

Head and shoulders, B. & C. and

# 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, JANUARY 3, 1857.

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## Review of the Week.

THE rumours of Ministerial changes may be worth little as facts, but they prove at least that the friends of the Cabinet are uneasy at its position, or its enemies hopeful. We may feel very little interest in the expected shifting of persons. If Lord GRANVILLE should take the place of Lord CARLISLE as Viceroy of Ireland, the Irish people, at least in the first instance, will feel some considerable regret. If Sir ROBERT PEEL were to replace Mr. HORSMAN, the Irish might, perhaps, welcome a man whose warmth of heart and rashness are more congenial to the Irish temper than the thoroughly English HORSMAN. Should Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT succeed Lord PANMURE as War Minister, he would probably be as efficient in the conduct of business; and the fact would prove that Lord PALMERSTON is not to sustain any assault from the so-called PEEL party. But what then? The anticipations that Lord JOHN RUSSELL will take Lord GRANVILLE's place as President of the Council are not very strongly asserted; on the contrary, the wish seems to be father to the thought, and the necessity of recruiting the present Cabinet certainly implies that the leader of the Whig party is likely to discern an opportunity at no distant date of taking a place far more commensurate with his pretensions than the Presidency of the Council.

The public certainly is not at present in a condition to reassure the Government under these implied doubts; for we are deprived of any information to know how our Ministers really stand, at home or abroad. Admiral BERKELEY tells us that they do not intend to attempt that continuance of the Income-tax which their own supporters have anticipated; but the Admiral is only, as he says, a subordinate; he does not know anything of the Cabinet's intentions; and Lords of the Admiralty have been contradicted, even by the Secretaries. We saw an instance lately when Sir ROBERT PEEL, a Lord, hazarded a kind of voucher for a candidate at the Greenwich election, and Mr. OSBORN, the Secretary, afterwards told that candidate that he could have no support from the Board of Admiralty.

If we have no means of knowing how the Government is to stand with reference to party or public measures at home, still less do we know its real position in the present position of foreign

affairs. The Powers have at least perceived the dangers which they would incur by making a scandal of the reassembled Conference. The crowned *Peaches* and *Lockit* have made up their quarrel in private. Russia has consented to a compromise of the Bolgrad question—has, in fact, given up the point; and is repaid by a slice of territory on the north of Moldavia. Bolgrad, the Isle of Serpents, the Danube delta,—all, Russia relinquishes; but of course she thinks that she can attain her object by other channels.

While our Government has thus consented to fall into a doubtful position with regard to Russia, our strength is expended in distant quarters. The attack upon Herat may be necessary, but many believe that the true key to lock that door would be found in St. Petersburg. Nor is Herat the most remote place upon which we are now wasting our strength.

We are at war with China! for, although war has not been formally declared, it is actually proceeding. A dispute has arisen between Governor-General YEH and Sir Superintendent BOWRING, brought about by subordinates. Indeed, it was originally a quarrel between the Chinese—the soldier-police of Canton and certain very questionable boatmen. One of the small boats which have been permitted to carry British flags, because they trade with Hong Kong, was seized by the river-police on the ground of piracy or smuggling. In this enforcement of the Canton Thames-police Mr. Consul PARKES saw a grievous injury to the British flag. There was a reason *why* he discerned an affair of honour in the case. The British had long been waiting for an opportunity to break down the exclusiveness of Governor-General YEH, who appears to belong to the high Tory party of the Celestial Empire—that party which would for ever shut the 'central flowery nation' against barbaric intruders like the vulgar British. He had therefore refused to permit any communication between the British and the Chinese part of the city, differing in that respect from the authorities at other ports to which the British have access. Here was an opportunity, then, of compelling him to come to an understanding; and Admiral SEYMOUR was called in with his artillery. The city of Canton and its fortifications were subjected to alternate bombardments, entrances of the troops, and offers to accept submission. But YEH submitted not, he only retreated; and at the despatch of the last advice, we appeared to be gradually entering into

some tedious contest which might become a war with China.

Russia, of course, will not feel less confidence when she perceives that the most formidable of her antagonists is thus engaged in Central Asia and the far East.

Our Government is mediating between Prussia and Switzerland. So far as we have had any explanations hitherto, it would appear that our Ministers have sustained the extravagant claim of King FREDERICK WILLIAM for the resuscitation of his feudal principality over the canton of Neuchâtel. The *de facto* state of things, the quiescence of Prussia hitherto, the common sense of the question, and policy,—all dictate a confirmation of Switzerland's claim to be relieved of the obsolete feudality; but our Ministers evidently treat the question as one in which Switzerland must pay a deference as from an inferior to a superior. This is not the feeling of *England*. It is not the feeling even of German States, which have been accustomed to subservieny. The Wurtemberg deputies have protested against the passage of Prussian troops for the purpose of warring on Switzerland in defence of a title in the King of Prussia, which is not a German title; the interests are not German. Indeed, the claim is to the detriment of German interests; for military movements disturb the commerce of the territories in which they take place; and the Wurtembergers positively protest against being involved in the personal disputes of King FREDERICK WILLIAM, the more especially as Switzerland is a quiet and advantageous neighbour. From this manifesto alone it is quite clear that if our Government had taken a decided stand by the side of Switzerland, it would have been sustained by a public opinion in Germany as well as in Italy. We need say nothing about the public opinion in France.

According to the report of Lord PANMURE, we need be under no necessity for singing small. His countrymen have recently become keenly alive to his merits, and not without reason. Lord PANMURE has for a long time been kept away from his family estates, for causes well known. He has arrived there when he is no longer a young man, but still in the vigour of life. He has interested himself very actively in the welfare of his tenants. He has been highly successful as an administrative statesman, and his countrymen of Scotland are proud of him, while his neighbours look upon him as a very useful example among resident land-

lords. The repeated compliment of public addresses and public dinners is scarcely more than a matter of course at the present day; the latest occasion afforded him an opportunity of making a report upon his achievements as War Minister. He has carried out a thorough separation of the civil and military department. He has concentrated the whole management of the army, including the hitherto disjointed Ordnance, under the Commander-in-Chief; he has brought together all the civil administration of the army under the War Department. The practical consequence of this natural division with concentration of authority is, that any army which England could be required to produce, could, he says, be embarked and landed on the continent of Europe within ten days' notice. He assures us that this efficient army is to be maintained at a cost very much less than that which has been required to produce it—20,000,000*l.* under the expenditure of the past year. We have, therefore, ample means to keep the highest position which England ever arrogated to herself; and there is no necessity for our statesmen to succumb to the pretensions of despots with whom the people of this country have no sympathy, whose policy is alien to our own, and whose influence constantly obstructs and injures our interest.

The official reports of revenue and trade paint a glorious picture of national prosperity. The revenue for the quarter exceeds that of the same quarter last year by 800,000*l.*, of the year by 4,000,000*l.*; the exports for the eleven months of 1856 exceeding those of the whole year 1855 by 10,000,000*l.* The City is comfortable, and the manufacturing districts report constant activity, notwithstanding this dull season of the year.

While trade is thus flourishing, however, we have fresh evidences of the canker which affects our commercial body. A new defrauder comes before the police-court in a Mr. EDKINS. Messieurs PAUL and MANINI—the clerk and collector of the City of London Poor-law Union—have been detected in extensive frauds since 1853. The discoveries of their defalcations begin with a sum of about 12,000*l.*, and it is said that a long time will be required to trace out all their depredations; yet, the official accountant had reported that the books were perfectly square. Thus, we have commercial men and official men pilfering on a grand scale, and more accountants reporting politely upon the books.

We suspect that yet more will be discovered through the gross negligence, as well as the dishonesty, of people in trade. Recently there has been occasion to go over the books of one of the most eminent firms in the country,—one which must have handled millions upon millions, and millions again, through a long series of years; and their books are discovered to have been in a state so slovenly—so utterly unlike anything which we ascribe to the regularity of trade—as powerfully to illustrate the opportunities which defrauders may have since English commerce has lost its proverbial integrity.

#### THE REVENUE.

The official return for the concluding quarter of the year 1856 has been issued. In every department but one (the Miscellaneous) there is an increase, especially in the main sources of permanent revenue, viz., Customs and Excise. The main figures stand thus:—

INCREASE.	
Customs .....	£525,074
Excise .....	212,000
Stamps .....	88,231
Taxes .....	5,000
Property Tax .....	88,091
Post-office .....	101,000
Crown Lands .....	1,000
	£1,020,396

#### DECREASE.

Miscellaneous .....	149,475
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Net Increase .....

On the whole year, up to the 31st of December, 1856, the net increase amounts to 8,977,772*l.*

#### MR. SMITH O'BRIEN ON THE INTERESTS OF IRELAND.

A LONG letter, addressed "To the People of Ireland," has been issued by Mr. Smith O'Brien. He commences by saying:—"Although it is my intention to shun henceforth both the showy defusions of Parliamentary life and the treacherous quicksands of 'constitutional agitation,' I have not abdicated my right to express my opinions with respect to the interests of my native land or of mankind, and, having reason to believe that it is the wish of a considerable portion of my fellow-countrymen that I should devote my leisure hours to such an occupation, I shall make no apology for offering to you some observations upon the present circumstances of public affairs." He proceeds to say that he has seldom any occasion to invite his countrymen to co-operate with an English movement, but that he considers it would be well for Irishmen to join in the agitation for getting rid of the additional war per-centage on the income-tax. That addition is applied to the maintenance of a war establishment "for the promotion of objects in which Ireland has no imaginable concern." The late war, Mr. O'Brien contends, was not in the least degree to the advantage of Ireland. He is not prepared to contend that England should have remained an indifferent spectator of the struggle between France and Russia (the war being in fact a contest for ascendancy in the East on the part of those two powers), nor does he think that this country "was at liberty to acquiesce in the occupation by Russia of the Danubian Principalities;" but he conceives that a more vigorous line of conduct at the commencement of the dispute than that pursued by Lord Aberdeen would have prevented hostilities. Mr. O'Brien then proceeds to taunt Great Britain with the ill-success of her arms in the course of the war; to assure his countrymen that it is the universal opinion on the Continent that to France alone is due the credit of humbling Russia; and to compliment the Russians on the heroism of their resistance, single-handed, to "four of the most powerful nations in Europe." Enumerating our various disasters, including the loss of Kars, he says that they "have brought disgrace not unmerited upon British generalship, if not upon British valour." He therefore asks the Irish people, and even the British people, "whether it is desirable, by consenting to a continuance of the war income-tax, to encourage the Minister, whoever he may be, to involve Ireland—to involve the empire—in new collisions, which may be infinitely more disastrous and more ignominious in their results than that which has been recently terminated?"

Mr. O'Brien likewise rates the Queen and the English people for subserviency to the French Emperor during the war, while but a short time previously the nation had denounced Louis Napoleon as an unprincipled usurper; and he states that there is not a politician in Europe who does not know that England made peace at the dictation of the Tuileries. While hating the Government of Naples (though, he observes, the Neapolitans live more comfortably than the Irish), he thinks we were not justified in breaking off diplomatic intercourse with that country; and he is opposed to the war with Persia—Herat being, in his opinion, a city of no importance to Ireland. Great Britain, however, probably "covets the valley of the Euphrates." He asks what motive the Irish can have to encourage the continued occupation of Greece; and states his opinion that European Governments, instead of supporting "the cruel domination of a Turkish minority" over the Greeks, should aid in establishing the independence of the latter, who would form an "effective barrier against Russian aggression."

Speaking of financial matters, Mr. O'Brien observes:—"During the year preceding that in which I was transported to the antipodes, the British Parliament advanced on loan 8,000,000*l.* with a view to the relief of the Irish nation when suffering from famine. I well remember the insulting language with which this aid was accompanied, and so great was the apparent magnitude of the effort that it might have been supposed that England had exhausted all her resources in performing an act of unparalleled generosity; yet I find that last year an addition of 30,000,000*l.* was made to the ordinary war estimates of the United Kingdom with scarcely a murmur of dissension. . . . About fifteen years ago, I studied with much attention the writings of various patriotic Irishmen who endeavoured by many elaborate statements to prove that, inasmuch as England was subjected before the Union to a much larger amount of debt than had been contracted by the Irish Parliament, it was only reasonable that the interest of the ante-Union debt of England should be borne exclusively by the English people. This separate obligation was calculated to amount to above 15,000,000*l.* sterling per annum, and it was argued that grievous injustice had been done to Ireland by the gradual equalization of Irish with English taxation. At present, instead of a separate taxation amounting to 15,000,000*l.*, the exemption enjoyed by Ireland from taxation common to the United Kingdom amounts to a mere fraction."

#### STATE OF TRADE.

The trade reports from the manufacturing districts for the closing week of the year all refer to the extraordinary prosperity by which the past twelve months have been characterized, and indicate great confidence in the pro-

spects of 1857. At Manchester, although the Christmas holidays have interfered with business, the market has presented a very favourable appearance, and the lowness of stocks, coupled with the upward movement in cotton, causes a great increase of firmness in all descriptions of goods. The Birmingham accounts mention that the question of the maintenance of the existing prices of iron during the coming quarter has been decided, and that there is active employment in all the manufactures of the place, the reports as to the general demand throughout the country being extremely satisfactory. At Nottingham, large American orders have been received, and the most favourable anticipations are entertained of the spring season. In the woollen districts there has been more than an average business; but in the Irish linen-markets quotations have shown a tendency to heaviness.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week, there has been diminished activity. The total number of ships reported inward was 161, being 110 less than in the previous week. These included 49 laden with grain, flour, and rice. The number of ships cleared outward was 89, including 12 in ballast, showing a decrease of 28.—*Idem*.

The Board of Trade tables for November were issued last Saturday morning, and present results similar to those which have characterized nearly the entire year. The increase in the declared value of our exportations, as compared with November, 1855, is 1,512,226*l.*; and, while the principal augmentation has been in cotton goods, it is to be noticed that these have consisted of the sorts involving the greatest employment, the shipments of yarn exhibiting a considerable decrease. Metals, among which railroad iron is the most important article, continue to show large totals, and all the general productions of the country have been in proportionate demand, the colonial having evidently more than kept pace with the foreign trade. The only articles on the unfavourable side, in addition to cotton yarn, are cordage and soap, but even this falling off is simply on the month, the shipments of these goods during the year having been larger than in 1855. The total value of our exportations in the eleven months from January to November, inclusive, has amounted to 105,845,631*l.*, against 86,847,280*l.* in the preceding year, showing an increase of 18,998,351*l.*, or 21½ per cent. As compared with the corresponding period of 1854 the increase is 16,107,045*l.*—With regard to imported commodities, the chief feature consists in the large arrivals of foreign grain which have led to the late depression in the wheat-market. The quantities of other articles of food and luxury imported and taken into consumption present nothing to call for remark, except that they continue to afford proof that, while a high rate of discount has been perfectly compatible with an extended trade, it has also been concurrent with general prosperity among the people.—*Idem*.

#### THE DEATH OF HUGH MILLER.

We briefly mentioned last week the death from a pistol shot of Mr. Hugh Miller, the celebrated Scotch geological writer and journalist. It was at first believed, as we then stated, that the firing of the pistol was accidental: it now appears certain that the act was intentional—that, in truth, it was a case of suicide arising from temporary insanity. Mr. Miller had worked himself into a frightful state of nervous excitement and cerebral disorder; and his melancholy end holds out another warning to those overwrought men of letters who supply the periodical writing of these fearfully high-pressure days. The facts of the case are so extremely, though painfully, interesting, that we reproduce them at some length from last Saturday's number of the *Witness*, the Edinburgh newspaper which Mr. Miller edited up to the time of his death:—

"For some months past, his overtasked intellect had given evidence of disorder. He became the prey of false or exaggerated alarms. He fancied—if, indeed, it was a fancy—that occasionally, and for brief intervals, his faculties quite failed him, that his mind broke down. He was engaged at this time with a treatise on the *Testimony of the Rocks*, upon which he was putting out all his strength, working at his topmost pitch of intensity. That volume will in a few weeks be in the hands of many of our readers; and, while they peruse it with the saddened impression that the intellect and genius of the author poured out their latest treasures in its composition, they will search through it in vain for the slightest evidence of feebleness or decaying power. Rather let us anticipate the general verdict that will be pronounced upon it, and speak of it as one of the ablest of all his writings. But he wrought at it too eagerly. Hours after midnight, the light was seen to glimmer through the window of that room which within so same eventful week was to witness the close of the volume and the close of the writer's life. This overworking of the brain began to tell upon his mental health. He had always been somewhat moodily apprehensive of being attacked by footpads, and had carried loaded firearms about his person. Latterly, having occasion sometimes to return to Portobello from Edinburgh at unreasonable hours, he had furnished himself with a revolver. But now, to all his old fears as to



attacks upon his person, there was added an exciting and over-mastering impression that his house, and especially that museum, the fruit of so much care, which was contained in a separate outer building, were exposed to the assault of burglars. He read all the recent stories of house robberies. He believed that one night lately an actual attempt to break in upon his museum had been made. Visions of ticket-of-leave men prowling about his premises haunted him by day and by night. The revolver which lay nightly near him was not enough; a broad-bladed dagger was kept beside it, while behind him, at his bed-head, a claymore stood ready at hand. A week or so ago, a new and more aggravated feature of cerebral disorder showed itself in sudden and singular sensations in his head. They came on only after lengthened intervals. They did not last long, but were intensely violent. The terrible idea that his brain was deeply and hopelessly diseased, that his mind was on the verge of ruin, took hold of him, and stood out before his eye in all that appalling magnitude in which such an imagination as his alone could picture it."

It was not until Monday week that he mentioned anything about these head disturbances. He then called on Dr. Balfour at Portobello.

"On my asking," says that gentleman, in a communication to the *Witness*, "what was the matter with him, he replied:—'My brain is giving way. I cannot put two thoughts together to-day. I have had a dreadful night of it. I cannot face another such. I was impressed with the idea that my museum was attacked by robbers, and that I had got up, put on my clothes, and gone out with a loaded pistol to shoot them. Immediately after that I became unconscious. How long that continued I cannot say; but when I awoke in the morning I was trembling all over, and quite confused in my brain. So thoroughly convinced was I that I must have been out through the night, that I examined my trousers, to see if they were wet or covered with mud, but could find none.'"

The next day, a consultation was held between Dr. Balfour and Professor Miller (a relation we presume), the result of which the latter thus communicates:—

"We examined his chest, and found that unusually well; but soon we discovered that it was head symptoms that made him uneasy. He acknowledged having been night after night up till very late in the morning, working hard and continuously at his new book, 'which, with much satisfaction, he said, 'I have finished this day.' He was sensible that his head had suffered in consequence, as evidenced in two ways—first, occasionally he felt as if a very fine poniard had been suddenly passed through and through his brain. The pain was intense, and momentarily followed by confusion and giddiness, and the sense of being 'very drunk,' unable to stand or walk. He thought that a period of unconsciousness must have followed this,—a kind of swoon, but he had never fallen. Second, what annoyed him most, however, was a kind of nightmare, which for some nights past had rendered sleep most miserable. It was no dream, he said; he saw no distinct vision, and could remember nothing of what had passed accurately. It was a sense of vague and yet intense horror, with a conviction of being abroad in the night wind, and dragged through places as if by some invisible power. 'Last night,' he said, 'I felt as if I had been ridden by a witch for fifty miles, and rose far more wearied in mind and body than when I lay down.' Suffice it to say," adds Professor Miller, "that we came to the conclusion that he was suffering from an over-worked mind, dis-ordering his digestive organs, enervating his whole frame, and threatening serious head affection. We told him this, and enjoined absolute discontinuance of all work—bed at eleven, light supper (he had all his life made that a principal meal), thinning the hair of the head, a warm sponging-bath at bed time, &c. To all our commands he readily promised obedience. For fully an hour we talked together on these and other subjects, and I left him with no apprehension of impending evil, and little doubting but that a short time of rest and regimen would restore him to his wonted vigour."

Shortly afterwards, the servant-girl entered the dining-room, to lay the table, when—

"She found Mr. Miller in the room alone. Another of the paroxysms was on him. His face was such a picture of horror that she shrank in terror from the sight. He flung himself on the sofa and buried his head, as if in agony, upon the cushion. Again, however, the vision flitted by, and left him in perfect health. The evening was spent quietly with his family. During tea he employed himself in reading aloud Cowper's 'Castaway,' the 'Sonnet on Mary Unwin,' and one of his more playful pieces, for the special pleasure of his children. Having corrected some proofs of the forthcoming volume he went up stairs to his study. At the appointed hour he had taken the bath, but unfortunately his natural and peculiar repugnance to physic had induced him to leave untaken the medicine that had been prescribed. He had retired into his sleeping-room—a small apartment opening out of his study, and which for some time past, in consideration of the delicate state of his wife's health and the irregularity of his own hours of study, he occupied at night alone—and laid some time upon the bed. The horrible trance, more horrible

than ever, must have returned. All that can now be known of what followed is to be gathered from the facts, that next morning his body, half-dressed, was found lying lifeless on the floor, the feet upon the study rug, the chest pierced with the ball of the revolver pistol, which was found lying in the bath that stood close by. The bullet had perforated the left lung, grazed the heart, cut through the pulmonary artery at its root, and lodged in the rib in the right side. Death must have been instantaneous."

The following lines addressed to his wife were found lying on the table beside the corpse:—

"Dearest Lydia,—My brain burns. I must have walked; and a fearful dream arises upon me. I cannot bear the horrible thought. God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon me. Dearest Lydia, dear children, farewell. My brain burns as the recollection grows. My dear, dear wife, farewell."

"HUGH MILLER."

A post mortem examination of the body was made by Professor Miller and other medical gentlemen, who found the brain greatly diseased, and they therefore signed a document stating their conviction "that the act was suicidal, under the impulse of insanity."

Another tragedy has arisen out of this lamentable event. We find it thus related:—

"After the judicial and medical inquiry on Friday (the 26th ult.), Professor Miller took the pistol to the gunsmith from which it had been purchased by Mr. Miller in July, 1855, in order to ascertain how many shots had been fired and how many were still in the chamber. In the master's absence, the foreman, Thomas Leslie, an old and experienced workman, received the pistol from Professor Miller, and unfortunately, instead of taking off the chamber, looked into the muzzle, holding the hammer with his fingers while he turned the chamber round to count the charges. The hammer slipped from his fingers, struck the cap, and the charge in the barrel exploded. Professor Miller, still standing outside the counter, exclaimed, 'That's a narrow escape!' but unhappily it was not so, for, as the smoke cleared away, he saw the poor man's head gradually droop, and his body fall lifeless on the floor. The charge had entered his right eye and penetrated the brain. Leslie was a steady, trustworthy man, and had been twenty-five years in his present employment. He has left a widow and a family of eight children."

The funeral of Mr. Miller took place on Tuesday, in the midst of an unusually large concourse of spectators. The shops along the route were for the most part closed, at the request of the magistrates; and very great respect was shown to the memory of the deceased geologist and pressman.

#### DINNER TO LORD PANMURE.

LORD PANMURE was entertained on Tuesday evening at a public dinner by the county gentlemen of Forfar, to testify their respect for his Lordship as Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and as an acknowledgment of his public services as Minister of War. To accommodate all parties in the district, Arbroath was selected as the most central place of meeting, and the new Market-hall was elegantly decorated for the occasion. The building is constructed after the model of the nave of the Crystal Palace. The company assembled at four o'clock, and occupied every seat on the ground-floor, while two hundred ladies filled the galleries. The chair was occupied by Sir John Ogilvie, Convenor of the county, supported on the right by Lord Panmure, Lord Kinnaird, the Hon. William Maule, Viscount Melville, Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, &c.; and on the left by the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of Southesk, the Earl of Kintore, Viscount Duncan, M.P., the Lord Advocate, &c. Lord Panmure, in the course of his speech, alluded to the inquiry into the state of the English army in the Crimea, made by Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch, who had been sent out, not, as had been supposed, with any vindictive wish to punish the supposed guilty parties, but simply with a desire to collect information as to the cause of the mishaps. The report of the Commissioners, he believed, had been made with great fidelity, and without a desire to injure the feelings of any British officers, but simply with a wish to tell the truth. Many of the reforms in the army for which he had received credit had been commenced under the Duke of Newcastle. "It was my lot, with the aid of my colleagues, to make a radical change—and I do not use the term offensively—in the constitution and command of the British army. Already had the Duke of Newcastle been establishing a distinct department which would manage the affairs of war in this country. It is not only essential that such a department should exist in time of war; for, believe me, there are matters sufficient for a very large department even in times of the most profound peace. (*Loud cheers.*) I was accused of applying too stoutly to reform during a period of existing war; but the fact was I found we could not carry on the war without the reform, and I determined, whatever the risk, to accomplish the change. You will readily believe the necessity of this when I tell you that, till

within a year and a few months, the Commander-in-Chief had only the cavalry and the infantry under his charge. With the artillery he had nothing to do, and they were placed beside him on the field or in some camp adjoining. I have, with the consent of my colleagues, placed the artillery and engineers of this country, as they ought to be, under the immediate command of the Commander-in-Chief. (*Applause.*) . . . I will answer for it that, should due necessity arise, we could embark any number of soldiers this country may be called upon to provide, complete in all their equipments, ten days after the order had been given." (*Loud cheers.*)

The other chief speech of the evening was that of Mr. T. Steere, United States consul, who made some remarks on the good effects of reciprocal free trade, and on the admirable effects of an untrammelled press. On the latter subject, he observed:—"He must be a superficial reasoner indeed who does not perceive, wrapt in the thunders of the *Times*, and the genial humour and flowing wit of *Punch*, principle and philosophy which is continually carrying them, as well as others, along towards a higher appreciation of truth, of others' rights, and universal justice, toward the aim and end of the press, the diffusion of truth, and the cultivation and advocacy of true manners and morals, and public virtue in society and government." (*Cheers.*)

#### ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A MR. EDWARD FREEMAN, a retired tradesman, about fifty years of age, died suddenly at the North and South American Coffeehouse, Threadneedle-street. There appeared to be some chest disturbance, and it was stated at the inquest that Mr. Freeman's father had died in a similar way. A verdict of Natural Death was returned.

An inquest has been held on the bodies of the four men who were recently killed at one of the Blaenavon coal mines. There had been a fire in the pit; water was poured down to quench it; the air was thus turned back into the pit, and became unfit to breathe; and subsequently a dam was put up across the drift, so as to keep the water in. The men were warned not to go into that part of the pit; but four of them disregarded the caution, and paid the penalty with their lives. The man at whose suggestion the dam was put up was among those who were killed. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A dreadful death has happened in the White Abbey-sawmills, Bradford. William Ellis, a sawyer, descended to the shafting with a lamp on Friday week, for the purpose of putting on a belt. He was surprised to observe a man named Mitchell, who had no business there, rise from a heap of sawdust where he had apparently been sleeping, and attempt to get out of sight. In so doing he stepped upon the boxing at the base of the unfenced horizontal shaft, which was revolving with great rapidity; his apron was instantly caught; he was whirled round with an awful velocity, and at each revolution of the shaft his body struck against a large wooden pillar only eleven inches and a half distant. The engines were stopped in two minutes; but, when the workmen proceeded to the place, the remains of the man presented a sad spectacle. Nearly every bone in his body was broken, his head was shattered in pieces, and his brains bespattered the adjacent machinery. It is thought he was skulking from his work.

The driver of a Walthamstow omnibus was charged at Worship-street with having caused the death of a woman named Carroll, by running his vehicle over her body as she lay prostrate. A gentleman living at Walthamstow was riding home on the box of the omnibus, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, and they had reached the end of the Hackney-road, when they saw something black fall just in front of the horses, and afterwards felt the wheels jerk abruptly over some thick substance. It being nearly dark at the time, they could not at first distinguish what it was; but the driver immediately drew up, and they then perceived that it was the body of a woman, who was still alive, but fearfully injured. She was at once taken to the London Hospital, and surgical aid was sent for as quickly as possible; but the poor creature died before she could be got to the hospital. The omnibus man went to the station shortly after to make inquiries about her, and on being told the result he seemed greatly affected, and expressed much regret, saying he had no conductor with him at the time or he should have surrendered at once. The account he gave of the occurrence was, that a cab was going in the opposite direction to his, and that the woman, in stopping back and trying to save herself from the cab, got confused and placed herself before his leader, which knocked her down, jumped and sprang forward, and the wheels went clear over her body before he had time to pull up and prevent it. A passenger in the omnibus at the time of the occurrence gave the driver, whom he had known many years, an excellent character for honesty, sobriety, and general good conduct. The magistrate said that, as an inquest would be held on the body, he should order the accused to enter into his own recognizances to appear to answer any charge that might be made against him.

At the commencement of hostilities with Russia, in 1854, an old Finland fisherman, named Romanoff Menschikoff, underwent impressment into the English naval service, and served on board the *Hecla*, Captain Hall.

The old man's experience in the navigation of the Baltic Sea was of great assistance in the operations of our fleet in those waters, and, on the return of the Hecla to Portsmouth, the Board of Admiralty at once made provision for his future comfort, and immediately issued an order for his admission into Greenwich Hospital. In this asylum, the old man died suddenly on Monday, at the age of eighty-six. He had only been able to pick up a few words of English, but was a great favourite among his Greenwich comrades.

