

Head and Tailor, 352 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

REVIEW OF THE WEEK—		Contents :			
	PAGE				
Public Meetings	386	Naval and Military	392	The Palmerston-Hayter Conspiracy	397
Embankment of the Thames	386	Miscellaneous	392	The Neapolitan Apology	397
Funeral of Jean Baptiste Rougeo	387	Postscript	393	The <i>Stade</i> and the <i>Times</i>	397
The Royal British Bank	387			Switzerland "Sold" again	398
Accidents and Sudden Deaths	387	OPEN COUNCIL—		A Great Act of Faith	398
Ireland	387	"Candide" on the Elections	394	The "Word" in the Streets	398
America	388	Land Societies	394	Ides of the Horse Guards	399
Continental Notes	388	PUBLIC AFFAIRS—			
Our Civilization	390	Imperialism, Ancient and Modern	394	LITERATURE—	
Gatherings from the Law and Po- lice Courts	390	Statistics of the New House	395	Summary	400
A Murder in the North	391	England and the United States in China	396	The Life of Sir Charles James Na- poleon	401
				The Walpole Letters	402
				A Batch of Books	403
				THE ARTS—	
				The Operas	403
				The Bouffes Parisiens at the St. James's Theatre	404
				The Gazette	405
				COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
				City Intelligence, Markets, &c.	405

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Review of the Week.

THREE questions ought to be put to Lord PALMERSTON before any other proceedings in Parliament: What he intends to do in Parliamentary Reform? What he intends to do with Army Reform? And what is the actual state of our foreign relations? Under all these heads the conduct of the Government is, at the present moment, a mystery; a mystery it was at the dissolution, but it should not remain so if the new members are prepared to support each other in doing their duty.

No man in this country who is not in the secrets of the Cabinet can just now describe the exact relation in which we stand with any foreign country whatsoever. We are in close alliance with France, yet how far we are acting with that state—which is exchanging courtesies with the Russian Government, is somehow patronising the Court of Spain, and is cultivating alliances apparently crossing our own—is a subject that demands fresh light, unless we are to incur new obligations without knowing what we are at.

It is openly the boast in Vienna that Lord PALMERSTON has come round to the Austrian policy in Italy. The journals which are under the control of the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH's Government distinctly make that assertion. What does this mean?

The King of DENMARK has just appointed a new Minister, after a long difficulty in finding a successor to M. VON SCHEELE. The ground on which the Danish Government resigned was, its repugnance to the extension of "the Scandinavian Idea"—a project for uniting all the Scandinavian peoples under one crown as a means of resistance to Russia. Now our Government, which was expected to assist in forming a barrier between the encroachments of Denmark and the Germanic provinces of that monarchy in 1849, suffered the barrier to drop, and thus negatively co-operated in submerging the Germanic independence of the provinces under a Danish consolidation. What course is our Government now taking in relation to Denmark, and what are the grounds for that course? Both these questions are shrouded in absolute mystery; but certainly they very nearly concern the interests of this country, as a matter of commercial intercourse and also of future military expenditure.

What position has our Government taken, or maintained, with reference to Neuchâtel? At first it was supposed to be strikingly honest and

friendly to the Republic against the encroachments of King FREDERICK WILLIAM, who is endeavouring to convert his titular and antiquated *Principality* of Neuchâtel into a sovereign right antagonistic to the federal Government over the *Canton* of Neuchâtel. The French Government proposed to mediate, and our Minister acquiesced in the French proposal. As a preliminary, Switzerland was persuaded to surrender all her claims against the Prussian King, with the prisoners that had rebelled against her, and to leave the matter an open question. The mediating powers stood pledged by their honour to obtain a satisfactory settlement of the point in dispute; but it is now reported that they call upon Switzerland to tolerate the continuance of King FREDERICK WILLIAM as the "Prince of Neuchâtel;" to pay him an indemnity where they might have claimed a fine for the release of the prisoners; and even to recognise his authority, by giving a guarantee that certain charities will be administered as he pleases. Is it possible that our Minister has endorsed any such proposal addressed to the Republican Government? Mystery again; but we presume that some Member of the Commons will have sufficient firmness, and sufficient English feeling, to extort an elucidation. The head of the Liberal party ought to do it—whoever he may be.

How do we stand with the United States? The Government at Washington has been invited to join with France and England in a certain "demonstration," or something of the kind, to the Chinese Government; but President BUCHANAN is understood to have declined a co-operation which would have called upon him to declare war against China, unless he had been prepared, without taking the privileges of a belligerent, to forfeit the privileges of a neutral, by covertly assisting the enemy of China. In fact, the American papers imply that the request must have been a very strange one, and we wish to know how it stands?

The Emperor NAPOLEON, who is bestowing various grades in the Legion of Honour upon a great number of English soldiers, is also receiving the Grand Duke Constantine with distinction. So far as he has gone hitherto, NAPOLEON THE THIRD appears to be a complete master in the art of setting one influence against another; but the question is, how far we stand officially committed to this modern plan for maintaining "the balance of Europe."

One project appears to have been knocked on the head by the effectual exposure which it has received. It is the Grand Russian Railway Com-

pany. The promoters of it are employing devices hitherto left to the lowest of schemers. They are, for example—at least the *Times* thus presents the case—getting up fictitious sales in order to fictitious quotations on the English Stock Exchange; and the leading journal goes so far as to represent some *clergyman* as playing the "stag" in manoeuvres that would have suited Capel-court in 1847. But these devices of the Imperial Russian HUDSON have not at all been so successful as those of the railway speculators in '47. He does not get his money. We suspect that few English people will be willing that their means should be invested in this worse than West Diddlesex stock.

We suspect that at home the absolute uncertainty which everywhere prevails, will very shortly find a termination in a rather more settled course on the part of our public men; although the most recent manifestations are more retrospective than prospective, speak more of unsettlement than settlement. Mr. GLADSTONE is drawn out by an admiring friend, Mr. CHARLES BUTLER, who wishes for some reply to Mr. JAMES HALL, the vigorous Welshman that, during the Flintshire election, challenged Mr. GLADSTONE as a trimmer on the subject of peace and war. Mr. GLADSTONE replies, that the proper notice of Mr. HALL's speech was delivered on the spot, and he insinuates that Mr. HALL's invective was nothing more than "slander," but he tries to clear himself on one point. He insists that Lord PALMERSTON, as well as himself, resigned office in January, 1855, rather than agree to Mr. ROEBUCK's motion; Lord PALMERSTON informed him, he says, that he should continue his resistance; and it was Lord PALMERSTON that changed his mind, not Mr. GLADSTONE, when the latter resigned. This may be true enough, but the sole practical question is, whether Lord PALMERSTON resisted the appointment of Mr. ROEBUCK's committee because he wished to continue the war, or whether he resisted it because he wished to drop the war. He might, indeed, have been actuated by a third motive,—he might have wished to continue the war, yet to screen the aristocratic persons who were exposing their own inefficiency as officers. With respect to Mr. GLADSTONE there is no doubt that he did not wish to continue the war, although he had belonged to the Government which began it. And he certainly makes an unsustained assertion, when he says that as a necessary consequence of adhering to his opinion, he was "deprived of office." The expression is remarkable: it is untrue as a matter of fact; but it does confirm the

supposition of those who believe that Mr. GLADSTONE is over anxious to return to office.

Mr. LAYARD, again, in bidding farewell to his late constituents, expresses regret that they have not thought him worthy to continue their representative, and intimates that he would rather fall with some than stand with others. This points at Mr. COBDEN, Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, and other tried Liberals who have been thrown out; and public meetings in London and Carlisle have shown that Mr. LAYARD's feeling is shared by many Englishmen. It is to be regretted, indeed, that these meetings have been so conspicuously promoted by personal connexions of the late "Manchester party," and by members of the extreme Peace party. It is not by such aid that the cast-out members will recover their position. They may recover it by the straight and short path; and that is, to take up the cause of the non-represented. The constituencies, narrowed to one-seventh of the population, have refused to be represented by some of our most consistent Reformers; the other six-sevenths would be glad to possess such representatives; and if their real public leaders act together with those who still remain in Parliament, unquestionably the number of the unrepresented in this country can be reduced, and the public men who have been thrown out can throw themselves in again with a stronger force than ever at their backs.

It is not improbable that the apparent strength of the Government may either compel it to fall back upon the more thoroughly Liberal support, or may afford the opportunity to the Liberal party for reasserting its own independence. The course taken by the Government implies a disposition to rely upon a majority in the House of Commons, simply as a majority—as an overwhelming voting power which is to be conciliated by not contradicting the feelings of any section of it. Such a course would scarcely be consistent with the feeling of the people out of doors, and if it were pursued it would leave the political lead vacant for the independent Liberals. The actual Ministers, however, may see the gross impolicy of such a course, and may resist the temptation held out to them of a wholesale trimming. Should they resist, they will irritate those "moderate" men who intend to support them in order to convert them into a virtually Conservative Government, and then Lord PALMERSTON will again become the acting head of the Liberal party. Either way, the united action of Liberal members in or out of the House will do more than anything can at present to restore the strength of the popular party.

In the Court of Arches, Archdeacon DENISON has foiled his adversary, the Reverend DICHER. The Judge, Sir JOHN DODSON, has ruled that the 'proceedings' against the Archdeacon were not commenced within the two years specified by the Church Discipline Act—a provision justly protecting clergymen against retrospective persecutions. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY was slow to challenge a single clergyman for his individual interpretation of doctrine in a Church of many doctrines, where a narrow definition would convert a majority into Dissenters; and the Court of Arches pronounces against a tardy arraignment, a combination of slow prelaty and fast judicature, which lets the Archdeacon escape between the two. Perhaps the Privy Council will see the expediency as well as technical accuracy of Sir JOHN DODSON'S *trouvaille*.

Another gladiatorial display in the Court of Bankruptcy, where Mr. LINKLATER has gone rather to excess in maintaining his position as a "brilliant" barrister. Mr. STAPLETON, the victim this week, appears throughout to have intended honestly; and the false position into which he was gradually dragged is of a kind to challenge the lenient consideration of others who have not fallen into the same traps. When a professional man takes ad-

vantage of another man's disadvantage, he may increase the stock of his professional repute for "brilliance," but he tarnishes the brilliancy of his fame in another way.

A third court has been exemplifying our domestic institutions. The BARINGS and the GORDONS are two families that live near each other in Lincolnshire, at a sufficient distance, however, to make visits frequently of a residential kind. A preference arises between Mrs. BARING and Captain GORDON. They suddenly hurry off to an hotel near the Great Western Railway station, are pursued by Mrs. GORDON and friends, who fail to recover them; and Mr. BARING is desirous of accomplishing the divorce thus practically begun. To do so he is obliged to bring his claim for damages, which he does in the Under-Sheriffs' Court, and the jury have to name the amount. "What are his means?" asked a jurymen. "Nothing to do with the question," answers the Under-Sheriff. "But we might injure his innocent wife and family," rejoined the jury. "A very proper consideration," replicates the Sheriff, "but quite out of your field. You must name the sum on evidence." And, accordingly, Mr. BARING must accept 3000*l.* from Captain GORDON before he can go to the House of Lords.

But we manage morals strangely in this country. In Exeter Hall they will admit the *Traviata*, they will admit even the words—among the singers on the platform; but the dashing love-songs and penitential wailings of the successful but phthisical Magdalen must not be brought home to an Exeter Hall audience. The Lost One may warble in the hall of saints, but only in one of the unknown tongues. What a commentary on national purity and national education!

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES AND THE REFORM QUESTION.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the working men of London was held on Monday evening at the Cowper-street School-room, City-road, "to express regret and sympathy with the unsuccessful parliamentary candidates at Manchester, Huddersfield, Rochdale, and Oldham, and to take the sense of the working men of London as to what reforms ought to be demanded from the new Parliament." It is calculated that nearly one thousand persons belonging to the operative classes were present. The chair was taken by Mr. S. Lucas, and the first resolution was moved by Mr. Wiles, as follows:—"That this meeting views with regret the exclusion from Parliament of Messrs. Cobden, Bright, Gibson, Miall, and Fox, at a time when they laboured successfully in checking dictatorial power and promoting beneficial reforms in church and state, advancing popular education, substituting international arbitration for war, and an open intercourse between all the nations instead of secret diplomacy, reducing the burdens of taxation, extending free trade, and establishing amicable relations with all the peoples of the earth: and this meeting thankfully acknowledges the great services these eminent men rendered to the commonwealth, and desires to see them speedily replaced in positions of public usefulness, for which their superior talents and moral worth peculiarly fit them." On the motion of Mr. Laurie, the name of Sir Joshua Walmsley was added to the list. Some opposition to the resolution was offered by Mr. Diekey, a Chartist, who said that Messrs. Cobden and Bright are not the friends of the working classes. Their rejection would teach them a great moral lesson. He moved an amendment in favour of manhood suffrage without any property qualification for members; but he afterwards withdrew this, "for the sake of unanimity." A person in the body of the hall, who described himself as a Spitalfields' weaver, and who said he could speak from experience of the distress of his class, denounced Messrs. Cobden and Bright for having opposed every measure introduced into Parliament for the benefit of the working classes, such as the Ten Hours Factory Bill, Lord Robert Grosvenor's measure for improving the condition of working bakers, and Sir Harry Halford's bill for putting an end to the truck system. The speaker admitted that Mr. Fox was the best of the persons mentioned in the original resolution. He concluded by moving as an amendment that the expulsion of Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Gibson from the House of Commons was a just retribution for their opposition to measures for the social benefit of the working classes.

The amendment found a seconder; but, strange to say, Mr. Bronterre O'Brien came to the rescue of the original motion. He said that Cobden and Bright had always been right on the subject of education; they had already done something for the people, and he hoped would do more. Indeed, he believed that their exclusion from Parliament would have the effect of enlisting them

more thoroughly in the cause of the masses. If the resolution were passed, he would afterwards embody a programme of future reform in a substantive motion.

The original motion and the amendment were then put to the meeting, and the chairman declared the former to be carried, though the numbers appeared pretty nearly equal. Mr. T. J. Lockhart then moved, "That this meeting is of opinion that any measure of reform in the representation of the people to satisfy the country at large should at least contain—first, manhood suffrage; second, a more equal distribution of electors to population; three, no property qualification for members of Parliament; four, vote by ballot; five, triennial parliaments." (Cheers.) Mr. Bronterre O'Brien seconded the resolution, reserving his right, he said, to go hereafter for the whole six points of the Charter. Mr. Bligh, who declared himself to be an uncompromising Chartist, moved an amendment in favour of annual parliaments and the payment of members. Mr. Wells seconded this proposal. Mr. Hurst, who said he had been a factory operative in Manchester for twenty years, observed that the Chartists of that city, who were likely to know Mr. Bright best, had done all in their power to secure his return at the last election. (Hear.) The resolution as proposed to be amended was then put and carried.

Mr. J. P. Adams proposed a resolution declaring the meeting to be in favour of a scheme of national secular education, to be supported by the money now paid to the clergy. This was seconded by Mr. Healey, and carried unanimously.—The meeting then broke up.

FREE EMIGRATION.

A numerous meeting of the workmen of Westminster was held in the Great Hall, Broadway, Westminster, on Tuesday night. It was announced that a number of members of Parliament were expected to be present, and that Mr. Cox, M.P. for Finsbury, would take the chair. The secretary, however, read letters of apology from Lord Goderich, Mr. Locke, Sir J. V. Shelley, Mr. Roupell, and Mr. Cox. Mr. Clancy, a working man, was then called to the chair. The object of the meeting was to urge on the Government the necessity that exists for rendering state aid to the working classes to emigrate, as a means of alleviating the present distress of the operatives. Resolutions to this effect were unanimously carried.

A CONSERVATIVE DEMONSTRATION.

A dinner took place at Bury St. Edmund's on Wednesday week, to celebrate the return to Parliament of Mr. H. S. Waddington and Captain P. Bennet, the Conservative members for West Suffolk. Major Parker presided, and was supported by the guests of the evening, Sir R. Buxton, Mr. J. H. P. Oakes (late M.P. for the borough), and about one hundred and fifty of the principal yeomen and farmers of the neighbourhood. Mr. Waddington, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, admitted that the results of the election were "not exactly such as could have been desired by the Opposition." He spoke in favour of reduced taxation and economical expenditure, and hoped that the income-tax would soon be entirely abrogated.—The chairman spoke to the same effect, and complained that "the agriculturists are at present contributing very largely to the expenses of the country, building military depôts, and incurring heavy burdens, which should be shared by the fundholders," as "the great money interest does not now pay enough." He thought our ships of war should be sent in all directions to discover guano, to help the farmers, who are now competing with the world.—Mr. J. H. P. Oakes, the unsuccessful Conservative candidate for Bury St. Edmund's, intimated, in acknowledging the toast of his health, that a petition would be presented against the present return for the borough as soon as possible.—Sir R. Buxton said it was expected that Lord Palmerston would bring forward measures of reform, and "what the Liberal party is pleased to call 'progress.'" He warned the country against adopting hasty and sweeping measures of reform which would "degrade the suffrage into the hands of the ignorant, and introduce that worst of all tyrannies, the tyranny of a democracy." The immediate result of any such measure being carried, would be the laying of fresh burdens on the farmers. They must not be discouraged at the present position of the Conservative party, which is only under a passing cloud.—Mr. Dobito said he was once a staunch Conservative, and he was still ready to conserve anything that it was necessary to conserve. But Sir Robert Peel had overthrown the Conservative party, and at the present time he really did not know what were the particular points before the public. It appeared to him that Lord Palmerston was as good a Conservative as any on the other side of the House.—After some further speech-making, the company separated.

EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held on Tuesday, "further to consider a report from the Committee of Works and Improvements, on the subject of a communication from Mr. Lionel Gisborne, C.E., respecting a design for embankment and improvement of the Thames, of which he is the promoter, and on a memorial from Messrs. Loder, Jackson, and Bird, the promoters of an undertaking for the formation of an embankment on the north side of the Thames, between

Southwark and Westminster Bridges, and for the construction of a railway and other works."

The report of the committee stated that—"The committee were of opinion that the embankment of the Thames should be carried out with reference to the following objects:—1st. To improve the Thames as a navigable river, having due regard to the safety of existing bridges. 2nd. To increase the wharfage accommodation, and improve the means for the shipment and delivery of goods. 3rd. To improve the Thames in a sanitary point of view. 4th. To remedy the present unsightly condition of the banks of the Thames, and afford facilities, by means of architectural embellishment, for improving their appearance. 5th. To open up a new thoroughfare between the eastern and western parts of London. 6th. To facilitate the construction of a low level intercepting sewer."

The committee having commented on Mr. Gisborne's scheme, and that of Messrs. Loder, Jackson, and Bird, concluded their report by expressing an opinion that the promoters of both schemes had prejudiced their efficiency and value, as works of public utility, by seeking to render them commercially remunerative.

After some discussion the report was adopted, and the following resolution was carried:—"That as the control of the banks of the Thames is vested in the Crown or the Corporation of London, or both of them, her Majesty's Government and the Corporation of London be immediately communicated with, to ascertain if they will undertake to carry out the embankment of the Thames, between Westminster and London Bridges; or if they will join with this board in carrying out the same."

The board shortly afterwards adjourned.

FUNERAL OF JEAN BAPTISTE ROUGÉE.

The funeral of this eminent Republican took place last Sunday in the Tower Hamlets Cemetery. It was intended to deposit the body in the Victoria Park Cemetery; but this was disallowed, as "procession funerals" are not permitted in that ground on Sundays. The mourners started from the dead man's house, Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road, shortly after ten o'clock: they were preceded by three red banners, one of which had a symbolical representation of Poland smiting Russian oppression in the dust. It is calculated that about two thousand persons attended, the conduct of whom was very decorous and orderly.

The body having been lowered into the grave, M. Félix Pyat delivered an oration, in which, after eulogising the eminent virtues of Rougée, he continued:—

"Knowledge is power! When the time had come that French citizens were to take the place of French nobles, Voltaire and Rousseau led the way for Robespierre and Danton. Now that the people's turn has come, thanks be to God! genius is on our side, intelligence comes from below. We have Pierre Leroux, a composer; Proudhon, a book-keeper; Hégésippe Moreau, a printer; Tillier, a schoolmaster; Genoux, a pedlar; Ponce and Nadaud, masons; and many others, living and dead, poets, philosophers, and artists, who proclaim the people king by the force of genius, by the right of intellect and the intelligence of right. (*Cries of 'Bravo.'*) 'What! it is said, 'are those workmen for whom the Emperor has done so much, who has given them *panem et circenses*, stirring yet? stirring always? Yes, till their kingdom come, for the revolution is not a question of bread alone. The people are hungering for thought also; their heart is higher than their stomach; they have a soul as well as a body—rights as well as wants—rights imperishable, imprescriptible, and sovereign, of which you, my departed friend, have seen the triumph in the distant future, clear and certain as a proposition of Euclid, with the faith of logic and the second-sight of reason. (*Bravo!*) When from the two ends of the civilised world, from the two extremities of society, we see our two last victims—Worcell, descending from the highest rank in society to the lowliness of poverty, and you, Rougée, ascending from the obscurity of poverty to the loftiness of the ideal—when we see these two spirits, so different and yet so like, working for the success of the same cause, it is impossible for us to doubt of it. Therefore, citizens, however great may be our loss, whatever void may be made in our ranks, whatever regrets may be felt in our hearts, let us refrain from despair. The fruitful idea which has raised these noble models is stamping others after their image. If our enemies, the royalists, who make their principles incarnate in a man or in a race, have been able to say, 'The king is dead—long live the king,' we, united democrats, who do not make our wider principle incarnate, either in one or many, either in a family or in a caste, but in all, in the whole of humanity—we who believe in the eternity of right, in the infinity of time, and in the immensity of number, should cry out here for the greater glory of this martyr, 'A Republican is dead—long live the Republic!' (*Loud cries of 'Vive la République!'*)"

M. Talandier and M. Louis Blanc also pronounced orations, which were followed by cries for the speedy advent of the democratic and social Republic.

We derive from the *Daily News* some interesting particulars of the life of Rougée:—

"The son of a hatter of Lyons, he followed in early life the trade of his father, but, having a taste for study, he invested in books whatever he could spare, after supplying his modest wants. By the force of application, joined to natural aptitude, he became so great a proficient in letters, that he took his degrees both as a *bachelier-ès-lettres* and as a *bachelier-ès-sciences*, and was made professor of mathematics in the Royal College of Montpellier. He was on the point of taking his degree as doctor of medicine when the revolution of February broke out. Having vigorously opposed the reaction, he was condemned to two years' imprisonment in Belle Isle, which he suffered in company with his friend Blanqui, with whom he ever since kept up a correspondence. When the time of his sentence expired, he was, without trial, exiled from his country. He took up his abode in London, where he married, and maintained himself by following his early business of a hatter. In the intervals of labour, he devoted himself to his favourite study of mathematics, in the too ardent prosecution of which he contracted brain fever, of which he died, after four days' illness, in the thirty-eighth year of his age. He was sincerely regretted by his brother refugees."

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE hearing of evidence in the case of this bank was resumed on Wednesday, at eleven o'clock, before Mr. Commissioner Holroyd. Mr. Humphrey Brown, late M.P. for Tewksbury, was present. The examination of Mr. Stapleton was resumed by Mr. Linklater, who asked, "Do you or do you not believe that on the 1st of February, 1856, you had made a fair and honest provision for bad debts?"

Mr. Stapleton: "I do not know that it was a dishonest provision. I did not believe we were deceiving the shareholders by that provision, nor do I believe it now. I believe a much larger provision for bad debts would have been desirable."

Mr. Linklater: "I call upon you, as an honest man, to answer the question." (*Cheers.*)

Mr. Huddleston (who represented Mr. Stapleton) protested against cheering in a court of justice, and contended that questions should not be put in such a shape as to convey a comment. The Commissioner said the question had been as to the provision for bad debts.

Mr. Stapleton asserted that he had given his answer distinctly. "At the meeting on the 1st of February, 1856, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Cameron. (*A laugh.*) He had no confidence in Mr. Cameron, and had determined to put him out. Mr. Cameron's debt, to which he had a great objection, was believed by many to be good. He had serious apprehensions as to the safety of the bank before the end of June, 1856. The subject of bringing an action against the *Joint Stock Journal* for its articles on the bank was frequently mentioned. He recollected passages in some of the articles. He was against taking any proceedings against the *Journal*. Mr. Esdaile alluded to the *Journal*, and there was an expression of opinion among the shareholders that it was not worth mentioning. He believed a Mr. Harris, of Ipswich, who had written to them in reference to these articles, had afterwards got rid of his shares." [A letter from Mr. Esdaile in reply to Mr. Harris was produced, in which it was stated that the articles had been written by a dismissed servant of the bank.] "Mr. Esdaile made a statement at the meeting on the 1st of August as to the value of Mr. Cameron's securities, of which he disapproved, as being exaggerated, and he told him so at the time. When he saw how matters stood, he got one general manager removed, and another was appointed; and he believed that, if Mr. Craufurd had had time, he would have put the accounts on a proper footing. He might have authorized the solicitor to take shares as a security for a debt already due to the bank. Before the 1st of August, 1856, there were a great many debts which he considered as hopeless. On the 1st of August, 1856, every shareholder present, of ordinary intelligence, knew the condition of the bank. They had hopes of getting rid of the Welsh works through a company. He recollected Mr. Craufurd saying it was better to call the shareholders together and close the doors, but could not say on what occasion that was. The monthly accounts of the bank in the *Gazette* were the same as the accounts of the bank, and did not represent insolvency."

The examination of Mr. Stapleton being concluded, an adjournment took place to next Wednesday. It was understood that an earlier day will be appointed for the examination of the auditors.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A boy named Joseph Parry, aged fourteen, whose father is a sailor at Liverpool, found, when in company with four other lads, all much younger than himself, a bottle of whisky in the station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. Taking the bottle to the old churchyard, and sitting on the gravestones, they passed it round until it was emptied of its contents. They were subsequently found in a state of insensibility, and were removed to their homes. All recovered except Parry, who died last Saturday morning of apoplexy, caused by the debauch.

The inquest on the two women, Bridget Fox and Julia Flynn, who were killed by the explosion of a boiler at the works of Messrs. Bagnall and Sons, at Leebrook, near Wednesbury, was concluded on Friday week. It appeared that the boiler which burst was one of three of very large size used on the premises, and that it had been placed in its position about three years since. It was repaired a month ago, but one of the enginemen had reported to the manager of the works, David Hill, that this particular boiler leaked. A strict examination of the boiler has been made since the explosion by a practical engineer, who reported that it had been made of inferior material. The jury, after hearing a number of witnesses, returned a verdict "that the deceased met their deaths by the explosion of a boiler, which was solely caused by the inferiority of the material, and that, when the leakage was reported to the manager, he should have taken steps to ascertain the cause."

An accident has occurred on the East Anglian Railway Company's line, between King's Lynn and Ely. A Mr. Ferguson, in returning home, proceeded on the line from the Denver station, and was knocked down by a passing train and killed. The accident was not perceived by the engine man and stoker, and it remained unknown for some hours, until the corpse was found on the line. The death has been pronounced accidental by a coroner's jury.

Mr. Ball, M.P., while riding round his farm, was thrown by his mare into a ditch, where he was nearly covered with mud and water. He was a good deal bruised, but no bones were broken.

Mr. Bovill, M.P., has also been thrown from his horse. He fell with great force, and received a considerable shock, affecting the whole system.

The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances connected with the explosion at the New Pit, Bradbury, was held on Monday morning, and resulted in the following verdict:—"That the five deceased persons had met with their death by accident; but the jury wished, through the coroner, to call the attention of the proprietors of the mine to the ventilation, it being their unanimous opinion that it was defective, and they hoped that in future it would be better attended to."

Mr. Henry Zahn, a young German merchant a Manchester, has been killed by being thrown on his head by his horse, which had been frightened at something.

A boiler has exploded in Walsall-street, Wolverhampton. Three of the workmen were killed, and also two children who were playing in the street. Ten or twelve other persons were injured.

Two workmen, employed in fixing a new landing-stage on the Prince's pier at Liverpool, have met with a fatal accident while engaged at their work. The men were occupied, in company with several others, on board a lighterman, in winding up a heavy casting, when suddenly the chain broke, and struck one of the men with such violence as to precipitate him into the river. Lifelines were immediately thrown out, and every effort was made to rescue him; but he was unable to grasp the ropes, and it was only by means of grapnel that he was ultimately got out, by which time he was quite dead, and both his arms were broken. Thomas Rhodes, the other man, met his death by being jammed between the vessel and the pier. He was extricated before life was extinct, but he was so dreadfully injured that he died while being conveyed to the hospital. A few of the other workmen are stated to have been in great peril.

IRELAND.

ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.—The extensive Donegal estates of Sir Edmund Hayes, one of the members for that county, are advertised for sale on the 12th of next June. The gross net rental is set down at 4,800*l.* per annum. The hon. baronet is himself petitioner for the sale.

SHOOTING THROUGH A WINDOW.—Some person, at present unknown, fired a shot, on the night of the 6th inst., into the house of Mr. William Ogilby, of Killycatten, Londonderry. A large reward has been offered for the discovery of the perpetrator. The county magistrates have advertised it as their opinion that the shot was fired "for the purpose of intimidating Mr. William Ogilby from taking an active part in the election for the county of Londonderry."

FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS.—The Derry papers publish a document in the form of a petition, which was presented to the Marquis of Waterford by his lordship's tenantry in Londonderry, humbly beseeching leave to vote as their consciences dictated at the election for the county. This was the answer:—"Ashbrook, April 3.—Sir, I am directed by the Marquis of Waterford to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, together with a memorial from some of his tenants in this county, and to say that he would wish them to vote for Mr. Clark and Sir H. Bruce at the coming election. Yours faithfully, J. B. BERRISFORD.—Rev N. M. Brown."—The *Leicester Express* is authorized to state that the petition on the part of Mr. Fitzpatrick, of the ground of violence, intimidation, and obstruction of voters, is in course of preparation, and will be presented in proper time. At the declaration of the new members for the Queen's County, Sir Charles Coote asserted that "Mr. Fitzpatrick's agent went to Lord Lansdowne's and Mr. Fitzpatrick's tenants, and told them that, if they

gave their second votes to Sir Charles Coote, they would be ejected from their farms." This, however, is denied.

CHURCH EDUCATION SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Protestant society, which is opposed to the national or secular system of education, took place at Dublin on Thursday week; the Earl of Clancarty in the chair. The report did not indicate a very prosperous or progressive state of the association; but the framers of that document say that they have not lost hope, and that they look for the triumph of their principles in due time.

THE CHIEF SECRETARYSHIP.—The report that Mr. Bernal Osborne is about to succeed Mr. Horsman as the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant appears to be doubtful. It is now stated that there was a temporary disagreement between Lord Palmerston and Mr. Horsman because the latter was absent from Ireland during the elections, when his "direction" of them was greatly needed by Government. The breach is said by some to have been healed; by others, not.

FOOD RIOTS IN THE KING'S COUNTY.—A large capitalist, Mr. Joshua Atkinson, of Roscrea, having bought in the Parsonstown market between eighty and a hundred barrels of potatoes, and a considerable quantity of barley, an advance in prices ensued, which so exasperated the people that they assembled in large numbers, hooted Mr. Atkinson, stopped his cars, maltreated the drivers, cut open the sacks with knives, and strewed the potatoes about the road. The police were assaulted with stones, and it was found necessary to send for a reinforcement. In the meanwhile, the women succeeded in carrying off, in their under garments, the contents of between thirty and forty sacks of potatoes.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.—The Rev. William Lee, D.D., Fellow of Trinity College, and author of "Lectures on the Inspiration of Holy Scripture," has been elected to the Professorship of Ecclesiastical History, vacant by the promotion of Dr. Fitzgerald to the see of Cork.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—A ticket-of-leave man, named Carter, who was sentenced to transportation a few years ago, has committed a murderous assault on a gentleman living at Rossmore, Queen's County, named Fennell, whose life is considered in great danger. The man came to Mr. Fennell one night, apparently in great distress, and begging that that gentleman would give him a night's lodging. Mr. Fennell not only granted this, but also gave him a breakfast the following morning. Shortly after breakfast, Carter, having observed Mr. Fennell go to work on his farm, seized a spade, and, closing the kitchen door, threatened to knock out the brains of the servant boy and girl unless they told him where their master's money was. The girl screamed with terror, but the boy took down a gun that was in the room and presented it at Carter, on which the latter fled. Unfortunately, however, he happened to encounter Mr. Fennell in his flight, whom he struck a severe blow on the side of his head with the spade. The servant boy nevertheless pursued Carter, and finally succeeded in capturing him after a two miles' chase, when he was given into the custody of the Graigue police.

AMERICA.

THE question of the reinforcement of the United States Squadron in the East is said to be still under the consideration of the Washington cabinet, and it is believed that a very imposing fleet will soon be gathered there. Commodore Perry will probably be appointed to the command. It is not the intention of the American Government to co-operate with England and France in their proceedings against China; but energetic measures will be taken for the protection of the rights of American citizens. To this end, an envoy will be sent to the Celestial Empire, who will be instructed to procure some modifications of the treaty now existing between the Chinese and Americans, and an improvement of commercial relations. Such, in effect, are the statements put forth by the *New York Courier and Enquirer*.

Some correspondence between our representative at Washington (Lord Napier) and Mr. Cass, Secretary of State, has been published. His Lordship communicated to Mr. Cass a despatch from Lord Clarendon, expressing the Foreign Minister's high sense of the humane and devoted conduct manifested by the crew of an American lifeboat in the rescue of the English barque Tasso, of St. John's, Newfoundland. Two of the American boatmen perished on that occasion, as well as four of the ship's crew. To the widow of one of the deceased boatmen, the English Government sends a donation of 50*l.*; and inquiries are being made with respect to the relatives of the other heroic, but ill-fated man. A letter of the Earl of Clarendon to Lord Napier accompanies the correspondence, and conveys the thanks of our Government to the survivors. Mr. Cass's letter contains a suitable acknowledgment of Lord Napier's communication.

According to one account, Walker has in some measure retrieved his fortunes by a brilliant victory; but this is doubted, other accounts stating that the adventurer is still in a desperate condition, and that his adherents are making a frantic struggle to reach the coast, in order that they may get off. It is said that Walker has opened a correspondence with General Canas, to whom he offered to surrender, provided he and his men were allowed to leave the country. The General accepted the surrender, and said he would give passports

to the whole force with the exception of Walker himself, whom he intended to deliver up to the authorities of Costa Rica. Walker's adherents, however, refused to agree to this arrangement.

The *Baltimore Republican* gives an account of a savage and fatal duel which occurred at Winston (Maryland). The parties were fastened down by their trousers to a two-inch oak plank, and fought with bowie-knives. "They fought," says the *Republican*, "until Drain was mortally wounded. Young Pendleton was cut nearly in pieces, and now lies in a critical position. Part of Pendleton's knife is still in Drain's head. There is no hope of his recovery. The doctors think they will both die. Drain was twenty-two, and Pendleton nineteen."

General Concha, of Cuba, has issued a decree revoking the certificates of protection ordered to be issued to slaves, as being insufficient in curtailing the traffic. Two New York vessels have been sold as slavers.

The ship *New Hampshire*, from Glasgow, has been wrecked at sea.

The New York stock-market, at the last advices, was heavy, and trade for the most part was dull.

An elderly gentleman has had a narrow escape from death at Niagara Falls. He was sitting on the bank, when he became dizzy, and fell into the river. He went down the rapids for some distance, and was a good deal knocked about against the rocks that line the bank under the water. At length he clung to one of the rocks which rose up above the surface. From this he was rescued, though with difficulty, by rope ladders thrown from the bank some two hundred and sixty feet. He was nearly exhausted with cold. A gentleman living close by gave him a change of clothing, and he is now quite well, but he expresses great disinclination to make a second trip.

Yellow fever still prevailed at the Brazilian ports at the last dates, and had proved very fatal among the merchant shipping. Several masters and their crews had been swept off by the disease.

"The Imperial railroad of Peter the Second, in Brazil," says a correspondent of the *Daily News*, "is completed as far as Nazareth, a distance of sixteen miles, and a trial trip was made on the 13th of March. The distance was run in thirty-five minutes, and the return in twenty-eight. The directors gave a *déjeuner* to the notabilities present, about sixty sitting down to table. Great hilarity prevailed on the occasion, and, amongst other toasts, those of 'The Emperor,' 'Queen Victoria,' 'The English Nation,' and 'The Brazilian Nation,' were warmly received."

The Crimean immigrants at Buenos Ayres have been rather unruly. There was a want of previous arrangements for their reception on shore, and it was therefore found necessary to keep them on shipboard. The men naturally objected; some rioting ensued, and a few lives were lost.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

A DEPUTATION of the electors of the Seine Inférieure, according to a Lyons journal, invited M. Thiers to stand for the department at the general election; but he declined, "for many reasons." The *Patrie* angrily comments on this assertion, but does not directly contradict it. It is reported that M. Thiers's reason for refusing to stand was that he had no confidence in the principle on which the present government of France is founded.

A man, named Massenot, has been tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police for using seditious language. On the night of the 6th of February he ran up a score at a public-house, and left without paying it; and he sang seditious songs, for which he was arrested. On being searched, a letter was found on him proposing to him to join a secret society formed for the purpose of assassination. He offered to reveal the existence of a secret society, of from sixty to eighty persons, if he was set at liberty, but his offer was not accepted. He therefore refused to say anything about the letter, but there is some reason to suppose that it was written by himself. He was proved to be a bad character, and to have been frequently in prison. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and to fifty francs' fine.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent*.

A new French Protestant chapel has been consecrated in the Rue de Madame in the presence of a numerous congregation, among whom were the President of the Reform Consistory, several English and American preachers, and Dr. Kern, the Swiss Minister Plenipotentiary. The building, which has been raised by private subscription, was commenced only a year ago, and comprises, in addition to the chapel, two schools capable of accommodating one hundred and twenty children of both sexes, and a residence for the pastor. M. Fischl pronounced the benediction on the building, and M. de Pressensé delivered a sermon appropriate to the occasion.—*Idem*.

A member of the commission appointed to study the question of transportation to New Caledonia has left Paris for London in order to acquire information as to the system of transportation in England, the French Government being, it is said, resolved to adopt the principle, and to apply it to its penal settlement.

Among the persons recently arrested in Paris is a man who had a design for blowing up the Emperor as

he sat in his box at the Théâtre-Français. He had communicated his plan to some of the refugees in London, but, they suspecting, after a time, that the man was a spy, gave information to our police. On hearing this, the conspirator in chief returned to Paris, and, being greatly enraged, told the whole story to the French police. He was taken into custody, together with about thirty others.

The Tunisian Admiral at the port of the Goulette has beaten and imprisoned an Algerine who is a French subject. He was afterwards forced to make an ample apology in full-dress at the French Vice-Consulate. A considerable crowd attended, on whom a great effect was produced.

An aerolite (says *Galignani*) was seen falling on the afternoon of the 6th inst. in the banlieue of Andolsheim, near Colmar. Dr. Dussourt was walking on the left bank of the Ill, when his attention was suddenly attracted by a whistling noise like that of a shot, or of a flock of birds passing rapidly through the air. At the same moment he saw passing at about one hundred yards above him a black body, spherical at one end and pointed at the other, the whole measuring, as well as he could judge, from thirty to forty centimètres (eleven to fifteen inches) in length, and about the thickness of a man's arm. From the doctor's indications, men have been busied for some time in endeavouring to discover this aerolite, but have not succeeded.

Some Capuchin monks have been holding themselves up to the scorn and derision of the world by certain antics they have been playing at the town of Grasse in the department of the Var. Having preached against philosophers and romance writers in general, they denounced Alexandre Dumas, Eugène Sue, Georges Sand, Balzac, Thiers, and Lamartine, in particular. The inhabitants were charged, upon pain of damnation, to deliver up to the parish priest, within four-and-twenty hours, all offensive books, newspapers, &c. An aperture was provided in the church door, through which, at night, the terror-stricken inhabitants thrust the dangerous writing which they had been induced to give up. The next day (Holy Thursday), these were burnt on a huge pile—not, however, without some "chaffing" on the part of the bystanders. Among the newspapers condemned as irreligious were the *Débats* and the *Sicil*. The Capuchins went home, doubtless, with a great feeling of triumph; but the real triumph is on the part of those whose works were thus illuminated by the fires which were designed to extinguish them. The curé in *Don Quixote*, who burns the knight's books of enchantment, was a wise man in comparison with these nineteenth century priests.

Public attention is just now directed towards the very high price of food and apartments in Paris. People ask, "Where is it to end?" As regards the high price of food, it may be accounted for, in some measure, by the neglect of agriculture, and the withdrawal of capital from land to employ it in speculation at the Bourse. A Parisian journal observes with truth, "We are at the head of Europe in speculations, whilst our agriculture is that of the middle ages." Government encourages cattle shows and the exhibition of agricultural instruments, but the cultivation of land will not produce the six, eight, or ten per cent. which money is worth at the Paris Bourse without much risk.—*Morning Post Paris Correspondent*.

The *exposé des motifs* of the bill for the repurchase by the state of the Exhibition Palace of 1855 has been published in the official journal. It has been arranged that the basis of the calculation for the repurchase should be fixed at thirteen millions, being the amount to which the capital had been limited in the original concession. The debt of the company to the state, amounting to 2,600,000*l.*, is to be deducted from the purchase money of thirteen millions. The document contains the text of the treaty entered into on the 30th September, 1856, between the Minister of State and the liquidators of the company, between whom it was agreed that the company should give up all right and title to the building; that the state should have all the assets of the company handed over to it, and in return take on itself all its liabilities; that the shareholders should receive, in return for the 130,000 shares which constituted the capital of the company, the quantity of three per cent. rentes required to represent a capital of 10,400,000*l.*, these rentes, which were to run from the 22nd of December, 1856, to be calculated at the rate of 70*l.* 72*c.*, the average price of the month when the arrangement was accepted by the general meeting of shareholders. The shareholders will also receive the sum of 520,000*l.* for the year's interest at four per cent. guaranteed by the state, and which was not due until October 20, 1856.

The ice began to break up on the Neva on the 14th inst. The fact was announced to the inhabitants by a salute of guns fired at sunrise and sunset. It was expected that the navigation of the Gulf of Finland will be fully open between the 20th and the 25th inst. The second division of the Russian experimental squadron will leave Cronstadt in the early part of May.

Some English thieves (including a boy and a woman) have been arrested in Paris, tried, found guilty, and condemned to three, two, and one year's imprisonment, respectively. The boy is to be kept in a house of correction till his twentieth year.

The Conferences on the affairs of Neuchâtel were resumed on Monday. The business of the Conferences appears now to be over, and Dr. Korn left on Tuesday

night for Switzerland. Prussia has reduced her terms so far as the money is concerned; she now accepts and Dr. Kern engages for Switzerland to pay, 1,000,000f. by way of indemnity; the King of Prussia retains the title of "Prince of Neufchâtel," and Switzerland will give him a guarantee respecting the proper administration of charitable institutions in Neufchâtel.

The Emperor, by a decree of the 3rd inst., has promoted several English officers and soldiers to the Order of the Legion of Honour.

The 1st Regiment of Zouaves has just encamped at Tizi-Ouzzou, close to the frontiers of Kabylia. Tizi-Ouzzou and Dra-el-Mizan are the two advanced posts which the Governor-General established last year.

"Redpathism" seems to be extending into France. "Three accountants," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "are unremittingly employed in examining the accounts of a joint-stock manufacturing company, in whose hands several hardworking men were permitted, as a great favour, to deposit their savings of several years. If the reports current be true, many minor delinquents may possibly escape in consequence of some high names being, it is said, implicated. An unwillingness exists in certain quarters that the extent of the mischief should be known to the world."

The Grand Duke Constantine arrived at Toulon on Monday. Immediately on landing he spontaneously offered to review the troops, which were drawn up in line to receive him. At nine o'clock the following morning he visited the Arsenal. The crowd assembled was very large. A warm reception was given to General Todleben.

The ceremony of administering the oath to Cardinal Morlot, the new Archbishop of Paris, took place last Sunday at the Tuileries. On its completion, the Emperor went on his knees to the ecclesiastic, and asked him for his first benediction. This having been done, the Empress and the Prince Imperial were similarly blessed in their own apartments.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian frigate Novara, 1700 tons burden, has just started on a voyage round the world. Some particulars of the vessel and of the contemplated expedition are given in a letter from Trieste, where the Novara was built. It is there stated that "her speed is about 12 knots an hour. The crew consists of 16 officers, 14 midshipmen, 200 sailors, 100 marines, and 4 medical men. The scientific commission consists of Dr. Hochstetter, for physiology and geology; Drs. Frauenfeld and Celebor for arts and sciences in general; Dr. Scherzer for ethnography (statistical accounts of nations and races); M. Zeleny for landscape painting; and M. Gellinek for horticulture. The route to be taken is from Trieste to the island of Lissa, Gibraltar, Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Cape of Good Hope, the islands of St. Paul and Amsterdam, Ceylon, Calcutta, the Nicobar Islands (the expedition will arrive here in December, and remain three months), Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, Manilla, Amoy and Hong-Kong, Fermoza, New Guinea, Australia (Melbourne and Sydney), New Zealand, New California, the Society, Marquesa, and Sandwich Islands, North America (not to San Francisco), Canada, Central America, Valparaiso, and by Cape Horn to the Falkland Islands."

The *Triester Zeitung* seriously states that M. Cavazzali, an apothecary at Lodi, has discovered a means of making silk out of mulberry leaves.

An article on the close alliance between Austria and England is contained in the *Verona Gazette*. The writer says that this union does not result from Austria changing her policy, but from Palmerston changing his. Palmerston is "repentant." A covert allusion is then made to the isolated position of Sardinia. This, observes the writer, cannot last long, "although a repentance like that of Palmerston is not to be hoped for. For such a regeneration, it is necessary to have the lofty genius and frank character of Palmerston."

A new census law for Hungary has been published. Formerly the census was taken in such a way that the authorities knew where to find the men who were of an age to shoulder the musket, but nothing more. The census will now be taken every six years—except in the military frontier districts—in the following manner:—

1. The number of cities, towns, villages, hamlets, and houses will be registered.
2. The number of inhabitants, according to their religion.
3. The number according to their professions or trades.
4. The number according to their age.
5. The number married or single.
6. The number according to their residence.

At the same time, statistical information must be given relative to the number of animals kept. The animals which must be entered in the tables are stallions, mares, geldings, foals, mules, asses, bulls, cows, oxen, calves, sheep, goats, and swine.—*Times Vienna Correspondent.*

RUSSIA.

The Paris journal, *Pays*, publishes a private letter from the Crimea, of the 3rd inst., which announces that, in pursuance of a plan recently adopted at St. Petersburg, great works are being commenced at the port of Kaffa, which will render that place the most important commercial and maritime establishment in the Black Sea.

It is now denied, on the authority of the *Nord* of Brussels, that the Grand Duke Constantine intends to

visit England and Rome after leaving Paris. The expected visit of the Dowager Empress of Russia to France is likewise contradicted. The Grand Duke, it is stated, will return to St. Petersburg *via* Belgium, Holland, Hanover, and Prussia.

M. de Tegoborski, member of the Council of the Russian Empire, but more celebrated for his financial works, died at St. Petersburg on the 11th inst.

Some of the Schapzugen tribe crossed the Kuban (which was frozen over) on the 1st of February. They were about five hundred in number, and, divided into three parties, they attacked the Russian posts on the right bank. The Cossack riflemen, however, received them with a brisk fire, causing the first body to fall back on the second. A heavy weight was thus concentrated on one part of the ice, which gave way, and the greater number of the Schapzugen were drowned.

SPAIN.

Several persons, chiefly priests and ex-*Carlist* officers, have been arrested at Madrid on a charge of being concerned in a plot for effecting an insurrection in six or seven provinces on Easter Sunday. It is believed that the affair is greatly exaggerated by the Government. Catalonia is still in a very disturbed state.

Orders, it is rumoured, have been despatched from Madrid to the Spanish seaports to suspend the preparations for the expedition against Mexico. The difference is in a fair way of adjustment at Paris.

Violent altercations have taken place between the King and Queen—owing, says scandal, to the King's pecuniary requisitions, and to the Queen's "interesting situation."

A Royal decree for the enlargement of Madrid has been published in the *Gazette*.

PORTUGAL.

The Government has contracted provisionally (subject to the approval of the Cortes) with Sir Morton Peto for the construction of the railway from Lisbon to Oporto.

PRUSSIA.

The Government has caused its representative at Washington to remonstrate with the United States Government on account of the many acts of violence committed on Prussian immigrants in American ports, by forcing or entrapping them on board American vessels for compulsory service.

The Prince and Princess of Prussia, and Prince Friedrich Wilhelm, are expected to visit Queen Victoria about the beginning of June.

Several portions of the loaves of bread which gave rise to suspicions of poisoning at Hong-Kong have been forwarded to Baron Liebig, at Munich, for analysis.

The Prussian Government has finally resolved to prohibit the circulation of bank-notes of any other state without exception.

DENMARK.

"The Equestrian Order of Lauenbourg," says a Copenhagen letter in the *New Prussian Gazette*, "has given up its intention of laying its complaints against the King of Denmark before the Frankfort Diet. The Vice-Marshal of the duchy, Count de Kielmansegge, arrived lately at Copenhagen, of his own accord, and begged the King to listen favourably to the representations of the order. The result has been that the Chamberlain de Karsdorff has been charged by the King to come to an equitable arrangement with a commission appointed by the order."

The scene which led to the break up of the late Danish Ministry is thus described in *Voss's Gazette* of Berlin:—Count Scheele submitted four manuscript documents on the Sound Dues question to the Supreme Council, together with the printed protocols. M. Andrae expressed his surprise at this course, and maintained that the communication of these documents to the Council was needless, and at any rate ought not to have taken place without his being informed of it as President of the Council. This was said with some warmth; Count Scheele replied with equal warmth, and a violent discussion ensued, which led to a definitive rupture. It is stated that the President of the Council afterwards discovered that he had made a mistake, and learned that the documents had been submitted to the Council of Ministers; but it was too late.

M. Rall, the Minister of Public Worship, has been charged with the formation of a Cabinet.

GERMANY.

In an official part of the *Hamburg Correspondent* of April 16th, the Senate has published a proclamation of the Hanoverian Government prohibiting the importation of cattle over the land frontier, all the way from the mouth of the Elbe at Otterndorf up to Artlenburg; thirty miles above Hamburg, without a certificate of origin and bill of health, under penalty of a fine of fifty dollars, or a corresponding term of imprisonment for every case of contravention.

The united Diet of the two Duchies of Saxe-Coburg and Saxe-Gotha was opened by the Duke on the 16th inst., at Gotha. In his speech upon this occasion, he dwelt upon the great inconveniences which are caused by maintaining a separate administration, and legislating separately for each of these states.

"It is positively stated," says a Baden letter, "that the Government of Baden, following the example of

Wurtemberg, has opened a negotiation with the Court of Rome, and that a convention will shortly be concluded to regulate the situation of the Roman Catholic Church in the Grand Duchy."

ITALY.

The Jesuits are making increased efforts in Tuscany to get the education of the people and the direction of public affairs into their own hands, but at present with little success, as the popular feeling is strongly against them. The Tuscan Government is in great disfavour with the Pope, on account of its taking every opportunity to diminish the effect of the Concordat. Some of the Tuscan sees are vacant, the Government refusing to present candidates.

The decrees published by the Emperor during his late stay at Milan are said to remain almost a dead letter. Only a few of the prisoners have been released, and among these are several professed thieves, so that robberies have been very numerous of late. A great many promised public works are indefinitely postponed, as the corporation is overloaded with debt, and the Government taxes are excessive.

The responsible editor of the *Avvisatore Alessandrino*, a Piedmontese paper, was condemned by default a few days ago by the Court of Appeal of Casale to four years' imprisonment and a fine of 6000fr. for having published an article under the title of "The Insurrection," in which he advocated the overthrow of the constitutional monarchy.

The Neapolitan Bagni have been placed under the supervision of the Jesuits. It may be doubted, however, whether this will lead to any reform of their horrible iniquities.

"Count Pisani, of Venice," says a letter from Genoa in the *Constitutionnel*, "has just been fined 700,000 swanzigers (sixteen sous each) by the Austrian Government for having disposed to the English Government of 'The Tent of Darius,' one of the best productions of Paul Veronese. This sum represents the double of the price paid by the latter to the count. The fine is justified by a law which prohibits the exportation of objects of art from Italy, and which was the first brought into practice by the Grand Duke of Tuscany. The circumstance has afforded much satisfaction in Italy."

"Accounts from Rome," says the *Union*, "announce that M. Lazzaroni, member of the Consulta, has been assassinated in a corridor of the palace. He was proceeding to pay the clerks of the establishment, and had with him a pocket-book containing 1200 scudi. He was stabbed in the stomach, and the assassin escaped with the money."

The Neapolitan Government, through one of its newspaper organs, denies the truth, of the story about "the cap of silence," an instrument of torture said to be used in the state prisons.

Piedmont, it is stated, is arming, and placing its fortifications in a state of readiness, as if a war with Austria were inevitable.

Several of the illuminations and fireworks outside St. Peter's, for which Easter Sunday and Monday have long been celebrated at Rome, were omitted this year, because, as it was alleged, the Empress of Russia could not arrive in time to see them. Great indignation has been felt, especially by disappointed foreigners, and there are rumours that the real cause of the omission was a fear of some disturbance.

A work is now in circulation in Naples, called "The Praises of the King of Naples in the English Parliament." It opens thus:—"To-day the praises of Ferdinand II. the Intrepid (such is the name reserved for him by dispassionate and truthful history) shall be sung, not by us, but we will hear them sung in England, in London, in the English Parliament, by members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, by Lord Derby, Lord John Russell, Gladstone, Disraeli, and Milner Gibson. Let us listen to them."

TURKEY.

Admiral Lyons, together with his squadron, has been received at Smyrna with much ceremony by the Turkish authorities, the French naval division, and the English residents. Admiral Bouet-Willaumez, at a *fête* which he gave to the English Admiral on board the *Pomone* gave a toast, "To the union of the French and English flags." Admiral Lyons replied in a long speech, in which he expounded what he conceived to be the advantages of the Anglo-French alliance.

At the close of the investigation into the affair of the Kangaroo, the Sultan has pronounced Mehemet Bey chief of the expedition, with Ferhad and Ismail, guilty and has sentenced all three to banishment.

The operations relative to the Turko-Russian frontier in Asia will begin on the 13th of April.

Forged Turkish bank-notes are now manufactured in Austria, and conveyed into the Sultan's dominions. A man from Trieste was recently arrested at Constantinople, with a vast number in his possession.

CIRCASSIA.

Mehemet Bey is organising regiments. The Russia fort of Salish has been taken, and the garrison put to the sword. The villages of Daghestan have sent in their submission to the Naib.

MONTENEGRO.

The difference between Austria and Montenegro (say

a despatch from Paris) appears in a fair way of settlement. Prince Danilo has released a prisoner, and Austria, as a recognition of this friendly proceeding, has ordered that the Montenegrin refugees shall be removed to the interior.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A PROFESSED GAMBLER.

An action of an interesting nature was brought in the Court of Exchequer last Saturday by a person named Ransom, against one Bosville, for the recovery of the sum of 50*l.*, lent by the former to the latter. The defendant pleaded never indebted, and that the money was lent for the purposes of gaming. Both Ransom and Bosville were on the turf, and they used to meet at the Prince of Wales Club in St. James's-street, which was a gambling-house. One day, Bosville, being "cleaned out," borrowed 50*l.* of Ransom, giving him in exchange an I O U of a Mr. Pitcher, which proved to be worthless. On being cross-examined, Ransom said, that the Prince of Wales Club was a gaming-house. "He had been there frequently. He did not know who kept it. There were a great many persons who appeared to be working there, but he did not know them. He was not there every night. He might go once or twice a month. He did not know whether they played there on a Sunday. He had never been there on a Sunday. He had played hazard there with his own money. He did not play with the money of the house. He had been told what a 'bonnet' was."—Mr. Ballantine (for the defendant): "I don't mean a lady's bonnet."—Mr. Edwin James (for the plaintiff): "I should think not. Nobody knows what a lady's bonnet is now. It is impossible to describe it."—Cross-examination continued: "A 'bonnet' is a fictitious player. He did not know that it meant a cheat. He might think it meant that, but he could not say so positively. He should not like to play with one. He had between 200*l.* and 300*l.* in his pocket when he lent the money. He had won the greater part of it that evening. He had been very lucky at play. He was playing for some time at the same table as the defendant. The defendant was not playing, because he had nothing to lose. He heard the defendant ask some persons to lend him 30*l.*, which they refused doing. The defendant did not ask for the 30*l.* at the gaming-table, but down stairs in the refreshment-room. When he began gaming, he might have had 120*l.* to 130*l.* in his pocket. At that period he was living at Church-street, Chelsea, where he was living still. He betted on horse races. He had no other means of living. He had been a gambler for twenty years. He was forty-three years old. He had formerly been an engraver, but he had left that off. He had always contrived to live upon his present profession." A verdict was given for the full amount claimed.

COCK-FIGHTING AT LIVERPOOL.—A Liverpool publican has been fined 5*l.* and costs for permitting cock-fighting in his house.

STABBING.—A German baker named Weber has been fined 5*l.*, or condemned to three months' imprisonment in default, for stabbing another foreign baker in the course of a quarrel.—William Woodie, a youth of nineteen, son of a coachmaker, has committed a murderous assault with knives. He was ill-using his father at an eating-house, and, a policeman being sent for, he furiously attacked the officer. It was then found that he had two table-knives in his hands, and with these he had wounded the constable in several places. He was then struck over the arms with the staff, and forced to drop the weapons. On being brought before the Worship-street magistrate, the youth's father, who was painfully affected, said his son was a person of very violent and uncontrollable temper. He was remanded, that the result of the policeman's wounds might be ascertained.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOTERS.—The persons concerned in these disturbances were brought up again on Friday week. Mr. Henry Chillingworth, gentleman, was discharged. After hearing some further evidence, the magistrates said the charge against Mr. Alfred Talbot and Mr. Pitt must be dismissed. Benjamin Wellings, Robert Westwood, Henry Westwood, William Wood, George Parker, Albert Perrins, John Cook, Samuel Payne, and Benjamin Potter, were committed to the Assizes.

