lancashire people, or, if our opponents please, that we can influence the course of opinion in that important county. But, we ask, can England go to war against the opinion of Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Yorkshire, to say nothing of Ayrshire and Ulster, — nothing of Bristol or London? Lord JOHN RUSSELL perceives the absurdity, and he at least would not be the Minister to plunge into an American war: so he hinted last night. Probably, on that hint, Ministers will let their own deliberations take a pacific turn.

THE NEW SORT OF DESPOTISM.

It seems that a Government supported by eight millions of votes and 500,000 bayonets has still something to fear. It still fears History. The other day, the *Revue de Paris*, a non-political journal, gave a review of the recent historians of CÆSAR. The article was perfectly temperate, candid, and just, and written *bonâ fide* for an historical purpose. If it suggested parallels, so must all history. It was written in the spirit of Roman constitutionalism; and while it admitted CÆSAR's great qualities, blamed him for destroying the liberties of his country; but it was far less strong in a republican sense than the language which the old French monarchy tolerated in MONTESQUIEU. However, it did not preach those doctrines about the power of the military monarchy at Rome which are preached by M. TROPLONG and enforced by his Government. So down came two warnings, one after another; the third stroke being, as our readers are aware, the suppression of the journal. With that fine union of fraud with force which is the only homage French tyranny pays to the shade of French liberty, the first warning was given ostensibly not for the noxious article, but for articles which had been published a fortnight, a month, two months before, and which had passed the eye of the censor without even an unofficial warning.

In a land where the court of a chivalrous and legitimate despotism admired the great philosophers and historians of the eighteenth century, M. TROPLONG now forbids you to criticize a panegyric of CÆSAR. MONTESQUIEU, if he were now alive, would be silenced by the fiat of M. TROPLONG. And this is what the *Examiner* calls a new sort of despotism. Have we not read of something like this suppression of history in the *Annals* of TACITUS? But in *Tacitus* it is not the first, but the second Emperor of Rome that suppresses history in the interest of the dynasty. AUGUSTUS leaves Roman intellect free; patronizes the republican LIVY; and encourages his stepson to read *Cicero*. In Rome, worried by so many civil wars, and sapped by epicurism and moral corruption, it was still necessary for despotism to proceed with some caution, and to tread lightly on the smouldering ashes of republican honour. In France this caution is not necessary. There despotism can afford to show itself at once in its true colours, and to

trample with a firm foot on the dust of those who, for fifty years, have bled for liberty and truth.

The suppression of history in the interest of a despotic dynasty is not so sensibly felt as many other acts of oppression. It does not, directly at least, spoil any man's dinner, or injure any man's trade. And therefore it is a matter of supreme indifference to the stockjobber, to the voluptuary, to the materialist—those noble spirits to whom the Government of M. TROPLONG and his master seems a blessed calm, after the storms of moral and intellectual life. It is also a matter of supreme indifference to the uneducated classes, careless of all that is beyond their intellect, and wholly incapable of tracing the chain of cause and effect between a brutal and sensualist despotism, and the universal misery to which such a despotism ultimately leads. Yet nothing, not even the most tyrannical outrages on life or property, could more manifestly reveal the abject character of the French Government, or more decisively seal the shame of France. To sentence a nation to be deprived of truth, is to sentence it to brutal materialism for ever. The fate of Turkey or Morocco is less degraded than that of a great intellectual nation on which such a sentence has passed. But what are they who, writing as free men in a free country, applaud the authors of the sentence, and adore as a new sort of despotism the Government of the modern TIBERIUS?

NATIONAL PARTIES IN EUROPE.

The flatterers of the French Emperor are in the habit of saying that he has subdued the Revolution—crushed it in France, disheartened it throughout Europe. In this fallacy a confusion may be detected between the idea of a repulse, signifying a failure of tactics, and a total defeat, signifying exhaustion, submission, and ruin. The tactics of the Liberal party on the Continent were unsuccessful in 1848 and 1849. The Revolution was temporarily overpowered. But that it is still vital and formidable is proved by the activity discernible in those military camps, which are, virtually, the courts of the French and Austrian Empires. Nowhere do we observe the people more content with their Governments than before the conflagration of 1848, or the eclipse of 1851. The several nations have ceased to fight for their liberties; but they have not ceased combining, conspiring, tracing plans of attack, discussing common objects. Their rulers enjoy no security, and no rest. Their territories are undermined by political societies—the secret passages of opinion and conspiracy. Not a nation, not a party, not a class, that was baffled in 1848, has resigned its hopes or its pretensions, or accepted an amnesty that would devote its offences in the sight of power, and its rights in the sight of history, to the same ignominious oblivion. In France, at least four powerful sections meditate the destruction of the reigning dynasty, the only constituents of which are, the partial corruption of the army, the venality of the trading classes, the apathy and ignorance of some of the rural populations. We were told, soon after the night surprise of liberty by the *coup-d'état* of December, that France would speedily be reconciled to her new institutions, that the system of repression was merely temporary, and that the Emperor would gradually restore the freedom of speech and opinion, the reality of electoral government, the domination of the civil over the military power. Instead of this, what have we seen? Not one decree of license has been promulgated from the Tuileries during the past four years. There has been an incessant and invariable advance of despotic authority. In June, 1856, France

is as completely subject to the government of the police as in January, 1852. Every change that has occurred has been an exaggeration of the Imperial régime.

In Germany, are the governments more at one with the nations than when Prussia suppressed the Baden and Saxony insurrections; when the Holsteiners maintained, unaided, the general German cause; when Austria triumphed in the moderation of her enemies; and when petty perjuries were committed by petty rulers, in imitation of the grand HAPSBURG and BONAPARTE practice? The Hungarian and Transylvanian populations are simply waiting for a favourable crisis. The Italians are even expected to bring on that crisis, and already absolutism marshals its troops in the field.

That is the condition of Europe. Moreover the chances of the revolution have been materially improved. We have seen, since 1849, the partial consolidation, at least, of national parties in Italy as well as in Germany. A gradual approximation of the Liberal sects is taking place. The absence of this political concord was grievously felt when the Schleswig question was decided as one of local interest instead of being valued as identified with a national cause, and when the Liberal life of Hesse was consumed in separate and unaided struggles. In 1834, the principal statesmen of Germany, under the presidency of Metternich, met at Vienna, and framed a plot for the suppression of all popular movements in the smaller constitutional states—Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Nassau, Saxony, Brunswick, &c. This was at once an example of their policy, and of their fears. The minor states of Europe are the sources of continual alarm to the great Powers. Their populations are close, compact, and pliable. It was not, however, until 1845 that the proceedings of this conference were detected. The secret record was discovered by WELCKER, and published at Strasburg. We are not yet in possession of the secret stipulations of Olmütz and Dresden, but we know enough to justify the suspicion that similar schemes are now on foot at Paris, and at Vienna. A suspicion of this nature, combined with the known fact that mysterious negotiations are going on, should have the same effect on the Liberal party as many political leaders hoped it would have had in 1848. Between the Liberal societies of Frankfort, Baden, Saxony, and the other secondary German states, and even between that of Austria and Prussia, considerable harmony of opinion was established; but the essential point was harmony of action; and this was wanting. When, however, we perceive, throughout Germany, not one German journal, when the conceit of the local PHILISTER, the statesman of a parish, overcomes all national consciousness, and when Prussian, Austrian, or Wurtemberg ideas are advocated instead of the broad and general interests of Germany, it is evident that much progress has still to be made. Of course a people not politically constituted as *one* finds it difficult to obliterate from its theories the traces of conquest and partition. In England the provincial journal is essentially provincial in substance, spirit, and manners. And how much more is this the case in Germany, where the laws of censorship and the influence of the police are constantly directed to carry out the advice of the Russian memorial of 1833, "to take care that the German press limited itself to the discussion of local and provincial matters only." It is not to be wondered at that the people, under such treatment, are provincialized.

The Italians, as represented by their most sincere and intelligent leaders, appear to be

conferring, with the object of destroying this local pride and partiality. 'All Italy for the Italians, and all Italians for Italy;' that is a summary of their opinions. One great organization is spreading from the central states, northwards and southwards, so extensive, that it may be said to embrace the larger part of the Italian manhood, and so secretly worked, that concentrations of the Austrian troops frequently take place at points where no real activity prevails. The Capuan fortress strengthened by the engineering skill of two Russian generals, the Papal prisons full of the proscribed, the Austrian police in Tuscany, the Austrian troops in Parma and Modena, the Austrian army watching the Central Congregations in Lombardo-Venetia, the Austrian teachers compelling their Italian pupils to learn and speak the German language, the political and military demonstration against Piedmont, all prove that repression is not order, and that a *coup d'état* is the worst sort of salvation for society. How will this end? We want no prophet, but a plain reasoner, to answer the question. It cannot end, except in a successful revolution, whether constitutional or democratic, which shall restore the natural relations of governors and subjects. No permanent systems are established by the code of oppression. The opposing parties—the despotic governments, and the disaffected nations—are preparing, on one side for attack, on the other for resistance. Whence it may be concluded, that both parties cannot remain for ever in the same attitude. One must surrender, or draw the other into an engagement.

We suppose that England may be said to have an interest in the political condition of the Continent. The question is, what course should that interest dictate to our diplomats and statesmen. If England has anything to gain—if, indeed, she does not lose, in a moral and material sense, to an incalculable degree, by the prevalence of absolute and barbarous authority, we are much deceived. We think it possible to show that England has a direct and palpable interest in the freedom of France and Italy.

ROEBUCK.

THE Administrative Reform Association have sent for Mr. ROEBUCK, who has formed his Ministry and explained his principles. He himself is to be First Lord of the London Tavern, Messrs. TRAVERS, MORLEY, and GASSIOT are to be his Secretaries of State. The Conservative, SAMUEL BROWN, disappears—very properly, too—and the Association announces itself in readiness to act as the scaffolding of a new party in Parliament.

In Parliament, as actually constituted. The proposal carries with it a suggestion of failure. Depend upon it, the present Parliament is the best you can get from the present constituencies, and the present Ministry is the best you can get from the present Parliament. You may correspond with the electors; you may penetrate the secrets of influence and agency; you may watch the intercourse that takes place between an independent member and a government in want of supporters; you may stand at the doors of the public offices, and examine the credentials of the candidates, but the political caste will have its way: landlords will check the votes of their tenantry; tradesmen will be intimidated by their customers; pertinacious applicants, who can work a petty local interest, will have situations in the excise; parliamentary leaders will provide for their friends; the army will continue to be what it is—the asylum of younger sons, the property of the Equestrian order.

Because you expect to make a bad machine work well. You may, indeed, regulate the movements, and mend the gear, so that matters may not go from bad to worse; but, really to improve your system, you must improve the political organization of the country. At the apex of our parliamentary constitution stands the prime minister; at the base the constituencies are grouped, in irregular masses; you must widen and strengthen the foundations, if you would ennoble the structure.

Plainly, nearly every man who sits in the House of Commons represents some special interest, which has sent him there. Not the interest of the Cabinet only, or of the aristocracy, but the interest of the aristocracy and the Cabinet mixed up and identified with other interests, equally narrow and partial, which are not those of the nation at large. Without counteracting this power that encloses the Legislature, and determines all its Acts, it is hopeless to expect administrative purity, the exercise of patronage on high principles, the conduct of public business with exclusive reference to the public interests. That can never be until the nation at large determines that it shall be, and possesses itself of the means to enforce its will.

Can we confide the issue to the Administrative Reform Association—even though Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, who could not have faced another general meeting, has resigned the chair to JOHN ARTHUR ROEBUCK, member for Sheffield, an earnest and an honest man, on whose name will fall a ray of English history? No; if all he means is contained in his programme.

