

Head Edmund Galloway, 302 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.*

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SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

THE House of Commons has despatched an immense amount of business this week, and the word despatch may be used in its murderous sense, for it has effectually cut the throat of one question which has sometimes monopolized many days of the session.

In the first place, it has made provision for the PRINCESS ROYAL of England, on her marriage with Prince FREDERICK WILLIAM of Prussia. A message from the Crown invited the 'assistance' of the House; and the Ministers of the Crown have invited the concurrence of Parliament, recommending the marriage on the ground that it is dictated by personal affection, that it comports with the Protestant alliances hitherto contracted with this country, and that it "holds out to this country," as Lord PALMERSTON said, "political prospects deserving of attention." This business-like suggestion investigates the question, What is the price to be paid for such advantages? Ministers propose 40,000*l.* down, and 8000*l.* a year! Equivalent to something more than 200,000*l.* down. Mr. ROEBUCK upheld the policy of giving a sum down—a 'generous sum'—and supported it with the precedent of GEORGE THE THIRD'S Princess Royal, who had 80,000*l.*—but then 'Poor Ireland' gave her 5000*l.* a year. The amendment found no effective support, and it was withdrawn. The question is, shall these lavish precedents still bind us?

When Queen VICTORIA asks anything, both Houses of Parliament are naturally desirous 'to oblige the lady;' that is the one general feeling; and, on the other hand, there is a feeling of strong reluctance to make any objection, because, in the whole list of our Sovereigns, there is no one who has shown so striking a deference for public opinion, and whose career has been so free from blame of any kind, so distinguished by trustworthy conduct, public as well as private. And if we live in quiet times, it must be remembered that the position of the QUEEN has been one of the greatest delicacy, in which indiscretion would have become a fault; so that very great credit must be allowed to her individually. Again, the Court has been distinguished by the reverse of encroachment, either on the rights of the public or on the powers of the public. Therefore, in this particular instance, there can be no oppugnance. It is very questionable whether the position of the Court, with reference to the provision for its maintenance, is at all upon a satis-

factory footing; and that is a question for the future, which ought to be gravely and zealously discussed. There is no doubt that these applications are detrimental to the dignity of the Court, and are assisting, with some other influences, to undermine the allegiance of a large proportion of the English people. Mr. ROEBUCK, however, sinks his amendment, and the courtly House of Commons assents without a division.

In other matters Lord PALMERSTON gets on as swimmingly as he did on Friday night last, with the new measure he introduced for the amendment of the oath so as to admit Jews to Parliament. Already, it is said, the Peers are preparing a passive acquiescence in that measure; so that PALMERSTON will accomplish what others have attempted. The House of Commons grants him money, and indeed almost anything he asks. It adopts the reforms he patronises, sets aside the reforms he discountenances. When Mr. FAGAN moves the second reading of his bill for abolishing Ministers' Money in Ireland—transferring the charge to the Irish Ecclesiastical Commissioners—Lord PALMERSTON supports the second reading, Lord JOHN falls in, and it is carried by 313 to 174. When Mr. DILLWYN proposes the second reading of his bill to strengthen the law against the flogging of women, it is discountenanced by Government, and it falls.

The official law amendments make way, although they are not of the most satisfactory kind. The two principal—the LORD CHANCELLOR'S bills on testamentary jurisdiction and matrimonial law—we have discussed in a separate paper. They establish two new courts, a court of probate and a court of marriage. And without altering the present law essentially, they give an entirely new machinery for it, in which the old judge of the Prerogative Court, the old advocates and old proctors of the ecclesiastical courts, are brought into partnership with the judges of the common-law courts, to act on *vis à voce* evidence, with regulated expenses, and to administer the law in all cases of wills, matrimonial disputes, and divorce. We shall see how the owls and the barn-door fowls will manage this joint hatching of eggs. The bill can be nothing but a transitional measure. After a sufficient trial, the owls will be unable to face the light of day, and they will die out, leaving the process of hatching to be carried on much better by the congenial fowls. The bills are an improvement, not a settlement. The Probate Bill passed a second reading without a difficulty; the Matrimonial Bill created a debate, in which the Bishops and the prerogative

Lords stood up to use 'the Word' against the dissolution of marriage for the middle and lower orders; advocating that the 'privilegia,' or separate bills for divorcing noble and wealthy persons, should be continued. Their arguments amount to this—the middle and lower classes, they think, must at once succumb to the authority of Scripture, the authority of which can be overridden by nothing but a private bill. Lord WENSLEYDALE, however, was for extending equality to all classes; and Lord LYNDHURST was for rendering Lord CRANWORTH'S bill more effectual by widening its scope. The second reading of this Ministerial measure was carried by 47 to 18.

Sir RICHARD BETHELL has introduced two very useful bills, though one of them must occasion a great amount of discussion. Its object is to render fraudulent breaches of trust cognizable by the criminal law, and punishable. This would apply to cases like the Royal British Bank, and to private trusts in which individuals are answerable for the disposition of money on behalf of others. The class of responsibilities, however, is so various and so complicated, that laws imposing criminal liabilities may perhaps interfere to check the acceptance of trusts; and hence Sir RICHARD BETHELL'S bill will be examined with very great care.

The other has a more limited object. It is a bill to amend the Winding-up Acts, in such manner as to place the disposal of arrangements in the hands of the majority of creditors and the majority of shareholders, with a view to preventing such a preposterous state of things as that of the Royal British Bank; where a crowd of creditors are pressing upon a regiment of shareholders, with a vast number of individual actions, while private lawyers and the two Courts of Chancery and Bankruptcy are, as Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY said, preying upon the carcase.

Measures of money, it is all the same in the House of Commons: if PALMERSTON asks, PALMERSTON has. Sir CHARLES WOOD asked 8,000,000*l.* for the support of the Navy, although he confessed that the expense in the department was continually increasing; that we have not got the vessels which would be requisite in case of a new war; and that we are not training our officers and men as they should be trained. Individual members who have an interest in ships or economy made their critical remarks; but no one saw his way to being reported in an amendment, and the money was a matter of course.

Mr. SPOONER has been treated in an



style. He brought forward his motion against Maynooth, and delivered a speech of the old materials; but the members on his own side went to dinner; the majority of the Liberal members greeted every person who rose with shouts of "Divide!" and on a division the motion for a committee to consider the endowment Acts of Maynooth was negatived by 125 to 91. So, the throat of that question is cut for the session; which may in consequence be so many days the shorter; and a short session is the grand object.

A short session this year, an important session next year—such is the arrangement that 'man proposes.' It is that future of 1858 that engrosses Mr. DISRAELI'S attention. When Lord PALMERSTON invites him to call upon him in Cambridge House to consider the arrangement for Friday night, and the duet which the two were to perform on the subject of the Princess's dowry, Mr. DISRAELI pleaded a more important engagement at Newport Pagnell among the Buckinghamshire farmers. His object in going down to consult with those statesmen was to arrange a Reform Bill agitation for 1858. He explained to them how, on any previous increase of the franchise, the towns had been getting members at the expense of the country—the proportion of members to population is about two and a half for the towns against one for the country; and since the land is the great Conservative interest, Mr. DISRAELI insists—should the representation be revised—that there shall be a larger allowance of members for the agricultural population. This would be compensation both for the 'unrestricted competition' to which agriculture has been exposed, and for the Reform Bill of 1832.

Among the strange exhibitions of the day, perhaps the Court of Common Council in London City presented not the least curious. On Thursday it conferred the freedom of the City on Dr. LIVINGSTONE, a moustached missionary who preaches the extension of commerce in Africa. After that real step in one of the best Christian crusades ever contemplated, the court carried almost unanimously Mr. Ross's motion for a committee to inquire into the mode of improving the dwellings of the working classes. This is social action in its best aspects.

Marylebone parish seems to be going mad with local vanity—or rather its Board of Guardians is. The Board has lately sent a deputation to Sir BENJAMIN HALL, as member for Marylebone, calling upon him to assist it in preventing 'the encroachment of the Poor Law Commissioners,' because the Commissioners have inquired into the flogging of women and the brutal treatment of idiots. The vain Board pretends, indeed, to assert its rights irrespectively of its conduct; it purposes to reverse the principle of Mr. Drummond's maxim, and to separate rights and duties. The courtesy of the Member, the policy of the Statesman, prevented Sir BENJAMIN from laughing in the face of the Board.

A splendid illustration of the relations between England and America was afforded in the Niagara that arrived at Gravesend last week; it is a frigate, but of immense proportions. Two facts will illustrate this better than any measurements: to make the voice heard from one end to the other, orders are issued through tubes; yet this immense screw frigate will make seventeen knots an hour under sail alone. We have, as Sir CHARLES WOOD confesses, no such vessel in our service—notthing to compare with it. It has come over here to show us how Americans can build, although they do not expend 8,000,000, on their navy. And it has come over here to assist in completing our 'entangling alliance' by laying down the telegraph cable between England and America.

If the cable were already in existence, it might be turned to immediate account; for a message would be sent over to anticipate the arrival of M. CHARLES THURNEYSSEN, who is supposed to be among the passengers of the Arabis, flying from liabilities to the amount of nearly a million sterling.

This is the nephew of the eminent Paris banker, the conspicuous agent of the great Russian railway scheme, the associate of the PEREIRE and other magnificent speculators who have given such a new turn to the financial operations of all the great continental cities. Who is to bolt next? That is the question, both in Paris and London.

While the Executive is hesitating both in naval and military reforms, we have further proofs of the mutinous spirit that is spreading in the Bengal native army. The Nineteenth has been disbanded, and without a fight. But mutiny has been flagrant in the Thirty-fourth, which will probably be disbanded also. It is doubtful whether anything will fully restore the moral health of the troops, except employment.

MR. DISRAELI IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE two members for Buckinghamshire dined on Wednesday with several of their constituents at the Anchor Hotel, Newport Pagnell. After dinner, Mr. Disraeli delivered a long speech on the chief topics of the day. Referring to the recent gold discoveries, he said they had baffled the calculations both of the advocates and of the opponents of Free-trade, and ought probably to be regarded as a Providential interposition for stimulating the consuming powers of the world and producing new markets. For the present, a high rate of interest on capital prevails; but he still believed, as he always had, that the ultimate result of the gold discoveries will be to diminish the rate of interest on money. With respect to Parliamentary Reform, Mr. Disraeli repeated those opinions with reference to the act of 1832 with which the public is already familiar. "Some tell you that population is the element of a representative system; others tell you property is the proper element; a third party tells you that property and population should be taken together; and a fourth tells you that population and property always go together and cannot be separated. But I think there is one element in a representative government which is still more important than even population or property. I mean prescription. (Hear, hear.) An old European country, and especially England, obeys the authority to which it is accustomed. But no country of the antiquity of our own, no country where so artificial a system of society and of credit exists as in this, ever can sustain perpetual changes of government, and will always have a bias for obeying the authority which is traditional." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Disraeli then quoted figures to show that in many instances large county constituencies have fewer representatives than smaller constituencies among the boroughs. This, said Mr. Disraeli, is a greater anomaly than that of which the Radicals complain when they say that some large towns have fewer members than some of the counties. "I know it will be said that there is a fallacy in the observations that I have addressed to you. It will be said that I have merely taken the population represented by the towns, and that, on an hypothesis that is perfectly unjustifiable, have assumed that the rest of the population is a rural and county population, whereas there is an immense number of people who live in towns who are not represented. I will meet that answer. There are 144 county members in England, and they represent a population of 9,770,000, which gives one member of Parliament for every 67,888 inhabitants. There are 319 borough members, representing a population of 7,144,000, which gives one member for every 22,384. I shall deduct the population of the unrepresented towns, which are supposed to be represented by the county members. Their population is exactly 1,000,000. Therefore the 144 county members will represent 8,777,000, which gives one member for every 60,869 persons; while the 319 borough members will represent a population of 8,144,678, giving one member for every 25,536. So that when I have rectified the balance and thrown into the boroughs what they have no right to have, the case stands thus—that you have one member in the counties for every 61,000, and one in the boroughs for every 25,000. Are not these important facts?"

The speaker then glanced at the affairs of the church, observing:—"While, on the one hand, what we familiarly call 'low church' has checked the advance of priestly domination, on the other hand, what we call 'high church' has saved us from the consequences of latitudinarian practices. I am myself in favour of that *via media* which the most eminent prelates of the country have, ever since the Reformation, maintained and upheld. I desire to see a full and complete ecclesiastical establishment on the basis of a true Protestant feeling; but, at the same time, I wish to see our ecclesiastical polity maintained in its spirit and truth." Of church-rates, Mr. Disraeli remarked that, "if the conscientious objection of individuals is to be allowed to prevail against the maintenance of a national institution, he was at a loss to understand how any national institution was to be upheld." Having exhorted the agriculturists to rouse themselves in the defence of their rights, Mr. Disraeli concluded by observing that, notwithstanding their great abilities and honesty, many of the gentlemen who have failed to obtain seats in the new Parliament are better out of the House than in it, because they did not sufficiently acknowledge the excellence of party spirit.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, May 18th.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN INDIA.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CAMPBELL presented a petition, signed by persons of rank, wealth, and education in Bombay, complaining of the manner in which justice is administered in India by the civil servants of the Company, and praying for the establishment of a supreme court in Bombay, composed of English lawyers, with a certain number of members to be appointed by the Governor-General in Council, and that they shall form a united court.

THE ALTERATIONS IN ST. JAMES'S PARK.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, reverting to a subject which he had brought forward on the previous Friday night, inquired by what authority the Minister for Public Works had incurred the serious expenses attending the improvements in St. James's Park. Presuming that some correspondence on the subject had taken place between that functionary and the Treasury, he asked to have the documents published for the information of Parliament.—Earl GRANVILLE promised to lay the papers on their Lordships' table.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR read the following message from the Crown:—"Her Majesty, having agreed to a marriage between the Princess Royal and his Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia, has thought fit to communicate the same to the House of Lords. Her Majesty is fully persuaded that this alliance cannot but be acceptable to all her Majesty's faithful subjects; and the many proofs which the Queen has received of the affectionate attachment of this House to her Majesty's person and family leave her no room to doubt of the ready concurrence of this House in such measures as may contribute to the conclusion of the marriage of her eldest daughter, and may be suitable to the dignity of the Crown and the honour of the country."

Earl GRANVILLE then proposed an Address to her Majesty, expressing the affectionate attachment of the House to her Majesty, their sense of the merits of her Royal Highness, and their regard to the dignity of the Royal Family and the honour of the country.—This address, after a few observations, of the usual loyal character, from the Earl of DERBY, was unanimously agreed to.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill, which he had brought before the House in the last session of Parliament. He proposed that the judge of the Prerogative Court should be the judge of the New Court of Probate at a salary of 4000*l.* a year, and that he should transact the matrimonial and divorce business, which would not impose too much labour upon him. There would be thirty-six or thirty-seven district courts of probate, which would coincide as much as possible with the existing diocesan districts; but these courts were to have no contentious jurisdiction whatever. He proposed that, where parties are deprived of offices by the bill, they should be compensated, if some corresponding offices could not be provided for them. Every one appointed under the bill would be paid by salary, except the district registrars, who would receive fees. The proctors would be continued; but their fees would be regulated by the court.—The Bishop of BANGOR objected to the bill, which was supported by the Bishop of LONDON and Lord CAMPBELL.—The bill was then read a second time.

DIFFERENT CLASSES OF DEBTS.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in answer to Mr. GEORGE CLIVE, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had often thought that the difference between speciality and simple contract debts in the administration of the estates of deceased persons should be abolished. The distinction exists in courts of law, but not of equity. It was his intention, immediately after the Whitsuntide recess, to introduce a bill to remedy that and some other evils.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Major KNOX asked whether there was any objection to publish a list of the officers and men whose names had been sent in by their respective commanding officers to the authorities for the Victoria Cross, but who had not been selected for that distinguished honour.—Sir JOHN RAMSDEN thought it would not be desirable to publish such a list; for, though it would be gratifying to those included in it, it would give disappointment to many who were not less deserving, but who were not so fortunate.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

Lord PALMERSTON appeared at the bar, and read a message from the Crown, to the same effect, and in nearly the same language, as that presented to the Lords, but with the addition of a request that the House will make suitable provision for the Princess Royal.—The Premier then moved an Address, thanking her Majesty for the communication, expressing satisfaction at the proposed alliance, and assuring her Majesty that the House would immediately proceed to consider the message.—The motion was seconded by Mr. DISRAELI, and agreed to *unanimously*.—On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, her Majesty's Message was ordered to be taken into consideration on the ensuing Friday (yesterday).

WAR WITH PERSIA.

Mr. BAILEY inquired when the Persian war papers would be laid on the table.—Lord PALMERSTON expected that the ratification of the treaty of peace would take place at an early period; and immediately afterwards the Government would lay on the table such papers as would enable the House to form an opinion of the war. (Laughter.)

A CRIMEAN SKIRMISH.

Colonel NORTH drew attention to a passage in one of the election speeches of Mr. Williams, member for Lambeth, wherein it was said that the officers of our Crimean army had shown themselves incapable of doing their duty, though at the head of men remarkable for bravery and discipline. The Colonel contended—and quoted figures to uphold his words—that the officers had distinguished themselves most signally and honourably, and he complained that they should have been vilified by one who is constantly endeavouring to render the army inefficient and to produce ill feeling between officers and men.—Mr. WILLIAMS replied that he had never questioned the courage of the officers; but he certainly thought those of the highest rank were not free from blame. He had not endeavoured to sow ill feeling between officers and men, nor to diminish the efficiency of the army; but he had opposed the taking of money out of the pockets of the people when it is not needed, except for the purposes of reckless extravagance.

GENERAL ASHBURNHAM.

General CODRINGTON then called attention to an anonymous attack on General Ashburnham by a writer in the *Times*, who signed himself a 'Staff Officer,' and who impugned the General's judgment and courage at the Sutlej. The letter bore mendacity on the face of it, and he (General Codrington) would read a letter from an eye-witness of General Ashburnham's conduct at the battle of Sobraon. The writer spoke of the General heading his men up to the fortifications, attempting to leap his horse through an embrasure, and, when he failed, turning his horse, riding along in front of the works, and finally entering at another embrasure, at the very muzzles of the enemy's guns. (Cheers.) How he escaped, added the writer, was a miracle. General Codrington then read another letter, to precisely the same effect, from Lieutenant-Colonel Short, of the 62nd Regiment.

SUPPLY.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates (Mr. Fitzroy in the chair), Sir CHARLES WOOD explained that these estimates were the same as those he had submitted to the late Parliament. He had only taken for the money votes sums on account, amounting to 3,390,000*l.*; and, to complete the estimates for the year, votes remained amounting to 9,074,232*l.* It would not be necessary to ask for any additional vote on account of the war with China; the only further demand would be in regard to the transport of troops. He concluded by moving that 53,700 men—seamen, marines, and coastguard—be granted for the remaining eight months.—The vote was agreed to, after a discussion of some length, during which Mr. WILLIAMS, while protesting that no one was more anxious than he to maintain an efficient navy, condemned the extravagance of the estimates then submitted to the House, which exceeded those of 1852-3 by 2,175,000*l.*—Admiral WALCOTT urged the necessity of keeping twelve sail of the line in constant commission, and fully equipped, and of maintaining a squadron of evolution.—Sir CHARLES NAPIER would not consent to reduce the estimates. On the contrary, he thought that, in many respects, the effective force ought to be increased. He was no alarmist, but he wished it to be distinctly understood, both within and without the House, that it was his conviction that our naval force is not sufficient for the right protection of the country in the event of a war suddenly breaking out.

The following votes, to complete the Estimates, were likewise agreed to, after discussion:—1,349,533*l.* for wages of the men; 533,922*l.* for their victuals; 84,217*l.* for the Admiralty-office; 118,150*l.* for salaries of the Coastguard and Volunteers; 33,091*l.* for the scientific branch; 92,224*l.* for establishments at home; 15,423*l.* for establishments abroad; 584,300*l.* for wages of artificers at home; 33,883*l.* for the same abroad; 895,450*l.* for naval stores and steam machinery; 578,415*l.* for new works; 20,000*l.* for medicines.—The CHAIRMAN was then ordered to report progress.

The BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY (IRELAND) BILL was read a second time; and the House went into committee upon the salaries, pensions, &c., under the bill, which gave rise to a short discussion.

Some formal business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at twenty minutes after one o'clock.

Tuesday, May 19th.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Marquis of WESTMOUTH, with some warmth, repudiated certain accusations against him which had been made in the *Globe* newspaper, founded on a pamphlet which, said his Lordship, had been going the round of the newspapers, and had been placed on the tables of some of the clubhouses for the purpose of vilifying his character. The pamphlet and the newspaper article had reference to the disagreement be-

tween his Lordship and 'the lady who does him the honour to bear his name,' but who left him thirty-eight years ago, and 'who does not yet appear to be content to leave her husband in peace.' Against the newspaper he intended to take legal measures; and, for the vindication of his personal honour, he would meet all the statements made against him by a denial supported by proof, when the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill should come before committee. The accusations had been originally made in private in the Ecclesiastical Court. Had they been publicly made—which they would have been in any other court—they would have been completely answered at once; and he therefore trusted that their Lordships would annihilate the Ecclesiastical Court in the bill now before them.—Another personal explanation was made shortly afterwards by Lord LYNDBURST, who said that, owing to some miscarriage in the return to Lady Bulwer Lytton of a narrative of her case which she had sent to him from Llangollen, he had been accused by that lady of discourtesy, and she had even petitioned the House to investigate the case, so that she might have her property restored to her. All he could say was, that he had ordered the delivery of the document to her messenger, and knew no more of it; and that nothing could be further from his intention than to be discourteous to her Ladyship or to any other lady.

TROOPS FOR INDIA.

In answer to the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, Lord PANMURE said the accounts received from India were not such as to excite great alarm respecting the state of affairs in that country. The regiments originally destined for India were ordered to China, but by the second week in June four regiments would proceed from this country to India. If unfortunately it should turn out to be necessary to retain more than the usual number of Queen's troops in India, the regiments to be relieved would not come home.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH desired to know the number of recruits who are to join their regiments in India this year.—Lord PANMURE stated that the number is 4000.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION.

Several petitions were presented from civil servants of the Crown, complaining of the present system of superannuation. Similar petitions have been presented to the Lower House.

CONTINUOUS SERVICE SEAMEN.