An inquiry, which lasted several hours, was proceeded with on Tuesday before Mr. T. Wakley, coroner for West Middlesex, at the Bell and Horns Tavern, Brompton, respecting the death of Mr. William Marcooly, aged thirty-six, a master tailor, carrying on business at No. 6, Brunswick-place, Brompton, who died last Saturday morning shortly after taking a dose of what had been sold as castor oil at the shop of Mr. Budd, chemist, residing a few doors from deceased. The case excited the utmost interest in the neighbourhood, and the court was densely crowded. Prior to proceeding with the evidence, the jury inspected the shop of Mr. Budd, in order to ascertain where the castor oil and oil of almonds were respectively kept, as it was alleged the latter had been substituted for the former. Mr. Budd showed that they were kept widely apart, and that the poisons generally were kept in a closet, and not upon the ordinary shelves. It also appeared from the books and invoices that all decrease in the stock of oil of bitter almonds was satisfactorily accounted for. The medical gentleman, who was called in when it became evident that Mr. Marcooly was suffering from poison, discovered prussic acid in the tumbler from which the deceased had been drinking castor oil, as well as in the phial out of which the oil had been poured. A boy servant of Mr. Marcooly had been sent to Mr. Budd's to purchase the castor oil, taking with him a phial, which had previously contained medicine, but had since been washed. This boy said he was served by the assistant, who took two bottles (one white, the other red) out of sight to the place where the prescriptions are made up; but he was not seen to pour anything into the phial. Having given this evidence, the boy went with the coroner and jury to the shop, and pointed out the spot whence the bottles were taken. On their return, a prescription was mentioned, and Mr. Wakley, on seeing it, said one of the ingredients mentioned in it was hydrocyanic acid. The boy, being re-examined, said he saw the assistant open the closet-door where the poisons are kept, but did not see whether he took out anything. The bottle containing the prussic acid was produced, when Mr. Budd said, he always filled it himself, but could not tell when he last filled it, nor could he account for how a deficiency of two drachms had been caused. (Above two drachms was the quantity supposed by Mr. Cahill to have been taken by the deceased.) The inquiry was adjourned, and the coroner advised the assistant, who was present, to have the aid of a legal gentleman at the next sitting.

The Marquis of Waterford, while out riding in Ireland, fell from his horse, and sustained injuries from which he remained insensible for nearly half an hour. They were not serious, however, and he is now recovering.

Three boys, from nine to eleven years old, have been killed under an arched stable at Blackburn. A large quantity of sand had been removed from under the arch; and the boys were playing in the hollow, when the arch gave way, and they were crushed to death.

#### IRELAND.

**LAW APPOINTMENT.**—Mr. David Lynch, Q.C., of the Leinster circuit, has been appointed assistant-barrister for the county of Louth in the room of Mr. John Perrin (son of Judge Perrin), who retires in consequence of continued indisposition. Very little is known of Mr. Lynch in the Irish political world; but he is regarded as a sound, able, and experienced lawyer. He is of the Roman Catholic faith.

**THE DEANERY OF CASHEL.**—The *Evening Mail* states that the Lord-Lieutenant has conferred the deanery of Cashel, vacant by the death of Dean Adams, upon the Rev. Ogle Moore, Rector of Blessington, in the county of Wicklow. The appointment is believed to be quite unobjectionable.

**THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.**—It is stated—though we know not whether upon good authority—that the police actually brought over from France a female *clairvoyante*, to help them in their inquiries, but that she could tell them nothing more than what they already suspected—viz., that the murderer was on the premises. It is to be hoped that this story is a libel.

#### THE ORIENT.

##### INDIA.

No intelligence, at the latest dates, had been received at Bombay of the Persian expedition; but a force of 5,000 men was marching from the Kohat frontier towards Cabul. Severe conflagrations have taken place at Rangoon, Kurrachee, and Bombay. The Guicowar of Baroda died on the 19th of October. Disturbances have broken out in Kimediy.

##### CHINA.

A serious collision has taken place at Canton between

the British authorities and Yeh, the Chinese Governor-General. A lorcha under the British flag, at anchor off Canton, was boarded on the 8th of October by a Chinese force, and twelve of the crew were seized. Consul Parkes proceeded on board, and was insulted and threatened with violence. The remonstrances made to Yeh were treated with contempt. On the 21st of October, the matter was placed in the hands of Admiral Seymour. Hostile measures commenced on the 24th of October. The forts of Canton were taken, and several of them destroyed. Yeh persisted in rejecting Admiral Seymour's demands for satisfaction, or even an interview. On the 27th of October, fire was opened on the city walls and on the governor's palace. The city walls were breached and stormed on the 29th of October. The troops penetrated to the palace, but were withdrawn in the evening. The loss was three killed and twelve wounded. Attempts at negotiation continued fruitless, and on the 3rd and 4th of November the old city was bombarded. On the 6th of November, twenty-three war junks were attacked by the Barracouta, and all were destroyed. Time was again granted to the Chinese, but no signs were given of submission. According to the last accounts, the Bogue forts had been captured. The factories had been almost totally vacated by the foreign community; property to a large amount was destroyed by fire; and commerce was at a standstill.

##### PERSIA.

A decree by the Shah of Persia invests the Grand Vizier with unlimited powers for life. The same decree adds that serious events are imminent, and calls upon the people to show themselves energetic, and to defend their honour to the last. All the chiefs of tribes, by whom the environs of Herat are occupied, have made their submission. The Persian columns, despatched in pursuit of Dost Mohammed, are advancing on Candahar.

The *Teheran Gazette* of the 7th Raby-el-aouel (5th of November) announces that the siege of Herat was undertaken to prevent the Governor, Esa Khan, from surrendering the town to the Emir Dost Mahommed Khan. This proceeding, the *Gazette* adds, was perfectly consistent with the treaty of Herat concluded between Great Britain and Persia. Notwithstanding all that has passed, the Persian Government has not lost sight of the preservation of its friendship with Great Britain, and is ready to withdraw her troops from Herat on condition that the British Government shall take measures in Candahar, Afghanistan, and Herat itself, to secure that each of those countries shall remain for ever under the rule of its own Government.

#### AMERICA.

FURTHER particulars with respect to the contemplated negro insurrection are contained in the last advices from America. The excitement in Tennessee and Kentucky is said to have nearly died out, but in other parts of the South it continued. It appears to have originated in Texas, near the Rio Grande, three months since, and to have extended to nearly all the Southern States, advantage having been taken of the public attention being absorbed in the election for President. It is stated that in the whole region from Memphis, through Clarksville, to Dover, on the Cumberland river, the greatest alarm existed in regard to the movements of the negroes. The gaols in all the counties were crowded with the arrested blacks. The county courts had assembled in each county, and vigilance committees and patrols had been appointed in each neighbourhood and township. Eight more negroes had been hung at Dover, making nineteen in all. No overt act had been committed, but the proof against them of insurrectionary designs was, it is said, conclusive.

On the 15th ult., in Congress, on motion of a Southern member, representing Almont, the only district to the south of the Ohio in which the Nebraska-Kansas Bill has been condemned by the popular vote, the House, by a vote of 137 to 71, "Resolved that this House regards all suggestions or propositions of every kind, by whomsoever made, for a revival of the slave trade, as shocking to the moral sentiments of the enlightened portion of mankind; and any act on the part of Congress legalizing or conniving at the legalizing of that horrid and inhuman traffic would justly subject the United States to the reproach and execration of all civilized and Christian people throughout the world." And then, by a vote of 183 to 8, resolved that it is inexpedient, unwise, and contrary to the settled policy of the United States, to repeal the laws prohibiting the African slave trade. Among the eight "nays" was the name of Mr. Preston S. Brooks.

A note from the Imperial Legation of Russia at Washington accompanies the President's Message. The Russian Minister here says "that he is instructed to notify the Hon. Mr. Marcy that his Majesty the Emperor accepts, for his part, the condition under which the United States consent to the abolition of privateering—namely, that the private property of the subjects and citizens of the contracting parties shall in times of war be respected by their respective naval forces, as well as by those of all the Powers which may join in this declaration. The undersigned is equally instructed to declare to the Hon. Secretary of State that, should the propositions of the United States become the subject of a collective delibe-

ration, the vote of the Imperial Cabinet is pledged to them."

In the Supreme Court, New York, Félicité Debud and Eugène Grelet, who were supposed to have been concerned in the late frauds upon the Northern Railway of France, were discharged by Judge Davies, upon their stipulating not to commence any action for unlawful imprisonment. The other prisoners, Charpentier and Parrot, were detained for further proceedings in the case.

From Honduras, we hear that a party of American gold diggers, who had been there 'prospecting' for precious metals, had nearly all left, on account of the sickly nature of the climate.

The authorities at New York are keeping watch over an expedition which, it is suspected, is now being fitted out in that port, under the command of General Paez for Venezuela.

The war goes on in Nicaragua. The Costa Rican forces, some time in October, took possession of San Juan del Sur, but were subsequently driven out by Walker in conjunction with General Hornsey. The former then attacked the enemy at Messaya, a part of which town he burnt. He found, however, that he could not hold both the transit route and Granada, and he therefore determined to destroy the latter. Removing his sick and wounded to the island of Omettee, on the lake, he directed one of his followers (Heeningsen) to march on Grenada, and put it to the flames; but that officer, after having only partly effected the object in view, was cut off in his retreat, and was obliged, with his four hundred followers, to take possession of a church halfway between the city and the lake, where, at the last accounts, he was still besieged.

A complete reconciliation is said to have been effected among all Nicaraguan parties under the Presidency of Rivas. Advices from Vera Cruz announce that Puebla has surrendered to the Government forces. The news of Vidaurri's treaty is confirmed. Alvarez has taken the field in defence of the Government.

According to one of the Spanish Ministerial papers, General Santa Anna of Mexico has sent agents to Madrid to propose to re-establish monarchy in Mexico, with a Spanish prince as sovereign, provided the Spanish Government will grant him certain assistance. The *Epoca* opposes any such project, unless it be freely demanded by public opinion in Mexico, and have the support of England and France.

In the New York money-market, owing to the large amount of specie shipped to New Orleans, there has been more inquiry for money at the banks. At Philadelphia, the house of Mr. Pierce Butler has stopped, owing to stock speculations; but his landed property is represented to be still very large. There have been two failures also at Boston, viz., Henshaw, Edmonds, and Shaw, wholesale druggists, and Tenney and Co., carpet dealers.

#### FURTHER REVELATIONS OF CAYENNE.

A VERY singular letter from the French colony of Guiana, the locality to which convicts, political and otherwise, are sent, appears in the *Times* of Monday. It is not signed with any name; but the writer is a free inhabitant of the province, and he claims to speak in the names of the other free inhabitants generally. He complains that, although, according to the plan mapped out by the Home Government in February, 1852, the convicts were not to be placed on the island of Cayenne, they have been placed there by the simple will and pleasure of the local functionaries. A convict establishment has even been formed in the centre of the town of Cayenne. The consequences of this violation of the law, according to the writer, are appalling. "The unfortunate inhabitants who have to visit their property situate near these dens of malefactors meet them in bands on the road, showing their sullen countenances, and sometimes excited by drink. On board the *Gardien*, a hulk anchored in the Cayenne roads, there are more than 180 convicts, who every day enter the town in twenties at a time, to levy various contributions, and are not even accompanied by a superintendent. In the town itself, there are at the present moment 11 *repris de justice* of the country, 41 convicts, some liberated criminals from the galleys, and 76 galley slaves, without mentioning 73 transported men for being connected with secret societies. All of them are in a complete state of liberty. When it is remembered that the total population of the town of Cayenne scarcely amounts to 6000 souls, it may be asked whether so disproportionate a number of convicts compared to the population does not convey in the highest degree an idea of the danger to which the town of Cayenne is daily exposed. And, in fact, alarm reigns in this town, which is at the mercy of so many elements of disorder and destruction. Are we, in fact, sure that these men, urged by the genius of evil, may not some day concoct some vast conspiracy when convicts of the town, convicts of the roadstead, convicts of Baduel, and convicts of Mont Joly, will plot together to put to fire and blood a town which the want of foresight of the authorities appears to have devoted beforehand to every misfortune?" The writer accuses the convicts of the greatest atrocities—even, in the case of three men who temporarily escaped, of cannibalism. They assassinated three or four of their comrades, and, though they had plenty of food with them, ate the bodies.

"So much for morality," continues the correspondent.



"Of the sanitary condition I have but one word to say. It is notorious that at Cayenne, in the course of the present year, the deaths were 56 per cent.; 32 per cent. of the convicts died of the yellow fever, which became endemical in Guiana, and 24 per cent. died of swamp fever and consecutive asthma. It has been ascertained that in the Comté—that is to say, inland—the average life of the convicts was 32 months and some days." When the free inhabitants represent their fears to the local authorities, the latter simply laugh at them, or say that they (the authorities) are only obeying orders sent out by the Home Government, adding that, if the colonists are not satisfied, they can go.

Under these circumstances, the writer appeals to the *Times*. He professes great loyalty to, and respect for, the Emperor; but adds that the monarch must assuredly be ignorant of the condition of his "poor colony." When he is enlightened, he "will take pity" on them. "The person who addresses these lines to you may, perhaps, be reproached with having had recourse to the press of a foreign country to make known the sufferings of his fellow-citizens. May his Majesty, however, be indulgent! What matters it to him how the truth reaches him, provided it *does* reach him?" The writer concludes by expressing his confident hope that the publication of his letter in the *Times* will assist the colonists in attaining the end they have in view.

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

THE members of the Conference met on Wednesday at the Hotel of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. A slight difficulty (says the *Morning Post*) arose, but it was not important, and all will probably be arranged as proposed.

Early in the present month, some fifty political prisoners, who were arrested in the autumn on a charge of conspiring to assassinate the Emperor on his return from Biarritz, will be brought to trial at the Central Criminal Court of Paris.

"The result of the elections for the Cher," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "are now known, though not yet published in the *Moniteur*. In the first circumscription, there were found in the ballot boxes for M. de Nesle, the Government candidate, 15,889 votes out of 16,205 votes actually given. The number of registered electors is 38,313, so that, according to the returns, less than half of the constituency came to the poll. In the second circumscription, M. Guillaumin is returned elected by 19,305 out of 40,253 registered electors, or nearly half the constituency. There must have been some mistake in the former report of the *Journal du Cher*, from which it appeared that 10,000 votes were given to other than Government candidates. A M. de Montaulmin appears to have obtained 612 votes, and a M. de Villers 412. A few score of votes were distributed among other obscure individuals; but that is the extent of the opposition attempted."

It is stated in a private letter from a traveller just returned from Upper Egypt, that the grand scientific expedition under the direction of Count d'Escayrac had been broken up, in consequence of a dissension between the scientific members and their chief.

M. de Montigny, the French Envoy, has arrived at Hué in Cochinchina.

M. Ziegler, the historical painter, has just expired in Paris. Amongst other works, he painted the altar-piece of the Madeleine.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday publishes a report from M. Billault, the French Minister of the Interior, asking a credit of 3,000,000*fr.* (120,000*l.*) for public works in the provinces. The report is followed by an imperial decree approving the report and granting the money.

## AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has paid brief visits to Rovigo and Verona, at the latter of which towns he had an interview (though not, it is stated, on matters of business) with Marshal Radetzky.

The Governors of Hungary and Transylvania are empowered to give employment to persons whose political reputation was tarnished in 1848 and 1849, if they have behaved well since. The diplomatic and consular agents of Austria have received orders to accept and forward to Vienna the petitions of those emigrants who may wish to return to their native country; but they have also been furnished with a list of those persons who will never be permitted to enter the Empire again.

Hungary appears to be in a very disordered state, owing to the depredations of banditti.

The *Vienna Church Gazette*, an Ultramontane organ, has received a first warning from the police.

## GREECE.

The Chambers were opened on the 19th ult. The Royal Speech alluded to the approaching departure of the allied troops.

## SWITZERLAND.

"The Federal Assembly of Switzerland," says M. James Fazy, in a despatch dated last Saturday, "met to-day. It exhibits a firm and warlike attitude, without, however, being disposed to put aside any chance of

settling the dispute by pacific means. The Council has presented to the Assembly a good report on the present situation of affairs. It asks the Assembly to invest it with full powers to take all needful measures both military and financial." From another Swiss despatch, we learn that the Assembly comprised a very large number of those who represent the various cantons in the Federation, and considerable excitement, determination, and unanimity prevailed. The Assembly was opened by a Presidential address, which was warlike in its tone and uncompromising in its principles. The address was received with plaudits. The next business was to receive a report from the Federal Council or Executive Government, which gave an exposition of the case on the part of Switzerland. It justified the course which the Government had taken. It called upon the Assembly to approve of the resistance which it had offered to the Prussian requirements. It prayed for the national authorization to negotiate for peace or to make ready for war. And, lastly, the Federal Council demanded an unlimited credit in the event of the Assembly being disposed to yield to it these extraordinary powers. The Assembly sanctioned the doings of the Council, voted permission as asked, and yielded a loan of thirty millions for the exigencies of war.

The proposition of the Federal Government, to liberate the Neuchâtel prisoners, provided that the whole of the Powers, including the United States, who have representatives in Switzerland, would engage to use their influence to obtain from the King of Prussia the formal renunciation of his claims on the canton of Neuchâtel, has not met with any success, France and Austria refusing to enter into the engagement, as they prefer that the question should be left to those who signed the protocol of 1852, viz., themselves in conjunction with England and Russia. Those four Powers have prepared a note, which they have submitted to the King of Prussia, and which, it is said, has not been rejected by him. The terms of this note are not yet known. In the meanwhile, the Swiss are actively continuing their warlike preparations, and Prussia has received a rebuff in the opposition of the Wurtemberg Legislature to the passage of her army through their territory. Ten members of the Assembly joined in demanding from the Government that it shall refuse to allow the concentration or passage of Frederick William's army in or through that part of Germany. The Chambers were not sitting at the time; but the ten members addressed the Committee of the States, calling attention to the fact that Wurtemberg had always been on terms of amity with Switzerland; that that country is the best neighbour Germany possesses; that she is bound up with Wurtemberg in ties of commerce and mutual interest; that the dispute about Neuchâtel in no way concerns the interests of Southern Germany, or even of Prussia herself; that the quartering of a Prussian army in Wurtemberg would be very disastrous to the people; and that a war in that locality would lead to incalculable mischief. This communication was signed:—"Mohl, Holder, Fetzet, Bodinger, Schots, Pferfer, Conradi, Probst, Runkel, Schnitzer." The representations of these gentlemen have had their effect. Wurtemberg, to its honour, has refused a passage to the Prussian troops across its territory; and the Commission of the Chambers appointed to consider the question pronounces the demand of Prussia a political intrusion.

"A new despatch, relative to the affair of Neuchâtel," says a letter from St. Petersburg published in the *Constitutionnel*, "has been sent off to Baron de Krudener, the Russian representative at Berne. He is directed to regulate his conduct by that of the diplomatic agents of the other Powers, and to observe to the Federal Council that monarchical Europe has serious complaints to make on the conduct of the democratical party in Switzerland, and that, in consequence of their proceedings, the principle of neutrality, on which the Helvetic Confederation is founded, has been violated often for the necessity to have arisen for Switzerland to be brought back to the bases stipulated in 1815."

The Federal Council has addressed to the several cantons a memorial placing them on their guard against spies and agents paid to excite the people to disaffection, and requesting them to do their best to prevent foreigners within their territory "concerting schemes which may be dangerous to other states. . . . Let us," says the document, "repel by our conduct the accusation that we subserve the ends of foreign demagogues. You are invited, then, if need be, to resist the invasion of our country by any new political refugees, to look carefully after those whom you at present allow to find refuge here, to intimate to them that they must abstain from all political manifestations, as well as from all secret conspiracies, and to inform them that, in case of any infraction of these orders, they will be liable, at least, to immediate expulsion from the Swiss territory. In conclusion, we have also to express our desire that you should use all your influence with the Swiss press, likewise, to induce it to discuss the situation of affairs with seriousness and dignity, and abstain from injurious language and rude provocation, which would be dangerous to our national cause."

Under date of 26th December, the Federal Council of Switzerland addressed a message to the High Federal Assembly concerning the Neuchâtel question. After

stating that it had intimated its willingness to effect an amicable settlement through the good offices of France or England, but that it had declined to liberate the prisoners, though asked to do so by France, by Austria, and by Russia, the message says:—"In the course of October, the affair seemed about to enter a phase favourable to Switzerland, thanks to the friendly efforts of the English Government. On the 25th of the said month, the British Legation asked whether the Federal Council would consent to the immediate liberation of the Neuchâtel prisoners in case the King of Prussia would give to France and England the confidential assurance that he would renounce his claims to the sovereignty of Neuchâtel on the following conditions:—1. That he should continue to bear the title of Prince of Neuchâtel. 2. That he should remain in possession of all his private property in the canton of Neuchâtel. 3. That certain religious and charitable establishments, in which the king took a lively interest, should be placed beyond all harm. The reply which we made to that verbal note is dated 29th October. We commenced by expressing our thanks to the British Government for the kind interest it had manifested in the Neuchâtel question, as well as for the friendly disposition it had displayed. We declared ourselves disposed, as much as it depended upon us, after having received the adhesion of the Government of Neuchâtel to the overtures which had been made, to accept the points indicated by the English Government as the basis of a negotiation and settlement with the King of Prussia. These proposals fell to the ground. They were not even proposed to the Berlin Cabinet, as, in the opinion of the English Government itself, their refusal could only lead to greater complications." The Federal Message proceeds to give an account of the various negotiations between Switzerland, on the one hand, and Prussia and the several neutral Powers, on the other hand. The gist of these unsuccessful endeavours for a settlement was that Prussia and her continental sympathizers demanded the preliminary and unconditional liberation of the prisoners, while Switzerland declared herself still willing to abandon the trial, provided the independence of Neuchâtel were declared at the same time, or that at least guarantees were given that such should be done. The English Government is stated to have "assumed an attitude which is essentially different from that of the French Government." England did not make it a condition that the prisoners should be released, though not denying that this would simplify the case; but added that, should the Swiss Federal Government "suddenly decide upon liberating the prisoners without a trial, the Government of her Majesty, in common accord with the French Government, would take steps to induce the King of Prussia to put an end to the Neuchâtel dispute according to the desire of the Swiss Confederation, and to recognize the independence of the canton of Neuchâtel." The English Government, however, declined to guarantee the success of its measures.

An Envoy Extraordinary from the Emperor Napoleon has arrived at Berne. He has submitted propositions to Switzerland to release the prisoners, to guarantee their persons and property, but to expel them from the Swiss territory. It is thought probable that Switzerland will accept this proposal. The American envoy has left Berne for Berlin with offers of mediation.

The Public Prosecutor and the President of the Criminal Court left Berne on the 23rd for Neuchâtel. The trial of the prisoners, it is stated, is to take place forthwith, and subsequently a complete amnesty will be declared, and the prisoners, if convicted, will be set at liberty. By these means it is expected that hostilities will be prevented.

In Vienna official circles, it is denied that Austria will occupy Tessin should Prussia take possession of Schaffhausen and Basle; but military men believe that Baron Iless, the Quartermaster-General, has gone to Italy to make the necessary preparations for sending a small corps into the first-mentioned canton.

Geneva has issued a loan of 4,600,000 francs, which was subscribed in a few hours.

Councillor Furrer is charged with a mission to the Courts of Southern Germany.

The steamers on the Lake of Baden have been armed with cannon, and the ports on the lake are placed in a state of defence.

Signor Manin has published a letter of his, in which, after lauding the Swiss for their noble and energetic resistance to the unjust demands of Prussia, and expressing his admiration of many features in their national character, he calls their attention to the discreditable fact that from twelve to fifteen thousand of their countrymen are now upholding despotism in Naples; and invites them to get rid of this stain upon their country's honour.

It is reported that about two hundred royalists of the canton of Neuchâtel have taken refuge in France. The *Gazette de Lausanne* says that such of them as are liable to serve in the Federal army will be treated as deserters, if they do not respond to the regular calls.

## BELGIUM.

The Minister of the Interior, on the 28th ult., gave audience to the Central Committee of the Association for the Defence of National Labour, *alias* the Protectionist party. At noon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Count Vilain XIV., conferred a similar honour upon that body. The committee was composed of representatives from the provinces of Verviers, of Ghent, of Liege, and of Charleroi. They sought to impress upon the ministerial mind the fact that discontent was spreading amongst the working classes in consequence of the incessant agitation of a body of Radicals who were hostile to the principles of their whole commercial régime, and in whose proceedings the truth was too often concealed. After stating various arguments in favour of their views, they left, with the conviction, according to one of their organs, that the ministry, collectively, had not up to the present time adopted any decided resolution as to the reform of the Customs tariff—that all was still a matter for consideration and inquiry—that they would pursue their inquiries with redoubled care, and that the legitimate claims of industry would be admitted and attended to with the utmost solicitude. Both sides are agitating with great vigour; but the Free-traders are said to have the advantage in the chief towns.

## ITALY.

A soldier has been arrested at Naples near the great magazine of powder, under circumstances which lead to the supposition that he intended to fire it. Had he succeeded, the explosion would probably have been far more awful than that which occurred two days previously.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany has lately published a decree completing the organization of the Technical Institute, founded at Florence about three years ago, for the study of sciences applicable to the arts, manufactures, and public works; also another, having for object to favour the sending of the agricultural productions of the grand duchy to the Universal Cattle Show in Paris, in May, 1857. An exhibition will take place a little before at the grand ducal palace of Cascine, near Florence, and a commission will be appointed to select such of the productions as seem likely to do most credit to the grand duchy at the Paris exhibition.

The illustrious family of the Foscari is just extinct. Two old ladies of the name resided until recently in a small room in the family palace; and, not long ago, the last male descendant of the house died as an inferior member of a travelling dramatic company.

The Papal Government has granted a concession to construct a railroad from Rome to Bologna, by way of Ancona. The house of Casavaldes and Co. is at the head of the company, and the Duke of Bianzanes is one of the administrative council.

## RUSSIA.

The *Nord*, of Brussels, announces that the differences with Russia have been arranged by a compromise to which all the contracting parties in the Treaty of Paris have assented. Bolgrad is to be ceded to Moldavia; Serpents Island and the delta of the Danube are to belong to Turkey; and Russia is to receive, as an official compensation for the surrender of Bolgrad, a territory of one hundred and forty square miles, which will advance her frontier from the first to the second Yalpuok, and which will easily permit her to establish there the centre of her Bulgarian Government.

## TURKEY.

Ferukh-Khan was to leave Constantinople on the 20th ult. for Paris. His negotiations with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe relative to the Persian disputes have failed. Redschid Pacha is said to recommend Turkey to yield to England. According to the *Nord*, of Brussels, the French Government, on the arrival of Ferukh-Khan, the Persian Ambassador, in Paris, will intercede between Great Britain and Persia, and undertake the arrangement of their differences.

The Government has contracted a loan for 35,000,000 piastres.

## THE NORFOLK RABBIT CASE.

Two more men (as we briefly mentioned last week) have been charged at the Holt Petty Sessions, Norfolk, with taking rabbits on the common. The valorous and fire-eating Lord Hastings was in the chair, and the other magistrates were Mr. W. H. Pemberton and Mr. W. H. Cozens Hardy. Mr. MacEnteer appeared for one of the prisoners, and Mr. J. H. Tillett, of Norwich, for the other. Before entering into the case, Mr. MacEnteer requested Lord Hastings to leave the bench, as he (Mr. MacEnteer) had an application to make personal to his Lordship. In the midst of much interruption from the noble and excitable chairman, the learned gentleman proceeded to say that he was about to require that Lord Hastings should enter into sureties to keep the peace towards Mr. Tillett, who is the editor of the *Norfolk News*, the paper which severely handled Lord Hastings in connexion with the former rabbit case. His Lordship, with much warmth, declared that he would not leave the bench. "What is it you want?" he asked. Mr. MacEnteer replied that the nature of his application was this:—"I shall tender testimony that your Lordship has made use of violent threats, which you sent through a person in this town, whom you instructed to carry them to Mr. Tillett; and that afterwards, in the house of Mr. Tillett, which you entered in a most furious and unbecoming manner, you made use of insulting expressions and abusive names, accompanied by foul oaths—[Lord Hastings: 'Yes.']—and threatened

to blow his brains out." His Lordship met these statements by a great many fragmentary exclamations, and by a good deal of laughter, which would seem to have been forced. On Mr. MacEnteer saying that Lord Hastings had done everything he could to provoke Mr. Tillett to fight, the noble judge in his own case ejaculated, "Fight! Why, he's got no fight in him!" He added that Mr. Tillett had threatened to hand him over to the police; and, in that case, of course he could not call Mr. Tillett out. They "managed those things in Ireland much easier." He had demanded an explanation of Mr. Tillett, and Mr. Tillett had said, in a domineering way, that he would give none. After this relation of things heard and seen, his Lordship had the benignity to say that he was "not going to make any threat to Mr. Tillett in any way whatever." He added that "no scurrilous paper should prevent him from doing his duty." Mr. MacEnteer submitted that blowing out Mr. Tillett's brains was not an act of magisterial duty. At this, there was much laughter in the body of the court. Lord Hastings denied that he had made any such threat. Mr. MacEnteer said that, in the case of a gentleman who has not got his temper under control, the party threatened is fully justified in making an application that he should be put under restraint. "My temper is not carried away," retorted the noble chairman. "I hope, my Lord," said Mr. MacEnteer, "it is not an every-day exhibition of your temper to send to a person a deliberate threat of violence, and then to follow it up by a forcible entrance into the house, there to repeat the threat." His Lordship here gave some further particulars of his visit to Mr. Tillett, and said that that gentleman "threw out his long arms like a great orang-outang."