DEATH FROM STARVATION.—An inquest was held on Monday afternoon on the body of Mrs. Plank, the wife of Daniel Plank, shoemaker, of the Marsh, Marlborough, who died on Friday week under peculiarly distressing circumstances. Plank is now in Devises prison on a committal from the County Court for debt. He was taken there the day prior to the death of his wife. On the following day, a female friend of the poor creature paid her a visit, and found her in a sinking and deplorable state. She sent for a surgeon, who promptly attended and afforded relief, but it was too late; the woman expired the same day. The jury returned a verdict of "Died from the want of common necessities, owing to the dissipated habits of her husband."—*Salisbury Journal.*

THE CARD SHARPER AND HIS WIFE.—Michael Grant, the card-sharper, taken into custody for following his trade in a carriage on the South-Western Railway, was again placed at the bar of the Lambeth police-court last

Saturday. The case was fully proved, and the man declared he would never play again, and prayed to be dealt with leniently. The magistrate hoped that the lightness of the sentence he was about to inflict would have the desired effect. He then sentenced him to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.—Grant's wife was then charged with attempting self-destruction, which she attributed to her being in actual want on account of the imprisonment of her husband. After a severe admonition, and a promise on her part not to repeat the crime, she was discharged, and the moneys which had been sent to the magistrate for her temporary assistance were handed to her.

THE SUSPECTED MURDER OF AN ARTILLERYMAN.—Catherine Coulson and John Walsh have been committed for trial on a charge (the details of which have already appeared in this paper) of causing the death of James Lawler, a private in the Royal Artillery, by striking and frightening him, in consequence of which he jumped into the river at Woolwich, and was drowned.

CRUEL TREATMENT OF A CHILD AT MANCHESTER.—Robert Matthew, a railway labourer, has been brought before the magistrates at Manchester, charged with throwing his child, a girl about three years old, on the fire. Its back was shockingly burnt, and it is doubtful if it will survive. The man was drunk at the time. The magistrates committed him for trial.

ALLEGED MUTILATION OF A DEED OF SETTLEMENT.—The important inquiry now being instituted on the part of the shareholders of the Athenæum Life Assurance Society into the alleged mutilation of the deed of settlement of that association, by the abstraction of a clause in it purporting to limit the liability of the shareholders to the amount of their shares, was proceeded with last Saturday before Mr. Richard Bloxham, Chief Clerk to Vice-Chancellor Wood. After the examination of several witnesses, Mr. Burton, solicitor to Mr. Harding, the official manager, suggested that the portion of the deed which had been tampered with should be submitted to a minute microscopic examination, in order to complete the evidence. This was understood to be assented to by the chief clerk, and the meeting adjourned.

EXECUTION OF THOMAS NATION.—Thomas Nation, the man who was convicted at the late Assizes of the murder of John Aplin, was hung in front of the Somerset county gaol, Taunton, on Tuesday morning. Efforts had been made, on various legal and other grounds, to obtain a commutation of the sentence; but Sir George Grey, after consultation with Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, who tried the case, refused to interfere. Nation to the last denied his guilt. He acknowledged that he had committed crimes "as numerous as the hairs of his head;" but he would not admit that he had killed Aplin. A day or two before his death, he addressed letters to his brother and other members of the family, pointing out the evil effects of bad company, and expressing a hope that his dear sister would meet him in heaven. He also made gifts of some of the publications of the Religious Tract Society to his brother. On the morning of the execution, while being pinioned, he said to Calcraft, "Don't hurt me; I can hardly breathe." At this time he seemed to be suffering great mental emotion; but he afterwards recovered, and appeared to meet his fate with composure. The execution was witnessed by several thousand persons, chiefly rustics and gipsies, including nearly an equal proportion of men and women.

A PUBLIC-HOUSE QUARREL.—The landlady of a public-house at Hackney has been nearly murdered by a bargeman named William Wicks. Mrs. Badcock, the woman in question, saw the man, when in front of her bar, last Saturday evening, misconducting himself with some women. She reproved him, when he called her by several very abusive names; on which, according to her own admission, she threw some pint pots and cans at him. Exasperated at this, he seized a quart pot, and flung it at the woman's head with great force. The missile cut open her temple, dividing an artery, and deluging her person with blood. Her husband was present all the while, but he did not interfere for her protection, as he is a great friend of Wicks. It is said also that he habitually ill-uses his wife; and, after the assault, he observed that he wished she had been killed. On a policeman going to Wicks's house to arrest the man, he found the door fastened, and heard a noise within as of a musket being loaded, followed by a woman's voice, saying, "For God's sake, don't." He therefore thought it prudent to wait outside. Wicks promised to surrender in the morning. A police sergeant, however, was afterwards admitted by some one in the house, and he then took the man, who was examined at Worship-street on Tuesday. Mrs. Badcock was very faint while giving her evidence, and it is doubtful whether erysipelas will not set in. The man was remanded for a week.

THE OLD STORY.—A painful scene took place at the Worship-street police-court on Wednesday. Martha King, a young woman, who was described as the daughter of a tradesman at Homerton, was charged on suspicion of wilfully causing the death of her infant. Miss Emily Mitchell said that Miss King was an intimate friend of hers, and, on the evening of the 27th ult. she slept at her (Miss Mitchell's) father's house. She shared Miss Mitchell's bed, and was very ill in the night. In

the middle of the following day the door of the bedroom was found locked on the inside, and shortly afterwards Miss King was seen going down stairs with something in her hand. She went out into the garden, and subsequently returned, shivering with cold, and so ill that it was necessary to restore her with brandy. Certain indications, of a nature to cause suspicion, were discovered in the bedroom, and the police, who had got some information with reference to the affair, went to the house, and found the dead body of a male infant in the water-closet. A surgeon was examined before the magistrate, and, while declining to assert positively that the child had been born alive, he said he believed it would have been if proper assistance had been rendered. The young woman, who had been seated during the examination of the witnesses, and who exhibited so much nervous prostration and debility that she was partially supported in the arms of her mother and another female attendant, here became so hysterically affected that Mr. D'Eyncourt ordered her to be conveyed home in a cab, and adjourned the case for a fortnight, in the meantime accepting the bail of a gentleman attached to the City Mission, who had much interested himself in the prisoner's behalf, and who voluntarily tendered himself for the purpose.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—Edward Atkins, a plumber, has been committed for trial on a charge of cutting the throat of a woman with whom he had lived till recently, when they parted. The woman was seriously injured, but not killed.

A NOVEL ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY.—Joseph Lewis, who, together with another young man, both from London, were in custody at Bath on a charge of stealing, has escaped from the charge of a policeman in a singular manner. He and his companion had been brought in the van from the gaol to the police-station, and, on getting out, the policeman who had charge of Lewis simply walked by his side, instead of taking hold of his arm. The thief watched his opportunity, suddenly sprang back, darted through a little crowd of persons, and was gone. He was followed for some distance, but he soon distanced his pursuers, and, turning into an inn, watched the crowd pass the coffee-room window. He has not been heard of since. The quick-witted London thief was too much for the slow-ideaed Bath policeman.

ILL-USAGE OF A STEP-DAUGHTER.—Ellen Connor, the wife of a gas-fitter at Shoreditch, is under remand at the Worship-street police-court, on a charge of ill-using her stepdaughter, a child about twelve years old. She was in the habit of beating and starving the girl, and a few days ago she struck her repeatedly with a hot poker, because, in the extremity of her hunger, she helped herself to some bread. The child's unhappy appearance in court excited great commiseration.

ROBBERY BY A SURGEON.—Joseph Langton, a surgeon, has been examined at the Mansion House, and committed for trial, on a charge of cutting three waist-coats and a piece of blue silk from a tailor by whom he was being measured for some clothes. The stolen things were seen to drop from under his coat, and he was given into custody. When being examined before the Lord Mayor he protested before God that he was innocent.

MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER.—The adjourned inquest respecting the death of John Bebbington, head gamekeeper to Mr. Corbett, of Tilstone, near Chester, was held on Thursday, at the Tollemache Arms, Beeston, and terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder against John Blagg, a poacher, who had fired at Bebbington. He has been committed for trial.

ABDUCTION.—Richard George Clarke, a married man, but separated from his wife, and Rosa Bush, were on Thursday committed by the Westminster police magistrate for trial, charged with the abduction of Elizabeth Harris, daughter of a Hebrew tradesman, to whom Bush was a servant.

CHARGE OF POISONING.—George Heatherley, a gunner and driver in the Royal Artillery, was again examined on Thursday at the Woolwich police-court on the charge of poisoning a girl named Smith. It was then stated by a medical gentleman that the girl did not die by poison, and Heatherley was therefore discharged.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

Mr. GEORGE ALFRED WEBSTER, the temporary lessee of Sadler's Wells Theatre, obtained last Saturday an injunction in Chancery to restrain Mr. Charles Dillon, the actor, of the Lyceum Theatre, from performing at Drury-lane or any other theatre during twelve consecutive nights, commencing last Monday. Mr. Dillon had engaged to play at Sadler's Wells during that period, but had broken his engagement because he was not permitted to perform in *Virginia*, which Mr. Webster was precluded by his contract from producing. An announcement had been put forth that Mr. Dillon would perform *Macbeth* at Drury-lane on Monday, the 20th; and the present injunction was therefore sought, and at once granted by the Lord Chancellor.

An ingenious trick was performed on a French gentleman a few days ago in Chiswell-street. M. Lucien Renaud has some connexion with the corn trade, and, as he was on his way to Mark-lane from his residence in

Greek-street, Soho, a crowd collected about him, the members of which, both men and women, stared at him as in abhorrence, and made threatening gesticulations. Not understanding English, he could not gather from what they said any idea of his offence; but he was at length relieved by the appearance of a policeman, who parleyed with the crowd. The constable was informed that the mob were justly indignant with the French gentleman for endeavouring to trepan a girl, fourteen years of age, from her home; but no one person in particular had seen the act. While this explanation was going on, a young Irishman, named John Kelly, was observed to snatch away M. Renaud's watch, though the policeman was standing close by. He was taken into custody and the watch recovered. He is known to the police as a bad character, and it was pretty certain that the charge against the French gentleman was invented, in order to create a confusion favourable to Kelly's design. The case was brought before the Worship-street magistrate, and remanded.

French gentlemen, however, are not the only victims of street tricks with an eye to theft. A Mr. James Cowan, a "serious" gentleman, has been hoaxed, if we may believe the facts as they stand at present, by a transparent "dodge," into which, according to his own account, he was entrapped by his spiritual zeal. His story, as told by himself at the Clerkenwell police-court, is most ludicrous. He said—"On Friday night, I was in Cheapside, when I was accosted by the prisoner (a young woman, named Margaret Ashburn), who commenced speaking to me on serious religious matters, which so much interested my mind and feelings as a Christian teacher that I was tempted to encourage and continue the discourse. She said there was an awful responsibility attached to us, as far as regarded our conduct in this world. We conversed together until we came to Finsbury, when I gave her a half-crown to get rid of her; but, still feeling strongly inclined to hear more of her discourse, having been influenced by it to an extraordinary degree, I walked further on with her, when she invited me to accompany her to her own private apartments, to which I acceded, and I went with her to the house in Cherry-tree-court, where a woman demanded one shilling for the room. I suspected then what sort of place I was in. I took out my purse to pay the shilling, when the prisoner made a snatch dexterously at the purse and took it from me. I then gave her into custody." She was remanded for a week.

Two butchers of Newgate-market have been fined each twenty shillings and costs for exposing for sale meat that was unfit for human food. One of them said he had given twopence-halfpenny a pound for the carrion which he attempted to retail to the public, and that he was told it had passed the inspectors.

Sir Frederick Theisger moved in the Court of Queen's Bench on Monday for a rule to show cause why a *mandamus* should not issue to the Justices of Gloucestershire, commanding them to order payment of certain fees and allowances to Mr. Gaisford, one of the coroners for the county. The learned counsel said that the present application had been rendered necessary by the circumstance that coroners were obstructed in the performance of their duty by the narrow view taken by the magistrates of that duty, and their disposition to disallow the costs of holding inquests except in a limited class of cases. Lord Campbell told Sir Frederick that he might take a rule.

A meeting for the choice of assignees in the case of J. B. Wavell, billbroker, of Adam's-court, Old Broad-street, took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday. The bankrupt is the person who was summoned by the parish authorities for neglecting to maintain his wife and three children, he being living at the time with a Miss Collins. An angry altercation now ensued between the deserted wife, a ladylike person, and another lady, understood to be her sister, who evidently took part with the bankrupt. Interference was necessary on the part of the messenger of the Court. It appeared that the bankrupt had fraudulently appropriated a bill of exchange which was entrusted to him. The commissioner said it was a case of fraud. The bankrupt, however, having been eight months in custody, he would suggest that the opposition should for the present be withdrawn. The opposing creditor might hereafter have an opportunity of arresting the bankrupt. This suggestion was adopted, and the discharge was ordered. Mrs Wavell wished to make a statement, but the commissioner would not allow her. The debts of the bankrupt are 2700*l.*, the assets merely nominal.

The celebrated case of Campbell v. Corley came before the Court of Common Pleas on Tuesday. Mr. Corley, it may be remembered, had been secretly married to Mr. Campbell's mother, an old lady upwards of eighty years of age, upon whose death Mr. Corley took out administration, and also instigated certain persons to file bills in Chancery against the plaintiff and his trustee, claiming to be next of kin to Mrs. Campbell, upon the ground that Mr. Campbell was an illegitimate son. The plaintiff afterwards brought an action against the defendant for maliciously, and without probable grounds, instigating these suits, and also laid a claim to compensation for being compelled by the defendant's wrongful conduct to file a bill against his own trustees to enforce his right; and, on the trial at Guildhall last Trinity

term, a verdict was found for the plaintiff, with 700*l.* damages. In last Michaelmas term, Mr. Serjeant Byles obtained a rule calling upon the plaintiff to show cause why a new trial should not be had, upon the ground that the action would not lie, and that the cause of damage was too remote. Mr. Manisty and Mr. Watkin Williams now appeared to show cause, when Mr. Serjeant Byles announced that it had been arranged by mutual consent that the rule should be discharged, and the damages be reduced to 300*l.*

George Augustus Hamilton Chichester, the prospective heir of an Irish marquise, passed his examination in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, the assignees making no objection. He was described as a commission agent, of York-buildings, Adelphi, and he deposited in court eight shillings as the residue of his estate.

Three men belonging to the Fusilier and Coldstream Guards are now under remand at the Westminster police-court on a charge of assaulting a tradesman and his wife, and also the police. One of them had misconducted himself at the house of a news-vendor in Tottil-street, and, being spoken to, attacked the tradesman and his wife with the belt which he wore. The police were sent for, and the soldier was taken in charge, when the two other Guardsmen, together with one who is not in custody, attacked the constables, and rescued the prisoner, who, however, was soon retaken. Two of the rescuers then went into a public-house, outside which the police waited, until a guard had been fetched from Wellington Barracks, whither the rioters were taken. The case was adjourned for further evidence. On Wednesday, the original offender was sent to prison for three months, and the other men for two months and one month.

Dr. Lushington, in the Consistory Court on Wednesday, delivered judgment in the case of Campbell v. Campbell. This was a suit for a divorce on the ground of adultery committed by the lady. The evidence produced on the part of Mrs. Campbell sought to show that the offence had been condoned by the husband having again had conjugal intercourse with her, and been on terms of affection with her, after the commission of the adultery. These averments were contradicted in plea by Mr. Campbell; and Dr. Lushington therefore pronounced for the separation.

The ecclesiastical case of Denison v. Ditcher has been argued before the Arches Court this week, on an appeal by Archdeacon Denison. The point to be determined was, whether the suit which had been brought by Mr. Ditcher against Archdeacon Denison for heterodoxy, and which had been decided against the Archdeacon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, sitting as and for the Bishop of Bath and Wells, was brought within a proper legal time from the commission of the alleged offence. Sir John Dodson came to this conclusion:—"That the suit or proceeding, or whatever it was to be termed, had not been brought within the time required by the statute; that more than two years had elapsed from the time of the commission of the alleged offence, and it was therefore the duty of the court to pronounce for the appeal, to reverse the decision appealed from, and to dismiss the Archdeacon from all further observance of justice in this suit. He would make no order as to costs."

The case of Baring v. Gordon was brought forward in the Sheriff's Court on Thursday, on a writ of inquiry to assess the damages in an action brought in one of the superior courts against the defendant for having had criminal conversation with the plaintiff's wife. Judgment had been suffered to go by default, and the defendant did not now appear. The jury gave a verdict for 3000*l.*

A wretched-looking man, dressed in a suit of dirty black, was charged at the Southwark police-court with being drunk and incapable in the Blackfriars-road. He was found by a policeman lying on the ground, almost insensible, while some boys were blackening his face with soot and grease. This adorning of his physiognomy was still visible when he was brought before the magistrate. It appeared that he is a clergyman, the Rev. William Gray, of Great Guildford-street; and a letter was found on him from a Dublin clergyman, enclosing five shillings' worth of stamps, which it would seem the Rev. bacchanalian had converted into drink. He was discharged, after a lecture from the magistrate.

Eleven out of the twelve Irish Judges sat in Error on Wednesday for the purpose of giving judgment on the application for a third trial of the case of Butler v. Mountgarrett. The question turned upon the alleged illegitimacy of the defendant, and whether or not he was entitled to the estates. By a majority of only one, the Judges decided against the application for a new trial, thus confirming the verdict given at the Assizes in favour of Lord Mountgarrett.

An action was brought in the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday, by a depositor in the Royal British Bank against an individual shareholder, to recover a sum of 33*l.*, which was the balance remaining at his credit when the company stopped payment. At a previous trial, a verdict was given for the plaintiff, with liberty to the defendant to move to enter it in his favour. A rule was accordingly obtained to enter the verdict for the defendant, and on Thursday it came on for argument, when Lord Campbell decided that the action was not maintainable.

A MURDER IN THE NORTH.

The materials for wild poetry and tragic drama exist as strongly in the northern parts of this island at the present prosaic period of our general history as in the days of Ossian himself. Primitive life and manners, a primitive style of language, and the passions in all their original force and intensity, combined with a capacity of poetical yet earnest relation of tremendous facts, are exhibited this week in a trial for murder which has taken place at Inverary. Hector M'Donald, a labourer, aged thirty-two, living in one of the islands on the coast of Argyleshire, was charged with killing his wife. The evidence consisted almost entirely of the testimony of the wife's mother, an old woman and a widow, named Christina M'Donald, or Seaton. Her account of the affair is so singular and grand that we give the greater part. It was given in Gaelic, through an interpreter. She said that her daughter Jane was between twenty-four and twenty-five years of age, had been married to the prisoner three years and a month, and had two children. Jane was a strong young woman, and was in good health on the day before she died:—

"The prisoner and she did not agree. The younger child is now about a year old. Neither of the children is baptized, and prisoner denied that they were his children. Prisoner and his wife lived under the same roof with me—a wooden partition separated the two houses. That partition only reached to the top of the side walls, not to the roof of the house. The prisoner and his wife slept in their own end of the house, while I slept at the other. I have a son named John. He was sometimes since last New Year's-day sleeping in my house. It was a straw bed the prisoner and his wife slept on. The straw was spread on the ground, with eight stones laid along outside to keep the straw in its place. These stones were about the size of a man's hat. The prisoner was at home on the evening of the 12th of last February, where he generally was. His wife came home that evening about the time of lighting candles. She said she had been that day at Balephetrish, a good mile distant. She came home quite well, and took a small bowl full of supper, consisting of thin porridge, made of wheyks and oatmeal. That meal was not common to her; it was the first time she had taken it that year. Prisoner and his wife went to bed that night between eight and nine o'clock. I heard them scolding before going to bed. She said, 'Hector, keep the child (the younger); or else make the bed; and then, shortly afterwards, 'Oh! you have killed the boy;' and he answered, 'Then raise or lift you the boy.' The wife said, 'Yes, I will do so when I bring down the cruizie (light) from my mother's.' He then got up, and put his back to the end of his own house, and said, 'You have said to many a person that I have thrashed you; say the fourth part again, and—hell to my soul—I will crush you.' After they went to bed, I went to bed also. There was a door which entered directly through the partition from the one house to the other. I was sitting in my own house when I heard the conversation referred to, and the door was open."

The old woman and M'Donald had some angry conversation previous to their going to bed, the former telling the latter that she would get some trustworthy people in the house to bear witness against him with respect to his violence to his wife. He answered, "Little do I care what you do, old woman. Go away and seek them; the door is open." On going to bed, the old woman took the elder of her grandchildren with her; the younger slept with its parents. In the course of the night, there was more quarrelling between Hector and his wife; but, a little after twelve o'clock, they became quiet, and the old woman fell asleep.

"About daybreak, I heard a noise as if the outer door had fallen down. I remained in bed till I heard a second sound or stroke like to a heavy bag falling out of a cart on to the ground. This noise came from the floor of the prisoner's house, and from where the straw-bed was. The house has an earthen floor. I got up and went to the prisoner's end of the house, and opened the partition door, and there saw the prisoner standing on the floor with his shoes, trousers, and braces on. I don't know whether he had those on when he went to bed, but if he had it was unusual. He had his wife (my daughter) in his arms, with her shift on, and his hands were either at her throat or opposite her heart, I cannot say which. Her head rested on his left shoulder, and his head leant over her head, and she had a small shawl on her head. I said, 'O God! what is here?' My daughter made no answer. The prisoner said, 'Jane has fallen.' I asked, 'O God! what is here?' as my heart was frightened from the language he had used before going to bed. I said to him, 'Let go my daughter,' and he answered me, 'I won't.' Then my son John, who was behind me, said, 'Let go Jane, Hector,' or 'Let her go, Hector.' Prisoner then let her go, and she fell down on the floor. [Here the old woman came out of the witness-box to the centre of the court floor in front of the bench to give practical illustration of the manner in which her daughter had fallen on the night in question. She there made a staggering circular movement, fell softly on the court floor on her face, and uttered a low, deep moan. The solemn and dramatic

effect of the scene made a profound impression on the court.] My daughter did not rise till my son John and I raised her, and John said, 'Hector, come and help us; we cannot raise her; she is heavy;' and the prisoner did come to help us. When we lifted her, prisoner wished her put into his own bed, but I refused, and we took her into my bed in my apartment. John and I carried her there, and I cannot say whether Hector assisted us or not, but he was there. We laid her down on her side on my bed. I put my tongue to her throat to feel if she was breathing, and I took the shawl off her face and her eyes were coming out, as if they were started out of their sockets (*sensation*); and I pushed them back with both my hands. I said, 'Dearest of women, if you can speak, and have your senses, do so. It is in your mother's two arms that you are.' When I said this, she four times opened and shut her lips with a very slight smack, and I put my ear to her mouth, and she muttered softly 'Coup' (Gaelic, cup), and I thought she wanted water. I gave her about half a cupful of water. I put it into her mouth, but I do not think any of it went over, as it ran out of her mouth. About two minutes after this, she pressed the points of her fingers very tightly together, and muttered something like 'My poor children!' She appeared to die then, and said no more. I think from the time she was carried 'bon' till the time she died, would be about ten minutes. It was daylight at the time she died. The prisoner was then in his own end of the house. I said to my son John, 'Go for my sister, for Jane is dead;' and prisoner said, 'If you will let me up, I will know whether she is dead or not.' I said 'How will you know whether she is dead or not better than I do?' and he said, 'I will know;' and I said 'Come down, then.' Prisoner felt her throat, and then he lifted his hands and exclaimed, 'Oh, Vho! she is dead. I will go into the sea.' I said, 'You will not go out into the sea. You will remain and take care of your two sons. They require nursing, and I cannot attend to them; I am too weak. I require to be nursed myself to-day.'

M'Donald afterwards held the body while the old woman's sister washed it. He was very particular about having one portion of the corpse (but which part is not known) carefully washed, and he desired to have the body buried the next day.

In cross-examining the old woman, it was sought to be shown that she had a grudge against her son-in-law because he had informed against her for smuggling whisky into the island. The medical evidence of Dr. Wilson confirmed the account given of the death of M'Donald's wife, and showed clearly that it must have resulted from throttling by some person other than herself. The jury found the accused guilty of culpable homicide, and he was sentenced to transportation for life.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

GENERAL BEATSON AND COLONEL SHIRLEY.—The quarrel between these officers is again brought forward this week by the publication of the opinion of the Court of Inquiry lately assembled, by order of the General Commanding in Chief, to investigate the charges preferred by General Beatson against Colonel Shirley. Those charges were to the effect that, during the late Russian war, the Colonel, who had been serving under General Beatson at Shumla, in connexion with the Bashibazouks, had made private inquiries among the officers and others of the corps with respect to the General, and that he afterwards transmitted to General Vivian statements highly derogatory to General Beatson's character as an officer, while at the same time he suppressed evidence which was favourable to him. The Court of Inquiry are of opinion that there was nothing underhand or secret in the Colonel's inquiries, though they were privately made; that he had reasonable cause for making those inquiries, and also for transmitting to General Vivian statements derogatory to General Beatson's character as an officer; that he did not wilfully suppress evidence, and that he acted properly, considering his inferior position, in not prosecuting the inquiry any further. The officers forming the Court think that the evidence collected by Colonel Shirley was not "so precise and full as to warrant his making his statements so strongly." They further record their opinion "that there are no grounds whatever to render it necessary to investigate the charges brought by Major-General Beatson against Colonel Shirley by a court-martial."—General Beatson has written to the papers to complain of this decision, to protest against the proceedings of the Court being secret, and to reiterate his assertion that Colonel Shirley had propagated hearsay scandals against him, and suppressed a denial of their truth which he received from Lieutenant-Colonel Sankey, who had been mentioned as the authority for them.

ROBBERY OF AN ENGLISH SHIP BY PERUVIAN PILOTS.—The New Grenada, an English merchant steamer, while at anchor in the Bay of Lambayeque, on her voyage from Valparaiso to Panama, was boarded and robbed by the mutinous crew of a Peruvian war-vessel, which had pursued her for two days from the port of Huanchaco. One of the passengers on board the New Grenada gives an account of this outrage, from which it appears that the latter vessel had sent her

passengers and part of her freight ashore at Lambayeque, when one morning about eight o'clock an officer from the Peruvian ship came on board armed with a cutlass and pistols, and stated to Captain Strachan, commander of the New Grenada, that he knew that he (Captain Strachan) had in his vessel money and arms belonging to General Castilla, President of Peru, while at the same time he exhibited a paper apparently corroborative of the truth of what he asserted. He authoritatively ordered the captain to deliver up the property to him. Captain Strachan replied that he would not give the goods up with his own consent, but as his ship was entirely unarmed, he was unable to make any resistance by force. Upon this, the Peruvian officer ordered the crews of four armed launches lying alongside Captain Strachan's vessel to come on board the New Grenada, and immediately sixty armed men jumped on deck, and were directed by their commanding officer to cut down any of the crew who should go forward. "The whole affair," says the writer, "was like a melodrama at a minor theatre. The men were of all colours—blacks, mulattoes, and some few English sailors, who, however, looked cowed and ashamed at their position, as forming a portion of as dirty and villainous a set of ruffians as could be brought together; most of them having a drawn cutlass in one hand, and a pistol in the other, apparently eager for some pretext for seizing and sacking the vessel." The officer again demanded of Captain Strachan the delivery of the specie or the key of the room, but the latter refused to give any orders, and the Peruvian therefore replied that he would take the command of the vessel on himself, and give his own directions. The door of the cabin in which the specie was lodged was then broken open by means of large chisels and hammers, and \$2,000 dollars' worth of property was stolen. The robbers afterwards jumped back again into the launches alongside, and sailed away with their booty. Captain Strachan has laid a protest before the consul at Payta. The ship by whose commander this robbery was perpetrated had been some weeks previously declared a pirate vessel by the Government of Peru, that country being at present in a state of insurrection.

THE WRECK OF THE PALARMO.—It is now known that the vessel which was found drifting, dismasted and water-logged, on the coast of Norway, with the crew starved to death, is the Palarmo, of South Shields, belonging to Mr. John Cleugh, and commanded by his son, Mr. William Cleugh. She left Memel in the middle of January. It is supposed that the principal portion of her crew was swept off her deck in the fearful gale that raged shortly after she passed Elnore, and that, the provisions and other stores having been washed out of her along with the roundhouse, the poor fellows found dead on board had perished of cold and hunger. Captain William Cleugh was the last of eleven sons whose death the father has to lament. Several of them perished at sea.

HONORARY REWARDS.—The Board of Trade have directed that a telescope, bearing a suitable inscription, be presented to Lieutenant Valence, of the French frigate L'Egérie, and 50*l.* to the petty officers and crew, for the assistance rendered to the English barque Ralph Thompson, whereby the whole of the crew were rescued from drowning, after repeated attempts, on three successive days, to board the sinking vessel. From the representations of her Britannic Majesty's minister at Paris to the Foreign office, the Earl of Clarendon has directed that a sword be presented to Captain Corail for his exertions and praiseworthy conduct on this occasion.

THE WHITWORTH AND ENFIELD RIFLES.—For the last few days, a very interesting and important series of experiments has been in progress at the Government School of Musketry, Hythe, in order to test the comparative merits of these two rifles. The trial, which was of the most searching and impartial character, was conducted by Colonel Hay, the able head of the school, and has terminated in establishing beyond all doubt the great and decided superiority of Mr. Whitworth's invention. The Enfield rifle, which was considered so much better than any other as to justify the formation of a vast Government establishment for its special manufacture, has been completely beaten. In accuracy of fire, in penetration, and in range, its rival exceeds it to a degree which hardly leaves room for comparison.—*Times*.

COLLISION WITH A STEAMBOAT, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—While the Curlew, coast-guard cutter, was lying at anchor on the flat of the Mouse Sand, off Sheerness, on Wednesday night, a large steam-vessel, about one o'clock in the morning, bore down upon her, came stem on, and struck her amidships, breaking the main boom. Michael Hawkings, the look-out man, on seeing the vessel approach, called to all hands, who were asleep below, to come on deck as quickly as possible. He also shouted loudly to warn off the steamer; but to no effect. After the collision, he heard some one on board the steamer say, "Why did you not show a light?" Hawkings was immediately afterwards thrown into the water, and became entangled in the standing and running rigging of the Curlew's topmast, which was carried away. The steam-vessel lowered a boat, which was manned; the men lay on their oars, and the boat drifted away with the wind and tide, without making an effort to save the crew of the Curlew. All, consequently, were drowned, with the

exception of Hawkings, who was taken from the rigging by another coastguard cutter, the Scout, which was lying about a quarter of a mile off, and which went to the assistance of her sister vessel. When picked up Hawkings was in a very exhausted state, having been in the water about half an hour, and been much bruised by the steam-vessel running over him.