The members of the Council of the Administrative Association were empowered, we may infer, to dethrone Mr. MORLEY, and to appoint Mr. ROEBUCK, who will probably find the post more congenial to his faculties and to his habits than the chairmanship of the Metropolitan Board of Works. But already some of the subscribers are asking upon whose authority is the Portfolio of Correspondence entrusted to Mr. MORLEY, the Portfolio of Finance to Mr. TRAVERS, and the Portfolio of Statistics to Mr. GASSIOT? The circular affords no information on this point. It has, in this respect, all the brevity and all the absolutism of a decree. It has occurred to many persons, who have a right to speak on these subjects, that the political sections throughout the country will not feel that they are called upon to adopt Mr. MORLEY as their London agent. Indeed, with Mr. ROEBUCK in the chair, the contrast becomes more painful between the genuine politician and the eager but unpolitical reformer. It is not a question of politics, the City Reformers say, but a question of business. They want the public business and the private business of the country to be conducted on the same principles. It would be dangerous to extend the parallel too far. This idea, if it means anything, means that the British merchant, as a merchant, carries out his transactions with more ease and effect than the Government as a Government. Perhaps it would be as well, however, to remember that a Government is not a merchant, or even a contractor. In the civil and military administration of a great empire, many qualities of intellect and of practical capacity are required totally and essentially distinct from those which enable a shipowner to complete his contracts, or a tea-merchant to manage a thousand clerks, to amass a million, to buy Etruscan villa, and to look contemptuously on the break-down of the public departments.

He is quite right to look contemptuously on the break-down. But is he right in sup-

posing that government is so simple an affair as the London Tavern Reformers pretend? We, for our own part, expect little amelioration in the conduct of public business until our Reformers have arrived at a higher appreciation of state duties, and of the capacities essential to their performance. No doubt, if Mr. ROEBUCK's plan be carried out, some good practical results may be obtained? As Lord PALMERSTON took care to distance the Association under the MORLEY chairmanship, so he may endeavour to keep ahead of Mr. ROEBUCK and his three secretaries. Yet it is not to be concealed that the City Association has been a deplorable, and not a very creditable failure; and we feel sincere regret in avowing that not much more is to be anticipated from it in its new form.

The point at which it is connected with the real political interests of the country is that suggested by Mr. ROEBUCK—the formation and support of a Liberal party in the House of Commons. But on what basis? The basis of Administrative Reform, technically and in detail. The first political society that arises with powerful leaders and large objects will sweep it out of sight. Even were a general election to take place, what would be the aim of the Association? To return such men as Mr. TITE, Mr. INGRAM, Mr. JOSEPH PAXTON—useful in their own station, but, except as votes, utterly lifeless and insignificant in the House of Commons.

It seems to us that if Government stands in need of Reform, Reform stands in need of Renovation.

— HOW TO KEEP UP THE MILITIA.

AMONG the benefits we have derived from the war has been the revival of the old constitutional force of the country—the Militia. One of the possible, we will not yet say probable, disadvantages which attend the greater blessing of peace, is the dissolution of that force. What is only possible, it is our duty to prevent from becoming even probable, and to do our utmost to retain the great benefit which has accrued from the war.

The characteristic of the struggle, so far as we are concerned, has been that we have carried it on with volunteers. While other countries rely on conscriptions and forced levies, England has relied upon the willing agency of her citizens to vindicate her policy. The result of that reliance has shown the power of voluntary service. The Militia not only gave 30,000 men to the QUEEN's army, but every embodied regiment was prepared to enter on service beyond the limits of Great Britain. To these constitutional corps we entrusted in great part our home and foreign garrisons; and those not so employed formed the bulk of the camps of instruction established by the Government. If the full force of the Militia, as voted by Parliament, was never raised, we must trace that to the novelty of the voluntary system, and to the fact that the people had been so long unaccustomed to their military duties. In disbanding the Militia regiments, the Government act on a perfectly sound principle, because it is never intended, nor is it necessary, that these regiments should be permanently embodied. Their future service is secured, provided that an adequate staff be retained, and that the regiments are invariably called out for training every year, and that they be kept recruited up to their due complement of men.

In order to keep up the Militia, it will behoove their leaders, the territorial aristocracy, to sustain the military spirit in every way; to promote an *esprit de corps* among the men when disembodied by encouraging their participation in athletic sports; to provide for the contingencies of the recruitment by mak-

ing the service attractive, and by infusing into the rural and suburban populations the idea of duty.

But the far more efficient mode of keeping up the Militia would be by a further extension of the voluntary spirit. It behoves the Government to consider whether, having waived the ballot, they can command the annual training of sufficient numbers to sustain a respectable force. Under the present system we doubt whether, the stimulus of war being removed, that can be done. But there is one mode by which it would certainly be accomplished—a mode which would place a large constitutional reserve at the disposal of the Government, and foster healthy habits among the people. That mode is the simple one of repealing the Drilling Act, and permitting the enrolment and organization of volunteer regiments and companies. Remove the obstruction to the free assembling of persons for purposes of military exercise, taking such precautions as might be deemed fit for the security of the state; not only permit, but encourage the formation of these corps. Let every schoolmaster in the country be recommended to include drilling in the school exercises. In all schools that partake of a public character, let the boys be induced to form into military bodies, the drill-instructor appointing the officers. As a sanitary measure, this would be most valuable; nor would its moral be hardly less than its physical results. Discipline is as good for the mind as for the body, and as beneficial to children of honest parents as to those who find shelter in institutions like Mettray. The cost would be nothing to the state; the gain would be immense to the state; to individuals incalculable. We can see no valid objection to the adoption of such measures. If the Government are in earnest in their desire to improve the army; if they really wish to raise at call a truly national force that would make a country like ours perfectly safe from invasion, these are the measures they would adopt: perpetual maintenance of the regular Militia; encouragement to the adoption of military organization in all schools; and, above all, the repeal of the Drilling Act, which is in itself a violation of the written right of Englishmen.

A WORKING-CLASS DEFEAT.

ONCE more the employer has defeated the employed, because he is the employer. The Glasgow miners have capitulated to their masters. The long Scottish strike is at an end; the men have been starved into submission. After a three months' struggle with misery, they are to resume their work at a reduction of twenty per cent. upon their former wages. The lords of districts and counties rejected all plans of arbitration; they would have their men submit unconditionally, without reserve or discussion. That is, the coal and iron masters are to be unqualified despots; they will not treat the individuals in their service as in any respect better than serfs of the soil. This is a new aspect of feudalism—the autocracy of the mine as of the mill.

While the strike lasted, the coal and iron masters made holiday at home, or enjoyed their glimpses of the London season. They calculated how far the vigorous human nature of the European can sustain the want of food, and they knew that, when the extreme point of endurance had been reached, the fathers of famished children would once more dive sullenly into the mines and labour for bread. Neither the Scotchman nor the Englishman is capable of the abject bitterness which brings the Hindoo to his enemy's door, that his death from hunger may be a curse on the oppressor's family. The

master, we say, knows this to be impossible, knows, further, that the workman, however exasperated, will return to his work. A balance is struck, therefore, between the advantage of gaining his point, and the disadvantage of interrupting his business. If the gain is worth the interruption, why then the unctuous logician closes his schools, suspends his overseers, and waits until his workmen have spent their savings, exhausted their credit, fettered themselves with debt, degraded themselves by the sense of physical privation. The appeal is made, not to reason or right, but to the powers of despair, to famine, to the humility of hunger.

What is the value to the working classes of the civilization which places them under these conditions? What is the value to them of the national prosperity which leaves them, in the nineteenth century, exactly as powerless, in relation to their employers, as in the sixteenth?

The civilization is, after all, of some value. It influences the men, if it does not humanize the masters. When the northern strike began, prophecies of outrage upon life and property were circulated through the mining districts. The militia, the yeomanry, the constabulary were invoked, and "good society" was organized against the anticipated violence of the thousands of rough and strong men thrown up from the depths of the coal and iron mines. What happened? Crimes, instead of becoming more frequent, became fewer. The 'incendiaries' who led the movement gave their advice, invariably, in favour of strictly legal and pacific action, and the 'incendiaries' were obeyed. This is what the working classes have gained by civilization. It may be that material improvements and the reform of manners have not conferred on them a better station in society; but they are better fitted to claim what is due to them. Had the mass of the working classes been as civilized at the time of the Chartist agitation as they appear to be now, the agitation might not have been a failure.

Connected with this subject is a personal matter which deserves a word of explanation. The National Association of United Trades in London appear to have imagined themselves censured by the *Leader* for ignorance on a question of law involved in the recent application to Lord PALMERSTON to appoint and empower a court of arbitration to settle the dispute of the Scottish miners. Now, the allusion, which was not a censure, but a simple statement of fact, referred to the Society of the United Trades of Glasgow, and by no means to the Metropolitan Society.

The National Society of United Trades, established in London upwards of twelve years ago, were requested by Mr. MACKINNON to co-operate with him in the movement for establishing Courts of Industrial Arbitration, to arrange, on a conciliatory basis, the disputes of masters with their workmen. They were consulted as to the constitution of the committee, and have done good service by collecting and preparing a systematic body of evidence, calculated to assist and enlighten the discussions of the Legislature. It was by the London Society that the delegates from Glasgow were brought to give their testimony before Mr. MACKINNON's committee.

This explanation is due to the National Society of United Trades, because a society formed in Glasgow for temporary purposes appears to have adopted the same "title," and by doing so has been the originator of some confusion. The London Association of course does not desire to be held responsible for errors of opinion or conduct that may be committed by junior societies not in correspondence with it.

If all the trade societies in the United Kingdom were affiliated to the Central Society in London, an organization, almost irresistible, would be created. But the result of Mr. MACKINNON's investigation will suggest a full discussion of this and similar topics.

THE POPULAR BRANCH.

If it be an honour to be a member of the House of Commons, it seems to be equally a nuisance. The gentlemen thus honoured, often with a very ill grace on the part of those who "honour" them, go down with a supreme contempt for public business—a contempt almost as supreme as that of the clerks of the Foreign-office. During the present session there have been fewer full Houses than usual, and several counts-out. But when there is not a count-out, it is by no means to be supposed that forty members are representing their constituencies. It matters not whether ten or fifteen are listening to the debate, provided that a scout is at the door to report in the coffee-room whenever a "count" is moved.

Early on Tuesday evening Mr. HEYWOOD's motion in favour of an extended endowment of science was discussed—a motion which was seconded, almost in dumb show, by Mr. TITE. For the sake of safety, a few members had dropped in when it was moved that the House be counted. The essential Forty were in their places. Then, Mr. MACKINNON delivered his objections, and the British Legislature dwindled almost to the limits of a common jury. Again a "count" was sounded, and the alarm was signalled in the coffee-room. The SPEAKER kept silence to allow the senatorial dummies to get up a second sham, and then solemnly reckoned from side to side of the House, and pronounced that a quorum was present. After this farcical decision, up rose the Right Honourable Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to give the opinion of the Cabinet on the patronage of science by the State. Scarcely was his first sentence uttered than the members rushed away, leaving not twenty in the House.

Two displays of this sort might have been enough for one evening. Honourable members did not think so. The same pertinacious "bore" raised himself, after a solemn interval, upon his legs, and said,

"Sir, I beg to move that the House be counted."

Again the signal, the alarm, the mob at the door, the Speaker's pause, the count, the announcement that more than forty members were in the House. And again the noisy outgoing.

That put an end to the comedy? Not at all. Lord STANLEY spoke to about twenty honourable gentlemen, and, for the fourth time, there was a scandalous repetition of the scene.

There might have been a fifth; but when, for the fifth time, a member moved that the House be counted, the coffee-room legislators did not find their way to their places early enough to anticipate the Speaker's reckoning. "There being only twenty-seven members present, the House stood adjourned."

This is our Imperial Parliament.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The Council and Professors of the London Hospital Medical College met on Monday in one of the lecture-rooms of the institution to distribute the prizes awarded to the more meritorious of the students during the session of 1855-6. The Bishop of Oxford occupied the chair, and Lord Auckland, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, was also present at the ceremony.

THE CASE OF ARCHBISHOP DENISON.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has fixed to hold his court for proceeding with the case of the Archdeacon of Taunton at the Guildhall, Bath, on Monday, July 21.

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*.

THE pleasant author of the papers called "Tangled Talk" in *Tait's Magazine*, from which we often borrow a passage, this month touches on the "Domestic Relations of Literary Men," a subject often mooted both in print and talk. He says:—

I am disposed to think there is much exaggeration current upon the unhappiness of men of letters in their domestic relations, and that we should find nearly as many uncomfortable cheesemongers as uncomfortable authors, if we heard so much about the cheesemongers; which we do not, except in cases of wife-beating. If men of talent contract more unhappy marriages than other men, I suppose it must be attributed, partly, to the fact that they are more liable, when young, to mistake the action of the imagination for that of the heart. But surely something—much—must be laid to the account of the wretched education of our women. Also, although women like distinguished men, they do not habitually sympathize with great ambitions; and if they do, the children and the tradespeople do not—the same path that leads to crowning in the Capitol leading away from plenty in the cupboard.