Finally, as Lord Hastings would not give any promise to quit the bench, Mr. MacEnteer said that an application would be made to the Court of Queen's Bench, and that his Lordship would be indicted at the coming Assizes of the county. The noble chairman, whose manner evinced considerable uneasiness, remained on the bench a short time after this, and then left. The magistrates convicted the two men, and fined them 1s. each, with costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

## THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE SYSTEM.

A REMARKABLE letter, signed "A Ticket-of-Leave Holder," appears in the *Times* of Tuesday. The writer comments on the great social question of the day, illustrating his opinions by his own personal experiences. He says he conceives great good is derived from the Model Prison; but, as soon as criminals are sent to the public works, such as those at Gibraltar, they are quickly debauched by indiscriminately mixing with the hardened and unteachable. "What is wanted," says the writer, "is a well-defined system of classification," which would separate the good from the bad. He confirms what has been often related of the canting hypocrisy of many convicts, who thus contrive to impose on the chaplains; and he says that he has known many take the sacrament in the hope of getting "a good drink of the wine!" With respect to tickets of leave, he says: "The present indiscriminate mode of granting licenses to all well-conducted convicts, after they have served a certain period of their sentence, I consider highly objectionable. It is palpably absurd to enlarge the town-bred thief and hardened criminal, and send him to his former locality. He never did, and he never will, work in this country, and indeed, if desirous, could not get employment." The writer proposes that public works should be opened in this country for the benefit of the penal servitude men; he asks what could be better than the reclamation of waste land (a suggestion already made in these columns); but he again says that he thinks it advisable to return to the old system of transportation. Some further statements which he makes must be given entire:—

"I have seen various statements as to the percentage of ticket-of-leave holders who relapse into crime; my conviction is that fifty per cent. of the men so liberated find means, by plunder or otherwise, to emigrate; that ten per cent. gain a livelihood in this country by honest industry; and the remaining forty per cent. subsist by crime and rapine. In conclusion, to prove the impossibility of a ticket-of-leave holder obtaining a situation in this country, where a character is required, I may state my own case. I was sentenced to ten years' transportation for uttering a forged bill of exchange, being then a respectable shopkeeper; some time after my conviction my prosecutor satisfied himself that I had not intended to defraud him; petition after petition was sent to the Secretary of State in my behalf, but without avail, and in due course I was released with a license. When I returned, my prosecutor made me a pecuniary present, wished me to refer to him as to character, and offered to become security for my honesty. I made every effort to obtain a situation, but without success, and I might have had to ask charity or starve had I not borrowed a small sum to trade with on my own account. Thus, with advantages superior to most of my fellows, I am without hope of obtaining a situation, and with far too little capital to do any good with on my own account. How sad is my position, and how gloomy my prospects!"

Mr. M. D. Hill, Q.C., the Recorder of Birmingham, in his delivering his charge to the jury at the opening of the Birmingham Quarter Sessions, again alluded to the subject of the best mode of managing our convicts. He urged the propriety of setting them to work on matters of utility at home, and suggested that they might be employed in making harbours of refuge on the coasts, the paucity of which led to some thousand shipwrecks last year, involving the loss of many lives. Several of our convicts are now employed in making such a haven at the Isle of Portland; and he thought we should employ more at similar works in other localities. "And, as I am now on a question of pecuniary advantage, let me not forget to assure you that whoever favours transportation by reason of its alleged economy has fallen into a grievous delusion. Let two items of expenditure on this head be laid before you. I find them in the Appendix to a Report of a Committee on Transportation appointed during the last session by the House of Lords. It appears that although transportation to Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land, as it was formerly called, has ceased for years, yet 4000 convicts still remain, at an annual cost of 142,236*l.*, which is 35*l.* per man. In Western Australia, soon to be closed against us, we have 2000 convicts, at an annual cost of 82,000*l.*, or 41*l.* per man. But, waiving all objections to the revival of transportation, pray, gentlemen, let it be remembered that to plant a colony is to plant a tree; and that years of growth will be required before it arrives at maturity. What it will then bear remains to be seen—whether sound fruit or the apples of Sodom filled with dust and ashes. At the best, we are contemplating a somewhat distant future, instead of endeavouring to meet an existing evil with a prompt remedy. Let us look round us for a moment, and we shall find that, with a few exceptions too unimportant to be mentioned, ours is the only country in the world which resorts to transportation for the disposal of its criminals; and yet all who have travelled know many countries in Europe, and many States of the Great Republic of North America, where life and property are secure from robbers and murderers." Mr. Hill concluded by proposing that, as the law already provides, the ticket of leave should be immediately revoked on the holder returning to his former companions, or on its appearing that he has no honest means of livelihood.

## OLD BAILEY EXECUTIONS.

UNDER this head Mr. George Augustus Sala, who has recently been making for himself a name in connexion with "Household Words," writes a letter to the *Times* on the subject of capital punishment. He commences by saying:—

"A correspondent of the *Times*, who belies himself under the unsavoury signature of 'A London Scoundrel' (for, unless I am very much misled by internal evidence, an honest and pleasanter gentleman does not exist in London\*), addressed to you the day following the execution of Marley a letter to which you—I am sure he did not—attached the prefix of 'A Plea for the Gallows.' The writer of this plea appeared to be divided between a fervid admiration for the gallows as a national institution, such as beef, beer, wife-beating, and the Derby-day, and a spasmodic terror of those burglariously inclined *forçats libérés* who, aware of the vast piles of moldores, pillar dollars, ducats, imperials, and gold mohurs stored in the upper chambers of the 'London Scoundrel's' house, have long since regarded his mansion as one of the best 'cracks' in London, and have attempted from time to time to 'crack' it accordingly.

"I have waited for some time, in hopes that some one whose voice would carry some authority with it would notice the singular epistle I have alluded to in your columns. With the exception, however, of some gentleman signing himself—and, I think, this time with more truth—'Cashbox,' or 'Cashier,' and who was even more timorous about ticket-of-leave men, and more jubilant about the gibbet than the 'London Scoundrel' himself, the 'Scoundrel' has had it all his own way, and has walked over the course, or, to use more appropriate and Newgate language, traversed the cart.

"I have no wish now to dissect the letter of the 'London Scoundrel.' The cruel indecency to which a Christian man can abandon himself when he speaks of an awful expiation as though it were a capital joke—when he describes the drop, the beam, the upright, and the miserable thing in the white cap dangling by the rope as 'the hangman's working diagram'—when he talks of the horrible gallows 'rearing its honest head'—this indecency must be patent and palpable to all, and to himself."

Mr. Sala's object in writing is to propose that we should execute our criminals in some large open space in the neighbourhood of London; that they should be taken there in a close carriage, without any procession, and that the whole thing should be done swiftly, and as secretly as possible. For this suggestion he gives these reasons:—

"No newspaper report of a London execution ever appears without a horror-struck description of the in-

\* The writer in question is supposed to be Mr. Albert Smith.



famous crowd round the scaffold. So sure as we hear that the sheriff shook hands with the culprit and 'hoped he was comfortable,' so sure do we learn how the mob yelled, and fought, and cursed, and sang, and pilfered at the gallows' foot. The wonderful similarity of these crowds to each other must strike every newspaper reader. The admirable description given by Mr. Thackeray in *Fraser's Magazine*, many years since, of the execution of Courvoisier, is the selfsame description to the minutest point of detail (differences of style being, of course, admitted) as the no less admirable narrative of the execution of the Mannings, contributed to the *Times* by Mr. Charles Dickens. Both, either, might have served for a description of the Marley crowd. This crowd was neither worse nor better than any of its predecessors. It was emphatically the same crowd. The same crowd that yelled, and fought, and cursed, and drank gin, and sang 'All round my hat' at the execution of Greenacre—that bought and sold pies and sweetstuff and sang 'Jim Crow' at the execution of Hocker—that carried babies in its arms and sang 'Oh Susannah' at the execution of the Mannings—that picked pockets underneath the gallows and sang 'Keemo Kimo' at the execution of Marley. The flash songs have changed; the appellations given to the sweetstuff have changed; 'Bonypart's ribs' may have been superseded by 'Jenny Lind's' cough lozenges, or 'Sebastopol-rock,' but the crowd has not changed. It is there. In the Old Bailey and in Horsemonger-lane, as soon as the barriers are put up, the same crowd starts up as though from a trap in the congenial sewers beneath the pavement; and it is there to curse, and yell, and sing, and have its midnight orgies, as it has had them a hundred times before.

It appears to me that the infamy of the crowd is due mainly to the infamy of the locality. We strangle a man in a back lane—I will first adduce the Old Bailey, which is little else—abutting on as foul and disreputable a neighbourhood as can be found in London. We set up this miserable popinjay in front of the Debtors' Door, and wonder that all the moral leprosy of Cock-lane and West-street, and Smithfield-bars, and the ruins of the defunct Field-lane, and Saffron-hill, and the Old-street-road should congregate about it incontinent. We wonder that all the hideous felony of this hideous neighbourhood should come trooping down lustful for drink and blood and plunder, to 'see the cove 'ung.' We set up another gibbet a-top of a gate in another back lane—Horsemonger-lane—in another most infamous neighbourhood; and we wonder again that the 'Kent-street Roughs,' the blackguards and queans of Tooley-street, the Mint, the Borough-road, the New-cut, and the purlieus of the Queen's Bench, should come trooping down again, twin-brothers to the mob in the Old Bailey. Good Heavens! If you impale an otter on a spear, will not the hounds leap up at him? If you put a beehive in the midst of a bearpit, will not the grizzlies be on the honeycomb immediately? I know that people come from great distances to see executions; but the nucleus, the backbone, the spinal marrow of the crowd is there within hail, within pistol-shot, over the way, round the corner, ready to the hand in Clerkenwell as in the Borough."

#### THE RESOLUTE.

THE final handing over to Great Britain of the Arctic discovery ship *Resolute* took place on Tuesday. The American colours, side by side with those of this country, hung from the peak of the ship. At a quarter to one o'clock, Captain Seymour, flag Captain to the Commander-in-Chief, went on board the *Resolute*, to receive her on the part of the nation. Mr. Penn, the Master of the *Victory*, Mr. Burdwood, second Master of the *Victory*, a party of seamen, and a corporal's guard of Royal Marines from the same ship, also went on board. Captain Hartstein now ordered his crew to take up their proper positions, the starboard watch forward and the port watch aft. Captain Seymour, after spending a few minutes with Captain Hartstein in the latter's cabin, returned on deck, and as the dockyard clock struck one, the flag-ship *Victory* hoisted the United States stars and stripes at her main and fired a salute to that flag of twenty-one guns. Whilst the salute was being fired, Captain Hartstein ordered the American colours to be hauled down on board the *Resolute*, and the Union Jack then floated alone, whilst at her main the pennant of a British naval officer was hoisted. The salute being ended, and the change of colours effected, the crew of the *Resolute* manned the rigging, and gave three hearty cheers, as a return for the salute.

Captain Hartstein, surrounded by the Chevalier Papalardo, United States Vice-Consul at Portsmouth, and the American officers, then addressed Captain Seymour thus:—"Sir,—The closing scene of my most pleasant and important mission has now to be performed. And permit me to hope that long after every timber in her sturdy frame shall have perished, the remembrance of the old *Resolute* will be cherished by the people of the respective nations. I now, with a pride totally at variance with our professional ideas, strike my flag, and to you, sir, give up this ship."

Captain Seymour replied:—"I am sure, sir, that this graceful act on the part of the United States towards this country, and the graceful manner in which it has been performed by yourself, sir, and the other officers of

the ship, will ever live in the memory of the people of England."

The crew of the *Resolute* then left her, and went aboard the *Sprightly* steamer, followed by Captain Hartstein and the other officers, all of whom appeared to feel some emotion in quitting the former vessel. By a quarter past one the *Sprightly* was under weigh, and the *Resolute* remained in charge of Mr. Penn and Mr. Burdwood, the half-dozen British seamen, and the corporal's guard of Marines. Passing between the flag-ship *Victory* and the screw block-ship *Pembroke*, 60 guns, the crews of these vessels manned the rigging, and gave cheer after cheer to the American officers and men, who enthusiastically returned the compliment. The *Sprightly* then made her way out of harbour, and proceeded to Southampton, there to embark the officers and crew on board the United States mail steamship *Washington*.

#### OUR CIVILIZATION.

##### MORE EXECUTIONS.

JOHN HANNAH, who was convicted at the last York Assizes of murdering Jane Banham (with whom he had cohabited) was executed behind York Castle last Saturday at noon. On ascending the scaffold, Hannah prayed audibly, and then took his farewell of the chaplain and the officials. He appeared to bear his fate with less mental suffering than was anticipated, but he did not die until after a dreadful struggle.

Since his condemnation, Hannah had been very assiduous in his attendance upon his religious duties. He acknowledged the murder, but denied the premeditation; and the account which he gave of the circumstances attendant upon his commission of the crime is similar to that suggested by the counsel who defended him. He stated that he had left Manchester in search of work, having with him his usual implements of trade as a tailor, and the razor with which the crime was committed. He reached Leeds, and there saw a notice of Wild's equestrian establishment; and the suggestion occurred to him that this was the place where Jane Banham might be found; but, on making inquiries, he learnt that Wild's was not the equestrian establishment in which the woman was an actress. He was informed that her company was at Armley, near Leeds; and he thereupon determined to see her. He had had a considerable quantity of liquor the day before, and an additional quantity which he obtained at Leeds tended to increase his determination. His arrival at Armley and his endeavours to obtain an interview he detailed much in the same terms as those in which the facts were proved at the trial. He stated that, at the outset, the interview was of a friendly nature, but that as time elapsed their words became angry. He was exasperated, and it is supposed that his anger and jealousy were increased by Banham giving hints of her connexion with another man, and by showing Hannah the miniature of that man, which was found upon her after her decease. Thus excited, he says that he struck her a blow, which was returned. A struggle ensued, in which there seemed every probability of the woman becoming the master. For the purpose merely of frightening her, and even then having no intention of injuring her, he alleges he drew the razor. The struggle was renewed, and again he was on the point of being vanquished, when he inflicted one of the wounds upon the woman's face. He then states himself to have been nearly maddened, and, regardless of consequences, to have inflicted the injuries which resulted in death.

Dedea Redanies, the murderer of Caroline Back and her sister, was hung at Maidstone on New Year's-day. From the accounts published in the daily papers we learn that a Roman Catholic clergyman, named Lawrence, was sent to visit him, and was so satisfied with the condition of his mind, that he administered the sacrament to him on Wednesday. Notwithstanding this, however, it is probable that a very strong Mahometan notion prevailed in the convict's mind to the very latest period of his existence; for, almost immediately before the execution, he regarded his approaching death with the most perfect indifference, and exclaimed, "In a few moments I shall be in the arms of my dear Caroline; I care not for death." He was allowed to smoke. On Wednesday he was engaged in smoking, and, having finished his pipe, he shook out the ashes, laid the pipe on the table, and said, "I smoke no more." After this he amused himself, as he had on previous occasions frequently done, by making a sort of rough sketch of the place, and the mode in which the double murders were committed; and when he had finished he laid the pen by the side of the pipe, and said, "Now I write no more; I prepare myself to go meet my dear Caroline." He then went to bed; but it appears that for the first time since his conviction he did not sleep soundly. On the morning of the execution, moreover, he could not take any refreshment; but he manifested the utmost resolution to the last, and died with great composure and resignation. Calcraft was the hangman.

#### THE FRAUDS ON THE CITY OF LONDON UNION.

The committee of investigation appointed by the City of London Union to inquire into the circumstances at-

tending the late frauds, gave in their report at a sitting of the Board of Guardians on Tuesday. After specifying numerous frauds by Paul and Manini, they proceed to say:—

"It appears by the acknowledgment of Mr. John Thomas Rowsell, that on or about the 27th of November he was in full knowledge that the said John Paul had fraudulently used for his own private advantage two cheques, viz., a cheque for 597l. 7s. 4d., drawn by your board for the payment to the Public Works Loan Commissioners, and also a cheque for 378l. 15s. 6d. drawn by your board for payment to Mr. Kingsforth, one of the contractors, and concealed such knowledge from the board, and the committee of investigation appointed by the board, until Wednesday afternoon, the 17th of December, and until the said John Paul had been assisted by this delay in evading justice; and further, it appears that Rowsell caused to be prepared on Tuesday, the 16th inst. [ult.], another cash-book for that which was previously put before the board, and it appears to us that Rowsell has for many years neglected the most important portion of the duties of his office, and has thereby greatly facilitated the frauds of John Paul and Charles Guerrino Manini on this union. And your committee further report that they have examined many of the receipts and payments of this union, which have been audited by Joseph Gibbs, Esq., the auditor of the union, and they find that several sums, forming an aggregate sum of 11,878l. 2s. 11d., which has been credited since Lady-day, 1853, to several parishes set forth in the schedule included in our report of Friday, the 19th inst., have not been paid into the treasurer's account for the union, and the said sums do not appear in the treasurer's pass-book; and your committee report that an ordinary, and even slight, examination was sufficient to show that these frauds had been committed; and your committee further report that sundry other irregularities appear in the accounts, said to have been audited, which show that such audit was not conducted as directed by the law." It further appears that Mr. Gibbs, the auditor, though signing a declaration that he had compared the several payments credited to the treasurer with the vouchers, and found them to be correct, subsequently made a statement that he had not compared the payments with the vouchers, or seen the banker's or treasurer's books for the purpose of comparing them. "And your committee report that George Hampton, who is a clerk in this Union, has been in the habit of posting sums in the ledger to the credit of several parishes in this Union without their having been paid to the treasurer, having so credited parishes from the directions of John Paul and Charles Guerrino Manini, and more especially sums amounting in the aggregate to 11,878l. 2s. 11d."

This report gave rise to a discussion, in which considerable dissatisfaction with the chairman of the board was expressed. A resolution was passed authorizing the investigation committee to borrow 5000l.

The committee recommended that Mr. Gibbs be superseded and Mr. Hampton discharged. They also advised the discharge of B. G. Eldred, who, as assistant clerk, had a culpable knowledge of Paul's transactions, more especially on Wednesday, the 17th ult., when he endeavoured to induce James Jopp, a relieving officer, to accept a bill for John Paul immediately before Paul absconded.

Paul was captured on Tuesday evening in the vicinity of Hackney. He was placed before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House on the following day, when evidence setting forth the facts as above stated was received, and he was remanded till Thursday. He is sixty-two years of age.

REPRIEVE.—Thomas Mansel, convicted at the last Maidstone Assizes of the murder of a comrade belonging to the 49th Regiment, has been respited until the 5th of February, in order to afford time for the decision of certain points of law raised by his counsel, relating to the mode of swearing the jury on his trial, the Attorney-General having intimated his intention to grant his *fiat* for the suing out of a writ of error. The circumstances leading to this reprieve were stated by us in the account of the trial.

THE STAFFIELD MURDER.—William Graham, one of the persons charged with the wilful murder of Mr. Charles Featherstonhaugh's gamekeeper, at Stafffield, has confessed that he was the actual murderer, and that his two brothers, Henry Graham and Joseph Graham, were accomplices after the fact.

THE MURDER IN SOMERSETSHIRE.—An inquest has been held on the body of John Aplin, who was murdered on the night of Tuesday week on the highway near Langley, Somersetshire. The evidence of the various witnesses confirmed the facts related in our last week's paper; and a verdict of Wilful Murder has been returned against Thomas Nation, the young man in custody, who was accordingly committed for trial on the coroner's warrant, and on that of the magistrates.—As the coroner was summing up, an alarming incident occurred. The cast-iron girder supporting the cross timbers of the floor of the hall suddenly snapped with a loud report. The court was crowded, and great dismay ensued; but the magistrates, with much presence of mind, told the people to retire slowly by six at a time, and the room was thus

cleared of all but the persons officially concerned. The floor was kept up by the timbers themselves, and no one sustained any damage.

**A SAVAGE ACT.**—Two men are now in custody at Liverpool, charged with pouring a kettle of boiling water on the back of a blacksmith with whom they had quarrelled. One held him down, while the other applied the torture. The result is that the blacksmith lies in a state of frightful suffering. Both the assailants were soap-boilers.

**A RETURNED CONVICT AS A PROSECUTOR.**—Mary Ann Moore, wife of James Moore, a publican in Liverpool, was charged at the police-court of that town with forging the name of Martin Macquire, a convict, for the purpose of obtaining 64*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, lodged in his name in the Liverpool Savings Bank. In the year 1850, Macquire was transported, from York, for fourteen years, for receiving stolen property. When sent away, he left a box in Moore's house containing 300*l.*, and in the savings bank the sum of 64*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* While Macquire was at the penal settlement, Bermuda, Mrs. Moore presented a letter, purporting to be from him, authorizing her to draw the money, which was thereupon paid to her. In October, Macquire returned to Liverpool under a ticket-of-leave, and, on going to the savings bank, he was made aware of Mrs. Moore's previous visit. He gave information to the police, and she was taken into custody. Mr. Pemberton, who appeared for the prisoner, contended that Macquire, being still a convict, could not hold property, and that the charge, if any, should be made by the Crown. Mr. Dodd, for the prosecutor, replied that, however the question might be with regard to the money, the prisoner could not evade the charge of forgery. He also intimated that Moore, the husband, would be held responsible for the 300*l.* left in his care. The case was then remanded. On Tuesday, she was brought up again, and admitted to bail; and, on the same occasion, Mrs. Moore's husband was charged with obtaining by false pretences the sum of 50*l.* from a Mrs. Bennett, on giving up to her a deed securing 100*l.* to Macquire after certain deaths; but he was discharged, the case not being strong against him. Macquire pathetically told the magistrate that "he had been robbed by the prisoners, sir, in a most scandalous manner!"

**FORGERIES.**—A man named James Anderson was brought before the Lord Mayor last Saturday, charged with having been concerned in a great number of forgeries upon London bankers. He had been examined on a former day, but the evidence was taken privately, upon the representation of Mr. Mullens, the solicitor to the Committee of Bankers for Protection from Forgeries and Frauds, who stated that if the name of the accused, or the circumstances under which he had been apprehended, became known to the public, a man, supposed to be his accomplice, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, would adopt measures to evade the officers of justice. The apprehension of James Townshend Seward, "the barrister," as he was called by Agar in the evidence on the bullion robbery, or "Jim the Penman," as he was designated by most of his acquaintances, rendered the concealment of the facts no longer necessary; and Anderson was accordingly placed at the bar of the Mansion House. His plan appears to have been similar to that of many other utterers of forged cheques. He employed persons to take the cheques for him to the respective banking-houses, and bring back the gold; and he thus, for some time, evaded coming into contact with the clerks of the several houses which he victimized. At length, however, a cheque, which he endeavoured to get cashed at Messrs. Hankey and Co.'s was discovered to be forged, and proceedings were taken which led to the arrest of Anderson. He was remanded to this day (Saturday).—Edward Horace Montefiore was brought up at the Mansion House on Monday, charged on remand with having forged bills to the amount of 5300*l.* This having been proved, Mr. Ribton, counsel for the prosecution, brought forward a second charge, to the effect that the accused had forged two letters of credit upon the London and Westminster Bank, which he had presented at the Cape of Good Hope Bank in Cape Town. On the 6th of June, 1855 (said Mr. Ribton), an application was made to the London and Westminster Bank by a person who called himself James Silvery for a letter of credit for 10*l.* payable at the Cape of Good Hope Bank, Cape Town, to the credit of Richard Rowe, and the letter was granted. No application for payment, however, had been made either at the Cape or in London, and the letter of credit had no doubt been obtained by Montefiore, or a confederate of his, for the purpose of enabling them to obtain the signatures of the managers and directors of the bank, that they might imitate the signatures in the documents which were subsequently presented at the Cape of Good Hope. Some time at the latter end of June, or the beginning of July, Montefiore was in Edinburgh under the name of William Lyons, where he wrote several letters. On the 7th of July, he left for the Cape, and arrived there on the 24th of August, in the ship Lightning. On the next day, he called at the Cape of Good Hope Bank and left there a letter for the directors. This letter (which purported to be signed by J. W. Weldon, *pro* General Manager of the London and Westminster Bank,

and requested that he might have any pecuniary assistance he might require. By the next post, the Cape of Good Hope Bank received another letter, ostensibly from Mr. J. W. Weldon, stating that a letter of credit, No. 998, dated the 6th of June, had been mislaid by, or stolen from, the Mr. Richard Rowe in whose favour it was drawn, and directing that, in case of presentation, the Cape Bank was to withhold payment until the presenter should be fully identified. The letter thus concluded:—"I am also directed to enclose the duplicate of a special letter given yesterday to Mr. Edward H. Montefiore, who carries draughts of his own friends on China to the sum of 5300*l.* sterling—viz., 5300*l.*, endorsed by this bank; for these as well as for Mr. Montefiore personally, I have to claim particular attention." The Cape of Good Hope Bank, having no idea of a fraud, furnished Montefiore with a cheque-book, and he drew from the bank several sums, amounting to 800*l.* At length, the frauds were discovered; but the expense of bringing over witnesses from England was so great that no steps were taken against the accused at the Cape. He was warned, however, to leave the colony; and, coming back to England, he was apprehended. He was on Monday again remanded on the second case.

**RECKLESS DRIVING.**—Christopher Stannard, the cabman charged with causing the death of a young woman, owing to his own drunken incapacity (the particulars of which case were related in these columns last week), was again brought up at the Marylebone police-court on Monday, and was committed for trial.

**GAROTTING A GOVERNMENT CLERK.**—Charles Williams, John Bryant, and Dennis Foley, were again examined on Monday at Southwark on a charge of committing a murderous assault on Mr. Charles Hagan, a clerk in the Board of Works, and robbing him. The additional evidence was that of a woman, the keeper of a lodging-house in Falcon-court, Borough, who heard Williams and Bryant confess to the assault and robbery. She said that on Wednesday night, the 17th ult., she went to the theatre and returned home about twenty minutes to twelve o'clock, when Williams was in bed, and Bryant was on the form in the kitchen. Foley had just gone out to purchase a pie. About half-past twelve o'clock a man came to the house for Williams; and Bryant got up, and they both went to the bedroom and fetched him down. The man who came for him was a stranger to her, but she heard him distinctly say that he wanted Williams to go and do another garotte job. She had heard Williams say on a previous occasion that he had garotted several persons, and that the last was a woman. Mr. Burcham, the magistrate, asked whether they were in the habit of talking about such deeds in the lodging-house? The woman replied that they were; it was quite a common thing among thieves, as they did not expect any one to 'split.' After Williams and Bryant came back and were having their breakfast, they had some words about the robbery, and Williams exclaimed, "We nearly killed the —, but we did not have all the stuff from him." Bryant told him he would have killed him outright had not Williams called out, "Don't choke him!" Foley was discharged; the others were committed for trial.

**GAROTTE ROBBERY IN A DISREPUTABLE HOUSE.**—Mary Ann Taylor and Emma Crosbie, well-known thieves and prostitutes, were finally examined on Monday at Lambeth on a charge of being concerned with a man not in custody in robbing Charles Flenof, a German. The prosecutor said that on the morning of Sunday week he met Crosbie in Blackman-street, Borough, and asked her if she knew any place where he could get something to eat. She said she did, and took him to the house where she lodged. At her request, he went up-stairs with her, but had not been many minutes in her room when it was entered by the woman Taylor and a man, when Crosbie blew out the candle. The man seized him by the throat and pressed his thumbs so violently against his windpipe as nearly to choke or suffocate him, while the women rifled his pockets, and took two half-crowns from his left hand trousers pocket. All three then ran away, but, soon after, the woman Taylor came back and asked him what he did there. On reaching the street, he was telling a constable how he had been robbed and treated, when he saw the women walk past, and he at once gave them into custody. They have now been committed for trial.

**ABDUCTION.**—The Rev. Morris Yescombe, a Bath clergyman, has brought an action in the Bath County Court against a Mr. John Webb Roche (a married man), and Mrs. Eliza A. Madox, his mother-in-law, for the abduction of a Mademoiselle Koch, a governess in the house of Mr. Yescombe. Mr. Roche paid great attentions to the young lady, though the clergyman and his wife remonstrated with him, and at length forbade him the house. At length, however, he and Mrs. Roche induced the governess to leave with them, and she was taken to the house of Mrs. Madox. Mr. Walter Savage Landor, the author, was subpoenaed as a witness on behalf of the defendants; but he sent medical certificates of his inability to attend, and a declaration of his own, to the effect that he had nothing important to communicate, that he entertained the highest opinion of Mr. Yescombe, and that it was his belief that the summons was "litigious, vexatious, and nugatory." The case was adjourned.