TROOPS FOR CHINA.—The sailing troop-ship Neleus, having embarked two companies of Royal Artillery at Woolwich for Hong-Kong, left the pier on Thursday morning. The majority were men who had served before Sebastopol.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and infant Princess continue to progress favourably. The last bulletin was issued on Monday.—The Duchess of Gloucester is in very bad health. She has been reduced to a state of great feebleness, and, considering her advanced years, apprehensions are entertained for her life. The latest accounts represent her as sinking. To-day (Saturday) is her eighty-first birthday. The latest accounts represent her as rather better.

THE STARVING FINLANDERS.—We hear from good authority that upwards of 550*l.* has been subscribed by members of the Society of Friends in Bristol towards the funds for the relief of the starving Finlanders.—*Bristol Mercury*.

THE REV. C. HAWKINS, vicar of Stillingfleet, and canon residentiary of York, has just died at an advanced age.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL has been reopened after a restoration extending over a period of ten years.

MR. PALK, M.P., ON THE COMING SESSION.—The Conservative member for South Devon, Mr. Palk, dined with a numerous party of his father's tenantry at Torquay on Friday week, when he believed that it would be necessary in the ensuing session of Parliament to settle the church-rate question by "a fair and honourable compromise" that should amicably adjust the claims both of Dissenters and Churchmen. But there were great difficulties to be encountered, as a law which would suit large towns would not do for agricultural districts. Mr. Palk also admitted the necessity that exists for Parliamentary reform; but he did not favour his audience with any idea as to the nature of the reform which he would support. He said, however, that he looked forward to the ensuing session with "apprehension."

DEATH OF THE PRIMATE OF THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The Right Rev. William Skinner, D.D., Bishop of the diocese of Aberdeen and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, died at Aberdeen on Wednesday week, after a few days' illness. He was in his seventy-eighth year.

EMIGRATION FROM THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—The spring fleet has just sailed for Canada from the north-east coast of Scotland, carrying out 1500 passengers. They are chiefly agricultural labourers, and for the most part young and newly married people.

FIRES.—The building and steam sawmill premises of Mr. Newsom, Westbourne-street, Pimlico, were burnt down on Sunday morning, and eight or nine of the adjoining buildings were greatly damaged.—The premises occupied by Messrs. Goodyear and Co., straw bonnet manufacturers, in St. Paul's Churchyard, were burnt down early on Wednesday morning. The inhabitants escaped with some difficulty.—The printing-ink works of Messrs. Gilton and Co., Leeds-street, Liverpool, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday.—Some pottery works in Princes-street, Lambeth, were burnt down on the same morning, with the exception of a small portion.

CHINA.—A religious ceremonial, in honour of the officers and seamen of the Jeanne d'Arc and the Colbert who fell in the deliverance of Shanghai on the 6th of January, 1855, took place at that city on the 7th of last February. A grand mass and sermon, at which all the French residents, several of the English residents, and various Vice-consuls, were present, were followed by a private service at the house of the French Consul.

THE RECENT FALL OF BRICKWORK.—The inquiry into the circumstances attending the deaths of Morris Fitzgibbon and John Shehan, who were killed by the falling of a wall on Good Friday, was concluded on Friday week. After a great amount of additional evidence was gone into, the jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased came by their deaths by the falling of a wall, some portions of which were in an unsound state, not visible, yet we are of opinion that, through an error of judgment, sufficient precaution was not taken to secure the same."

THE LUNDHILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Mr. Coe, Mr. Maddison, and other colliery viewers, went down into the pit on the evening of Friday week, and again on Sunday, and waded a considerable distance through the water; but they were unable to proceed as far as they wished, owing to the depth of water, and to portions of the roof having fallen in. Early on the following morning, three bodies were discovered, much mutilated, and in a state of decomposition. The identity of two was quite beyond the possibility even of a guess; and with respect to the third there were two opinions. The probability appears to be that the body was that of Thomas Gray; but Hannah Cutts, who lost a husband and three sons by the explosion, is of opinion that the

corpse is that of one of her sons. She speaks, however, only from a piece of the trousers, which was cut out and brought to her; while the relations of Gray derive their opinion from actual view of the remains. An inquest was opened on the three bodies, and adjourned to the 30th. The remains were buried on Sunday in the presence of a large crowd. On Monday, in consequence of the notices which had been issued, the men who volunteered to descend the mine and assist in the search for the bodies assembled at the offices of the company, where their names were taken down. They were mostly experienced men. Some of them had come from Wigan, in Lancashire; others from Claycross and Alfreton, in Derbyshire. They numbered more than one hundred. On commencing their search on Thursday, five more bodies were found.

SELF-POISONING.—Mr. James Thompson, a young man of thirty, living at Manchester, has killed himself by drinking a glass of ammonia. He had been in a desponding state for two years previous to his death, and, finding some ammonia in the house, he said that was the very thing to cure him. He was prevented on one occasion drinking a glass of it; but he afterwards got hold of the bottle, drank a large draught, and expired. The coroner's jury returned a verdict to the effect that he had drunk the poison under a singular belief that it would do him good. The probability seems to be, that it was a case of suicide.—An old woman at Gateshead has died from the effects of a pennyworth of paregoric (a quarter of an ounce), taken to allay a chronic cough. The same amount would not have killed a younger person; but the woman in question was very feeble from advanced years. A verdict was given in accordance with the facts.

A JEW CHURCHWARDEN.—Mr. Jonas Jacobs, a Jew, has been elected churchwarden for the parish of St. James's, Aldgate. For the last two years he has been junior churchwarden.

MR. GOUGH ON THE FAILURE OF THE MAINE-LAW.—The *Weekly Record*, the organ of the National Temperance League, gives an extract from a letter written by Mr. Gough, the well-known temperance orator in America. The letter is dated the 23rd ult. "The cause in this country," writes Mr. Gough, "is in a depressed state; the Maine-law is a dead letter everywhere,—more liquor sold than I ever knew before in Massachusetts, and in other states it is about as bad." The Hon. Neil Dow, the originator of the Maine Liquor Law arrived in Liverpool on Monday from America. He has been invited by the United Kingdom Temperance Alliance to make a tour through this country for the advocacy of his opinions. While at Liverpool, he denied the correctness of the statement by Mr. Gough quoted above.

A PARISH FEUD AT RADCLIFF.—Considerable excitement and angry feeling have prevailed in the hamlet of Radcliff on account of a contest that has been going on between the ratepayers of the vestry. The former maintained that they have a right to vote at the election of a churchwarden and twelve trustees for the parish under the local act of 1810. A majority of the vestry denied this, asserting that the old act has been overruled by Sir Benjamin Hall's act. The ratepayers forced their way into the vestry room on Easter Monday, broke the balloting-box, and prevented any business being done that day. Several meetings of the ratepayers took place during the week, and last Monday they elected four gentlemen as guardians of the poor, and others as churchwarden and trustees.

ADDRESS TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—The Town Council of Southmolton, Devonshire, has presented an address, expressive of their great esteem, to Lord John Russell, while he was staying at the seat of Earl Fortescue, at Castle Hill. In his reply, his lordship, after glancing over the progress of Liberal legislation for the last thirty years, and showing that, contrary to the Conservative prophecies, the country has increased in prosperity and loyalty in consequence, proceeds:—"May we not hope, then, gentlemen, that by following the same policy, by uniting progress with order and improvement with wisdom, we may attain still further and greater benefits? 'The opinion of the good,' says Milton, 'is knowledge in the making.' By consulting the opinion of the good and the enlightened, the House of Commons recently elected may find means to promote education, to extend political franchises, to enlarge the boundaries of religious freedom by removing some remaining disabilities, and to relieve the people of some of their vexatious burdens. I shall have every reason to be grateful and contented if I am permitted by my votes in Parliament to contribute to such happy results."

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.—A correspondent of the *Globe* contradicts the story that General Todleben recently told the French Emperor that we might have taken Sebastopol with the greatest ease had we marched on it directly after the battle of the Alma. The writer says there were insuperable difficulties in the way of such a result.

STREET PREACHERS.—Two street preachers at Liverpool were arrested last Sunday night for obstructing the public way, but were discharged the next morning by the magistrate, who said they were not to be molested in future.

THE BUTTER WE EAT.—A quantity of butter, seized at the shop of a dealer in Liverpool a few days ago by

the officers of the Health Committee of the town-council, was found, on being analyzed, to be thus constituted:—Butter, 47.4; salt (chlo. sod.), 23.4; nitre (nitrate potasse), 0.8; vegetable matter, derived from Irish moss or other seaweed, with water, 28.3; total, 99.9. This "butter" (so called) is an importation from America, and therefore the manufacturer will escape that punishment to which, were he an English subject, he would be liable.

MAJOR-GENERAL MATHIAS EVERARD, C.B. and K.H., a gallant officer who served with great distinction in Spain and elsewhere during the last French war, died on Monday at Southsea.

SALE OF THE PROPERTY OF LEOPOLD REDPATH.—The freehold, leasehold, and reversionary property of Leopold Redpath was offered to public auction by Mr. Marsh, in a very crowded room, on Tuesday. The freehold residence at Weybridge, Surrey, fitted up and decorated at a great expense, with pleasure and kitchen gardens, stabling, &c., and purchased by Redpath so recently as the spring of last year, sold for 2670*l.* The leasehold residence, 49, Gloucester-place, Portman-square, held for an unexpired term, and let at a rental of 85*l.* per annum, sold for 800*l.* The reversion to a freehold house, Marsham-street, Westminster, on the death of a lady and gentleman, aged respectively seventy-five and eighty-one, of the yearly value of 42*l.*, sold at 350*l.* A similar reversion to a house, Richmond-buildings, Soho, let at a rental of 54*l.* per annum, sold at 560*l.*

A FORTNIGHT WITHOUT FOOD.—A man was found last Saturday night lying on the ground in Stockton's Wood, near Speke Hall, in the neighbourhood of Liverpool. He was in a state of great exhaustion, and, on his being removed to a house, he was attended by a surgeon, who found it necessary to cut off his boots, as his feet were swollen and gangrenous. He was then taken to the infirmary. From documents found on him, and from his own statements, it appeared that he is a native of one of the Bermuda Islands; that he is a captain, and had brought a ship to England, but that, some one having detained his certificate, he was reduced to great distress; that, being unable to pay his rent, he left the town, wandered about, and at length lay down in the wood; and that he had been there a fortnight and two days, occasionally eating a little grass, and drinking some water from a brook which ran close by. A day or two before he was found he had written with pencil on a scrap of paper some lines to his friends in Bermuda. It is thought he will recover.

ILLNESS OF THE BISHOP OF EXETER.—The triennial visitation of the Bishop was to take place at Exeter on Monday; but his lordship was unable to attend, owing to illness. It is hoped, however, that he will speedily recover.

THE PRINCES OF OUDE have been at Manchester, visiting the chief objects and places of interest.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. MASTERMAN.—Several City gentlemen are taking steps to raise a subscription for presenting some testimonial to Mr. Masterman, one of the late members for London.

MOTHERS OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—2860 mothers of illegitimate children were relieved as out-door paupers on the 1st of last January.

LORD HARRY VANE AND MR. HENRY PEASE, the two Liberal members for South Durham, were entertained at dinner on Monday by a party of their political friends.

SIGNOR BAZZINI.—Letters from Germany and Italy speak very highly of the eminent violinist Bazzini, who is coming to England for the approaching season. Signor Bazzini was the prominent artist in the concerts given by the Emperor of Austria at Venice, Milan, and Trieste, during his stay in Italy. Signor Bazzini comes over to England with the new pieces—*Les Abeilles*, *La Célébraise*, *Un Conte Arabe*, &c., which, we are told, had the greatest success among the fashionable and musical world of Italy and Germany.

THE FALKIRK ELECTION.—A protest having been lodged by Mr. Baird's agent against Mr. Merry's election on account of alleged bribery, the electors of Hamilton have got up a counter petition, praying for an investigation on the ground that they were subjected to intimidation, &c., by the commissioner of the Duke of Hamilton, in favour of Mr. Baird. A very large number of signatures has been appended.

A LONDON ANTIQUITY.—By the removal of a house in Great St. Helen's, the south transept of the ancient conventual church of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, is now visible; but it is probable that it will again be covered up by a new house. The *Building News* puts in a plea for preserving it as it is, and also for rescuing Crosby Hall from its threatened destruction.

ELECTIONS TO CONVOCATION.—The Rev. Michael Gibbs and the Rev. Dr. McCaul have been elected to represent the Archdeaconry of London in the Canterbury Convocation.—Canon Hay and Canon Sale have been returned as proctors to represent the beneficed clergy in the York Convocation.

MR. LAYARD has issued a farewell address to his late constituents at Aylesbury.

AN APPEAL FOR CHARITY.—The Rev. W. Weldon Champneys writes to the *Times*:—"One of my communicants sailed about eight or nine weeks since as member of the emigrant ship *Boanerges*. The ship, on nearing the Bay of Biscay was caught in a severe storm, which

partly dismantled her, and drove her back almost a wreck to Queenstown, Cork. The emigrants were dispersed, but subsequently reassembled, and again sailed about three weeks since, or less. The ship has been again dismantled, driven back to England, and run ashore in bringing her in. The poor emigrants, above five hundred in number, are in the Government dépôt at Plymouth." Mr. Champneys recommends the case to the consideration of the charitable and affluent.

Manuscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, April 25th.

FRANCE.

(By Electric Telegraph.)

Paris, April 24th.

PRINCE DANILLO, of Montenegro, has just left for Vienna.

The journal *Le Pays* asserts that the British forces will commence their operations against China by the capture of the Island of Formosa.

THE DANISH MINISTRY.

The Cabinet (says a despatch from Copenhagen) is being reconstituted slowly. The cause is the difficulty of bestowing the portfolio of Foreign Affairs and that of Holstein, left vacant by the retirement of M. Scheele. M. Andrac, Minister of Finance, will carry off the Presidency of the Council over M. Hall, Minister of Public Worship. Still, with the exception of M. Scheele, the retention of the former Cabinet is no longer doubtful.

THE SPEAKER.—We have reason to believe that, on the meeting of Parliament on Thursday next, the motion that Mr. Evelyn Denison be the new Speaker will be moved by Lord Harry Vane and seconded by Mr. Thornley.—*Globe*.

ANOTHER GREAT FIRE AT LIVERPOOL.—A fire was discovered in a warehouse in Sparling-street yesterday morning. The building is seven stories high, and the fire broke out on the fifth floor, used as a cotton store. Upwards of 2500 bales of that material, worth 13*l.* per bale, must have been destroyed. Malcolmson and Co. are the owners, but the property is fully insured. The fire is still raging at noon, and considerable apprehension was felt for the lower part of the building, which is stocked with wine and rum.

IRELAND.—The Lord-Lieutenant has commuted the sentence of death passed on Norris and Power, who were to have been hanged next Monday for the Spike Island murder.—The annual show of the Royal Dublin Society was held on Wednesday, but, owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, the attendance of visitors was very meagre. Lord Carlisle and the Viceregal suite arrived at three o'clock, and stayed in the yard for two hours.

THE CASE OF THE MURDERER MANSELL.—The prisoner Mansell, now lying under sentence of death for the murder of a comrade in the 49th Regiment, was brought up yesterday by a writ of *habeas corpus* from Maidstone Gaol, for the purpose of assigning error in the Court of Queen's Bench upon the record of his conviction—his execution being respited till the 5th of May. The legal forms being gone through, Lord Campbell appointed next Saturday, the 2nd of May, for hearing the arguments. In the meanwhile, Mansell will be confined in Newgate. The alleged "error," it will be recollected, turns upon the formation of the jury which tried the murderer.

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK AND A BUBBLE COMPANY.—An action was brought in the Court of Common Pleas yesterday, by a man named Cockshaw, a stationer and printer in Horseshoe-court, Ludgate-hill, against George Cruikshank, the artist, to recover the sum of 50*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, the price of goods supplied to a life and fire insurance company for the working classes, of which Mr. Cruikshank had been director. In the course of his evidence, Mr. Cruikshank said the company was a fraudulent affair, started by one Howell. He himself had been duped for a time, but he soon found out the sham, and denounced it to the public in a pamphlet.—After the case had gone on, it was decided by private arrangement. Mr. Justice Williams paid Mr. Cruikshank a high compliment as a friend of the working classes.

NO REFORM!—The Liberal representatives of the city and county of Hereford, Sir Henry Geers Cotterell, Bart. Lieutenant-Colonel Clifford, and George Clive, Esq. were invited to a grand banquet in the Shire-hall on Thursday. The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer presided, and, in addressing the company, said that Government "would seek to introduce all practical ameliorations in our domestic institutions, without disturbing the foundations of our national prosperity. It meant to say, that, eschewing organic changes, the Government of Lord Palmerston would endeavour to meet the necessities of existing circumstances, without disturbing the fundamental principles of order and society. That is to say, no Parliamentary Reform, after all!"

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, April 24, 1857, including season ticket holders, 19,406.

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.

"CANDIDE" ON THE ELECTIONS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—You have commented with extraordinary severity upon the conduct of the magnanimous and patriotic citizens of Kidderminster. Can you not recognise in that hearty and vigorous demonstration a practical assertion of a Briton's inalienable right to "tell a bit of his mind?" Unblessed with the celestial gift of eloquence—or at least prevented by a batoned and blue-coated police from exercising their oratory—the non-electors of that borough proved themselves worthy to be the countrymen of "the divine Williams," and, like him, discovered sermons in stones and good (missiles) in everything. For my part, I know not how they could more effectually and efficiently have asserted their claim and capacity to discharge the responsible duties of electors; and all impartial individuals must agree with me in thinking that they have made out a strong case in favour of the immediate introduction of the universal franchise.

And in what other way could these much-maligned citizens have expressed their strong convictions? In what manner could they more clearly have expounded the text, "We will not have this man to reign over us?" Would you have had them pelt the obnoxious candidate with rose-leaves, or with cowslip balls? That might have been more graceful, but assuredly it would have been less national, and would have lost in power what it gained in elegance. Unhappily, it is too much the spirit of the times to sacrifice force to beauty, and to compel Minerva to "do the hair" for the Graces. It was not thus, however, that Britannia learned to rule the waves like a copybook, or to flutter her blue bandanna, for a thousand years, in the face of hailstorms and bullets. This secret of our power is well known to other nations, who conceal their jealousy and alarm in affected sneers at our boorishness. Even the pensive and dreamy Turk can appreciate the heroic elements of our national character more wisely than you London journalists, who sit at ease in your editorial chairs and deem the world to be circumscribed between St. James's and Temple Bar. It is in my power to illustrate this remark from my personal experiences.

In the course of my peregrinations I happened to remain a few days in a provincial town, more remarkable for the excellence of its cutlery than for the beauty of its women, and for the magnificence of its gin-palaces than for the politeness of its artisans. Among the inmates of the hotel, I became slightly acquainted with a genuine Turk, who was studying the manners and customs of the modern English through the medium of a French patois apparently calculated for the meridian of Lower Flanders. One morning as we stood gazing out of the window—hoping against hope that the days of Pyrrha were not about to return, when the finny tribe, unlike General Mack, *summa hæsiv in Ulmo*—arabbe rout rushed past with many an oath and with almost as many dogs, crop-eared, curtailed of their tails, and Bendigo-ish in facial expression. Proud of my country and its prejudices, I naturally dilated to my full stature of five feet eight inches in boots, and thirty-nine inches round the chest. Turning half round, I looked down with lofty compassion on the ignorant barbarian by my side. "Qu'est-ce que c'est que tout ça?" asked he, in French worthy of Bruges. In equally pure Parisian I replied:—"Monsieur, c'est un délassement Britannique—un délassement de géants—mais de géants à la chrétienne." "Ah!" he responded, in a manner that implied either a total ignorance or a perfect comprehension of my meaning. Whichever it might be, he hurried out of the room, and I saw no more of him until dinner-time. Owing, probably, to my possessing a large share of that *pudeur Britannique*, which, according to one of the translators of "The Antiquary," *trouve "shocking" le mot "breches," en cherchant un usile dans la périphtase "inexpressibles," ou ce qu'on ne peut exprimer*, I confess that I would rather not again have encountered the Mongolian savage, and would certainly have shunned him if I could. As I entered the room he rose from his chair, slowly approached me, laid his hands on my shoulders, and, looking me full in the face, with solemn kindness thus addressed the *ingenui vultus puer, ingenuus pudoris*:

"Monsieur,"—that is all I remember of the Turco-French, but perhaps it will do as well in English—"sir, you are right. It was truly a sport for giants. You are a great people, and will conquer all nations. You are as great as my ancestors were, when they sat down before the gates of Vienna. But you drink. That is bad. It is your women who persuade you to drink, lest you should take more than one wife at a time. Don't listen to them. The throat never made any man great. Wives are better than drink."

This unsophisticated Turk would have appreciated the lapidation of Mr. Lowe. He would have looked upon it as a *délassement de géants*, and perchance might have reminded you that the Israelites, when they were a nation, amused themselves in like manner by stoning the Prophets. Now-a-days, stones cry out by proxy; they don't do it themselves, but they make unpopular candidates do it for them. *A propos* to my Byzantine friend, I must tell you how our acquaintance originated.

Having removed all desire of eating and drinking by ample potations of Allsopp's B. B., and a fair allowance of tough cow's-flesh, I was leaning back in my chair with my eyes closed and ruminating various fancies, neither particularly original nor select. Presently I overheard a discussion as to the relative merits of the Crescent and the Cross—not Mr. Warburton's book, but the creeds of which those shapes are the emblems. The Turk's opponent was also an Oriental, but converted to the outward and visible signs of the Roman Catholic faith. Neither disputant appeared to be very strong as a controversialist; each, seemingly, entertaining a pleasant conviction that the value of a religion must be estimated by the acreage and census of its Olympus.

"You have no Virgin Mary!" triumphantly exclaimed the apostate, renegade, or convert.

"No Virgin Mary! We have millions of them—in our Paradise," scornfully replied the Turk.

"Well! But you have no Immaculate Conception," said the R. C., doggedly returning to the attack.

"Bah! It is because we don't want one. If we did, we could have one every minute—in our Paradise."

Unfortunately, a slight chuckle escaped me at this moment, which induced the Christian to remark to his companion, in a stage whisper, "That gentleman understands us."

"Not he," grunted the Turk. "He has eaten beef enough to send four dogs asleep."

There was no alternative but to confess my acquaintance with the French language when spoken in a manner to puzzle the lively Gaul. We then fraternised, and in an incredibly short space of time must have succeeded in flaying the ears of any intelligent party from France, had there been one in the room. The Turk was a Tory—one of the old school—and bitterly deplored the innovations that had been introduced into his country. Why, the Sultan was a mere cypher: he could no longer send the bowstring to a rich or refractory satrap, without every newspaper in Europe making a noise about it. And then what security was there now in private life? One of your wives might play you false, and you dare not even slit her nose—the sack and the sea were quite out of the question.

Now, sir, knowing what you must know of the present degenerate state of the Ottoman Empire as compared with its ancient power and magnificence, and tracing this decadence—as, of course, you will do—to the influx of an artificial civilization, are you still disposed to use such bad language towards the enlightened and independent citizens of Kidderminster, because they repudiate the idea of being tamed and refined until they become more rational and intellectual beings? Should you insert this protest against your one-sided declamation, I may perhaps have occasion to intrude upon your columns once and again. In the meantime I have the honour to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

CANDIDE.

LAND SOCIETIES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me whether there is any Land Society in existence in which the land and buildings are proposed to be held jointly under the new partnership laws, as I have, with many others, anxiously wished to see such a society established? The advantages to be gained in such a society, if it can be legally carried out, would be incalculable over the old Land Societies, where the estate is wastefully divided into lots, and where the buildings are obliged to be separate, and consequently more expensive and imperfect; whereas, if the buildings are constructed after the model of a London club-house, and in one block, it would give each member many conveniences and educational advantages at a less cost, and preserve the rural appearance of the estate.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

A CONSTANT READER.

Battle, April 21, 1857.

[Our Correspondent will probably obtain the information he seeks at the Friendly Societies Institute, 4, Trafalgar-square.]

THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER.—The following circular has been issued to the members of the Liberal party:—"Whitehall, April 15, 1857.—My dear Sir,—As the first business upon the assembling of Parliament will be the election of a Speaker, I take the liberty of informing you that Mr. J. Evelyn Denison will be proposed as a candidate, and I trust that the whole of the Liberal party will attend and concur in his election. May I venture to press upon you the importance of being present on the 30th of this month, on which day the election will take place? I should feel greatly obliged if you would have the kindness to inform me whether I may rely on your presence and support.—Very truly yours, W. G. HAYTER."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"The Italians in Alexandria," "Icarus," Miss Parkes' fourth letter, and other communications, are unavoidably omitted this week.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 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 worlds by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

IMPERIALISM, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

FRANCE, paralysed since 1851, supplies an example without a precedent in history. The cessation of her national development has been so sudden as to be almost inexplicable. Ten years ago her people were rapidly multiplying; five years ago their growth was checked; their numbers are now actually diminishing. English statistics, during a similar period, present a parallel, which appears the more extraordinary the more closely it is studied. From 1842 to 1854 three millions of persons emigrated from these islands; yet three millions were added to the home population. Since 1851, the registrar-general computes England and Wales have gained 1,757,000; France only 256,000. The population of France is double that of England and Wales, so that while the increase in England and Wales is absolutely four times and a half greater than the increase in France, it is relatively nine times greater. When figures of this kind are quoted with respect to America, the usual answer is that the vacant territories of America encourage expansion; but, as we showed last week, England is considerably more crowded than France. In point of population, therefore, the French have sustained a severe positive loss since the establishment of the Empire. What have they gained? Not peace—they have had the Russian war; not prosperity—they have universal gambling, dear provisions, heavy taxation, and deficiency of employment; not public confidence—they have perpetual rumours of conspiracy, and the credulous among them anticipate that the Emperor will some evening be blown by gunpowder out of his Opera-box; not material security—they have the certainty of another revolution, the probability of domestic strife, the chance of a military Terror. They have sacrificed liberty, dignity, constitutional law, in exchange for a system which brings them neither present repose nor the prospect of a tranquil future. The only monuments of the Empire likely to be permanent are its façades, exactly as the Baths of CARACALLA preserve the traditions of the Roman decadence. Roman history is shadowed forth in Roman walls and arches. AUGUSTUS, creeping to the throne through the shadows of CÆSAR'S memory, imitated all but his genius and his glory; he completed the theatres and basilicas begun by his uncle; a few fragments of the uncle's plan sufficed to employ the whole of the nephew's capacity. In hypocrisy, however, this despot, of a quality new in Rome, may be allowed to have been consummate. He set the example of dissembling tyranny under a popular disguise, of venerat-

ing with pious love the designs of his deified predecessor, of cultivating the complicity of the priesthood, of affecting to reverence the privileges of private life after he had violated every public law. After robbing the Roman people of their rights, he allowed the claims of a few freeholders to destroy the symmetry of the Forum. He affected also to act as a censor of morals; but the dates of his decrees on this subject mark the opening of an era of unnatural depravities and bestial pollutions. The boast of AUGUSTUS was, that he turned Rome, by the magic of his magnificence, into a city of marble; the boast of LOUIS NAPOLEON'S flatterers is, that he has adorned Paris and revived the power and prosperity of France. What was true in the one case is true in the other. The Lower Empire rotted to dust in an age of architectural splendour; France is smitten by a deadly disease while Paris sparkles with the white stone monuments of her LORENZO—paid for by a people heavily laden, poor, and struggling against a partial scarcity. These grand erections are held up as emblems of political stability, of which Rome affords a fitting illustration. The Empire converted at the commencement of every reign into the theatre of a violent revolution, its gradual decadence and ultimate collapse were demonstrations of the order bequeathed by AUGUSTUS; but LOUIS NAPOLEON, after a reign of glory, will confide his sceptre to the Empress Regent, who will nurse the nation for her son, who, from being the Child of France, will become its Father, and there will be no more anarchy, but Napoleonic communism and a stagnant peace. Possibly, but also possibly not—a pistol-ball, a fall from a horse, or some other accident may, at any moment, surrender France to the violence of an African military mob, and the frenzy of a hundred factions. AUGUSTUS, to seduce the army, made use of the name and inheritance of CÆSAR, and, having mounted to a throne by the steps of a tomb, proceeded to abase the moral energies of the people by employing them on works of vanity, by annihilating individual character, by swamping men in crowds, by practising the arts of amusement and benevolence. "The organisation of the Empire," said TACITUS, "was the disorganisation of society." But society had been corrupted, it was urged, before CÆSAR rose. "Yes," answers M. AMPERE, in his admirable studies of Imperial history, "it had been corrupted, and its corruption was the ruin of liberty; but is despotism excellent because it is favoured by public apathy and private infamy? Arbitrary government, in Rome and elsewhere, must have been at a loss for apologies when it attempted to justify itself by showing that it was a form of authority congenial to a vicious and enervated generation." France appreciates the argument, and LOUIS NAPOLEON employs four hundred thousand men, a countless body of police and spies, two mute legislatures, and a vast official staff, to prevent the French from disclaiming a satisfied submission to the institutions of the Empire. Certain it is, however, that Rome, debased and debauched enough to make way for CÆSAR, was infinitely more debased to make way for the successors of AUGUSTUS. France may have been morally degenerate in 1851, but we know what she is in 1857. Supposing the best result—that she will now pass under a succession of Bonapartist Emperors—what then? Out of twelve, to be celebrated by another SÆTONTIUS, how many possessors of unrestrained authority are likely to be ANTONINES, and how many CALIGULAS? When the modern AUGUSTUS disappears, when the nation discovers that during its sleep it has lost its virility, there may be some men in England who will re-

pent the pæans they have uttered over the revival of imperialism in France. Its *éclat* has bewildered them; they talk of the Napoleonic age as feeble historians talk of the age of LEO X., which lasted nine years, and of the ANTONINES, which lasted forty-two years, while the period of civil liberties that went before the ANTONINES embraced five uninterrupted centuries. The Roman Republic conquered nations, the Roman Emperor speared bears and wrestled with gladiators; the last representative of Caesarism sits in a chair of state and watches a fight between a swarm of matadors and a Spanish bull. It is Imperialism, not the Emperor, that corrupts; as M. AMPERE has justly pointed out, GEORGE I., as an emperor, would have been a NERO, GEORGE IV. a HELIOGABALUS; while NERO, fenced round with constitutional limits, might have been a very respectable king. "The institutions that protect nations against monarchs protect monarchs against themselves." The object of French Imperial policy is to govern the state by means of a vast, impersonal, irresponsible machine, regulating finance, education, religion, manners, sumptuary customs, the traffic of the Bourse, trade, navigation, industry, setting aside the power of the press, extinguishing individual action, absorbing the nation in the pursuit of material gains and pleasures. Those who are willing to be thus governed are corrupted; those who resist are literally destroyed—for imprisonment and exile amount to the obliteration of the individual as a citizen. The moral life of the country is by this process drained away; yet the founder of the system is applauded as a saviour of society. It is somewhat remarkable that he should at any time have achieved popularity in England, conspicuously Christian as England claims to be, for the Empire is essentially a pagan institution.