Earl TALBOT said that a rumour had got abroad that the continuous service seamen enrolled during the war were about to be discharged, thereby involving a breach of faith on the part of the Government towards those men. He begged, therefore, to ask if there was any intention to discharge those men, and on what grounds?—Earl GRANVILLE declared that there was no breach of faith on the part of the Government towards the men. According to their agreement, they could not leave the service without paying 12*l.*, and all that was done was to enable the men who wished to leave the service to do so without paying any money whatsoever.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, on moving the second reading of this bill, briefly explained the state of the law of marriage in this country before and after the Reformation. In 1850, a commission was appointed to inquire into the whole subject, and it was on the recommendations contained in the report of that commission that the present bill was founded. He proposed to create a new tribunal, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, one of the Chief Justices, and an ecclesiastical judge. According to the present practice, before a divorce *à vinculo matrimonii* could be obtained, proceedings must be taken in the Ecclesiastical Court, a verdict must be obtained against the adulterer, and the facts must be established at the bar of their Lordships' House. His proposal was to substitute one tribunal to investigate the matter once for all, and that the proceedings should take place by *vivâ voce* evidence. Whatever interpretations might be put upon texts of Scripture, he believed it would be most unwise to attempt to extend divorce to anything short of adultery. The bill would give the wife a right to apply for a divorce in the case of incestuous adultery, bigamy, and unjustifiable desertion. He had not retained the clause which prohibited the adulterer marrying the adulteress. He believed it calculated to do more harm than good. By the standing orders, the action of *crim. con.* was a necessary preliminary to a divorce; but he proposed that hereafter the action should be founded on a divorce that had been obtained. This is the present law of Scotland. The jurisdiction in cases of divorce *à mensâ et thoro* would remain, as now, with the ecclesiastical court. After a divorce so obtained by the wife, her status would in all respects be that of an unmarried woman.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY said he would not oppose the second reading of the bill, but in committee he should endeavour to strike out that clause which permits the persons committing adultery to marry one another after the divorce has been obtained.

Lord LYNDBURST supported the bill. The present state of things, he observed, is most demoralising, and to increase the facilities for severing the marriage tie would effect great good. The law on that subject should equally embrace rich and poor, though at present divorce can only be obtained by the former. But the bill did not go far enough. Women are not fairly dealt with in it. They ought to have the fullest power to divorce bad

husbands; and he believed they would seldom or never resort to that alternative except in desperate and hopeless cases. According to this bill, no extent of adultery on the part of the husband would entitle the wife to a divorce. "The only argument he had ever heard in support of such a state of the law was this: that one mischief resulting from the adultery of the woman did not happen in the case of the man—the introduction of a spurious offspring into the house of the husband. But did it follow, on account of this one point of difference, that the rest of the case was not such as to require the interposition of the law? A married man lived in open, flagrant, notorious adultery, without disguise, without limitation as to time—perhaps bringing his paramour home to his own house, insulting his wife by her presence—using her with great harshness and cruelty; and yet, he was ashamed to say, such a case was left without remedy. Ought not conduct like that to entitle a woman to a divorce? Could any man deny that justice called for it? Nay, the husband might be guilty of every species of infamy connected with adultery, and still there was no remedy. He could remind their Lordships of some notorious cases which had come before that House. Ought not the tribunal to interfere in cases of that description? It was said that, if the husband could be proceeded against, the courts would be filled with cases of that description. He denied it. The proceedings could only be instituted by the wife, and that man had formed a very superficial notion of the character of Englishwomen who supposed that they would be prompt to institute such proceedings." Wilful desertion of a wife ought to be ground for a divorce, the very purposes of marriage being violated by a man leaving his wife. He disagreed with the principle of postponing the action for *crim. con.* till after the divorce, because in many cases the injured party would be unable to obtain a divorce by reason of the expense, and he would thus have no remedy. The law of divorce had worked admirably in Scotland; but it was a monstrous anomaly that a man or a woman could obtain a divorce in one part of the United Kingdom, and, if marrying again, be prosecuted for bigamy in another part.

Lord WENSLEYDALE thought there was much that is good in the bill, and he would therefore not oppose it; but he believed it would require many amendments.—The Earl of MALMESBURY would propose a clause in committee to prevent adulterers intermarrying.—The Duke of NORFOLK would oppose the bill at every stage, because, according to the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, marriage cannot be dissolved.—Lord CAMPBELL observed that such is not the doctrine of the Protestant Church, and that it is mere quibbling to put any other interpretation on the words of Christ. Was the bill to apply to Ireland?—The Marquis of WESTMOUTH here caused some laughter by saying that he was going to ask that question.—Lord DUNGANNON remarked that he viewed the bill with such horror and dismay that he should move that it be read a second time that day six months.—The bill was further opposed by Lord REDES-DALE, the Bishop of SALISBURY (who urged their Lordships to sweep away the *privilegia* which they were in the habit of granting, and to put themselves in this respect on the same level with the poor man), the Bishop of BANGOR, the Bishop of LINCOLN, and the Bishop of OXFORD, the last of whom denied, in warm terms, the imputation of quibbling on this question, and contended at great length that, according to Scriptural authority, divorce *à vinculo matrimonii*, whereby the parties would be allowed to re-marry, was not recognised. He objected to the bill as a whole, and not merely to its details, because it dealt with a grave subject in an imperfect way, and pretended to give equal rights to rich and poor without really doing so, for the expense of divorce in any case would be so great that the poor man would not have the same resort as the rich. He agreed that the present law is a disgrace to the statute-book, as making the woman a slave to the man; but none the less would he oppose this bill. He concluded by calling on the House to remember that if they sanctioned the measure they would with one swoop change the condition of every married person in the land, and so endanger the bond of marriage that it might be broken at convenience. (Cheers.)—The Bishop of LONDON argued against these opinions, remarking that the reasons deduced from Scripture by the Bishop of Oxford were very specious, and that, as to the Fathers, a chain of evidence could be derived from them on either side of the question. The Protestant Church holds no such doctrine as that marriage is indissoluble. If it did, what were they to think of those private Acts of Parliament which dissolve marriage? He warmly supported the bill.—The measure was likewise approved of by the Bishop of DURHAM, while the Bishop of LLANDAFF intimated that there were portions which he should object to in committee, though not opposing the bill as a whole.—The Duke of AROLYL spoke in favour of, and the Bishop of LINCOLN against, the measure, and, on a division, the second reading was affirmed by 47 to 18: majority, 29. Their Lordships then adjourned at a quarter past ten o'clock.

CHelsea BRIDGE.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in answer to Sir JOHN STURLEY, Sir BENJAMIN HALL announced that the new bridge at Chelsea would be opened next August. The Act of Parliament declared that it should be a toll bridge, and the proceeds of the toll would go in the first place to

the maintenance of the bridge, after defraying the cost of which, any surplus would go to the payment of the outlay in the construction, and any further surplus would be devoted to metropolitan improvements.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AMONG CATTLE, &c.

Mr. BENTINCK obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the acts for the prevention of contagious diseases amongst sheep and cattle.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, Sir GEORGE GREY moved that it be read a second time that day six months. It proposed to reduce the *maximum* term of imprisonment from six to two months, and to empower magistrates to add the punishment of whipping. He thought the present law had acted beneficially, and he was not disposed to alter it.—Mr. DILLWYN replied that, when he introduced the bill, he argued, not that the existing law had done no good, but that it had not reduced the offence to a minimum. These assaults are now committed in the metropolis at the rate of one a day. His reason for limiting the imprisonment to two months was, that he might limit at the same time the suffering of the wife; for, under the present law, while the husband is sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the wife is condemned to six months' starvation, or the workhouse. He thought that men guilty of what he described as aggravated assaults (such as knocking down women and dragging them by the hair of their head, or kicking them, often doing thereby mortal injury to an unborn infant) are bullies and cowards, to whom the House need not fear applying the only punishment which he believed would meet the offence.

Upon a division, the second reading was negatived by 221 to 86. The bill is therefore lost for this session.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND) BILL.

The second reading of this bill was moved by Mr. FAGAN, who remarked that, although the amount raised by the tax now sought to be abrogated was but small (*viz.*, 12,500*l.*), the feelings of Roman Catholics are outraged by the collection. The Premier's acknowledgment of the principle of the bill would be received with great satisfaction by the people of Ireland.

Mr. NAPIER moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He believed that the measure violated the first principles of property and contravened the provisions of the Church Temporalities Act. It had hitherto been opposed by every Government. The tax is an impost on property, and any one taking property subject to it does so knowing that such is the case.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in supporting the bill in behalf of the Government, showed, by reference to the report of the select committee of 1847, that not only is ministers' money not a valuable property of the church, but that it is regarded as an odious imposition alike by the persons from whom it is demanded, and by the clergymen who receive it. And even if all the objects for which the Ecclesiastical Commission was instituted had not been fully carried out, was it not better to devote a part of the funds in their hands to the securing to ministers of the church an income which now exist only in name, than, by retaining an uncertain nominal amount, retain also a series of litigations, bickerings, and heart-burnings, antagonistic to the peace and good feeling which it is the object of religion to promote? In 1854, an act was passed, throwing seventy-five per cent. of the gross incomes of the clergy on the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; and the same act entirely exonerates from the tax all houses below 10*l.* annual value. The present bill is not, then, a sacrilegious attack on a principle, or on a property secured to the church by the Act of Charles II., but merely an extension to houses above 10*l.* value of the exemption given by the act of 1854 to those below.

Mr. WHITESIDE opposed the bill, and read an extract from a speech of Lord Palmerston, in which he declared that "the tax had nothing to do with any religious question; that it was a tax on property, and that it would be perfectly preposterous to make a rate upon a house depend upon the religion of the owner."—Mr. HORSMAN replied to Mr. Napier and Mr. Whiteside, observing that, although he had never denied that this question was one of great difficulty, its difficulty had been increased by them and their colleagues, who, under Lord Derby's Government, had pledged themselves to bring forward a measure upon this subject. This it was that first gave a real Parliamentary importance to the agitation against ministers' money in Ireland.—Mr. BLAKE supported the bill, which was opposed by Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, who contended that the tax is a charge on property, and therefore ought not to be disturbed. The parties appointed to collect the tax, however, had determined to resist it, and the consequence was that this bill was introduced, the principle involved in which is, that property is no longer to be held sacred and inviolable.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD supported the bill.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL was not satisfied that the necessity for the present bill arose from an imperfection in the act of 1854. He should say that the difficulties were inherent in the subject. By the act of 1853, a church cess of 70,000*l.* was abolished on the ground of the collection being attended with much mischief. The 12,000*l.* of ministers' money ought to have been treated in the same way, the amount being made up from a fund formed by suppressing bishoprics and taxing benefices

of 300*l.* annual value. The only question was, whether the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had sufficient funds at their disposal to meet the charge that would result from the abolition of ministers' money; and he was of opinion that they had.—Mr. WALPOLE opposed the bill, which would furnish those who are desirous of repealing the Maynooth grant with a powerful argument. Until the trusts attached to the funds of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are satisfied, there will be no surplus applicable to this charge.—Lord PALMERSTON expressed a contrary opinion, and said that the present measure would put an end to heart-burnings and dissensions.

The House divided, when the second reading was carried by 313 to 174.

The report of the Committee of SUPPLY was brought up and agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock.

Wednesday, May 20th.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. ADDERLEY moved that the House should go into committee on this bill.—Sir GEORGE GREY, while approving of the object of the bill, was indisposed to go into committee, as several of the details of the measure required consideration. He therefore recommended Mr. Adderley to accede to the motion of which Lord Goderich had given notice, and to defer the committee for three weeks.—Lord GODERICH afterwards made this motion; and the general feeling of the House appeared to be in favour of further time being given for consideration. Ultimately, the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was committed *pro forma*, to be reprinted with the amendments.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

The motion for going into committee on this bill was opposed by Mr. BLAND, on the ground that many Irish members were unavoidably absent; but, on moving that the Chairman should at once report progress, the House agreed to go on with the bill, by 157 to 10. The various clauses were then moved in succession, a brief debate and a division taking place on each detail, and the opponents of the measure being defeated by large majorities every time. While clause 7 was under discussion, the clock indicated a quarter to six, and, according to the rules of the House, further progress was then necessarily suspended.

The House therefore resumed; several bills were advanced a stage; and Mr. WILSON obtained leave to introduce a bill for the amendment of the Cinque Ports Act. An adjournment took place at a few minutes before six o'clock.

Thursday, May 21st.

The HOUSE OF LORDS did not sit.

PORT OF DUBLIN.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. VANCE proposed to go into committee, for the purpose of moving for leave to bring in a bill to repeal certain duties on ships entering the port of Dublin, and other imposts affecting its trade and commerce. The harbour of Kingstown had great capabilities as a refuge harbour, and it had been instrumental in saving much life and property. In the reign of George III., an act was passed to build a small pier (Dunleary), chiefly for the accommodation of merchant vessels, and certain duties were imposed on the trade of Dublin. But there was no more reason for making Dublin pay for Kingstown, than there would be for saddling Holyhead on Wales, or Dover on the county of Kent; and the bill was intended to remedy the injustice.—Mr. LOWE felt compelled to resist the measure *in limine*. Government had spent 314,000*l.* in improving the harbour of Kingstown; they had also paid off a large debt on the Dublin Corn Exchange; and for this they received these dues. The proposition on the part of the debtor was, to cancel the debt and to retain the advantages. True, these dues were proposed to be abolished in his (Mr. Lowe's) larger measure, but that which would be just in carrying out a general principle, might not be just as an isolated act.—Mr. GROGAN supported the motion; the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER resisted it; and Mr. FRENCH hoped the Government would not deal with Ireland in an exceptional manner.—Lord PALMERSTON denied that the Government wished to deal with Ireland in an exceptional manner; it was Mr. Vance who sought to do so. However, he was ready to make a compromise with him, and, if the hon. gentleman would engage to support the Government when they introduced a general measure with reference to passing tolls—(laughter)—they would engage, on the other hand, to include in such measure the Dublin tolls. They must object to repeal a particular duty, with regard to Dublin, while they left similar duties in other places untouched; and therefore they must resist the motion.—Lord CLAUDE HAMILTON and Mr. DISRAELI spoke in favour of the bill being introduced; and Mr. HORSFALL against it.—Mr. LOWE repeated a promise he had already made that a comprehensive measure on the subject would be introduced by Government as soon as practicable.

The House divided when the motion was lost by 253 to 133.

THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.

Mr. SPOONER renewed his motion "That the House do resolve itself into a committee to consider the acts for the endowment of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated

Fund, due regard being had to vested rights and interests." This resolution he supported by all the old arguments, which newspaper readers must by this time have almost got by heart.

General THOMPSON observed that Mr. Spooner's argument resolved itself into an assumption that he was right, and his antagonists wrong.—Mr. GILPIN hoped that the question of religious grants would soon be removed from that House, which did not meet to support orthodoxy or heterodoxy, but the equal rights of all good citizens.—Mr. HADFIELD spoke warmly against the appropriation of public money to any particular sect.—Upon a division (the House appearing indisposed to discuss the question), the motion was negatived by 125 to 91.

A short conversation ensued on a suggestion made by Mr. NEWDEGATE, that members unacquainted with the rules of the House, who had been anxious to address it upon the question, had been precluded from doing so. He therefore moved the adjournment of the House.—Mr. H. HERBERT remarked that the benches on Mr. Spooner's side of the House had been nearly empty during the delivery of his speech. (*Hear, hear.*)—Mr. SPOONER said that was true. (*Hear, hear.*) "But," he added, "recollect that none of the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House answered my argument. (*Hear.*) Whether the absence of members on my side of the House arises from their being satisfied with my case I do not know; but let it go forth that my charge against Maynooth has not been answered."—Mr. ROEBUCK congratulated the House on having escaped the dreary misery of a Maynooth debate. He was glad that the motion had been answered merely by a vote, and that no attempt had been made to refute that which did not deserve a refutation.—Mr. WHITESIDE having asked what the Government intends to do with Maynooth, Lord PALMERSTON said that the report recommended certain trivial alterations in the course of education at the colleges, and he believed these were already being carried into effect.—Colonel FRENCH called attention to the danger of allowing the course now taken to be drawn into a precedent; and Mr. NEWDEGATE thereupon withdrew his motion.

FRAUDULENT BREACHES OF TRUST.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved for leave to introduce a bill rendering parties guilty of fraudulent breaches of trust criminally liable. Describing the legal position of the trustee (who is accounted the owner of the property, and therefore incapable of committing a theft with respect to it), he remarked upon the anomaly thus presented by the English law, in which alone, among all the European codes, a breach of trust is accounted a debt instead of a crime. Among other forms of trusteeship which he hoped to repress by this bill was that exercised by the directors or other managers of joint-stock companies, for whose behoof he intended to provide that the keeping of false accounts, the making of false entries, the promulgation of false representations, and the paying of dividends out of capital, should be treated as criminal offences; but there is to be no criminal proceeding against a trustee without the previous permission of the Attorney-General, or of one of the superior courts of law. Sir Richard Bethell added that he had now perused the evidence given respecting the case of the British Bank, and had determined to institute a prosecution against the directors of that establishment.—After some remarks from Mr. MALINS and Mr. HADFIELD (the first of whom approved of the measure, while the second suggested caution), the motion was agreed to, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL also obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend the existing Acts for Winding up the affairs of Joint-stock Companies. He explained the defective working of the existing law, and its oppressive action through the want of authorized representatives of creditors to make valid and binding arrangements or compromises with shareholders; and he proposed by this bill to enable creditors to elect a representative who could accept a composition and bind the whole body, and to authorize shareholders as soon as terms of arrangement were agreed upon to apply to the court and obtain protection from vexatious suits, on giving security to fulfil those terms.

THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS.

A motion by Mr. MARJORIBANKS, that the Committee on Contracts (Public Departments) do consist of seventeen members instead of fifteen, was opposed by Colonel BOLDERO and supported by Lord PALMERSTON.—After a short conversation, the House divided, when the motion was carried by 186 to 83.—On the motion that Mr. Monsell should be one of the two additional members, Colonel BOLDERO inveighed against this attempt to augment the number of Government officials upon the committee.—Mr. HAYTER stated the circumstances connected with the formation of the committee, the first list of which he considered unfair.—A discussion of some length ensued, but the motion was agreed to.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

The Clerk of the House announced that election petitions had been presented against the returns for Peterborough, Beverley, the borough of Sligo, Queen's County, Portsmouth (2), Taunton, Ipswich, Chatham, Lymington, Sandwich, Bridport, Gloucester (2), New-

castle-under-Lyme (3) (*laughter*), and the northern division of Staffordshire. The petitions were ordered to be referred to the General Committee of Elections. It was then announced that these were all the election petitions that had been received.

The House adjourned at half-past eleven o'clock.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A LITTLE girl, ten years old, the daughter of an ostler at the Longton Hotel, Sydenham, set fire to her night-clothes while attempting to reach something from the mantel-shelf, and was burnt to death. The coroner at the inquest remarked on the frequency of these cases, owing to fires not being properly guarded.—Another death by fire has been inquired into by the Westminster coroner. Miss Caroline Marsh, a young lady of seventeen, who was at school at Calais, set fire to her clothes by accident, and rushed into the streets enveloped in flames. Her mother being communicated with, the young lady was brought to England, and placed in St. George's Hospital, where it was thought the best medical advice could be obtained. Here, however, she expired. In this, as well as in the preceding case, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.—A third death from burning has occurred within the last few days. Miss Macnaghten, the eldest daughter of Sir Edmund C. Macnaghten, was in the drawing-room of her father's house in Upper Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, writing a letter. It is believed she struck a light in order to seal the note, when one of the matches fell on the ground. On this match she appears to have trodden, setting it in a flame which communicated to her muslin dress. The young lady soon found herself on fire, and, loudly shrieking, she rushed down stairs into the hall. One of the domestics, coming to her assistance, wrapped a green baize table cover round her, and medical aid was at once obtained; but help came too late. Miss Macnaghten lingered until the evening, when she expired. The body was fearfully charred from the soles of the feet to the face, the features of which, after death, were scarcely recognizable. When the accident was first discovered, the flames rose three feet above the sufferer's head. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

A very shocking accident has taken place at the Marsh Brook station of the London and North-Western Railway. Several persons were waiting to take to the Church Stretton Fair. An express from Shrewsbury was overdue; and the porter told the people to stand back from the platform, as the train would pass straight through at great speed. He then went on to attend to the points, and, just as the train came in view, a young woman crossed over. The whistle was sounded; but the young woman's mother, who was very old and deaf, attempted to follow her daughter. A labourer who was at work on the line ran forward to try and snatch her from the rapidly advancing train; but he became confused. In another moment, the engine was upon them, and both were struck down and killed immediately.

A railway accident, which might have been attended with serious loss of life, occurred on the South Devon Railway last Saturday morning. As the luggage-train from Exeter to Plymouth approached the Teignmouth station at a moderate speed, the pointsman, from some unexplained cause, turned the train into a dead siding which is contiguous to the platform of the station. The result was that the flagging of the platform was torn up, the stone pillars which supported the iron roof were knocked down, and the roof fell on the line, completely burying the engine, tender, and first carriage of the train. The driver and stoker jumped off just in time to save their lives. Traffic was impeded for four hours.

A passenger train from Huddersfield to Sheffield came into collision last Saturday with a ballast train near the engine-shed opposite to Neepsend. The passenger carriages were thrown off the line, and some of the ballast waggons were smashed. None of the passengers were seriously injured, and the driver and fireman saved themselves by jumping off. The driver, however, sustained a dangerous cut on the head and a sprained ankle.

Mr. Henry Lawson, second son of Sir William Lawson, Bart., of Brough Hall, near Catterick, Yorkshire, has been drowned at Waikora, a small settlement in New Zealand, to which colony he emigrated a few years ago, and purchased there an estate. Some of his shepherds were engaged in sheep-washing, when one of them fell into the water. Mr. Lawson made a gallant attempt to save the man's life, but in so doing lost his own, while the shepherd was carried away by the stream. The unfortunate gentleman was only in his twenty-fifth year.

An old man, John Macleod, engaged in herding cattle at the farm of Brae, on the Tulloch estate, near Dingwall, was on Friday week attacked by a furious bull, and gored to death before assistance could be rendered. The poor man had fallen while attempting to run off.

An accident of a very shocking nature has happened to a Blue-coat boy named Bulkeley, at Christ's Hospital. Last Saturday afternoon, the boys were in the playground of the school, when two of them attempted to climb the wall abutting on Giltspur-street, which feat, although attended with great peril, had nevertheless

been often successfully accomplished. The first boy descended safely, but his companion fell upon a line of pointed iron spikes attached to the premises of a baker in Giltspur-street. An alarm was immediately raised by the poor youth's schoolfellows, and he was ultimately extricated, but not until after he had lain in his frightful position several minutes. Medical assistance was immediately obtained from St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The boy is about sixteen years of age. He is progressing favourably.