**FALSE PRETENCES.**—Mr. John Bryan, a gentlemanly-looking person, described as a manufacturer of electro-plated goods, of Dyer's-buildings and Sheffield, was brought before Mr. Combe, charged with fraudulently obtaining the sum of 385*l.* from Mr. Attenborough, pawnbroker, Bridge-house-place, Newington-causeway, under false pretences, by depositing a large quantity of plated goods, stated by him to be first-class electro-nickel plate, whereas they were only common metal barely covered with silver, and not worth half the money. He was remanded.—Thomas Hay, a person who, as we related last week, was charged at Guildhall with attempting to obtain money under false pretences, has been sentenced to hard labour for fourteen days.—A man, named Charles Edkins, described as an agent and process-server, was charged at Guildhall with attempting to defraud Mr. Johnson, a cabinet-maker in Moorfields, of 24*l.* 14*s.*, by obtaining from him a bill of exchange for that amount under false pretences. Some time ago, Mr. Johnson chanced to meet Edkins, who stated that he was rather "hard up for money," and Johnson therefore agreed to a proposal to accept a bill for 24*l.* 14*s.*, and to allow Edkins 2*l.* as his commission for getting it discounted. The latter accordingly procured a bill purporting to be drawn by a person named "F. A. Ford," who he said was his brother-in-law, and Mr. Johnson accepted it. This was done at the office of a Mr. Wells, solicitor, 1, Ely-place, and in presence of his accountant, Mr. Weston, to whom Edkins was very well known, and whom they afterwards requested to discount the bill for them. At first, Mr. Weston declined to accede to their request, as he did not know anything of the acceptor; but ultimately, after a consultation with Edkins, and some inquiries into Johnson's means of meeting the bill when it was due, he advanced 5*l.* on Johnson's acceptance. Edkins, previously to this, had been repeatedly in the habit of receiving sums of money from Mr. Weston on loan. Johnson objected to the present proceeding on the part of that gentleman, and Edkins then persuaded him to give him (Edkins) the 24*l.* bill of exchange in return for an acceptance of his own for a similar amount, as security until Ford's bill was discounted. After leaving Weston's, Johnson regretted having parted with his acceptance, and demanded it again of Edkins, who, however, refused to give it up. The bill was subsequently negotiated, Mr. Weston's name being on the bill as the person circulating it, and Johnson, on being sued upon the bill, paid the whole amount, and in addition 9*l.* costs. He never obtained any money upon the bill, and Mr. Wells, the solicitor, had retained it, notwithstanding that every claim had been paid upon it. After he had received the bill from Edkins, Mr. Weston took it to Dr. Richardson, a surgeon living in Drury Lane, and asked him to discount it for him (Weston). Dr. Richardson immediately advanced 10*l.* upon the bill, and at a subsequent period 10*l.* more, and he gradually paid the entire amount of the acceptance to Mr. Weston, before it arrived at maturity. He knew nothing of Ford, the alleged drawer of the bill, and therefore made inquiries about him. Mr. Weston had previously been told by the accused that he was a surgeon living at Croydon. When the bill came into Dr. Richardson's hands, he paid it into his account at his banker's; but when it became due, it was dishonoured. His solicitor, Mr. Wells, therefore sued Johnson for the money, and obtained it; but the bill was not forthcoming. After hearing the whole of the evidence, Alderman Rose remanded the prisoner for a few days, and directed that summonses should in the meantime be issued for the attendance of Wells and Ford, and a Crown-office subpoena for Dr. Richardson to produce the bill. Edkins was again brought up on Wednesday, when, after the reception of further evidence, Alderman Rose discharged him, observing that he was sure no jury would convict on the testimony received, but adding that it was a piece of grave suspicion against all the parties concerned.

**AN IMPOSTOR.**—A man calling himself John Daniell, and asserting that he had formerly been connected with the press, has recently obtained several sums of money from various noblemen and gentlemen on pretence of being engaged on a literary work which he was unable to complete without a little pecuniary assistance. Among other persons from whom he got money was Alderman Wire; but that gentleman ultimately discovered that he was an impostor.

**CHILD MURDERS.**—A young woman, the wife of a workman living at Kennington, has murdered her two children—the one about fifteen months old, the other three years and a half—and has attempted to kill herself by cutting her throat. The crimes appear to have been committed on Monday evening, and were not discovered till half-past one, p.m., on the following day, when the murderess herself and another woman called in a policeman. Mrs. Bacon, the mother of the children, said repeatedly that a man had come through the window and committed the murders, and she also asserted that she had been insensible the whole night; but it would seem from her manner that she is insane. Her husband at the time was away from home, working at Reigate.—Maria Beckett, an elderly woman, residing in the village of Wing, Buckinghamshire, has murdered her daughter's infant in its cradle by cutting its throat with a knife. She had made some incoherent remarks a little while



before about killing all the family, and had even attempted to murder the wife of one of her sons with a razor. This was wrested from her hands by some workmen, and she then went to the house of her daughter and committed the act. She was at once secured. No motive can be assigned, and here again a presumption of insanity arises.

**A MURDEROUS ASSAULT BY A MEDICAL GENTLEMAN.**—Dr. James Winn, physician, of Finsbury-square, was charged on Tuesday, at Worship-street, with a violent assault on Mr. Mark Benjamin Benham, a gentleman residing with his family in the same house; and Thomas Tinley, one of Dr. Winn's servants, was also charged with assisting his master. There was a dispute between the doctor and Mr. Benham with respect to the possession of the house; high words ensued; and at length Dr. Winn rushed on his adversary from behind, and struck him repeatedly, calling out for Tinley to come and help him. The servant came, and, Mr. Benham's head being held down by the doctor, Tinley struck him several times with a poker, saying he would "give him a pill." Mr. Benham bled profusely, and cried out for help. His wife and children came to the spot, and the police soon arrived, forced open the outer door, and took the doctor and his man into custody. They were committed for trial at the sessions. The doctor was liberated on bail, but the servant was taken away in the van.

**THE SAMARITAN INSTITUTION.**—Mr. S. E. Packe Barber, the manager of the Samaritan Institution, Victoria-street, City, again appeared on Tuesday at the Guildhall, on remand, to answer a charge of misappropriating certain charitable contributions which had been entrusted to him for the benefit of poor persons whom the institution professed to benefit. The evidence was very conflicting; being partly to the effect that articles of food, beer, &c., given to the institution in order that they might be distributed to the poor, were in fact consumed by Mr. Barber and his family, or sold to neighbouring tradespeople; while on the other hand it appeared that the poor were sometimes relieved. The case was again adjourned.

**ALLEGED NEGLECT IN ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE.**—An inquest was opened on Wednesday, before Mr. Wakley, respecting the death of a young woman, a pauper in the casual ward of St. Pancras Workhouse, whose death is alleged to have resulted from gross neglect, her bedding having been taken away from her while she was ill, on Christmas-day, and on the following day she died. The inquiry was adjourned for a week.

**SACRILEGE.**—Two bricklayer's labourers are under remand at Worship-street, charged with breaking into West Hackney Church, and stealing a large amount of property. They were discovered in the church during Tuesday evening by the sexton and the beadle, from whom, however, they escaped, together with a third man, a confederate, who is not yet in custody. The two labourers were arrested the next day. An iron plate-chest in the vestry, containing plate, had been forced open, and some of the property was strewn about the floor. Two other chests were also forced. The thieves had got in by tearing up a grating at the north side.

**ASSAULT.**—Benjamin Smith, a publican in the White-chapel-road, was charged at the Thames-office with a savage assault on a Mr. Blindell. The latter had had a bottle of champagne at the landlord's house, but found that he had not quite enough money to pay for it. He offered to take the publican round to his house to pay the difference, he also tendered a cheque as security, but Smith fastened the doors, and, with the aid of another man, severely ill-treated Mr. Blindell. Smith was fined 5*l.*, which was immediately paid.

**CHARGE OF MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.**—Hugh Orr, the master and part owner of the ship Hannah and Jane, is under remand at Plymouth, charged with causing, by ill-usage, the death of Edward De Burgh, on the high seas. De Burgh was the cook and steward of the ship. The evidence, as far as it went on the first day, did not go far to criminate Orr.

**ROBBING EMPLOYERS.**—Henry Frank Carr, whose extraordinary account of a large quantity of stolen property found in his possession, and which he said had been given to him to sell by a newly-made friend, imposed upon Sir R. W. Carden and Mr. Thwaites, the chairman of the Board of Works, was again brought up at Guildhall, on Thursday, charged with robbing his employers of property to the value of about 100*l.* Some further evidence was given relative to a part of the property in pledge, identified as belonging to Mr. Meeking, of Holborn; after which evidence in a fresh case was given, in which Carr was charged with robbing Messrs. Greenwell, of the Blackfriars-road, in whose employ he had formerly lived. About ninety pairs of gloves were found in his box, which were identified as Messrs. Greenwell's property. The accused was committed for trial on both charges.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

**SHIPWRECKS.**—The English ship Stag, Captain Clark, coming from Bombay, has struck on the southern point of the rock St. Estève, near the Château d'If. The water rushed into the hold with such violence that the captain was forced to abandon the ship. The boats were launched, and the entire crew were landed on the island

of the Château d'If. The boats had scarcely quitted the ship when she sank, leaving only her topmasts above water. The Stag was laden with a valuable cargo of oleaginous seeds, copper, and copperas.—The brig Ritson, of Maryport, which left Liverpool on the 25th of November, for Barbadoes, with a general cargo, has been totally lost. She was a vessel of 237 tons, and had a crew of seven hands on board, one of whom was drowned. The brig foundered on the 15th ult., having met with a hurricane, attended with a very heavy sea, which, on the 13th started the stern, and did other damage, so that on the 15th the crew could no longer keep her afloat, and she foundered. The damage was done in lat. 45 44 N., long. 10 44 W. Captain Colzier went down with the vessel to a great depth, but was subsequently rescued. The crew got away in boats, and were picked up by a Dutch vessel.

**THEATRICALS PROHIBITED AT THE CURRAGH.**—The *United Service Gazette* states that the Secretary of State for War has refused the application of Lieut.-General Sir Richard England, commanding the Division of the Curragh, to have the school-rooms at the camp fitted up as a theatre for the amusement of the troops during the winter months.

**SUICIDE IN THE CHANNEL.**—A seaman on board the brig Rowena, of Dundee, while on her voyage to Buenos Ayres, and about fifteen miles off Ormeshead, cut his throat in the fore-castle. The vessel was put about, and the body brought ashore. An inquest was then held, and an open verdict returned.

**GENERAL BEATSON.**—In answer to some observations in the work entitled "Twelve Months with the Bashi-Bazouks" General Beatson writes a letter to the *Times*, in which he says:—"For the difficulties which I encountered at the commencement of the organization [of the Bashi-Bazouks], Lords Stratford and Panmure are responsible, by not arming me with the powers I asked for, and by not giving me officers to carry out my views."

**THE LYONNAIS.**—It appears that the boat of the *Lyonnais*, containing a chronometer, provisions, liquors, &c., which was picked up by the *Neptune* on her voyage to Liverpool, was the one which broke loose from the steamer and drifted away before the passengers could get into it.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE COURT.**—Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, honoured the Photographic Exhibition in Pall-mall with a visit yesterday, previous to the public opening to-day (Saturday).

**THE PARLIAMENT-STREET MURDER.**—Sir George Grey, having made inquiries respecting Lerigo, the young man who seized Marley, the murderer, and finding him to be a person of good character and intelligence, has appointed him to be the messenger at the Bow-street police-court.

**GOVERNMENT COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.**—The Chief Commissioner of Works has selected Captain Douglas Galton, of the Royal Engineers; Mr. Simpson, of Great George-street, the engineer of the Chelsea Waterworks Company, and President of the Institute of Civil Engineers; and Mr. Thomas E. Blackwell, of Clifton, as the gentlemen who are to examine the Main Drainage Scheme of the Metropolitan Board of Works.

**DR. LIVINGSTON.**—The Lord Mayor has consented to grant the use of the Egyptian-hall on Monday, the 5th of January, and to preside at a meeting, for the purpose of offering a testimonial of admiration and respect to Dr. Livingston, the intrepid explorer of South Africa.—"It may interest our readers," says the *Medical Times and Gazette*, "to know that Dr. Livingston suffers from ankylosis of the elbow-joint, the result of fracture of the lower end of the humerus by a wounded lion, and that he is about to undergo the operation of forced rupture, in the hope of regaining the use of the joint."

**THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SCHOOLS.**—The annual dinner of the friends and supporters of these schools took place last Saturday evening at the London Tavern. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton took the chair. Among the guests present were Mr. Sheriff Mechi, Mr. T. Chambers, M.P., Mr. Moore, Mr. Routledge, and Mr. W. H. Russell. In his after-dinner address, the chairman said that it would indeed be a reproach to the country if, after taking so benignant an interest in the offspring of her Jonathan Wilds and Jack Sheppards, she were to neglect the children of honest men who had been of service to the country.

**THE RECEPTION OF THE QUEEN ON BOARD THE RESOLUTE.**—The Queen, we are pleased to announce, has commissioned Mr. William Simpson, the artist of the Crimean War, to paint for her private gallery a picture of the Reception on board the *Resolute*—a very graceful memorial of a most noble act of international courtesy. The picture, which will include portraits of the various members of the Royal Family, and of Captain Hartstein, the American officers, and the American Consul, will be engraved, and will unquestionably prove popular on both sides of the Atlantic.—*Athenaeum*.

**INDIA PATRONAGE.**—Mr. Vernon Smith has conferred a cadetship for the Bombay Infantry on the orphan son of the late Surgeon James Macrae, of the Bengal Army,

in consideration of the admirable hospital arrangements made by the latter during the last Punjab campaign.

**THE INCOME-TAX.**—The following declaration has been signed by a large number of the electors of Stroud, for which borough Mr. Horsman, the Irish Secretary, sits:—"We, the undersigned electors of the borough of Stroud, feeling that the income-tax is now become an intolerable burden on the trading classes of the country, and believing that its principle is iniquitous and tyrannical, its effect demoralizing and degrading to an incalculable degree, and its general character contrary to English independence and liberty, demand its total and immediate repeal. We are desirous of paying our full, just share of taxation; and, our hostility to the income-tax being based on our detestation of its inquisitorial and arbitrary principle, rather than its actual rate per pound, no reduction of rates will lessen our opposition to the tax, as we believe it would be impossible for any Government to devise a means of raising money more hateful to the payers, or more calculated to create disaffection to the laws. Believing that the income-tax will never be repealed until the people bring their united influence to bear upon the House of Commons, we pledge ourselves to vote for no candidate at the next election for this borough unless he is prepared to solemnly pledge himself to support any and every measure having the repeal of this tax for its object."—A meeting against the income-tax was held at Gloucester on Monday, when, in spite of some observations by Admiral Berkeley, who opposed the abolition or reduction of the tax, on the ground that there is an end of our greatness if, by a reduced revenue, we are obliged to reduce our armaments, a motion denunciatory of the tax was carried, together with another proposing that any deficit caused by the repeal of Schedule D should be met by retrenchment on the part of the Government.—Meetings have also been held at Deptford and Dorchester: at the first-named place, Alderman Wire presided, and Mr. Thwaites, chairman of the Board of Works, was one of the speakers against the tax.—A special meeting of the Bath Town Council on Tuesday, on the subject of the war increase on the tax resulted in a petition to Parliament in favour of reduction, and of a more equitable distribution, among the various classes of tax-payers, of such portions of the impost as shall be retained.—Several other meetings have been held in various parts of the country.

**FIRES.**—A house in Essex-street, Gravel-lane, South-wark, was set on fire last Saturday morning by a child playing with a Christmas candle, which put the bed and furniture in flames. The children and other inmates were rescued, but the premises and their contents were much injured.—Another fire, accompanied by loss of life, took place in Mills-buildings, near the Barracks at Knightsbridge; and two children, aged five years and two years and a half, were forgotten, and burnt to death.

**THE WEATHER.**—A heavy gale raged along the coasts, causing great damage, towards the latter end of last week; and a vast deal of snow fell in various places. At Newcastle, there was much thunder and lightning, the latter unusually vivid. A mill near the town was struck and set fire to; and it took several hours to subdue the flames. The frost in and round London broke up on Monday afternoon. Several sliders and skaters fell through the ice in the parks on Monday, but all were got out without loss of life, though there were some narrow escapes. The life of a man has been sacrificed in this way in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

**REPRESENTATION OF BUTESHIRE.**—The representation of this county has become vacant by the elevation of Mr. Stewart Wortley to the office of Solicitor-General. Mr. Wortley has issued an address, soliciting a renewal of the electors' suffrages.

**MR. CRAWSHAY AND LORD CLARENDON.**—The chairman of the Newcastle Foreign Affairs Committee (Mr. Crawshay) recently addressed to Lord Clarendon a letter requesting to be informed whether it was authentic that a hostile expedition from Bombay has been ordered against Persia. After a lapse of a week, Mr. Hammond, Lord Clarendon's secretary, wrote to Mr. Crawshay, to the effect that his Lordship must decline to communicate with the Newcastle Committee on matters affecting the foreign relations of the country.

**DRAINAGE OF THE METROPOLIS.**—A meeting of the owners and occupiers of property in districts bordering on the Thames was held on Monday at the Bridge-house Hotel, London-bridge, to express disapproval of the plan adopted by the Metropolitan Board of Works for the drainage of the Metropolis. Sir Culling Eardley, Bart., occupied the chair, and denounced the proposed measure, since it would concentrate at one spot all the drainage from the various cesspools, slaughter-houses, and other reservoirs of filth, all over London, and would lead to disease and to the damage of commerce on the Thames. "Even though the full extent of injury they feared should not arise, the mere apprehension of that injury would have an injurious effect. It would prevent persons from going to Erith and elsewhere in the neighbourhood, and deprive the owners of property of the advantage they would derive from the visitors, besides depriving the inhabitants of London of the recreation they would there enjoy. (Hear, hear.) The plan was imperfect, because it was calculated that in half a century the population and area of London would be doubled, and reach at that side to Erith. In such a case, it would be necessary to extend the works of sewage, and he submitted that it would be better for

them to do the work thoroughly at once. He would suggest to the meeting that they should prepare evidence, and submit it to the commissions which Government was about to form in connexion with the subject. After the delivery of several other speeches to the same effect, and the adoption of resolutions condemnatory of the scheme of the Board of Works, and expressing approval of the Government Commission for investigating the subject of the utilization of sewage, the meeting separated.

**SEIZURE AND SALE OF PUBLIC WORKS AT ROTHERHAM.**—The Board of Health for the town of Rotherham, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which was appointed after the passing of the Health of Towns Act, immediately inaugurated expensive systems of drainage and water supply. The members borrowed, on the security of the rates, and in accordance with the powers given them by the act, to the extent of 32,000*l.*; but even this sum they largely exceeded. They undertook to execute private drainage through their own contractors for a very small per centage above the actual cost. To meet these expenses, it was found necessary to impose heavy rates; but the townspeople became dissatisfied, a meeting was held, and a committee was appointed to investigate the board's affairs. A strongly condemnatory report was sent in; new members were elected out of the committee to serve on the board; and a stop was put to further expenditure. It was found impossible, however, to meet the engagements already entered into. Legal proceedings were consequently resorted to by several of the board's creditors, and a few days ago their expensive waterworks, engines, offices, &c., were seized by the sheriff's officer at the suits of the Earl of Effingham for 1100*l.*, Mr. Simpson (contractor) for 900*l.*, and Beecroft, Butler, and Co., for about 1500*l.* At the close of last week, the works were sold to the seizing creditors on an appraisal by the sheriff's officer. The consequence is that, after an expenditure by the board of about 40,000*l.*, the inhabitants are entirely at the mercy of the creditors for their water supply, and also in a great measure for their drainage, the efficiency of which is largely dependent upon the water supply. Claims to the amount of 4000*l.* or 5000*l.* are still unsatisfied; and it is feared that the disasters of the town will be further aggravated by proceedings in the Court of Chancery on the part of the unpaid creditors. In the neighbouring town of Worksop, the local Board of Health have likewise involved themselves in pecuniary difficulties, and a few days ago had their office fixtures, &c., seized for rent.

**RAILWAY ASSESSMENT.**—The Assistant Judge at the Middlesex Sessions gave judgment on Tuesday in the appeal cases of the London and South-Western Railway Company, against the poor-rate of Staines. He said the claim on the part of the appellants was that the rate should be reduced to 159*l.*, while the case for the respondents was that it should continue at 656*l.* The decision of the court would be that the rate be fixed at 460*l.* Costs would not be given, because, although this litigation had lasted from 1851, great fairness had been shown by both parties, and the proceedings had been most properly conducted. An arrangement was then made with respect to the other rates, and a list of eighteen cases was disposed of.

**PRINCE ADAM CZARTORYSKI.**—The venerable Prince Czartoryski, in his capacity of President of the Polish Historical Society at Paris, has recently addressed its members in a long and interesting speech. While reviewing the political events which have just been accomplished—events pregnant with hopes for the Polish cause—he seemed to reproach his countrymen with not having quickly profited by the circumstances occasioned by the late war; but he also averred that the attitude of the Allied Powers towards the Poles was not of a nature to encourage their efforts. Still, he believed that the foreign policy of Europe had of late become broader and more liberal, and he thought that there is still hope for Poland.

**ARSENIC IN THE TEA-KETTLE.**—The trials of Palmer and Dove have caused a great deal of investigation into the nature of arsenic, not only in England, but abroad. Professor Otto, of Brunswick, being aware of the fact that metal invariably exists in the ochreous deposits of water, thought of examining for arsenic in the crust which had formed on the inside of his teakettle, and had not the slightest difficulty, by the application of Marsh's test, in demonstrating its presence there. The water used in London deposits a large amount of crust on the inside of teakettles. That crust holds a variable portion of oxide of iron, and, probably, if subjected to chemical tests, will be found to contain arsenic.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—The total number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday is 1069, being very nearly the same as in the preceding week. In the corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number of deaths was 1247; but the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, and, if they are to be compared with the average, the latter should be raised proportionately to the increase, in which case it will become 1872. It appears that the number in the present return is less by 300 than would have been returned if the average rate of mortality had prevailed. The number of deaths referred last week to diseases of the zymotic class is 211; the corrected average of corresponding weeks is 273. Hooping-cough, which for seven previous weeks had shown great

uniformity of results, the weekly number of deaths having been about 40, increased last week to 55. Typhus and common fever ranked next in the order of mortality, and were fatal to 38 persons. The deaths caused by diseases affecting the respiratory organs were 233, nearly the same as in the previous week, and considerably less than the average. Fatal cases of pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs decreased in two weeks from 93 to 67. Phthisis or consumption, which is not included in the class above mentioned, caused 128 deaths, the corrected average being 135. Only two nonagenarians died in the week, viz., two widows, aged respectively 91 and 92 years.—Last week, the births of 749 boys and 723 girls, in all 1472 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1382.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

**THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLMASTERS** held their third annual meeting on Monday at the Society of Arts, under the presidency of Mr. W. M'Leod. The report gave an unfavourable account of the state of the society. The Rev. Dr. Booth delivered the inaugural address.—The second meeting took place on Tuesday, when the Rev. G. R. Gleig lectured "On the Influence of the Teacher in Promoting Civilization."

**AUSTRALIA.**—There is a Ministerial crisis at Sydney, the Governor having refused to dissolve the Legislature. Mr. Cowper has laid on the table a despatch announcing the establishment of a line of steam communication with Great Britain.—Gold is said to have been discovered at Dwyer's Creek, near Mornya, Melbourne; and black lead ore has been found on the side of Mount Kembla. A new gold field has also turned up at Callan; and there appears to be no doubt that the whole country round about Rocky River teems with auriferous ore.—A good summer trade was expected at Melbourne. The prices of gold was 75*s.* to 77*s.* per ounce. 85,000 ounces of gold had been shipped in the week ending October 18.—Mr. R. H. Horne has offered himself to the electors of Rodney, Victoria, as a candidate for their suffrages on democratical principles.

**MR. THACKERAY'S LECTURES.**—Mr. Thackeray, on Tuesday evening, delivered at the Marylebone Institute the first of his celebrated lectures on "the Four Georges," which he first delivered in the United States last winter, and has subsequently read in Scotland and the manufacturing districts. The first George engrossed the whole of the discourse on Tuesday evening; and to him Mr. Thackeray gave but a poor character, personally, though admitting that he served the country well. The lecturer was received with the greatest cordiality.

**CHRISTMAS CHARITY.**—A considerable number of indigent persons have been relieved from the poor-box by the Marlborough-street magistrates during the week ending last Saturday. About sixty applicants received small but very welcome sums, varying according to character and circumstances from 5*s.* to 10*s.* It was found necessary to limit the amount for distribution, as the donations of the benevolent, though liberal in amount, have not reached in the aggregate the average of former years. The class of persons relieved were widows with families, old and infirm people, servants out of place, occasionally supplied with suitable clothing when situations were obtained, sempstresses, and any of those cases which the Poor Law as administered would not reach. The number relieved during the year has been from four hundred to five hundred. All cases are investigated by the chief usher before any money is disbursed.

**SUICIDE.**—Mr. John Jackson, a middle-aged man, the chief warder of Millbank Prison, has killed himself by taking prussic acid. The motive for the act is not known, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.

**THE ROMAN INQUISITION** has issued an encyclical letter declaring that the Church does not admit the practice of animal magnetism.

**DEATH FROM STARVATION.**—An inquest was held on Tuesday at Dudley, before Mr. Robinson, coroner for Worcestershire, on the body of an old man, name unknown, who was found lying in the road close to the town on Sunday morning last. He was in a dying state, and was conveyed by the police in a wheelbarrow to the workhouse, but died before he reached that refuge. The stomach was afterwards found to be perfectly empty, and it seemed probable that the man had died from starvation, exposure, and disease.

**THE RECENT ESCAPE FROM THE HOUSE OF DETENTION.**—Notwithstanding the vigilance of the police and the officers of the prison, Davis, the prisoner who recently escaped from the House of Detention, still remains at large. A melancholy incident in connexion with the matter occurred last Sunday, in the death from nervous excitement of Nathaniel Forth, an old officer of the prison. Forth was warder in charge of that division of the prison from which the escape was effected; and it seems that the circumstance so preyed upon him that he went out of his mind, and died in a state of raving madness. He has left a wife and a large family.

**NEWSPAPER OBITUARY.**—The *Sheffield Iris*, formerly edited by the poet Montgomery, was published for the last time on Wednesday morning.

**SOUTHAMPTON ELECTION GOSSIP.**—It recently came out that Lord Palmerston had said to a tradesman of his at Broadlands, Hampshire, that Mr. Andrews, though "a good fellow enough," was not fit for Parlia-

ment, being uneducated; and that Mr. Weguelin was the right man. These opinions he repeated two or three times. Mr. Andrews, on hearing this, wrote to Lord Palmerston, requesting to be informed whether the expressions had really been used by him. Lord Palmerston, in reply, admitted the truth of the statements, while at the same time complimenting Mr. Andrews on the high position he had attained in the municipality, which he considers his proper sphere. His lordship, however, deprecates the idea of intending to interfere in the election in any way, and says that he has written to Mr. Lankester (the tradesman), who had committed "a gross violation of confidence" in making public that which was merely a private conversation. After consulting with his friends, Mr. Andrews wrote again to his lordship on Monday, requesting permission to publish the correspondence. To this letter no reply has yet been received.

**BURNING OF A SHIP.**—The *Myra*, of Sunderland, was totally consumed by fire on her way to Egypt with a cargo of coals from Newcastle. The catastrophe appears to have resulted from spontaneous combustion. The crew escaped.

**DEATH OF MR. JOHN BRITTON, F.S.A.**—Mr. Britton died on Thursday morning, at his residence, Burton-street, Burton-crescent, at the age of eighty-six. His autobiography is left unfinished. His birth was humble; his career chequered and laborious; and his education of his own acquiring. He was born in Wiltshire, but the greater part of his life was spent in London.

**FELONY DE SE.**—A girl, not much more than fifteen years old, has drowned herself at Exeter, owing to disappointed love, the object of her affection being a lad about eighteen, who had quarrelled with her. A verdict of *felo de se* has been returned by the coroner's jury, followed by the usual petty vengeance.

**FIRE AT A RAILWAY STATION.**—A few nights since, the Great Northern Railway station at Lincoln narrowly escaped being burnt down. In one of the rooms a large fire had been left burning through the night for those who came by the early morning trains. At five in the morning, the watchman smelt burning, and discovered that the heated hearthstone had set fire to the rafters under the floor. Part of the furniture was also scorched and charred. As soon as it was discovered, the danger was averted by a plentiful supply of water.

**FLOODS IN THE WEAR.**—A heavy fresh in the river Wear, on Wednesday, did damage to the amount of upwards of 1000*l.* among the shipping in the harbour at Sunderland.

**ANOTHER RAILWAY FRAUD.**—A warrant was obtained on Thursday of the Leeds magistrates for the apprehension of a young man, named Edward Antey, of Bentinck-street, Leeds. Antey, who has been a clerk for some months in the office of Mr. Martin Cawood, secretary to the Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax Junction Railway, was taken into custody on that afternoon, at the offices of the company, in Bradford. He is charged with having forged the names of the directors to three dividend warrants, by which he netted about 40*l.* The prisoner was lodged in the Leeds lock-up yesterday afternoon, and is debarred all intercourse with any professional adviser until the railway company are in a position to be able to prosecute. Antey, who is respectably connected, was to be brought up before the magistrates on Friday morning, on the charge; but it is expected that a remand will be necessary.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BOMBAY.**—We lately (says a letter from India) had a calamitous fire in Bombay, which though not occasioning any very enormous amount of loss in the aggregate, is lamentable from falling almost entirely on the property of military officers ill able to bear it. During the dry season the officers connected with the native regiments of the Presidency have to provide themselves with quarters as they best can, these for the most part consisting in tents, in thatched cottages, and a thatched mess-house, all in the last degree combustible. A week ago a cook room in the midst of these caught fire, and in a moment the whole flimsy structures around it were in a blaze. Within half an hour property to the value of some ten or fifteen thousand pounds had been consumed, none of it insured, and all of it belonging to men of moderate or scanty means. Destructive fires had occurred in the end of October at Rangoon, and on the 22nd of November at Kurrachee; and these breaking out close to each other have been set down by the natives as direct visitations from Heaven for some act of sacrilege lately committed at the shrine of some one of their numberless deities.