The perfect working of Imperialism would be equivalent to the maddest development of Socialism; both systems treat society as a mechanism, instead of an organisation; both sink the individual; both exalt the state; both endeavour to drill villages into battalions and cities into camps; the one is the paradise of pedantry, the other the climax of corruption; and a strange confusion of both is exhibited by the reigning power in France. There is an attempt to crush the citizen under the weight of the multitude; to create in the bureaucracy a central administration of public affairs, general, special, and local; to treat Paris literally as the heart of France, transmitting its impulses to the remotest departments; to infuse into the mind of the populace that sort of Brahminical serenity which is content with gazing on the Ineffable and fancying that all the citizens are represented by the Emperor, and the Emperor by all the citizens. The democratic leaders, clamorous for equality, have had some share in promoting this result, for while insisting that men shall be equal, they have forgotten to secure that they shall be free; and the masses to whom they preached the doctrine of a society smoothed to one dead level have been hurled against them by the man who has converted the national army into the national enemy, and universal suffrage into a machine of universal enslavement. They are now the servants of one master, or the victims of one oppressor; they have witnessed the reduction of every class to uniform political annihilation. France has been swallowed up in the Empire; and the apostles of equality are compelled to watch the ascent in the social scale of a rabble of parvenus bloated with the profits of gambling. The real monument of Napoleonism is the Count DE MORNAY, who withdraws a prodigious for-

tune from France, marries a Russian princess, and dances with the wife of the CZAR. A swarm of locusts have been fattened; but how many have been impoverished to inflate their unnatural appetites! There has been no real production of wealth, only the exhaustion of industry to promote speculation.

Resuming the whole inquiry, what have been the gains and losses of France under the Empire? Masses of doubtful masonry have changed the face of the capital, to the delight and wonder of complacent tourists; the hovels of the poor have been razed by the merciless combinations of strategic boulevards; a knot of stock-jobbers have been enriched; the population has shrunk, as in a pestilence or famine; the production of food has diminished; agriculture is neglected; the towns are aggrandized at the cost of the provinces; over two-thirds of the territory of France the exhaustion of vital forces is apparent; the rural districts are deprived of large proportions of adult labour; unremunerative public works in the metropolis have wasted the national treasures. It is computed that within five years forty millions sterling have been amassed by the holders of stock on the Bourse—a sum extracted from productive industry, in addition to the vast loans lavished on the Russian war and the Paris improvements. We point to this array of clouds that darken over France, without desiring to exaggerate the evil or to misrepresent its causes. It may be traceable to one set of circumstances or to another, but it belongs to the period of the Empire, which declared itself to be the realization of peace, order, and prosperity, which promised stability, security, and confidence, but which seeks to vault over with a marble roofing an immeasurable abyss.

STATISTICS OF THE NEW HOUSE.

SPECULATION as to the strength of parties in the new House has a special interest, inasmuch as there is no immediate likelihood of any division which would test the unity of the Liberals or the numbers of the Opposition. There will be no attempt at opposition to Mr. EVELYN DENISON as Speaker, and there is no probability that Mr. DISRAELI will precipitate any move likely to show how very small is the party of gentlemen who still follow his leadership. Even Lord JOHN, although his independent position gives him a vantage ground, is not likely to break with the Government too soon; nor will Mr. GLADSTONE, with all his readiness to act with a minority, lead into the lobby that reduced Peelite section which should detach about one half its forces to supply tellers for the rest. Deprived, therefore, of the prospects of that best of Parliamentary companions—a division list—we fall back upon a careful survey of election addresses and hustings declarations.

The ministerial arithmeticians calculate, we understand, upon a majority of 108—and perhaps, as an average estimate of the probable majorities of PALMERSTON on various questions, it is a pretty fair reckoning. Counting as Liberals all who support an extension of the franchise, and are generally favourable to reforms both ecclesiastical and civil—the strength of the Liberal party in the House is 382. This total is not arrived at by putting men down as Liberals merely because they have once been called so, or because they call themselves Liberals without specifying any reforms they will support; it is based on specific declarations from their own lips on the hustings, or in their written addresses, when a statement one way or the other was likely to affect the poll. We have

also refrained from counting as Liberals any members, however Liberal in their recent professions, who voted generally with the Conservatives in the late Parliament. Nor has a past support of Lord PALMERSTON on the China question, nor a promised general support to his Ministry, induced us to forget the marked distinction between men ready to vote for reforms of the franchise and for the further application of civil and religious liberty, and men unwilling, through fear of the "democracy," to give into their hands any extended power. The Liberal party, then—numbering it from Lord PALMERSTON to Mr. TOWNSEND, from Lord JOHN RUSSELL to Mr. ROEBUCK—numbers 382. The next question is, How are the party united? Are there any disloyal men who refuse to acknowledge PALMERSTON? Are there Legitimists, Orleanists, and Republicans plotting with similarity of means, but with three distinct objects, against the NAPOLEON of English politics? Each of the three French parties has its counterpart in the House. There is Lord JOHN RUSSELL in exile, the Legitimist chief of the historic and traditional Whig party. There is Sir JAMES GRAHAM, who acts Orleanism to the very life, now appealing to his old Whig associates, now calling the Radicals his friends. And there is Mr. ROEBUCK representing the Republicans, who object with equal acrimony to the reigning monarch and to the two pretenders. Sir JAMES GRAHAM's section consists mainly of himself, for we cannot calculate on any member of the House as a Grahamite; Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT will, it is said, shortly join the Ministry, and Mr. GLADSTONE will be, in the language of the orchestra, a *chef d'attaque* of the Opposition. Mr. ROEBUCK represents a party of Radicals who chafe at the perpetual leadership of men of family and who have a fixed idea that all men who had grandfathers must be aristocratic and used up. In this section, to swell it up to eight, we must count the Peace party, not yet extinct—for we have Mr. HENRY PEASE (is it the pilgrim who having softened his own head according to the old recipe for pleasant penitential travelling, went to Petersburg to tell NICHOLAS not to be naughty?), and Mr. CHARLES GILPIN, who with true English spirit anticipated (in a pamphlet published at his shop and once read by PALMERSTON to a laughing House) how the poor French would be "done again" when, greatly to their chagrin, we should refuse to receive the compensation they would remorsefully offer after having battered down our unresisting cities. Putting Russellites, pure Whigs, Radicals, Peace men, and Sir JAMES GRAHAM altogether as a band of rebels in the Liberal camp we cannot count them as more than twenty, leaving Lord PALMERSTON a faithful following of 362—more than a majority of the whole House.

The Conservatives, roughly speaking, number 262; but there are serious divisions even in this shattered army. Firstly, there are at the very least 40 of the party who have pledged themselves not to offer a general opposition to Lord PALMERSTON. Among these may be counted Mr. MILES, Mr. MILNES GASKELL, Lord BLANDFORD, and other moderate Conservatives. Some of these men have even formally seceded from the party (Lord BLANDFORD, for instance, who in 1852 fought so fiercely at Middlesex against BERNAL OSBORNE, now receives circulars from Mr. HAYTER and not from Sir WILLIAM JOLLIFFE). Then there are about 20 Conservatives who are separated from the party, not that they love Conservatism less, but that they dislike DISRAELI more. They are represented by Mr. BENTINCK, who led the secession in the late Parliament, and by

such men as Mr. KENDALL, of East Cornwall. Then there are some of the party who are too Liberal to act with Mr. DISRAELI in maintaining an obstructive Conservatism. Thus, giving to Mr. DISRAELI the men calling themselves Conservatives who have not openly seceded from the party as an Opposition, we find that his followers number 200. Were Lord PALMERSTON to propose some extremely Liberal extension of the franchise, or some very sweeping Reform of the Church, Mr. DISRAELI might lead into the lobby the 262 nominal Conservatives, but not otherwise; but even in that case the question would be carried by the Liberals by a majority of 100.

Lord PALMERSTON has thus a majority equal, if not superior, to PEEL's majority of 91, in 1841. But the majority is for Lord PALMERSTON as a Liberal Minister. If he again oppose instalments of Reform, he will (at least after this year) find himself forced to connect his thirty or forty official followers with the Conservatives, and even then he will be beaten. He cannot again enact the division on LOCKE KING's motion. The present Parliament is more decidedly Liberal than the last. Take the Ballot, for instance: it is the opinion of men not sanguine as to those matters, that there is an actual majority in the House for the Ballot. We do not think so; our own calculations of the members returned do not bear out this result. But the Ballot may nevertheless obtain majorities, for while its supporters are pledged to support it, there is no party pledged to oppose it. To oppose the Ballot is not even a *sine quâ non* of Conservatism, although objections to the Ballot dwell in many honourable minds on both sides of the House. It is said by political calculators that, if Lord PALMERSTON adopt an obstructive Conservatism on the question of Church-rates or the Ballot, he will be defeated in this House, which his supporters fondly call his own, by at least a majority of forty.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES IN CHINA.

WHAT is the actual state of the relations between our Government and the United States? We have not received any information for some time, at least from this side of the water; but we are not without advices from the other side, and they do cause a feeling of uneasiness. We are uneasy for a very plain and intelligible reason. Nothing can be more essential to the well-being of this country and of the United States, than a cordial understanding between the two. We have the strongest of all grounds for knowing that the two commonwealths actually agree on most subjects that bring them into contact with each other, and we also may say, as within our own knowledge, that on subjects which more immediately concern either the one or the other, such explanations could be given as would completely remove any feeling of reciprocal dissatisfaction. We have perfect right to state to our readers that the American Government is actuated by the most friendly feelings towards this country. It has a desire to remove every cause of misunderstanding, and to promote that increased intercourse which is occasioning so constant an exchange of personal visiting, and creating so gigantic an amount of commerce. We believe that the exports of the United States to this country exceed their exports to all other countries; and if our own exports to the United States are not exactly in the same proportion, our fellow-countrymen are continually adding to the number of the commonwealth; a large and increasing part of our food is drawn from the Union, with many of our luxuries, and the raw material of a

staple trade. The great difference between the two is, that the United States have a Government which, from its very constitution, naturally acts for the benefit of the public; our own Government does not let the public, or any representative of the public, into its confidence. Its first and avowed object is to strengthen and support *itself*; and although it must defer to public opinion, that is a kind of homage that can be "managed."

The question as to the state of relations between the two countries is immediately called forth by what we hear from the United States respecting the application made by our Government for some kind of "co-operation" in China. Now it is the feeling of an important party in this country, that the course taken in China was nothing better than what is commonly called "a mess," and how, when Lord JOHN RUSSELL and an influential section of the Liberal party here have expressed decided disapproval for the Chinese policy, Lord PALMERSTON's Cabinet can have the face to ask for the co-operation of a foreign government not by its very nature bureaucratic, we scarcely understand. At all events, compliance could not have been expected. But the American Government, if we are correct in the inference that we draw from the Ministerial *Union*, very naturally wishes to be informed *what* co-operation is practicable? The United States can have no sympathy with China.

"The miserable exclusiveness of that unhappy country can find no advocacy among enlightened men, and, on the score of humanity, it is difficult to feel any great sympathy for people who poison wells and bakeries, who have little regard for human life, and whose habits, in many respects, are semi-barbarous. We know, too, how annoying and offensive must be the delays and forms and mummeries which surround the modes of the Chinese in their communications with the 'outside barbarians.' That to break down the exclusiveness of China, throw open its gates, and let the genial light and heat of commerce penetrate its long-closed avenues, would be for the advancement of civilization and the benefit of the world, cannot well be doubted. And wherever the influence of the United States can be properly exerted to this end, unquestionably it will not be found wanting."

This is answering exactly as we should have ventured to answer for the Government at Washington; but the Executive of that country has certainly specific responsibilities which cannot be laid aside. The case is well stated by our *Union* contemporary:—

"As to the 'co-operation,' of which the journal speaks, we confess that we do not quite understand its import. When two governments are at war, and a third government 'co-operates' with either of the belligerents, it seems to us that the latter government is very nearly in a condition of war also. We understand what war is, and what peace is; but this 'co-operation' with a belligerent, which strikes the *Journal of Commerce* as being so harmless as not even to amount to an 'entangling alliance,' is something of which we have no definite idea."

This is extremely just, and we should like to have the official explanation on this side. The Executive of the United States is charged with the duty of preserving for American commerce and Americans in China all the respect and all the facilities to which they are entitled; and should they be assailed, the Government of President BUCHANAN would repel the assault with promptitude and decision. But the same Government may very justly ask itself whether it would be perfectly discreet were it to undertake to act in conjunction with the close Cabinet of Lord PALMERSTON, or with the Government of France?

That the leading men of the United States should desire to act in China, so as to assist in promoting a state of things favourable to the commonwealth of this country, we are certain. But it does not always follow that the co-operation with the Executive of this country would conduce to that end. At all events, the two Executives are accustomed to proceed on principles, and according to rules so different, that it is not desirable for a

really popular Government to enter into any pledge that it will make its actions, in all details, and in secrecy, conform to the actions of Downing-street.

Lord PALMERSTON'S Government has done one thing which will tend, in cases of detailed difficulty, to promote a convenient harmony of action on the part of the representatives of America in the Chinese waters. Whatever question may be raised as to the particular fitness of Lord ELGIN for the particular mission, at all events he enjoys a very considerable degree of favour and confidence on the part of the citizens of the United States. No man, we believe, would be less likely to prefer an improper request to any officer of the American service in China than Lord ELGIN; and no man would be less likely to meet with a refusal.

To a certain extent the case has already occurred. The Americans have met with difficulties in the waters of China very similar to those which have been encountered by Sir JOHN BOWRING, and we are not aware that Sir JOHN or Admiral SEYMOUR have any cause to complain of the conduct of the American officers; we believe quite the reverse is the fact. It is possible that Lord ELGIN may be instructed to enlarge the field of operations in China. On that point, as usual, our Government withholds from us every information. The course, therefore, may greatly alter; but of one thing we feel convinced. The appointments of Mr. BUCHANAN, hitherto especially taken in conjunction with each other, may be described as strictly tending to the interests of the United States. He has in some respects disappointed the expectations of party; he has, we believe, exceeded the expectations of his country, although not our own expectations. It is not probable, therefore, that any appointments which he may make will be other than such as are calculated to maintain the principles of his Government in its relation with the Celestial Empire, and with the other civilized countries whom the Americans will meet in the waters of China. That the officers of the United States in China will be well supported we are certain, for we fully expect that the naval force of the United States in that part of the world will be placed at least upon a "respectable" footing.

THE PALMERSTON-HAYTER CONSPIRACY.

We have now more distinct symptoms of the Government policy—of Lord PALMERSTON'S design to jockey the House of Commons. Mr. HAYTER sends a letter, addressed to the general supporters of the Government, including Lord BLANFORD, requesting their attendance and votes at the election of Mr. DENISON, as Speaker: "An answer will oblige." This request for an answer is an innovation. It means that the Liberal members are to compromise themselves, to accept a compact with the Ministry, to profess the faith as it is in PALMERSTON. That is one indication. Then, we have the attacks on Lord JOHN RUSSELL. Thirdly, the *Edinburgh* article. Now, what can the attacks on Lord JOHN RUSSELL signify, except the antagonism of the Government to the chief of the Whig Reformers? The *Edinburgh* repudiates political reform, which it calls "organic;" Lord JOHN RUSSELL insists upon it, and is industriously abused; the Liberal party is gracefully invited by Mr. HAYTER to supply Lord PALMERSTON with three or four hundred signatures—a requisition to him to retain his post, and to name his own Speaker. This studied disparagement of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, this new artifice of the whipper-in, this blue and buff flag hoisted

above a programme of "practical measures," implies nothing less than a resolve, on Lord PALMERSTON'S part, to effect by cajolery what a despot would effect by coercion, to convert our limited monarchy, in fact, into an administrative monarchy. That is his plan. Its success depends upon the Liberal members of the House of Commons. The test of their Liberalism must be, in future, whether they will support political reforms as well as the trifles called administrative improvements. Otherwise we shall have a session spent in passing, or attempting to pass, an amendment in the laws relating to the property of married women, a poor-law amendment, a new batch of legal reforms, a church-rate compromise, and a few other tinkering of the statutes at large. The old House of Commons tried to do this work, and failed. Probably the new House will, to some extent, fail also. But Lord PALMERSTON, assuming that he and Mr. HAYTER do not break down in their plot, will continue to stand at the head of affairs, caressing the young Liberals, baulking the deposed chiefs, and twirling Parliament upon his thumb. He can do it, with the assistance of the corrupt men, the weak men, the bewildered men, and the insincere men—unless the really independent men undertake to operate against a policy so fruitless and so degrading. We are not writing against Lord PALMERSTON. We are only characterising his scheme of action, and putting it to the Liberal party—will you be jockeyed? The tone of the Government organs is decidedly adverse to political reform; all the whispers tell in favour of the *Edinburgh* theory. We are approaching a session in which the Premier will attempt to govern by a series of little *coups d'état*, with Mr. HAYTER as the ST. ARNAUD of the great conspiracy.

The *Quarterly* expounds the PALMERSTON idea in a singularly lucid analysis. The Premier, it says, is a traitor to the cause of Reform; he governs by trickery and manoeuvre; he talks of progressive improvement in language which, coming from Tory lips, would be pronounced icy; his promises of progress would not have alarmed Lord ELDON. The *Quarterly* points to Lord JOHN RUSSELL as the true Liberal leader; it is respectful to the Manchester party; but it warns the country against a Minister who treats political independence as parliamentary mutiny, and Reform, to use the words of Mr. LOWE, as "an electoral cry."

THE NEAPOLITAN APOLOGY.

THE King of NAPLES has at last joined issue with the English journals, and denied that he tortures his political prisoners. There being no evidence in his favour, it is necessary to estimate the King's word. What is it worth? Have governments ever prevaricated? If so, is FERDINAND'S government likely to employ that stratagem? Really, the reader will not expect to have the question answered for him. The *Times* correspondent says:—"I have come to the painful conclusion that torture, in its proper sense of the term, is practised in the Two Sicilies." "It is an evidence of my caution that I expressed my doubts as to the application of torture to AGESILAO MILANO, but those doubts no longer exist." "That that unfortunate man was tortured is the opinion of foreign ministers, priests, military men, civilians, liberals, and royalists as well. This I say advisedly." He may well say so. MILANO'S face, when he came upon the scaffold, betrayed the horrible secrets of his prison; it had grown old with physical agony; on his hands could be seen the marks of the "infernal machine;" the people knew at once that he had been vilely tortured. Flagellation, semi-starvation, and other atro-

cities are made use of, not to extort confessions, but gratuitously to gratify his Majesty's vengeance. And the *Times* pictures the system by which society in Naples is preserved from anarchy: "the denunciations of the secret spy—the brutalities of the police—the daily illegalities and acts of injustice which are committed—men snatched from the bosoms of their families on suspicion merely, degraded from their position, imprisoned for months and years without trial—these are facts which no one can deny." The public does not deny them, but stigmatizes FERDINAND as a tyrant. But what of a certain other Monarch? Will any one, who has the slightest knowledge of the facts, deny that the last paragraph quoted from the *Times* correspondent applies to Paris as literally as to Naples? Both governments are impeached before Europe; both have pleaded "Not Guilty," and neither is believed.

THE SIECLE AND THE TIMES.

We have observed with more regret than surprise an article in the *Siecle*, purporting to be a reply to some recent comments of the *Times* upon the most salient indications of the latest census in France.

The *Times* was singularly indulgent and reserved upon this delicate and painful subject, and touched upon its characteristics with all the tenderness and caution which might be expected from a journal to whose enormous power and publicity an almost governmental responsibility belongs of necessity, and in whose almost diplomatic reserve upon certain foreign questions we, for our part, very frankly recognise nothing but the just prudence of an exceptional position. Other journals, responsible only to the sincerity of their own convictions and to the sympathies of special readers, may seem to pay a more undivided homage to great principles, but a whisper of the *Times*, when the note is true, resounds through Europe like a trumpet.

The remarks of our Parisian contemporary are signed by a man of talent and generous feeling, whose name we have been accustomed to respect for an honourable and energetic assertion of liberal principles in the teeth of a censorship whose undisguised severities are the least of the dangers which a free expression of opinion incurs under a despotism of equivocations. It is not the open "warnings" so much as the secret and unremitting pressure of official intimidation that independent journalism has most to fear in the France of to-day. Of this secret pressure operating through the hundred-handed vigilance of that Bureau of Public Opinion over which M. COLLET MEYERET so amiably and affably presides, the outer world knows next to nothing. It is rather in the *tacenda* than in the *dicenda* of the unofficial press that the working of the directorship of Public Safety is to be detected.

But we have regretted to find M. LOUIS JOURDAN'S signature attached to an article so feeble and so fretful in tone as this reply to our leading journal. If it be not a calumny that the *Siecle*, ostensibly a liberal organ, enjoys the confidence of the Palais Royal, we can only say that, for the credit of the journal, it is a pity the hand that pulls the strings is not more adroitly concealed. The influence exercised by the *Siecle* makes it important to the liberal cause that its sources of information should be untainted by the poison of complicity. Through out the war the *Siecle*, magnanimous to excess, won much favour in this country by its hearty attachment to the English alliance contrasted with the shrewish bitterness of the *Assemblée Nationale*. On the other

hand, the purest and most elevated of those men who look for a better future for France, were often disgusted by its hollow reverberations of *la gloire, la victoire, lauriers, and guerriers*, and all the stalest echoes of Chauvinism. The purest liberals in France know too well what this worship of glory and victory has cost to liberty, and *ubi libertas ibi patria*. They do not forget that the victories of the Empire of NAPOLEON, like the conscriptions of the Empire of the CÆSARS, were more disastrous and more fatal than the terrors of the Republic, and that hecatombs of patriotic youth and manhood, sacrificed to the godless ambition and the delirious vanity of one man, were ill repaid by diminished frontiers, by two invasions, by the foreign imposition of a despised dynasty, by the domination of hostile armies, and the submission of an exhausted people. They do not forget the irreparable perversity of the Republicans of 1830, who, for eighteen years, wilfully confounded the cause of the Revolution with the idolatries of the Empire, and brought back with tears and acclamations the smouldering ashes of usurpation and oppression to consecrate anew a spurious title, and adorn a more degrading servitude. They have been taught to forget the impious cant of "holy bayonets." Holy bayonets, forsooth, which, after enslaving Europe in the name of Liberty, have garrotted France in the name of NAPOLEON.

If the *Siccle* is content with an apotheosis of stock-jobbers, and an apoplexy of stones and mortar, well and good, let it frankly recognise Imperial blessings; but in the name of that freedom, which, in England, at least, we do not hail as a tocsin of insurrection, let us not hear any more of the odious and absurd cant of France being the "Polar Star of Nations," the "Apostle of Liberty," and we know not what besides. We love and honour France and the French nation; we count it our highest privilege and honour to have won many friends among that gallant and generous people; we are persuaded we shall not forfeit the friendships we so dearly prize by refusing to descend to false and fruitless flatteries. When the *Siccle* compares France to a luminary subject to occasional eclipses, we are moved to respectful pity by a comparison we feel to be in one sense just. But we must remind our contemporary that the eclipse of France is as universal as her light: if all Europe reflects the rays, all Europe is darkened by the eclipse.

SWITZERLAND "SOLD" AGAIN.

It is understood that Mr. DISRAELI has been priming himself for the Foreign Secretaryship, in the event of a DERBY Administration being formed. That contingency is possible; it is possible that the earth may melt in the heat of the comet of June. But we must be pardoned for treating Tory diplomacy as a matter rather of the past than of the future. We have a memento of it in the Neuchâtel protocol, signed by Lord MALMESBURY. It is true that the protocol contained no direct recognition of the Prussian claims; but, when Chevalier BUNSEN made his statement, it was indiscreet to record, simply, that such a statement had been made. Lord MALMESBURY, whose only title to the Foreign Secretaryship consisted in a very indifferent reputation made by one of his ancestors, committed a gross diplomatic blunder when he allowed the Prussian affidavit to be filed without a rejoinder. It was he that encouraged the demands against Switzerland; he was either ignorant or weak, or both, but he displayed a decided sympathy with the monarchical cause as opposed to that of the Swiss Federation, and his in-

stincts were, as usual, unnatural. The political change which took place in Neuchâtel in 1848 was a means of strengthening the Federal Government, eradicating the causes of an old quarrel, and fortifying the interests of the Liberal party in Europe. These considerations had no weight with Lord MALMESBURY. We hope that Mr. DISRAELI, should he ever become Foreign Minister—we say again, the comet may eat up the earth—will be on his guard against German snares. Otherwise he may as well return to his former levities, which were much more entertaining than the sententious affectation of statesmanship and decorum exhibited last session—and of quite as much importance to the House of Commons and the world at large.

Lord MALMESBURY having compromised us, Lord CLARENDON seems not to have adopted any very honest principle as the clue to extricate him from the Swiss and Prussian difficulty. It seems that there is to be a compromise; that is, the weaker party is to be 'sold'; the stronger party is to be complimented on its moderation. ARISTOTLE says, "Between unequal powers there are rarely equitable settlements;" now, between the King of PRUSSIA and the Swiss Republic there is a settlement promised which will sacrifice the rights of the one to the vanity of the other. It is easy to maintain that equity lies as often in a compromise as in an absolute decision; but the King of PRUSSIA has no real lien upon the principality of Neuchâtel. The Treaty of Vienna has long ceased to be the law of Europe; and he lost his treaty rights just as Holland lost Belgium, and Turkey Greece; and it was for the Congress, had diplomacy been just, to repeat the judgment pronounced in the cases of Greece and Belgium, and ratified the judgment of the revolution. Supposing, however, the SULTAN had been permitted still to enrol himself as Lord of Greece, and the Dutch king as Prince of Belgium, would that have satisfied Europe? Yet England seems to be content that FREDERICK WILLIAM should retain his title as Prince of Neuchâtel, though without power to interfere in local affairs. Switzerland is to be gagged by a half-concession; Prussia is to be conciliated by the nominal admission of her sovereign claims. That is, the point in dispute is to be decided in favour of Prussia. And this is the result of eight conferences, presided over by the Mephistopheles of French diplomacy. It only remains for Prussia to approve of the bargain, and for Switzerland to acquiesce in the juggle.

A GREAT ACT OF FAITH.

THE nineteenth century burns books: we should not like to trust it with men; otherwise heretics might fare worse than young wives, whose limbs are broiled in the Marquesas. We can easily imagine Father ARCHANGE piling the fagots of conformity, stripping the rebellious sons and daughters of the Church to clothe them in the *San Bonito*, painted with devils and flames, and watching them at the stake as the American daguerreotypist watched the convulsive attitudes of a poor wretch who clung for three days to a rock amid the thundering waters of Niagara. This ARCHANGE is the pastor of a French parish; for some days, inspired by Catholic fervour, he occupied himself in drawing up a list of guilty books and journals. VOLTAIRE and the *Débats*, GEORGE SAND and the *Siccle*, BALZAC, DUMAS, and EUGENE SUE. M. THIERS also fell under what SHIBRIDAN would have called the superhuman anathema, with M. de LAMARTINE. Having sacrificed his own bad property, the Father ordered all persons in the parish to give up any writings by the condemned authors

that might be in their possession. A mighty open chest was placed at the church-door to receive the tribute. In the evening the people came skulking to give up their books, shamefully and furtively, as mothers come to abandon their new-born infants at the turn-table of a founding hospital. On Holy Thursday, at nine o'clock in the evening, the auto-da-fé of 1857 took place in France. There was a pompous ceremony; the books were formed into a pile;—two copies of *Jocelyn*, one of *La Châte d'un Ange*, one of THIERS's *History of the French Revolution*, novels by BALZAC, DUMAS, and SUE, MÉRIMÉE's *Colomba*, two volumes of MICHELLET, and JULES SIMON's *Natural Religion*, with an enormous number of comedies, vaudevilles, and illustrated newspapers. Then, in the solemn evening light, the clergy approached in procession; two choristers preceded them, carrying crosses covered with black veils; other attendants bore torches; and in the sight of an immense crowd, ARCHANGE lighted the pile and offered up the incense of his idolatry. When we speak of the civilization and intelligence of the age, it will be necessary in future to state what postal district is alluded to. What is the civilization of a country in which torture is practised, or the intelligence of a country in which a literary auto-da-fé takes place? It will not do to say that King FERDINAND is a monster of despotism, and Father ARCHANGE a miracle of stupidity; there is many an ARCHANGE and many a FERDINAND doing the work of cruelty and fanaticism in Europe.