A young man employed on the City Company's steam-boat Waverley was on Wednesday kneeling on one of the paddle-boxes, when the vessel (which was at London-bridge) sustained a slight concussion with another, and the youth was thrown into the river. Assistance could not be rendered until too late, the tide rapidly carrying the poor fellow away.

The dead body of a woman was found on Monday in an empty house in Walter's-terrace, Commercial-road. A little boy, her son, was kneeling by her side, endeavouring to induce her to rise. The woman had suffered greatly from fatigue last Saturday, when she had walked a great many miles, canvassing for her son, who was a candidate for admission into the British Orphan Asylum. A verdict of Natural Death has been returned by the coroner's jury.

A shocking catastrophe has been inquired into by a coroner's jury. A child, seven months old, was left sleeping in its cot at the house of Mr. Gronor, Auckland Villa, Notting-hill. A lighted taper was on a dressing-table in the bedroom, and the window was hung with chintz curtains. A cry of fire was shortly afterwards raised; the bedroom was then found to be in flames in every part, and the conflagration afterwards extended to other portions of the house. A boy, about fourteen years old, who was passing, asked where the child was, and, learning that it was in the bedroom, rushed upstairs, and brought down the cot, but the child died almost immediately after it was taken to the hospital. At the inquest, the coroner remarked in most eulogistic terms on the courage of the boy (Henry Pusey), and said he should strongly recommend him to the notice of the Royal Humane Society for reward. The jury unanimously endorsed the coroner's remarks. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

An Irishman, named Mark Connor, about forty years of age, has died at Selby, in Yorkshire, in consequence of having taken a quantity of laudanum, which had been given him by Mrs. Broomhead, a small shop-keeper, in mistake for Godfrey's cordial.

Mr. Edward Sex, a stockbroker, aged fifty, has been killed by an overdose of hartshorn and water administered to him while in a fit into which he fell after attending a missionary meeting in Clapton-square.

THE ORIENT.

PERSIA.

THE treaty of peace between Persia and England was ratified on the 14th of April at Teheran, and forwarded on the 17th to Bagdad.

Detailed accounts have been received of the suicides of General Stalker and Commodore Ethersey (not Etherge, as previously spelt). Two Courts of Inquiry have sat on the bodies, and received a large amount of evidence. General Stalker appears to have been anxious that the troops of his division, especially the Europeans, should be huddled before the setting in of the hot season, and to have feared that he would be held responsible for any loss of life which might occur while they were under canvas. He had received, however, and replied to, a letter from the Commanding Engineer to the Chief of the Staff, in which he (the General) was acquitted of all blame in the matter. Once or twice, he expressed a wish that more cavalry should be left with him, instead of being taken up to Mohammerah; and, according to his aide-de-camp, he appeared oppressed by a sense of responsibility. On the morning of his death, he told his aide-de-camp to load his pistols for him. This was done, and they were placed on the table in the General's tent. He then went over to the mess tent, and breakfasted with Sir James Outram. Having written down his name in the mess book as that of a guest to dinner, he rode back to his tent. A weariness was then observable about General Stalker, and shortly after Captain Jones, who had called on him, had left, the General shot himself. He does not appear to have been hurt at being superseded by Sir James Outram, but, on the contrary, seems to have been glad to serve under him. Captain Hunter, the deceased General's aide-de-camp, spoke at the inquest of his being very anxious about private matters. The verdict of the court is that he destroyed himself in a fit of temporary insanity.

In the case of Commodore Ethersey, the dread of responsibility appears yet more strongly—a morbid feeling heightened by the news of the lamentable end of General Stalker. "From entries in his own journal," says the *Times* Bombay correspondent, "it plainly appears how unequal this unfortunate officer was to the office he filled. Two months before his death were such notes as, 'My poor head is sadly confused. I have dreadful attacks at times.' A week before his death, he writes—'I feel more and more my unfitness to command. I am broken down, my head gone, and the ter-

rible responsibility! I shall make a mess of it.' (It is the Mohammerah expedition to which he refers here, and of which he was to command the naval portion.) In his relations with his superiors at Bombay he saw only a series of rebuffs or insults—in the preparations which he was superintending for Mohammerah only the commencement of disgrace and disaster. Sleep failed him at night, or was obtained only with the treacherous assistance of opium. While in this critical condition of mind, he heard of the General's death. He writes of the event in his diary thus:—'Heard of poor Stalker's melancholy death. His case is similar to my own. He felt he was unequal to the responsibility imposed upon him. I have had a wretched night.' The fatal contagion of suicide has often been remarked. In this case, its operation can scarcely be doubted. Before the camp had recovered from the shock of General Stalker's death Commodore Ethersey too had shot himself through the head." The verdict states that the Commodore destroyed himself while suffering under mental aberration, brought about by long-continued anxiety connected with the duties of his command.

Captain Young, of the Semiramis, the next senior naval officer present, was promoted to the command of the squadron.

INDIA.

The 19th regiment of Native Infantry has been disbanded, owing to its mutinous conduct. Matters looked very ominous at one time, and it was feared there would be resistance and consequent bloodshed; but this has been averted by the natives making a sullen submission. They were drawn up on parade, with two European infantry regiments, cavalry, and artillery, ranged opposite to them; and this appears to have overawed the malcontents. They laid down their arms; but they were allowed to retain their uniforms. The native officers could not forbear from weeping with rage and vexation. Notwithstanding this example, the 34th (Native) are more mutinous than ever. A sepoy belonging to that regiment has severely wounded Lieutenant Baugh (who was nobly defended by a Mussulman), and has been executed. Two European regiments with shotted guns were present at the execution, to put down any outbreak. Other native regiments, also, are in a very insurrectionary humour.

The hill stockades of the Bozdars have been stormed, and the tribe has been reduced to entire submission.

CHINA.

There is but little that is new from China. On the 19th of March, Captain Forsyth, while cruising off St. John's Island, fell in with a fleet of piratical junks. The captain landed with a party of marines, and fired on the junks from an eminence, while the boats also attacked them with shot. At length, the pirates took to the hills, and seventeen of their boats were captured and destroyed. None of our men were killed, and only one was hurt.

AMERICA.

DESPATCHES have been received at Washington from Mr. Dallas announcing that the English Government had rejected the Dallas-Clarendon treaty on account of the alterations which have been made in it by the American Senate. Lord Napier, it is said, was surprised at the intimation; and much excitement prevailed, though, according to some accounts, the Washington Cabinet does not regret the determination to which Lords Palmerston and Clarendon have come. President Buchanan's Ministry, however, maintain that the English Government has failed to execute the Clayton-Bulwer treaty; and they insist upon its being carried out in good faith.

Several hundred Indians have threatened the territory of Iowa. A letter from General Wheat, in the *New York Herald*, states that the English are aiding the Costa Ricans in Nicaragua, and that the English ships of war at Greytown are there for the purpose of defeating the projects of Colonel Lockridge. General Hornsley, in a letter to Lord Napier on the same subject, arraigns him and the English Government before the American Union on the same charge.

A squadron is to proceed to Formosa, to investigate the wreck of the Highflyer and the murder of her crew.

From Mexico we learn that the Archbishop and several priests have been arrested, and that the former is to be banished.

A revolutionary movement has been discovered in Chili, and several men of high position have been arrested by the Government.

The quarrel between the justices and the Commissioners of the new Police at New York—a body which is supposed to represent too strongly the Republican party in politics, as the previous body represented the opposite or Democratic faction—goes on with increased intensity. Some of the municipal officers who are ousted by the new law refuse to give up the power they hold; and party feeling runs very high. These city feuds have brought out a curious fact. The greater number of the members of the city government are Irishmen. The native American prefers to employ himself in trade and the making of money; and so aliens are left to perform the offices of municipal rule, and to manage the taxation of the town.

Affairs in Utah continue to grow darker Brigham

Young openly defies the Federal authorities, and incites the Indians to plunder and murder all who do not belong to the Mormon community. Mormon murderers of the Gentiles are acquitted by Mormon juries, and open rebellion is threatened.

"There are also signs," writes the *Times* New York correspondent, "of further troubles in Kansas. The Free State party have not decided to take part in the approaching elections, so that it is certain that Kansas will apply for admission to the Union as a Slave State. The ground upon which the Free State party justifies its neglect is that the offices are all in the hands of those who tyrannized over them in the days of 'bleeding Kansas,' and that they cannot expect fair dealing at their hands. The question must then come directly before the next Congress whether Kansas shall be admitted as a slave state; and, although there will be much discussion, I apprehend there can be but one result—its admission."

The railway riots near Baltimore have been brought to a close, but not until very serious conflicts with the military had taken place. The latter were sent in large numbers by railway train; and, as this passed along, it was fired upon by a body of the rioters stationed in the fields. The fire was returned with great effect from the windows of the train, which continued in motion; and several of the rioters fell, while others made off. Further on, a brass swivel was posted against the train. Here a very raking fire was poured in by the military, which did not a little execution. It was intended that the military should then alight from the train, and charge the mob with fixed bayonets; but, the engineman having made a mistake, or purposely disregarded his orders, the train went on, and was only stopped by an obstruction some way in advance, placed there by the malcontents. Two of the soldiers were seriously injured, together with the engineman and fireman. The rioters have since submitted.

The western farmers are suffering from a hog distemper, caused by eating grain from which whisky has been made. It appears that in America strychnine is used in the manufacture of the spirit in question.

A most singular incident in connexion with a murder at the town of Newburg is related in the papers. The dead body of a very handsome young woman was found in a field early one morning by a labourer going to his work. It was nearly naked, and had been subjected to great violence. Three persons recognised the corpse as that of a Miss Bloom, who had been missing for some days; and the sister of that young lady testified to the same effect with the most perfect confidence on seeing the body. Identification, indeed, was not difficult, for a scar over the left eyebrow, a sore upon the elbow, a mole above the right knee, and a very unusual formation of the little toes of the right foot, were there, and were also known by the living Miss Bloom as marks peculiar to her missing sister. The face, also, as far as could be recognised for the discolouration, was the same. The dead woman was found to have been pregnant; and, as Miss Bloom was known to have left Newburg some days before with a married man named Jenkins, since which time he had not been seen, it was thought the man had a sufficient motive for getting rid of her. He was therefore arrested, but denied his guilt. The body was buried in the midst of the assembled village; but, at the moment when the funeral train was leaving the church, there suddenly appeared the very Miss Bloom who was supposed to be murdered. The identification, after all, was at fault. On this, Jenkins was at once set free.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports of the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show no material alteration, but the tendency in many cases has been towards a further diminution of activity. At Manchester there is considerable dulness, prices of goods being scarcely supported, even in the face of another advance in the raw material. The Birmingham accounts describe steadiness in the iron-market, and a good American demand. For the general manufactures of the place there have been numerous foreign orders, and an increase of activity is expected from the recent reductions in tin and copper. In the woollen districts there has been a slight revival, but great caution continues to be exercised. The Irish linen-markets have been heavy.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London there has been some improvement during the same week. This is owing to the change of wind. It is supposed that there were more than 500 ships weather-bound in the Channel at the beginning of last week. The number of ships reported inward was 192, being 61 more than in the previous week. Those included 51 with cargoes of corn, flour, rice, &c. The number cleared outward was 141, including 17 in ballast, showing an increase of 6.—*Idem*.

Messrs. Lawe and Co's Bank at Preston has stopped payment, owing, according to an announcement posted up at the premises, to the sudden death of Mr. Lawe, who was in fact the sole proprietor, and who had made no arrangements for carrying on the concern. The bank had branches at Ormskirk and Southport. The *Preston Guardian* states, on what it considers excellent

authority, that the depositors are not likely to suffer any loss, and that a great portion of the estate can be realized with ease, almost immediately, by the representatives of the deceased gentleman.

The stonemasons employed at Liverpool have struck for an advance from 28s. 6d. to 30s. a week in summer, and from 26s. to 27s. in the winter months. They complain that the rate of wages is higher in the metropolis and in Manchester, and they also plead the increased price of provisions as one reason why they are entitled to an advance. There is also a strike among the carpenters, who require a similar advance—from 28s. to 30s. a week. Some of the masters have given way, but there is still an almost entire cessation of work.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Emperor, Empress, and Court, together with their royal visitors, Fontainebleau, and the Paris papers treat their readers to long accounts of imperial and regal personages in their forest wanderings, and at their stag hunts, their grand banquets, their picnics, and their other recreations. The theatre attached to the palace has been newly decorated with great splendour; and here there have been performances by the actors of the Théâtre-Français.

The Grand Duke Constantine, having departed from Fontainebleau, spent two days *incognito* at Paris. While there, he left his card at the Turkish Embassy. On the card were the words "The Prince Constantine," written in his own hand and in Turkish, which he speaks well. Last Saturday evening, he left for Creuzot. Here he visited the celebrated iron-works, with which he was much interested. He was afterwards entertained at dinner by the proprietor. On a subsequent day, he went to Bordeaux, where he had a very enthusiastic reception.

The *exposé des motifs* of the bill presented on Wednesday to the Legislative Body for modifying Art. 1 of the organic decree relative to the election of deputies, assigns the following as the reasons which call for the change: "According to the terms of the constitution, there must be one deputy for every 35,000 electors. In attributing, according to this provision, to each department one deputy for every 35,000 electors, Art. 1 of the organic decree of the 2nd February, 1852, states that departments in which the additional number of electors amounts to 25,000 shall have one deputy more. It is on these bases that the elections for the present Legislative Body, which reckons 261 members, took place. Since these elections, however, the number of electors has changed in several of the departments; in some it has increased, and in others diminished. Thus the departments of the Seine and of the Loire, in consequence of the augmentation of the number of their electors, have each a right to one deputy more. Nine departments, on the contrary—the Côtes-du-Nord, Gers, Indre-et-Loire, Puy-de-Dôme, Haute-Saône, Sarthe, Seine-et-Marne, Somme, and the Var—have had their electors diminished, and must each lose one deputy. Following, therefore, the provisions of the organic decree, the next Legislative Body would only consist of 254 members, instead of 261. That result, which would deprive nine departments of a representative, excited the attention of the Government, and it conceived that without infringing on the constitution it might by a simple modification of the organic decree maintain the present state of things and even enlarge the bases. It therefore proposes to fix at 17,501 instead of 25,000 the surplus number of electors giving a right to an additional deputy. The result of this modification would be to maintain for the above-mentioned departments, with the exception of that of the Côtes-du-Nord, their present number of representatives. It would, besides, give an additional one to the departments of the Allier, Corsica, the Loiret, and the Meuse. The adoption of the bill will therefore open the doors of the Legislative Body to three new deputies, and, as the departments of the Seine and the Loire have a right by the increase in the number of their electors each to one deputy more, there will in the whole be five more deputies to elect, and the number of members of the Legislative Body will be 266 instead of 261."

A most atrocious murder has been committed at the village of Olivet in the department of the Loiret. M. Lechaux, the murdered man, was a retired builder, sixty-four years of age, and a member of the Municipal Council. He was paralytic, and this natural misfortune was heightened by an unnatural feud between himself and his son, a man of forty, relative to the partition of the property left by Madame Lechaux, who is dead. A few days ago, as the father was getting out of his carriage, the son approached, angrily asked his parent how he dared dispose of some timber without his permission, and, after some altercation, seized the old man by the collar. The latter raised his cane, but the son dragged him into the workshop, where he seized an axe, and, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of M. Lechaux's daughter, killed his parent by repeated blows. He then locked himself into his room, and very coolly began to arrange certain matters of account. The police, having been summoned, demanded admittance. The murderer replied, "In a few minutes. Have patience; I will not

destroy myself; I will not do my family that honour. I will die on the scaffold." The door was presently opened, and the criminal said to the officers, "It must have happened sooner or later." He is a very powerful man, is unmarried, and possesses an independent fortune. Murders have recently been very common in France.

The session of the Legislative Corps has been prolonged by Imperial decree to the 28th of May. "According to reliable reports," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "the dissolution will probably immediately follow the closing of the session, and the electoral colleges will be convoked for the 20th and 21st of June. The 20th of June falls on a Saturday, and on the following day will be completed the general examination of the votes." We read in the same letter:—"The proposed law to make the previous sanction of the police authorities requisite for the publication of non-political journals and other light fugitive literature, is likely to be defeated, since the Corps Législatif appears almost unanimously opposed to it. The Government, however, already resorts to indirect means for effecting the same object. For instance, the editor of the *Triboulet*, being a writer whose antecedents made him not agreeable to the powers that now be, has been ordered to relinquish his connexion with the *Triboulet*, with a hint that unless he did so the journal would be suppressed at the first opportunity. The proprietor of the journal has been advised by the police to alter its name, and it is henceforth to be entitled *Le Rabelais*."

The Emperor has sent to Alexander Humboldt, through Prince Napoleon, the decoration of grand officer of the Legion of Honour.

The King of Bavaria arrived at Fontainebleau on Sunday evening.

The accounts from the agricultural districts of France speak very highly of the fine appearance of the growing crops. The apprehension of a failure in the silk crops is passing away; and under these cheerful prospects trade is becoming more buoyant.

The Cour Impériale, after a long deliberation, delivered its judgment in the affair of the Napoleon Docks on Tuesday morning. The sentence of imprisonment against M. Cousin, Legendre, Duchesne de Vere, and Berryer, as pronounced by the Tribunal de Première Instance, is affirmed; but the fines to which they were condemned are reduced to 3000f. for Cousin and Legendre, to 2000f. for Arthur Berryer, and to 1000f. for Duchesne de Vere. M. Orsi, who was acquitted on the former trial, has been declared guilty of complicity on account of his participation in the agreement with Fox and Henderson, and has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment and 100f. fine, and, moreover, to restore 4400 dock shares. The prisoners are condemned to the costs in different proportions.

M. Vieillard, senator, who was tutor to the Emperor's brother, died on Tuesday morning at Paris. Louis Napoleon visited him during the last days of his illness. The Marquis de Pastoret, senator, also died on the same morning.

A certain number of Hungarian refugees, who have resided in Paris since 1849, have presented themselves at the Austrian Embassy, demanding passports to return home, in consequence of the amnesty granted by the Emperor of Austria.

M. Charles Thurneyssen, a Paris banker and shareholder, has absconded to America, with debts variously stated at an amount equal to from 800,000f. to 1,000,000f.

General Wrangel, Director-General of Artillery of the Army of the Mexican Confederation, has just arrived in Paris, charged with a mission from his Government.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Government contemplates a revision of the laws and regulations bearing on the importation of foreign goods into Belgium. The object is to assimilate the Belgian system as nearly as possible to that now in operation in England, under the Customs Consolidation Act. Towards this end, the Belgian Minister of Commerce lately made application to the English Government for such information as could be consistently supplied, and the matter was referred to the Commissioners of Customs, who have shown every anxiety to afford assistance. An official in the Customs was specially appointed to prepare and fill up the various books and documents in use, and to report upon the general practice.—*Times*.

PRUSSIA.

The betrothal of Prince Frederick William of Prussia with the Princess Royal of England is published in the Berlin *Staats-Anzeiger* (official gazette) of Sunday as a piece of most gratifying intelligence.

Prince Napoleon left Berlin for Dresden on Thursday week. At Dresden he was received by the Crown Prince of Saxony, with whom he drove to Pillnitz to dinner.

A deputation from the British branch of the Evangelical Alliance had an interview with the Prussian monarch on Friday week. The gentlemen were very cordially received, and were asked to stay to dinner, after which the King talked a good deal with them in English. A meeting of the Alliance is to be held at Berlin next September.

AUSTRIA.

Emperor has given instructions for the erection of a full-length statue to the memory of his uncle, the Archduke Joseph. He has also decreed that, at the beginning of next year, no further contribution be demanded towards the fund for rebuilding the city at Buda; and the sums already paid are to be applied for the good of the empire, more especially of Hungary.

A notorious bandit, named Rosza Sandor, has been executed in a singular manner, the incident being like a scene in a melodrama. He had been the guest of one Katona, who knew the character of Sandor. One day he was suspected that he had been betrayed by the land. Drawing a pistol, therefore, he fired it at the head of Katona, who was wounded, but not dangerously. The wife of Katona thereupon felled Sandor on the ground with an axe, bound him hand and foot, and he lay senseless, and then fetched the gendarmes. Being taken to another account, Katona, who was himself at the time a bandit, really did design to betray Sandor, but he began the fray by making an attack on him. The cashiers of the National Bank at Vienna were scolded, leaving a deficit of between 200,000 and 300,000 florins. He has since been apprehended.

Two little daughters of the Emperor have been killed.

murraïn has made its appearance at Olschan, Olmutz, where there is one of the largest cattle fairs in Austria.

The first Austrian man-of-war intended to circumnavigate the world, the frigate Novara, left Trieste on the 10th of April for Gibraltar.

Emperor, by means of an autograph letter, has demanded all arrears of the war contributions imposed on the Hungarians at the end of the war of independence in 1849.

ITALY.

Dr. Gasparini, a distinguished Neapolitan botanist, died after the events of the year 1848, though he had no offence, was deprived of the King of Naples Professorship at the University, has been appointed by the Austrian Government to a similar post at the University of Pavia. On hearing of the intention of this, the Neapolitan monarch protested against it, and the Emperor of Austria has not heeded the protest.

The feast of the Statuto in Sardinia has passed off with great brilliance.

Piedmontese Gazette announces that the Italians at Mexico have sent the sum of 2479 francs to the committee for the subscription to the guns of Sardinia.

Monitore Toscano of the 10th inst. states that, in consequence of information received by the police of the presence of two vessels having been freighted by persons suspected of political intrigues, and of their having set the direction of Civita Vecchia with a number of chests, the authorities of Leghorn took immediate measures to prevent any revolutionary attempt on the coast.

On the 27th ult., a small hoy was seen off Leghorn and was visited by certain individuals whose names were well known; but she stood out to sea steering westward. Nevertheless, the police thought that on the night of the 1st a considerable number of chests had been landed between Gombo and Sardinia, and then conveyed to Pisa in carts; where the governor of that town immediately caused the houses, suspected of having received them, to be searched, and at length succeeded on the 9th in capturing ninety-eight muskets and five chests of ammunition. The persons implicated in this affair have been arrested.

RUSSIA.

On the occasion of his birthday, the Emperor issued a decree of amnesty, extending his pardon and mercy still further than in that published at the time of his coronation.