**PERSONATION OF A JURYMEN.**—Soon after the commencement of the second trial before the Recorder at the Leeds Borough Sessions a few days ago, it was discovered that one of the petty jurymen who had answered to the name of William Edmund Lee, draper, Kirkgate, and who had sat the whole of the day before, was not the person represented, but a shopman named George Ryder, in the employ of Mr. Lee. The trial was immediately stopped, and another jurymen sworn. George Ryder was ordered to be detained in custody. His defence is, that his master was exceedingly busy attending the wool sales, and that he requested him to attend on the jury, and answer to his (Mr. Lee's) name when called upon. He was quite unaware, he says, that he was committing any offence. We understand that the Recorder will communicate with the Attorney-General



on the subject before determining the nature of the charge against him.—*Leeds Mercury.*

**RELATIVES OF THOMSON THE POET.**—Manchester has at present a majority of the surviving relatives of the author of the "Seasons." There are here two granddaughters of "Lizzy," the sister of the poet; three great grand-daughters, and three great great grandsons—in all eight. There are only seven other relatives living. The poet left three sisters, who married respectively Mr. Bell, the parish minister of Strathaven; Mr. Craig, the architect, who planned the new town of Edinburgh; and Mr. Thomson, the rector of the Grammar School, Lanark.—*Manchester Examiner.*

**PROPOSED VOCAL ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting of more than three hundred amateurs was recently held at the Music Hall, Store-street, when it was resolved that a society, to be called "the Vocal Association," should be established. M. Benedict, in accepting the important position of conductor to such an association, declared his determination to carry out the principles necessary to the proper establishment of a society, which, he hoped, would one day occupy a very high position in the musical world; but to enable him to do so the whole of the members must co-operate with him, and in truth they must "do all in their power," even to the making some sacrifice in time and personal convenience. Such was the case with the "Cologne Union"—nothing was allowed to stand in the way of their attendance at rehearsals, or attention to their duties when rehearsing; such he hoped would be the case with the ladies and gentlemen who had pledged themselves to such a course this evening; and if they were faithful to their promises he did not doubt the result.—Mr. William Lockyer was then unanimously called upon by the meeting to act as secretary, and Mr. J. Rix as treasurer. The secretary announced that there were two hundred subscribers to the association.—A provisional committee was appointed by the meeting to carry out the intentions of the association.

**PURE BREAD.**—We have received a novel claimant for critical notice, in the shape of a loaf of bread manufactured by a Mr. E. Stevens, a baker, carrying on business in Patriot-row, Cambridge-road, who claims to sell his customers 'a genuine article'—a pure compound of wheat, dough, and yeast. We do not keep an analytical chemist, except in our stomachs; but that learned organ has pronounced in favour of Mr. Stevens's loaf, and its good opinion is backed by that of the palate. If Mr. Stevens is really resolved to sell nothing but pure bread, he will deserve a monument to his memory—a monument of 'bakers' noses,' which the ghost of the Emperor Antoninus (who was fond of those tempting excrescences) might visit with delight.

**ANTIQUITIES FROM KERTCH.**—Among recent accessions of an interesting character to the British Museum not yet generally known to the public, the valuable collection of ancient ornaments and relics obtained from the catacombs at Kertch by Dr. Duncan M'Pherson, late Inspector-General of Hospitals, Turkish Contingent, form a new feature in the series of antiquities. They are the result of the excavations carried out at his expense during the recent occupation of Kertch by the Allied armies, and the unfortunate destruction of the precious collections heretofore procured in the museum at that place has given an increased interest and value to the relics disinterred by Dr. M'Pherson, and which he has liberally presented to the national depository. They comprise, with vases of bronze, terra cotta, and glass, ivory carvings, ornaments of gold, and other metals, including examples of a high class of ancient Greek art, certain objects also of a later age, but of even greater interest to the English antiquary. These consist of personal ornaments of bronze, identical in form with those found in the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in our own country, explored by the Hon. R. Neville and other archaeologists. The presence of these remains of so distinctly Saxon a character in the catacombs of Kertch can only be explained by the supposition that they are vestiges of some of the Varangian body-guards of the Byzantine emperors. The Anglo-Saxon origin of many of those warriors is clearly stated by Ordericus and other historians.—*Literary Gazette.*

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 3.  
SWITZERLAND.

SOME Royalists of the Chaux-de-Fonds have signified their willingness to co-operate with all their strength for the defence of their country. They say they do not forget that they are Neuchâtelois and Swiss.

The motive of M. Furrer's mission from Berne to Frankfort is said, by letters from this last-named place, to be the following:—"Several representatives of German Powers at Frankfort inquired if there were no means of coming to an understanding, and whether the Swiss Confederation would not be disposed to send a delegate to Frankfort to concert measures for preventing the armed collision which was about to take place. It was in consequence of these friendly overtures that M. Furrer, the Vice-President of the Federal Council for 1857, proceeded to Frankfort. A letter from Frankfort of the 28th of December, in the *Presse* of Brussels, says:—"It is positive that Prussia has signified an ultimatum to

Switzerland, according to which, if by the 2nd of January the prisoners of Neuchâtel are not released without trial, the Cabinet of Berlin will not receive any further proposition for an arrangement, but will trust the decision to the fate of arms, and exact from Switzerland the payment of the expenses of the war from the day when the definitive order for mobilization shall have been given."

"We are assured," says the *Bund*, of the 28th ult., "that in all the communes of the Black Forest gigantic petitions have been got up, intended to be sent to Carlsruhe, praying earnestly that the Government would prevent the passage of the Prussian troops through the territory of Baden."

The Council of State has adopted unanimously the decisions of the National Assembly. The latter has named as Commander Dufour, who took the oaths—Freyherone, to be Quarter-Master-General. The National Assembly meets thrice more.

## THE CONFERENCES.

"Very little of a positive kind," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, in this day's paper, "is known of the deliberations of the Congress on Wednesday. It has transpired, however, or rather it is rumoured, that the question of the evacuation of the Black Sea was mooted, and that the English Plenipotentiary, while admitting the principle of the evacuation, stated that he would refer to his Government before fixing the precise date."

"A person who is well informed of what has recently been done by the Paris diplomatists," writes the *Times* Vienna correspondent, "states that the word Bolgrad will hardly appear in the new protocol, although both the places of that name will be ceded by Russia. The assurance has been given me that the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities will begin towards the end of this month; but if the weather is as mild on the Lower Danube as it is here, it will be impossible to move a gun."

## FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of yesterday announces that the Senate and Legislative Body are convoked for the 16th of February.

## RUSSIA.—PERSIA.

"The accounts which have been given of the concentration of a considerable military force near Bakou, on the Caspian, is confirmed. These troops are composed of picked regiments from the Caucasus."—*Letter from St. Petersburg in the Débats.*

## BELGIUM.

Vervaeet, the tutor accused of robbery, has been found guilty, and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment and hard labour; to be previously exposed for the space of one hour in the Grand' Place, with an iron collar upon him, and his crime and sentence written over his head. The judgment also included the whole costs of the proceedings. There was a tremendous crowd in and around the court, who seemed to be greatly interested and excited during the whole proceedings. Vervaeet, who was much dejected, was conducted back to prison under an escort of a score of gendarmes.

## AMERICA.

One or two additional items of intelligence are brought by the last mail from the United States. At New York, a preliminary meeting to concert measures for sending relief to General Walker had been held, and another meeting at the Tabernacle convened. Colonel Titus, of Kansas, is reported to have arrived at St. Louis, on his way to Nicaragua, with 100 men for Walker. The *New York Times* publishes the following extract from a letter from General Walker to a friend in New York. The account he gives of himself does not agree with other accounts:—

"Virgin Bay, Monday, Dec. 1.

"You will doubtless get full accounts of the late events here from the newspapers. I consider that our permanent power in Central America never has been on as firm a basis as now, nor do I know of one single month since I have been in Nicaragua wherein we have made as much progress towards final results as the month which has just ended.

"I remain, with regard, &c.,

"W. WALKER.

"To . . . Esq., New York."

The uneasy feeling in the South about the negroes still continues. From Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas, the local papers report more or less of alarm.

The weather at Montreal, Canada, has been excessively cold.

**COLLISION WITH THE POLICE IN IRELAND.**—A riot occurred on the 26th ult. in King's County, between several muggers who had been drinking in a public-house, and who had got quarrelling over some old faction reminiscences. They began to fight furiously, when the police interfered and were roughly used. The latter were at length obliged to load their firearms, when the mob retreated, and ultimately thirteen were arrested.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THOMAS DIXON.—The details in question would more properly appear in an advertisement.  
ASSURANCE ROMANCES.—Unsuitable.  
W. R. N.—We are much obliged by the offer, but have no space for the insertion of the poems.  
Our Correspondent on the Purchase System in the Army, will oblige us by forwarding his name and address, confidentially, in compliance with our rule, from which we never depart.  
H. S. S. has omitted to give us his name.  
The residuary letters in type on the Moon Controversy we shall publish as space permits, but we must consider the discussion closed in our columns.  
The Rev. Dr. Wolff's letter is unavoidably omitted this week.  
We do not undertake to return rejected communications.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1857.

## 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 AND THE NEXT.

THE last year opened with tranquil prospects. It is true that hundreds of British cannon were still pointed from the heights of the Crimea; but a general impression had been created that the Allies, by accepting moderate terms, could stop the war, before it threatened danger to the European system. At the end of January, although demonstrations were still made, although myriads of shot and shell, and great flotillas of gunboats were prepared, and plans of campaigns traced, few persons believed in the necessity of a vital conflict with Russia. The Paris Council of War, the manifestoes of Moscow, the Swedish Treaty, appeared like theatrical flourishes on the part of Governments that had already resolved to incur no more risks and submit to no more sacrifices. Great Britain and Sardinia were probably sincere; both were dissatisfied with the results of the war; but the two Emperors, ALEXANDER and LOUIS NAPOLEON, were tacitly agreed that not another blow should be given on either side. This was also the determination of Austria, and it gathered force from the pacific desires of the whole Germanic Confederation. The Conferences of Paris put a seal to the assent of the belligerent and mediating Powers, and Russia was left in her own peculiar field, to contend for a selfish and fraudulent interpretation of the Treaty. By the fall of Kars, victory had been divided between Russia and the Allies, so that, if the capture of Sebastopol had its moral effect in Europe, the surrender of the Armenian capital had an effect much more decisive on the half-civilized populations of Asia. The English nation understood this, but they understood, too, that such a monarchy and such an aristocracy as ours, in alliance with a despotism like that of the French Emperor, in deference to a host of petty German interests, and in virtual league with Austria, could never be expected to lead a liberal war. Moreover, the blundering of our statesmen, and the incapacity of our generals, had damped the martial expectations of the public. The Treaty of March was accepted, therefore, as the most convenient solution of the Turkish difficulty. Vague in its conditions, it left ample latitude for the reserves of Russian diplomacy, and to the consideration of those reserves the plenipotentiaries of the various Powers have been summoned, in the first days of January, 1857.

From the moment of this dubious concession on the part of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, a Russian tint was perceptible in the

official opinion of Paris. Moderation, dignity, faith, were attributed to the Emperor ALEXANDER—violence, rapacity, and a desire to degrade the public enemy were, by implication, imputed to Lord PALMERSTON. A French spirit presided at the Conferences, an English spirit began to revive at home. Meanwhile, however, Parliament had assembled in London, and some faint efforts at political opposition were made. Mr. DISRAELI broke down in an attempt to place his own principles of foreign policy in favourable contrast with those of the Premier; Lord CLARENDON repressed the disaffection in the House of Peers; Lord PALMERSTON caught upon his buckler the darts of the Tory and independent benches, and tossed them with fanciful ease; even Mr. ROEBUCK was baffled and disconcerted. Only Mr. BRIGHT succeeded in rousing a brief debate; but his arguments were unpopular, and, though they left their mark, the Administration succeeded in silencing all discussion, and protecting the Conferences from that most illegitimate of English influences, the influence of Parliament. Little excitement followed the announcement of the treaty. While the French were delighted to be relieved from a war in which their interests had never been engaged, the English accepted the peace with 'a contented sort of discontent,' and took the illuminations as a palliative. Then, for one night, London wore a glory; and while the holiday multitude glowed to see the pearl fire and the red rockets, there was many a wistful notion uttered as to the hypothetical results of One More Campaign. However, Peace had been signed, and it was necessary to make the best of it; so the Guards were dined—badly in London, but sumptuously in Edinburgh and Dublin—and England went once more her accustomed way.

What was the year bringing for France, exhausted by the Russian war? The article in the *Moniteur* against the English press, the revelations of Cayenne, dear lodgings, scanty food, the bull-victories of Bayonne, the blue and gold pavilion of Biarritz, the Imperial infant, and the masquerade hunts of Compiègne. Not one imperial concession to liberty, not one liberal adhesion to the Empire. Discontent among the working classes, financial embarrassments, the penalties of public gambling, France liable, by the accident of any day, to find herself in the midst of a revolution. So in Austria. Her Italian provinces are devastated by the tax-gatherer. The Emperor is received in silence at Venice, and dares not visit Milan. From Naples, he hears that his Bourbon brother has received a bayonet-stab from one of his military children, and he receives a hint on the art of government, illustrated by eight hours of torture, inflicted upon a man with whom every just mind sympathizes deeply. What a contrast between the soldier and the king!—the 'assassin,' first agonized by Iroquois torments, and then brutally put to death, and the tyrant, guarded by mercenaries, haunted by a terror which will some day change into remorse, and living in the midst of daggers, many of which do not strike him only because they cannot penetrate his pretorian enclosure! A sovereign of another quality, in Berlin, prepares to make war by right divine. Expelled from Neuschâtel, chiefly for violating the conditions of his tenure, this preacher of peace makes ready for an invasion of Switzerland, as though he were about to hunt down a wolf. Should his armies ever arrive at the Swiss frontier—which is exceedingly doubtful, owing to the protest of Wurtemberg, and the attitude of the neutral Powers—they will encounter such a reception as may startle the moony pedant from his dreams of divinity. No

doubt he and his kindred on the thrones of Europe anticipated a large increase of their prerogative over the smaller constitutional Powers, from the dispute between Great Britain and America. As if Ruatan, Belize, the Mosquito Indians, or all the logwood, coffee, cocoa, or sugar plantations in Central America were worth one blow struck between Captain SEYMOUR and Captain HARTSTEIN, the American and British navies personified on the deck of the *Resolute*! Happily, that cloud has drifted away; we find ourselves in cordial amity with the United States; we are looking round for a Minister to represent us at New York; and, instead of being called on to assist in the obsequies of the Union, we see JAMES BUCHANAN laying the foundations of domestic tranquillity throughout the Northern continent of America.

In the west and east of Asia we have two difficulties—a Persian war, and a collision with China. Both, perhaps, have been partially actuated by a belief which is entertained by the Government, that, as the Russian war somewhat impaired our prestige in Asia, it is judicious to insure the deference of the Asiatic population by maintaining a vigorous line of policy from the Persian Gulf to the Yellow Sea. In the case of Persia, however, our quarrel is clearly just; while at Canton, so far as the circumstances have yet been explained, no blame is attributable to Sir JOHN BOWRING or Admiral SEYMOUR.

A retrospect at home shows little progress in legislation, or the purity of social manners. Two or three commercial reforms, a county police bill, a reformatory movement, and some powerful pleas in favour of education, are to be balanced against the mighty swindles of Middlesex and Tipperary, the Rugeley, Leeds, Dublin, and metropolitan murders, and the utter bewilderment of our jurists in search of penalties for offenders.

The last year casts its shadows over the next. No one will be astonished by the recurrence, at any moment, of the convulsions of 1848. That one truth indicates the kind and the degree of progress that has been made abroad. At home, what is our task? It seems hopeless to obtain a reform of our foreign policy, which is, by turns, the prerogative of a Whig or Tory minister. But the nation is gradually educating itself to a familiarity with the affairs of the Continent, and our diplomatic relations with the great Powers. Knowledge of this kind is useless unless applied in the form of direct pressure upon the Administration. In other respects, the paramount necessity of the new year is a great change in our parliamentary institutions; for Parliament, as it exists, is the machine of corrupt parties, and the constituencies are hotbeds of venality.

#### THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

AN American officer has just struck his flag to an English naval commander, surrendering his ship, and yet the act was a deed of victory. Captain HARTSTEIN struck his flag on board the *Resolute*, on Tuesday, and gave up the ship to Captain SEYMOUR, of the British navy. He did so, he said, "with a pride totally at variance with our professional ideas," and the pride of the officer can be well understood. Many thoughts must have crowded into Captain HARTSTEIN's mind at that moment. It is comparatively but a short time since this country, after making a treaty with the United States to guarantee the neutrality of a passage across the American isthmus, first endeavoured to back out of that compact, and then, to cover its own bad faith, endeavoured to establish against the statesmen of the Union the most treacherous purpose in framing

the treaty. Failing in this crooked endeavour, our Government yielded up the island in dispute, and the whole points of the contest; still, however, unhandsomely accompanying the really humiliating concession with a continued charge of sharp practice against the Union. What was the reply of the American Government? Firm in exacting a compliance with its just demands, in the matter both of Central America and the Enlistment quarrel, the American Government continued a perfectly frank conduct towards our own; and when the opportunity offered, in the drifting of the *Resolute* to American hands, it seized the occasion for a touching testimony of sympathy, of good feeling towards the whole people of this country, and of respect even for the national Government. It may be said that the United States, with a peculiar grace and generosity, returned good for evil in making that handsome present of the *Resolute* to the English nation through Queen VICTORIA; and in striking his flag to Captain SEYMOUR, Captain HARTSTEIN was actually crowning that victory.

If, indeed, Englishmen will but understand themselves and their relation to their Government, there will be no further chance of disputation between the American Republic and our Commonwealth. It was this idea which inspired the brief address of Mr. CROSSKEY at the Portsmouth dinner on Monday, last week.

"Although," he said, "it had fallen to the happy lot of America to inaugurate this auspicious event in the annals of nations, he had no doubt that had the relative positions of the two countries been changed, England would have done just as they (the Americans) had done (*loud cheers*); and she had no greater wish than for some opportunity to occur wherein she could prove that she was not to be excelled in such acts even by her first-born daughter, America. (*Cheers.*) England must rejoice in America's prosperity, even as America rejoiced when she heard of the increase of British prosperity and the extension of the British empire in legitimate directions. The world was large enough for both nations to fulfil their respective destinies without coming into conflict with each other. (*Prolonged cheering.*) The East seemed peculiarly England's sphere of action, while the West would appear to be the sphere in which America, rather than England, should exercise the influence which the Anglo-Saxon race had never failed to exercise among a semi-barbarous people or over undeveloped countries. At all events, it was their duty to cherish the present kindly feelings existing between them, to avoid all talk of war, and to be chary of each other's honour and feelings as they would of their own, for hard words too often led to hard blows. (*Cheers.*) When he heard the possibility of a war between the two countries, the idea appeared to him to be so unnatural that he found himself repeating, with the transposition of a few words, an old nursery rhyme, as familiar on their side of the Atlantic as on this, and it might not be inappropriate on the present occasion to repeat the lines:

'Let dogs delight to bark and bite,  
For God hath made them so;  
Let Turks and Russians growl and fight,  
For 'tis their nature to.  
'But Anglo-Saxons should not let  
Their angry passions rise,  
Their great big hands were never made  
To tear each other's eyes.'

(*Cheers and laughter.*) He (Mr. Crosskey) recommended both English and American mothers to adopt this version in teaching their children, as a war between England and America would be so dire a catastrophe that it would be execrated by all lovers of their kind; it would be a violation of the first principles of nature, and in disobedience of the law of the Great Ruler of the Universe." (*Cheers.*)

Those who sat round the table would observe that in the reports of Mr. CROSSKEY's speech one clause was omitted. If we mistake not, while speaking of the support which England would always receive when she needed it, he alluded more especially to the support which the Americans would give if England were sustaining the cause of Liberalism in Europe. This is exactly what we have always said, and it gives us pride and satisfaction to have the testimony of Mr. CROSSKEY to the same effect. What man could better understand the relation of the two countries than that American who is



thoroughly acquainted with the affairs of his own land—who so perfectly understands the commercial relations of the Republic and the Commonwealth—who may be said to have identified himself with English commerce—and who has had so many opportunities of acquiring an insight into the character and feelings of the English people? He can speak to England as an American, and to America as an Englishman. Closely connected with those classes, whose property is a gage for their peaceful tendencies, an Anglo-American merchant yet understands how essential to the best interests of the two countries is the vindication of that freedom which has extended English and American commerce to every part of the world.

But there is a further section to that chapter. Exactly in proportion as the people of the civilized world are free, as the incubus of despotism, bureaucracy, aristocracy, and exclusiveness of every kind, is removed from them, their power of production will increase, their capacity for commerce will enlarge; and the wealth-acquiring trade which England and America already urge in every part of the world will augment proportionately to the partnership of England and America.

We rejoice to see this testimony to the awakening of a noble ambition amongst the Americans; we have often shown what they could do to enlarge their influence and power, even on this side of the Atlantic. If, through our own fault, we have fallen under the sway of a reactionary bureaucracy, we might still find the power to do something in the world, if a helping hand were held out to us; and who could hold out that helping hand so well or so congenially as America? American statesmen and the English people could, indeed, open up 'new markets,' not only for the produce and manufactures of the two countries, but for their ideas; and in swelling the power of the Republic and the Commonwealth, they would enlarge the blessings of mankind and open the heart of nation to nation.

#### THE GAROTTE AND THE GALLOWES.

LIFE and property are nowhere so secure as in our favoured land, cries the Englishman complacently—wholly forgetting the evidence of his own journals. According to them—and in this at least they are true—there is a constant struggle between the orderly classes and the criminal classes. No place is safe. The decent tradesman going home after business, the Government clerk asking his way in a respectable suburb, the young lady walking along Oxford-street in the evening, are 'garotted.' The shopman sitting at his work is suddenly assaulted and beaten to death, actually within view of indifferent passengers. The respectable woman going to market is assaulted, and the purse is wrenched from her hand. The passenger in the omnibus is warned by a printed notice to take care of his pockets, so common is depredation, even by those who look most respectable. The house is entered by the bearer of a letter, by the sturdy beggar, by the area sneak, by the maid's sweetheart. The church is stripped. The money is drawn from the bank by a forged cheque. The manager of the bank uses the house as an instrument for gigantic swindling. The registrar of shares in the joint-stock company is daily, for years, selling forged shares. The accountant is periodically passing accounts habitually falsified, though by the system of double entry a fraud in the books, without collusion, is almost a physical and moral impossibility. The merchant who sells you goods, or obtains advances on goods, is swindling you by a gigantic species of thim-

ble-rig, in which the goods have been spirited away. The son of a lordly house uses his name to facilitate a fraud. These events are as notorious as the opening of Parliament, as the position of Mr. DISRAELI, or the relations of any member of the royal family; neither one is singular in its kind.

We suck in fabulous accounts of "railways and revolvers in Georgia," forgetting the real railway frauds and garottes in London. We speak of Italy as the land of the assassin, when a man may traverse Florence from one end to the other daily, and never hear of an outrage.

The remedies suggested are as various as the forms of crime. One person recommends revolvers—not in Georgia! Another advises the bowie knife—not in California! A collar of iron, to defeat the garotter. A collar of iron, with poisoned needle spikes, to torture and kill the garotter. A life-preserver. A doubling of the police force. A special police attendant on private persons or private carriages. A sword-stick, a dagger ditto. A blue light, to burn and flabbergast the footpad. A boot-bayonet, set on like a spur, to kick withal. A door chain, to keep out the sturdy beggar. A little barking spaniel, for the burglar. A small wicket peep-hole, to scan the visitor. A general raid, to kidnap all the suspicious characters. A universal transportation. A vigorous resort to the gallows, by way of counter-garotting.

Carry them all off to the colonies, renew transportation, cries the practical man. Ay, why not do that? asks the man of sense. For the simple reason, my dear sir, that the threatened rebellion of the transport-receiving colonies obliged us to give up transportation, and the actual rebellion of the Cape Colony just told us what the free colonies would do if we attempted "to distribute our convicts over the colonial empire."

Take them then to a desert island, and keep them there. Ay, why not do that. Because, some years back, we had a pure convict settlement at Norfolk Island; and then the habitual manners and customs of a place peopled wholly by felons so rivalled the abominations described in the most accursed places mentioned by the Old Testament, that sheer horror compelled us to declare that such a place must not be, and it was broken up.

The gallows then—that is your only resort. "The London Scoundrel," who has been sore frightened by burglars and garotters, declares that it is a pleasure to see a hanging. So do most London scoundrels. When "an execution" is advertized they go in large flocks—the worst dressed, the most reckless, the low, the squalid, the tawdry—the pickpocket, the garotter, the burglar, the area sneak, the fence, the bully, the footpad, the broken soldier, the ticket-of-leave man, and the harem of that aristocracy. It is as good as a play; they like it as much as the "London Scoundrel" does. A committee of Parliament sat some years ago, and found out what we have just stated; for committees annually discover what any man may see for himself. Next session there is to be a committee to inquire the way from St. Giles's to Tyburn, with power to call for what it likes, and to report the same. But in this country we never say out the one essential thing to be said. There is a reason why hanging is 'fun' to a ribald mob, and a most hideous spectacle to those who understand the said 'fun of the thing.' It is the same reason why MORREUX, the French translator of "Don Quixote" into English, hanged himself; the same why we read of mysterious hangings by persons who are known *not* to have intended suicide. Most well-informed medical men know the

reason. Worn-out debauchees sometimes learn it. They know it in the lowest haunts of vice, such as those frequented by "the Old Marquis." The audience which assembles to see a hanging, knows and cracks unspeakable jokes upon the subject. But that conclusive reason against hanging as the form of slaughter is never told, because, forsooth, it is not decent! Some keep up the spectacle, because the fate would frighten and deter *us*; while it is but fun to the classes whom we want to awe.

Perhaps we might alight upon the remedy of this social disease, if we were to resort to a course which has been found very effective in other difficulties—if we were to investigate the *causes*. "It is all the ticket-of-leave system!" exclaims Practical Man. Now it is a 'curious feature' that in a hundred cases of outrage, not more than three are by ticket-of-leave men; so that the chances are thirty-two to one that it is *not* a 'ticket-of-leave man.' Just in the same way we call all sudden attacks in the street "garotting," when no garotte is used. We used to say that a footpad stopped a traveller; we now say that the traveller is "garotted." We might as well say that he was bowstrung or lassoed. None of the most notorious criminals are ticket-of-leave men. THURTELL, TAWELL, COURVOISIER, MANNING, RUSH, PALMER, and DOVE were not ticket-of-leave men, any more than WINDLE COLE, GORDON, SADLER, PAUL, VILLIERS, ROBSON, REDPATH, CAMERON, or PAUL the Second. Neither in conspicuousness, magnitude of crime, nor more than fractional numbers, do we find the ticket-of-leave men involved. So the cause cannot be the ticket-of-leave system.

"It is then the 'philanthropic' plan of Mr. M. D. HILL and other prison reformers, who are for cossetting the prisoner." This is triply impossible—because M. D. HILL and his coadjutors are *not* for indulgence, but for long imprisonment, strict discipline, and hard labour; because the plan of letting loose culprits once detected and caught, after a short imprisonment or an hypocritical pretence of good behaviour, is one invented by the Home Office, Colonel JEBB, and such persons as oppose Mr. M. D. HILL and the prison reformers; and because *their* system has never yet been carried out or even tried, but only a partial imitation of it.

It is possible indeed that among the many causes for the insecurity of life and property in this country may be the neglect to carry out the system of M. D. HILL and his friends; since that would provide for the more effectual detention of known and convicted offenders.

The glutton alderman was fool enough to say that the cause of his apoplectic fit was "the last pea" which he took at supper; but he was not dolt enough to say that his fit was caused by the abstemious regimen which his doctor had been constantly recommending, and which he had not adopted.

The real causes of the multitude of crimes and criminals, however, are obvious enough, if we will only look that way. The state of society which produces the creatures and their crimes must comprise the efficient causes. The crimes and the criminals are no more the causes of that state than the apoplexy is the cause of gluttony or debauchery, or the medicine is the cause of the apoplexy. We can readily detect the peculiar symptoms. We have whole classes alienated from others: the child is brought up in rags, ignorance, and bad example; he is refused work because he has not a calling or a character; the fence will buy what he will prig. Is the gallows the proper instrument for putting that student in the right path of life? We have no

school for him. We have servants in our household who are perfect strangers to us, and not strange to the 'cousin' that comes in at night, 'unknown' if possible. We have a church that offers no room for the unrespectable classes—not much use, therefore, is the pastor to those lost sheep, either for guidance, support, or consolation. We have whole districts of which our legislators and rulers know nothing—our fences and FAGS everything. We have prisons, with official JEBBS to hinder reform, and chaplains to teach hypocrisy. We have London Scoundrels and British Judges to proclaim war to the knife—or rather war to the gallows—with that race made hostile. And then we wonder that there are criminals in the land, or that the garotter has rather a hankering,—no, not to hang the London Scoundrel, but only to make him pay the reckoning for his bad manners. Really, the balance of cruelty, wantonness, and folly is *not* on the side of the felon.