It is certain we do not hear so much about the cheesemongers, and it is probable that if we did, we should find the "wretched education of the women" to be the main cause of unhappiness amid Cheshires and Double Gloucesters, as it is amid Philosophical Fragments and Essays in the last *Quarterly*. Well does this writer intimate the secret cause of so much unhappiness; and he further elucidates it by the sentence, "Although women like distinguished men, they do not habitually sympathize with great ambitions;" and the proof, in spite of their protestations, is that they are impatient of the processes by which great ambitions seek to secure their end. The wife may glory in her husband's fame, may be excessively pleased at his success, but is seldom found sympathizing with the labours which earned that success. To spend silent hours over "those musty books;" to soil one's fingers and clothes with those "nasty messes," chemical or anatomical, can only be regarded with sympathy by a mind of a certain degree of culture in that direction, and women must not be blamed if their education has been in quite other directions.

The truth of what has been just said is illustrated in the fact that the happiest marriages are those which unite two artists, two poets, two naturalists, or two actors, in short any two persons having the same pursuits in life, identified by their aims, their interests, their vanities, their occupations. We do not of course mean to assert that all such marriages are happy. Human beings are complex, and terribly prone to make each other miserable; but we have observed it as a general fact that the happiest marriages have been of this kind.

The Bees, which have wandered from the bright furze bushes on the rocks into our study (where they will find no honey, unless they attack the sea anemones, and make them yield it), remind us that Messrs. LONGMANS have just issued in a portable six shilling volume, the valuable work, KIRBY and SPENCE'S *Introduction to Entomology*, which many of our readers will have sighed for in vain, on account of the price, but which now may be in every one's hands. This single volume contains every line of the sixth edition, and the account of the origin and progress of the work which Mr. SPENCE wrote for the *Life of Kirby*. The type though small is very readable. The book has long passed out of all reviewers' jurisdiction, and we content ourselves with announcing the new edition.

In the Nineteenth Letter will be found all that was known on the combats of the Queen-bees at the time the book was written, to which we are now enabled to add something, from a letter by M. de BEAUVOYE to MILNE EDWARDS in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*. Quoting HUBER, the *Introduction to Entomology* says, that when a strange queen-bee attempts to enter the hive, the workers who are on the watch immediately seize her with their jaws by the legs or wings, and hem her in so straightly with a clustered circle of guards that it is impossible for her to penetrate within. If they retain her prisoner too long she dies from the want of food or air, but never from their stings. M. de BEAUVOYE on the contrary asserts that when he placed a queen in a hive the first watcher seized her, plunged its sting fiercely into her body, and this action attracting the attention of the rest, they came in crowds, every one stabbing the trembling intruder, who scarcely defended herself. On another occasion he placed a queen in a glass hive quite close to the reigning queen, who, however, affected not to be aware of the intruder's presence; her guard, not being so lofty, seized the unhappy stranger and poniarded her. Why this indifference on the part of the reigning queen? When M. de BEAUVOYE placed two queens alone under a glass globe their first efforts were to find an issue, and, although iostling against each other, passed on without insult or defiance; when they again met, the fight began, and one speedily fell a victim. The next day he placed the victorious queen under the globe once more in company with thirty bees, to them he added another queen and her guard of thirty. But no one seemed disposed to fight; every one was bent on escape. After some time he took out all the bees except the two queens, but they left each other in peace. He forced them together with a pen, and now they cross their antennæ like two bulls preparing for combat. The fight is about to begin. No. One of them lowers her forepaws, and, so to speak, places herself imploringly at the feet of the other. And the other? She quietly

licks the head of her rival and caresses her tenderly, after which she places herself supplicatingly at the other's feet, and receives the same testimonies of friendship. Peace is so obviously being concluded between them that M. de BEAUVOYE, on warlike plans intent, separates them, irritates them, and pushes them against each other. In vain. Night comes on and finds them still amicable. The next day he repeats the experiment with the same result. But leaving them together all night he finds one of them dead the next morning.

LORD COCKBURN'S MEMORIALS.

Memorials of His Time. By Henry Cockburn.

Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.

HERE is a volume of anecdotes and portraits, by an advocate, by a judge, by a man of letters, the pupil of Dugald Stewart, the High School contemporary of Francis Horner and Henry Brougham, the biographer of Jeffrey, himself an Edinburgh Reviewer, the friend of Scott, and Erskine, and one of the successors of Eskgrove and Braxfield on the Scottish Bench. The *Memorials* illustrate profusely the several phases of his career. They contain sketches, humorous and broad, of old Scotch society, of the unreformed Courts of Criminal Law, of Attic dinners; full-length portraits of Dugald Stewart, Adam, Finlayson, Ferguson, Robertson, Henry, and a generation of Northern worthies, of eccentric judges and lawyers, of political and literary leaders; and they contribute some passages to general history. The book, therefore, is a book for all readers—light, colloquial, varied, abounding in the suggestions of an acute and well-trained mind. To the social annals of the Scotch capital it adds a graphic chapter; for where else than among these reminiscences of his own time by Lord Cockburn do we find such pleasant and surprising descriptions of ball-rooms; of an ancient race of ladies, the lingering dynasty of the Sedan; of authors, booksellers, and counsel, railing and laughing over the strong ambrosia of the Highland still; of dinner parties regulated by a formalism as austere as martial law. Henry Cockburn himself, though he belonged, properly, to the epoch of quieter manners, mixed largely and freely in these scenes. He played, moreover, a special part in some transactions, remarkable in their day, and even now memorable. He was counsel for several of the prisoners at the notorious sedition trials of 1817. When "the prosecutor struck," he records, with agreeable simplicity, how, after the prison and castle gates had been opened for the release of the accused, he walked home "with a light step and in an agitation of triumph." He also defended Helen Macdougall, "the wife, though not regularly married," of Burke, the resurrectionist. At the trial of Burke and Helen for the West-Port murders—sixteen in number—Cockburn uttered an earnest plea in favour of his client. The *Quarterly Review* afterwards reported that he was, at the same time, persuaded of her guilt, and whispered to a counsel, "infernal hag! the gudgeons swallow it." "This," says the Memorial, "is utterly untrue. I was, and am, honestly convinced that there was not sufficient legal evidence to warrant a conviction of Helen Macdougall." So the judges thought, and the jury were guided to an acquittal. Lord Cockburn adds, "Except that he murdered, Burke was a sensible, and what might be called a respectable man." This is one of his eccentricities. Another was, his opinion that even Erskine's way of spitting was eloquent.

The characteristic that renders this book so enticing, is the freedom of the writer, always governed, however, by his habit of appropriate expression. He tells us that, from the date of his marriage, he never spent more than one night a month at home, and in the sole society of his wife. It was always some scene of conviviality, some Roman banquet, a supper which "is cheaper than dinner; shorter, less ceremonious, and more poetical;" but which the dwindling hospitality of Edinburgh is reducing "to paltry wine and water." And now, for the reader's sake, we must "pick out" a notice with some of Lord Cockburn's sayings and recollections. This is Mrs. Rothead, the lady of Inverleith:—

She would sail, like a ship from Tarshish, gorgeous in velvet or rustling in silk, and done up in all the accompaniments of fan, ear rings and finger rings, falling sleeves, scent-bottle, embroidered bag, hoop and train—all superb, yet all in purest taste; and managing all this seemingly heavy rigging, with as much ease as a full-blown swan does its plumage, she would take possession of the centre of a large sofa, and at the same moment, without the slightest visible exertion, would cover the whole of it with her bravery, the graceful folds seeming to lay themselves over it like summer waves.

Passing the full-length portrait of Lord Braxfield, who looked like "a formidable blacksmith," and who apologized to a lady whom he had damned at the card-table, by saying he thought she was his wife; Lord Eskgrove, who hung criminals with a jest; Hermand, who refused to be tied down by any mere law; Sir Walter Scott, tilting at a turnip; Creech, the bookseller; the founders of the *Edinburgh* and *Blackwood*—we open at a characteristic miniature of Newton "the Mighty":—

In court his head generally rested either on his heaving chest, or on his hands crossed on the bench, while, after getting a grip of the case, his eyes were locked in genuine sleep. Yet, from practice and a remarkably quick ear and intellect, nobody could say anything worth hearing without his instantly raising his huge eyelid, and keeping it open, and directing his powerful knowing eye, like a mortar, at the speaker, till he got what was necessary; after which, when the babbling began, down sank the eyelid again, till lighted up by the next shot.

Lord Cockburn had an exaggerated admiration of the *Noctes*, derived, in part, from an exaggerated estimate of the Scotch language. It is a most singular and delightful production, he says, vaulting thence to a naive generality:—

I am really sorry for the poor one-tongued Englishman, by whom, because the Ettrick Shepherd uses the sweetest and most expressive of living languages, the homely humour, the sensibility, the descriptive power, the eloquence, and the strong joyous hilarity of that animated rustic can never be felt.

Lord Palmerston, in his "Trial of an Honourable Member for calling Lord Ponsonby an Old Woman," introduced a Scotch witness thus:—"Being a foreigner, he couldn't speak English." Lord Cockburn says that, being English, we can't read Scotch. Instead of defending the one-tongued Englishman, however, let us listen to a judge describing a High Court:—

At Edinburgh, the old judges had a practice at which even their barbaric age used

to shake its head. They had always wine and biscuits on the bench when the business was clearly to be protracted beyond the usual dinner hour. The modern judges—those I mean who were made after 1800—never gave in to this; but with those of the preceding generation, some of whom lasted several years after 1800, it was quite common. Black bottles of strong port were set down beside them on the bench, with glasses, carafes of water, tumblers, and biscuits; and this without the slightest attempt at concealment. The refreshment was generally allowed to stand untouched, and as if despised, for a short time, during which their Lordships seemed to be intent only on their notes. But in a little, some water was poured into the tumbler, and sipped quietly, as if merely to sustain nature. Then a few drops of wine were ventured upon, but only with the water: till at last patience could endure no longer, and a full bumper of the pure black element was tossed over; after which the thing went on regularly, and there was a comfortable munching and quaffing, to the great envy of the parched throats in the gallery. The strong-headed stood it tolerably well, but it told plainly enough upon the feeble. Not that the ermine was absolutely intoxicated, but it was certainly sometimes affected. This, however, was so ordinary with these sages, that it really made little apparent change upon them. It was not very perceptible at a distance, and they all acquired the habit of sitting and looking judicial enough, even when their bottles had reached the lowest ebb. This open-court refectory did not prevail, so far as I ever saw, at Circuits. It took a different form there. The temptation of the inn frequently produced a total stoppage of business; during which all concerned—judges and counsel, clerks, jurymen, and provosts—had a jolly dinner; after which they returned again to the transportations and hangings.

Chalmers, says the Memorial, was an awkward preacher, with a low, rough, husky voice, a guttural articulation, a whitish eye, and a large dingy countenance. "The magic lies in the concentrated intensity which agitates every fibre of the man," suggesting Jeffrey's stupendous extravagance, that "he buried his adversaries under the fragments of burning mountains." Pulpit and bench were then alike the tribunes of the politician. Causes being few, arguments were proportionately long. Jeffrey said that, if there were but one cause in the world, it would last for ever. First, the relevancy of the indictment was questioned; then, in every case, a long harangue to the jury was declaimed on both sides; written verdicts were given, which produced an interminable discussion of technicalities; the cross-examinations penetrated through and through, and round the evidence, without result; and often the poor jurymen were kept standing for hours, while the judge delivered his charge:—

That fifteen cases may be disposed of in eight hours, and that an advocate-deputy may do his duty well, and yet not address a jury once in fifty trials, and that prisoners' counsel may decline addressing in the great majority of cases, these facts with which we are now familiar would certainly be discredited if they were told to Braxfield in Elysium.