The classes pardoned on this occasion are:—1. The natives of Great Russia who were condemned in the year 1849, and have served in the army since with honour to themselves; their rank is to be restored to them, and no claim to the restoration of their property is to be deduced from this. 2. Those natives of the provinces who were convicted in connexion with the Polish Revolution or for other political offences, and returned to their homes previous to the Emancipation. 3. Those natives of the Western Governments who have been convicted of political offences, and since served with credit in the army. 4. Those natives of the Western Governments who had left their countries without permission and had returned thither since the coronation are to be reinstated in their civil rights. 5. To such of the above as belong to the nobility of the privileged classes it shall be permitted to enter the civil service after conducting themselves well for three years. 6. Those who have served in the army during their period of banishment are admissible at once into the civil service. 7. To such of the above who belong to the noble classes have been allowed two years to produce the necessary documentary evidence of their nobility, to be reckoned from the date of this publication, and, for those who have returned in consequence of the present ukase, from their return.—*Times Berlin Correspondent.*

SPAIN.

The *Correspondencia Autografa* contains the following curious announcement:—"Yesterday, at five in the afternoon, took place in the royal apartments the ceremony of placing the nail possessed by the Chapel Royal—one of those which suspended Jesus Christ—in the magnificent and unequalled reliquary that her Majesty the Queen has had constructed to replace that which was stolen when, on the 27th of May of last year, the most holy nail disappeared. The ceremony commenced by the benediction of the reliquary by the Patriarch of the Indies. The reliquary being afterwards placed in the oratory of the same royal habitation, the Patriarch returned to the chapel, and, with all the clergy and music of the same, conducted the holy nail in procession to the royal apartment, where their Majesties, with her Royal Highness the Princess of the Asturias and the Infanta Dona Christina, were waiting upon their knees with the chief officers of the palace, &c. The music played the prayers which the Church possesses even for such unusual cases as this, and, the procession having reached the royal chamber, the holy nail was placed in the new reliquary, and the officiating divine offered for adoration this inestimable instrument of our redemption, their Majesties adoring it first. Many persons of those present in the chapel also adored it, and it was subsequently deposited in the sacred place where it is to be preserved, in spite of sacrilegious hands, for the greater honour and glory of God." The first sentence here is extremely obscure; but, as far as one can understand it, it would seem that the Queen of Spain has an unlimited supply of these holy nails on which Jesus Christ was suspended, and that the loss of any one can be supplied at discretion. We have not the same art here in heretic England; and so the old woman who had been interested with a skull of Oliver Cromwell at one Museum was dogged to dis-appointment when inquiring for the same relic at another.

The Mexican squadron, which has been fitting out for the last three months at Cadiz, has set sail for the West Indies. It is composed of six ships. They carry 2450 troops, thoroughly equipped. This force is commanded by Generals Mendimata, Santiago, and Parrido.

In the sitting of the Senate on the 16th inst. (says a despatch from Madrid), General Calonge presented an amendment to the address, in which he attacked the Vicalvarist Generals who got up the military movement of 1854. Marshal Narvaez, in opposing the amendment, declared that it was the firm determination of the Queen that her Government should follow a conciliatory system, and such was also the desire of the members of the Cabinet. In the same sitting, M. Pidal, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented a bill to authorize the ratification of the treaty fixing the boundaries of Spain and France. The Government presented in the Congress a bill on the press, increasing the caution money to 15,000 duros. Articles are to be signed, and the jury to decide on press offences is to be composed of judges of the first instance.

There appears to be a good prospect that the English sailors who were arrested a few weeks ago at Malaga will soon be released, the Spanish Government having exhibited a conciliatory disposition.

TURKEY.

It is asserted that the Porte has asked the powers that signed the Treaty of Paris to occupy the Danubian Provinces with an army corps, on account of the great agitation now so rife in those two countries. The *Revue Contemporaine*, Count Walewski's organ, enters into some explanations on this subject. It confirms the existence of such a note, and asserts that it has met with no success, and that the Courts of Paris, London, St. Petersburg, and Berlin have answered in the negative.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

"A violent shock of earthquake," says a letter from Erzeroum, of the 28th ult., in the *Presse d'Orient*, "was felt two days ago in the neighbourhood of Mouch. The oscillations continued at intervals for thirty-six hours. Several villages in the Plain of Bolanek were destroyed, and nearly one hundred and eighty persons lost their lives."

SWEDEN.

The King is ill, owing, it is said, to a too close attention to business. He will go to Drottningholm to take the benefit of the country air.

HOLLAND.

The workmen of Holland (says a letter from the Hague in the *Emancipation* of Brussels) are striking all over the country for an increase of wages. The men working on the canal of Wemeldinge have struck, and pillaged the public-houses along the canal. Troops have been sent from Fort Batta to maintain order.

The Dutch Government, it appears, like those of Portugal, Sardinia, and almost every other maritime state in Europe, both great and small, intends to take part, at least as a witness, in the great intervention or display of force which is about to be made in the harbours and along the coasts of China. We hear from the Hague that Holland has resolved to contribute one vessel of war to that remarkable naval congress which is about to be held in the Eastern Seas, and the results of which are anticipated, on behalf of the general interests of commerce and civilization, with so much interest.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A GALA DAY AT CREMORNE.

BRIGHTLY shone the sun in the afternoon of Monday, the 18th of May, as an intelligent foreigner landed on the shores of haughty and perfidious Albion, a few yards below London-bridge. M. de Mabile, a brilliant illustration of the Younger Empire, was too old a traveller to allow his movements to be impeded by a superfluity of trunks, cases, carpet-bags, and hat-boxes. His luggage, consisting of a pocket-comb and a shirt-front, being safely and conveniently secreted about his person, he escaped all spleen-begetting detention at the Custom House. He had naturally intended, in the first instance, to visit the Tunnel; for, with the exception of the Tower, it can hardly be said that this island contains any other object worthy of the notice of our unprejudiced and accurate neighbours on the Continent. It so happened, however, that as he set foot on the water-stairs, his eye alighted on an enormous placard, headed, 'Royal Gardens, Cremorne.' No doubt there would be an opportunity of beholding her Majesty and her illustrious Consort, surrounded by their interesting family, familiarly associating with the enthusiastic multitude invited to this royal entertainment. The temptation was not to be resisted, and a few minutes afterwards M. de Mabile found himself on board a steamboat bound for Chelsea. But imagine his indignation and horror on making the terrible discovery that he was patronising a Citizen. Muttering between his teeth an execration on 'Canaille!' he spat fiercely on the deck, and then stared a modest young girl out of countenance. It being, fortunately, dead low water, he was enabled to judge correctly of the natural colour of that river, of which every Briton is so justly proud. Murmuring to himself, *Vidimus flavum Tiberim*—"I have smelt the ill-flavoured Thames"—M. de Mabile proceeded to enjoy the panorama of brick and tile that extended for miles on either hand. A little behind him, on the right, he observed a lofty pillar, surmounted by an enormous golden wheat-sheaf, evidently dedicated to the Genius of Agriculture. In front of him, on the same side, rose the gigantic dome of St. Paul's, which the First Napoleon had proposed to remove to Paris as a roof for the Pantheon. Presently he glided past the gardens of the Temple, and moralised on the whirligig of time that had brought up wigs, gowns, and briefs, to replace the crested helmet, the emblazoned armour, and the quivering lance. Farewell to gentle chivalry and knightly prowess—on the opposite bank, in Memoriam, stands the ungainly Shot Tower, fatal alike to the bold yeoman in Lincoln-green and the steel-clad man-at-arms. Somerset House next revived recollections of Paris, but on turning his back upon that imposing pile, M. de Mabile's mind returned to his body, for he beheld the British Lion standing guard over a brewery. The traveller smiled; he had recognised in that allegory the acknowledgment of the fact that the *solidité Anglaise* is based upon brown stout. Further on he beheld an omnibus slowly passing over a bridge supported by woodwork resting on quicksands, and he thought of the earth on the back of an elephant that stands upon a tortoise that slumbers upon nothing. He thought, too, that the famous New Zealander would not have long to wait for the ruins of a bridge whereon to indite his 'Lays of Ancient London'; not so long, indeed, as the senators of Britain for the completion of their senate-house. He gazed upwards at the wooden thumb-stalls, on the four corners of the tower; he glanced at the architectural ornaments that mark the retrogression of art; but he turned from the dead animals putrifying at the foot of the terrace. And as he turned he saw the palace at Lambeth, and rendered reverential homage to the meek and self-denying virtues of the Christian priesthood. He knew that the head of the Anglican Church lived on a humble stipend in a mere corner of that palace which he had converted into a peaceful asylum for pious widows and unfriended orphans. Nearly opposite, he observed a still more spacious building, likewise appropriated to the friendless, who are there comfortably maintained at their country's expense for having violated their country's laws. But it is a Christian's duty, privilege, and pleasure, to pile red-hot coals on the uncovered head of his enemy. With yet more pleasurable feelings, however, did our enterprising traveller survey the verdant lawns and umbrageous thickets of Battersea Park, and he acknowledged, unreservedly, that the *Times* was quite right in declaring that there was no point of comparison between it and the Bois de Boulogne. Proudly did he then direct his flashing eye to the shady walks of Chelsea Hospital, for he knew that they were peopled by the sad relics of the British army annihilated by Marshal Soult at Toulouse. Even we may forgive the patriotic sigh that regretted those glorious days when the eagle was ever driving the slinking leopard into the stormy sea that begirts the Spanish peninsula. But the martial fire quickly subsided as the steamer neared the modern gardens of Alcinoüs, cool, rural, and inviting, and at that hour hushed in grateful repose.

Having carefully studied the *Voyage de Désagrémens* of that singularly well-informed writer M. Jules Lecomte, M. de Mabile was not so much astonished as disgusted when called upon to pay a shilling for ad-

mittance into the Royal Gardens. He was soon, however, forced to admit that a shilling was well laid out in obtaining the *entrée* to this charming paradise. Before him stretched a beautiful and spacious lawn, bordered on one side by numerous leafy bowers, and adorned with graceful statues. Strolling leisurely to the further end he entered the flower-garden, tastefully laid out, and bearing promise of much beauty and fragrance at a later period of the season. Ever and anon he paused to inhale the sweet perfume of the lilacs and other odorous shrubs, or to admire the stately trees whose trunks two men could scarcely embrace in their extended arms. The soft murmur of splashing waters led him to elegant fountains, echoing the whisperings of their nymphs. Pleased with nature, M. de Mabile next turned to the attractions of art. He smiled good-humouredly at the 'much admired, truthful, and picturesque view of Berne, a canton of Switzerland,' and confessed that it did form 'a striking tableau among the antique paintings, which consist of Ruins of Ancient Rome.' With the Cosmorama Views he was especially delighted, and regretted that the Marionette Pavilion was not yet completed. The Hermit's Cave and the Gipsy's Grotto he passed with a jaunty air, for he felt that among the blond beauties of Albion a Frenchman had only to fear a plethora of *bonnes fortunes*. A loud ringing report for an instant startled his nerves, as a Cockney, dreaded by sparrows, was exhibiting his skill in missing a target to the attendant at the Rifle Gallery. In another part of the gardens he witnessed the provident training by which the youth of England are taught to face the savage denizens of the trackless forest and howling wilderness. A lion and a tiger, in life-like attitude, were preparing to spring upon the sportsman, whose trusty air-gun laid them low—when ever he hit them. It may have been here that Mr. Gordon Cumming acquired his passion for the chase, and here it certainly was that the future sovereign of Great Britain brought down a rabbit and a fox. The Chinese Games were more in accordance with the speculative tendencies of the imperial courtier, who carried off a pincushion and a porcelain sheep, each valued at twopence, the proud trophies of a 'sport' that cost him less than half-a-crown. Into the American Bowling Saloon he was contented with peeping—manly pastimes being little to his taste—and he scowled disdainfully at the industrial beehive that reminded him of Sir Robert Peel, the *vaurien mal élevé* who had called the brother of his Emperor a 'spick-and-span sort of man.' His countenance, however, again relaxed as he admired the 'colossal portico and classical façade' of the Amphitheatre; and he was particularly struck with the highly-coloured painting of Phœbus Apollo, encircled by the Hours, taking his morning drive, while its pendant represents four gallant steeds tearing along, beneath the outstretched legs of the Postillon de Longjumeau. Nor was he less pleased with the strange animals on the River Esplanade, and in all probability would have rushed heedlessly into the beechen maze had not a loud-voiced bell announced the commencement of the evening's entertainments: it was then past four o'clock.

M. de Mabile was naturally gratified to perceive that the post of honour was assigned to one of his own countrymen. Crowned heads flock to Paris to 'incline themselves' before the Third Napoleon, while in foreign lands the peoples of the earth delight to bestow pence and applause on the humblest of his subjects. The performances accordingly commenced with a quadrille danced by M. Guillon's very gentlemanly and ladylike dogs. Such delicate compliments as these are the firmest links in international alliances. The dance had hardly terminated when a tall, young man inquired in excellent twelve-lessons-for-one-guinea French, and with an unexceptionable Cheapside accent: "Voo n'alley pas jouer ankore? Soulmong oon faw shack swore?" The professor bowed most politely, and with an apologetic smile replied, shrugging his shoulders up to his ears, and spreading out his fingers like a fan, "Ah, sare! me not comprend Angles." "Oh! tray bong. Bong zhone." "Bon jour, monsieur." By this time about one hundred persons had gathered together, mostly members of the provincial *bourgeoisie*. Now the band of the Horse Marines—judging from their uniform—began to play some inspiring airs, as an Italian lady in short petticoats danced upon a tight-rope. At one time she would spring up into the air, at another she would stand on one leg and lift up the other considerably higher than is customary at private parties, and then she would kneel down and kiss her hand to the applauding spectators. M. de Mabile had an idea that the signorina looked rather peculiarly at himself—several of the bystanders differed from him entirely, but nobody said anything. After a brief interlude, Master Bond, 'direct from the Cirque Impérial,' came forward and exhibited his 'extraordinary and most astounding contortions.' He was an extremely meagre, but very healthy, powerful, and intelligent lad of about thirteen, with an india-rubber backbone. Among other feats he laid down on his face, fastened a fork to his heel, placed a plate a few inches in front of his face, doubled his leg back over his head, stuck the fork into a gingerbread-nut in the plate, and fed himself. This exploit reminded M. de Mabile that he had had nothing to eat since breakfast, and then he had hardly recovered from the penalty that attaches

to a violation of the dissociability of the ocean. He therefore retired for a while to the coffee-room, and sustained his inner man with an Homeric repast. Scarcely had good digestion begun to wait on appetite, when a burst of harmony, vocal and instrumental, caused him to hurry into the open air. A very considerable crowd had now assembled on the 'Monstre Chinese Platform,' around and below the Great Orchestra. Some very fair minstrelsy ensued, of the Italian, French, Scotch, and English schools, but the comic songs were decidedly the most popular. All this time the arbours were being filled with successive relays of merry family groups. The decent tradesman and respectable merchant's clerk regaled their blooming and beaming spouse and delighted children with tea and new bread, shrimps, cold ham, and water-cresses. And the waiters were continually running to and fro, anticipating the wants or whims of their numerous and capricious customers. It was altogether an animated, an innocent, and almost a pastoral scene.

At seven o'clock there was a rush into the theatre, and in a few minutes that commodious building was crowded in every part with laughing, expectant faces. The performances began with some very clever dogs, who did everything but speak, and no doubt would have done that also, had anyone asked them. Then followed the 'Southern Troupe of real Sable Harmonists,' who exhibited much emphasis both in music and in dancing.

When these Philistines had retired, amid thunders of applause, the curtain drew up for 'an entirely new comic ballet pantomime, entitled "The Gipsy Girl, or the Doctor in Love."' This was a piece full of business and bustle. There was knocking down and jumping up, and tumbling over everything. There was likewise some vigorous dancing, and some showy costumes. And last, though by no means least, there was pretty Miss Louise Leclercq, who achieved a great success.

At ten o'clock some brilliant fireworks took place, and in the midst of blue lights and rushing rockets an adventurous damsel attitudinised on a tight rope at a giddy elevation, and made one feel sick with terror as she danced in the jaws of death. Loud brayed the music, and tens of hundreds of spectators made the welkin ring with their applause. Thus far there had been nothing to shock the most fastidious; but now the family folks began to desert the gardens and return to their homes, all the more cheerful and kindly disposed towards one another for these hours of harmless enjoyment. Foreigners of all hues, guardsmen, and Indian officers—lawyers' clerks, briefless barristers, and gentlemen connected with the press—senile debauchees, precocious fast-men, and men who ought to be held fast—these began to supersede the patristic element; while the tidy housewife and sweet little children were replaced by the 'painted galleys' and blackamoor fashions of St. John's-wood, Brompton, and Soho. Then the great orchestra once more struck up the most enlivening airs. Presently ecstatic couples darted out of the dense masses of promenaders, and gyrated round and round, more or less in time with the music. Garlands of artificial flowers hung in graceful festoons over their heads, crystal pendants reflected the prismatic colours, and thousands of bright lamps shone on that gay festival. There could not have been fewer than from three to four thousand people at one time gathered on or around the vast platform. The surging masses swayed to and fro in perfect good humour, and many an outburst of laughter pealed through the tobacco-scented air. Every seat and bench was occupied, every table covered with refreshing beverages. There was a continual hubbub of voices, a constant shouting of "Waiter!" in all tones and degrees of impatience. Here it was a bottle of stout, or of pale ale, that was wanted; there, brandy and water, brandy and soda-water, brandy and lemonade, was all the cry; in another corner nothing would do but gin sling or sherry cobbler; while occasionally a cigar was the one thing required to perfect the enjoyment of the moment. The bar was filled to suffocation, nor was there a vacant seat visible in the coffee-room—everybody was eating and drinking, dancing, laughing, and making merry. For the most part, the solid demeanour of the gentlemen contrasted comically with the gay colours and easy manners of their partners; and M. de Mabile acknowledged to himself, that if this was the ordinary bearing of English ladies, it was very unfair to accuse them of stiffness or reserve. Though fascinated by the magnetic impulses that throbbed and thrilled through the excited throng, M. de Mabile nevertheless bethought him of the expediency of getting some substantial refreshment after all the fatigue of such varied pleasure. He was accordingly agreeably surprised to find a handsome and appetising supper laid out with much regularity and taste, and at an exceedingly moderate charge. It was a pleasant picture that supper-room, and how happy were those fair Syrens as they brandished in their dainty fingers the drumstick of a fat capon or dashed at the pop's nose. No doubt it was with this distinguished class that the accomplished M. Jules Lecomte had the happiness to associate during his otherwise dreary sojourn in London, and it was their healthy appetites that extorted from him the hearty exclamation, 'Par Falstaff!' And, certes, it must have been on one of these 'blondes ladies' that he expended the 'six schellings' he

so ungallantly regrets on 'les gâteaux massifs, les plumpuddings, et tous les plombs coupés par tranches et bâtis en pyramides,' which enabled the 'défaillante insulaire' to survive till dinner-time. As the night crept into morning, the revellers gradually diminished in number, but the din of voices grew louder and more discordant. At last, M. de Mabile, warned by a grey streak in the sky that dawn was approaching, made his way to the door, in the sure expectation of finding a conveyance to transport him to Leicester-square. He had many a time and oft read in the *Times* that the English surpass all nations in aptitude for business, and that wherever there exists a demand there is certain to spring up a supply. Now, there happened to be a demand for transport for about five hundred persons, and there stood at the gateway exactly two private Broughams and three hired cabs. M. de Mabile shrugged his shoulders, but there was no help for it; so he resolutely set out on foot for his distant destination, regaling himself on the way with hot potatoes and periwinkles, and a cup of Fabian coffee; and, for the first time in his life, he agreed with old Mainwaring in thinking that it was 'nothing toothsome nor hath any good smell.' Next morning, in writing an account of the previous evening's proceedings for the columns of the *Univers*, he concluded with these remarkable words:—"The English are no longer a mediæval people; their feudal institutions are on the wane; the Queen has abandoned the Tower. The key of London is now CREMORNE. Whoever holds Cremorne is master of the situation—master of *la vieille Angleterre*."

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

Two trials which were to have come on this session have been postponed to the next. These cases are those of Robert Robinson Tripp, for the murder at Islington; and Clark and Bush for the abduction of a young Jewess. The trial of Captain Eslam, for a similar offence, has been removed by *certiorari* to the Court of Queen's Bench.

A case of mistaken identity occupied the Old Court for several hours last Saturday, though the facts lay in a small compass. William Day and James Devo were charged with stealing a cruet-stand, some silver spoons, and other articles, the property of Mr. Henry Green, the shipbuilder. On the afternoon of the 24th of April, a man carrying a carpenter's basket, was seen to go out of the hall door of Mr. Green's house at Walthamstow. He took his hat off very respectfully, and seemed to be speaking to some one inside the house, which prevented suspicion. Getting into a cart outside, in which there was another man, he drove off at a fast pace. It was afterwards discovered that the house had been robbed, and it was now sought to be shown that the accused were the perpetrators. A successful *alibi*, however, was set up, and both the men were acquitted.

Flora Banting and Elizabeth Willson, two young women, were tried for endeavouring to obtain from Messrs. Shoobred and Co., the drapers, certain goods upon false pretences. A note had been received by the prosecutors, requesting that some valuable goods should be sent to the station of the Great Northern Railway, to be forwarded to the Marchioness of Salisbury, at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire. Suspicion being felt, a sham parcel was despatched, and the police were directed to keep watch at the station. The result was that Banting and Willson were arrested, after some resistance. The former now pleaded guilty, and, the other having been convicted, they were sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Thomas Williams, *alias* Richard Burns, and Thomas Burns, were indicted for forging a receipt with intent to defraud. The men are brothers, and their right name is Burns. Thomas Burns, up to last December, was a detective police officer. The prosecutor is a young man living in Milton-street, Finsbury. On the 12th of February, he saw in the *Morning Advertiser* the following advertisement:—"Wanted a respectable young man to collect for an office. No previous knowledge of duties required. Salary 1*l.* a week; hours from nine to five. This being a place of trust, no one need apply who cannot give a cash security of 10*l.* (returnable on leaving). Apply by letter, with real name and address, 23, Bell-yard, Temple-bar." The prosecutor, whose name is Edmunds, and who described himself as a rent-collector, wrote, and was referred to No. 20, Judd-street. A letter, signed 'J. Williams,' was sent to make the appointment. After one or two visits, Edmunds deposited half the required security with the accused, and took from Richard Burns a receipt signed 'Williams.' Of course, he never got any situation, nor could he get his money returned. Both prisoners were found guilty. Richard Burns, *alias* Williams, had been before convicted of a similar offence, and there were numerous other cases in which the two brothers had got different sums of money from poor persons seeking for situations, who had paid a portion of the deposit-money. Richard Burns was sentenced to eighteen, and Thomas Burns to twelve, months' imprisonment.