#### PROSPECTS OF THE BALLOT.

THE Ballot is decidedly a rising question. It has already lived down many objections, although it is as yet untried in England. Just as its traditional opponents have been casting the old slur upon its efficacy, the Red Jacket comes from the Antipodes and reports that it has satisfied all classes of politicians in the Australian and Tasmanian colonies. Mr. BERKELEY has contributed several admirable letters to this winter's discussion, and Sir ARTHUR ELTON has published a no less admirable pamphlet. We confess to feeling some interest in the political progress of Sir ARTHUR ELTON. He is sincere, bold, vigorous. He is practical and studious. He has contrived to write forty pages of very sound and readable argument on so well-worn a subject as the Ballot.\*

He calls it a Conservative measure. But he probably knows that Conservatism is only the pretence of the Conservative party. The typical Liberal is far less inclined to experiment than the typical Tory. The Liberal principle is, to provide safety-valves and other securities; the Tory principle is to see what pressure the engine will bear, without bursting. Sir ARTHUR, therefore, appeals to a principle which does not exist among the Tory order, when he treats the Ballot as a "Conservative" measure. Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Bill, the Repeal of the Corn-laws, were Conservative measures; but the sense in which the Ballot is Conservatism is not that which would satisfy the country party. It would conserve the institutions of the State, but not the bribery, intimidation, and obnoxious influence by which the interests of the State are sacrificed to the selfishness of a class.

We, however, as Conservatives, accept Sir ARTHUR ELTON's description of the Ballot. We think his statement so useful, that it deserves the widest possible circulation, and shall, therefore, notice its more prominent points. He starts with the opinion that any further concession of the suffrage without the protection of the Ballot would be fallacious and injurious. Without the Ballot, indeed, we have no means of testing the legitimate results of the Reform Bill. We have never yet had a Parliament which represented the principles or the sentiments even of the narrow constituent body. We cannot say of what colour a majority would be, returned at a general election, entirely free from unconstitutional influences. We have, then, a House of Commons created by a machinery which has never been free to work without the interference of the landed

or moneyed aristocracy. To obtain a House of Commons, elected in the true spirit of the Constitution, a system of secret voting is indispensable; but it is formidably democratic, would throw enormous power into the hands of demagogues, demoralize the political habits of the people, and prove, mechanically, a total failure. Such is the Alpha and such the Omega of the dissentients' alphabet, for neither Whigs nor Tories pretend to reconcile the inconsistency of a mechanical failure producing a moral revolution. If votes *cannot* be secret, the system called secret voting cannot be dangerous; but facts are against the objectors. We have mentioned the report of the Red Jacket. Sir ARTHUR ELTON and Mr. BERKELEY show that in Holland, in Sardinia, and in our Australian colonies, the Ballot has proved perfectly successful. If in certain states of America secrecy is not observed, that is the fault of the voters, not of the machinery. As to the extirpation of legitimate influences, no legitimate influences are sought to be destroyed; only, under the Ballot, an elector must be persuaded, and not compelled. In the United States it protects the holder of unpopular opinions against the fury of a factious mob, and in England it would protect the individual from the intimidation of his landlord, employer, or customer, place him beyond the reach of bribery, and render the franchise an honourable privilege instead of being, as it often is now, a nuisance to its possessor. It is easy to declaim about an open, manly way of walking up to the polling-booth and avowing your opinions; but to walk up to a booth and vote for a candidate notoriously against your will, is not to avow your opinion, but to degrade yourself and expose your degradation. If your position be independent, then put your vote in the box, and say, "I voted for the Radical member;" but, do not force your less independent neighbour, with views as liberal as your own, to vote in the interest of a High Church customer, or allow the beggarly 'freeman' at the corner to neutralize your independence by his corruption, and render your unbought suffrage of no effect, because he has been paid five shillings for his own! Secrecy, at the worst, is not so demoralizing as political cowardice, or as political cheating. Under the open system, half the country elections are forced, and a large number of the borough elections purchased. To remedy this scandal, which is perpetuated in spite of all the preventive Acts that can be devised, let us have the Ballot. It may have failed in France; but, as Sir ARTHUR ELTON very cogently shows, the failure of the ballot on the morrow of a military usurpation can have no application to England. France has a puppet legislature;—that is no reason why we should abolish the two Houses. The objections against the Ballot are breaking down on all sides. There is really some chance that, if the Liberal party would now undertake a vigorous movement, this important reform might be brought within reach.

#### SOUTHAMPTONIANA.

SOUTHAMPTON is, at present, a cheering scene. Who believes in the political apathy of the English people? Let him visit that large port, packet-station, county town, county, and railway terminus on Southampton water, source of the FITZROY baronial honours, an ancient and a proud place, which is now challenged to return a fit and proper representative to Parliament. From the cloud of placards on the walls you might believe that the city had been put up to auction. From the patriotic enunciations in colossal type you might imagine that never since the brave HORATIUS held the bridge did public spirit burn more vividly than now in

Southampton. Every tenth male adult is a committee man. "WEGUELIN," "ANDREWS," "BUTLER," are more conspicuous than the appellations of the streets, the ghost of the candidature of "EDWIN JAMES" blushing in red ink under BUTLER's blue. Why? What is Southampton doing? Electing the parliamentary successor of Sir ALEXANDER COCKBURN, who has tripped up the Southampton ladder to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas. Now, Southampton is an antique town which, ever since the year 1295, has returned two members to Parliament. It is adorned with a mayoralty, with ten aldermen, and thirty councillors; and it has a constituency of about two thousand four hundred electors. At the last general election, seventeen resident freemen still encumbered the lists, besides two hundred and fifty scot and lot electors. Shipmasters, shipbuilders, and the persons in their employ, railway and port officials, hotel-keepers, and a multitude of people who nibble at the purses of travellers passing through, constitute the polite population. How is it that such a constituency is so intensely interested in political affairs, so public-spirited, so patriotic?

The truth is (calumny might say), that the Southamptonians are neither public-spirited nor patriotic, and care no more for politics than for the sea-sickness of the gentlemen who have left their hotels for India. The constituency is an estate, out of which each person makes what he can—with the exception of a minority of simple persons, who fancy, while they are voting, that they are acting under the direction of their conscience and in obedience to duty. Clearly, these people have no idea of the true purposes of an election—no notion that they send WEGUELIN into Parliament that he may support the Bank Charter Act, or BUTLER that he may obtain a certain railway bill, or ANDREWS that he may bring a larger business to his door. Of course, suggestions of this sort are merely malicious. We have been much irritated by the frightful imputations cast by certain anonymous partizans of Mr. WEGUELIN upon the procedure of Mr. ANDREWS's agents. They say that the coach-building interest is kept in view. This is mean. But, on the other hand, the impure satirists of the WEGUELIN claims hint that the Bank Director merely wishes to bargain with Southampton for a seat in Parliament in the interest of the Bank Charter Act. And these poisonous whisperers glance, also, at Sir HENRY BUTLER, and say, "Oh! a railway affair." All these insinuations, we know, are perfectly groundless. Bribery and intimidation are impossible under the new Act. Besides, the electors are Great Britons, proud of the franchise, conscious that they guard the palladium, &c. The only tittle of evidence in support of the charge alluded to is, that the price of Southampton is notoriously not far short of 50000! That sum of money, however, easily goes. Let one of the three candidates be elected, and, such is our confidence in the political purity of Englishmen, that we believe not a single case of bribery or treating, within the meaning of the Act, could be proved. Still Mr. ANDREWS knows the value of public life, Mr. WEGUELIN understands how useful a seat in Parliament will be next session to the Bank of England, Sir HENRY BUTLER is perfectly aware that there *are* expenses which cannot be avoided.

Say, O LANKESTER! for thou knowest, what were the words of PALMERSTON when the names of ANDREWS and WEGUELIN were mentioned as candidates for Southampton, *viva* COCKBURN promoted? He said, says LANKESTER, that WEGUELIN was fit and proper,

\* *The Ballot: a Conservative Measure.* By Sir Arthur H. Elton, Bart. Ridgway.



and ANDREWS unfit and improper. WEGUELIN, therefore, is the Premier's man, which will damage him with some people, and serve him with others. The question is, however, what right had Mr. LANKESTER to be so candid? Did Lord PALMERSTON say, "That's my opinion of Mr. ANDREWS, and tell Mr. ANDREWS I said so?" or did he merely intimate confidentially that Mr. ANDREWS was a coachbuilder, and Mr. WEGUELIN 'a better sort of man, you see?' In either case he was wrong: if he intended to influence the election, his interference was most uncalled for and improper; if he did not, the private utterance of his views explains how far he is grateful to his friends. The Southampton people will know what we mean. Then, as to Mr. LANKESTER, he should have been expelled from the meeting for daring to thrust forward such an observation.

We cannot be supposed to care much for the result of the election. Factionally, we hope that Sir HENRY BUTLER will be kept out. Generally, Mr. WEGUELIN, though his ballot enthusiasm is suspicious, might make a tolerable Member of Parliament. Locally, however, the excellent Mr. ANDREWS has every claim, and, if the upset price of Southampton were not so unconstitutionally large, he should be our candidate.

#### THACKERAY ON THE GEORGES.

No one satirist is like another. The genius of satire is essentially centrifugal, and darts off to new aspects. If HOGARTH could have written history, he would have given us such memoirs as THACKERAY has supplied of the Georgian era,—such as the first notion; yet we reflect that HOGARTH, wonderful as a mirror of vice and mannerism, had no tenderness, no refinement, no *literæ humaniores*, and we see that we libel THACKERAY with a comparison which does not do justice to HOGARTH. VOLTAIRE might be the better parallel, but the biographer of the GEORGES does not exclusively bind his genius to the *reductio ad absurdum*. He has been taken to task for not treating of the history and politics of the era; and in defence he declares that he never attempted to do so; but how little the man knows himself! He deals with the men and women of the day,—their manners and customs, in court and company,—their gowns and coats,—and what are these but the politics of any day?

The lecturer exposes to us the inconsistencies of theory and fact. We made a king divine, and ascribed his elevation to Providence. The article failing in this country, partly for the very small accidents which really terminated the STUART line, we sent to Germany for a king, as we do for Berlin ironmongery or Berlin wool; and we got one. In those days, as THACKERAY says, noblemen carried the candle to the king, and contended with each other for the honour of holding his shirt when he was pleased to thrust his head through the neck-opening thereof. And that king—that anointed whom the highest in the land were glad to candle and clothe—that 'D. G.' was a vulgar fellow, who could not rise even to the conception of kingliness. He had subjects, and sold them, as his descendant GEORGE III. sold sheep. He had mistresses, 'the Elephant' and 'the Maypole'; and, despising the pretended loyalty of the English, he retired to the realities and substantial delights of life, *bonnes fortunes* and beer! The very divines who would have put a common mortal upon the cutty-stool, and railed at beer, elevated that same GEORGE into an anointed whom it was treason and blasphemy to call in question.

Well, we can despise that kind of conduct now, because when we look at pictures of

the GEORGES and their subjects, we see them in queerly-cut coats, ridiculous cocked hats, preposterous ruffles, breeches and stockings that exposed without setting forth the leg. The gravest statesman of that day is to our eyes a 'figure of fun,' and we can laugh at the pantomime pomps of holding the candle or the shirt.

Yet, as THACKERAY remarks, the vice is our own still. At the opening of the Crystal Palace, noblemen consented to walk backwards for a mile, and prided themselves on coming featly down the stairs of the royal dais without stumbling. Half of the magnificence which rules the day is silly; and, being silly, is vulgar; and THACKERAY makes us see it in undress.

The influence of his satire is limited, because he speaks above the heads of the vulgar. In a country town, a HENRY VINCENT will carry away the multitude, who can see nothing in THACKERAY'S grave and quiet statements of incongruous facts. His lectures are those at which the audience must, in the veritable sense of the word, 'assist,' by their own comprehension. He is a democrat more formidable than WAT TYLER, and yet he can only be listened to by the courtly and the refined.

There is, however, a strong hold which the satirist has upon the multitude. Mostly the herd will raise to the highest places very poor creatures indeed—a GEORGE OF BRUNSWICK to wit—and for this reason: for your average man, there is nothing higher than your average man. 'Genius' is eccentric; the great statesman is before his time, or behind it; the really sacrificing Christian is not of this world; but the king that can go into stage-play dignities satisfies the average man in the invidious desire to set himself above his betters. If a man is cleverer, better, nobler, braver than JOHN SMITH, JOHN SMITH sees that he recovers the vantage by proxy in the person of 'Mr. SMITH,' to whom JOHN'S betters will bow as they will to an idol. JOHN'S envious dislike of superiority is doubly tickled, by reflecting that the idol is after all nothing better than a very ordinary SMITH; so that the better, the nobler, the braver, and wiser are after all placed with their neck under JOHN'S foot; and JOHN laughs at them for their folly, baser than his own stolidity. If, too, a GEORGE I. goes in for beer and 'Elephants,' does it not condone Coal-holes and such passages in unpublished memoirs of JOHN SMITH? It repeals, as it were, those acts of Parliament which are made for "the better observance of the Sabbath," and which are kept up in front for the sake of appearances, but are so little regarded behind the scenes; and your average man is glad to find his own uneasy conscience set at rest by this grand illustration, on the sacred throne, in the person of the anointed. Now, for taking us behind the scenes, and teaching us the humour of the thing, there is no Cicerone like THACKERAY—he is as good at the work as the "Czar of Muscovy" in taking the Man of Feeling over the madhouse.

#### SWISS MERCENARIES.

If the Swiss desire to obtain the unreserved sympathy of the liberal populations of Europe, they will recall their mercenary troops from Naples, and the other states of Italy. They cannot entitle themselves a nation without fear and without reproach, until they cease to furnish the janissaries of despotism. It is not well for them to be gathering on their mountains in defence of the principles of national liberty, while from twelve to fifteen thousand of their race, in Naples, wear the Bourbon livery and perform the duties of Mamelukes and *sbirri*. The

statue of WILLIAM TELL ought not to stand too near the effigy of an Asiatic mute. This is the moral inconsistency which gives so much power to MANIN'S appeal. But for the Swiss, freedom would have no home in Central Europe. But for the Swiss, despotism would not exist in Naples. The King, who inflicts on MILANO eight hours of agony in his *chambre ardente* near the Capuan gate, has a body-guard of Swiss soldiers, who should be ashamed of their employment. It is true that they are volunteers, and that in 1848 and 1849 similar volunteers entered into the battles of the revolution in Italy; but they are, at Naples, for the purposes of oppression only. The King cannot trust the national troops; he must have aliens, cut off from all Italian sympathies, to do the work which no Italian would do, upon the citizens of Italy. These men degrade themselves, and dishonour their country. In justice, it must be added that the Swiss Government has passed laws to check the mercenary system; but Naples is a testimony to their inadequacy. An opportunity is now presented for the recall of the Neapolitan body-guard, and the outlawry of those Swiss to decline to abandon the licentious service in which they are employed. The mere existence of such a force is enough to justify an insurrection in Naples. But what is not justifiable, when the Commandant of the Swiss guard is the one man in the kingdom who does not fear the King, and who plays TARQUIN with no more chance of punishment than an Egyptian Pacha?

#### Open Council.

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

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

#### THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I have only just seen your paper of the 6th of December. Allow me to correct an inadvertency in my last letter. I should have said, "I do not know that the moon, in revolving round the earth, has any relative and subordinate motion," &c. I see John Taylor has detected this verbal inaccuracy, and, in exposing it, has explained what he meant by "the moon's relative and subordinate motion," namely, its motion along with the earth round the sun. I am sorry that, even with this in itself very lucid explanation, I am yet unable to understand what the moon's relative and subordinate motion has to do with the moon's rotation. John Taylor has confused his mind by the use of the words "separate," "independent," "relative," "subordinate." The only question is, does the moon turn on its axis? If it does, the motion by which it does so must be "a separate, independent, axial motion," there being no motion of the earth to originate, and no rigid bar connecting the earth with the moon to communicate, such a motion "relatively and subordinately." John Taylor has plunged into a terrible quagmire in asking the question, "Can it be proved that the moon turns on an axis *within herself*?" There I would leave him, reminding him, in parting, that the earth, while performing one revolution on its axis, moves (roughly speaking) 1,800,000 miles through space, and that this motion, so far as the earth's rotation is concerned, might just as well describe the circumference as the segment of a circle. Thanking you for your courtesy,

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,  
WILLIAM KENWARD.

THE SCOTCH FRANCHISE.—The Edinburgh meeting, in support of extending the Scotch franchise, has been a great success. Dr. Begg, the leader of the movement, was present, and he was supported in his arguments by Bailie Blackadder, Councillor Gorrie, Mr. D. McLaren, and other leading citizens. The meeting unanimously affirmed, as a principle, that "a man should be as easily found by the State when rights are to be enjoyed as when burdens are to be borne." If nothing else is forthcoming, it is clear that the question of Reform must now be raised in the next session of Parliament by the Scotch members.—*Morning Star*.

## 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*.

It is very seldom that a story in a Magazine excites any enthusiasm, for it is very seldom that the stories are anything more than clever reproductions of what has already been familiar to readers of fiction. Even when the writers get hold of a new idea, or a new character, they generally fail to give it the truthful or original presentation which alone can produce a vivid impression on the public; while for the most part, instead of drawing from their own experience the materials of their fiction, they seem irresistibly impelled to draw upon their memories.

In *Blackwood* we have the commencement of a new serial, which, to judge from one number, will fulfil that very condition we have just declared to be indispensable to success. It is entitled "The Sad Fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton," and is obviously the representation in fiction of direct and observant experience. The manner is quiet, the style concrete, humorous, and easy; the presentation very vivid, and the story evolved with dramatic skill. The life described is that of a small country town, and the time a quarter of a century ago. The farmers, the gentry, the clergyman and his family, are made to live before our eyes. To give our readers a taste of this writer's quality, we will extract a bit of the scene of BARTON'S preaching at the workhouse, a scene which has a profound and even tragic significance under its humour, showing as it does the extreme remoteness of clerical teaching from the sympathies and intelligence of the lower orders:—

But now Amos Barton has made his way through the sleet as far as the College, has thrown off his hat, cape, and boa, and is reading, in the dreary stone-floored dining-room, a portion of the morning service to the inmates seated on the benches before him. Remember, the new poor-law had not yet come into operation, and Mr. Barton was not acting as paid chaplain of the Union, but as the pastor who had the cure of all souls in his parish, pauper as well as other. After the prayers he always addressed to them a short discourse on some subject suggested by the lesson for the day, striving if by this means some edifying matter might find its way into the pauper mind and conscience—perhaps a task as trying as you could well imagine to the faith and patience of any honest clergyman. For, on the very first bench, these were the faces on which his eye had to rest, watching whether there was any stirring under the stagnant surface.

Right in front of him—probably because he was stone-deaf, and it was deemed more edifying to hear nothing at a short distance than at a long one—sat "Old Maxum," as he was familiarly called, his real patronymic remaining a mystery to most persons. A fine philological sense discerns in this cognomen an indication that the pauper patriarch had once been considered pithy and sententious in his speech; but now the weight of ninety-five years lay heavy on his tongue as well as in his ears, and he sat before the clergyman with protruded chin and munching mouth, and eyes that seemed to look at emptiness.

Next to him sat Poll Fodge—known to the magistracy of her country as Mary Higgins—a one-eyed woman, with a scarred and seamy face, the most notorious rebel in the workhouse, said to have once thrown her broth over the master's coat-tails, and who, in spite of nature's apparent safeguards against that contingency, had contributed to the perpetuation of the Fodge characteristics in the person of a small boy, who was behaving naughtily on one of the back benches. Miss Fodge fixed her one sore eye on Mr. Barton with a sort of hardy defiance.

Beyond this member of the softer sex, at the end of the bench, sat "Silly Jim," a young man, afflicted with hydrocephalus, who rolled his head from side to side, and gazed at the point of his nose. These were the supporters of Old Maxum on his right.

On his left sat Mr. Fitchett, a tall fellow, who had once been a footman in the Oldinport family, and in that giddy elevation had enunciated a contemptuous opinion of boiled beef, which had been traditionally handed down in Shepperton as the direct cause of his ultimate reduction to pauper commons. . . . Mr. Fitchett had an irrepressible tendency to drowsiness under spiritual instruction, and in the recurrent regularity with which he dozed off until he nodded and awaked himself, he looked not unlike a piece of mechanism, ingeniously contrived for measuring the length of Mr. Barton's discourse.

Perfectly wide-awake, on the contrary, was his left-hand neighbour, Mrs. Brick, one of those hard undying old women, to whom age seems to have given a network of wrinkles, as a coat of magic armour against the attacks of winters, warm or cold. The point on which Mrs. Brick was still sensitive—the theme on which you might possibly excite her hope and fear—was snuff. It seemed to be an embalming powder, helping her soul to do the office of salt.

And now, eke out an audience of which this front benchful was a sample, with a certain number of refractory children, over whom Mr. Spratt, the master of the workhouse, exercised an irate surveillance, and I think you will admit that the university-taught clergyman, whose office it is to bring home the gospel to a handful of such souls, has a sufficiently hard task. For, to have any chance of success, short of miraculous intervention, he must bring his geographical, chronological, exegetical mind pretty nearly to the pauper point of view, or of no view; he must have some approximate conception of the mode in which the doctrines that have so much vitality in the plenum of his own brain will comport themselves *in vacuo*—that is to say, in a brain that is neither geographical, chronological, nor exegetical. It is a flexible imagination that can take such a leap as that, and an adroit tongue that can adapt its speech to so unfamiliar a position. The Rev. Amos Barton had neither that flexible imagination, nor that adroit tongue. He talked of Israel and its sins, of chosen vessels, of the Paschal lamb, of blood as a medium of reconciliation; and he strove in this way to convey religious truth within reach of the Fodge and Fitchett mind. This very morning, the first lesson was the twelfth chapter of Exodus, and Mr. Barton's exposition turned on unleavened bread. Nothing in the world more suited to the simple understanding than instruction through familiar types and symbols! But there is always this danger attending it, that the interest or comprehension of your hearers may stop short precisely at the point where your spiritual interpretation begins. And Mr. Barton this morning succeeded in carrying the pauper imagination to the dough-tub, but unfortunately was not able to carry it upwards from that well-known object to the unknown truths which it was intended to shadow forth.

Alas! a natural incapacity for teaching, finished by keeping "terms" at Cambridge, where there are able mathematicians, and butter is sold by the yard, is not apparently the medium through which Christian doctrine will distil as welcome dew on withered souls.

In striking contrast to the truth and freshness of these "Scenes of Clerical Life" stands another story in the same Magazine called "A Christmas Tale," which once more repeats the thousand times repeated trick of solving a mystery by making the whole story a dream. Nothing but consummate skill could justify so worn-out a device.

The review of *Aurora Leigh*, though warm enough in eulogy, seems to us ill-directed in its blame. That the story of *Aurora Leigh* is neither probable, nor good as a story, we have already intimated; but the story of *Hamlet* is even more absurd, and RYMER has shown what havoc can be made with *Othello*, if tested by such criticism. And when the reviewer in *Blackwood* objects to *Aurora Leigh* that certain attempts to picture the present "would lead to a total sacrifice of the ideal," one is tempted to ask, And what then? He seems to object to the humorous and satirical passages in this poem on the ground of their modern tone; and tries to make out a case against them by printing them as prose. But this kind of criticism would be injurious to any poet.

Fraser opens with the first part of a new story by the author of *Digby Grand*, lively enough, and taking us to new countries; but the most striking papers in the number are "Sermons and Sermonizers," and "The Triumph of Barbarism." The first is *à propos* of SPURGEON, whose brimstone eloquence has made him one of the men of the time; and indeed it requires but little ability to achieve notoriety in England if that little be devoted to vociferous damnation. MAWWORM liked to be despised—the English relish being damned. As CHARLES LAMB said, "I can't give up my Hell." Life is too solemn and dreary in our dismal atmosphere to do without dram-drinking and the prospect of hell fire. And the prodigal use made of the imagery of hell by SPURGEON, CUMMING, and other amiable teachers, carries with it a fascination which the thousands willingly acknowledge, the more so as the majority of preachers content themselves with the placid utterance of lithographed sermons, price 9d. each. The lesson taught by SPURGEON is said by Fraser to be a lesson on the folly of preaching from sermons bought instead of written by the clergymen. We fancy there is something more in it than that, although that doubtless is a great cause of the inefficiency of the pulpit.

In the article on "Occult Philosophy" a good defence is made of the old Alchemists, which our readers are advised to meditate. The writer falls into an error, singular in a man of science, in speaking of the old Greek philosophers as "physiologists," which, although the term applied to them by ARISTOTLE, is in English applied exclusively to those who study the organic sciences. We borrow from him the interesting passage in which he illustrates the idea of LIEBIG:—

Four bodies (he says), three of them condensed gases, have, we find, clothed him from head to foot; all that he wears is composed of oxygen, hydrogen, and carbon, with the addition of some nitrogen in his boots and coat. He himself is made up of the same four constituents, together with a little calcium and phosphorus. There are, it is true, traces of iron and sodium, and one or two other matters to be found in him, but these are accidental and not constitutional. The book in his hand is a condensation of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen; so is the table before him; so is almost everything on and about him, until we come to the watch in his pocket and the shilling in his purse; and each of these insignificant articles requires an element all to itself. Does not this seem like a waste of power, not to say a poverty of invention, on the part of Mother Nature, who, having effected so much by solidifying and combining four or five aeriform invisible bodies, forgets her usual economy, and has recourse to new and distinct materials for the manufacture of such very similar substances as gold and silver? Does it not seem more probable that the plan of nature is uniform, and that the same causes, or at least causes similar to them, which produce organic effects, are also the basis of inorganic matter? If so, it is probable that the metals are capable of decomposition. If they can be decomposed, chemistry shows that it is not impossible to recombine them.

We have already outrun our limits, and must reserve for next week the notice of other periodicals.

## GREENE AND MARLOWE.

Poems of Robert Greene and Christopher Marlowe. Edited by Robert Bell.

J. W. Parker and Son.

THE reading public has for some years been gradually making up its mind as to the real mediocrity of those contemporaries of Shakespeare who, after a well-merited oblivion of many generations, were suddenly 'rehabilitated' by the lovers of the Elizabethan drama, and were held up as men of rare genius, interesting not only on account of their connexion with the age of Shakespeare, but on account of their own splendid though imperfect achievements. Lamb's "Specimens of the Dramatic Poets" was a book to give wide currency to this false direction of the public taste; it contained so many real beauties, and was so felicitous and enthusiastic in its criticisms, that even cautious critics thought a new mine of poetic wealth had been detected. We cannot here enter into the examination of so large a question; but after having given great attention to the "Old Dramatists," and having for many years studied them in the hope of discovering the pearls of great price which were confidently said to be discoverable there, we feel bound to declare our conviction that our labour was wretchedly misspent, and that the "Old Dramatists" no more deserve the serious attention of the present age than the Ainsworths and Jameses will deserve the attention of our descendants, because these novelists happen to 'flourish' in the age of Dickens and Thackeray.

But whatever may be the opinion entertained of these Old Dramatists as Dramatists, or rather as daring writers capable of great occasional effects, there can be little hope of their gaining the world's attention as writers of poems; and this volume, which Mr. Bell has added to the list of the "Annotated Edition of the English Poets," will task the patience of the most patient. The poems are deplorably mediocre. Greene is inferior to



even the third-rate poets; and if Marlowe's vigour, and his massive music, place him in a much higher rank, yet even his merits are small when compared with the really fine poets; separate lines, and even passages, may be quoted which most readers would admire, but no entire page.

Mr. Bell has prefixed memoirs of Greene and Marlowe, and added some explanatory notes. The memoirs, although scanty, contain all that is known of these writers; and convey a not uninteresting picture of the vagabond life led by those roystering dramatists—the men about town just emancipated from college, and writing for the theatre as a means of loose livelihood. On this point, Mr. Bell remarks:—

It is not known at what time Nash, Greene, and Marlowe formed that connexion in which we find their names subsequently associated; but it could not have been very long after the publication of these invectives, as in four or five years from that date both Greene and Marlowe were dead. Meeting in the theatre, the centre of their labours and their dissipation, they soon discovered those kindred tastes which afterwards drew them constantly together; while the encroachments Shakspeare was beginning to make about this period upon their position as dramatic writers, imparted something like a character of combination to their fellowship. They had a common interest in opposing the new luminary who was climbing the horizon of the stage with a broader and clearer lustre than their own; and we can easily imagine, without drawing any very fanciful picture, that the discussion of Shakspeare's pretensions, and the denunciation of his depredations on their manor, stimulated them at their orgies to many an additional flask of Rhenish.

Greene was, probably, the leader on such occasions. He was the oldest of the three; he had travelled, and brought home with him the vices of Italy and France; and he had been established in London before either of the other two had found his way to the metropolis. For this pre-eminence he paid a bitter penalty in the end. Subsequent circumstances show that his companions shunned the responsibility of his friendship when the full glare of publicity fell upon the errors of his life, in which they had themselves so largely participated. They deserted him in his last illness, and after his death disowned the terms of intimacy on which they had lived together.