Of the fifteen judges of the Old Circuit, Braxfield was the giant, Eskgrove the buffoon. Of Braxfield, Lord Cockburn tells few stories, because, he remarks, he never heard but one of his that was not indecent, and that was "when a butler gave up his place because his lordship's wife was always scolding him. 'Lord!' he exclaimed, 'ye've little to complain o': ye may be thankful ye're no married to her.'"

He was accustomed to taunt the culprits whom he was sentencing to death in the fashion of Lord Kame, who had to try his friend Mathew Hay, the companion of his chess-games, for murder. When the verdict was delivered, he looked up, and said triumphantly, "That's checkmate to you, Mathew." But Eskgrove was the most laughter-moving savage of the whole fifteen.

A very common arrangement of his logic to juries was this—"And so, gentle-men, having shown you that the pannell's argument is utterly impossibill, I shall now proceed for to show you that it is extremely improbabil."

Meadowbank, who spent the afternoon of his marriage-day in composing a treatise "On Pains and Penalties," disliked a dull technical advocate, and once rebuked one by throwing himself back in his chair, and shouting, "Declaim, sir! Why don't you declaim? Speak to me as if I were a popular assembly!"

There was a geniality in Lord Cockburn's character which gives a pleasant tinge to the gossip in this welcome volume. It is not all gossip, however. Besides being treasure trove for table-talkers, it is valuable as a private account of the distinguished men and important events that marked the progress of Scotland at the close of the last and in the first quarter of the present century.

MASSON ON THE ENGLISH POETS.

Essays Biographical and Critical: chiefly on English Poets. By David Masson, A. M., Professor of English Literature in University College. Macmillan and Co.

PROFESSOR MASSON was certainly justified in rescuing from the fugitive periodicals, to which during the last ten or twelve years he has been a distinguished contributor, these *Essays on English Literature*. They were all remarkable and remarked, as they severally appeared in the *North British* and *British Quarterly Reviews*, and they will probably excite still more attention in this collected and connected form, presenting as they do not only a series of biographical studies, but in some sort a philosophic history of English Poetry from Shakspeare to Alexander Smith. We have noticed almost every one of these as they appeared, which must forbid our recurring to them. Two of them we did not notice, one on Milton's, Goethe's, and Luther's conception of the Devil (which was published in *Fraser* before the *Leader* was born), and the miniature Biography of Chatterton, which we regard on the whole as the gem of the volume.

A very ingenious and suggestive essay is that on the *Three Devils*, tracing the different shapes which the conception of a supernatural being whose function is to create evil took in three pre-eminent minds at three different epochs; and every reader will be struck with the originality of Professor Masson's view of Mephistopheles as the being into which Satan has dwindled after six thousand years.

After analyzing the *Prologue in Heaven*, Professor Masson says:—

And is this the Satan of the *Paradise Lost*? Is this the Archangel ruined? Is this the being who warred against the Almighty, who lay floating many a rood, who shot upwards like a pyramid of fire, who navigated space wherever he chose, speeding on his errands from star to star, and who finally conceived the gigantic scheme of assaulting the universe where it was weakest, and impregnating the new creation with

the venom of his spirit? Yes, it is he; but oh, how changed! For six thousand years he has been pursuing the walk he struck out at the beginning, plying his self selected function, dabbling devilishly in human nature, and abjuring all interest in the grander physics; and the consequence is, as he himself anticipated, that his nature once great and magnificent, has become small, virulent, and shrunken,

"Subdued

To what it works in, like the dyer's hand."

As if he had been journeying through a wilderness of scorching sand, all that was left of the Archangel has long since evaporated. He is now a dry, cold, shrivelled-up scoffing spirit. When, at the moment of scheming out his future existence and determining to become a Devil, he anticipated the ruin of his nature, he could not help thinking with what a strange feeling he should then appear before his old co-equals Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael. But now he stands before them disgustingly unabashed, almost ostentatious of not being any longer an Archangel. Even in the days of his glory he was different from them. They luxuriated in contemplation; he in the feeling of innate all-sufficient vigour. And lo, now! They are unchanged, the servants of the Lord, revering the day's gentle going. He, the scheming, enthusiastic Archangel, has been soured and civilized into the clever cold-hearted Mephistopheles.

The essay on *Chatterton* is indeed a miniature Biography, the best biography beyond all comparison we have had of the "marvellous boy that perished in his pride," and only wanting a little expansion here and there, with more copious extracts from the Letters, to become one of the best literary biographies in our language. Professor Masson paints the proud, unruly, wilful, boastful boy of genius, struggling with many saddening obstacles both of position and disposition, strangely environed in that murky and prosaic Bristol, which the Biographer so graphically sets before us, still more strangely environed in the great world of London, where he was so insignificant a figure until a ghastly halo of interest surrounded his young corpse; and in these pages for the first time, we read not only an intelligible story of the boy's life as that of a struggling boy of genius, but also an intelligible story of his relations to others. Every person in the narrative stands out with picturesque individuality; every spot of ground becomes a picture. Profound sympathy with the boy's sorrows, gentlest pity for his errors, and that clear insight into his situation which biographers have hitherto failed to gain, make Professor Masson's story touching and instructive. Taking the recorded facts, he has clothed the skeleton with flesh and blood; and even when indulging in pure imagination, he is guided by analogy as in the following passage:—

Chatterton spends the morning in reading and writing, while Mrs. Walmsley, Mrs. Ballance, and the niece are slatternly about the house; and generally, as the forenoon advances, he goes out for his walk towards the places of London resort. Along Norton Folgate, and Bishopsgate Street, passing crowds of people and hackney-coaches, and glancing, with the eye of an antiquarian and a *connoisseur* in old architecture, at such buildings of antique aspects as were and are conspicuous in that thoroughfare—the old church of St. Helen's, the old church of St. Ethelburga, and that much-admired remnant of the civic architecture of the fifteenth century, Crosby Hall, or Crosby Place, mentioned in Shakspeare's *Richard III.*: let the metropolitan reader distinctly figure this as the usual direction followed by Chatterton in his walks from Mr. Walmsley's, in Shoreditch. Beyond that, his wanderings may be various; frequently, of course, along the main line of Cornhill, past the Bank, as it then was, and the then new Mansion House, into Cheapside; thence slowly along the purlieus of St. Paul's, with a peculiar lingering among the book-shops of Paternoster Row; and further, down Ludgate Hill, and up Fleet Street, towards Temple Bar and the Strand. Visits of business were, we may be sure, not neglected: and, in achieving his transits from one place to another, Chatterton, like the rest of us, may have been guilty of the egregious folly of attempting short cuts, and so may have bewildered himself among mazes of mean streets, proving their populousness by swarms of children, yet never to be seen by him, or by anybody else, more than once.

Oh! the weariness of these aimless walks of a young literary adventurer, without a purse or a friend, in the streets of London! The perpetual and anxious thought within, which scarcely any street-distraction can amuse; the listlessness with which, on coming to the parting of two ways, one suffers the least accident to determine which way one will take, both being indifferent; the vain castle-building in sanguine moments, when thousands of pounds seem possible and near; the utter prostration of spirit at other moments, when one inspects the shivering beggar that passes with new interest, as but another form of one's self, and when every glimpse of a damp, grassless churchyard through a railing acts as a horrible premonition of what may be the end; the curious and habitual examination of physiognomies met as one goes along; the occasional magic of a bright eye, or a lovely form, shooting a pang through the heart, and calling up, it may be, the image of a peerless one, distant, denied but unforgotten, till the soul melts in very tenderness, and all the past is around one again; the sudden start from such a mood, the flush, the clenched hand, the set teeth, the resolve, the manly hope, the dream of a home quiet, and blest after all with one sweet presence; and then, after that, the more composed gait, and the saunter towards the spots one prefers, till the waning day, or the need to work and eat, brings one back fatigued to the lonely room! And so from day to day a repetition of the same process. Ah, London, London! thou perpetual home of a shifting multitude, how many a soul is there not within thee at this hour, who, listening to that peculiar roar of time, which shows the concourse of myriads in thee, all co-operating for their ends, and yet feeling excluded, like an unclaimed atom, from the midst of thy bustle, might cry aloud to thee, and say, "I, too, am strong; I am young; I am willing; I can do something; leave me not out; attend to me; make room for me; devise the means of absorbing me, and such as me, within thy just activity; and defer not till I and they make thee hearken with our shrieks!" But London rolls on; and men, young and old, do demand impossible things! If it defies us to make the medium without conform, some power, is at least left, to shape and rule the spirit within!

Chatterton, we believe, came to London with as practical and resolute a spirit as any literary adventurer before or since. His excitement with his change of position, his confidence in being able to make his way, and his activity in availing himself of every means of doing so, seem to have been really prodigious. Hence, probably, his first walks in London were as little listless as was possible in the circumstances. Instead of idle and aimless saunterings, such as we have described, many of his London walks during the first week or two of his stay at Shoreditch must have been direct visits from spot to spot, and from person to person. By no means diffident or bashful, and, so far as we can see, perfectly heart-whole as regarded all the Bristol beauties he had left, he probably wasted less time than many others with less genius would have wasted, in useless regrets and pointless reveries. Compared with his position at Bristol, as the miserable drudge of a lawyer's office, his present life, as a free literary rover in London, appeared to him, doubtless, all but paradisaic. To work in the morning in his lodging in Shoreditch, with sometimes a saucy word for his landlady's niece, though not so saucy by half as the slut would have liked; then to go out to

make calls, and see sights in various quarters, buying a tart at a pastrycook's for his dinner, spending a shilling, or, perhaps two, in other little indulgences, and quite alive always to the distraction of a pretty face wherever he chanced to be; then to come home again at an earlier or a later hour, and to sit up half the night writing and tearing papers, greatly to the bewilderment and alarm of that very ill-used boy, Master Walmsley, who lost, we dare say, half his natural allowance of sleep in watching his movements from beneath the blankets:—here was happiness, here was liberty, here was a set of conditions in which to commence the process of setting fire to the Thames!

Altogether this volume of *Essays* must be reckoned as worthy a conspicuous place on the shelves of every well-assorted library.

PRECIPICES AND PEASANT LIFE.

Modern Painters. Volume IV. *Of Mountain Beauty.* By John Ruskin, M.A. Smith, Elder, and Co.

(THIRD NOTICE.)

CERTAINLY the most remarkable characteristic of Mr. Ruskin's work is the love it shows for every natural appearance: the form of waving branches, the ripples of light upon a stream, the varied architecture of clouds, and the manifold charms of mountains, are to be studied in his works by painter and by poet, for fresh insight when placed in contact with them in nature. We will not quote any of these passages in which the present volume abounds, because we desire them to be read in their proper connexions; and it is their quantity which constitutes their peculiarity. This love often inspires him with eloquence, which only wants the form to be Wordsworthian poetry. As, for example, when speaking of precipices, which are among the most impressive as well as the most really dangerous, "dark in colour, robed with everlasting mourning, for ever tottering like a great fortress shaken by war, fearful as much in their weakness as in their strength, and yet gathered after every fall into darker frowns and unhumiliated threatenings; for ever incapable of comfort or of healing from herb or flower, nourishing no root in their crevices, touched by no hue of life on buttress or ledge, but to the utmost desolate; knowing no shaking of leaves in the wind, nor of grass beside the stream, no motion but their own mortal shivering, the dreadful crumbling of atom from atom in their corrupting stones; knowing no sound of living voice or living tread, cheered neither by the kid's bleat nor the marmot's cry; haunted only by uninterrupted echoes from far off wandering hither and thither among their walls, unable to escape, and by the hiss of angry torrents, and sometimes the shriek of a bird that flits near the face of them and sweeps frightened back from under their shadow into the gulph of air; and sometimes when the echo has faded and the wind has carried the sound of the torrent away, and the bird has vanished and the mouldering stones are still for a little time, a brown moth opening and shutting its wings upon a grain of dust may be the only thing that moves or feels in all the waste of weary precipice darkening five thousand feet of the blue depth of heaven." Is there not a forlorn beauty in this style which affects the reader somewhat as the scene itself would affect him? "I cannot myself conceive," he adds, "any picture more impressive than a faithful rendering of such a cliff would be, supposing the aim of the artist to be the utmost tone of sad sublime." But there are difficulties in the way of painting such a scene, and one alone, which he notices, would suffice to deter an artist, namely, the difficulty of size. "For the majesty of this kind of cliff depends entirely on its size; a low range of such rock is as ugly as it is uninteresting; and it is only by making the spectator understand the enormous scale of their desolation and the space which the shadow of their danger oppresses, that any impression can be made upon his mind. And this scale cannot be expressed by any artifice: the mountain cannot be made to look large by painting it blue or faint, otherwise it loses all its ghastliness. It must be painted in its own near and solemn colours, black and ashen grey; and its size must be expressed by thorough drawing of its innumerable details—pure quantity—with certain points of comparison explanatory of the whole."