This terminated the session.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

Ernest Augustus Lloyd, a young man of twenty-two, described as a military officer, was indicted last Satur-

day for fraudulently obtaining two pairs of boots from Daniel Roberts, 5*l.* from John Marsh, 8*l.* from John Bengough, and 5*l.* from Joseph Wilson, by means of false pretences, with intent to defraud. The case excited a good deal of interest, as the prisoner until recently had been a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, with which corps he served in the Crimean campaign. He was the son of Colonel Lloyd, who died of cholera while on a mission to the seat of war. The offence charged against him was that, in exchange for goods and cash, he had given various tradesmen cheques upon Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, where he had had an account, which, however, was overdrawn, so that the cheques were dishonoured. In cross-examination, Mr. Woollacott, clerk to Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, said:—"The prisoner was suspended from the army; but sometimes a suspension is taken off, and the back pay then becomes due. He was suspended for being absent without leave. He served with his corps at the siege of Sebastopol, and had the medal. He could only receive his pay through their house in London; in the Crimea, he had it through their agent there. He had been allowed to overdraw his account; officers occasionally do so, and a little liberality is shown to them in that respect." Mr. Lloyd's father died of cholera in the Crimea, and his mother died a short time since. [The prisoner here seemed much affected.] The firm, of course, would not permit a suspended officer to overdraw. Mr. Lloyd's account was still open, and money would be received and placed to his credit if offered. If money had been lodged on his account, of course the cheques would have been paid as far as the money went." The defence rested upon the probability of the accused believing that money would be lodged to his account, by which the cheques would be met. He was acquitted. The Assistant-Judge said the verdict was perfectly right, but that the conduct of Mr. Lloyd had been deserving of the severest reprobation. "It was impossible to hope that the military authorities would reinstate him in his position in the army, and he would therefore earnestly advise him to get his friends together, to render him help to leave England, so that he might sever himself from that course of life in London into which it was too evident he had plunged within the last few months, and by a new career abroad wipe from his name the stain he had brought upon it."

Henry Hills, aged forty-nine, a clerk, was tried for an attempt to debauch a girl under twelve years of age. His wife kept a school, and Hills appears to have misconducted himself towards sixteen or seventeen of the girls. He pleaded Guilty, and his counsel solicited for him the merciful consideration of the Court on account of the deep contrition and distress of mind he had since shown. A sentence was passed on him of hard labour for one year.

John Loose, described as a groom, was indicted for stealing a watch and chain from Thomas Rawlins, a footman. The latter had one night been out to a rather late hour, and had met the accused, to whom he was quite unknown, but with whom he nevertheless drank somewhat freely. After a time, the two got into a cab together, and Rawlins, who was then in a state of intoxication, told the cabman to drive to Grosvenor-square. When, however, they arrived at Regent-street, Loose told the driver that he wanted to get out, and at the same time ordered him to proceed to Grosvenor-square with his 'fellow-servant.' The cabman resolutely refused to comply with this request, and continued to drive on until he saw a policeman, when he stopped, and related to him what had happened. Another person who had observed the two men get into the cab, and who, suspecting the conduct of one of them, had followed the vehicle, now came up, and saw that Rawlins's watch-chain, which he had previously worn, was missing from his waistcoat-pocket; upon which, Loose was charged with stealing his companion's watch. He at first denied all knowledge of it, but both watch and chain were afterwards found in his trowsers-pocket, and he then said that he only took them for safety until his friend, who was drunk and asleep, got sober. The jury found the accused Guilty, and he was sentenced to six months' hard labour. Much approbation was expressed by the court at the praiseworthy conduct of the cabman.

THE BACONS.

The confession of Mrs. Bacon, to which Lord Campbell alluded at the close of the trial last week, was made at the end of the first day (Wednesday). She said it was quite true that Bacon had left her in bed when he proceeded on his journey to Reigate, and that very soon afterwards the idea of destroying her children came into her mind. She first took the little boy out of his bed and cut his throat, and then carried him down stairs and placed him in the chair in the position in which he was found, with the toys before him. The child died almost instantaneously, and uttered a very slight cry when she first cut him with the knife. She then determined to kill the baby, but felt great reluctance to destroy the youngest child, and she did not do so until some time after the boy was dead; but at length she could no longer resist the desire for destruction, and she cut the second child's throat. She added that she has very little recollection of what occurred afterwards; but she remembered hearing her relation, Mrs. Munro, knock at the door in

the afternoon. She was afraid to let her in; and she remained in the house with her dead children all the Monday and the succeeding night. On the following morning, she went out with the intention of paying her rent; and, upon meeting Mrs. Munro and her mother, she thought suddenly came into her mind that she would tell them that a strange man had got in at the window and murdered the children. She expected that this would avert suspicion from herself; but, on its failing to do so, she accused her husband of the crime. This confession was communicated to the judges on the Thursday morning; but it could not legally be taken as evidence, and so the trial went on. On the afternoon of Friday week, Bacon had an interview with his wife in Newgate, when both were much affected.

The man Bacon was examined last Saturday before the magistrates at Stamford on the charge of killing his mother by arsenic. The evidence was substantially the same as that given at the inquest at Great Casterton last February, the main facts of which appeared in these columns at the time. The case was remanded till Wednesday, when Bacon was committed for trial.

A MAN STARVED TO DEATH BY WORKHOUSE PROCRUSTINATION.—A painful inquiry, conducted by Mr. Baker, coroner, was concluded on Friday week. Patrick Driscoll, a labouring man, aged thirty, has been starved to death, owing to the scandalous delay of the parish authorities of the Stepney Union. Having been unable, from illness, to follow his usual occupation, Driscoll went about the street selling ballads, but at length became too ill even for that. He took to his bed, and his wife went to the workhouse and obtained an order on the medical officer, who attended, and gave some advice. On the following morning, Mrs. Driscoll endeavoured to obtain from the workhouse some food for the family. She was told she must have an order from the medical officer. She then went to that gentleman, and said that her husband wanted food; to which he replied, "I cannot order him any meat unless I see him here." The wife went back and told her husband of this; and he then rose (to the great surprise of the landlady, who said, "Does the doctor want a dead man to go to him for food?") and hobbled, very slowly and painfully, to the office of the medical gentleman; but the doors were closed. Another medical man gave Driscoll an order for meat; but, when this was tendered by his wife at the house of the relieving officer, the applicant was told that the usual time for presenting such orders was past for that day, and that nothing could be done. She replied that "it was not too late for a dying man;" but she was told that she must come again at ten o'clock the following morning. At that moment, the relieving officer and his family were at dinner. Mrs. Driscoll told the woman at the door that she would go to the police station, and get relief there, as her husband was dying. The woman threw the order on the pavement, saying, "I don't care; take it away with you." Mrs. Driscoll then went back to her husband, whom she had left at the workhouse gate, and told him of her want of success; on which he burst into tears; "and I," said the poor woman when giving her evidence, "could not help crying too." The gate porter gave Driscoll a portion of his own dinner; but the sick man was so weak that he vomited the greater part. "I saw him home," continued the wife, "but he was a corpse the next day." Up to the time of his death, no relief had been administered. The jury gave the following as their verdict:—"That death was caused by bronchitis, and that it was accelerated by the exertion of the deceased in proceeding to the workhouse while in a state of great exhaustion, caused by the order of Mr. Stephenson, one of the medical officers of the Stepney Union; and the jury are of opinion that Mr. Stephenson was guilty of great neglect in not visiting the deceased at his own home, instead of sending him to the workhouse while he was in a state of utter prostration, which was highly reprehensible and deserving of censure; and the jury are also of opinion that the circumstances of the case should be laid before the Board of Guardians of the Stepney Union."

FURTHER RESPITE OF MANSELL.—Mansell, the murderer, who was to have been executed last Monday, has been further respited to Monday, June 22nd, the Attorney-General not being satisfied with the judgment recently given on the disputed points of law. These will now be argued before a higher court.

COMMITTAL OF A SURGEON FOR MANSLAUGHTER.—An inquest, which had extended over three sittings, was brought to a conclusion last Saturday. It was held on the bodies of Mrs. Mary Bingham and her infant. The woman had been attended in her lying-in by a Mr. Morgan, a member of the College of Surgeons and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, living near the Vauxhall Bridge-road. He appears to have neglected her a good deal, and finally left when the child was only partially born. He then sent another surgeon, who did the best he could; but such violence had been exercised towards the poor woman that she and the child died. The jury gave a verdict of Manslaughter against Mr. Morgan.

VICHIMISING CHINAMEN.—William Sherwood has been charged at the Marylebone police-court with having stolen a gold watch, together with a gold guard and some charms, the property of Arr Shoe, a Chinese juggler, at present engaged, with two of his companions,

exhibiting his feats at the Surrey Theatre. He was recently acting at the Marylebone Theatre, and he then lodged at a coffee-house in New Church-street, where Sherwood was waiter. Sherwood possessed himself of the property one morning by means of a stratagem, and then absconded, but was afterwards taken into custody. He admitted that he had abstracted the watch, &c., and said he had sold the whole for twenty-five shillings in Petticoat-lane. He was committed to prison for six months with hard labour.—At the Thames police-office, Charles Fenwick, described as a lodginghouse-keeper of Lower Cornwall-street, St. George's-in-the-East, appeared before Mr. Selfe to answer a charge of detaining 10*l.*, the money of a Chinaman, whose real name is Arze, but who has adopted the English name of John Williams. Mr. Selfe said he was very glad this matter had been taken up by Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes in the manner it had been, and that the Strangers' Home for Asiatics, Africans, and South Sea Islanders would be opened in a few days, as coloured seamen are liable to gross imposition by crimps and boardinghouse-keepers. He fined the defendant 10*l.*, and also ordered him to pay 7*l.* to the Chinaman, or be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two calendar months. If 7*l.* were paid to Arze before five o'clock he would not enforce the penalty.—The 7*l.* were almost immediately forthcoming and paid to Arze.

THE MURDER BY A MANIAC.—Since the imprisonment of John Blackwell, the maniac who killed a man appointed to take care of him, he has exhibited still further signs of his tendency to a homicidal form of insanity. He has made an attempt to kill the gaoler, but assistance speedily arrived, and the man was not seriously hurt. Blackwell shows great readiness in quoting Scripture, and is fond of standing on a stool and preaching to his attendants. The inquest on the body of Rance has terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Blackwell.

COCK FIGHTING.—This barbarous sport has been commonly indulged in by the depraved of Shrewsbury during the race week. The more respectable inhabitants, being resolved to put it down, obtained the assistance of some of the officers of the London Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Animals; and five of the participants in the brutal amusement were apprehended, and brought before the Mayor. Mr. Gordon, who appeared for the prisoners, said that the only advice he could give his clients was, that they should severally plead guilty. He had not a word to say against the way in which the case had been got up by the very useful society through their respected agent. The defendants were fined 50*s.* each and costs. Half of the penalty, to which the society were entitled, was given to the poor-box of the court.

ANOTHER BANK DEFAULTER.—A good deal of excitement was caused last Saturday in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere (say the daily papers), by a report that Mr. Henry Salmon, the agent for the Commercial Bank of Scotland, at Falkirk, had absconded, after having made free to a large extent with the coffers of the bank. It is understood that Mr. Salmon's defalcations extend to at least 30,000*l.* The Commercial Bank, like all the other Scotch banking establishments, has a regular system of inspection of the most searching kind; but it would appear that Mr. Salmon had made free with the funds in a way which set ordinary detection at defiance. When certain deposits were lodged, he granted a receipt in the name of the bank in the ordinary way, but applied the funds to his own use; and, as the transaction did not appear in the books of the bank, detection by the ordinary checks was impossible. He must, however, have retained a private memorandum of these deposit receipts, so as to arrange for the payment of the interest upon them as it became regularly due. Up to this exposure, Mr. Salmon was a man of high consideration in the district, took a prominent part in every public movement, and lived sumptuously. He was the oldest official in the Commercial Bank, having been connected with the establishment for the long period of forty years.

A MURDERER'S FUNERAL.—A verdict of *felo de se* having been returned at the inquest on the body of the man Charlton, who, as we related last week, committed suicide after murdering a Mrs. Holroyd, a grave was dug the same day in the burial-ground attached to the primitive Methodist chapel at Great Horton, near Bradford. At eleven o'clock at night, the corpse was conveyed to the spot. A crowd of more than two thousand people had assembled on the road in front of the chapel yard, and great confusion prevailed. The mob were loud in expressing their objection to the interment of the corpse. The authorities of the chapel were also opposed to its interment in the ground; and they had been sympathisers in the crowd. They met the bearers of the coffin at the gates, and endeavoured to prevent its entrance into the ground. Exclamations of "Throw it over the wall!" "Burn it!" &c., mingled with the uproar. By the aid of the police, the coffin was at last got to the grave-side; but then objection was taken to the grave not being deep enough, and also to its being an old one. The consequence was that the sextons proceeded to dig a new grave in, a plot of virgin soil adjoining. Meanwhile, the noise and confusion prevailed for many hours. The interment was at length completed. Many of the crowd remained on the spot till five o'clock the following morning.

ROBBERY AT A CONFIRMATION.—At a confirmation by the Bishop of London, at St. Mary's, Greenwich, on

Friday week, a lady, who attended the ceremony with her maid-servant, was robbed in the aisle of her gold watch as she was leaving the church. The person who is believed to have committed the robbery was examined at the Greenwich police-court last Saturday, and is under remand.

BURGLARY.—Henry Simpson and Henry Williams—the latter a ticket-of-leave man—are under remand at Marlborough-street, charged with burglary, and Williams with an assault on a policeman. The constable, about one o'clock in the morning, saw the iron grating of a house in Goodge-street pushed up, and Williams immediately after made his appearance. He was seized by the officer, who sprang his rattle; but the burglar dealt him a fearful blow on the head with a life-preserver, and then made off. He was caught, however, by another constable, when it was found that he and Simpson had robbed the house, though they had evidently been disturbed in the middle of their operations.

OUTRAGE WITH VITRIOL.—The sons of two tradesmen living at Church-way, Somers-town, were fighting on Sunday morning, when the father of one, a broker named Robinson, separated them. Brett, the father of the other, who is also a broker, exclaimed, "Take that! That will warm you," and threw the contents of a tin pot filled with vitriol over the head of Robinson. The latter thought at first it was water; but he soon found he was burning, and he was taken to the hospital by his wife, who was standing by at the time, and was also slightly burnt. Brett was conveyed to the station-house, where he said, "I am glad I have done it, and I hope he will die." He was brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate on Monday, when a certificate from the hospital was put in, certifying that Robinson, though doing well, was unable to attend. A solicitor, who attended for the defence, in cross-examination of Mrs. Robinson, ascertained that, for the last five or six years, her husband and Brett, who are rivals in trade, have continually quarrelled, and that each has been to the Clerkenwell court to complain. On one occasion, the son of the injured man was charged with throwing vitriol over the dress of the prisoner's daughter, and was tried at the Central Criminal Court, but was acquitted. The case was remanded till next Monday. Bail was refused.

BETTING HOUSES.—Mr. Charles Thorpe, of Barnes-lodge, and 124, Jermyn-street, appeared before Mr. Beadon, at Marlborough-street, on an adjourned summons, which charged him with keeping an office at 124, Jermyn-street, for the purpose of betting on horse races. Mr. Beadon said, "It is my intention not to inflict a fine, but to sentence you to two months' hard labour." Mr. Thorpe appeared to be quite overcome by this sentence. Mr. Abrahams (his counsel) gave notice of appeal, and applied for bail. Mr. Beadon agreed to accept bail, the defendant in 300*l.*, and two sureties in 150*l.* each.—Robert East, the landlord of the Rising Sun, in Charles-street, Grosvenor-square, has been fined 30*l.* by the Marlborough-street magistrate for keeping a betting-office in his house.

BURGLARY.—The house of Mr. Pindar Worth, a farmer in the parish of Scotherne, Lincolnshire, was entered early on Monday morning. Mr. Worth and his wife were aroused by a noise and light on the staircase. They opened the bedroom door, when three armed men presented themselves. The burglars demanded money; but at this moment the eldest of the daughters, who had been aroused by their mother, rushed between the thieves and Mr. Worth, and declared they should not hurt him. This baffled them for a time; but they soon replied that they did not want to hurt him if he would give up all he had. He said he had nothing more than 7*l.* in the house; and this they speedily took. They then swore that they would burn down the house and sift the ashes rather than not get all. In answer to one of the girls, they said they would go to Mr. Worth's bankers, and get his money there. Mrs. Worth had secreted her gold watch in the bed, but she was compelled by threats of rough usage, which one of the fellows began to carry into effect, to give it up. Miss Worth begged that a locket containing some of her mother's hair, which was appended to a valuable gold chain, might be restored to her, when one of the men broke it off the chain and threw it to her. On her remarking that it was broken, she was told to get it mended. She replied that she must take it to Lincoln. "Lincoln!" said one of the men, "where's Lincoln? We know nought about Lincoln. Send to Sheffield or Birmingham, and you can get all the lot back again." The burglars then proceeded into another bedroom, the boxes and jewel-cases in which were rifled. While these operations were going on up-stairs, another party of burglars were plundering the house below, and every place likely to contain money or plate or portable valuables of any kind was thoroughly ransacked. The burglars then regaled themselves in the larder, and some wine, tobacco, and tea, were taken away. Finally they left, uttering threats of vengeance if they were followed. Some of the ruffians have since been arrested.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—A man of the name of Thomas Andrews, described as a shoemaker, was last Saturday examined on remand at the Worship-street police-office, on a charge of attempting to kill a young woman named Louisa Doulton, to whom he was engaged to be married. At the previous examination, the case was left in a very unsatisfactory state, the young woman being apparently unwilling to press the charge against the

accused, saying that she believed he had fired the pistol without intending to do her any hurt, and that he had merely done it to frighten her, on account of her perverse and culpable conduct. The solicitor who appeared in court on behalf of Andrews spoke to the same effect, and, no witnesses being present to appear against the man, although the names of several were down on the charge-sheet, the case was remanded for the necessary evidence, which was accordingly now gone into. The man and the woman, it appeared, were standing talking together one night near the canal-bridge in Margaret-street, Hackney, when the former, who had previously quarrelled with his sweetheart in consequence of having just seen her in company with another man at a public-house, suddenly pulled a pistol out of his pocket, and deliberately fired it at the woman. She fell to the ground, and the man then ran forwards, raised her up a little, and kissed her, saying, "It is all your fault which has brought me to this." He afterwards felt her about the head, and, finding that it was wet with blood, he uttered an exclamation of horror, let go his hold of the woman, and ran away. He was, however, pursued by a man who had seen him fire the pistol at the young woman, and afterwards given into custody. When brought to the station-house, Andrews confessed that he meant to shoot the girl; that he had previously told her he would do so if he caught her talking to any one else, and should certainly have succeeded in the present instance if the pistol, which was half-filled with powder, and contained a large bullet, had not burst, and flown out of his hand into the canal. He made a contrary statement to the magistrate, whom he told that he never intended to kill the woman, and that there was no bullet in the pistol. Andrews was committed for trial. On hearing this, the young woman, who was greatly affected during the evidence, followed the man out of court, and was shortly afterwards seized with a fit, from which she was only recovered with much difficulty.

WIFE-BEATING.—Danish Lynch, a shoemaker living in Great Wild-street, Drury-lane, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for a savage assault on his wife; and Henry Peach, a coal porter, has been sentenced to similar punishment for a term of three months for the same offence.

ROBBERIES AND ASSAULTS.—Thomas Bryant, a man who is believed to be a holder of a ticket-of-leave, was charged on Wednesday at the Thames police-office with stealing a waterproof coat and assaulting a policeman. He took a coat from a shop in Ratcliff-highway, but the constable, receiving information of the robbery, followed him and took him in custody, after a fierce struggle. When they were near the station-house, Bryant, who is an Irishman, made a murderous attack on the policeman, whom he brought to the pavement, and then attempted to gouge out one of his eyes; but several bystanders dragged him off, and he was locked up, remarking that, if he could have got out his knife, he would have plunged it into the constable's heart. He was sentenced to six months' hard labour.—Thomas Johns appeared at Lambeth on a charge of robbing William Hassick, a sailor. Hassick was inveigled into a skittle-ground in the Belvidere-road, where he was surrounded by sharpers. He won several games for small sums, and then staked his watch and chain, worth 8*l.*, against what he conceived to be a 10*l.* note, but which was in fact only a flash note. He was on the point of winning again, when Johns knocked him down. A fight ensued, in which the sharper got considerably worsted; but, by the time a policeman arrived, the sailor's watch had disappeared. Johns was remanded.

MATERNAL CRUELTY.—An inquest was held on Tuesday evening, in Islington, on the body of Amelia Owen, seventeen years of age. The girl was a servant, but, being out of place, lived with her parents, a porter and his wife. About nine o'clock on Monday morning, Mrs. Owen was very drunk and making a great noise in the street. Her daughter wanted her to come into the house, but the mother flew into a passion, and beat her over the head with a whip, and afterwards with a rail. On Monday evening, the girl was seen struggling in the water of the Regent's Canal, and was taken out, and conveyed to the Ryder Arms, New North-road, where she died that night. The jury found that death was caused by congestion occasioned by the blows inflicted, the submersion in the canal, and subsequent mental excitement; and the following *addendum* was read to Mrs. Owen:—"And the jurors express their great indignation and disgust at the conduct of the mother of the said Amelia Owen towards the deceased, and their regret that, not being enabled by law to return any verdict criminalizing her on account of her conduct to her daughter, they are without the power to inflict any punishment upon her." After this was read, the father of the girl turned round to the witnesses, and said, "You see, you can do no more."

MURDER AND SUICIDE.—The wife of a shoemaker named Ellison, at Bunbury, Cheshire, has drowned her child five years old, and then hung herself.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

A MILITARY CONFIRMATION.—On Sunday morning, the Bishop of London attended at the Royal Military Chapel, St. James's Park, for the purpose of holding a confirmation of officers and privates of the regiments stationed at

the various London barracks who had not previously undergone that ecclesiastical rite.

REVIEW AT CHATHAM.—A grand review of the whole of the troops quartered at Chatham took place on Wednesday on the Lines in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief, who expressed himself greatly pleased at the conduct of the men. He inspected the cavalry at Canterbury on Thursday.

TROOPS FOR CHINA.—The Adventure and Assistance, iron steam troop ships, embarked their respective allotments of troops for China on Wednesday, at Portsmouth. These consisted of seven companies of the 82d Regiment in the Assistance, and three companies of the same and three companies of the 23d Royal Welsh Fusiliers in the Adventure.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR JAMES MACDONELL, G.C.B., expired on Friday week. He entered the army in 1796, and was at the battle of Waterloo, being then a lieutenant-colonel in the Guards, and attached to Byng's brigade. He had charge of the buildings at Hougoumont, and held them so gallantly and successfully that he received the special thanks and acknowledgments of the Duke of Wellington.