Marlowe was deeply implicated in these excesses. He was one of that group of dramatists whose lives and writings were held up to public execration by the zealots who attacked the stage; and Greene has left an express testimony of the height to which Marlowe carried the frenzy of dissipation. In his address to his old associates, he implores them to abandon their wicked mode of life, their blaspheming, drinking, and debauchery, setting forth his own example as a fatal warning; and specially exhorts Marlowe to repentance by reminding him that they had formerly said together, like the fool in his heart, "There is no God." This admonition, written under the influence of a death-bed conversion, can scarcely be considered sufficient to justify the imputation of deliberate atheism. It seems intended rather to warn Marlowe against the revolting levity of speech in which they had both indulged, and which was a sort of fashion in the dissolute society they frequented, than to accuse him of systematic scepticism. The charge, however, was afterwards brought forward in a specific shape by Thomas Beard, a Puritan minister of the most ascetic and uncompromising cast. Taking advantage of Marlowe's death to illustrate the terrible punishment which, even in this world, awaits the sinner who denies his God, he asserted that Marlowe had in his conversation blasphemed the Trinity, and had also written a book against the Bible. But no such book is known to exist, and the allegation rests on the sole authority of Beard, who himself repeats it upon hearsay. Marlowe's plays, which Beard is supposed to have attacked in another publication, furnish no more tenable grounds for the charge of atheism than *Paradise Lost*; and Milton might just as rationally be held responsible for the sentiments he has put into the mouth of Satan, as Marlowe for the speculations, strictly rising out of the circumstances of the scene, which he has given to some of his characters in the *Jew of Malta* and *Doctor Faustus*. Marlowe's writings contain ample evidence of licentiousness and laxity of principle, but supply no proof that he held atheistical opinions. To what extent the practical impiety of his life may have justified such an imputation, it would be presumptuous to hazard a judgment.

Mr. Bell also very properly corrects a common error, when distinguishing between these Elizabethan dramatists:—

The strict observance of chronology, as far as it can be fixed, is indispensable to the history of what is loosely called the Elizabethan drama. The whole period it occupied was about half a century; and, considering how much was accomplished within that time, every step of the progress, and each individual's share in it, becomes of importance. Yet there is hardly any portion of our literary annals in which greater confusion prevails; and Peele and Massinger, Kyd and Webster, Greene and Ben Jonson, who were really distant from each other, are commonly mixed up together, as if, instead of forming an interlinked series, they were all writing simultaneously. It might be a question of minor biographical interest, whether Marlowe was a little before Shakspeare, or Shakspeare a little before Marlowe; but it is a question of a very different order of interest, whether the weighty versification of *Tambraine* preceded or followed the delicate melody of the *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dates are here essential to enable us to trace the course of our dramatic poetry from its source to that point where the stream is at its full. Marlowe is close to the spring; to him is ascribed, on apparently valid grounds, the first use of blank verse in dramatic composition; and we must, therefore, treat him as a poet who struck out a path for himself, and not as a follower of Shakspeare.

In conclusion, we may add that to students of our earlier literature this volume will be interesting; but to those who read poetry for other purposes than historical or critical purposes, it will be without attraction.

#### STATE PAPER ANECDOTES.

*State Papers and Correspondence Illustrative of the Social and Political State of Europe from the Revolution to the Accession of the House of Hanover.* Edited by John M. Kemble, M.A.

J. W. Parker and Son.

Of the letters and papers in the collection, the most important were found among the correspondence of Leibnitz, preserved in Hanover. Others are from the British Museum, and a few from printed books. By far the largest number, however, are now published from the original manuscripts, and are, in general, translations from the French—the French of England and Germany as often as that of France. At intervals, Mr. Kemble has interposed biographical notices,—of Sophia, Electress of Hanover, of Elizabeth Charlotte, Duchess of Orleans, of Schöning, Madame de Rocklitz, of Schulenburg, Patkul, and Cavalier. These sketches, carefully compiled from the best authorities, serve to illustrate the correspondence which refers to nearly all the great events that took place in Europe during the reigns of James II., William III., Anne, and George I. Historical personages are brought in crowds upon the scene—a mob of Emperors, Kings, Electors,

Queens, Electresses, and reigning Duchesses, Leibnitz, Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, Addison, Halifax, Shaftesbury, Gilbert Burnet, Harley, Paul Rycout, Philippe of Orleans, Caroline of Anspach,—the great and the little, who played their parts in Europe after the Peace of Westphalia. Indeed, Mr. Kemble is justified in believing that this volume supplies new and valuable materials for the history of Europe during the last years of the seventeenth, and the first of the eighteenth, century. It exhibits the leading princes and statesmen of the period in a familiar and often undignified light; it brings out their intrigues, cabals, and jealousies, and, as the Editor remarks, it does justice to the memory of Leibnitz. Leibnitz the Jurist, the Mathematician, the Historian, the Philosopher, the Theologian, is known to most readers; but not Leibnitz the Politician, Courtier, and Gentleman.

The events of the long period which elapsed between the Revolution and the accession of the House of Hanover, though perhaps less dramatic than those of the preceding period, were nevertheless, sufficiently remarkable. To that epoch belong the names of William III. and Anne, of Peter I., of Louis XIV., of Frederick, and Frederick William I. of Prussia, of Amadeus II. and Sobieski, of the Fourth Mahomet, the Third Solymán, and the Second Mustapha,—names, that by their splendour, or by their insignificance, recal a multitude of chances and changes, that befel the old powers of Europe. Yet it is less with an eye to their value as materials of public history—though their value in this respect is considerable—than with regard to their illustrations of court life and character, that we are interested in Mr. Kemble's collection of letters and memorials. A good deal of the historical matter is upon a minute scale, dealing with incidents and individualities of no great importance; but every page by Leibnitz is of worth, and pleasant to read. It is amusing to find him writing from Hanover in 1692, that of English books in general, not even the titles were known in Germany; but, he adds:—

They give us hopes of an important work of Mr. Newton, who is one of the greatest geniuses of this time for his knowledge of mathematics and nature.

In July, 1700, there was a dramatic festival at Lützenburg, in honour of the Elector's birthday. Leibnitz describes the mummary, the doctor, the tooth-drawer, the gipsy-girls, the litter carried by Turks:—

They also saw an astrologer make his appearance with his spectacles or a telescope in his hand. This was to have been my character, but M. le Comte de Wittgenstein charitably took it off my hands.

Instead of playing his part, he retired among the spectators:—

I placed myself in a favourable position to see everything near with my little spectacles, in order to be able to give your Electoral Highness a report of it. Madame the Princess of Hohenzollern's lady had the toothache, and the tooth-drawer, doing his duty with a pair of farrier's tongs in his hand, produced a tooth which was about as thick as my arm, and, to tell the truth, it was a walrus's tooth. The doctor, praising the skill of his tooth-drawer, left the company to judge how adroit he must be to draw such a tooth as that without hurting anybody. Among the sick who wanted remedies were MM. d'Alfeld and de Fleming, the Envoys of Denmark and Poland, and our M. d'Iltén, all dressed like peasants of their several countries, each Jack with his Jill.

He is next met with in a more serious mood:—

There is a French translation of a book by a celebrated Englishman, named Mr. Locke, entitled "An Essay on the Human Understanding." As his philosophy does not agree over-well with mine (as for instance when he thinks the soul not imperishable), and as he does not fail to show a great deal of penetration, I made some remarks upon it while reading a portion of the Work when I was going to Brunswick and Wolfenbüttel, and when I have leisure I will finish the rest. It will be an occupation for the time, which will give me the advantage of paying my court at Lützenburg. His sentiments are popular enough, and will have the approbation of many who do not look deeply into things; and this is why it seems to me important to answer it.

This is very characteristic:—

If the verses which have been put at the bottom of my portrait are to stay there, I must get some one to kill me, for fear that those who may afterwards see me should be disabused of the high opinion which the verses will give them of my great knowledge; as we never canonize Saints till long after their deaths, when their weaknesses are no longer remembered, so people ought not to heap praises upon men of letters till they are no longer in a condition to give the lie to their panegyrists.

Upon the whole, the character of Leibnitz is exhibited in this correspondence as that of a noble-minded statesman, generous, frank, and faithful. Other personages appear more coarse and mean the closer we look at them. Among these is Sophie Charlotte, the wife of Frederick of Prussia, who sent her son to be educated by the Comte de Dolna. She always affected, however, the airs of refinement, and even encouraged the licentious conduct of the young prince, on the ground that "love polishes the mind and improves the manners." "Do not oppose his gallantries, therefore." In July, 1797, this lady was introduced to "the great Czar" at Copenbrügge, a village in Celle. He pretended to be shy, and would not show himself for upwards of an hour:—

At last he agreed that Monsieur the Duke of Celle, my mother, my brothers, and myself should come and meet him in the supper-room, which he would enter at the same time by another door, in order not to be seen; for the crowd of people which he had perceived upon a parapet on arriving, had made him turn back from the village. My mother and myself began to make our compliment to him, which he made M. Le Fort answer for him, for it seems he is shy, and hid his face with his hand: "Ich kann nicht sprechen." However we soon tamed him, and he sat down to table between Madame my mother and me, where each of us entertained him in turn, and the question was which of us should have him to herself. Sometimes he answers himself; sometimes through his two interpreters: and assuredly he said nothing but was very much *à propos*, and that upon all the subjects on which we put him, for the liveliness of Madame my mother gave plenty of questions, which he answered with the same readiness; and I am astonished that he was not tired with the conversation, since they say there is not much of it in his country. As for his grimaces, I expected to find them worse than they were, and some of them it is not in his power to correct. One sees too that he never had a master to teach him to eat cleanly; but he has a natural air, and his manner is without constraint, which pleased me; for he soon behaved as if he were at home, and after having permitted the gentlemen who served to come in, and all the ladies whom he made difficulties at first of seeing, he made his people shut the door, and placed his favourite, whom he calls his right arm,

near it, with orders to let no one go out, and sent for large glasses, and gave each of them three or four bumpers, as a sign that he meant to do them honour.

Addison, writing from Paris, complained that he had not seen a blush since he came among the French people. Possibly he might have admired the shyness of the Czar.

We scarcely know what to think of Stepney's "passion" as declared to Leibnitz:—

Herewith is a specimen of our English stage. The piece is not without wit, but it might pass for rather too libertine, and that is why I dare not have it sent to Berlin; but you will do, sir, with it as you please, and perhaps the morality of "Plato" will have the better of the licentiousness of a fashionable author. I entreat you to cast me at the feet of our adorable Electress, and to believe me, with much passion and esteem, &c.

So Berlin would not tolerate what was fashionable in London.

It would not be easy to show, by extracts, how valuable or how entertaining this volume is. The parts are so connected by allusion and by the intermediate passages of biography, that they must be read together. The editor, however, might have spared himself any apology for the publication. His work is one which must be consulted by every student of European history during the period referred to, and as that period is the important one prior to the grand alliance against Louis XIV, it is obvious that letters and papers like these, instead of being superfluous, are essential, not only to the historian, but to those critical readers by whom the historian's accuracy is tested.

#### GOSSE'S MARINE ZOOLOGY.

*A Manual of Marine Zoology for the British Isles.* By Philip Henry Gosse.

Van Voorst.

MR. GOSSE has 'deserved well of the Republic of Letters;' and in point of direct service he has done nothing so admirable as the compilation of this excellent *Manual*, for which every naturalist and every amateur at the sea-side will thank him. It is distinctively a book to be used, not a book to be read. Its purpose is to enable the student to identify any animal he may find on the sea-shore, or in the rock-pools; and thus it fills the place of a glossary of technical terms in one of Nature's most interesting books. Many a man finds his interest tepid till it is warmed by the satisfaction of naming the objects brought before him; there is a delight in naming for its own sake; and when this process of naming is the preliminary step to acquiring all other knowledge of the object, we may understand the interest it excites. Now suppose you have been rambling among the rocks, and your attention is arrested by a little creature, bright in colour, elegant in form, creeping along the dark underside of an overhanging ledge, evidently not a fish, evidently not a crab, evidently not a worm, yet wholly unknown to you. If your ignorance finds no resource in the knowledge of some better-instructed companion, you must continue your ramble, content to be ignorant of the name, the nature, and the habits of this animal. If, on the contrary, you have Mr. Gosse's *Manual* at home, you carry the creature away with you, and turning over Mr. Gosse's pages soon ascertain its name, or at least the genus to which it belongs; having thus found the place of the animal in the great animal kingdom, you can then turn to any work on natural history to learn about the structure and habits of your new acquaintance.

Such is the sort of service rendered by this *Manual* to the uninstructed; and not less useful is the service rendered to the naturalist, for few naturalists can carry in their memories the burden of all the generic distinctions between marine animals. In the first part of this *Manual* there are given all the genera of Radiata and Annulosa, in the second all the Mollusca and Vertebrata. Besides the clear, succinct description of each genus, a woodcut illustration of each renders the eye familiar with the form. It turns out curiously enough that the number of illustrations in each part is the same, namely, three hundred and thirty-nine; that is to say, there are exactly as many genera now recognized of Radiate and Annulose animals as there are of Molluscs and Vertebrates. This is, of course, a mere accident, since the division into genera is arbitrary, and no one pretends that all genera are known. Be that as it may, this little book, which may conveniently find a place in the pocket, contains six hundred and seventy-eight woodcut illustrations, the greater part of them original drawings by Mr. Gosse himself; so that if it possessed no other merit this would alone suffice to render it indispensable to the naturalist. Happily the book has other merits, in the shape of information carefully compiled and clearly stated, and many useful references to authorities.

Mr. Gosse adopts the idea, now pretty general, that the Polyzoa belong to the Molluscan division, in spite of their external resemblances to the Polypes, and he boldly places them among the Molluscs. In this, perhaps, he has thought more of systematic views on classification, than of the student's convenience. To any one already familiar with the Polyzoa there will of course be no hesitation as to where the genus is to be sought in Mr. Gosse's pages; but to the student anxious to identify the "polyp" he has found, and not already aware that this "polyp" is a mollusc, and must be sought for in the second volume of the *Manual*, there will probably be some confusion and difficulty in this arrangement. It seems to us quite clear that without adopting De Blainville's principle of classifying animals according to their envelope as the best principle of scientific classification, we should adopt it in works of reference like the present, since the external characters are necessarily those most immediately recognized by the student; and in the case of the Polyzoa, they are so remarkably similar in external characteristics to the hydroid polypes, that they were always classed with them, until the profounder investigations of Van Veneden, Allman, and others, revealed the resemblances between the internal characteristics of these polyzoa and those of molluscs.

The objection, however, is of no great weight; a little familiarity with the *Manual* will suffice to set the student right. Meanwhile, every reader can understand the value of a book which will inform him of the genus of every crab, fish, worm, or polype he may find on the sea-shore.

#### LADY BULWER'S LAST.

*Very Successful!* By Lady Bulwer Lytton. 3 vols.

Whittaker and Co.

SOMEWHERE near the Strand, if we believe Lady Bulwer, is a den infested by a conspiracy of critics. These persons form a sect, with a chief, a regular organization, a plan of action, passwords, and ceremonies of initiation. Their general object is to guard the growth of literary reputations, so that none may prosper who is not obsequiously, soul and heart, their slave, while their particular object, at present, is to persecute Lady Bulwer. They have their temples and their idols, these mercenary savages, who write corrosion with poisoned pens. From their impure cloaca flows the stream of criticism, blistering the hand of the young artist, feeding with noxious flattery the egotism of the impostor, and diurnally circulating an insinuation against the good name of the lady who sketches the picture. Let us beg her to cast away this illusion of her wincing eyes; let us assure her that the malignant concert she supposes to exist among reviewers is a mere fancy of her own; she is not the female Rousseau of our literary world; nor is the class of writers she alludes to governed in general by any other law than the law of conscience and of self-respect. It may seem very ingenious, when one is in a bitter mood, to accuse half the human race of corruption; but asperity of this kind is apt to degenerate into a monomania. If Lady Bulwer means to write any more novels, we warn her that the public will be tired of hearing her repeat, each time with tenfold virulence, the story of her wrongs, real and imaginary. How much better would have been her position had she maintained a dignified and delicate silence, instead of harshly wailing, upbraiding, and reviling for ever, exposing all her wounds, and asking every passer-by to be interested in the agony of hate. Nothing more melancholy has ever been written than the preface to *Very Successful*—a confusion of ghastly invective, and of sarcasms which are not always decently uttered. We will make no quotations from this unhappy prelude, though it is thrust into each of the three volumes, that the reader may, without fail, observe to what grossness and folly Lady Bulwer can descend.

Of the novel itself, had personalities been excluded, it might have been said that Lady Bulwer is a mistress of misquotation; but the personalities, pressed into almost every page, not only render it painful, but interfere materially with its interest. Even in this respect Lady Bulwer must stand in her own light; she will continually break off her narrative and fall into hysterics of acrimony, mocking her enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and dragging to remembrance anecdotes of private life, the relation of which is nowhere so scandalous as in an ecclesiastical court, unless it be in a novel. Sympathy the public might have felt for Lady Bulwer; but what trace of womanly self-respect is exhibited in her portrait of the successful literary baronet, popular at railway stalls, with "the head of a goat on the body of a grasshopper?"

But it's the expression of the face that is so horrible; the lines in it make it look like an intersected map of vice, bounded on one side by the Black Sea of Hypocrisy, and on the other by Falsehood Mountains.

This pestilential tone pervades Lady Bulwer's novel—her picture of the "Literary Inquisition," which is a phantasy of her own, of "the fearful sewer of iniquity" flowing through the newspapers and critical publications, of the "infamous association" and "infernal ordinary" where reviewers meet and compound their malicious misrepresentations for the Saturday following, and of the ever-recurring baronet with "hideous horse teeth" who is the demon of the melodrama. If Lady Bulwer can still control her own mind, we entreat her not to produce another book like this—a book that humiliates the author, and repels the reader.

#### THE MILDMAYES.

*The Mildmayes; or, the Clergyman's Secret: a Story of Twenty Years Ago.* By Danby North. 3 vols.

Chapman and Hall.

ANOTHER novel with an earnest purpose. How long is our patience to be abused by these insults to our taste and understanding? We have no objection to find sermons in stones, or to see such a book as this at the bottom of a running brook, but we protest against this perverse desecration of light literature. Works of fiction are no longer a pleasing recreation after the toils and occupations of the day. They have become a positive and wearisome labour. Every monomaniac who wishes to force his one idea upon his neighbours now writes a tale, and thus under false pretences induces the public to listen to his nonsense. Another one aims at acquiring a tea-table reputation for great research, but finds it easier to produce a flashy romance than an historical memoir. Were this the worst development of the principle of making things pleasant, it might be endured if it could not be commended. The names at least may thence be learned of the great men who lived in the days of yore, and some idea may be formed of the manners and customs of our ancestors. It is certainly a slovenly and inaccurate mode of gathering knowledge, but the sickly appetite must sometimes be stimulated by high-seasoned delicacies. And an historical romance gives one fair warning beforehand. The title prepares you for a distortion of facts, and you are, therefore, not surprised to discover that the most startling incidents in the career of a Woolsey or a Cromwell were subservient to the progress of John Smith's courtship of Anna Brown. The nuisance, however, becomes intolerable when, expecting to be amused with a lively picture of social follies and absurdities, you find yourself suddenly plunged head foremost into a polemical controversy, or the discussion of some knotty point in church doctrine and discipline. Novels of this stamp are a literary swindle. Their writers know full well that not one man in a million would give a straw for their opinions on any subject whatsoever. The public does not care one iota for their thoughts: it only wants to be amused in the old-fashioned way. It demands that every one adhere to his specialty and be true to his colours. For history, it looks to the man of patient research; for philosophy, to the profound thinker; for theology, to one who loves to lie upon thorns; for amusement, to the witty but goodnatured satirist. A novel should be something of a satire, but have nothing in common with a sermon. The admixture of the sacred and the profane constitutes a picture as disagreeable to behold as the monster



sketched by Horace in his Epistle to the Pisos. If this sort of thing be permitted to continue, we shall very soon have popular tales delivered from the pulpit instead of the present conventional method of inculcating impracticable truths. Indeed, we have already heard of an 'earnest' preacher in a fashionable town in the west country enlivening his discourse by an adaptation of Moore's poem of *Paradise and the Peri*. It was adduced as an illustration of the doctrine of good works. The Peri worked out her own salvation. She met with disappointments indeed, but she persevered even unto the end, and then well might she exclaim—and here the preacher threw up his long arms, strained his eyes towards the ceiling, and stood for an instant on tiptoe, as if himself about to soar aloft to the azure vault of heaven, or like the winged figures on the water-temples at Sydenham—

"Joy, joy for ever! my task is done,  
The gate is passed and heaven is won!"

As some of the congregation, who had previously been dozing, seemed to consider this outburst as an equivalent for the Doxology, and began to bend forward, the preacher quietly added: "It is a pretty story but bad theology." He then proceeded to denounce its weak points, as if that had not already been done by the fastidious Fadladeen. But to return to our "muttons," the *Mildmayes*.

The object of this 'serious' novel is to illustrate the inconveniences that may arise if a clergyman hold as an inviolable secret the confession of a crime made at some moment of profound depression. Eustace Mildmaye being summoned to the death-bed, as it was supposed, of Lady Rockforest, becomes acquainted with a crime committed by her ladyship many years before, but which has never ceased to weigh heavily upon her mind. In fact, she is more than half-mad, as well as wholly vicious. The clergyman, a man with an "eminently sweet and placidly beautiful face," is of a wavering, uncertain character, of the *eau sucrée* variety. He starts and turns pale, and becomes confused, whenever Lady Rockforest's name is mentioned; but he dare not reveal her iniquity, because, being a member of the very High Church, "his views upon the sacredness of confession approached very nearly, if they were not identical with, those of the Church of Rome." Owing to this indecision of the reverend gentleman, all sorts of dreadful things happen, the least of which is the suicide of a 'ruthless villain.' The course of true love is diverted for a time into tortuous channels, and two young ladies are carried off, without their consent, to Catesby Court, the residence of that terrible ogress, Lady Rockforest. There an attempt is made to force them to marry two reprobates of low degree. One escapes for a time and hides in a rabbit hole or water-drain, or something of that kind, until she espies a ladder leaning against a fig-tree. By a mighty effort she applies the ladder to the wall, quickly ascends, and her chin is on a level with the coping-stone, the ladder slips, it turns, and she is precipitated to the ground. Where she falls there she lies, with a sprained ankle, until next morning, when she is discovered and carried back to her prison. The horrors of that night turn her hair to grey.

"Ha! what was that! what were those white spots—like frost—all along her hair."

"Good God! Her hair is grey!" cried Louisa.

And so it was. In the agony of her protracted terror Caroline Mildmaye had added another to the well authenticated instances of persons like Marie Antoinette, whose hair, under the pressure of intense anxiety and horrible apprehensions, had turned grey in a few hours.

However, both the forlorn damsels are eventually rescued, though one true lover gets his arm pinched in a doorway, and the other receives two inches deep into his manly arm "the gleaming radiance of a glittering dagger." It may be here remarked *en parenthèse* that a noun-substantive is always employed throughout these three volumes as a peg whereon to hang one or two adjectives of three or more syllables. The style is of the "Did you ever! Well I never!" school. Whenever the world seems disposed to wag pleasantly with any of the heroes or heroines, we are told that it is very fortunate they did not know what was next going to happen to them. Ever and anon, after running on as merrily as a marriage bell, a chapter concludes mysteriously with "Who would have thought," &c., or "Little did he know," &c.

Let one example suffice. The Mildmaye sisters had been enjoying themselves thoroughly at a county ball, where they had received very flattering attentions from Lady Ulverston of Longwoods, 'a great lady of fashion,' and wife of the celebrated revolutionary statesman. But they must not be blamed for 'feeling something like extreme female vanity.'

You were young, fascinating, and admired; you were neither stoics nor philosophers, neither were you mere automatons with mechanical souls. You were women, young and lovely ones! Ah! Cary, knowing what bitter tears of anguish were, ere long, to roll from those lovely eyes, and trickle down those cheeks now flushed with pleasure, I cannot scold you for that toss of your head as you tell Captain Dowling that you are engaged for the next dance, and 'for the one after that, too.' And you, piquant, coquettish Louisa! you, who have assumed such an air of greatness in austere receiving Lord Latimer's attentions! But no! thou pretty, wilful thing, I will not read a homily to you; too soon sorrow is to come upon you, and the world will bear another aspect to what it does to-night. Alas! . . . Revel on, sweet, charming, wilful things. I blame you not—I love you while I pity.

Louisa was probably not aware of her good fortune in escaping the impending homily. Here is a fragment of one which alone would have overwhelmed her:—

There are some speculative theologians of a latitudinarian school, who tell us that Hell is not a place of flame and physical suffering, but that it is only a scene of mental pain. Only mental pain! Oh! dreadful irony! Oh! miserable trifling of speculators in a closet, ignorant of the anguish of the heart, not sensible of the terrible throbings of despair! Only mental torture!" &c.

Only mental pain! Oh! ye speculative latitudinarians in novel reading, beware of *The Mildmayes*; or, *The Clergyman's Secret*. Imagine Ann Radcliffe writing with an 'earnest purpose.' Only mental pain! Then read her novel. Oh! dreadful irony! And if you still fall short in your conception of the Inferno, you will, at least, never sneer at "only mental torture!" Oh!

## LOOCHOO, JAPAN, AND POOTOO.

*Eight Months' Journal during Visits to Loochoo, Japan, and Pootoo.* By Alfred L. Halloran. Longman and Co.

MR. HALLORAN was Master on board a sloop of war, which lay off Shanghai in February, 1849. His book is an account of eight months' familiar intercourse with the people of the coast, in China, Japan, Loochoo, and Pootoo,—a fragment, in fact, from a private journal of 'thirty years' service in the Royal Navy. It is a small, modest volume, and—which is more wonderful—opens some really new glimpses of manners on the continent of Eastern Asia and the islands thereto appertaining. Travellers are far from having exhausted the Yellow Empire—with its red paper, painted coffins, silk sashes, bright fans, pavilion-houses, cottage-boats, bald heads, little eyes, ivory, coloured buttons, lamps, pagodas, mandarins, dwarf-footed ladies—its quaint, variegated, eccentric life. It is true that one writer continues to say what others have said before him; but the fault is not with the Chinese. There are many more things in the realm of rice than all the Orientalists, from Rémusat to Mr. Meadows, have told us of. The same remark applies to Japan. We might, indeed, consult twelve works of twelve different authors without adding to the knowledge supplied us by the Catholic fathers, by Charlevoix, or Kœmpfer, or Siebold, or those other narrators who mixed up so admirably the monstrous with the real. But that would not imply that there is no more to be said of Japan.

The historiographer of the American Exploring Expedition lately devoted a huge volume to his Chinese, Loochooan, and Japanese adventures; yet here is Mr. Halloran, with his brief diary, as readable as instructive, as though Commodore Perry had never sailed out of the Gulf Stream. Shanghai, Loochoo, Ningpo, Japan, and Pootoo Island constituted his points of observation. In Loochoo, island of yellow hats, purple and flowered silks, ancient idols, verandahs, gilt, varnish, and carving, he enjoyed the hospitalities of the officials, walked in broad, well paved, and beautifully kept streets, and among trim, gravelled gardens; at Ningpo he saw a Chinese play; in Japan took a boat excursion along the coast; and at Pootoo inspected a Chinese manufactory of gods and goddesses. Gods and goddesses, as created in this world, are usually of simple construction—images worked out of a wooden or marble block, the most composite being the Cryselephantine statues of Greece. But, in China, they imitate the pre-Adamite process, and first jointing together a skeleton, proceed literally to clothe it with clay:—

The skeletons or rudiments of these images were coarsely formed of wood, with rough joints at the shoulders, elbows, fingers, knees, &c. These were covered with well-tempered clay; and the accuracy, rapidity, and ease with which the workmen moulded this material into the forms of the various muscles of the human body, was truly astonishing; not only displaying their manual dexterity, but leading one to imagine that they must be highly skilled in this department of the science of anatomy. In the countenances of two little statues about eighteen inches high, the passions of love and anger were portrayed to the life, although the clay of which they were formed was still quite moist. When their work is nearly dry these godmakers cover it over with a varnish that prevents its cracking, and they continue to do so with several coats in succession, as fast as the preceding one becomes nearly hardened. These josses are afterwards smoothed over by means of various tools made of hard bone, ivory, or steel, and then are painted or gilt more or less expensively, as suits the taste of the manufacturers or the finances of the priests, their employers.

Mr. Halloran's narrative, which may be read in half an hour, is without the usual faults of a traveller's tale—it contains nothing dull, irrelevant, or frivolous.

## HUMORISTS.

*Pictures of Life and Character.* By John Leech. From the Collection of Mr. Punch. Second Series. (Bradbury and Evans.)—An old-fashioned artist would have intitled this volume the *Mirror of Comedy*. It reflects, indeed, all that is comic in town and country life, the humour of the poor, the absurdity of the rich, highbred folly, lowbred pretension, in a manner the wittiest and the wisest possible. All the world's stage—epigrams in pencil—is here; some of the best, indeed, of Mr. Leech's wonderful pen-and-pencil satires. No half-hour in the day, not even the half-hour before dinner, can be imagined tedious to a person of comfortable mind who has within reach these "Pictures of Life and Character," and has not looked them through at least a dozen times. Until they become quite familiar, they continue to be surprising. We should say that, as an antidote to *emmi* no more effective book was ever published.

*Shadows.* By C. H. Bennett. (Bogue.)—A striking little volume, containing a new idea. The artist sketches a figure, and tracing its shadow on the same page, where it would naturally fall, in a room, or in a picture, exhibits, in every case, some ingenious resemblance. Thus, a prim lady with a round hat casts the shadow of a mushroom on a hillock; the beadle with cocked-hat, of a donkey; an old dowager, of a parrot; a policeman groping into an arca, of a cat; an overfed citizen, of a bullock; a Puseyite clergyman, of a pump; and a greedy boy, of a pig. The most remarkable in the series is a sketch of an attenuated sempstress, whose figure, reflected on the wall, in combination with the back of an old-fashioned chair, produces a skeleton. The effect is sometimes exaggerated; but the designs are ingenious, and the drawing is clever.