Mr. Ruskin objects that painters avoid such really grand and gloomy scenes and seek a false sublime. "A portrait is not thought grand unless it has a thundercloud behind it (as if a hero could not be brave in the sunshine)." This strikes us as sophistical. No painter doubts the bravery of a sunlit hero, but he wishes by accessories to suggest certain ideas. "A ruin is not melancholy enough till it is seen by moonlight or twilight," adds Mr. Ruskin, and the fact is so, for during the glare of the sun, the numerous hum of insects, the obtrusive energy of present life takes away from the sense of loneliness and death which a ruin calls up; and the painter rightly chooses such a moment for the representation of his object as will best express the whole truth about it.

But we must not be tempted into questioning Mr. Ruskin's dicta, or we shall keep the reader many weeks over the volume. It is pleasant to wander with him along the valley of the Rhône, and see with his eyes, as far up the glen, "as we pause beside the cross, the sky is seen, through the openings in the pines, thin with excess of light; and in its clear consuming flame of white space the summits of the rocky mountains are gathered into solemn crowns and circlets, all flushed in that strange, faint silence of possession by the sunshine which has in it so deep a melancholy; full of power yet as frail as shadows; lifeless like the walls of a sepulchre, yet beautiful in tender fall of crimson folds, like the veil of some sea spirit, that lives and dies as the foam flashes; fixed on a perpetual throne, stern against all strength, lifted above all sorrow, and yet effaced and melted utterly into the air by that last sunbeam that has crossed them from between the two golden clouds." This is the poet in the glens telling us what visions floated before his eye; and as he muses on them he moralizes. Those rocky summits he has called high above all sorrow, but he now adds, "not unwitnessing to it. The traveller on his happy journey as his foot springs from the deep turf and strikes the pebbles gaily over the edge of the mountain road, sees with a glance of delight the clusters of nut-brown cottages that nestle among those sloping orchards and glow beneath the boughs of the pines. Here it may well seem to him, if there be sometimes hardship, there must be at least innocence, peace, and fellowship of the human soul with nature. It is not

so. The wild goats that leap along those rocks have as much passion of joy in all that fair work of God as the men that toil among them. Perhaps more. Enter the street of one of those villages, and you will find it foul with that gloomy foulness that is suffered only by torpor or by anguish of soul. Here it is torpor, not absolute suffering, not starvation or disease, but darkness of calm enduring; the spring known only as the time of the scythe; and the autumn as the time of the sickle; the sun only as a warmth, the wind as a chill, and the mountains as a danger. They do not understand so much as the name of beauty or of knowledge. They understand dimly that of virtue. Love, patience, hospitality, faith,—these things they know. To glean their meadows side by side, so happier; to bear the burden up the breathless mountain flank unmurmuringly; to bid the stranger drink from their vessel of milk; to see at the foot of their low deathbeds a pale figure upon a cross, dying also, patiently; in this they are different from the cattle and the stones, but in all this unrewarded as far as concerns their present life. For them there is neither hope nor passion of spirit; for them neither advance nor exultation. *Black bread, rude roof, dark night, laborious day, weary arm at sunset; and life ebbs away.* No books, no thoughts, no attainments, no rest; except only sometimes a little sitting in the sun under the church wall as the bell tolls thin and far in the mountain air; a pattering of a few prayers not understood, by the altar rails of the dimly gilded chapel, and so back to the sombre home, with the cloud upon them still unbroken."

This is a gloomy picture, but he avers that it is true of the Savoyard peasant, and it leads him into a tirade against opera peasants, and the false delight in them when seen from the pit stalls; actually suggesting that the vast sums of money spent on the opera should be given to the amelioration of the same peasants; a suggestion which need not detain us here. Nor indeed must we linger longer over the volume, in spite of the many passages which tempt us. Our discursive remarks and extracts have by no means exhausted the book, but they may serve to indicate the varied pleasure which awaits the reader.

THE KING OF ROME.

History of the Consulate and the Empire (Histoire du Consulat et de l'Empire). By M. Thiers. Vol. XIII. David Nutt.

A NAPOLEON is to be christened at Notre-Dame: a Napoleon was christened at Notre-Dame forty-four years ago. Arch-Chancellor Cambaceres presided over the first ceremony: a Cambaceres presides over the second; and, in the spirit of the younger Kean, pores over the archæology of the Empire. It must be confessed that the drama, so far as it has yet been acted, is a complete restoration of the original Bonaparte programme. Processions, salutes, palatial and ecclesiastical rituals, have been copied with the most exact fidelity, in accordance with the imperial rubric. The second Empire dares not invent a new tableau, or even a new effect. Only in one particular has a modification been introduced into the design of circumstance and pomp, and this was considered essential by Cambaceres Kean. It is not possible now to christen the Child of France titular King of Rome. When a baby was born to the first Empire, Rome had been declared, by an inflated decree, the city next in rank to Paris; consequently, in imitation of a German precedent, which conferred upon the heir of the Empire the title of King of the Romans, Napoleon gave his son to Italy. That it is not at present in the power of the Tuileries to do; but in all other respects it is singular how the details of the original ceremony, as now collected and grouped by a real historian, correspond with the dramatic restoration effected by Cambaceres Kean.

M. Thiers' last volume appears opportunely in confirmation of the identity which has been already remarked between the attitudes, affectations, decrees, spectacles, and political and religious theatricals of the first and the third Napoleon. We shall have a critical examination to bestow on this chapter of a great history verging to its close; at present, we have to do with the birth and baptism of the King of Rome. The reader may then collate the newspaper reports—allowing for their gaudy verbiage—with the masterly historic descriptions of M. Thiers.

On the 20th of March, 1811, the Empress Marie Louise gave birth to Napoleon's only legitimate son. It is unnecessary to quote from M. Thiers his account of the scene in her chamber; we might imagine, while reading it, that Louis Napoleon had rehearsed the behaviour of his uncle; but, at last, the child was born, around whose head were emblazoned the prophecies of a mighty destiny:—

Napoleon took it eagerly in his arms, caressed it tenderly, and, when he knew it was a son, was moved by a consciousness of pride that betrayed itself in his face; it seemed that Providence had given him, in this important event, a new and conspicuous pledge of her protection. He presented the new-born to his family and court, and then consigned it to Madame de Montesquiou, who had been appointed governess of the Children of France. Immediately afterwards the canon of the Invalides announced to the capital the birth of a prince, apparent heir to the throne of the greater part of Europe. It had been arranged that, if the child were a girl, twenty-one guns would be fired; if a boy, a hundred and one. The people, rushing out of their houses and crowding in the streets, counted with intense curiosity the reports of the cannon when the twenty-first had been fired.

Here the parallel ends, for M. Thiers goes on to say:—

"The people were inspired with almost as much joy as during the most brilliant period of the Emperor's reign." No brilliant period has yet arrived in the history of the second Empire. As to the popular confidence referred to by M. Thiers, its existence was, as he says, doubtful in 1814, and, in 1856, is only affected by the *Moniteur*. At all events, the shadows of coming complications were then so dense that, awaiting the reconciliation of jealous powers, Napoleon resolved to delay the christening of his baby until the following June. The propitious birth was, however, announced in the various provinces, and to all friendly courts. Louis Napoleon has followed steadily in his uncle's track. He circulates the same heraldic formula, and postpones the christening to the same month of June.

Extraordinary derision of fortune! (writes M. Thiers). This child, so deeply desired, so warmly saluted, destined to perpetuate the Empire, is born at a moment when that Empire, though colossal, has been undermined in all its parts, and is ap-

proaching the term of its duration. Few minds, it is true, had perceived the profoundly hidden causes of the ruin that was to come; but vague apprehensions had seized upon the masses; their sense of security was gone, although their submission appeared complete.

The decline of industry, the privations of the poor, the intrigues of the Church, the disturbed relations of the several powers, forcing upon Napoleon the idea of a Council of Conciliation, filled up the interval between the Imperial birth and the baptism at Notre-Dame. The afternoon of the day fixed for the ceremony was also appointed for the first meeting of this council. While he was preparing new alliances and smoothing away his domestic embarrassments, Napoleon schemed how to convert the christening of his son into a significant state occasion. He would summon round the cradle all the great officers and public bodies of the Empire; he would bring the Catholic Church itself to the altar; and force it to consecrate the title of the King of Rome. But the bishops in Paris shrank from this deception. They declined to assist on the same day at the christening and at the council, and thus deprived the Emperor of the strength he might have gained from the idea that the Papal See itself, by its representatives, had sanctioned the Roman authority of Napoleon's son. Joseph and Jerome Bonaparte, with the Duke of Wurtemberg, visited Paris, to be present at the ceremony. The Emperor of Austria, by proxy, stood as sponsor for the child:—

The entire population of Paris stood massed together as the splendid *cortège* entered the city from St. Cloud. It had already enjoyed some compensation for the commercial sufferings of the past year in the partial return of industrial activity, in the prodigal expenditure of the revenue at home, in the civil as well as in the war departments. It received with pleasure this new pledge granted by Heaven of the continuance of an unprecedented power, which was not that of one man only, but of all France; and if it had experienced days of disquietude and discontent, that was when Napoleon seemed to be imperilling the duration of that power.

The public applause was marked, not indeed by the enthusiasm of former times, but by an excitement always produced in Paris by the spectacle of success and glory, by pompous ceremonies and brilliant fêtes.

Paris glittered with a thousand fires; the theatres were opened gratuitously to the eager population; the public squares were covered with gifts, presented to the people of Paris by the happy father of the King of Rome.

Rumours of a pacific settlement of Europe—though the disastrous Russian war was at hand—contributed to the pleasantries of these official rejoicings:—

Napoleon, accompanied by his wife and family, conducted his child to Notre Dame, and there presented him to the ministers of his religion. A hundred bishops and twenty cardinals, the senate, the legislative corps, the mayors of the great towns, the representatives of Europe, filled the holy precincts within which the imperial child was to receive the waters of baptism. When the priest had performed the rite, and restored the King of Rome to the governess of the Children of France, Madame de Montesquiou, that lady handed it to the Emperor, who, taking it in his arms, and raising it above his head, offered it to the salutations of the whole magnificent concourse, with an emotion that was shared by all. . . . How deep is the mystery that envelops human life! What would have been the dismal astonishment of that assemblage, brilliant with prosperity and grandeur, had a veil been lifted, to discover the ruins, the blood, the fires of the future, the flames of Moscow, the ice of the Beresina, Leipsic, Fontainebleau, Elba, St. Helena, and—lastly, the death of that august infant, in exile, eighteen years of age, without one of the crowns now clustered on his head!

Quitting the metropolitan church in the midst of a prodigious multitude, Napoleon repaired to the Hôtel de Ville, where an imperial banquet had been prepared. Absolute governments are sometimes distinguished by their voluntary flattery of the people; the city of Paris, especially, has received from its masters the most prodigal caresses which have cost them nothing. It was there that Napoleon had desired to celebrate the birth of his son, it was there he passed the day. The citizens admitted to the festival saw him seated at table, with a crown on his head, surrounded by the kings of his family and by a host of foreign princes, taking his repast in public, like the ancient German monarchs successors to the Empire of the West. Fascinated by this resplendent scene, the Parisians applauded, flattering themselves, as if duration belonged to grandeur and wisdom to glory.

It will be easy for the reader to separate the coincidences of the first and second ceremony from the circumstances that form their contrast. In the original Napoleon the world saw a man who had usurped an empire by the force of commanding mental powers, of military success, of administrative genius. When he anointed his young child King of Rome, it was after Italy had been subjugated by his prowess; he had been false to the commonwealth; he had been cruel and treacherous; but, beyond and above his public crimes, his public achievements, his victories, the comparison of his intellect with the little intellects of his generation, constituted the basis and origin of his power. How far is the parallel completed here? History will decide.