MR. ROBERT BURNS, the eldest son of the poet, and himself a person of much thought and acquired knowledge, died on the afternoon of Thursday week at Dumfries, in his seventy-first year. He was only ten years old when his father died. His remains will be laid beside those of the poet in the family mausoleum.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Prince Leiningen arrived on a visit to the Queen at Osborne on Friday week.—The *Gazette* of Tuesday contains a notification that the Queen has consented to a marriage between the Princess Royal and Prince Frederick William of Prussia.—The Prince of Wales returned on Wednesday from the Lakes, and joined the Court at Osborne.

THE INFANT PRINCESS.—We understand that the christening of the infant Princess will take place in the middle of next month, the sponsors being their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Royal, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia. The Princess will receive the names of Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodora.—*Times*.

THE REVIEWS AT SPITHEAD AND ALDERSHOT.—The total expense of the naval review at Spithead amounted to 910*l.*, and that of the review at Aldershot, on the 16th of July, 1856, to 257*l.* At Aldershot, the luncheon cost 105*l.*, special trains 116*l.*, and omnibuses 36*l.* The bulk of the expense at Spithead was in comestibles, as all persons paid their own fares by rail. 958 tickets were issued for the accommodation of peers and members of Parliament.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—On the 1st of next June, and thenceforward, the postage upon letters conveyed either by packet or by private ship between the United Kingdom and the Cape of Good Hope will be reduced to a combined English and colonial rate of 6*d.* for a letter not exceeding ½*oz.* in weight; 1*s.* for a letter exceeding ½*oz.*, and not exceeding 1*oz.*; 2*s.* for a letter exceeding 1*oz.*, and not exceeding 2*oz.*; and so on, increasing 1*s.* for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. The postage of letters to the Cape of Good Hope may be paid in advance, or the letters may be forwarded unpaid, at the option of the sender.

LITERARY ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF POLAND.—The twenty-fifth anniversary of the friends of Poland was held last Saturday at Sussex-chambers, Duke-street, St. James's, the Marquis of Townshend in the chair. The report stated that the association had afforded relief in six hundred and sixty-six cases during the year, and, after noticing a contribution of 100*l.* from Prince Czartoryski and other large donations in behalf of the Poles, said that their attachment to their nationality was never more intense than at the present time. The document concluded by expressing a hope that the Poles would for the present direct their attention to the social welfare of their country.

AN OPPOSITION SHIP TO MR. SPURGEON.—We have reason to believe (says the *Union*) that a plan will be publicly advertized in a few days, under the sanction of the Bishop of the diocese, for holding a service on Sunday evenings at Exeter Hall (Mr. Arthur Kimbird in the chair), in order to rival the celebrated Mr. Spurgeon. The Bishops of Carlisle and Ripon, Dr. McNeile, and other members of the evangelical party, have promised their support as preachers. It is said that the litany will be used before the sermons, in addition to the usual extemporaneous prayers.

THE WEST INDIES.—There is no intelligence of general interest in the last advices from the West Indies. The islands for the most part are healthy, the sugar canes promise a good crop, and trade is somewhat brisker than it had been of late.

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LEAGUE has held a meeting at Coventry, at which, after some clerical opposition, a resolution was carried, approving of Sunday exhibitions of a refining and intellectual kind.

A FRENCH INVENTION PATENTED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.—The Abbé Pauvert, a French clergyman and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, has at length solved the problem of converting English iron into steel. M. Meslin, acting on behalf of the abbé, has made experi-

in the dockyard, Woolwich, during the last week, authority of the Government and in the presence of principal officers of the Engineer department and official personages. He has succeeded in proving satisfaction that he can produce steel of a very quality from the most ordinary cast and puddled and pieces of iron in any state, at an extraordinary ion in price. M. Pauvert has secured his invention a patent from the British Government.—*Times*.

CONTRIBUTION PETITIONS.—Two electors of Maidstone presented a petition against the return for that of Mr. A. J. B. Beresford Hope and Captain The petitioners allege against the sitting membership, treating, and intimidation, both before and the election, and pray that the election may be null and void. Two electors of Sunderland against the return of Mr. George Hudson, on ground of want of property qualification. Mr. Montagu Warren Peacocke, the defeated candidate, has petitioned against the return of Mr. Sutton Western, on the ground of bribery, and corruption, and prays that the return may be null and void.

GENERAL TODLEBEN.—This distinguished Russian has fixed the first week in September for visitation and attending the banquet to be given to London by the officers of the Royal Engineers.

CROPS.—The hot weather which set in a fortnight ago has had an excellent effect on the crops, which previously looking very backward. The young have greatly improved, both as respects colour and length of blade; and the other esculents have a corresponding change for the better. The rain has fallen within the last few days will do still good.

ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND.—The thirtieth anniversary festival of this fund took place at the Free-Tavern last Saturday. Mr. Godwin presided, and the company included Sir Charles Eastlake, F.R.A.; Ross, R.A.; David Roberts, R.A.; E. M. Ward, J. R. Foley, A.R.A., &c. The subscriptions and in the course of the evening amounted to 500*l.*, and the Queen's annual donation of 100*l.*

LITERARY FUND.—The sixty-eighth anniversary of this fund took place at the Freemasons' Tavern Saturday evening. Earl Granville was to have occupied the chair; but, being obliged to attend in the House of Lords, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., presided. Besides a large gathering of literary men and celebrities, the Prince of Oude and the Rajah were present, dazzling the black-coated company with the splendour of their vestments and the lustre of their gold and jewels. Mr. Monckton proposed in proposing the toast 'The Literature of the 19th Century,' coupled with it the name of Mr. Justice Hallam, the author of *Sam Slick*, who has come to the remainder of his life in England. Mr. Hallam made a humorous reply, in which he said that he did not assume to represent 'the Literature of the 19th Century,' because there is none to represent. They are too much occupied with hard works of their own to think of anything else; and besides, added Mr. Hallam, who pleaded guilty to being 'an old man there is too much of equality in the colonies, and United States, for the development of a sterling race, as equality is fatal both to the fine arts and to literature. Mr. Thackeray proposed the toast of the occasion 'Prosperity to the Royal Literary Fund;' and other toasts occupied the remainder of the evening. The subscriptions announced exceeded 1200*l.*, and the Queen's twentieth donation of 105*l.*

DEATHS IN LONDON.—The total number of deaths in London in the week that ended last Saturday 1050, of which 511 were deaths of males, 536 females. In the ten years 1847-56, the average of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1046; but, as the deaths of last week occurred in a week of increased population, it is necessary for comparison that the average should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it will become 1151. It appears that the number of persons who died last week was less than would have died if the average rate of mortality had ruled, a result which must be accepted as a favourable condition of the public health. In the last returns are the deaths of six nonagenarians, a man 90 years of age, a widow 92 years, a man 93 years, a man and a woman 94 years, and a woman who had lived 97 years.—Last week, the births of 873 boys and 873 girls, in all 1682 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1523.—*From the Registrar's Weekly Return.*

PEACE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening in Finsbury Chapel. Charles Hindley, M.P., occupied the chair. From the report it appeared that upwards of 600,000 public addresses advocating peace principles, had been put in circulation during the past year; and pamphlets, circulars, and placards, showing the horrors of war and the benefits of peace, had also been distributed during the year. The different shires and boroughs by a Peace Society, formed for electoral purposes, for the purpose of raising funds had been expressly raised. The present state of the peace cause was a source of sorrow and

regret to the committee, it being believed by them that a warlike and unchristian spirit is abroad; but at the same time it was thought that the cause must finally triumph, and wars cease from one end of the world to the other. The official account showed the total income for the past year to have been 1538*l.* 1*s.*, and the total expenditure 1210*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the society of 317*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* Resolutions were unanimously agreed to, expressing confidence in the society, sorrow at the proceedings against the city of Canton, and congratulation at the improved spirit of kindness and reconciliation now existing between England and America.

MIDDLE-ROW, HOLBORN.—A meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held on Tuesday, when a report from the Committee of Works and Improvements was read, giving an estimate as to the probable cost of removing Middle-row, Holborn. The district board estimated the cost at 83,000*l.*; but the superintending architect of the Metropolitan Board thought the improvement might be made for 50,000*l.* A resolution affirming the desirability of removing the row, and instructing the architect and solicitor to endeavour to make conditional arrangements (the ultimate purchase of property, goodwill, &c., to depend on the financial arrangements with the Government being satisfactory to the Board), was carried, after discussion.

THE FALL OF HOUSES IN TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD.—The inquest was resumed on Tuesday, when the chief witness was Mr. Redding, surveyor, who deposed that about the 4th of March he received instructions from Mr. Hunter relative to alterations to be made on his premises after the fire. He prepared the plans, which were approved by Mr. Hunter, and the works were commenced by Mr. Johnson. During their progress, he was constantly there. Mr. Baker, the district surveyor, did not state to him that the wall was rotten; but on the 7th of May he wrote a letter, stating that, the wall not having been pulled down, he should take proceedings at the Clerkenwell police-court. On the Friday evening, he again saw Mr. Baker, when he told him where the chimney-breast-work had been cut away, and had been only half filled up, he should require the entire to be cut down and rebuilt. Mr. Hunter was desirous of taking the wall down on the report that it was rotten; but Mr. Baker declined, saying that the rottenness of the wall was on Mr. Hunter's side, and he ought to build it up. So far as his (Mr. Redding's) opinion went, the accident arose from the improper manner in which the works were carried on at 146 and 147.—The inquiry was again adjourned till Friday.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A SERVANT GIRL.—An adjourned inquest on the body of Sarah Goodhall, aged fifteen, who was found drowned in the Thames, was resumed on Tuesday. The girl was the daughter of respectable people in Angel-court, Strand, and was in the service of a lady living near the Angel, at Islington. On Wednesday week, she left her mistress's house to attend a class of candidates for confirmation, did not return, and the next morning was found drowned in the Thames off Maudsley and Field's wharf. None of the witnesses could throw any light on the cause of the act; and an open verdict was accordingly returned.

EARL FITZGERALDINGE has so far recovered from his accident on the 25th of last February, when he was thrown from his horse, that he has taken carriage drives.

MR. W. H. RUSSELL'S LECTURES.—On Saturday evening, May 16th, Mr. Russell delivered his third and final lecture to a numerous and sympathetic audience. With rare felicity of expression he pictured the soldiers' battle at Inkerman, the terrible gale of the 14th November, and the horrors and monotony of that dreadful winter before Sebastopol. Equally graphic was the description of the various assaults on the Mamelon, the Quarries, the Malakhoff, and the Redan. And especially effective were the anecdotes occasionally introduced, which were rendered still more piquant by the raciness of a rich Hibernian accent. We are glad to observe that Mr. Russell proposes to repeat his very interesting narrative (but, we are informed, with alterations), in the same rooms, on the 23rd and 28th of May, and the 1st of June. The price of admittance has been judiciously reduced to one guinea for the series, or half a guinea for each lecture.

A GOOD IDEA.—Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, in an interesting letter to the *Manchester Examiner* and *Times*, suggests that Manchester shall entertain the artists of all nations at a festival. "It would be a noble sight to see Horace Vernet and Ary Scheffer, and Cornelius, and Rosa Bonheur, and Decamps, and Jeanron, and Meissonier, and Knaut, and Gustave Doré and Rousseau, gathered about one table in the Free-Trade Hall."

SALE OF LEOPOLD REDPATRI'S EFFECTS.—The first day's sale of the choice collection of mediæval and modern works of art, at Messrs. Christie's, took place on Thursday, and some of the lots realised very high prices.

THE FALL OF HOUSES IN RUSSELL-GARDEN, COVENT-GARDEN.—Mr. Bedford, the coroner for Westminster, held an inquest yesterday morning at the new board room, King's College Hospital, on the body of John Shehan, aged forty years, one of the men who was injured by the fall of houses on Good Friday in Russell-place, Covent-garden. The medical evidence showed that the cause of death was not the injury received at

the accident, but inflammation of the lungs. A verdict of "Natural death" was returned.

CONVOCAION.—The Convocation of the Prelates and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury was on Wednesday prorogued in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, by the Vicar-General, Dr. Travers Twiss, under a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, to Friday, July 10.

A MANCHESTER SATYR.—At the foot of the stairs in the Manchester Exhibition Building there are two remarkable figures of heroic size. A Yorkshire lady, somewhat puzzled at these works of art, and still more puzzled by the attempt to find them described in the catalogue, exclaimed, "Ah, this is one of the Satyrs!"

THE POOR-LAW BOARD AND THE PARISH OF MARYLEBONE.—A joint deputation from the vestry and the Board of Guardians of Marylebone waited on Sir Benjamin Hall at the office of the Board of Works on Monday, to make a complaint relative to the alleged aggression of the Poor-Law Commissioners on the right of local self-government. Mr. Hodgson, on the part of the vestry, and Mr. Taverner, on that of the Board of Guardians, explained that Mr. Farnell, the poor-law inspector of the metropolitan district, attempted to take his seat at the meeting of the Board of Guardians in assertion of his legal right to do so; that the guardians, on the assumption that the general act did not override the local one, prevented his doing so; and that they were now threatened with legal proceedings, to the cost either of the parishioners or of the people at large. Sir Benjamin Hall, in reply, went at great length into the details and correspondence connected with the flogging of the women in the workhouse, and with the report of the Lunacy Commissioners relative to the state of the wards for the insane, and said that they so established the charge of mismanagement against the guardians that it was impossible for the commissioners not to interfere, especially as in the first case they had been invited to do so by the churchwarden of the ratepayers, and in the second upon the representation of the Lunacy Commissioners. As he understood that the parish authorities were about, in regard for common decency and humanity, to make the necessary accommodation for the lunatics, by removing the boys to another building, he should represent to the Poor-Law Commissioners the propriety of not meddling again in Marylebone. The interview lasted for nearly three hours, and at times the gentlemen forming the deputation, on the one hand, and Sir Benjamin Hall, on the other, grew rather warm.

Postscript.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In this House, Lord PANMURE stated that there would soon be an improvement in the system of military education in this country, founded on the report of the commission for inquiring into the system in foreign armies.

The PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION BILL passed through Committee with some amendments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BALLOT.

Mr. HENRY BERKELEY gave notice that he should bring in his motion for the Ballot after Whitsuntide.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was ordered for Penryn in the room of Mr. Thomas G. Baring, who has accepted the office of a Lord of the Admiralty.

TORTURE IN INDIA.

Lord CLAUDE HAMILTON was making some observations on the subject of torture in India, when he was interrupted by Mr. W. O. STANLEY, who said he was out of order.—The SPEAKER decided that he was not; but Mr. STANLEY continued several times to interrupt the noble lord, setting the authority of the Chair at defiance. A scene of great confusion ensued, but the Speaker was supported by the House, and Mr. STANLEY subsequently apologised.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

On the motion for going into committee to consider the dotation of the Princess Royal, Mr. ROEBUCK rose and expressed his warm desire to provide for the Princess Royal handsomely and liberally, and his sense of the noble character of the Queen; but, at the same time, he urged that former precedents of granting annuities should not be followed, but that a grant should be given of a fixed sum.

The House having gone into committee, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated the nature of the arrangement under which the maintenance of the Royal Family is placed. In former days the Crown possessed large hereditary revenues, out of which its expenses were defrayed. They had been surrendered to Parliament, which engaged to make adequate provision for the Royal Family. The sovereign was thus entirely dependent on the bounty of the people. This was not the case in other kingdoms of Europe. He proceeded to contrast the present civil list with that of George III. The privy purse of George III. was 60,000*l.*, with 286,000*l.* for household bills, and other

sums, making a total of 447,436*l*. Her Majesty's privy purse was 60,000*l*., and, with the other allowances, the civil list amounted to 385,000*l*. George III. had not surrendered the whole of his hereditary revenues. It appears that above 6,000,000*l* of his hereditary revenues were received by him, being one-half of the whole revenue, while no such sum had been received by her Majesty. George III. received for some time the whole revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall; but, in the present reign, all above the expenses of the education of the Prince of Wales had been invested for his benefit. In former reigns, debts were incurred beyond the civil list, which were paid off by Parliament. The amount of such debts, in the reign of George III., was 3,297,000*l*., which were paid by Parliament; so that, with his hereditary revenues and these extra grants, George III. received above 10,000*l*. beyond his civil list. George III.'s consort had 68,000*l*. a year, while her Majesty's consort has only 30,000*l*.; and allowances were also given to the children of George III. at an early period. Her present Majesty had been subjected to extraordinary expenses, such as her visit to the Emperor of the French, for which she had asked no grant, as George IV. had done under similar circumstances. The Queen had also voluntarily subjected herself to a payment of Income-tax of 6,000*l*., and during the augmented war of 15,000*l*., a year. That being so, he thought that the provision he was about to ask appealed as well to the justice as the sympathy of the House. Her Majesty had incurred no debts; and the civil list made no provision for the younger branches of the royal family, or for their marriages. He then cited the precedents of the Princess Royal, daughter of George II., who married the Prince of Orange in 1734, and received an annuity of 5000*l*., with a dower of 80,000*l*.; and of the Princess Royal, daughter of George III., for whom a similar provision was made. It was proposed to follow these two precedents, but to alter the proportion which the annuity bore to the dower. They would therefore propose an annuity of 8000*l*. a year, and a portion of 40,000*l*.

Mr. ROEBUCK moved an amendment to the effect that provision be made for the Princess Royal by a fixed sum.—Mr. WILLIAMS supported the amendment.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the amendment did not specify any sum, and he thought it a better bargain for the taxpayers of the country to pay an annuity for the life of the Princess Royal than to lay down a large sum at once. Annuities of 90,000*l*. a year had been granted to members of the royal family during the present year; but annuities amounting to 256,000*l*. had also ceased.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL approved of the proposition of the Government, and urged its acceptance by the House.—Mr. ROEBUCK said the proposed annuity might be calculated at a capital sum of 216,000*l*. He still argued for the adoption of a fixed sum.—Mr. BASS supported the motion.

Mr. DISRAELI strongly advised that the House should come to a unanimous vote on a great question like this.—Mr. CONINGHAM supported the amendment.—Mr. ROEBUCK, however, withdrew it; and that part of the motion granting an annuity of 8000*l*. was agreed to.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved to go into committee of supply to consider the grant of 40,000*l*.—Sir GEORGE PEACHELL interposed with some remarks on the Cuban Slave Trade; but the motion was at length agreed to.

The House then went into committee of supply on the Naval Estimates, which occupied the rest of the sitting.

FRANCE.

(By Electric Telegraph.)

Paris, May 22nd.

PRINCE NAPOLEON has just returned from Germany. The operations against Kabylia commenced yesterday. French troops number 26,500 men. A desperate resistance is expected.

DENMARK.

The Danish Government (says a contemporary) has sent a reply to the two last notes addressed to it by the Governments of Austria and Prussia respecting the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg. The reply is laconic. It simply says that the King of Denmark, desirous of taking into consideration the representations made to him by Austria and Prussia, will convoke the States of the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg towards the end of next August. The Danish note is dated 18th of May.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, May 22, 1857, including season ticket holders, 22,782.

MR. BLANDFORD.—Two of the presumed murderers of Mr. Blandford, the English gentleman killed at Naples, have been arrested. One admits having dealt a blow at Mr. Blandford.

CHAPMAN v. VAN TOLL: VAN TOLL v. CHAPMAN.—Sir Frederick Thesiger, with whom was Mr. Hawkins, moved in the Court of Queen's Bench, yesterday, on the part of Mr. Chapman, an attorney, at Richmond, for rules for new trials in the above causes, which were tried before Lord Campbell at Westminster in the course of last week, and of which the main facts were related in our previous issue. The Court granted a rule to show cause.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE MANCHESTER ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.—The third letter of our special correspondent will appear in our next.

PHILO-HOMO.—Pressure of matter, during the Parliamentary season, often precludes the insertion of letters not bearing strictly on matters of fact. Our Glasgow friend seems to suffer under the sayings of "Candide." It may console him to know, however, that another Edinburgh correspondent thinks the account so faithful that none but a Scotchman could have written it. "THE MEMOIRS OF ST. SIMON."—A notice of these volumes is unavoidably postponed until next week.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. 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. 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.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1857.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

THE EIGHT TOWNS TAX.

A CURIOUS scene was enacted in the House of Commons on Tuesday last. There were four hundred and ninety-two members present, including the SPEAKER, and four hundred and eighty-seven voted on Mr. FAGAN's motion for the abolition of ministers' money in Ireland. Forty-six members paired off on the same question, so that five hundred and thirty-eight of our legislators took part in the verdict of the evening. The debate was of unusual warmth; but the volleys of cheers that broke from side to side of the House could not be said to have arisen from any special interest felt in the question whether eight Irish towns should contribute 12,000*l*. a year to the support of Protestant pastors. The question itself lies in a narrow compass. The Protestant clergy of Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Drogheda, and Kinsale, being unprovided with funds to pay themselves, have been accustomed, under legislative sanction, to tax the Catholics for that purpose. Indeed, there were scarcely any Protestants to tax; and the principle of the Establishment required that there should be ministers whether or not there were congregations. The Ecclesiastical Commission in Ireland, however, having a vast surplus, and very few Catholic Irishmen having a surplus of any kind, Mr. FAGAN has for some years busied himself in obtaining the concurrence of the Government in his opinion, that the Protestants having a general revenue, amply sufficient for their necessities, it is inexpedient to extort a special tax from the eight Catholic towns. His idea seems particularly reasonable when it is considered that the eight towns refuse to pay on demand. There are seven suits pending in the Exchequer, and the litigants are utterly in the dark. Ministers' Money amounts, in fact, to no more than a source of acrimony and vexation; Mr. FAGAN proposes to abolish it; Lord PALMERSTON consents; but that is not the reason why nearly five hundred members of Parliament assembled in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening. For the Tories, it was the first opportunity of the session; but they woefully miscalculated and

mismanaged their strength. The Liberals mustered three hundred and thirteen votes, the Tories a hundred and seventy-four. The new members were present in great force. Among the stock traders in legislation on the Tory side, the oratory was confided to Mr. NAPIER, Mr. WHITESIDE, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, and Mr. WALPOLE. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Lord PALMERSTON, Sir GEORGE GREY, and Mr. HORSMAN proved how far the debating talent of the Whig party preponderates over that of the Opposition. There was a regular engagement on the floor and in the lobbies; Mr. DISRAELI seemed remarkably eager, although he reserved his lungs for the distention of the following day at Newport Pagnell. Vast efforts had been made to bring the party together; with Mr. DISRAELI voted the silent ancients of his creed—YORKE, WYNN, PENNANT, NEELD, EMLYN, BULLER, BOLDERO, and the rest of that familiar cohort; but Sir BULWER LYTTON, giving countenance to the report that he is a rebel in the camp, stayed away. Evidently, the energies of the faction had been strained to make a respectable appearance at the real opening of the political campaign, and the Tories produced a hundred and ninety-nine names, including pairs, to contrast with the three hundred and thirty-eight of the Liberal party.