"THE WORD" IN THE STREETS.

EDWARD SUMNER and WILLIAM DENISON, gentlemen of middle life, persons of irreproachable character, habited in a black costume that generally commands respect, were placed before the magistrates in the Liverpool police-court on Monday last, charged with an offence not entirely new, but very strange in this Christian land. They had undertaken "to go and preach the Word of the Son of God" in the open air; and literally their attempt to do so constituted the offence for which they were first taken in custody by the police, then lodged in the Bridewell, and then placed before the magistrate for judgment. Of course, in the first instance, there is an impulse to suppose that the police had been over zealous in their vocation, but nothing is more clear than the fact that Inspector CHEW felt himself "compelled to execute a very disagreeable duty." He pleaded the orders of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. MANSFIELD; but here there appeared to be some mistake. In November last there had been street preaching at the same spot in Liverpool; the preaching collected persons of bad character; much ribaldry was current; a disturbance ensued; and Mr. MANSFIELD gave orders that if the peace were interrupted, or the public thoroughfare obstructed, the police should take those who occasioned the interruption into custody. The place is near a large lamp-post, opposite to the railway station. The missionaries, who are well known in the Liverpool mission, declared that they were "ordered, in a certain sense, to begin again, as the weather got fine." Accordingly they recommenced on Monday; a crowd was assembled; there was "an obstruction;" and, on considering that fact, Mr. MANSFIELD "could not say that the police were wrong." In reality, however, there appears to have been no difficulty in passing the spot; there was no rioting, except in consequence of the forcible removal of the missionaries; and it is difficult to understand what offence was committed.

Nevertheless, there was a reason for the

police interference, and it came out very clearly. Two or more hotels stand close to the station, and it is the hotel interest which objects to "the preaching of the Word." Mr. WALTER SLATTER, of the Railway Hotel, Lime-street, plainly stated his objection to the mission. "It is a great annoyance to our establishment," he said; "we have great complaints from gentlemen at our hotel. Before the prohibition in November, there was preaching there, morning, noon, and night." The missionaries continually did cry, and the hotel-keeper cannot tolerate the visitation. "Many persons," he added, "have told us they would not come to lodge with us again, if that annoyance remained." This is conclusive. Christianity is all very well; but "custom" is at stake. "The preaching of the Word" is "an annoyance," and whatever respect may be entertained for the Holy Scriptures, there is also a respect in this country for "property." It can be easily understood that this carrying of the Word to publicans and sinners may be "an annoyance" to the publican and sinner interest; but the remarkable circumstance is, that the publican and the sinner interest, in this case as well as in some others that we have noticed, appears to prevail.

We are not making out a case, we are simply repeating the facts as they are reported in the newspaper, and reported with great impartiality. There were the two missionaries who had been "ordered" by the breaking of the fine weather to renew their "preaching of the Word." In our simplicity, indeed, we should have supposed that the mission was one to be pursued in all weathers, rain or shine; but the missionaries, who had their special orders, of course, knew best. They went forth, and the police were ordered to take them up. The hotel-keepers contested the "right of way"—to heaven. On one side in the litigation there was the Railway Hotel and the St. George's Hotel; on the other the mission; each side had its right of way to put forward. Inspector CHEW naturally felt in a dilemma, and he brought the litigants before the Liverpool SOLOMON. The bench of magistrates comprised on that day, Mr. MANSFIELD, Mr. E. CROPPER, and Mr. JAMES STITT; and the triumvirate SOLOMON had to decide between the two claimants; and to which side did the blessing of judgment come? To the hotel interest. The hotel must be protected, the Word may go to the wall.

Not that MANSFIELD is positively *hostile* to the Christians. After a declaration of the law, a suggestion was vouchsafed by MANSFIELD, with the concurrence of CROPPER, that a part of the enclosure of St. George's Hall should be allowed to the missionaries for their mission; and Mr. MANSFIELD went so far as to say that "there is no objection to the preaching of the Gospel in the open street by daylight," which is a very great concession indeed. It seems, then, that the actual state of the case in Liverpool is, that the rights of the hotel interest are absolute, but that the preaching of the Gospel is tolerated. In this respect Liverpool is decidedly in advance of Constantinople.

We must not overlook how it was that these missions began. The presumption in this country is, that not only should divine service be open to every soul in the community above mere infancy, but that the Gospel ought to be imparted to every one who will simply listen. Now it is well known that the places devoted to divine worship will only hold a very small fraction of the population; if they were inclined to go to church, they cannot get in; but a large number, although uninstructed in this subject, are not at all inclined to go to a place of

worship. It is generally considered that zealous Christians should pursue these unconverted, these heathen; there are texts, which we will not now desecrate by familiar quotation, but which positively instruct Christian ministers "to preach the Word" in highways and byways, wherever the heathen can be caught. Mr. SUMNER and Mr. DENISON did nothing more than literally obey this injunction of the highest Christian authority. Perhaps, having no dramatic entertainment to offer, they might not "draw" the heathen, even into the enclosure of St. George's Hall; so they go to them at the cross-road by the lamp-post, and collect three or four hundred persons to listen. It is objected that the persons thus assembled are sometimes drunkards, ribalds, and people of bad character—"publicans and sinners;" the very victims whom it is the object to catch and to redeem. The highest Christian authority specially points to that kind of mission; the very highest Christian example, which we need not name, led the way in that particular kind of mission. But, it seems, the law of Christianity is not the law of Liverpool or of England. It is not the part of our journal to begin an agitation for the purpose of placing the law of England in accordance with the Holy Scriptures; we might leave that to our contemporaries, who profess to have a special "religious" call. We confine ourselves to pointing out the fact, that the law of Christianity and the law of England are quite in antagonism to each other; and that the magistrates appointed by the State give absolute preponderance to the temporal law.

IDOLS OF THE HORSE GUARDS.

WHEN the Commander-in-Chief issued his general order, it was supposed that a real commencement was made in establishing, if not a system of education, at least a standard of education for officers in the Army; but there is some reason to fear that the zeal of the Duke of CAMBRIDGE has been suffered to vent itself in the issue of this general order, with a resolve that it shall not be permitted to go any further. In other words, the royal Prince is allowed to play with general orders, but the Army is under some other management.

This idea is not unsupported by collateral evidence. Dr. VAUGHAN has just published a "Letter to an Officer on Military Education," the purport of the letter by the excellent schoolmaster being, that officers should be educated as English gentlemen, and that English gentlemen should not be taken too soon from school in order to commence a purely professional education. Dr. VAUGHAN desires that the examination for admission into the Army should test the attainments of a youth in classics, mathematics, modern languages, and history, possibly with the addition of drawing and fortification. There is no great harm in this letter. Classics are a decided advantage to an officer, though as decidedly they are not essential.

It is the *use* which has been made of this letter that indicates the spirit prevailing in the Horse Guards. It has been at once seized as a statement of "excellent good sense." An officer, it is said, must be "an English gentleman," not a "professional man," like a common French officer, whom the Duke of WELLINGTON noticed talking to private soldiers, and in other ways behaving in a military, but not a gentlemanly manner! The Horse Guards authorities, the pipeclay clerks of the establishment, are dead against the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, and he will be "taken care of."

One test applied to the recent general order would enable us to measure its *bona*

fides. If it is really to be carried out, the examination will be *competitive*; Dr. VAUGHAN himself points out the mode in which this principle might be applied to Army examination. Let the nominations for examination be in the proportion of about three candidates to every two of the vacancies, and let marks for merit confer the appointment; *this* would be the way to constitute the Duke's general order a step in that "right direction" which was pointed out by the report of the late Military Commission.

THE RUSSIAN RAILWAY.—Messrs. Baring, Brothers, and Co. have issued their Russian Railway prospectus, and their name is the only English one comprised in the board of direction. The sum they ask from London capitalists out of the 12,000,000*l.* first to be raised is 2,000,000*l.*, instead of between 3,000,000*l.* and 4,000,000*l.*, as originally contemplated. The sum in Paris having likewise been reduced, it is to be presumed an estimate more accurate than that originally entertained has been formed of its probable reception. The statements now put forth fail to modify any of the features already commented upon. The guarantee, after allowing for sinking fund, is to be only 4 11-12ths per cent., the working expenses, in the face of universal experience, are put as low as 45 per cent., and the difficulty as to crossing the marshes by which the country abounds is simply disposed of by the statement that they "will be avoided by a proper selection of the route." The number of miles to be constructed are 2585, at a cost of 16,511*l.* per mile, or about 43,000,000*l.*, and the whole must be made within ten years. It is not stated in what quarter the extra proportion first intended for London and Paris is now to be allotted. The Prussian public, who are best qualified to form an opinion of the prospects of the enterprise, both commercial and political, are understood to be disposed to limit themselves to the modest amount of 200,000*l.*, or less, although the proposed extension of the Warsaw line to their own frontier and the intimate business connections of their bankers and others with St. Petersburg might be supposed to operate in its favour.—*Times City Article* (Monday).

THE RAGGED SCHOOL SHOEBLACK BRIGADE.—Mr. D. W. Harvey, the City Commissioner of Police, Mr. J. Macgregor, and Mr. M. Ware, two members of the Committee of the Ragged School Shoeblick Society, attended on Monday at the Justice-room of the Mansion House, to explain the impracticability of allowing any boy to set up a shoeblicking station who wishes to do so. The "brigade" is under the control of the police and of the Ragged School Society, and they receive proper moral and religious training, and organised with a view to good conduct and to future emigration. If any number of boys—boys under no species of control—were allowed to start on their own account, the nuisance to the public, argued Mr. Harvey and the other gentlemen, would be intolerable, and bad characters would soon be found among them. The Lord Mayor concurred in these views, and suggested the formation of a crossing-sweepers' brigade, under the auspices of the society. Mr. Ware said that, by the end of the week, such a plan would be tried in Southwark, with about twenty boys.

REAPING MACHINES.—Baron Ward has given notice to the Imperial Agricultural Society of Vienna that he challenges all reaping machines, constructed in Europe or America, to compete with his (an improvement on Hussey's) patented in Vienna on the 10th of December, 1856, for the sum of 1000 florins, to cut five Austrian jochs (nearly seven English acres) next harvest, on any ground in the Austrian dominions which the acceptor may please to choose.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG WOMEN.—This society has been established nearly twenty years, and its objects are to suppress improper houses, and to save girls under fifteen years of age from threatened ruin. The friends of the society held their anniversary dinner on Monday, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. It was presided over by Mr. Sheriff Mechi, and was attended by a large number of the supporters of the institution. Mr. Talbot, the honorary secretary, read the report of the proceedings of the society, by which it appeared that fifty-nine girls under fifteen years of age were at the present time fed, clothed, and educated, and fitted for respectable servitude, in the Asylum at Tottenham; but he lamented to say that numerous applications were continually being made, which, for want of funds, the society were obliged to reject. At a subsequent period of the evening, the secretary announced the subscriptions to amount to upwards of 1100*l.*

THE LATE ELECTIONS.—Mr. Frederick Peel, the rejected candidate at Bury, will, it is thought (says the *Bristol Advertiser*), find a seat in the Lansdowne borough of Calne, where Sir William Williams of Kars will make way for him.—We (*Cambridge Independent*) understand that it has been decided to proceed to a scrutiny of the votes given at the late election for Huntingdonshire, before a committee of the House of Commons.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE anniversary of SHAKESPEARE'S birthday having this week been celebrated in his native town, it cannot be out of place, in connexion with that event, to notice a curious document introduced by Mr. HEPWORTH DIXON to the readers of the *Athenæum* last week under the title of "Something New About SHAKESPEARE'S Birth-Place." This document is not only very interesting as a narrative, from its minute and graphic detail, but historically important in connexion with the meagre accounts we possess of SHAKESPEARE'S early life. The writer is Sir WILLIAM LUCY, of Charlote, father of the Sir THOMAS whose deer the poet is reputed to have stolen, and whose subsequent wrath he depicted, as the story goes, in a ballad affixed to the park gates. The paper contains an account of the trial before three Commissioners (the writer himself being one) of a Stratford artisan, one RICHARD COTTON, on a charge of brawling in the church of a neighbouring village while the puritanical curate, Sir EDWARD LARGE, was preaching; and of an indictment for heresy and sedition subsequently preferred by the good people of Stratford against this obnoxious preacher. Sir WILLIAM'S description of these proceedings, though prolix, is by no means tedious, his quaint and picturesque touches giving us a vivid picture of what took place in the village of Hampton on that Easter Monday holiday, just three hundred and twenty years ago.

In order to understand this fully, it should be remembered that in the year 1537 the country was religiously in a most unsettled state; though the King had broken with Rome, the nation had not yet renounced the Catholic Church. Still every day its authority grew weaker, the minds of men became more unsettled, conflicts between the old and the new sprang up, and, as a natural result, considerable freedom both of opinion and practice prevailed. This is sufficiently illustrated in the proceedings at Hampton, described in the paper before us. The curate, Sir EDWARD LARGE, performs mass as a Catholic priest one day, and arouses the indignation of the people as a Puritan preacher the next. That he really favoured the heretics was, however, no secret, "being noted," says Sir WILLIAM, "one of the new learning, as they commonly call all them that preach that pure, true, and sincere word of God, and also all them that favour them that preach the same." Sir WILLIAM himself sympathized with the curate, and regularly attended his preaching; for while telling us that he was absent through illness from the particular sermon in question, he adds, "Else he never preached, I being at home, but I heard him." The people of Stratford, on the other hand, hearty, straightforward, and with a thoroughly English dislike of all innovations, set their faces against the new learning; and having little sympathy with the knight, and none at all with the curate, indirectly opposed the one, and openly denounced the other. Such was the state of affairs on the Easter Monday of the narrative. This holiday was generally kept up with a good deal of festivity at Hampton, Church-ale being distributed on the occasion; but this year a larger number of visitors than usual flocked from the neighbouring town, one of the Hampton churchwardens, who had a sister married to a "man of good substance" at Stratford, having urged him to come over and bring as many of his friends as he could.* Sir EDWARD LARGE, being naturally anxious to "improve" such an important occasion, determined to give a full exposition of his views to the unfriendly burgesses of Stratford, and put off his sermon till the afternoon in order that all who came over might have the opportunity of hearing it. It was an impressive gathering—the High Bailiff of Stratford and his brother attended; so did the family from Charlote Park. "There was also," says Sir WILLIAM, with grave unconsciousness, "my wife, two of my brethren, with divers other of my servants." The preacher fully realized the importance of his position, as is evident from his solemn address to the audience at the outset, "desiring them patiently to hear him to the end; and if they thought he spoke anything he could not justify, if they would come to him when the sermon was done they should have his own handwriting, or if any there could write, he said that he had laid there for them pen and ink and paper ready. Only he desired them that they would not report his words otherwise than he did speak them." Just fancy that! In the pedantry of his zeal for accurate representation, the good man had actually arranged a reporter's table in the church. Or were his preparations restricted to cross-legged stools, with ink-bottles and scrolls, the people being expected to write upon their knees like the mediæval scribes in the first act of *Richard II.* at the Princess's?

The sermon was a long one, "two hours at least," Sir WILLIAM tells us. This would be rather trying at any time, even to those who like sermons; much more so to those who care little for them, or have only the interest of opposition to sustain their attention; most trying of all to holiday people, anxious for fresh air and out-door enjoyment; and it proved too much for at least one of the Stratford visitors—the RICHARD COTTON aforesaid. He interrupted the preacher; in what way we are not told; perhaps simply to suggest towards the close of the second hour that they had heard enough. It seems more probable, however, that he audibly objected to some of the doctrines advanced. However this may be, such a public affront to their favourite preacher

* Mr. Dixon, in his introductory notice of the paper, gives another reason for the large gathering on this day—that a marriage was to be celebrated between a man of Stratford and a maid of Hampton, but we discover no authority in the document itself for the statement.

in the presence of the Park family was not to be lightly passed over. The culprit was sent to prison, and thence brought for examination before Sir WILLIAM LUCY, who harangues him on the heinousness of his offence. "I showed him," says Sir WILLIAM, "that he was much to blame to use any such words to the priest, being in the pulpit, for if he had said never so ill or lewdly, it did not become him to speak unto him in the pulpit, he seeing there then also a great sort both of more reputation and wisdom, and that knew better what they had to do than he, which yet let him alone and said nothing unto him, and that he did then as much as lay in him to set the people together by the ears. And then he confessed he had done very ill, and that he was very sorry for it, and would beware of ordering himself so again as long as he lived, and then desired us, for the love of God, to be so good unto him as yet to write unto the gaoler that he might be in a chamber and there to work for his living, or else he were undone, for he had a wife, and nothing to find him and her withal but his occupation and daily working."

COTTON was sent back to prison again, where it seems likely he might have been long detained as a warning and example, had not a country squire of the neighbourhood, Master WILLIAM CLAPTON, come to the rescue. Master CLAPTON evidently shared in the popular feeling against the "new learning," its representatives and abettors; and coming forward as the champion of the Stratford people, devoted himself with hearty good-will to the liberation of their imprisoned fellow-townsmen. He went to the Commissioners, talked the matter over with them, urged that the case should be represented in the proper quarter, and the man set at liberty. Provoked, however, by their dilatory movements, he soon took the matter into his own hands, sent messengers to London, made a full statement of the case to the authorities there, and, as the result of his efforts, in a few days COTTON left his solitary cell in Warwick Castle, and returned to his wife and family at Stratford. Sir WILLIAM LUCY, however, by having so evidently favoured the schismatic preacher, incurred the displeasure of his superiors; so much so, that his conduct was strongly censured in open court by Mr. Justice FITZHERBERT, one of the judges of Assize. In this document, which Sir WILLIAM writes to exculpate himself from the charge of partiality, he evinces throughout an anxious desire, by detailing minutely all the circumstances of the case, to remove the unfavourable impression which he is evidently painfully conscious his conduct had produced.

The historical and biographical value of the document is to be found in the light it throws on the feeling that existed between the family at Charlote Park and the inhabitants of Stratford. Evidently this feeling was anything but a cordial one. Sir WILLIAM LUCY was by no means popular. Clearly he was not a man to inspire popular confidence, or even popular regard. At Stratford he was feared by the few who depended on him, and disliked by the majority. They disliked his ecclesiastical leanings, his formal, reserved disposition, his puritanical ways; and though he laboured to stand well with all classes in the town, it seems clear that he was never able to command the hearty support of any. Now, the evidence of such a state of feeling is surely very important in connexion with the deer-stealing tradition. It should be remembered, that though often attacked, that story has never been disproved, and is therefore, as we may now see, very likely to be true. What more natural, for example, than that the son of a popular Stratford burgess, knowing the feeling generally entertained towards the Lucys, and at a time when there was nothing criminal in such an adventure, should look upon a moonlight raid on the deer, or any other game in the park, as capital fun, and thoroughly enjoy the commotion that followed? The daring trespass would not be likely to excite any strong indignation amongst the good people of Stratford, and the verses in which he is said to have commemorated the event and satirised Sir THOMAS, as the expression of a strong traditional feeling, would be popular enough to gratify the most passionate youthful thirst for local fame.

Passing from the matter to the style of this old document, its archaisms of language are worth noticing as thoroughly characteristic of the era; such, for example, as the prefix "Sir" to a priest's name, as in SHAKESPEARE'S Sir HUGH the Welsh preacher, and Sir TOPAS the curate; the use of the double negative so common in SHAKESPEARE, "I will never belie no man falsely;" of "noise" for rumour; of "sort" in the sense of number or company—a use also familiar to SHAKESPEARE'S, as in the passage nightly given at the Princess's:—

Mine eyes are full of tears, I cannot see;
And yet salt water blinds them not so much
But they can see a sort of traitors here.

This use of the word occurs in the passage already quoted—"a great sort, of more reputation and wisdom, and that knew better what to do than he." The use of the word "incontinent" in the sense of suddenly, without deliberation or delay, may also be noted, a writer in the *Athenæum*, a fortnight ago, having complained that this abuse of the word, as he styles it, was unknown to the language till within the last ten years. In this case, however, as in many others, what is stigmatised and denounced as new is really very old. It is common in SHAKESPEARE, as in the closing lines of *Richard II.*, where it rhymes to lament:—

Come, mourn with me for what I do lament,
And put on sullen black incontinent."

It occurs twice in this letter, which is older than SHAKESPEARE—"And then incontinent he sent for him again;" "He said if the letter was ready he would send one of his servants with it incontinent." But, in fact, this use of the

word is as old as the language itself, being found in the translation of HIGDEN's chronicle by TREVISA—a contemporary of CHAUCER—who, however, writes before the Canterbury Tales were begun. As this is the earliest prose chronicle in the language, and the passage refers to RICHARD II., whose name is just now on every one's lips, we will extract a sentence or two. After describing BOLINGBROKE's landing at Ravensburg, TREVISA says, in explanation of the welcome he received, "For the people were so oppressed with the officers of King RICHARD, that almost all the commoners of the land were ready to await on the Earl of DERBY, hoping to be relieved by him. *Incontinent* tidings came to King RICHARD, being in Ireland, how he was landed, and that the commoners drew fast to him. Anon he made him ready and came over sea to England, with all his host, and arrived in Milford Haven."

Sir WILLIAM's letter is further curious from its allusions to the customs and superstitions of the country people; but having said so much about it already, we must leave its further consideration to the students of SHAKESPEARE, who will be sure to appreciate it as a valuable contribution to the materials already collected for illustrating the poet's era and history.

Of the twelve articles in the current number of the *North American Review*, the most noticeable are those on "Ruskin's last Volume," and "Oliver's Puritan Commonwealth." The writer of the former manages to infuse fresh interest into the well-worn discussion touching Classical and Romantic Art, by extending it beyond the narrow limits to which it is usually restricted, and connecting it with a philosophical inquiry as to the general relation of Art to Nature. The discussion of the latter point, however, is vague and unsatisfactory, the conclusions arrived at being purely negative. The paper on "Oliver's Puritan Commonwealth" reviews a work which must be a novelty in American literature—an elaborate history of the early Government of Massachusetts, written entirely from the Cavalier and Royalist point of view, in which the heaviest charges are brought against the Puritan founders of the state. The author naturally seizes on and exaggerates those questionable acts of the old Commonwealth men which policy seemed to dictate and justify, but the work being based on a thorough examination of original documents, is valuable as a contribution to the history of the period, and may have its use in helping to keep the balance of historic judgment true. Other readable articles of the number are one on "Holidays," a genial account of national sports, written in a philosophic spirit; a lively sketch and criticism of "Robert Herrick," doing justice to the mirth-loving author of the *Hesperides*; a paper on "Contemporary French Literature;" and one on "The British Essayists," which, however, is scarcely worthy of the subject.

The *Irish Quarterly Review* opens with a paste-and-scissors article, entitled "Odd Phases of Literature," chiefly remarkable for the entire absence of literary art, and for eccentricity of literary style, of which the following sentence may serve as an example: "M. HABERT, of the Academy, author of the *Temple de la Mort*, which is one of the most beautiful pieces of French poetry, changed and rechanged, during three years, the metre of this work, in order that it might attain the beauty, polish, and elegance, which he *ambitioned*." Two following papers, on "Suicide: its Motives and Mysteries," and "The Irish Poor-Law," are much better. The facts given in the latter seem to show that the legal provision for Irish pauperism has not proved so entirely successful as Sir G. NICHOLLS, its historian, imagines. The other articles of the number are a gossiping one on "The French Opera at Paris;" a long and savage attack on MACAULAY as an historian, entitled "How not to Do It;" and a criticism of the "Church Establishment in Ireland," headed "The English Folly Fort."

We have too long delayed to offer a hand of hearty welcome to a young and vigorous contemporary in Paris, in whose success we have felt a lively and attentive interest. The most hopeful and enduring alliances between nations are those of the head and heart, and we rejoice at every fresh attempt to throw down the barriers erected between nations, and to promote the intellectual and spiritual development of our common humanity. When a FRANÇOIS VICTOR HUGO interprets SHAKESPEARE to his countrymen in a loving and reverential spirit, we feel that something more has been effected towards a cordial and lasting amity between France and England than all the full-dress amenities of diplomatists and even the doubtful osculations of royal and imperial cousins are likely to accomplish. Emperors vanish, and even Garters slip down; but the language and literature of two great nations outlive many Garters and many crowns. The Great Exhibition of '51 did much to draw England and France closer to each other; the war gave an outward and visible expression to the feeling, and the deep reaction among the intellectual classes of France in favour of free England since the gross darkness prevailing in France, has perhaps above all quickened and developed the mutual regard. May it be everlasting! A happy idea it was of M. ALPHONSE LEROY, one of those young men of high character and culture, in whose ardent but chastened aspirations resides all the hope of the France that is to come—a happy thought, we say, it was to create an organ of close and constant communion between the literatures of the two nations, giving to the French reader a glance at the intellectual life of England in all its manifold activity, and to the English reader a brief summary of the literary movement in France. This scheme is well and simply expressed by the title of his interesting publication, *L'Alliance Littéraire*. It is devoted exclusively to

literature and art; giving selections from French and English writers; translations from either, with occasional notices of new French books, Art and Drama criticisms, a compact and lively column of Talk, and a good advertising sheet of English books. We have no doubt that as M. A. LEROY proceeds, he will work out his programme more fully and completely; a very choice selection is necessary to avoid the defect of meagreness; and, by all means, let us have more from his own pen; his article on Madame RISTORI, in a recent number, makes us angry with him for his too frequent silence in the *Alliance Littéraire*. We wish him and his very laudable undertaking an increasing and enduring success. It is an example that deserves to be recorded.

It may be observed that any new phenomenon in London periodical literature is pretty sure to be followed at a not particularly respectful distance (in point of time) by a similar phenomenon in Edinburgh. The *Leader*, we believe, has had its Caledonian imitators, but whether they have been (too much) 'Scotched—not killed,' we know not. The other day an admirable volume of *Edinburgh Essays* appeared as a pendant to the *Oxford and Cambridge Essays*; and just now we have received a copy of a new *Edinburgh Weekly Review*, based apparently upon our Peelite weekly contemporary published in London. The type and the distribution of the articles, the careful abstinence from the vulgarity of news, and from the prejudice of uniform opinions, appear to be closely followed; perhaps the politics of the *Edinburgh Weekly Review* are more clearly liberal and less politely eclectic than those of our nearer neighbour. If we might, at this early stage of its existence, be permitted to offer a word of counsel to our Edinburgh contemporary, it would be—to spare its readers too many opinions in the same number; not to affect a premature cynicism in politics; not to exhaust ingenuity in the plausibilities of obstructiveness, under the delusion that *How not to do it* is an essentially statesmanlike proposition; not to affect a superciliously lofty tone in speaking of journalism collectively, and indeed, of all other journalists but those of the *Review*; not to betray an exclusively Common or Combination Room point of view of public affairs; not to carp with feeble virulence at the greatest names in our literature; not to engage in Quixotic expeditions to put down inconveniently stubborn superiorities;—in short, to follow the obvious example of its London prototype, and to be direct, hearty in sympathy, and generous in tone. One more word of caution: a month's reading for a week's consumption is too much of a good thing, and suggests intellectual dyspepsia. *Ne quid nimis*, even of Peelite politics and scholarly eclecticism.

THE LIFE OF SIR CHARLES JAMES NAPIER.

The Life and Opinions of General Sir Charles Napier, G.C.B. By Lieutenant-General Sir William Napier, K.C.B. Vols. III. and IV. Murray.

THIS is a defensive and offensive history, but is not the book that posterity will accept as the biography of the Indian general and administrator—the only great man in the Napier family. Besides being written in the style of the conquering hero, it is exaggerated in all its views; it is unfair, indiscreet, and reckless. Sir William Napier may rest assured that the Napiers, small and large, will have to prove their titles to military and literary fame in a court in which the Napiers will not sit as judges. In other words, independent narrators and critics will deal with them and their prowess, and some wrong will be done to the hero of Mecanee if he do not find a more judicious biographer than his stentorian kinsman. He was himself petulant, fiery, and impetuous; but a noble simplicity was mixed up with his arrogance; his headlong irritability was tempered by a sense of humour; his "life and opinions," however, have fallen into the hands of a soldier who imitates in every paragraph the din of battle and the pomp of processional triumph. At the same time, he is by no means careful to conceal the bitterness that spring up in the Indian Napier's heart, and sprinkles his pages with scatterings of abuse, acrimony, and personal rancour. The book gains in piquancy what it loses in dignity. In fact, we have never met with four volumes of more goodly reading; they are full-flavoured, varied, intensely characteristic. Of course the indiscretions of the biographer only render the biography the more original and attractive. But some of Napier's writings are painfully virulent.