## CAMPBELL'S LIVES OF THE CHANCELLORS.

*Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal of England, from the Earliest Times till the Reign of King George IV.* By John Lord Campbell, LL.D., F.R.S.E. Fourth Edition. Vol. I. Murray.

THE new edition of Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors* is to consist of ten volumes, in crown octavo, at the moderate price of 6s. each. It will thus form a neat and cheap set for the Popular Library shelf. Lord Campbell employed the long vacation of the present year in carefully revising his great work, correcting various inaccuracies in the text, and enriching the notes with illustrations and references. As he despaired of further improvements, the book is now stereotyped. It was not without a pang that he

gave up the dignity of octavo volumes; but Mr. Hallam had done this, and why not Lord Campbell? He will not regret the change when he finds every reader in the three kingdoms and the colonies anxious to obtain the work, which is certainly interesting in a rare degree.

In a note appended to the fourth edition, Lord Campbell complains that, since 1845, the splendour of the Lord Chancellor's office has sadly waned:—

If the same course of proceedings to degrade the office should be much longer continued, instead of the Chancellor answering the description of John of Salisbury in the reign of Henry II.—

Hic est qui leges regni cancellat iniquas,  
Et mandata pii Principis aqua facit—

he may return to what Gibbon declares to have been his original functions as "door-keeper or usher of the court, who, by his *cancellæ* or *little bars*, kept off the multitude from intruding into the recess or *chancel* in which he sat."

The importance of the Chancellor arose:—

1. From his being a leading member of the cabinet, originating and controlling all the measures of the government connected with the administration of justice; 2. From his presiding in the Court of Chancery and laying down doctrine to govern that all-absorbing department of our jurisprudence called *EQUITY*; and, 3. From his practically constituting in his own person the ultimate Court of Appeal for the United Kingdom, by giving judgment in the name of the House of Lords, according to his own notion of what was right.

But he is now in danger of being banished from his own court by the Lords Justices. Recent discussions in the House of Peers, moreover, have weakened his authority. "Single-seated justice" will no longer be endured; nor even the *divisum imperium* of the Lord Chancellor and a retired Common Law judge, however distinguished:—

The probable experiment will now be a JUDICIAL COMMITTEE, consisting of peers and of judges and privy councillors summoned to advise the House. There the Chancellor will have no official ascendancy, and a Vice-Chancellor or a Puisne Judge may be selected to declare the judgment of this tribunal according to the applauded practice in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Lord Campbell retires to the consolations of philosophy:—

I care little about the reduced salary of the Lord Chancellor, although it is not now sufficient to enable him to keep a carriage, and to exercise becoming hospitality, much less to make any provision for his family. Against poverty a noble struggle may be made; but there seem to be causes in operation which, in spite of the most eminent learning and ability, must speedily reduce the office to insignificance and contempt. This is a sad prospect for the Biographer of the Chancellors.

May I lie cold before that dreadful day,  
Pressed with a load of monumental clay!

"And yet" (in the beautiful language of my predecessor, Lord Chief Justice Crewe) 'Time hath its revolutions; there must be a period and an end to all temporal things—*finis rerum*—an end of names and dignities, and whatever is *terrene*—for, where is BOHUN? Where is MOWBRAY? Where is MORTIMER? Nay, which is more and most of all, where is PLANTAGENET? They are entombed in the urns and sepulchres of *ortality*!!!—And why not the MARBLE CHAIR?

Perhaps, then, his own admirable book may outlive the Chancellor's office!

#### AMERICAN ADVENTURES.

*Adventures in the Wilds of the United States and British American Provinces.* By Charles Lanman. 2 vols. Sampson Low and Co.

We have accomplished a feat which few will be disposed to attempt: we have glanced over every one of the 914 pages that illustrate Mr. Lanman's egotism. That gentleman has been unjust to himself. He acknowledges that the earlier papers were written several years ago in the hey-day of youth, and intercedes with the 'matured reader' for a lenient judgment: adding, however, that he "would rather be wrong with the warm-hearted lover of nature than be right with the cold-blooded critic." This being the case, it would be mere waste of time to point out to him the many sins against good feeling and taste of which he is guilty throughout the first volume. His style so far is ambitious and inflated; he is perpetually working himself up into a state of ecstasy, which usually terminates in a syncope of bathos; and the most trivial adventures occupy more space on his tapestry than the Norman Conquest on that of Bayeux. Mr. Lanman himself appears to have entertained some misgivings as to the propriety of reprinting the whole of his scattered contributions to various journals, and to have first sought the advice of Washington Irving and the Hon. Edward Everett. His counsellors proved injudicious, for they encouraged him to reproduce his "narrative and descriptive writings in a collected form." The consequence is a voluminous work singularly unequal to itself. Of the first volume we can scarcely bear to think with patience, while the second may be perused with amusement and interest. The Indian legends, indeed, are somewhat tame and tedious, but that is the fault of their inherent puerility. But the notes on angling are really valuable, and are worthy of being consulted by every lover of the 'gentle craft.' Not even Norway can be compared for an instant with the United States with regard to its piscatorial attractions. Every river and streamlet abounds with noble fish of every variety, while the excitement of the sport is enhanced by the personal risks and hardships to be endured, and by the many strange characters, or caricatures, constantly encountered.

Mr. Lanman is no abolitionist. He describes the negro as being usually far better provided for than the free labourer in Europe, or in the northern states. Ill-treatment is the rare exception. In most instances they rather resemble spoiled children than servants. As a rule, they are "the happiest and most independent portion of the population."

They have a comfortable house and no debts to pay; everything they need in the way of clothing and wholesome food is ever at their command, and they have free access to the churches and the Sunday schools of the land. What more do the poor of any country possess that can add to their temporal happiness?

It seldom happens that families are sold in separate lots, and very often their former owner refuses to transfer them unless to a humane and considerate master. The effect of slavery upon the slaveholders themselves is, however, extremely lamentable from the helpless indolence it engenders. An anecdote is told of one gentleman, who, having obtained a new book, threw himself into an easy-chair to peruse it at his leisure, while his wife went

out to make some calls. On her return she found him in bed, and anxiously inquiring after his health, was answered: "The fire went out, so I got into bed to keep me warm." There was a pile of wood in the adjoining room, and a dozen servants within sound of the bell—but then the trouble of ringing that bell!

Here is a good example of a matter-of-fact answer to a simple question:—

When Wm. H. Crawford was Secretary of the Treasury he wrote to the Collector at Mobile, Silas Dinsmore, to ascertain the length of the river Tombigbee, which request he worded to this effect, "How far does the Tombigbee run up?" To which the laconic collector replied, "The Tombigbee does not run up at all, it runs down;" and was by the return mail dismissed from office.

These volumes are written in that Anglo-Saxon dialect which, according to British prophecy, is hereafter to be the universal language of the earth's inhabitants. Mr. Macaulay's famous New Zealander will be somewhat puzzled, we suspect, to trace its affinity to what is now termed classical English—he will probably extricate himself from the difficulty by deducing it from the ancient Phœnician.

### The Arts.

#### THE PANTOMIMES AND BURLESQUES.

DRURY LANE has furnished us this year with a gorgeous pantomimic phantasy in *See Saw, Margery Daw*. Mr. BEVERLEY is always at home in fairy land; and he has availed himself of the large stage of Mr. E. T. SMITH's theatre to expand his conceptions of Elysium into brilliant vastness. Fairies in silver tissue, grouped or floating in the air, add to the splendours of the scenery; and the juvenile world bestows its distinguished approbation.

The child's story of the *Babes in the Wood* furnishes the subject for the opening scenes of the Pantomime at the HAYMARKET. In the course of the history we are introduced to the cruel uncle, to the good and bad ruffians who quarrel about the murder of the "babes," and fight to a merry tune; to wild woodmen enamoured of beautiful and coy nymphs, and to a young wood-cutter, in love with *Lucibel*, the sweetest of the dryads. Whilst regaling themselves in the deep recesses of a moonlit forest, these fair forms are pursued by the woodmen, and *Lucibel*, being captured by *Honeyleaf*, their chief, and refusing to accept his love, is shut up in the heart of an oak. From this imprisonment she is delivered by the chief of the nymphs; after which takes place the apotheosis of the leaf-covered "babes" up into the Tranquil Lake of the Empyrean Fields of Light. Then commences the harlequinade, in which Miss FANNY WRIGHT, the *Lucibel* of the opening story, becomes *Columbine*; M. MILANO, *Harlequin*; Mr. MACKAY, *Pantaloon*; and Mr. DRIVER, *Clown*. The graceless and confused manner in which the "Ballet of the Blackberry Brake" was performed, destroyed what might otherwise have made a very effective scene. This, however, was in some measure redeemed by the droll dance of the "Double Faces," in which the sudden change of visages from young to old was very striking. The Pantomime concluded with a graceful allusion to the recent present of the American Government to the Queen and the nation. The references to passing events were poor; and, notwithstanding the aid of *Pantaloon* and *Clown*, and a choice selection of familiar airs, the spectators could not be roused into anything approaching enthusiasm.

At the PRINCESS'S we have the ever-delightful story of the *Wonderful Lamp*, with much Oriental sumptuousness; and in the harlequinade an unwonted feature is introduced in the form of some skating on the stage. For those who like such performances, also, there are some feats by wonderful dogs; our own tastes do not lie that way.

At the OLYMPIC, we are introduced to the old story of love and jealousy, which shows that now as ever the course of true love never will run smooth. Amid the "Ruins of the Castle of Romance," *Mordicanta*, an old witch (Mrs. MELFORT), is discovered with her familiar, *Grim Malkin* (Mr. FRANKS), making night hideous with her evil plots and discordant passion for the youth *Alidor* (Miss THIRLWALL), a shepherd descended from the shepherd kings of Fairy Land. *Cupid* (Miss CLARA ST. CLASSE, a *débutante* of some promise), ever mischievous, thwarts her passion, and causes the youth to fall in love with the *Princess Young and Handsome* (Miss SWANBOROUGH), the daughter of the fairy *Pastora*. *Mordicanta*, fired with revenge, calls to her aid the green and yellow monster *Jealousy* (Mr. ROGERS), and determines to embitter the loves of the shepherd and the princess. The latter, passionately fond of her innamorato, changes his simple dress into a splendid suit of silk, and converts his hut on the hill-side of the Valley of Violets into a charming cottage, overhung with flowers. A village festival is the occasion of a lovers' quarrel. *Zephyr* (Mr. ROBSON), who has been fluttering idly about, assumes, at the instigation of *Jealousy*, a visible form, and by a 'pas de fascination,' contrives to centre the young nymph's admiration upon himself. This, however, proves but a temporary flirtation, and the quarrel being made up, the marriage of *Alidor* with the *Princess Young and Handsome* is appointed to take place at the Castle of Flowers, situated on an island in the midst of a beautiful lake. *Mordicanta*, defeated in her object, has yet power to stir up the waters of the lake; and as the young shepherd is approaching the castle, she contrives to have him submerged and brought to the Enchanted Cavern below the lake. Here *Mordicanta* visits him and declares again her love. But *Alidor* rejects her proposal, and is, by way of punishment, thrust still deeper down into an abyss or den, the abode of a dragon. *Cupid* then descends and shuts the dragon's mouth; whilst *Zephyr*, tortured by the new sensations which he has felt in his material form, determines to resume his original essence. He takes pity upon the two lovers, and rescues *Alidor*, by the aid of his stronger comrades, *Boreas*, *Aquilo*, and *Eurus*, and *Auster*, from the place of his confinement. Thus all ends happily, and the shepherd and the princess are united in the Illuminated Porcelain Pavilion, where they and the audience witness the inauguration of the statue of *Zephyr*.—This extravaganza, it should be observed, is founded on the Countess of MURRAY's fairy tale *La Jeune et Belle*; but the humour of the dialogue belongs to the author, and the spirit in which it is written proves that the powers of the veteran PRANCHÉ are still young. The scenery, especially the Valley of Violets, the Castle of Flowers, and the Enchanted Cavern below the Lake, introduces us to a land of enchantment. It is unnecessary to add that Ronson, in the character of *Zephyr*, kept the house in a state of mirth and good humour.

The transformation scene in the LYCEUM pantomime-burlesque is unusually splendid; and Mr. WILLIAM BROUGH, the writer of the opening, has plenty of sharp hits at the passing features of the time.—The other burlesque-pantomime—that of the ADELPHI—brings forth the strength of the company, and furnishes pleasant matter for festal playgoers. With such a *Harlequin* as Madame CELESTE, and such a *Columbine* as Miss WYNDHAM, success would be certain; besides, there are the Dresden china shepherdess costumes—and they are enchanting.



**A FEATURE OF THE CIRCUMLOCUTION OFFICE.**—Here arises a feature of the Circumlocution-office, not previously mentioned in the present record. When that admirable department got into trouble, and was, by some infuriated member of Parliament, whom the smaller Barnacles almost suspected of labouring under diabolical possession, attacked on the merits of no individual case, but as an institution wholly abominable and Bedlamite, then the noble or right hon. Barnacle who represented it in the House would smite that member and cleave him asunder with a statement of the quantity of business (for the prevention of business) done by the Circumlocution-office. Then would that noble or right hon. Barnacle hold in his hand a paper containing a few figures, to which, with the permission of the House, he would entreat its attention. Then would the inferior Barnacles exclaim, obeying orders—"Hear, hear," and "Read." Then would the noble or right hon. Barnacle perceive, sir, from this little document, which he thought might carry conviction even to the perversest mind (derisive laughter and cheering from the Barnacle fry), that within the short compass of the last financial half-year this much maligned department (cheers) had written and received 15,000 letters (loud cheers), 24,000 minutes (louder cheers), and 32,517 memoranda. (Vehement cheering.) Nay, an ingenious gentleman connected with the department, and himself a valuable public servant, had done him the favour to make a curious calculation of the amount of stationery consumed in it during the same period; it formed a part of this same short document, and he derived from it the remarkable fact, that the sheets of foolscap paper it had devoted to the public service would pave the footways on both sides of Oxford-street from end to end, and leave nearly a quarter of a mile to spare for the park (imense cheering and laughter); while of tape—red tape—it had used enough to stretch in graceful festoons from Hyde Park-corner to the General Post-office. Then, amid the burst of official exultation, would the noble or right hon. Barnacle sit down, leaving the mutilated fragments of the member on the field. No one, after that exemplary demolition of him, would have the hardihood to hint that the more the Circumlocution-office did, the less was done, and the greatest blessing it could confer on an unhappy public would be to do nothing.—*Little Dorrit* for December.

**DEFALCATIONS OF AN INCOME-TAX COLLECTOR.**—A crowded meeting of ratepayers was held in the town-hall, North Shields, on Tuesday evening, Mr. Alderman Pew in the chair, to adopt measures to protect themselves from a reassessment of income-tax made by the commissioners to cover the defalcations of Thomas Briggs, who had embezzled and misappropriated 1700*l.*, collected by him in the Tynemouth district. It was unanimously resolved that the ratepayers view with extreme disapprobation, as unconstitutional and oppressive, the attempt to make a reassessment for the sum abstracted from the income-tax collected in the town; and that the Board of Inland Revenue be memorialized, praying that the amount abstracted be paid out of the general fund of the income-tax, and not by the individuals by whom it has already been paid.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

### BIRTHS.

**FOLKESTONE.**—On the 30th ult., the Viscountess Folkestone: a son.

**LAWSON.**—On the 27th of August last, at her residence, the wife of Alex. Robertson Lawson, Esq., J. P., of Boondooma, Burnett District, Moreton Bay, Australia: a son.

**MASSY.**—On the 24th ult., at Grant Lodge, Elgin, N.B., Louisa, Countess of Seafield, wife of Major Godfrey Massy, unmarried: a son.

**PEREGRINE.**—On the 26th ult., at 3, Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, London, the wife of Thomas Peregrine, M.D.: a daughter.

### MARRIAGES.

**FOWLER-WATSON.**—On the 30th ult., at Darlington Church, the Rev. R. Fowler, Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, to Carrie, fifth daughter of the late Humphrey Watson, Esq., of Darlington.

**HEYWOOD-PEEL.**—On the 30th ult., at Middleton, Edward Stanley, fourth son of Sir Benjamin Heywood, Bart., of Claremont, Manchester, to Louisa, eldest daughter of John Peel, Esq., of Middleton Hall, Warwickshire.

**PRICHARD-WILLIAMS.**—On the 30th ult., at the parish church, Llanberis, North Wales, Robert, son of the late John Prichard, Esq., of Beddgelert, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Williams, Esq., solicitor, of Green Gate-street, Carnarvon.

### DEATHS.

**ENGLAND.**—On the 25th ult., at 8, Portland-place, Bath, Edouine O'Brien, the youngest daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Richard England, G.C.B.

**FAGEL.**—At Paris, in his 86th year, General Baron Fagel, during upwards of thirty-five years Ambassador at Paris from the King of the Netherlands, and last surviving brother of Baron Fagel, who for many years held a similar appointment at the Court of St. James.

**FERRERS.**—On Christmas-day, at Torquay, Capt. Murray Fraser Ferrers, h. p. Royal Artillery, third son of the late William Edmund Ferrers, Esq.

**FITZROY.**—On the 28th ult., at his residence, in Half Moon-street, in his 72nd year, the Lord John FitzRoy, youngest son of the late Augustus Henry, Duke of Grafton.

**MORLEY.**—On the 26th ult., at North-end Lodge, Fulham, aged 37, George Morley, for many years the faithful and attached servant of Mr. Albert Smith.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 30.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—MARIA KAYE, Tottenham-court-road, hosier—THOMAS CRAVEN, Birmingham, builder.

**BANKRUPTS.**—WILLIAM HARTZ, Mark-lane, Fenchurch-street, merchant—PETER EDWIN HENDERSON, Cannon-street, civil engineer—JAMES GLOVER, Thames Ditton, dealer in wine and spirits—JOHN RENNARD, Little Queen-street, Holborn, ironmonger—WILLIAM FRITCH, Warley-common, Great Warley, Essex, licensed victualler—WILLIAM RING, Paddington-street, St. Marylebone, eating-house keeper—FRANK BROADHURST FAREBROTHER, GEORGE WILLIAM BREMNER, and JOSEPH HENRY COLLIER, Stockwell and Manchester, wax merchants—JOHN BIRCH, Old Swinford, Worcestershire, maltster—RICE HARRIS and RICE WILLIAMS HARRIS, Birmingham, glass manufacturers—WILLIAM SMITH, Halesowen, Worcestershire, builder—THOMAS HARDACRE, Settle, Yorkshire, mercer—MATTHEW SMITH, Sheffield, steel manufacturer.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—A. DREW, Whiteinch, near Glasgow, contractor—A. PETRIE, Blairgowrie, innkeeper—A. ROY, Partick, Lanarkshire, carrier—A. MANSON, Golspie, Sutherlandshire, druggist—R. S. ROSS, Glasgow, merchant—P. REID, Greenyards, near Bannockburn, Stirlingshire, cattle dealer—M. BARR, Paisley, linendraper.

Friday, January 2.

**BANKRUPTS.**—JOSEPH VAN RAALTE, jun., Gloucester-terrace, Hoxton, warehouseman—JOHN ALLTREE, Liverpool, tailor and draper—GEORGE NATHANIEL SOLOMON, Euston-place, New-road, merchant—JOHN BAILEY, Oakenshaw, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer—RICHARD BAKER, Lime-street, City, merchant—WILLIAM BAKER, Tichbourne-street, Haymarket, licensed victualler—VENABLES, MANN, and Co., Burslem, earthenware manufacturers—JOHN KENNARD, Little Queen-street, Holborn, ironmonger—THOMAS SQUIRE LAWRENCE, Walworth, late artificial manure merchant—WILLIAM POTTER, Ellerburn, Yorkshire, grocer—JONAS CHARLES HERMANN FREUND, West-street, Finsbury, boarding-house keeper—OATES SAGAR, Stonefold Mill, Lancashire, manufacturer—JOHN ADNAM, Old Fish-street, City, wine and spirit merchant—JOHN BROWN, Westbromwich, Staffordshire, wine and spirit merchant.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—ARCHIBALD WILLIAM COCKBURN, Charlotte-street, Edinburgh, doctor of medicine—WILLIAM CALDER GALLAHER, Paisley-road and Springfield-lane, Glasgow, oil and colour merchant.

## Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, January 2, 1857.

THE favourable report of the last quarter's revenue has had a happy influence on the English funds, which advanced on Wednesday evening to above 94*l.* They opened at this figure on Thursday morning; but the receipt of full accounts of the operations in China consequent on our disagreement with the Canton Imperial Commissioner, Yeh, caused the market to be less firm at the close of the day, when Consols were offered at 94*l.* This morning (Friday), matters were rather quiet, speculation being somewhat inactive. Consols were 94 to 94*l.*, and 94*l.* buyers. The New Three per Cents. were 94*l.* 94*l.*; and the Reduced 94*l.* 94*l.*. The market for Foreign and English Railways was dull.

Foreign Securities have undergone very little change. Turkish Six per Cents. are 95*l.* 95*l.*, and the Four per Cents. were steady. Portuguese Three per Cents. are 43*l.* ex div. Belgian Four and a Half per Cents. 96*l.*, and Dutch Two and a Half per Cents. 64*l.*

Messrs. D. Bell, Son, and Co. report that during the past week the market for American Securities has been devoid of all animation, and prices are without any material change.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, January 2, 1857.

WITH the prospect of the supplies from abroad being on a very limited scale for the next three months, combined with moderate arrivals of Wheat, more firmness has been exhibited in the trade, and though the attendance has not been more numerous than usual at this season, the business done has been at fully former rates. There have been very few arrivals off the coast. A cargo of Marianopoli arrived, has been sold at 6*s.*, and a mixed cargo of Egyptian at 4*s.* 3*d.* Several cargoes of Odessa and Galatz Maize on passage have been sold at 37*s.* 6*d.*, 37*s.* 7*d.*, 37*s.* 9*d.*, and 38*s.* The quantity of this grain now on the way is so small, that if any considerable demand arises for Ireland, prices must advance, and this would also affect the value of Egyptian Wheat. Barley maintains its former value for ordinary qualities, and such as is fit for malting is 1*s.* to 2*s.* dearer. The falling off in the supply of Maize must influence the value of Barley for feeding. Oats remain without alteration, and the trade is inactive.

## BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....			218	218		
3 per Cent. Red.....	94	94	94	94	94	94
3 per Cent. Con. An.						
Consols for Account	94	94	94	94	94	94
New 3 per Cent. An.	94	94	94	94	94	94
New 2 1/2 per Cents..						
Long Ans. 1860 .....		2	2	2		
India Stock.....						
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....				1 p	2 p	
Ditto, under £1000 .....			1 d	2 d		1 d
Rx. Bills, £1000 .....	2 p	1 d	1 d	2 p	1 d	3 p
Ditto, £500 .....			2 p	2 d		3 p
Ditto, Small .....	3 p	2 p	par	3 p		4 p

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	101	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...	
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	83	Russian Bonds, 5 per	
Chilian 6 per Cents.....		Cents .....	107 1/2
Chilian 3 per Cents.....		Russian 4 1/2 per Cents....	95 1/2
Dutch 2 1/2 per Cents.....	64 1/2	Spanish .....	41 1/2
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	97	Spanish Committee Cer-	
Equador Bonds .....		of Coup. not fun. ....	6
Mexican Account .....	21 1/2	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	95 1/2
Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cents...	78 1/2	Turkish New, 4 ditto ....	102 1/2
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	44 1/2	Venezuela 4 1/2 per Cents. ...	

## ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

On Monday and during the week the performances will commence with

### DELICATE GROUND.

Mr. G. Vining, Mr. Leslie, and Mrs. Stirling.

After which, an entirely new and original Fairy Extravaganza, called

### YOUNG AND HANDSOME.

Supported by Miss Swanborough, Mrs. Melfort, Miss Thriwall, Miss Clara St. Casse, Mr. F. Robson, Mr. J. Rogers, Mr. Franks, &c.

To conclude with the new Farce called

### CRINOLINE.

In which Mr. F. Robson, Mr. F. Vining, Mr. H. Cooper, Mr. Danvers, Miss Maskell, Miss Bromley, &c., will perform.

## CRYSTAL PALACE POULTRY SHOW.

The Grand Show of Poultry, Pigeons, and Rabbits will take place on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 10th, 12th, 13th, and 14th January. On Saturday, the Palace and Park will open at Ten o'clock. The usual Saturday Concert will take place at Two o'clock; Vocalist, Madame Rudersdorff. On the other days the Palace will open at the ordinary hour of Ten. Admission, Saturday, Half-a-Crown; other days, One Shilling.

## 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, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton; and a new Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, p.m.—Admission, 1*s.*—Catalogues, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. Kahn, gratis.

## OFFICES in the Best Part of the STRAND.

A FIRST and SECOND FLOOR TO BE LET, together or separately, suitable for a Public Company, or a Solicitor. Immediate possession may be had, and on moderate terms. Apply at 352, Strand.

## TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

**LIES.**—By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent (the only patent for these preparations). Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession. ADNAM'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS and BARLEY are manufactured by a process which entirely removes the acidity and unpleasant flavour, so universally found in similar preparations. They produce Gruel and Barley Water in the highest perfection, and being manufactured perfectly pure, yield food of the most light and nourishing quality for the Infant, the Invalid, and the Aged. The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c. The Patentees publish one only of the numerous testimonials they have received from eminent medical professors, relying more confidently on the intrinsic quality of the articles, of which one trial will not fail to convince the most fastidious of their purity and excellence.

(Copy.)

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital, February 19, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed)

"A. S. TAYLOR.

"Messrs. Adnam and Co."

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

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

## BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.

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

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

Price 1*s.* 1*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* per box.

## 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 PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.

Price 1*s.* 1*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* per box.

## HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS

**MATCHLESS REMEDIES FOR INVETERATE ULCERS.**—Mrs. Anne Edwards, of Gloucester, was a great sufferer for nearly twelve years with several obstinate ulcers in the legs, accompanied with a continual and preternatural discharge, corrupting the entire system, resisting every mode of treatment devised by her medical attendant and others of the faculty. Having heard of the immense cures effected by Holloway's Pills and Ointment, she was induced to give them a trial, and to the astonishment of herself and friends, was quickly and soundly cured.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guidoy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

## ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

**HARRINGTON PARKER & CO.** are now delivering the October brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by **HARRINGTON PARKER & CO.**, 51, Pall Mall. November 24th, 1856.

**HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO.,** Wine and Spirit Merchants, 51, PALL MALL, LONDON. offer to the public Old and Superior WINES, pure, and of the finest quality, at prices not exceeding those charged for ordinary Wines.

**HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO.** would call special attention to their PALE and GOLDEN DINNER SHERBIES, as under: Imperial Pints, 27s. to 34s. per dozen; or bottled in Reputed Quarts, 36s. to 45s. per dozen. Agents for Allsopp's Pale and India Ale.

## THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

Are enabled, by their connexion with the principal wine growers, to supply every description of WINE of the finest qualities at prices for cash far below the average, including their

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.  
Genuine ditto, 34s. per dozen.  
Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.  
Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.  
Claret, from 30s. to 84s.

Post orders must contain a remittance.

**SPANISH and WESTPHALIA HAMS,** 8½d. per lb. Good Cheshire Cheese, 5½d., 6½d., and 7½d. per lb. Rich Blue Mould Stilton, 8d., 10d., and 12d. per lb.; matchless do., 14d. per lb. Osborne's famed best Smoked Breakfast Bacon is now in excellent cure. York Hams, large and small, in abundance, and Butters in perfection at reasonable rates. A saving of 15 per cent. to the purchaser of all provisions. Packages gratis.

**OSBORNE'S** Cheese Warehouse, 30, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's.

Under the Patronage of Royalty and the Authority of the Faculty.

**KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.**—A Certain Remedy for Disorders of the *Pulmonary Organs*: in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma, and in Winter Cough, they have never been known to fail.

Prepared and sold in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., and Tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by **THOMAS KEATING**, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London; and retail by all Druggists.

## DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL.

Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the entire confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Its leading distinctive characteristics are: COMPLETE PRESERVATION OF ACTIVE AND ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES.

INVARIABLE PURITY AND UNIFORM STRENGTH. FREE FROM NAUSEOUS FLAVOUR AND AFTER-TASTE.

RAPID CURATIVE EFFECTS, AND CONSEQUENT ECONOMY.

**C. RADCLIFFE HALL, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.E.,** Physician to the Torquay Hospital for Consumption, Torquay, Author of "Essays on Pulmonary Tubercle," &c. &c.

"I have no hesitation in saying that I generally prefer your Cod Liver Oil for the following reasons:—I have found it to agree better with the digestive organs, especially in those patients who consider themselves to be bilious; it seldom causes nausea or eructation; it is more palatable to most patients than the other kinds of Cod Liver Oil; it is stronger, and consequently a smaller dose is sufficient."

Sold ONLY in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 8s.; capsuled and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by most respectable Chemists throughout the United Kingdom.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEPOT, **ANSAR, HARFORD, & CO., 77, STRAND, LONDON, W. C.**, DR. DE JONGH'S SOLE BRITISH CONSIGNEES, By whom the Oil is daily forwarded to all parts of the Metropolis.

## 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.

Price of single truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.—Postage, 1s. 8d. Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. 6d.—Postage 1s. 10d.

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