M. Thiers' thirteenth volume brings the grand procession narrative to the famous passage of the Niemen. There, where two hundred thousand cavalry and four hundred thousand infantry, with an *Inferno* of artillery, were spread under the eye of this Xerxes, who dreamed of building his frontier fortress on the Pole, the historian pauses once more. But between the birth of the King of Rome and the commencement of this unpropitious march, many events occurred deserving narration and criticism.

The Arts.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE KIND OF STORY TOLD.

Painters nothing would benefit so much by a political revolution as the world of art, nothing suffers so much from the quiet state of society as painting. Looking around the collection of the Royal Academy, this year, one is struck by the painful absence of action. In some cases the artist attempts to compensate the want of action in the figures, by the working of some abstracted problem; endeavouring to paint in the outward features, or in the situation the working of an inward emotion—always a difficult task, and seldom suited to the graphic arts. Sometimes the painter, striving to find sufficient interest to engage his

own pencil and the spectator, labours at the accessories; and the furniture of the scene is brought out with painful distinctness, and sameness. It may happen that strong emotions co-exist with extreme quiescence in the attitude, and we have an example in one of the prettiest pictures of the whole collection—Mr. NOEL PATON'S picture of "Home." A soldier has returned, maimed and sick, to his own humble house. His aged mother is bent almost as much with grief as tenderness; her head resting upon his shoulder. His wife has knelt by him and has her arms round him, her cheek resting against his breast; her eyes closed her features stiffened in that state of excessive emotion which is near akin to fainting. A child lies in a cradle in a corner of the room. The picture is lighted from the fire. It is painted with great care in every part, the furniture being executed with a finish that approaches almost to still life. There is one defect in the picture which is rather serious—the countenance of the man, the form of the features, the expression, are all such as mark rather an elevated condition, and render the common soldier, garbed as he is in the coarse uniform of the line, a contradiction to the verisimilitude of the whole design. It might be taken for the return of some great man in disguise. This is purely the result of the jarring between the ideal in the treatment of the man's head, and the matter-of-fact in the treatment of the accessories that occupy the larger part of the field of the picture. The chief interest, however, centres in the face of the woman. It is beautiful, it is perfectly natural, it is a very exact representation of the particular state of emotion; being natural, and the emotion itself being of a kind that sways human nature without distinction of class, the head and countenance of the woman are at once ideal and natural. The design, therefore, and the execution of the picture are generally successful. The treatment of the accessories is such that the view of the spectator naturally turns to the centre of the canvas, which is the central point in the subject; and, however minutely the accessories are painted, they do not distract the attention. It is one of the happiest specimens of painting in the modern manner, where art endeavours to keep parallel with the minute matter-of-factness of the newspaper.

Mr. WARD'S picture, "The Last Parting of Marie Antoinette with her Son," is in the same style, but is not a happy specimen, and is not the best example of the particular painter. It is not only that the attitudes are more set, the features also more fixed and more laboured; but, while the whole picture presents a certain fixity in the action, the excessive labour of the accessories and the general diffusion of light destroy the unity, and place the furniture almost on a par with the human figures. Each bit of the picture looks like a separate study, and the whole design a cento of such studies casually brought together, and accidentally forming rather an effective theatrical group.

There is more freedom, and therefore more force, in Mr. ELMORE'S picture of "Charles the Fifth at Yuste." The superannuated monarch is bidding farewell to his pictures, the sunshine, and the pleasures of the world, while his feeble eye and his fatigued taste almost prevent him from snatching that last taste for which his lingering love of life hungers. Here is a very abstract idea, treated somewhat after the intense manner; and one little trifle will show the want of truth that lies at the bottom of the artist's failure. A man so declining as CHARLES would inevitably exhibit the feebleness of his muscular system as much in the eyelids as in any other part of his frame, and he could not gaze upon TITIAN'S painting with eyes so open as the painter has given him. It is, therefore, not the dying CHARLES THE FIFTH, but some actor in the guise of CHARLES, who has put on the outward manner of death with all the inward force of life. But are we to blame a painter who is endeavouring to get an intense idea out of the grouping of inanimate objects and a feeble old gentleman? Who can paint a regret?

The nightmare of inaction, the habit of substituting still life for active life, has so completely gained upon the modern school, save where they have rushed into the præ-Raphaelite style, that some of the most established painters of the day actually cannot put figures into action. Here is Mr. CHARLES LANDSEER, who paints "The Assassination of Alboin, King of the Lombards," and whose king stands to be assassinated as steadily as if he were afraid to spoil a stage effect. Mr. HANNAH endeavours to paint Newton's reflections on seeing an apple fall in his garden at Woolsthorpe—an interesting experiment in præ-Raphaelite treatment of an orchard with a sitting figure by twilight. Mr. CROSS, who is capable of better things, endeavours to paint Lucy Preston's *repartee*, when she said to Queen Mary, who was looking on her father's picture—"I was thinking how strange it was that you should wish to kill my father only because he loved *yours* faithfully." Now the point of this anecdote lies entirely in the *repartee*; there is nothing very historically striking in the position, and the aim of the painter at fetching out the kind of force that lies in the antithesis spoils the simplicity of the design, without rendering it forcible.

We will take two pictures out of the general level, which are both remarkable, and both of which imply powers in the painters to deal with the more obvious passion and action that are suitable to picture. One is the small painting numbered 413, which is left anonymous from the accident that the card dropped out of the picture when the catalogue was made. It is painted by Mr. BUICRON, it is in the præ-Raphaelite manner, and is not particularly intelligible in story. A cavalier, who appears to have been gambling, has been killed in a duel with swords; a young lady is attending him in his dying moments, and appears to be mourning; a man in Roundhead costume stands immediately behind: he may be a scholar, perhaps the girl's brother, but his relation to the group is not very obvious. The expression on the girl's face, which is that of grief under a countenance habitually commanded, requires an explanation that the catalogue does not give. The ghastly paleness of the cavalier, the condition of his features, at once stiffened and relaxed by the coldness of death, and the vague expression, show a power of dealing with the aspect of mortality which might be developed, if it were emancipated from a certain schoolboy stiffness, to tell a story with much force. The accessories, of course, are handled after the præ-Raphaelite manner; and we find that the painter will bestow as much labour in working out a bramble, a bit of tree trunk, or a torn card, as he will in elaborating a countenance. Not only so,—he is so intent upon presenting the products of his work, that they are arranged like specimens in a hortus siccus, each in a position parallel to the plane of the picture, and thus totally violating the freedom and accidental arrangement of nature.

The other picture is Chatterton lying dead upon his bed with the epigraph:—

"Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight;
And burned is Apollo's laurel bough."

The young adventurer, who wanted to snatch fame by help of forgery, is lying upon his pallet, dead. His garret, and the furniture, exhibit the barest poverty; a box full of torn papers is near him; his costume betrays the junction of extreme misery with the attempt to keep up appearances; his face is haggard but indestructibly handsome. The artist has endeavoured to present the actual appearance of death when life is suddenly cut short. The figure is graceful, and therefore the attitude is so; yet there is wild disorder and haggard despair in the action as well as in the countenance. The garret window slightly opened

looks forth above the roofs of the neighbouring houses, upon a glimpse of distant sunshine. The whole picture is painted with great care, in the happiest manner of the modern English style, rather chalky in its colour, but true to texture. It is as if you saw the very figure of the dead put before you, bringing you close to that display of frustrated ambition, of capacity for life joined with ghastly death. The effect is very striking.

[We have to apologise to Mr. EESLIE for ascribing to him a picture by another artist of the same name. The inadvertence was not of very serious moment; but it was an inadvertence, and ought to be corrected.]

RISTORI AS MEDEA.

THE world has been to see "The RISTORI" and the world has come away in raptures. The critics have tortured their ingenuity in discovering points to admire, and have exhausted their artistic vocabulary in attempting to express their admiration. First impressions are proverbially dangerous, and, therefore, we determined to see her more than once, in order that we might be able to form a deliberate judgment. If, on the one hand, this remarkable person owes something at least to the unworthy desire of depreciating the great RACHEL, she has, on the other hand, herself suffered detraction at the hands of those who have displayed a foolish jealousy of the fame of her French rival.

It is, we think, impossible to doubt that RISTORI is a woman of genius; and that whether superior or inferior to RACHEL, the lovers of dramatic art ought thankfully to welcome so eminent an artist. The *Medea* by M. LEGOUVÉ, which she selected for her *début*, has many defects. It has no plot; it exhibits little skill in construction; it is obviously written for the purpose of exhibiting the powers of a particular actress; it is a series of situations, each of which is intended to afford the actress scope for the display of her histrionic faculties. Nevertheless, the play is well written, and has been so admirably translated by M. Montanelli that the Italian version is, to our mind, superior to the French original. The critics may abuse the play as they please, but it is idle to pretend that a work which affords such scope for dramatic power can be entirely without merit. Our own opinion is, that unless it contain some absurd inconsistencies, M. LEGOUVÉ has achieved a considerable success in the performance of an almost hopeless task—the construction of a drama capable of exhibiting in one evening the varied emotions which sway a fiercely passionate woman's soul. It would be tedious to analyse this tragedy scene by scene. But MEDEA's character, as drawn by M. LEGOUVÉ, appears to have been so strangely misunderstood, that it may be well to explain ourselves a little. MEDEA is no mere monster of iniquity. Before she beheld JASON, she lived a life of innocent happiness. From the hour she beheld him she had but one thought—JASON. The power of Love filled her soul. It did not indeed destroy her other faculties, but it overshadowed them. She feels herself under the domination of an inexorable power—the God of Love. To some, indeed, this god is the happy child of heaven—

incoronato

Giovine nune dal sorriso eterno;

but to MEDEA—

di nere Eumenidi è messaggio

E di lividi serpi s'inghiandola.

Hence the seeming contradictions of the *Medea* of LEGOUVÉ. Sometimes she is the incarnation of all the noblest feelings of woman's nature, but again the terrible god takes possession of her soul, and the voice of nature is suddenly extinguished. In this *Medea* we behold a woman of strong passions, in whom, however, the passion of love is developed to madness. Such as it seems to us is the key to the anomalies of this apparently inexplicable character.

In such a drama the successful artist must obviously have every passion at command. *Medea* is a queen—she is a mother—she is afflicted—she has suffered wrongs; though abandoned by her husband she yet seeks him through the world—for that husband's love she has perpetrated crimes the most atrocious; she is possessed by the power of Love—chained to his chariot-wheels; she is brought face to face with her rival—she is consumed by jealousy—she dotes on her children to distraction—she is left alone in the world to struggle with inexorable Fate. There is, indeed, something awful about her. The very fashion of her countenance, stamped with the mysteries of her life, inspires terror in all spectators. She is haunted by her guilt—the smell of blood is upon her. As she crosses the threshold of the temple she hears a voice in her ear—

"Qui si respira

Odor di sangue"

Her very children shrink from her embrace.

In such a character there is full scope for dramatic genius. In the attempt to portray this character, RISTORI ventured upon an arduous task, but in that task we think she has succeeded. Clad after the old Etruscan fashion, in the ample folds of an orange-coloured robe, with a green scarf—her luxuriant black hair collected behind, whilst the long curls are left to fall about her cheeks—her fine forehead bound with a scarlet band, and admirably setting off those strongly marked but finely chiselled features—RISTORI, the moment she steps upon the stage, at once fixes attention. That impressive but at times stooping figure—that sallow complexion—dark eye—long aquiline nose—a mouth full of change-

ful expression—chin rivalling in delicacy the chin of the great BONAPARTE, combined with the thousand tones of that rich musical voice, and a natural genius for the statuesque, form together a combination of natural advantages, the effect of which it would be difficult in any woman to conceal. But RISTORI has been an anxious student. At times, indeed, it seems as if her elaborate pantomime lacked feeling; nor can we avoid thinking that the story, as she tells it, of her first interview with Jason labours under this defect. Nevertheless we are free to confess that throughout most of the performance it was impossible to watch her without that thrill of emotion which is the surest token of a genuine inspiration. Some critics, indeed, seem to think that the sort of imitation in which this actress indulges verges on the burlesque. Probably in the hands of any but an Italian artist of genius it would be so. But to us that almost exaggerated demonstration, absurd as it would probably be in a self-contained Englishwoman, seems but the abandonment to the genuine feeling of the time. This actress, be it remembered, is from the fiery fickle South, with all its fierce genius. The character which she portrays is the impersonation of a thousand passions. RISTORI transforms herself into MEDEA, and that after the Italian fashion.