The third volume opens with the administration of Sindh. All this Indian matter has its peculiar interest; but we prefer to glean among the personal illustrations and allusions. These come thick and fast:—

"The thanks of Parliament! Who cares for them? Not I. To be thanked or reprimanded by Parliament is nothing to me. The thanks of Jos Hume, par exemple after his Greek loan. I want no thanks from the place-hunters who infest St Stephen's. I care indeed for Peel, and the Duke of Wellington, and Roebuck, and half a dozen fellows having either ability or conscience, but not for the mass congregated there."

The papers, he said, "would abuse the God Almighty, if he came on earth." He himself is formidable in abuse, but his satire is sometimes picturesque; this is a miniature of Wullee, a hill chief:—

"He is exactly like an owl, with white hair, long hooked nose, great beard, and two enormous black eyes which were fixed on me without a move or wink till I had done speaking: then he said to the interpreter, Is it true? May I go? Yes! Up he jumped, flew out of the room like a bird, and never stopped till he got to his hills."

He talks of vile editors and blackguard proprietors, calls an article in the *Edinburgh* a lying production, written by a man who well knew he was telling falsehoods, complains of scoundrelly factious editors, and pauses to philosophize:—

"Whence we come we know not; what we do we know not; what is around us we know not. Merciful God! what are we?"

"But we have a part to perform in this drama! yes! so has the bug that bites us

Which has the most important part of the two? We both act by the direction of our nature, and who shall presume to decide? the bug may produce a sleepless night for the body, and to the ingenious mind thus kept wakeful some great invention may occur. Who is the originator? The bug which sucks blood, or the man who unwillingly lies awake under the operation of bug grazing. Yet the invention may overturn the order of things, perhaps enable us to reach the moon! Oh! vain and miserable man! Take a beautiful horse and place it alongside of a fat red-nosed bumboat woman of Portsmouth: woman is divine! but if this be our divinity what is her adorer, man? Is not the beautiful horse at her side more divine? more beautiful, more clean, more gentle, more innocent? Look at the elegantly formed grout that stings her: is he not more divine with his light glistening wings? But he bites! Yes! And ask a bullock what she does. Now put her beside a luxurious bishop. Where is the difference? He is full of wine, as she is of gin: is the vine a finer plant than the juniper? She dresses her own beefsteak, obtained by her labour: his is dressed by a skilful cook, and paid for by others' labour! Oh! vain, miserable man! we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us!"

This is not exactly in the mood of Seneca. The vein of abuse now becomes more conspicuous. The East India Directors are "Leadern head people," Lord Ripon's letters are "silly." Sometimes he wrote, "My own dear brother, Satan himself;" then, "I am a child in the hands of God;" but he prefers castigating others even to praising himself. These are examples of the allusions Sir William Napier has thought fit to preserve: "That soft, little, silky man, Lieut.-Colonel Melville"—"Blatant Buist"—"I mean apology to the jackals for comparing them to the *certain civil servants*"—

"With a few exceptions the editors are men whose villainy has driven them from good society. One was driven from the church for some tricks with a child; another was broke for stealing a pearl, and for cowardice."

He refers, of course, to the Indian press:—

"How can I enter into a controversy on my own character with such miserable wretches as Buist of the Bombay Times, or Cope of the Delhi Gazette?—since arrested for thieving."

Having cast a similar slur upon Mr. Fonblanque, he adds:—

"The English journalists generally have the decency to state facts, and reason on them according to the bent of their politics; but these Indian ruffians, for they are neither more nor less, invent the most atrocious falsehoods."

Lord Ripon is, again, "a pack-ass," "an imbecile;" Sir James Graham "weak and silly;" General Outram "deserves to be shot;" but we have quoted more than enough to prove the rashness and bad taste of the biographer. We have only a little space for samples of the sparkling varieties that confer an incessant fascination upon these volumes. Here is a reminiscence of Meenee:—

"I always felt confident of victory somehow, even when on the edge of the bank I first saw the multitudes below me, and the mass of shields! Jupiter Ammon! what a weight of flesh and bones to have pressed boldly upon us! I trusted to our fire, we could not miss; yet some nervous fellows fired in the air and burnt my face, though on horseback. I saw numbers do this, it enraged me."

Again:—

"The greatest scene of destruction I ever saw before was the lane going up to Hougoumont; but I assure you it was nothing to the bed of the Fullillee: it was horrible. When they found they could not force our line their courage fell, and their rushes over the edge of the bank became less frequent, while our men pushed more boldly to the edge; then the Beloochees cut at their legs, but the soldiers growing more cool and expert as the battle went on, stepped back to reload, and putting the muzzles of their muskets just over the edge, let fly into the mass. Covered by their shields the Beloochees fell over each other, and wounded men remained beneath the dead, glad of the protection. Those who attempted to run were shot down as they ascended the opposite bank; so that from that part not one man, in my belief, escaped. The soldiers bayoneted all that had life on the top of the heaps as we passed in pursuit, and all below were smothered."

Napier could vilify, but he could compliment also. This, to the Duke of Wellington, is not bad for a soldier:—

"As your Grace never had a master in war, how can I convey to your mind the feelings of a disciple?"

The Ameers of Sindh have appealed to English ladies in behalf of their "violated hareems":—

"Mark the love of the Ameers, the 'Patriarchs' for their women, from the description of a whip found in Nusseer's zenana avowedly to flog the women of those fallen princes. The whip-handle is one foot and half an inch long, covered with brass wire for two inches at each end, and silvered wire in the middle. At each end is an ivory knob, and there are two lashes, each one foot five inches and three-quarters, exclusive of tassels, at the end of each lash. The lashes are made of plaited wire five-eighths of an inch in circumference, and capable of inflicting a terrible flagellation."

We must now quote at random:—

"Marriage is a dead drag upon military ambition. I have done pretty well, but not half of what I could have done as a bachelor."

"Lord Brougham is a queer fellow. He was talking something about burials at Miss Coutts's, of being buried alive, and finished by saying, 'However, I don't know, I never was buried. You ought to have been, said I, for your lordship was dead once, you know. He looked hard at me, and then said in a low voice, 'Yes! yes! I was dead. He did not seem to like the joke, and the less so as the old beau opened his mouth and gave a deep guttural laugh, while the others broke out aloud."

"Pray give my best respects to that blaze of beauty Lady John Thynne, and tell her she did me great honour to dream of me. I fear as I stopped her on the Queen's highway she took me at first for a highwayman, and her dream might not have been so complimentary. I had been riding Red Rover again, after a year and a half; the last time as a king at the head of an army, now as a wretch paying turnpikes; and taken for a footpad by that beautiful woman!"

"You will be amused, as Montagu and I were, at the account we heard from an ear-witness of Lord Brougham's bringing Hogg to the bar of the House of Lords, for some transaction about sugar, as we understood. When Hogg appeared; Brougham called aloud; 'See Hogg!' And then suddenly said, 'Mr. Hogg, oh! I beg your pardon: I addressed you in your chrysalis state. I forgot you are now a baronet butter-fly.' Sir Peter Hogg. And during his speech, every time he named him it was Sir Peter; or something else, but never Sir James Hogg."

"Receiving a sudden command from royalty to dine at Osborne, with only a few hours' notice, he was going down in a drab waistcoat, not of the newest, but was stopped by a remonstrance on the necessity of court dress. He had no other waistcoat, but suddenly recollecting that his valet, a foreigner, was a dandy, he exclaimed, 'Oh! I dare say Nicholas has a fine waistcoat: I'll borrow it—and so he did.'"

It was proposed to send him out as Commander-in-Chief without a seat in the Supreme Council:—

"Lord John Russell, in concert with them, wanted to do me out of that honour: this was made clear at an interview with his lordship. He was shy and not explicit, I was explicit and not shy, and spoke with such vehemence as to settle the matter at once—for jumping to my feet, and extending my clenched hand, I said, 'Look here, Lord John! If they can't find a precedent for my going out with a seat, I will, by God, find one for a commander-in-chief not going out when offered the situation.' Oh, said he, they will, I am sure, find one. My lord, I do not care whether they do or not, but to India I will not go without a seat in council. They found their precedent."

"Lady Campbell, daughter of Lord Edward Fitzgerald—has been here, and as agreeable as ever. When the devil tempted Dunstan in the form of a beautiful woman, he no more took hold of her nose with hot tongs than I would! Depend upon it, he had a daughter by the she-devil, and Pamela is certainly a descendant of hers; for nothing else could be so agreeable, so pretty, so wonderful as she is! Wise as a serpent also. Well, whether of devil's blood or saint's blood, she is delightful, and so are her children."

We can conceive no class of readers, military, political, civil, or general, to whom this book will not be deeply interesting.

THE WALPOLE LETTERS.

The Letters of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford. Edited by Peter Cunningham. Now First Chronologically Arranged. Vol. II. Bentley.

The second volume of this admirable edition contains the correspondence of ten years—from 1746-56, the period of the Jacobite rebellion, the trials and execution of the rebel lords, the Netherlands campaign, the purchase and decoration of Strawberry Hill, the Lisbon earthquake, and the glory, for one night only, of single-speech Hamilton. Such pleasant reading is nowhere else to be found;—less cannot fairly be said of the Walpole Letters, rendered doubly interesting now, and doubly valuable as materials of history by the careful chronological ordering and generally sensible annotations of Mr. Peter Cunningham. We had a few words to say against the Editor's plan as exemplified in the first volume; in the second we might mark some superfluous notes; but upon the whole the commentary is a pleasant and careful elucidation of the text.

It would be an impertinence to criticise the Walpole Letters. They are classics of concealed elegance, of charming levity, of reckless anecdote, of fascinating slander, of epigram and allusion. New generations of readers, however, are continually growing up, for whom there may be novelty, even in the correspondence of Horace Walpole. To remind such readers of the treasure arranged for them by Mr. Cunningham, we merely glean from the golden field a sheaf of Walpoliana. There is sublime impertinence in this, to Sir Horace Mann:—

Don't think, my dear child, that I hurry over my letters, or neglect writing to you; I assure you I never do, when I have the least grain to lap up in a letter: but consider how many chapters of correspondence are extinct: Pope and poetry are dead! Patriotism has kissed hands on accepting a place: the Ladies O[rford] and T[ownshend] have exhausted scandal both in their persons and conversations: divinity and controversy are grown good Christians, say their prayers and spare their neighbours; and I think even self-murder is out of fashion. Now judge whether a correspondent can furnish matter for the common intercourse of the post!

Here is a cabinet landscape sketch of Twickenham:—

It is set in enamelled meadows, with filigree hedges:—

"A small Euphrates through the piece is roll'd,
And little finches wave their wings in gold."

Two delightful roads, that you would call dusty, supply me continually with coaches and chaises: barges as solemn as Barons of the Exchequer move under my window; Richmond Hill and Ham walks bound by prospect; but, thank God! the Thames is between me and the Duchess of Queensberry. Dowagers as plenty as flounders inhabit all around, and Pope's ghost is just now skimming under my window by a most poetical moonlight. I have about land enough to keep such a farm as Noah's, when he set up in the ark with a pair of each kind; but my cottage is rather cleaner than I believe his was after they had been cooped up together forty days.

Lord John Russell was once accused of cant by a renegade liberal. He replied that to cant was absurd, but that to recant was infamous. Walpole says:—

Here is a *bon mot* of my Lady Townshend: we were talking of the Methodists; somebody said, "Pray, Madam, is it true that Whitfield has recanted?" "No, Sir, he has only canted."

A propos of Methodism, to Sir Horace Mann:—

If you ever think of returning to England, as I hope it will be long first, you must prepare yourself with Methodism. I really believe that by that time it will be necessary: this sect increases as fast as almost ever any religious nonsense did. Lady Fanny Shirley has chosen this way of bestowing the dregs of her beauty; and Mr. Lyttelton is very near making the same sacrifice of the dregs of all those various characters that he has worn. The Methodists love your big sinners, as proper subjects to work upon—and, indeed, they have a plentiful harvest—I think what you call flagrance was never more in fashion. Drinking is at the highest wine-mark; and gaming joined with it so violent, that at the last Newmarket meeting, in the rapidity of both, a bank-bill was thrown down, and nobody immediately claiming it, they agreed to give it to a man that was standing by.

And, to the same correspondent, with respect to feudal dignity:—

Mr. Chute, who went from hence this morning, and is always thinking of blazoning your pedigree in the noblest colours, has turned over all my library, till he has tapped a new and very great family for you: in short, by your mother it is very clear that you are descended from Hubert de Burgh, Grand Justiciary to Richard the Second: indeed I think he was hanged; but that is a misfortune that will attend very illustrious genealogies; it is as common to them as to the pedigrees about Paddington and Blackheath. I have had at least a dozen great-great-grandfathers that came to untimely ends. All your virtuosos in heraldry are content to know that they had ancestors who lived five hundred years ago, no matter how they died. A match with a low woman corrupts a stream of blood as long as the Danube,—tyranny, villany, and executions are mere flea-bites, and leave no stain. The good Lord of Bath, whom I saw on Richmond-green this evening, did intend, I believe, to ennoble my genealogy with another execution.

The Duke of Newcastle, in 1749, was elected Chancellor of Cambridge:—

His cooks have been there these ten days, distilling essences of every living creature, and massing and confounding all the species that Noah and Moses took such pains to preserve and distinguish. It would be pleasant to see pedants and professors searching for etymologies of strange dishes, and tracing more wonderful

transformations than any in the Metamorphoses. How miserably Horace's *unde et quo Catus* will be hacked about in clumsy quotations!

The Walpole records abound in anecdotes of this character:—

The two Miss Gunnings, and a late extravagant dinner at White's, are twenty times more the subject of conversation than the two brothers [Newcastle and Pelham] and Lord Granville. These are two Irish Girls, of no fortune, who are declared the handsomest women alive. I think their being two so handsome and both such perfect figures is their chief excellence, for singly I have seen much handsomer women than either; however, they can't walk in the park or go to Vauxhall, but such mobs follow them that they are generally driven away. The dinner was a folly of seven young men, who bespoke it to the utmost extent of expense: one article was a tart made of duke cherries from a hot-house; and another, that they tasted but one glass out of each bottle of champagne. The bill of fare is got into print, and with good people has produced the apprehension of another earthquake. Your friend St. Leger was at the head of these luxurious heroes—he is the hero of all fashion. I never saw more dashing vivacity and absurdity, with some flashes of parts. He had a cause the other day for ducking a sharper, and was going to swear: the judge said to him, "I see, sir, you are very ready to take an oath." "Yes, my lord," replied St. Leger, "my father was a judge."

Anecdotes of another character also, but not so quotable, although quite permissible in a library edition. This is an example of his occasional style:—

On Tuesday the operation of shaving was happily performed on the upper lip of her grace the Duchess of Newcastle, by a celebrated artist from Paris, sent over on purpose by the Earl of Albemarle. The performance lasted but one minute and three seconds, to the great joy of that noble family; and in consideration of his great care and expedition, his grace has settled four hundred pounds a year upon him for life. We hear that he is to have the honour of shaving the heads of the Lady Caroline Petersham, the Duchess of Queensberry, and several other persons of quality.

And this of his views as to the treatment of a wife:—

If, like other Norfolk husbands, I must entertain the town with a formal parting, at least it shall be in my own way: my wife shall neither run to Italy after lovers and books, nor keep a dormitory in her dressing-room at Whitehall for Westminster schoolboys, your Frederick Campbells, and such like; nor yet shall she reside at her mother's house, but shall absolutely set out for Strawberry Hill in two or three days, as soon as her room can be well aired; for, to give her her due, I don't think her to blame, but flatter myself she is quite contented with the easy footing we live upon; separate beds, dining in her dressing-room when she is out of humour, and a little toad-eater that I had got for her, and whose pockets and bosom I have never examined, to see if she brought any *billets doux* from Tommy Lyttelton or any of her fellows. I shall follow her myself in less than a fortnight.

Keith was the marriage-broker at Mayfair Chapel:—

I shall only tell you a *bon mot* of Keith's, the marriage-broker, and conclude "G—d d—n the bishops!" said he (I beg Miss Montagu's pardon), "so they will hinder my marrying. Well, let 'em; but I'll be revenged! I'll buy two or three acres of ground, and, by G—d I'll underbury them all!" Adieu!

Aut Erasmus, aut Diabolus:—

Beckford and Delaval, two celebrated partisans, met lately at Shaftesbury, where they oppose one another: the latter said,

"Art thou the man whom men famed Beckford call?"

T'other replied,

"Art thou the much more famous Delaval?"

The following is in his most graceful vein:—

I was prevented from finishing my letter yesterday, by what do you think? By no less magnificent a circumstance than a deluge. We have had an extraordinary drought, no grass, no leaves, no flowers; not a white rose for the festival of yesterday! About four arrived such a flood, that we could not see out of the windows: the whole lawn was a lake, though situated on so high an Ararat: presently it broke through the leads, drowned the pretty blue bedchamber, passed through ceilings and floors into the little parlour, terrified Harry, and opened all Catherine's water-gates and speech-gates. I had but just time to collect two dogs, a couple of sheep, a pair of bantams, and a brace of gold fish; for, in the haste of my zeal to imitate my ancestor Noah, I forgot that fish would not easily be drowned. In short, if you chance to spy a little ark with pinnacles sailing towards Jersey, open the skylight, and you will find some of your acquaintance.

Most lords of libraries will be impatient to have the eight volumes complete.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

Three Eras of New England, and other Addresses, with Papers Critical and Biographical. By George Lunt, (Trübner and Co.)—We are not aware that it is imperative on those who lecture for the entertainment of a "few select friends" to publish for the world at large. Mr. Lunt evidently thinks otherwise. Being requested by the members of the New England Society of New York to pronounce an oration, he resolved to enlighten them on the past, the present, and the future of their native district. He enlightens them accordingly on a few points for which they were not probably prepared. It is upon the past, he informs his readers, that America bases "her reputation, which, more than upon the present intelligence, enterprise, prosperity, or power, rests upon the character of the ancestors of her people, resulting from their solid virtues and substantial wisdom; but a reputation which must be necessarily forfeited as these ennobling elements decline." Mr. Lunt once held the office of Attorney of the States for the Massachusetts district. These remarks are followed by an "Address on the Daily Press," in which "its licence, its incompetency, its shallowness, its impertinence, its venality" are inveighed against with feeble violence. An attack on "Macaulay's essay on Warren Hastings" and a critical inquiry into the meaning of a passage in *Romeo and Juliet*, close a work of moderate merit.

Vocal Gymnastics; or, a Guide for Stammerers and for Public Speakers, and others who suffer from certain Minor Peculiarities of Utterance. By G. F. Urling. (London: John Churchill. 1857.) This is an admirable little book, and deals with the subject on which it treats in a practical way. Stammering is regarded more as a bad habit than the result of any physical defect, which the physician or the surgeon can remove. In fact, it generally arises from neglect in childhood or infancy, and is caused by some error in breathing, in vocalizing, or in articulating. The breath is not drawn regularly and fully as it is when drawn *instinctively* by a person who does not stam-

mer. In vocalizing the breath some voluntary effort is required in addition to the ordinary involuntary process of expiration, and part of the difficulty lies in regulating the time and amount of this effort. Stammerers should, therefore, observes Mr. Urling, be taught to *make a sound*, and not to stand gaping or making fruitless attempts to articulate silent breath. In the third place, as the *articulation* is at fault, it is necessary to teach the stammerer how to form his letters. Mr. Urling's process seems feasible, and only to require care and perseverance on the part of the patient.

Canada, the Land of Hope for the Settler and Artisan, the Small Capitalist, the Honest, and the Persevering. With a Description of the Climate, Free Grants of Land, Wages, and the General Advantages as a Field for Emigration. By the Editor of the *Canadian News*. (London: Algar and Street. 1857.) There are fields more attractive to the emigrant than Canada, and yet we are told by the Editor of the *Canadian News* that every inducement which should weigh with the English emigrant is afforded by Canada. Those who are anxious to obtain information about the "openings for capital and industry" it affords, the "purchase of land, free grants," &c., its "agricultural operations," and the facilities of transit to this one of our nearest colonies, will do well to purchase this pamphlet. It contains interesting information on these points, and the material progress of Canada, and will serve them better than many a larger work.

The New Zealand Settler's Guide; a Sketch of the Present State of the Six Provinces, with a Digest of the Constitution and Land Regulations, and Two Maps. By J. Rhodes Cooper, Captain 58th Regiment. (London: Edward Stanford. 1857.)—Those who are about to settle in New Zealand need not complain that they have not had books of reference enough to let them into the secrets of emigration in that country. They would, we should think, be rather puzzled by the multiplicity of information provided for them. Captain Cooper's book comes, one among the many that we have had to notice, to add its mite of experience to the general treasure-house of facts. He tells us that, as he firmly believes New Zealand to be more calculated to make a happy home for Englishmen than any other colony, he shall be more than repaid for the trouble this pamphlet has given him, if, by its perusal, a portion of those who are undecided as to what colony they shall emigrate to, are persuaded that the "star of empire" does not merely "glitter in the West," but that another "sea-girt isle" is ready to receive them, which promises some day to become a second England—"a British Empire of the southern seas."

The Arts.

THE OPERAS.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

From the moment when the bright young Star of Sienna, whose advent we announced last week, appears above the London horizon, the glorious summer of the Opera season may be said to begin. This has been a PICCOLOMINI week, and we look with pleasurable anticipation to many more, from May to August.

Never was a favourite child welcomed back with a more enthusiastic and prodigal affection than this young angel of song, the joy of Italy and the delight of England. Madlle. PICCOLOMINI is the pet lamb of the English public. In the form and manner of her welcome on Tuesday and Thursday there was something more than the reception always accorded by the most facile and indulgent audience in the world to established celebrities or traditional reputations; there was a certain fondling and caressing tone in the *bravi*, and a certain lingering tendency in the murmur that ran through the house as the Child of the Regiment came tripping down the mountain path, and as the Child of Passion came fitting through the groups of revellers—which betrayed an undercurrent of *personal* sympathy in the audience. The simple truth is that Madlle. PICCOLOMINI has taken our rough English hearts by storm. Foreigners have no idea how soft and susceptible a British audience, composed of so many cold and inexpressive exteriors, really is. Only a profound observer, like EMILE MONTEGUT, is aware that the Englishman, outwardly so truculent and awkward, has all the tenderness of a woman, and all the shyness of a child; and that the shyness is often mistaken for arrogance. The besetting sin of the public at our theatres is excessive indulgence; let an actor or a singer once obtain the favour of an audience, and he or she may go on singing or barking, as the case may be, until voice and beauty and genius have become a tradition of a few veterans in the stalls. It is this excessive indulgence that is also the besetting danger to young celebrities; if they have not the fine restlessness of the true artist, never content with promise or achievement, ever conscious of defect, ever pursuing something higher, they sink into a conceited indifference, and are lost to the life of art. Your cruel public of France or Italy is in this respect a better school for dramatic singers. On the other hand, the self-assumption of the Parisian critics is ludicrous; just as your French political journalist insists on France being the *tête de colonne de l'humanité* (just now we should say a pillar of cloud), so your French musical critic will have it that an artist's fame receives its final and indispensable consecration in Paris. And this in the face of the fact that in Paris HANDEL is almost a novelty, MENDELSSOHN very partially known, and WEBER a recent discovery. There was a disposition to resent the London laurels of Madlle. PICCOLOMINI, and to refuse the Parisian consecration to a success first ratified by English hands. Madlle. PICCOLOMINI might have said as JENNY LIND did when she was reminded that the fiat of the Parisian public was necessary to complete her European fame, "*Eh bien, je m'en passerai*;" but with all the fearless enthusiasm of youth she went over and won the unwilling laurels; she sang the *Traviata* more than a dozen times, and, we believe, was asked to renew her engagement. Since that she has taken a brief holiday at home, in her sunny Italian air, and now comes back to her faithful and constant English worshippers, looking better, acting better, singing better than ever. Nothing can resist the charm of that fresh, happy girlish face, with its gentle oval, and tender arch; the dovelike mouth and the delicate ear; nothing can resist that sweetly rounded and compact little figure, and that wilful little foot; nothing can resist that birdlike voice gushing out with gladness or sorrow, like a fountain sparkling in the sunshine or playing with the shadows of the clouds. Nothing—not even the jaded old epicurean who has counted forty summers in the stalls, not even the magnificent lady on the grand tier who has come to offer herself an oblation to a thousand lognettes—nothing can resist the infinite charm of youth, with all its freshness, its sincerity, its enthusiasm. In that pretty opera *Lu Piglia de*

Reggimento the part of *Maria* might have been written for Mademoiselle PICCOLOMINI; at all events, she makes it all her own by the perfect truth, naturalness, and sympathy of her acting. The archness and *espièglerie* of the soldiers' darling, the guileless enjoyment of the life of the camp and the march, the affection for her comrades, are not less real and intense than the irrepressible burst of sorrow at the parting from her brothers in arms, so touchingly expressed in the air *Convien partir*, than the fretful beating against the bars of the aristocratic drawing-room, and the escape into freedom again at the last. Signor BELLETTI, a most finished singer and effective actor, made his first appearance this season as the *Sergeant*; the new tenor, Signor STECCHI BORTARDI, whether spell-bound by the fascinations of *Maria*, or daunted by the success of GIUGLINI, did not succeed in convincing the audience that he was an acquisition to HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The *Traviata*, on Thursday evening, drew, as may be supposed, an immense audience. Long before the doors were opened, every approach was besieged by enthusiasts, and we noticed with interest a fair sprinkling of *clergymen* among the crowd. So much for the effort of all the howling proprietors and all the autumnal denunciations! It is evident that some pious people are not even content with hearing the *Traviata* in the diluted form of a vocal festival and an unknown tongue without access to the words. We never heard such a rustling of leaves at the Opera as on Thursday at all the most favourite episodes in the story. We once heard RONCONI say that two-thirds of the pit never took their eyes off the book of the opera while he was acting the *Barbiere*, and we are inclined to believe that the *clergymen* (whether from pang of conscience or an imperfect acquaintance with the story, we know not) saw very little of Madlle. PICCOLOMINI on Thursday. The naughty opera has never created a deeper sensation than on this occasion. The performance was almost unexceptionable: the orchestra wonderfully improved in delicacy and discretion, the chorus steady, and Signor BENEVENTANO, when he was not made unsteady in the legs by applause (which maddens him like a red flag), quite agreeable as the heaviest of fathers. Signor GIUGLINI has decidedly increased his reputation by his performance of *Alfredo*; he sang with infinitely greater vigour and energy than in the *Favorita*, and with equal feeling and elegance. We felt remorseful at having suggested defects in his *Fernando* which we could not perceive in his *Alfredo*. His chest voice was particularly well delivered, and his action was, for the most part, easy and refined. Mademoiselle PICCOLOMINI surpassed herself; in the first act, the wayward and capricious *insouciance*, the fitful, lurking tenderness, and the outward abandonment to the hurrying stream of pleasure without love (for to her love is a presentiment of despair); in the second act, the almost submissive and imploring self-sacrifice in the interview with the father, the suppressed anguish in the parting from *Alfredo*, and the resigned humility when he insults her publicly; in the third act, the startling "make up" of that fresh, young face, now haggard, sunken, ghastly with consumption; with the deathly languor of the listless, drooping arms, and the deserted misery of the appealing eyes; the wild despair of the last cry for life, when love has made life precious, all too late:

Gran Dio—morir si giovane!

and the sudden silence of that troubled spirit; in all these situations Madlle. PICCOLOMINI enchanted and moved the audience in an extraordinary degree. Art so consummate, set in so fair a frame of youth and beauty, is not often seen. The exclamation,

Gran Dio—morir si giovane!

to which we have referred, thrilled through the audience, making "the whole world kin," and giving an uncomfortable sensation in the throat to some of the toughest and coldest *dilettanti*. Between the acts the moral of the opera was occasionally discussed, and whilst by some it was argued that the unwholesomeness of the atmosphere, and the *vita indegna* of the heroine of the story, might have easily been got rid of by converting the *Traviata* into a sempstress, ora "beggar maid," and *Alfredo* into a fashionable Cophetua, and that in any case the hospital-pathos was a little overdone, others insisted that the *Fille Perdue*, or the "Lost One," as the libretto says, was a proper subject for the drama, and that the moral of the *Traviata* was at least in favour of virtuous and moral society, seeing that *Violetta* is dashed to pieces on the rocks in a desperate attempt to snatch herself from the devouring sea of infamy, and that she is purified by passion and redeemed by death. We are not concerned to take part in this discussion here; but we may note with natural complacency the intelligent and truly English compromise which throws back the *Traviata* a century or two, the result of this compromise being a startling combination of gentlemen in the costume of CHARLES II., stage footmen of the present (and every other) day, and ladies of the latest fashion, with an occasional individual whose costume is a cross between JIMMY BOSWELL and Captain MACHEATH.