With respect to the absence of Sir BULWER LYTTON, it may have been for no political reason; but it is far from being a secret that he resents the nominal leadership of Mr. DISRAELI. Nor is he the only obstinate member of the Carlton Club. Lord MALMESBURY has recently proved unmanageable. A section is falling off at Mr. BENTINCK's instigation. No one can persuade the Earl of DERBY that there is any hope for him or his friends, or even that public affairs are of much consequence to him, as a man and a peer. *Fraco re fa forte genté fraca*. A weak leader makes a weak party. Not a few of the Tories concur with the idle Earl. Why should they be eager to baffle the Government, with no chance of retaining office themselves? Mr. DISRAELI, of course, has his schemes, and a variety of vain or needy gentlemen, old and young, are ready to back up in behalf of their own pretensions; but what would be the activity of the opposition, if there were not a band of Tory lawyers yearning for the woollen and the other law appointments in the gift of the First Minister? The party debate on Tuesday brought forward Toryism for the first time this session, and exposed its weakness. Lord PALMERSTON was accused of bargaining with Mr. FAGAN for the support of the Irish members, but he replied with perfect justice, that he was independent of it, and he might have added that every Minister has a right to conciliate support by salutary and timely concessions. The tax has been unfairly levied in the eight Catholic towns, and its absolute repeal is an act of simple justice.

NEW SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE.

THE Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill will, if passed, establish at once a bad law, and a great improvement. In comparison with the present law, it is wisdom; viewed by itself, or in comparison with what it ought to be, it is folly. As it has come from the hands of its author, it is full of the old leaven of absurdity. What does it do? It establishes a new Court of Marriage, with an Ecclesiastical Court Judge at its head, taken from the Prerogative Court; advocates and proctors from the same ecclesiastical region; and it is to act upon the principles of the Ecclesiastical Court. So far, bad. But the proceedings are to be *viva voce*; matters of

are to go before a jury; the Judge Ordinary is on all occasions to be attested by the chiefs from the Westminster courts, and in suits for full divorce by all the chiefs; and in the full court barristers and solicitors may practise. The divorce *à la et thoro* is made more distinct: it will be granted for cruelty or desertion; the wife will be protected under clear decrees; the court will be able to grant her a separate income, and she will enjoy full power over her property and earnings. Divorce can only be granted for its present reasons—adultery of the wife, and adultery of very aggravated kind in the husband; the action of criminal conversation is retained, but is forbidden after the dissolution of marriage. The law will be regulated by the judges. The reforms here are, that the whole procedure for divorce is brought into one, instead of three, as at present; the proceedings will be *in vobis*; the law is rendered more certain; the expense is reduced to that of the Court of Queen's Bench or Common Pleas. The cost will still exclude all but the middle class, and even all but the richer portion of that class; 'criminal conversation' will still be a subject of suit for money; an ecclesiastical judge, ecclesiastical lawyers, will monopolise the greater part of the business; ecclesiastical principles govern the whole. It is as an improvement on the present bill that the bill goes to establish a law of which false principles, false methods, inequality and injustice, are glaring.

But may it be carried! For it would be a great improvement. Had it been law forty years back, we should have been spared many a full and odious case. Whatever may be the merits of a matrimonial dispute—often obscure—the truth can be best ascertained when the recollections of witnesses are fresh; at all events, the worst scandals are ended by closing the case. The Marchioness WESTMEATH has been publishing a 'Narrative' of her case—a hideous tale of seven years' matrimonial conflict, with suits in nearly all the courts, and complaints of cruelty the most unmanly—of hard words and hard blows. The Marquis affirms that his case is one of conspiracy and perjury against himself, in which the lady that does the honour to bear his name has not left in peace for *thirty-eight years*. For all this time have the recriminations of the husband and wife been unsettled. The case of Mrs. NORTON is well known; that of Mrs. LYTON is less clear, but not less notorious. The TALBOT case was dealt with in the most unsatisfactory way; the jury granted the requisite 'damages' on proof of a fact which remains extremely doubtful, if not incredible, but being influenced probably by the notoriety of evidence which was unimpeachable, though it looked ugly. An excellent review of this case has just been published, in a volume of letters reprinted from the conservative *Standard*. The simple regulation is an exposure of the atrocious working of the present system, from which Lord CRANWORTH'S bill would release us. It is not some Peers object. Virtuous Lord MALMESBURY fears that it would extend the 'privilege' of the aristocracy to the 'lower' classes of society, and hence he foresees an extension of vice. We have already seen how visionary is this apprehension: the law scarcely concerns the lower classes—cannot indulge in the luxury of law even in Westminster prices. But, it seems, there is a unknown, unavowed Society for the suppression of Vice sitting in the House of

Lords, and keeping up the price of divorce, solely that its temptations may not fall within the reach of the lower orders. For several Peers spoke with Lord MALMESBURY, and dreaded the effect of allowing divorce, except at a price that excludes the 'lower orders,' if not the middle class.

Let Lord MALMESBURY look at home, into the house which he adorns, and ask if it possesses such a monopoly of forethought and good feeling as his argument presumes. In what class of society have arisen the cases which we have named? Among peers, honourables, and landed gentry. Look at the peerage, *passim*. We despise the man that can set class against class; but the peers challenge the odious comparison. Hitherto the well-born and wealthy have had a monopoly of Societies for the Suppression of Vice: if they talk so much about different orders of society, they may force us to ask by what right they affect to stand forward and teach their fellow-creatures of the 'lower orders?' Is their own condition immaculate and happy? Evidently there is a 'mission' vacant—a mission for the suppression of vice among the upper classes. The clergy ought to have undertaken it, but it is only in despotic France we have bold outspokening in the pulpit. No, there will be no society for the suppression of vice in the West-end until it is undertaken by some philanthropic working men. Perhaps they might have the courage and the disinterestedness necessary for the Augean labour of purifying the Peerage.

MR. DISRAELI'S REFORM BILL.

MR. DISRAELI has been studying the subject of Reform: "We should be the greatest idiots in the world if we did not," he says. He has been getting at the figures, and his deduction is, that the counties have too little representation, and the towns too much. We are gratified to find that the colleague of CALEDON DU PRE has been spending his leisure so seriously; but it may be doubted whether, after all, he is likely to be a useful Reformer. First, he hates Reform; that he admits. Secondly, he admires prescription. That is a sentiment, however, not an opinion, and cannot be made the basis of a policy, or even a manoeuvre. Thirdly, he complains of the measure of 1832, but does not know how to rectify its partiality, except by numbering the agricultural labourers—giving them more representation, but not giving them votes. A hundred and forty-four county members represent (or do not represent) eight million seven hundred thousand people. Three hundred and nineteen borough members represent (or do not represent) eight million one hundred and forty-four thousand people—being one member to every sixty thousand persons in the case of the counties, and one to every twenty-five thousand in the case of the boroughs. Here is an anomaly! But how does Mr. DISRAELI propose to remedy it? Not by extending the franchise, but by taking from the boroughs to give to the counties. Decrease the borough constituencies, multiply the county constituencies, and you have Mr. DISRAELI'S Reform Bill. Thus, Cheshire will be avenged upon Chester, North Durham upon Gateshead and Sunderland, the West Riding upon its nine great towns. This is the Newport Pagnell specific for putting us all under the operation of the CHANDOS clause. Mr. DISRAELI counts the cottagers, and demands—say, for every forty thousand—a Member of Parliament elected for them, not by them. He would retain the qualification at the fifty pounds and forty shillings standard. We are to reform next year, and all in behalf of the landed interest.

There is an opinion, not at Newport Pagnell, that the landed interest is too powerfully represented already, so that when Lord JOHN RUSSELL is made a political grandfather, we scarcely expect that the new bantling will be surnamed DISRAELI. "It is an ancient weakness;" but, happily, it is the weakness of a diminishing minority. Once he was careful to describe himself as a Conservative; now, the ancient weakness returning, he exults, "These are Tory principles." Mr. DISRAELI has the landed interest in charge, but the Liberal party is responsible for the future history of England.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

WE have at all times expressed an opinion favourable to the Prussian marriage of the PRINCESS ROYAL. Granted that our princesses must contract alliances with the blood-royal of Europe, the young lady could scarcely, in a public sense, have formed a wiser engagement. The PRINCE OF PRUSSIA, standing one step from the loftiest Protestant throne in Continental Europe, is in all respects a fitter husband for the eldest daughter of our QUEEN than any of the Serene Highnesses belonging to that brood of petty States enumerated by the Treaty of Vienna. The outcry against Germanism we must leave to other journalists, with other sympathies than ours. It is better to be possible Queen of PRUSSIA than Grand Duchess of HECHINGEN. The PRINCESS ROYAL, therefore, has had her hand confided to almost the only Prince in Europe who may be expected to place upon her head a conspicuous crown. Yet, we must say, the advantages of the contract are upon his side. To marry the eldest daughter of the Queen of BRITAIN is an honour which any potentate of Europe might envy. Yet, with the English Princess it is proposed to give away a dowry of forty thousand pounds sterling, and a pension of eight thousand a year. We suppose that the dowry was not to be avoided, but the proposal of a pension is altogether obnoxious to the sense of the English people. We have five Royal Princesses already; are we to provide for all upon that gigantic scale? It is to no purpose that soothing assurances are put forward with reference to the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster, the sources whence the Prince of WALES—in other times a bottomless pit of expenditure—is expected to derive his entire income. The House of Commons must sift that question, and we shall know, when Mr. CONINGHAM introduces the motion of which he has given notice, whether the Government has anything to conceal. In the meantime, we must treat the affair as it comes before us. Is it consistent with modern ideas of economy or moderation to charter the young bride of the Prussian Prince with an annual income, large in amount, derived from the British Exchequer? There is a strong appeal to the loyalty of the House of Commons; the House of Commons assents to the dowry; but Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS takes credit to the Government for moderation on the ground that it simply asks for the PRINCESS ROYAL a dowry of 40,000*l.*, and a pension of 8000*l.* a year. Anticipating his proposals, however, Mr. ROEBUCK expressed the real feeling of the Liberal party. He was very anxious, he said, to provide amply for the PRINCESS ROYAL, but what is asked for her may be asked for her sisters; and why should not Parliament redeem its responsibility by a single vote, discharge its obligations, and relieve the country, for the future, from the tribute of loyalty, payable to Continental Courts? We say nothing of the 40,000*l.* It is a comparatively moderate sum. But there is no force whatever in the argument

Divorce in 1857: the Talbot Case. Letters by Lord Talbot, containing full particulars of this celebrated case. Published by Ward and Locke, and sold at one shilling or two shillings.

of Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS, that the hereditary revenues of the Crown having been surrendered, the Royal Family is dependent on the bounty of the House of Commons. Whatever is the case with the British Crown, the Prussian Crown has never surrendered its immense hereditary revenues; there is not the shadow of an excuse for this scandalous proposal. It is urged that the PRINCESS ROYAL should not be dependent on her husband for her private expenses. If for her happiness, however, why not for her private expenses? We cannot doubt that the course adopted by the Government will shake its popularity and disquiet the mind of the nation with reference to the cost, actual and probable, of the Royal Family. Interest and principal, the Prussian marriage may be not unfairly valued at 200,000*l.* When all the princes and princesses have been married from Buckingham Palace how much shall we have paid for the really inestimable blessings of Majesty and its consequences? Especially when we begin, as Mr. ROEBUCK says, by conferring on the PRINCESS ROYAL an annuity which no assurance-office would sell for less than 200,000*l.*, in addition to a splendid dowry.

THE ARMY EDUCATION STRUGGLE.

A FENCING-MATCH between Lord PALMERSTON and Sir DE LACY EVANS on Monday night was only the forerunner of the contest which is commencing. Sir DE LACY EVANS asked Lord PALMERSTON for the report of the late commission on the military educational institutions of the Continent, which had been in a certain limited circulation, but had not yet reached the House of Commons. Lord PALMERSTON replied, that the question of military education had for some time occupied the most serious attention of the departments; those proposals had eventually led to the determination to appoint a board composed of military officers of great merit, presided over by the Commander-in-Chief, to consider the system of education now in force, and to mature a plan to be finally adopted for the education of officers of the army; but he objected to laying before Parliament the disjointed elements of which such a plan might be constructed. Sir DE LACY EVANS repeated his request for the particular report which has already been circulated. It has been in the hands of several Peers; we have had it in our own hands; but it has been withheld from the House of Commons. Lord PALMERSTON said that he 'was not aware that the report had been circulated by the Government; it might have been circulated by individuals or by newspapers.' Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT here interposed, 'thinking that the noble Lord and the gallant General were at cross purposes,' and forcing upon Lord PALMERSTON an unmistakable explanation. The Premier, who is acting as Secretary of State for War in the House of Commons, then requested Sir DE LACY EVANS to give notice of the question; but in the meanwhile the blue-book *has* been presented to the House of Commons. This little fencing-bout, we say, is only a forerunner of the larger contest which is coming on.

The case is as clear as possible. During the late war it was discovered that some of our officers of the highest rank did not understand the duties of their profession. A man is appointed for 700*l.*, 2000*l.*, or more, as the case may be, *not* for possessing the attainments requisite to make an officer; he obtains his promotion on the same ground of pounds sterling. It is quite necessary that he should prove his possession of pounds sterling by paying them over, but not necessary that he should show his attainments in

foreign languages, castrametation, evolution of troops, or anything else. Officers are also promoted because they have been longer in the army than other officers; and if they do not flagrantly misconduct themselves, this promotion by seniority has been held out as a right. We have a few schools, but they languish; and excepting men endowed by nature with capacity for military studies, the schools do not turn out qualified officers. Nothing more exposes the ignorance of the class than their conversation when you catch them in unguarded moments; nothing can more exhibit the predominant incapacity to manage their own business in keeping order amongst troops, than the state of the camps which have been established as models. It is almost uncharitable to refer to the Crimea. Exposure is the rule all round.

Now they manage these things better in the Continental armies; and if they do not get a larger crop of victories than the English, they save an immense amount of expense, suffering, and death. A commission was appointed to inquire how they managed; that commission consisted of Colonel SMYTH, Colonel YOLLAND, and Professor LAKE; and the report of the commissioners is the volume which Sir DE LACY EVANS wished to see, and wished the House of Commons to see. It is a complete account of the military training enforced by those Continental states which are most likely, in the event of any dispute, to be our powerful enemies. England is in the position of a gentleman who, during the days when gentlemen wore swords, has not learned to fence, and is not learning to do so. Take the single case of Austria, which gives, even to her non-commissioned officers, an education of 'a very solid character;' which has academies for Artillery and Engineers; has a staff school, to prepare officers for the highest appointments, and exacts from the officers actually promoted a positive and profitable study in all these schools. It is the same in Prussia, the same in France; but we remain virtually without any machinery of the kind, with nothing but those organized apologies for it that Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS has long since convicted of gross inefficiency.

What has been the effect of this report? Already the Commander-in-Chief had paid very considerable attention to the subject, and had used some efforts to bring about an improvement. More recently he has issued an order, requiring that officers seeking an appointment on the Staff should possess a familiarity with one foreign language, the power of writing their own language grammatically, a knowledge of the evolution of troops, the rules and regulations of the service, the orders of the Horse Guards, mensuration, the mode of surveying a country; and, in short, those attainments which are absolutely necessary for properly executing the duties of aide-de-camp, adjutant, or quarter-master. But what guarantee is there that this order will not remain as a mere form? Are we really to expect that British officers from this date will be persons writing good English grammar? One laughs at the very notion. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE, no doubt, desires it; but the Horse Guards well know the limited power that the Commander-in-Chief possesses, and they laugh as well as we do at the sanguine hope which he exhibits.

Now the House of Commons, or at least some members of the House of Commons, share the vulgar opinion into which the Duke of CAMBRIDGE has been inveigled, that there ought to be a complete reform in our army; that officers of the Staff, at least, should possess attainments for the proper conduct of their business—the ordering, lodging, and handling of troops in masses. Thus, inde-

pendent members are prepared to support the Duke of CAMBRIDGE in carrying out complete reform; but they are met with obstructions. Lord PANMURE is conservative of the present system. He has made barrack-room improvements and regimental reforms—such as they are; but he is not prepared to surrender a system which reserves the higher ranks and pay of the army for the well-born and the wealthy, and which might be broken down if appointments went in proportion to the actual capacity of the officer. In preventing any reform, the first plan is to defend all the outposts, and to procrastinate the siege as long as possible. That is the course now pursued in both Houses. When Sir DE LACY EVANS asked for this simple report—requested merely to be furnished with the blue-book—Lord PALMERSTON, as we have seen, spoke in a manner that showed him to be perfectly awake to the approach of the besiegers. He worded his answer in more than a guarded manner—in a Horse-Guarded manner. And Lord PANMURE'S 'explanation' last night does not remove the ugly impression created by the simple facts. The official force is consolidated, and is prepared for the siege.

Preparations also are making on the other side; the approaches are already laid down, and independent members, such as Sir DE LACY EVANS, are ready to demand that complete explanation which, when given, will, to a certain extent, force the Ministers into a compliance with public opinion. We have already seen that Sir DE LACY had the support of Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT; other men of standing will lend their help, the strength of their capacity, and the weight of their influence. No subject could be more proper for independent members of the House of Commons, or for active Reformers. It is a question of the efficacy of our army, of the independence of this nation as against foreign enemies, of the expenditure of the public money. At present, we believe, it would be quite safe to say that at least two-thirds of the money laid out professedly for the support of the army is wasted in a lavish mode—in payment of useless pensions, of useless salaries to useless officers, of useless voyages for ill-directed regiments, useless camps which are not models but exposés—for uselessness generally in the form of a red coat. Here then is a province in which the Reform party will find a great field to work; one in which they will have strong professional assistance; in which they will be able to bring forward novel facts to awaken public interest; in which they will be supported by a growing public opinion; and in which they may perform the most signal service for their country.

THE BALLOT ARGUMENT.

THE principal political debate of this session will be on the Ballot. Whatever the House of Peers may decide, it is possible that the House of Commons may pass the measure. At all events, we are approaching the season of success. Four years ago Sir ROBERT PEEL predicted that, sooner or later, the House of Commons will vote the three readings of a Ballot Bill. "Out of doors," he said, "the balance of political opinion indisputably inclines to this free, easy, and honourable method of voting." If PEEL were now alive, we confidently believe that he would be among the supporters of Mr. BERKELEY'S motion. The objections to the Ballot have lost much in weight and consistency. We shall, as usual, hear military gentlemen, who vote secretly at their clubs, denouncing secret voting as the refuge of cowardice; diplomats arguing that wherever secrecy exists,

fraud is easy; territorial representatives vindicating the right of non-electors to influence electors; the transparent ballot-box of Paris adduced against the real ballot-box of Geneva—an outcry of practical incredulity in the presence of a secret suffrage working effectively and satisfactorily in Australia and in Belgium. But the ground narrows under the feet of Mr. BERKELEY'S antagonists. They have tried their own alternatives, and their own alternatives have failed. The last general election was a carnival of menaces and bribes. It is time for Lord JOHN RUSSELL to redeem his pledge. "If I see the tenantry of England made to vote at elections contrary to their own opinions, I will at once reverse my former opinion, and adopt the Ballot." The Society at Guildhall-chambers should empanel a jury, investigate the case by evidence, and demonstrate to Lord JOHN RUSSELL that the tenantry of England are coerced. The Whig statesman must then honour his promise, or fly off upon a quibble.

Before the Parliamentary discussion comes on Mr. WHITEHURST should produce a statement of the corrupt and unconstitutional influences that weighed in the return of the present House; for, after all, the triumphant point in favour of the Ballot is that a great evil undeniably exists; that every other remedy has been tried in England and has failed, but that the Ballot has been tried in Australia and has succeeded. The hand of corruption has there been cut off; the voters are blind to frowns; the elections take place quietly, and not a single doubt has been uttered as to the integrity of the scrutineers. Six local journals reported the perfect working of the Ballot; one journal, not local, satirised the proceedings; and from that journal—a third-rate print not published in the colony—the *Times* derived an account upon which it founded its story of 'a dead failure.' The dead failure was a complete success, as was testified by the Attorney-General of Victoria, and by Mr. FOSTER, Chief Secretary, both of whom had vigorously opposed the introduction of secret voting. Dr. GREAVES, the member for Melbourne, was a zealous anti-Ballot man, and delivered a public lecture in behalf of the old system; but when the experiment had been made, he professed that he would never sacrifice so excellent an institution as had been newly established.

What becomes, therefore, of the fallacy that the Ballot must fail in its practical working? If we look for an example in a European republic we find it in Geneva. In Belgium secret voting was introduced 'to ensure a real representation of the people,' and we hear nothing of a break-down in that quarter. Yet there was, beforehand, the customary small talk about a sneaking, underhand, un-Belgian practice, the truth being that political independence was itself un-Belgian not many years ago. No doubt, also, the electors heard that they were the trustees of the non-electors, and accountable to them for their votes. "Now, what is intended by the vote by Ballot?" asks Dr. LUSHINGTON. "Why, to give the public trustees the best way to enable them to execute the trust confided to them." Practically, the electors in counties, acting for the non-electors, vote in diametrical opposition to their views; the show of hands is one result; the majority at the poll is another totally different. More than one-fifth of the county electors, Mr. WHITEHURST shows, are Chandos-clause, or tenant-at-will voters. It was by them that Sir GEORGE GREY, in 1853, was rejected in Northumberland. "Such undue influence will compel me, and others, to support the Ballot." At Carlisle, Sir JAMES GRAHAM caught a glimpse of

Tory gold: "I suppose at last I must come round to the Ballot." Lord DERBY admits the influence, but denies that it is undue. "It is only necessary to ascertain the political opinions of the great landlords in a county to know what candidates will be returned for that county at any election." This is a boast, not a confession. Has power changed hands? Are the counties less influenced than formerly? Is there less bribery in the boroughs? Have all the Attorney-Generals of all the administrations since 1832 devised one scheme for checking the tyranny of the Chandos clause, or limiting the resources of corruption? At the last general election, it is true, the Tory landlords, in numerous instances, were beaten by Whig candidates. Their party, however, had dwindled immeasurably, not in reputation or in intellect only, but in funds. It is well known that, if they desired to command an organ in the press, they could not subscribe money to purchase it, and are therefore without that political vantage-ground. Of course, no representative capacity is attributed to the charivari print which excites the ridicule of the Carlton by its juvenile fashion of flattering the 'vastly superior' attainments of Tory lawyers, bishops, diplomatists, and administrators, in the weak hope of being recognised as an organ.