To review this play scene by scene, and as it were to mark it for those who have not yet visited the LYCEUM, is not the purpose of a critique. Enough of this sort has been done already. Who has not heard of *Medea* as she first appears—the picture of royal affliction—descending the rocks with her famished children? of that grand burst of artistic power, in which, like the very incarnation of jealousy, she seems to tear her rival limb from limb? Nor will those who witnessed it soon forget the picturesque terrors of that look which *Medea* casts upon *Creusa*, when drawing aside her long dark curls and stretching her body forward into the innocent girl's face, she exclaims:—

Non parli

D'Eumenidi e d'amor duci a delitto?

Non vedesti sul mio livido volto

Il tartareo segnal che Giove in fronte

Dell'omicida imprime?

Spake I not

Of the Furies and of love that leads to crime?

Seest thou not on my livid face

That mark of hell which Jove stamps

Upon the murderer's front?

Not less profoundly pathetic was that first interview with Jason when, in spite of all the wrongs she has suffered at his hands, she persists in the mad hope that he still cares for her. Checked by his coldness in the mid-career of her exultation, for that she has at length found the desire of her eyes, she exclaims with ineffable tenderness:—

Forse il lacrimar di sua

Morte alla voce, e un disperar che conta

Sei lime, e il lungo aspro cammin la mia

Sembianza guastar sì, che pellegrina

Gli appar;

and then—whilst her half-averted eye still searches for his—

Giasone, io son Medea.

Let those who doubt the power of RISTORI go and watch the burst of overwhelming hate with which, finding Jason and her children lost to her for ever, she takes refuge in the thought of vengeance. Nothing can excel the fine frenzy with which she stalks the stage:—

Sangue!—sangue!—strazziar—spezzar suo core

Un che di spaventoso atroce strano . . .

Un supplizio a natura umana ignoto . . .

Pari, alfin, se il puote, all'odio mio.

Like *King Lear* to his daughter:

I will have such revenges on ye both

That all the world shall—I will do such things—

What they are yet I know not; but they shall be

The terrors of the Earth.

Perhaps the finest effort of that peculiar faculty for physical description which this actress possesses is the scene in which she draws her dagger and imagines herself officiating at the murder of her rival *Creusa*. Every gesture shows the spirit of the Italian avenger—even the frantic kiss of the dagger as she rushes from the stage. Were it necessary to sum up in a word the peculiar merit of RISTORI, we should say it consisted in her voice and her countenance. The tones of that voice express to the ear every vicissitude of thought—the play of those features reveals to the eye every alternation of human feeling.

It would be rash to pronounce RISTORI a consummate actress until she has displayed her powers in more characters. It may be that her faculties require the extravagance of emotion which is fitting in the *Medea*. We should like to see her in a different part. But as we sat in the stalls of the LYCEUM, we could not repress the desire of witnessing her interpretation of *Lady Macbeth*, or of *Constance* in *King John*. This would test her powers to the full. M. MONTANELLI might, perhaps, be induced to lend his aid.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

PENNANT.—On the 11th inst., at 36, Belgrave-square, the

Lady Louisa Douglas Pennant: a daughter.

SHAW.—On the 7th inst., at 26, Belgrave-road, Pinilco, the

wife of George Shaw, Esq., barrister-at-law, prematurely:

a son.

TOLLEMACHE.—On Saturday, the 7th inst., at South

Witham Rectory, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. R. W.

Lionel Tollemache: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

FORESTER—MELBOURNE.—On the 10th inst., at St.

John's Church, Paddington, by the Hon. and Rev. Or-

lando Forester, Lord Forester to Lady Melbourne.

HAINGUERLOP—BLOUNT.—On the 9th inst., at the

Church of St. Philippe du Roulo, Paris, Edouard, eldest

son of Monsieur and Madame Hainguerlot, of the

Château de Villandry, Indre-et-Loire, and grandson of the

late Maréchal Oudinot, Duc de Reggio, to Alice, eldest

daughter of Edward Blount, Esq., of Paris, and niece of

Sir Edward Blount, Bart., of Mawley, Salop.

DEATHS.

CAREW.—On the 2d inst., at Castle Borough, county Wex-

ford, Robert Shapland Lord Carew, K.P., aged 69.

GOODALL.—On the 9th inst., at 4, Camden-square, Leonard,

the youngest son of Frederick Goodall, A.R.A.

SCOTT.—On the 9th inst., at Sandhurst-grange, aged 18,

Georgina Laura, daughter of the Hon. Francis Scott, M.P.

SHREWSBURY.—On Wednesday, the 4th inst., at Paris
the Rt. Hon. Maria Teresa, Countess Dowager of Shrews-

bury.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, June 10.

BANKRUPTS.—SAMUEL LOVELOCK and THOMAS FORSTER, Dowgate-hill and Streatham, india-rubber manufacturers—JOHN ROSE CORMACK, late of Russell-square, boarding-house keeper—CHARLES CRAKE HAMILTON, Prince's-street, Bloomsbury, ironmonger—JAMES GREEN, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, coal-merchant—SAMUEL PIERSON, Sun-street, Bishopsgate-street, ironmonger—THOMAS SMALL PACK, Husband Posworth, Leicester, grocer—WILLIAM HOWE, Coventry, builder—WILLIAM ROBINSON LOWE, Wolverhampton, manufacturing chemist—HENRY GOMME, Cheltenham, draper—WILLIAM MARKS BENISON SARELL, Holsworthy, Devonshire, ironmonger—EDWARD SMITH, Leeds, hosier—JAMES HOLLINLAKE, late of Scotland, near Bacup, and elsewhere, cotton spinner—JAMES DAVENPORT, Macclesfield, watchmaker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—W. PAUL, Borrowstounness, ship broker.

Friday, June 13.

BANKRUPTS.—EDMUND WEBB, Portswood, timber dealer—WILLIAM NORFOLK, York, tanner—MAURICE RICHARDS, Birmingham, grocer—CHARLES EDWARD BACK,

Tottenham-court-road, grocer—EDWIN FISHER, Hackney-road, oil and colourman—HENRY JONATHAN HAWKINS, Midway-terrace, Lower-road, Rotherhithe, cowkeeper—GEORGE NEWMAN DOBSON, Poole, tailor—RICHARD GRIFFITH, Pwllhell, now of Penychain, Abercromby, Carnarvon, draper and grocer—ROBERT SENIOR and STEPHEN SENIOR, Staines-lane, blanket manufacturers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—WILLIAM BOYD, Glasgow, commission agent.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday, June 13, 1856.

THE trade in English and Foreign Wheat is firm at 1s. over Monday's rates. There are very few arrivals of Wheat or Maize off the coast. A fine cargo of Kalafat Wheat arrived in good order has been sold at 61s., and one of Galatz of poor quality at 55s., cost, freight and insurance. Also a cargo of Galatz Maize arrived with bad report at 20s., six cargoes of the same on passage at 30s., four of Ibrail on passage at 20s., and one of Ibrail in a Greek vessel six months on passage at 20s., and a cargo of Saldi Beans about due at 21s., all costs, freight, and insurance. Some cargoes of Tuganrog (Ghirka) Wheat have been sold at 52s. 6d., and of Berdianski and Marianopolit at 57s., cost, freight and insurance, for immediate shipment. Barley, with a trifling supply, sells readily at former prices. Oats also are in request at 4d. to 1s. advance. Beans on the spot are 1s. dearer, and cargoes on passage are held at 32s. cost, freight and insurance.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, June 13, 1856.

The American difficulty and disasters in France prevent our Funds rising as they most unquestionably would, for the state of the Money Market is becoming so much easier.

Consols have fluctuated from 94 to 94½ since Monday.

The Turkish securities have been in demand during the week, both 6½ and 4½. Mexican Stock has slightly improved. In Foreign Railways there is considerable depression; some of the leading lines in France traverse the inundated districts, and one fears that expensive damages may have accrued to the several companies from the floods. French prices come worn from Paris. The new Loan will absorb all the spare capital in that country. As for a "Budget," there is no such drawback to the Emperor's private "Caisse," thus loan after loan will be required in that country until the end of the present man, when they will find themselves burthened with a very pretty little increase of public debt.

The state of our heavy Share Market is quiet and but little doing, the continuation prices are very heavy. Canada securities are very weak. Mines remain much neglected. Amongst the new speculations Riga Railway Shares have improved about 1½, and are now 3½ per share premium. The sanguine holders predict that they will reach 10½ premium when the terms of the concession are made public.

Rumours of Mr. Dallas's retirement have had an effect on the Market. The Funds leave off at 94½, for the opening.

Aberdeen, 25½; Bristol and Exeter, 88, 90; Caledonian, 61, 61½; Chester and Holyhead, 15, 16; East Anglian, 16½; Eastern Counties, 9½, 10½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 59, 61; Great Northern, 94½, 95½; Ditto, A stock, 77, 78; Ditto B stock, 129, 131; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 108, 107; Great Western, 61½, 61½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 75; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 92½, 93½; London and Blackwall, 7, 7½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 104, 105; London and North-Western, 102, 102½; London and South-Western, 99, 100; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 29½, 29½; Midland, 78½, 79; Birmingham and Derby, 49, 50; Newport, Abergeenny, and Hereford, 13, 15; North British, 35½, 36½; North Eastern (Berwick), 81, 82; Ditto, Extension, 5, 4½; Ditto, Great North Eastern Purchase, 3, 2½; Ditto, Leeds, 17½, 18½; Ditto, York, 58, 59; North Staffordshire, 5½, 5½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 28, 29; Scottish Central, 102, 104; Scottish Midland, 75, 78; South Devon, 14, 15; South Eastern, 71, 72; South Wales, 73, 75; Vale of Neath, 19, 20; West Cornwall, 63, 71; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 83, 83; Bombay and Baroda, 14, 2 pm.; Dutch Rhenish, 14, 2 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 37½, 37½; East Indian, 23½, 24; Ditto, Extension, 23½, 23½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A issue, 104½, 94½; Great Central of France, 64, 64½; Great Indian Peninsula, 22½, 23; Great Luxembourg, 54, 54½; Great Western of Canada, 25½, 25½; Ditto, New, 2½, 2½ pm.; Great Western of Canada Bonds, payable 1857, 100, 102; Ditto, ditto, Bonds, payable 1873, without option, 109½, 110½; Madras 4½ per cent. guar., 20½, 20½; Namur and Liege, with interest, 7½, 8½; Northern of France, 44½, 45; Paris and Lyons, 59, 59½; Paris and Orleans, 53, 55; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Sambre and Meuse, 9½, 10; Scinde, guar. 5 per cent., 24, 24½ pm.; West Flanders, 43, 5; Western and North Western of France, 36½, 37½; Brazil Imperial, 24, 24½; St. John del Rey, 25, 27; Cobre, 66, 66; Great Polgoth, 1, 1; Great Wheel Vor, 1, 1½; Linares, 8, 8½; Pontgibaud, 11, 12; Santiago de Cuba, 34, 44; South Australian, 4½, 4½; Australasian, 96, 98; Bank of London, 68, 70; London Chartered Australian, 184, 184½; Oriental Bank, 41, 43 x. d.; Australian Agricultural, 29, 30; Canada Land, 130, 134; Crystal Palace, 24, 24½; Oriental Gas, 14, 14½; Peel River Land, 3, 3½; Scottish Australian Investment, 14, 14½; South Australian Land, 364, 374; Van Diemen's Land, 154, 164.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	218	218	218½	217½	217½	217½
3 per Cent. Red.	93½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Consols for Account	94	94½	94½	94½	94½	94
New 3 per Cent. An.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 2½ per Cent.	79	79	79	79	79	79
Long Ans. 1860	3 3-16	3 3-16	3 3-16	3 3-16	3 3-16	3 3-16
India Stock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	6 p	6 p	6 p	6 p	6 p	6 p
Ditto, under £1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	5 p	5 p	5 p	5 p	5 p	5 p
Ditto, £500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, Small	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	101	Portuguese 4 per Cents	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	77	Russian Bonds, 5 per	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	104	Cents	1074
Chilian 3 per Cents	69	Russian 4½ per Cents	98
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65½	Spanish	25
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	95½	Spanish Committee Cer.	...
Ecuador Bonds	...	of Coup. not fun.	7
Mexican Account	22½	Turkish 6 per Cents	99½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	78½	Turkish New, 4 ditto	103½
Portuguese 4 per Cents	47½	Venezuela, 4½ per Cents	29½