The *Traviata* is given again this evening. On Tuesday next, *I Puritani*, for the debut of Madlle. ORTOLANI, who brings her latest laurels from Madrid. Signor GIUGLINI will be the *Arturo*, and report says he is an admirable one; but we are surprised that Mr. LUMLEY should have failed to understand that the proper tenor to sing with Madlle. ORTOLANI must be Signor BECCAFICO. At all events, HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE has fairly struck into a vein of inexhaustible success.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

Maria di Rohan is unquestionably one of the feeblest of operas, utterly unworthy of the composer of *Lucia*, *La Favorita*, and *Lucrezia Borgia*. The libretto is borrowed from a very striking and effective French drama, but the drama is too much for the music, and the plot is too artificially constructed for the operatic stage. Your Chorus is not very clever at carrying on the interest of a piece by means of recitative, working up to the *dénouement*, as if it were a besieged city, by a series of parallels, while the leading personages are piling up the agony in the centre of the scene. The overture is the most dreary and uncomfortable infliction of sound and fury, signifying nothing, that can be imagined. It is patchy, pretentious, incoherent, utterly devoid of consistency or continuity, as if the composer had been struck with a sudden sterility, and had fagged up a pasticcio of fragmentary reminiscences in a state of impotent exasperation. With two or three exceptions, there is not a note worth remembering from the first bar to the last, and we cannot wonder that this opera, in spite of the genius of a great artist, should be unable to take a settled rank in the repertory. It simply serves the purpose of introducing RONCONI at the beginning of a season in one of his finest displays of acting. RONCONI's performance of *Chevreuse* is known to be unsurpassably fine, and the spectator must go back to the days of EDMUND KEAN to find its equal in force and passionate intensity. It is an almost unique example of what a true artist can make of the most obvious natural difficulties. Against every imaginable disadvantage of face, figure, and voice RONCONI has to contend, and such is the transmuting and transforming power of accomplished art, that every

disadvantage is put out of sight, and nothing remains to mar the broad effect of a masterly picture. You see a type of gallant and chivalrous distinction in every look and gesture, and in the most trying situations where the dignity of the deceived husband is most compromised, the duped is still superior to the duper, and the nobleness of his manner commands respect. As a singer, too, RONCONI astonishes and delights the audience by his mastery over an ungrateful and impossible voice, harsh, grating, and refractory, but subdued to the expression of the most various emotions by the consummate skill of the singer. Think of the poor effect of the most beautiful voice where there is a voice and nothing more, and you cannot fail to appreciate the immense superiority of such a dramatic artist as RONCONI. Madame ROSA DEVRIES is by many degrees the best *Duchesse de Chevreuse* we have ever heard; whether it be that the part is dramatically and vocally an ungrateful one, or that RONCONI's supremacy is so overwhelming in this opera, we know not, certainly we have never before seen an adequate representative of the *Duchesse de Chevreuse*. Madame ROSA DEVRIES may not entirely satisfy our conception of that illustrious and intriguing beauty of the seventeenth century as she is described by the enthusiastic and eclectic pen of M. VICTOR COUSIN—*une taille ravissante, le plus charmant visage, de grands yeux bleus, de fins et abondans cheveux d'un blond châtain, le plus beau sein, et dans toute sa personne un piquant mélange de délicatesse et de vivacité, de grace, et de passion*—but she possesses, at least, those ample and abundant charms which the posthumous lover describes as characteristic of the illustrious women of the age of RICHELIEU. At all events, Madame DEVRIES displays a voice of considerable power and beauty, sings with unflinching correctness of intonation, and extorts a tribute of applause from one of the coldest audiences we have ever witnessed. Mademoiselle DIDIÉE sang the airs for the contralto with singular elegance and sweetness, but with a certain languor (on the evening we were present) which may have been either distaste or indisposition. Signor NERI BARALDI is a very pleasing light tenor, with a fresh young voice of no great power, but well trained and agreeable; and his acting is easy and natural. The orchestra at this house maintains its undisputed supremacy; in the performance of the overture, and in all the accompaniments, it left absolutely nothing to be desired.

On Monday the universal *Trovatore* was revived for the *rentrée* of MARIO, who has had the most brilliant success in Paris this winter in the part of *Manrico*. MARIO returns in good voice, and in the last two acts of the opera he justifies the common saying among Opera-goers, that, after all, MARIO, when in health and good temper, is still, far and away, the first of tenors. There is a virility in his voice, and a distinction in his method of singing, which no other tenor equals or resembles. What a pity it is that the *bouquet* of such a voice should be faded, and that the falsetto should now occupy so large a place in its once noble range of tone! GRISI is still the superb and admirable artist; GRAYRANI has made the music allotted to the *Conte de Luna* his own, and Madlle. DIDIÉE is a very fair reduced copy of Madame VIARDOT, whose noble, picturesque, and romantic impersonation of *Azucena* she imitates not unsuccessfully, and sings like a miniature ALBONI.

THE BOUFFES PARISIENS AT THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

A TYPOGRAPHICAL error in a contemporary has converted the Bouffes Parisiens into the Bouffés Parisiens, thereby suggesting to the uninitiated public that the French company, announced by Mr. MITCHELL, is nothing less than a troupe of BOUFFÉS, which would indeed be a surprising dramatic family. We may as well tell our readers what these Bouffes Parisiens really are. They are a select company of eccentric comedians, of and from Paris, unique and admirable after their kind, who perform the wildest and most extravagant farces, interspersed with the gayest, the prettiest, and most *piquante* music. At their little box of a theatre in the Champs Elysées, and subsequently at the THÉÂTRE COMTE (about the size of the SOHO THEATRE), in the Passage Choiseul, they were the rage of the French metropolis. And no wonder, for anything more irresistibly amusing, more delightfully perfect in its way, than their buffooneries, is not to be conceived. There is not an indifferent actor in the troupe. The singing is, after its own fashion, excellent, and the compact little orchestra is conducted by a first-rate musician, M. OFFENBACH, a gentleman in whom the nicest artistic sense is combined with rare skill as a composer and conductor.

The evident zest and spirit with which each member of this little band of brothers works, is as remarkable as the completeness of the general effect. We can only see one difficulty in the acclimatization of the Bouffes in the colder and denser atmosphere of London. They are essentially and individually of Paris Parisian. To enjoy their fun and frolic one must not only be thoroughly at home in the French language, but in French, and, still more, in Paris life, and manners, and slang. Ignorance of the language, we are aware, does not keep an audience away, rather the reverse. Two-thirds of Madame RISTORI's audience were sublimely ignorant of the language of DANTE and ALFIERI, and only caught the sense of the words by flashes; but the select few understood and admired, and the fashionable many were leavened by the select few.

In the case of the Bouffes, too, there is quite enough in the mere pantomime of the actors, and in the sparkling and sprightly music, to send the world of fashion and the general public in crowds to the theatre again and again, and we are disposed to congratulate the enterprising and energetic Mr. MITCHELL very heartily on this new proof of his courage and ability as a caterer of all the delicacies of the season. We have often wished that instead of two Italian Operas we had the company from the SALLE VENTADOUR established at the LYCEUM.

MR. GYE announces the return of Madame RISTORI to the LYCEUM in June. The renowned Italian *tragédienne*, whose success in Paris shows no symptoms of decrease, will appear this season in the new drama, written expressly for her by the distinguished Florentine poet and patriot, MONTANELLI, and in an Italian version of *Macbeth*, in which, however, the *Lady Macbeth* will be the principal character. The appearance of Madame RISTORI, in a part consecrated by the traditions of Mrs. SIDONS, cannot fail to excite great interest among her multitude of admirers in England.

THE sale of tickets for the Crystal Palace Handel Festival is rapidly progressing. The seats in the four central blocks of the Great Transept were all disposed of more than ten days since, and the applications for the other reserved stalls have been exceedingly numerous. The Lower Hall, Exeter Hall, is now open for the sale of seats, and is thronged daily by applicants. The price of a stall for a single oratorio is one guinea, or two guineas and a half for the series of three performances.

NEW ZEALAND.—Advices from Wellington, New Zealand, furnish a report of the opening of the fourth and last session of the Provincial Council, and the address delivered on the occasion by the Superintendent, detailing the progress of the settlement. It is alike satisfactory as regards public works, finances, and immigration. Important roads have been opened to connect the town with the most productive districts, and, although 50,000L has been expended in this manner during the past three years out of an aggregate revenue of 80,000L, the Government would commence the present year not only free from debt, but with a balance to its credit. Immigration has steadily continued, and the increase of population from this cause was 486 in 1854, 890 in 1855, and 1002 last year. In the system of opening up roads, the plan is pursued of encouraging the labourers to become small landowners, and hence, on every trunk line, at easy intervals, townships and agricultural settlements are previously laid out so as to afford facilities for the purchase of small allotments.—Times.

FISHING COMPANIES.—Several gentlemen interested in cheapening the food of the working classes, and others desirous to improve the social condition of the fishermen, have united into fishing companies, and there is every prospect that, within two or three months, two companies at least, upon limited liability, and with capitals of 10,000L each, will have a considerable number of decked boats, sailing from the Tyne, and manned with Northumberland fishermen, engaged on the Dogger Bank in the deep-sea fishing. In the present dearness of butcher's meat, with a prospect of the price being still further enhanced should the murrain exhibit itself here, it behoves us to develop to the utmost extent the immense resources for human sustenance which we have in our seas.

THE AFFAIR OF ALDERMAN MAGNAY.—The report of the law officers of the Corporation of London on the affair of Alderman Magnay was brought up and read before the Court of Common Council on Thursday. The framers of the document say:—"It appears that a judgment by default was pronounced against Alderman Sir William Magnay [by the Appeal Court of Brussels, Correctional Chamber], overruling the decision of the Tribunal of First Instance, and condemning the said accused to three years' imprisonment and to a fine of 3000L, specified in the said decree. With respect to the effect of this conviction upon the qualification of the gentleman in question as a member of this hon. court, we are unanimously of opinion, after a careful consideration of the provisions of the 12th and 13th of Victoria, cap. 94, sec. 9, that a conviction by a foreign court is not within the meaning of that statute, and that Alderman Sir W. Magnay is not disqualified from holding the office of alderman by reason of the judgment of the Appeal Court of Brussels of the 27th of February last." It was agreed, after some opposition, that the report should be printed and circulated among the members of the court, and that the consideration of it should be postponed till the next meeting.

COTTON SUPPLY.—A numerous meeting of merchants and manufacturers was held on Tuesday afternoon, in the Manchester Town-hall, for the purpose of forming an association for the promotion of the growth of cotton all over the world. Mr. Cheetham, M.P., presided, and among the gentlemen present were Mr. Hadfield, M.P., Mr. R. N. Phillips, M.P., Mr. Bazley, Mr. M. Ross, Messrs. J. Pender, E. Ashworth, and J. Simpson. Mr. Bazley, in the course of his speech, remarked that we are now paying not less than 10,000,000L per annum more than would be paid for our cotton if the supply were unfettered. Resolutions in accordance with the objects of the meeting were passed.

SALE OF ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Mr. Robins, on Tuesday, put up for sale by auction the St. James's Theatre. The first bid was 10,000L, offered by Mr. E. T. Smith. This advanced to 19,900L, at which the property was knocked down. The vendor's reserved price, however, was not realized, and the theatre is therefore still in the market.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Bankrupts.—LEONARD DALTON, Canal-bridge, Old Kent-road, stone merchant—GEORGE BROOKE, Leadenhall-market, and Windsor, provision dealer—ROBERT ASHING, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, brewer—SAMUEL JOSEPH SMITH, Birmingham, auctioneer—HENRY NOBLE, Phillack, Cornwall, accountant—FREDERICK BLIEDBERG and MARK SARAN, Liverpool, commission merchants—THOMAS EVANS, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, hannel manufacturer—MICHAEL NEVILLE, Liverpool, brassfounder—JOHN WICK, Sheffield, electro-plater—JOHN SHAW and JOSEPH SHAW, Sheffield, tailors—JOHN PEPPER and EDWIN ADDY HOLMES, Sheffield, grocers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—M. DUNLOP, Middle-riggod, Slamannan, farmer—H. HADDOW, Newhaven, coal merchant—A. FRASER, Inverness, coal merchant—W. SHAW, Dumbarton, potato merchant—T. M'GILL, Kilmar-nock, draper.

Bankrupts.—THOMAS GAME, Coldwaltham, Sussex, corn dealer—JOSEPH HARDY, Nottingham, miller—THOMAS BENNETT, Oldbury, Worcestershire, iron manufacturer—THOMAS HENRY GRIFFITH, Lowesmoor, Worcestershire, coal dealer—HENRY CHAS. CALDWELL, Kensington Park Gardens, Notting-hill, scrivener—ELIZABETH CLARKE, Newport, potter—CHARLES HURRY RICHES, Cardiff, carrier—PATRICK DENNISON, Bradford, grocer—ROBERT CARTER OUSTON, Kingston-upon-Hull, spirit merchant—SAMUEL

HUNTER and NICHOLAS HUNTER, Hartlepool, anchor manufacturers—WILLIAM PIETRE WAUGH, Branksea Island, Stutland, Dorset, brick and tile maker—WILLIAM NASH, St. John-street, Smithfield, licensed victualler. SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—JAMES BRUCE, Dunfermline, merchant.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS. BLOSSE.—At Farmhill, Mayo, the Lady Harriet Lynch Blossie: a son. EDEN.—At Windlestone Hall, Durham, Lady Eden: a daughter. MARRIAGES. MADDEN—BUSBY.—At Monkstown, Lieut. John W. Madden, 70th Regiment, son of the late Rev. Samuel Madden, of Kells Grange, Kilkenny, to Emily, daughter of the late John Busby, Esq., of Monkstown, Dublin. McMAHON—HEAD.—At Seakote, in the Punjab, Charles McMahon, Esq., Assistant-Commissioner, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel Charles F. Head. DEATHS. BUTLER.—At Peckham-rye-hill, Surrey, John Butler, Esq., R.N., late of H.M.S. Dolphin, aged 26, son of John Butler, Esq., late of Jersey. DUNSTAN.—At Chester Castle, in her 61st year, Elizabeth, wife of John Dunstan, Constable of Chester Castle.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, April 24, 1857.

The business of the Stock Exchange has been so limited that any record of its proceedings seems to be superfluous. The Bank returns will be possibly better this week, but the pressure for money in Lombard-street continues without abatement. The funds are supported at present by daily investments; the speculation, if any exists, is of a downward tendency. Money loans have ranged from six to eight per cent. during the week upon stock. The effort to get off Russian railway stock has proved abortive. It will not float, and the state of the money market in Paris is not more encouraging. A strong attempt was made last week through the "Credít Mobilier" to assist the launching of the Russian scheme, but the government of France, knowing that it could not afford that the "Credít Mobilier" should go to the wall—even for "his Majesty of all the Russias"—has put in a veto upon the scheme.

Foreign stocks are generally heavy, and very inactive. French and Belgian railways generally dull. Canada Trunk shares and Great Western of Canada Railway and their several preference debentures are asked after, and good investments made. Riga shares have been depressed during the week. Ceylon are also very much depressed in price. Sambre and Meuse, and Antwerp and Rotterdam are looking better.

Eastern Counties are much the same. Heavy shares, such as Midlands, South Westerns, London and North Westerns, Great Westerns, and Leeds hang fire, but it must be acknowledged are not any worse than last week. In Joint-Stock Banks there has been a little business done. Ottoman Banks and Bank of Egypt have improved about 10s. to 15s. per share.

Mines are not at all improving. Great Wheal Alfreds are still very declining. The talk of a call of 1L per share has depreciated these shares below their value. Wheal Tre-lawnny, Mary Anne, Wheal Edward, West Seton, and Par Consols, have been inquired after.

Blackburn, 8 1/2; Caledonian, 63 1/2, 69 1/2; Chester and Holyhead, 34, 35; Eastern Counties, 11 1/2, 11 3/4; Great Northern, 9 1/2, 9 3/4; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103, 105; Great Western, 66 1/2, 67; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 10 1/2, 10 1/4; London and Blackwall, 6, 6 1/2; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 103, 110; London and North-Western, 10 1/2, 10 1/4; London and South-Western, 100 1/2, 10 1/4; Midland, 82, 82 1/2; North-Eastern (Derwick), 80, 87; South-Eastern (Dover), 7 1/2, 7 1/4; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7 1/2, 7 1/4; Dutch Rhinish, 3 1/2, 3 1/4; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 33 1/2, 33 1/4; Great Central of France, 23 1/2, 24; Great Luxembourg, 7, 7 1/4; Northern of France, 39, 39 1/2; Paris and Lyons, 61 1/2, 62 1/2; Royal Danish, 17, 19; Royal Swedish, 1, 1 1/2; Sambre and Meuse, 9, 9 1/2.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, April 24, 1857.

The trade generally during the week has been characterized by great firmness. Since Monday, the supplies of Wheat have been quite trifling, and to-day there is more inquiry, and a fair business doing.

The arrivals of Barley have materially fallen off, and Holders in consequence ask higher prices. The supply of Oats is moderate, and though the demand is not brisk, Monday's rates are fully supported.

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

Table with columns: Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., Frid. Rows include Bank Stock, 3 per Cent. Red., 3 per Cent. Con. An., Consols for Account, New 3 per Cent. An., New 2 1/2 per Cents., Long Ans. 1860, India Stock, Ditto Bonds, £1000, Ditto, under £1000, Ex. Bills, £1000, Ditto, £500, Ditto, Small.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Table with columns: Brazilian Bonds, Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents, Chilean 6 per Cents, Chilean 3 per Cents, Dutch 2 1/2 per Cents, Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif., Equador Bonds, Mexican Account, Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cents, Portuguese 3 per Cents, Portuguese 4 per Cents, Russian Bonds, Russian 4 1/2 per Cents, Spanish, Spanish Committee Cert., of Coup. not fun., Turkish 6 per Cents, Turkish New, 4 ditto, Venezuela 1 1/2 per Cents.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

First appearance of Mdle. Ortoloni; Giuglini, Benvenuto, Belletti, Pocchini. On Tuesday next, April 28th (first time these seven years),

I PURITANI. Elvira.....Mdle. Ortoloni (her first appearance in England). Arturo.....Signor Giuglini. LA ESMERALDA. La Esmeralda.....Pocchini.

For particulars, see Bills. A limited number of boxes in the half-circle tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had on application at the Box-office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price, 21s. and 17. 11s. 6d. each.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

EXTRA NIGHT, THURSDAY next, April 30. LA TRAVIATA. Piccolomini, Giuglini, Benvenuto, and Pocchini. Opera—LA TRAVIATA. Ballet—LA ESMERALDA.

For particulars, see Bills. A limited number of boxes in the half-circle tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had on application at the Box-office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price One Guinea and One Guinea and a Half each.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Mrs. ANDERSON (Pianiste to her Majesty the Queen, and Instructress to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Her Royal Highness the Princess Helena, and his Royal Highness the Prince Alfred) has the honour to inform her patrons and friends that her ANNUAL GRAND MORNING CONCERT will take place in Her Majesty's Theatre, MONDAY, May 18, commencing at half-past 1 o'clock precisely, on which occasion, by an arrangement effected with the Direction, she will be supported by all the principal artistes, and the orchestra and chorus of that establishment.—Full particulars will be announced forthwith.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. Monday, and during the week, will be performed a new Drama, entitled DADDY HARDACRE. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, and Leslie; Mesdames Stephens and Hughes. After which the new Drama, by Tom Taylor, Esq., called A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke, Leslie, and H. Cooper; Mrs. Stirling and Miss Maskell. To conclude with the new Farce, THIEVES! THIEVES! Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, Leslie, &c.; Misses Swanborough and Bromley.

EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, OPEN AT MANCHESTER, MAY 5TH, 1857. SEASON TICKETS, 27. 2s., may be obtained at the Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester; also in London, Mr. SAMS'S, Royal Library, St. James-street; Mr. MITCHELL'S, Royal Library, New Bond-street; LETTS and Co., Royal Exchange; SMITH and Co., 157, Strand; and at HIME and SON'S, Church-street, Liverpool. By order, THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary. Inquiries as to APARTMENTS may be made from Mr. SAMUEL HADEN, Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester.

ROLFE'S GOSSIPING CONCERT.

Mr. FOWENESS ROLFE will give his sixth GOSSIPING CONCERT on Tuesday, April 28th, at St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre. Illustrated by the following artistes:—Madame Zimmerman, Madlle. Wortley, Rosslyn, Blanche, Capitil, Graham, and Miss Esther Jacobs; Messrs. G. Fortescue, J. F. Haskins, and E. Berger. Stalls, 2s.; Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved, 6d. Doors open at half-past seven.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, COVENTRY-STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE.

Programme: Lectures by Dr. KAHN, daily, at 3 o'clock, on highly interesting and instructive topics, and by Dr. SEXTON, F.R.G.S., F.E.S., as follows: At half-past 1, the Phenomena, Curiosities, and Philosophy of the Sense of Sight. At 4, the Great Tobacco Controversy. At half-past 7, the Food we eat; its Uses, Preparation, Adulteration, and Digestion. The Museum contains 1000 Models and Preparations, and is wholly unrivalled in the world. Open daily (for gentlemen only) from 10 till 10. Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis to visitors.

THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR

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

"Much of the Pale Oil sold in the market is found to be nothing more than Skate Oil—a fact which will account for the failures which have so frequently attended the use of the so-called Cod Liver Oil. The utmost reliance may be placed upon the experimental researches of Dr. de Jongh who is one of the most eminent of European chemists; the Oil procured by him enjoys also the additional sanction of the opinion of Baron Liebig and the late Dr. Pereira in favour of its genuineness and efficacy. Our own experience practically confirms their judgment, and we UNRESISTINGLY RECOMMEND DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL AS THE BEST FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES, AND WELL DESERVING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PROFESSION."

DR. DE JONGH'S 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.

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

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THE
EXHIBITION

OF THE
ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY, 5th MAY,
AT MANCHESTER.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE OF
HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN

AND
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT,
Who has graciously consented to preside at the
GRAND INAUGURAL CEREMONY.

THIS PALACE, covering a space of 18,000
square yards, will contain the LARGEST and most
VALUABLE

COLLECTION OF WORKS OF ART,
Ancient and Modern, ever collected, and which, there are
many reasons for supposing, can never be brought together
again. The Exhibition will also include

A NATIONAL GALLERY OF PORTRAITS OF
BRITISH CELEBRITIES;

Also,
A HISTORY OF MINIATURE ART.

A separate gallery of the choicest
WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS,

From the time of Sandby.

THE CELEBRATED MEYRICK COLLECTION OF
ARMOUR, FROM GOODRICH COURT.

ENGRAVINGS,

From Wood, Copper, and Steel, showing the history of the
engravers' art, from Maso Finiguerra to the present time;

SCULPTURE, IN MARBLE AND BRONZE,
ANCIENT AND MODERN;

FINE SPECIMENS OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

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ANTIQUE FURNITURE,

RICH DISPLAYS OF
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE,

MEDIEVAL WORKS,

RARE SPECIMENS OF CHINA AND BRONZES.

Along with the far-famed and hitherto comparatively
unknown Continental
COLLECTION OF M. SOULAGES.

These gems of art have all been most graciously lent
for the purpose by Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert,
and the leading nobility and gentry of the United Kingdom.

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS.—A LARGE ORGAN
has been built purposely for the occasion, and kindly lent
by Messrs. Kirland and Jardine, and throughout the season
there will be DAILY MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, by a large
Orchestra, under the superintendence of Mr. CHARLES
HALLE, who will conduct in person each Thursday.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.—A communication will be
opened from the Palace to the Gardens, thus adding to the
interest and variety of the Promenade. The charge for
admission will be entirely under the control of the Council
of the Botanical Society.

REFRESHMENTS will be provided on an extensive scale,
at moderate charges. A tariff of prices for dinners and
lighter refreshments, approved by the committee, will be
affixed in conspicuous parts of the Palace. The refreshment
rooms communicate with the Palace, and adjoin the
Botanical Gardens and the railway station. No refreshments
will be allowed to be carried into the Palace, as the
arrangements are adapted for the suitable supply of the
wants of all classes.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Executive Committee give notice of the following
GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS for the information of
visitors:—

The EXHIBITION will be OPENED on Tuesday, the 5th
May, on which day none but the proprietors of 2s. season
tickets will be admitted.

PRICES OF ADMISSION.—From the 6th to 16th May
(both days inclusive), 2s. 6d. for each person. On and after
Monday, the 18th May, 1s. for each person, except on Thurs-
day in each week, when the charge will be 2s. 6d. for each
person.

N.B. There will be also certain days (not exceeding eight
in all) specially reserved for proprietors of 2s. season
tickets, of which due notice will be given by public adver-
tisement at least seven days beforehand.

SEASON TICKETS at 2s. 2s. entitle the proprietors to
admission on all occasions when the Exhibition is open to
the public; tickets at 1s. entitle to admission on all but
the "reserved days." These Tickets may be procured at
the Exhibition Building; or at the offices, 100, Mosley-street.

Season Tickets are not transferable, and must be signed
by the proprietor before being presented at the entrance of
the Palace, where a book will be kept in which the pro-
prietor will be required to write his or her name whenever
requested to do so by the officers of the committee.

HOURS OF EXHIBITION.—The doors will be open
daily at ten o'clock, and will be closed at sunset. A bell
will be rung half an hour before closing.

CATALOGUES.—A General Catalogue, price 1s., will be
sold in the Palace. A more full and explanatory catalogue
will be subsequently published at an advanced price.

BATH CHAIRS will be provided at a moderate charge
for the use of ladies and invalids.

OPERA GLASSES will be on Sale or Hire in the Palace.

SMOKING in any part of the Palace is strictly pro-
hibited.

NO PARCELS, STOKS, OR UMBRELLAS will be al-
lowed to pass beyond the entrance, where they may be left
in charge of a proper officer, at a charge of one penny.

NO CHANGE will be given at the doors.

NO RETURN TICKETS will be given to any one leaving
the Palace and passing out beyond the barriers where the
turnstiles are fixed. N.B.—These limits include the Re-
freshment Rooms, but not the Botanical Gardens.

CARRIAGES.—All drivers will be required to obey the
directions given to them by the police on duty at the ap-
proaches.

VISITORS ON FOOT are requested to keep the path to
the north side of the carriage drive.

Arrangements are being made with the various railway
companies for

EXCURSION TRAINS,

and also to enable all visitors to purchase both the railway
ticket and the ticket for admission to the Palace by a single
payment.

THOMAS HAMILTON, Secretary.
Offices, 100, Mosley-street.

SOLERA SHERRY.—VINTAGE 1834,
guaranteed, 54s. per dozen. Queen Isabella's favourite
Wine, as used at the Royal table of Spain.

The peculiar characteristics of the wine are full body, fine
flavour, and great richness, and is the FINEST SHERRY
ever imported, and eminently suited to the palate of those
who enjoy and appreciate a first-class wine.

J. L. DENMAN, Wine and Spirit Importer, 65, Fen-
church-street, London. Counting-house entrance, first
door on the left up Railway place.

"This wine possesses immense body, combined with a full
and rich nutty flavour, and a dryness mellowed by its age,
constituting at once the finest sherry we ever tasted; and
we say to connoisseurs of really fine wine, Call and judge
for yourselves."—*Vide Morning Herald*, Feb. 19, 1857.

TWENTY SHILLINGS PER DOZEN.

DENMAN'S SOUTH AFRICAN PORT.
DENMAN'S SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY.

"Having tasted these Wines, we say to those who like
wine possessing Richness without Sweetness, Dryness with-
out Acidity, and Body without Brandy, by all means give
them a trial."—*Vide Bell's Weekly Messenger*, January 17,
1857.

Bottles included. Packages allowed for when returned.
Terms Cash.

A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.
Country Orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to
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THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY,
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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
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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.

SCHWEPPE'S MALVERN SELTZER
WATER.—Manufactured by J. SCHWEPPE and Co.,
the sole lessees, from the Pure Water of the Holy Well, pos-
sesses all the celebrated properties of the Nassau Spring.

SCHWEPPE'S SODA, MAGNESIA, POTASS WATERS AND
LEMONADE are manufactured as usual. Every Bottle is
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WATERS and LEMONADE.

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GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH
USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY.

And pronounced by HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to be
THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.

Sold by all Chandlers, Grocers, &c. &c.

GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY
BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN AND FLORIST, 10, RAIL-
WAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respect-
fully to inform his friends and patrons, that his unrivalled
collection of Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds is
now arranged, and Catalogues will be forwarded, post free,
upon application. T. B. further begs to state that he still
continues to make assortments of choice Vegetable Seeds, in
collections suitable for Gardens of every size, from Ten
Shillings and upwards.

Ladies and Gentlemen not being able to call at the above
Establishment, may rely upon their orders being executed
with only First-class SEEDS.

All orders from unknown correspondents must be accom-
panied with reference or Post-office Order. Borough
Branch.

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 re-
sorted 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 1s. 1d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.

This preparation is one of the benefits which the
science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind,
for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to
speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but
now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully de-
monstrated 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,
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Price 1s. 1d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

TEETH.—Messrs. GABRIEL supply COM-
PLETE SETS, without Springs, on the principle of
capillary attraction, avoiding the necessity of extracting
stumps or causing any pain.

SILICIOUS ENAMELLED AMERICAN MINERAL
TEETH, the best in Europe—guaranteed to answer every
purpose of mastication or articulation—from 3s. 6d. per
Tooth.

Sets, 4s. 4s.—*Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent* have
been awarded for the production of a perfectly WHITE
ENAMEL, for decayed FRONT TEETH, which can only
be obtained at Messrs. Gabriel's Establishments,

33, LUDGATE HILL, two doors from the Old Bailey; and
at 112, DUKE-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

Consultation and every information gratis.

BEDSTEADS, BATHS, and LAMPS.

—WILLIAM S. BURTON has SIX LARGE SHOW-
ROOMS devoted exclusively to the SEPARATE DISPLAY
of Lamps, Baths, and Metallic Bedsteads. The Stock of
each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever
submitted to the public, and marked at prices proportionate
with those that have tended to make his establishment the
most distinguished in this country.

Bedsteads, from..... 12s. 6d. to £12 6s. each.
Shower Baths, from..... 7s. 6d. to £5 12s. each.
Lamps (Moderateur), from..... 6s. 0d. to £6 6s. each.
(All other kinds at the same rate.)

Pure Colza Oil..... 5s. per gallon.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied
assortment of TABLE-CUTLERY in the world, all
prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness
of the sales—3½ inch ivory-handled table-knives, with high
shoulders, 12s. per dozen; dessert to match, 9s. 6d.; if to
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