MINERAL WATERS OF VICHY.—The increasing demand for these Waters, as valuable remedial agents, by the Upper Classes in England, has induced the Company to whom the French Government has conceded the privilege of vending them, to form an Establishment in London, where they may be obtained in any quantities precisely as they are bottled at the springs. The **PASTILLS** or **LOZENGES** prepared from the Saline Constituents of the Vichy Waters, and the **SALTS**, for Internal Use or for Baths, so celebrated on the Continent for all Stomach, Liver, and Renal Diseases, Gout, Rheumatism, &c., are also kept at the **VICHY WATERS COMPANY'S DEPOT**, 27, MARGARET STREET, CAVENTISH SQUARE.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday and during the week will be produced a New Farce entitled **A FASCINATING INDIVIDUAL**. Principal characters by Messrs. Emery and F. Robson; Misses Marston and Castleton. After which the New Drama of **RETRIBUTION**. Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, G. Vining, G. Murray, Leslie, Franks; Miss Marston and Miss Herbert. To conclude with **CATCHING A MERMAID**: Titus Tuffins, Mr. F. Robson.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—THE GREAT

FOUNTAINS.—The Directors of the Crystal Palace Company beg to announce that Wednesday, the 18th of June, has been fixed for the opening of the **GREAT FOUNTAINS**. On this day will take place the First Public Display of the whole system of Waterworks, comprising (in addition to the Fountains already in action) the Water Temples, the Cascades, the Two Large Waterfalls, and the Fountains of the Grand Lower Basins.

On this occasion, admission will be limited to holders of One Guinea (pink) and Two Guinea (yellow) Season Tickets, and to persons paying Half a Guinea.

Transferable Tickets (blue) will not be available on this day. See the dates specified on the face of these Tickets.

The doors of the Palace and Park will be opened at Twelve.

Military Bands will be in attendance, in addition to the Band of the Company.

Crystal Palace, June 5, 1856. By order, G. GROVE, Secretary.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—OPENING OF THE

GREAT FOUNTAINS IN PRESENCE OF HER MAJESTY.—The doors of the Palace and Park will open at Twelve. THE DISPLAY will take place between FIVE and SIX.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—GRAND HORTI-

CULTURAL FETE.—The Second Flower Show of the present season will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 25th and 26th instant. On Wednesday the 25th, the doors will be opened at 12 o'clock. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 7s. 6d. On Thursday, the 26th, the doors will be opened at 10 o'clock. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 2s. 6d. Gardeners producing satisfactory evidence of their employment, will (on application to the Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company on or before Friday, the 20th inst.) receive tickets of admission, not transferable, available on the 25th by payment of 2s. 6d. Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, and all Plants and Fruits for exhibition must be entered on or before Friday, the 20th inst. Extra Prizes will be given for Azaleas, if exhibited. For the accommodation of Gardeners a special train will leave London Bridge Station at 6 o'clock A.M. on Wednesday, the 25th. Trains will run from London Bridge at frequent intervals.

Tickets of Admission, including conveyance by railway, may be obtained previously at the London Bridge Terminus, at the several agents of the Brighton Company, and at the Company's Offices, 43, Regent Circus, Piccadilly. June 13, 1856.

DANTE, ALFIERI, THE ITALIAN DRAMA, AND

MADAME RISTORI. Lectures at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly (by Lord Ward's kind permission), on Tuesday and Thursday, June 17th and 19th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. The lecture on Alfieri will include readings from the Tragedies in which Madame Ristori is about to appear. Tickets to be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street; and at Roland's Library, 20, Berners-street, Oxford-street.

FRENCH EXHIBITION. THE THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL is NOW OPEN, at the GALLERY, 121, PALL-MALL. Admittance 1s. Season Tickets 5s. Catalogues 6d. B. TRODSHAM, Secretary.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN at their GALLERY, 5, PALL MALL EAST (close to Trafalgar-square). From nine till Dusk. Admittance 1s. Catalogue 6d. JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton, F.R.G.S.; and a new and highly interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at Four p.m. precisely.—Admission 1s.

HAIR DESTROYER, 1, LITTLE QUEEN-STREET,

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.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS MOST EXTRAORDINARY IN THEIR EFFECTS FOR CURING STOMACH COMPLAINTS.—Mr. John Sloan, of Aughtnecloy, informed Professor Holloway by letter that Mrs. Walker, residing in the same town, had been afflicted with a complaint in the Stomach for nearly Forty Years, which defied the efforts of all the Faculty round the neighbourhood to cure. Nothing whatever seemed to have the effect of rendering her any relief; in a state of despair she had recourse to Holloway's Pills, which in an incredible short period completely and effectually cured her. Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamp, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

SISAL CIGARS, SISAL CIGARS, at GOOD

RIOH'S Cigar, Tobacco, and Snuff Stores (established 1780), 407, Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square.—Bo containing 14 fine Sisal Cigars, for 1s. 9d.; post free, stamps extra: 1b. boxes, containing 109, 12s. 6d. None as genuine unless signed "H. N. Goodrich." A large stock of the most approved Brands.

THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY

No. 35, KING WILLIAM STREET, near LONDON BRIDGE.

Established 1823.

BANKERS.—The Commercial Bank of London. **RESIDENT PROPRIETOR.**—Mr. John Voce Moore. The Company are one of the oldest firms in the City of London, and have for nearly thirty-three years been distinguished by the excellence, cheapness, and purity of their Teas and Coffees.

They supply families properly introduced to them, or who can give them any respectable reference, upon the best trade terms, in parcels of any size exceeding 1lb. weight.

Teas, when desired, are packed in 10lb., 14lb., and 20lb. canisters, without extra charge; and 3½ value (including Coffee) forwarded carriage paid.

Good to Strong Congou Tea.....2s. 8d. to 3s. 0d. per lb.

Fine to very fine Pekoe Souchong.....3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d. "

Very Choice Souchong.....4s. 0d. "

Good Ceylon Coffee.....1s. 0d. "

Fine Costa Rica.....1s. 2d. "

The finest Mocha, old and very choice.....1s. 6d. "

For the convenience of their customers, the Company supply Sugars and Colonial Produce at a small per centage on import prices.

Monthly Price Circular free.

THE COMMISSION TEA COMPANY,

35, King William-street, near London-bridge.

SCHWEPPE'S MALVERN SELTZER

WATER. Having leased the Holy Well Spring at Malvern, renowned for its purity, J. S. and Co. can now produce a SELTZER WATER with all the CHEMICAL and MEDICINAL properties which have rendered the Nassau Spring so celebrated. They continue Manufacturing SODA, MAGNESIA, and POTASS WATERS and LEMONADE, at LONDON, LIVERPOOL, BRISTOL, and DERBY.

Every bottle is protected by a Red Label bearing their signature.

DR. DE JONGH'S

LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

Specially rewarded for its purity and efficacy by the Governments of BELGIUM and THE NETHERLANDS, and sanctioned by the ROYAL SANITARY POLICE OF PRUSSIA.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS:
THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF

HOLLAND. I have the honour of bringing to your knowledge that it has pleased the King to grant you, by his decree No. 101, a silver medal, with an appropriate honorary inscription, as a testimony of his Majesty's high approbation of your efforts in securing to this country a supply of the purest and most efficacious Cod Liver Oil.

The Minister of the Interior, (Signed) VAN DER HEIM.

To Dr. De Jongh, at the Hague.

THE INTENDANT OF THE CIVIL LIST OF

BELGIUM. Sir—The King has charged me to return you his very particular thanks for the homage done to him by the presentation of your most valuable researches concerning the Cod Liver Oil; as an expression of his utmost satisfaction, his Majesty has given me the order of presenting you with the accompanying large gold medal.—I remain, with the highest regard, &c.,

The Intendant of the Civil List, (Signed) CONWE.

To Dr. De Jongh, at the Hague.

Sold Wholesale and Retail, in bottles capsuled and labelled with Dr. de Jongh's Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by ANSAR, HARFORD, and CO., sole British Consignees, 77, Strand, London; and by many respectable Chemists and Druggists throughout the United Kingdom.

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

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855, an Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of 1,000l., from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Trieseemar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spontaneous, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c., and its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age; and to those persons who are prevented entering the married state from the results of early errors it is invaluable. Trieseemar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capivi and cubels have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Trieseemar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lay on the toilet table without their use being suspected.—Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, 3, are sold in tin cases, price 11s., or four cases in one for 33s., which saves 11s.; and in 67 cases, whereby there is a saving of 11. 12s.; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholely and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hannay and Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sangor, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, druggist, 40, Market-street, Manchester; J. H. Bradbury, bookseller, Deansgate, Bolton; J. Priestley, chemist, 82, Lord-street, Liverpool; Powell, bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin; Wm. All, bookseller, High-street, Birmingham.

BEDSTEADS, BEDDING, and FURNITURE.—WILLIAM S. BURTON'S stock on show of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and children's Cots, stands unrivalled for extent, beauty of design, or moderateness of prices. He also supplies Bedding and Bed-hangings of guaranteed quality and workmanship.

Common Iron Bedsteads, from 12s. Portable Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 17s.; and Cots, from 20s. each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 27s. 6d. to 157s. 15s.

A Half-Tester Patent Iron Bedstead, three feet wide, with Bedding, &c., complete:

Bedstead £1 4 6
Chairs furniture 0 17 0
Pillasse, wool mattress, bolster, and pillow 1 13 0
A pair of cotton sheets, three blankets, and a coloured counterpane 1 5 0

£4 19 6

A double bedstead, same £6 15 9
If without Half-Tester and Furniture:

Single bed, complete £3 13 9
Double bed, complete 5 5 9

The late additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe) are of such a character that the entire of EIGHT HOUSES is devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes, Turnery, Lamps, Gasaliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Bedding), so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere.

Illustrated Catalogues sent (per post) free.
39, OXFORD-STREET; 1, 1A, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; 4, 6, and 6, PERRY'S-PLACE.
Established 1820.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO CHOOSE FROM.—HEAL & SON have just erected extensive premises, which enable them to keep upwards of One Thousand Bedsteads in stock, one Hundred and Fifty of which are fitted for inspection, comprising every variety of Brass, Wood, and Iron, with Ghintz and Damask Furniture, complete. Their new Warehouses also contain an assortment of BEDROOM FURNITURE, which comprises every requisite, from the plainest Japanese Deal for Servants' Rooms, to the newest and most tasteful designs in Mahogany and other Woods. The whole warranted of the soundest and best manufacture. Heal & Son's Illustrated Catalogue of Bedsteads, and Priced List of Bedding, sent free by post.—HEAL & SON, 106, Tottenham Court-road.

212° MILNERS' HOLDFAST AND FIRE-RESISTING SAFES (non-conducting and vapour-proof), with all the improvements, under their Quadruple Patents of 1840, 51, 54, and 1855, including their Gunpowder-proof Solid Lock and Door (without which no safe is secure).

THE STRONGEST, BEST, AND CHEAPEST SAFEGUARDS EXTANT.

MILNERS' PHOENIX (212 degrees) SAFE WORKS, LIVERPOOL, the most complete and extensive in the world. Show-rooms, 6 and 8, Lord-street, Liverpool. London Depot, 47A, Moorgate-street, City. Circulars free by post.

Sold by HOBBS, ASHLEY, and CO., 97, Cheapside.

DEAFNESS.—Prize Medals 1851, First class 1855.—The new invented ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS, to suit every degree of deafness, however extreme, can only be obtained of F. C. REIN, sole inventor and maker, at his Paradise for the Deaf, 108, Strand, London. Also Rein's celebrated Cork Respirators.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT. WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep.

A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer.

Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

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

Manufactory, 228, Piccadilly, London.

FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.—The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples, and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by FROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.

Price 1s. 1d. and 2s. 6d. per box.

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 uncollected testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

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