That Toryism has been defeated is no argument against the Ballot. Indeed, we have almost a right to claim Lord JOHN RUSSELL'S vote to compensate for the loss of Mr. DISRAELI'S, since there is no guessing when that revolving adventurer may again show the Ballot-front of his imagination to a British constituency. The public is convinced; what will convince the Whigs? There is the Ballot Society, and in connexion with that the public may do its share of the work.

THE LYNCH-LAW SPIRIT AT STAMFORD.

WHEN, in the presence of a magistrate and a crowded court, the wife of BACON denounced him as the murderer of her children, there was very naturally what the reporters call a sensation. The justice himself experienced it and indignantly ordered the unfortunate man into custody. Had the popular feeling then found a voice it would have cried "Murderer!"—the Lynch-law spirit was roused, and a majority of the persons in court would undoubtedly then and there have hanged BACON out of the way. As for rumour, it hanged him again and again; the dead spoke, through their representatives, from a dozen graves; the public had settled the point that, after an unparalleled course of villany, BACON had killed his own offspring. We think we were alone in endeavouring to allay this calumnious frenzy; but there are great judges on the bench. Lord CAMPBELL, from the first, saw through the complication of evidence, and the man was cleared of all suspicion whatever in connexion with the Walworth crime. He then passed into the charge of chief-constable REED, who took him to Stamford. Found innocent of his children's blood, he is impeached as the assassin of his mother.

BACON, the suspected matricide, arrives at Stamford. The people of Stamford, with a generous abhorrence of matricide, receive him with yells, and throw stones at his solicitor. They lash themselves into a fury, and seem as if impatient of the delay which must intervene before BACON is executed. Why not execute him at once for having been accused of poisoning his mother? For that, at present, is the amount of his proved guilt. Whether or not he poisoned his mother is another question. We have no right to express an opinion on the subject. But, as it would be premature

to put him to death before he is tried, is it not premature to hoot him, and is it not a discouragement of justice to throw stones at his solicitor? By the way, why has Mr. ATTER abandoned the case? We confess that we dislike this growing tendency out of doors to prejudge the guilt or innocence of prisoners awaiting their trial. The contamination of prejudice must necessarily reach those who are to sit in the jury-box, and it is then a farce to tell them to dismiss from their minds all they have heard. If BACON'S friends desire to secure an impartial inquisition they will make an effort to transfer it from Lincoln to the Old Bailey. Suspicions of partiality are the natural results of such displays as the burst of execration and violence at Stamford. In PALMER'S case there were almost factions for and against him. In BACON'S again, opinions run high, but generally against the law's presumption that he is innocent until proved to be guilty. We repeat, we offer no suggestion on that point; but, although the Stamford populace are animated, no doubt, by a pious sentiment of loathing towards a man who could poison his mother, they forget one essential element necessary to justify their verdict—THOMAS FULLER BACON is accused, not convicted.

STREET PREACHING.—A meeting, which was numerously attended, was held on Monday evening in the Music-hall, Chester, to give expression to a feeling of sympathy with Mr. Reginald Radcliffe and the missionaries from Liverpool, who were arrested and sent to prison by order of Major French, a magistrate, while preaching in the streets during the time of the Chester races.

SANITARY STATE OF THE CITY.—The Medical Officer of Health for the City (Dr. Letheby) presented to the City Commissioners of Sewers, on Tuesday, a report referring to a hundred and forty-four houses that had been inspected during the week, and he submitted a list of ninety-nine places which require the orders of the Court for their sanitary improvement in various particulars. He also presented certificates of the overcrowding of several houses in St. John's-court, Smithfield, and Blythe's-buildings and Lamb-alley, Sun-street. He likewise drew the attention of the commission to the state of a wretched tenement in the yard at the back of No. 5, Thompson's-rents, Halfmoon-street, where one man, two women, and two children lodge in a couple of rooms not fit for human habitation. The mortality table for the week indicated a favourable state of the public health, the total number of deaths being but forty-seven. Mr. Abraham moved that the report be referred to the General Purposes Committee. Mr. Barkly seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. LIVINGSTON was presented with the freedom of the City of London on Thursday at a sitting of the Court of Common Council. The court was crowded to excess, and among those present were numerous ladies. The rev. gentleman was introduced by Sir John Key, Chamberlain, and Mr. Saunders, the mover of the resolution for conferring the freedom upon him. Sir John Key, who was attired in his robes of office, addressed Dr. Livingston in a highly eulogistic speech; and then presented the casket, which was made of African rock, with silver plates, inscribed at the sides, while on the top, in gold, Europe holds the hand of friendship to Africa, beneath the shade of a palm-tree. The doctor, in returning thanks, dwelt at some length on the African character, and on the good work he might perform in rendering the black man entirely free.

TOTAL LOSS OF THE SEA KING, NEAR HOLYHEAD.—This fine ship, bound to Liverpool from Callao, was totally lost, during a thick fog, on Monday night, in Carnarvon Bay, about eight miles from Holyhead. It was thought that the ship had a good berth off the coast, but she struck on a sunken rock, gradually filled, and settled down, her cargo (guano) washing out. She has become a total wreck. The Sea King was nearly a new ship, of more than 1000 tons burthen. The loss of vessel and cargo will involve several thousands. Both are reported to have been insured.

ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A GRANDMOTHER.—A man named Alfred Bartlett is under remand at Marlborough-street, charged with robbing the house of his grandmother at Charlton, near Stroud, and with attempting to murder her. He had ransacked the house during Monday night, and had attacked the old woman with a heavy poker. She was found next morning in her bedroom, with her skull fractured, and with other fearful injuries. Her life is despaired of. Bartlett was arrested on Wednesday night in London.

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—In the first catalogue of the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition, Canova's 'Magdalen' was marked as 'The Dying Gladiator.'

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 Germans are fond of discussing, in their profoundly inconclusive way, the question whether life in spontaneous evolution is greater than its reflex, which is literature. Absolutely considered, perhaps it may not be, but relatively to us, and to such fine weather as we have had during the last week, it certainly is. Life in spontaneous evolution—that is, life on the road and the river, life in the gardens and the parks, in Rotten-row and at Richmond-hill—is certainly far greater just now than life in the reading-rooms and libraries. Mr. Justice HALLIBURTON, in his speech this week at the Royal Literary Fund dinner, truly said that the two great objects of study for all men are nature and human nature; and that the colonies had as yet no literature because in a new country the claims of nature are too importunate to admit of anything like learned leisure or meditative repose. What thus happens to the colonies during the first years of their existence, occurs in the mother-country for a few weeks every season, and with a similar result. Annually Nature throws her spell over court and city alike, claiming from both, at least, a transitory recognition. This year the claim is made with such strength and suddenness as to be altogether irresistible. The season has advanced a month in less than a week. Ten days ago the trees were leafless, the grass still grey, and the wind bleak and cutting as December. Now you have the fresh flower-sprinkled turf underfoot, a green roof overhead, and the delicious spring air touched with the scent of hawthorn and bean-blossom between. Of course reading and study are out of the question. Even looking at pictures is almost too great an exertion, and the crowds in the Exhibition instinctively cluster about the bits of landscape, especially those, and they are fortunately numerous, with cool shadows and refreshing streams, such as Mr. ANTHONY'S 'Stream in the Wood,' and Mr. STARK'S 'Quiet Nook.' There are no new books, and even if there were it would make no difference. People don't care to read, and politic publishers, aware of the indifference and its cause, defer their best new books till a fall in the barometer indicates a more convenient season for their successful issue. Under these circumstances what is the use of asking for a literary summary? Such an exaction is worse than the tyranny of Egyptian task-masters. It is demanding cream, where there is not even milk to be had.

There is, however, one book advertised as just ready, to which the fine weather can scarcely prove a disadvantage, as its contents will thoroughly harmonise with the feelings that town life in the spring season naturally inspires. We refer to Mr. ALEXANDER SMITH'S new poem, devoted, we believe, to this very subject of town and country life, but more especially to the poetic aspects of the former. There is here a fine vein of poetical material hitherto comparatively unworked. We are rich in the poetry of rural life, but the deeper and more intense poetic elements of modern city life have never as yet been turned to full account. He has thus chosen his subject well, and being perfectly familiar with it, the poem will, we have no doubt, be enriched with fresh and vigorous sketches from his own experience. Nevertheless, we should not be surprised if, three years hence, some acute, well-read, and large-minded letter of the alphabet—probably the crooked Z already in the field—should come forward with the startling discovery that some previous poets have written of town and country life. Pending this possible disclosure, however, we are quite disposed to enjoy Mr. SMITH'S new poem, which—as we are told, and, from the extracts we have seen, are disposed to believe—is superior in finished art to anything he has yet produced.

A new combatant has appeared to take part in the controversy touching the Buddhist doctrine of a future state—one, too, in every way well entitled to speak on the subject. Colonel SYKES, in a long letter to the *Times* this week, combats the view of the Buddhist *Nirvana* maintained by the *Times* reviewer, and supports the opinion advocated in the *Leader* three weeks ago. In this new opponent the reviewer has found his match, Colonel SYKES being his equal in minute knowledge and his superior in critical insight, thoroughly accomplished in Buddhist literature, and able to interpret consistently its confused and often conflicting accounts. He shows clearly in his letter—what with a very limited knowledge of the subject seemed to us at the time sufficiently apparent—that the writings to which the reviewer appeals in support of his nihilistic interpretation belong to a very late and degraded school of semi-Buddhist philosophy, in which the life of the founder was obscured by monstrous legends, and his doctrine practically destroyed by metaphysical refinements. For us to accept such documents as a fair exposition of genuine Buddhism, is a mistake almost as great as it would be for a Hindu to receive the philosophical system of SPINOZA or HEGEL as containing a faithful interpretation of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. Colonel SYKES goes on to point out—what we stated at the time—that the best accounts of BUDDHA'S life and teaching prove that he held no doctrine of annihilation. On this head he speaks as follows:

It has been sought to throw upon Buddhists the stigma of Atheism, Materialism, and a belief in the annihilation of the soul. These accusations have their origin in the mystical transcendentalisms of a comparatively modern and corrupted state of Buddhism, and which have not any authority from the preachings or discourses of Buddha himself. Buddha constantly refers to a First Cause, another world, and a

state of rewards and punishments after death. Buddha's own hymn on his becoming Buddha testifies to his belief in God. He speaks of the Builder and Architect who made him and controlled his transmigrations; and the Rev. Mr. Gogerly, in his translation of the *Damini Padari*, written in Pali, makes Buddha repeatedly speak of the present and future world—viz., "The sinner suffers in this world, and he will suffer in the next world; in both worlds he suffers," &c. Again, "The virtuous man rejoices in this world, and he will rejoice in the next world. In both worlds he has joy," &c. Here is the founder of the religion talking of the present and a future world, expressing his belief in a state of rewards and punishments, &c., necessarily, therefore, expressing his belief in a power or being to dispense rewards and punishments. Surely there must be some distortion in reasoning to pronounce such a believer an Atheist!

To this statement we may add the account given of BUDDHA'S last moments. Feeling himself near his end, he is said to have gathered together a large company of his disciples, and after having expounded to them his doctrine afresh, to have added as his last words, "Everything saddens me, and I desire to enter into the *Nirvana*, that is, into existence free from any corporeal attribute, into the state of supreme and eternal blessedness." This is not the place to sketch the character of BUDDHA, so far as it may be gathered from the scanty records we possess of his life and teaching; but all we know of him tends directly to contradict the supposition that he held by such doctrines as those imputed to him by the author of 'Buddhist Pilgrims.' That such a man should have held such doctrines is simply a psychological impossibility.

It is seldom that we receive a book with more grateful pleasure than Mr. MOXON'S long-expected *édition de luxe* of TENNYSON'S Poems. It is a volume of monumental beauty—the pages like thin but opaque plates of ivory, the typography faultless, the illustrations a cabinet collection of gems. The book is a casket of poetry and art, the poet and the artist are in perfect harmony, and Mr. MOXON has been just to both. It would be difficult to overpraise the richness, the delicacy, or the grace of this edition, on which have been employed the pencils of CRESWICK, STANFIELD, MILLAIS, HUNT, ROSSETTI, and MULREADY. We announce the publication; but, next week, we shall glance critically at the 'pictures.' It is pleasant, meanwhile, to learn that TENNYSON has in the press a new poem, to keep his laurels green. The subject of the poem is, we hear, one of TENNYSON'S early favourites, King Arthur; being, in fact, a further contribution to his unfinished Epic, *Morte d'Arthur*.

CARLYLE'S CROMWELL.

Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches, with Elucidations. By Thomas Carlyle. 3 vols. Chapman and Hall.

THIS is the second work in the cheap reissue of Carlyle's writings, and might safely dispense with all notice from us, save the mere announcement of its issue, had we not a well-grounded suspicion that some of our readers may even yet be ignorant of its contents, and did we not feel that few books published in these days better deserve a serious reading, not so much for historical as for moral instruction. Cromwell is a grand historical figure, played a great part in great times, has been much misunderstood, and much reviled; but although it is a 'refreshment,' as he would have said, to find this heroic figure really that of a hero, and not in the least of a hypocrite and canting puritan—although this work banishes for evermore the stereotyped figure from our historical works, and substitutes an altogether different one—we do not conceive its chief value to lie therein. Cromwell the man, the great man and the intrinsically good man, is here displayed before us; not through biographical artifice and well-adjusted draperies of effect, but through his own acts and unmistakable words. His letters and speeches, clumsy enough as to expression, all bear the clearest marks of being sincere utterances. If the reader carefully compares the letters addressed to his wife, children, and friends (mere simple domestic scraps for the most part, such as are passing by thousands through the post every day, never meant to reach any eyes but those of the persons addressed) with those official and semi-official letters addressed to Parliament and great personages, he will be struck, we think, with six things: First, the singular uniformity in the sentiments expressed, and even in their tone of religious fervour—not warmer in public official documents, meant for all eyes, than in the private notes to his 'dearest wife.' Secondly, the complete absence of cant, or even the sing-song incoherence which gives religious letters and writings the appearance of cant, and is not all sincere. Thirdly, the very remarkable modesty which, even when he was transacting such great things, never once permits him to allude to any merit of his own; nay, once, when the rallying of a repulse was entirely his own work, the fact is never mentioned by him. This reticence with regard to his own services is the more remarkable in a man who is supposed to have been long conspiring to gain the chief power. Fourthly, the grand magnanimity of the man, not only to personal and public enemies, but shown also in the complete absence of railing, or base insinuation. Very unlike a religious reformer is his deep-felt charity. He smites his enemies with merciless rigour when in battle; he is a stern man, and knows that sternness spares blood. But he indulges in none of that abstract bitterness which the Puritans whom he led, and the Puritans who have succeeded these, seem to consider the true flavour of godliness. Nor, deep as his religious convictions are, does he blaspheme against this life and all its 'carnal enjoyments.' Exeter Hall would have had but little of his sympathy; he would have hated its cant, and its irreligious narrowness. Fifthly, we note in these letters a touching manly tenderness, a lovingness which, in one so stern, and strong, and solely tried, is like the sweetness Samson found in the lion's mouth. Of all his letters, the purely domestic letters delight us most, and make our hearts yearn towards him. Sixthly, we note what for want of a better phrase we must call the 'gentlemanliness' of the letters.

We think it impossible to read these Letters and not see the notion of his being a 'hypocrite' to be one of the wildest calumnies ever yet circulated. A truer, sincerer, nobler nature we cannot name. Farther, it becomes evident in these volumes how slow, yet inevitable, was the rise of Cromwell's

fortunes—by what effective work and quick insight he gradually gained, step by step, the eminence of a throne; how, in short, he became the King of England because he *was* the King, the man of the time fit for the work.

Of Carlyle's labour it may seem churlish to say a word not laudatory; yet while grateful for the immense and conscientious labour which has gone to the production of these immortal volumes, we must say that he is far below himself in the historical elucidations which are for the most part wanting in picture, colour, and often in completeness; whereas on too many occasions he imitates Dryasdust, whom he so scorns. Admirably has he said:—

All past Centuries have rotted down, and gone confusedly dumb and quiet, even as that Seventeenth is now threatening to do. Histories are as perfect as the Historian is wise, and is gifted with an eye and a soul! For the leafy blossoming Present Time springs from the whole Past, remembered and unremembered, so confusedly as we say:—and truly the Art of History, the grand difference between a Dryasdust and a sacred Poet, is very much even this: To distinguish well what does still reach to the surface, and is alive and frondent for us; and what reaches no longer to the surface, but moulders safe underground, never to send forth leaves or fruit for mankind any more: of the former we shall rejoice to hear; to hear of the latter will be an affliction to us; of the latter only Pedants and Dullards, and disastrous malefactors to the world, will find good to speak. By wise memory and by wise oblivion: it lies all there! Without oblivion, there is no remembrance possible. When both oblivion and memory are wise, when the general soul of man is clear, melodious, true, there may come a modern *Iliad* as memorial of the Past: when both are foolish, and the general soul is overclouded with confusions, with unvarieties and discords, there is a 'Rushworthian chaos.'

If he had but remembered this, and exercised a 'wise oblivion,' he would have saved himself days and months of ineffectual labour, and the reader much tedium. Why should he ransack old archives, histories, genealogies, and pamphlets to ascertain that Captain Smith was the son of old Smith, 'a Nottinghamshire man,' or that Mr. Brown was related to Sir Jasper Jones, both of them so little memorable that diligent research can only rescue thus much respecting them? Is not all this editorial annotation mere Dryasdust 'unwise memory?' How gladly would we exchange all the details given about unmemorable men, for a little more connected history! In spite of this too conscientious fulfilment of the editorial task, we must say of these volumes that by the necessities of the case they will live as long as the English language, and are very much to be recommended to every reader not yet so fortunate as to possess them.

NEW NOVELS.

Barchester Towers. By Anthony Trollope, Author of 'The Warden.' 3 vols. (Longman and Co.)—*The Warden* was a remarkable book; *Barchester Towers* is still more remarkable. The one, indeed, is a development of the other. In the former, the interest was in connexion with a charitable trust, the warden of which enjoyed his comparative sinecure in peace of conscience until an article in the *Jupiter* almost persuaded him that he had been for years engaged in robbing the poor; in the latter, the texture is not so simple. There is more story, more action, less concentration; the characters are more abstract, the incidents more diversified. First in bad eminence is Mr. Slope, the Low Church chaplain of Bishop Proudie. He is a large-handed, large-footed, broad chested, wide-shouldered Evangelical; his hair is red and lank; his complexion is that of questionable beef; his forehead shines unpleasantly; from his immense mouth, between his thin, bloodless lips, and under his spongy, porous nose, he pours forth divine anger against high-pitched roofs, full-breasted black silk waistcoats, prayer-books printed in red letters, and other Puseyisms. This pillar of the Low Church stands confronted by Dr. Grantly, son of that mild-eyed bishop whom we knew in *The Warden*; but he has long an ally in Mrs. Proudie, wife of a wretched bishop, who at the last, however, is the mortal enemy of Slope. Slope's projects fill a large part of the novel, and it may appear surprising that, out of materials so unpromising, Mr. Trollope should have elicited so much that is interesting. But the book is not so pleasing as it is powerful; we may object to the unequal and prejudiced distribution of satire, yet the astonishing energy with which the author writes, the sharpness and concision of his style, the light, unlaboured scatterings of allusion, the points that strike in all directions against the farces and follies of our ecclesiastical civilization, more than atone for all that is unfair, and the little that is repulsive, in the three volumes. In contrast with the red-headed chaplain, bony, florid, redundant in joint and sinew, attitudes Madeline Vesey Neroni, daughter of Dr. Stanhope, but wife of an infamous Italian, by whom she had been deserted. This beauty, crippled by violence, but retaining a perfect nose, mouth, chin, and bust, resolves never more to be seen, except upon a couch, and is carried like a goddess from saloon to saloon. She stamps her name under a gold coronet on a gilt bordered card, and, crowned with some mystery and endless grace, is enthroned upon a sofa in the episcopal palace while a reception is at its height. A white velvet robe, white lace worked with pearls across her bosom and round the armlets, a band of red velvet across her brow, a crimson silk mantle flowing from her waist downwards, form the attire of this half-northern, half-southern Juno, by whom Obadiah Slope is entangled in an impure passion. The contrasts between them are excellently drawn: "Her hand in his looked like a rose among carrots, and when he kissed it he looked as a cow might do on finding such a flower among her food." Madeline Neroni, however, is not the only idol of Obadiah, who worships also Eleanor Bold, daughter of the ex-warden, whom he approaches less reverentially, and who replies to him not with the language of Roman eyes, but with the palm of a matronly English hand. Without going further, or sketching the outline of Mr. Trollope's story, we cannot but describe it as uncommonly graphic and clever; it is a book to rouse the reader, and, if it does not charm him, he will, at all events, be cordially amused.

Below the Surface: a Story of English Country Life. 3 vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—The authorship of this novel has been announced as Sir Arthur Hallam Elton's. In the absence of such information we should have unhesitatingly assigned it to the pen of a gentleman nearly conversant with the aspects of English country life, in the west especially, intimate with the

duties and weaknesses of rural magistrates, and other magnates, not practically familiar with literature as an art, but scholarly, accomplished, and genial. We doubt not that the book will command very considerable success, since it sprinkles more than one county with drops of satire, not aimed at random, but directed against classes and institutions which may, without difficulty, be recognised. There is much to laugh at in English country life, and we congratulate Sir Arthur Elton upon his courage. In the metropolis he is less successful; he seems ill at ease within scent of the House of Commons; but his social sketches have at least this advantage—that they do not shock us by their ignorant delineations of fashionable manners. If the cultivated world be not photographed in these volumes, it is not that the writer has been copying in the dark. *Below the Surface* is often incomplete, and, we think, unphilosophical, as a picture of modern English society, but it is never absurd; it is full of refinement and vivacity. We must protest, however, against the title, which is the most ambitious that could have been assumed. *Below the Surface*: why the name suggests an anatomy of the secret passions at work under the mask of the age; a detection of social sins; a laying bare of mysteries; a large and profound analysis of human motives; and an exposure of hypocrisy and pretence. The story does not realise this conception except in a very limited degree. It is almost purely local in its scope; its chief characters are by no means typical of important classes in the community; nor does the originality of the romance range far. We prefer to speak candidly of Sir Arthur Elton's first performance as a novelist, because it is a work of real merit; if the pretence of its title-page be forgiven, it is particularly unassuming in tone, and, with all drawbacks, it is a book which the novel reader will not willingly lay down.

The Sister of Charity; or, From Bermondsey to Belgravia. By Mrs. Challice. 2 vols. (Bentley.)—Mrs. Challice has written a novel with the best of motives to the worst of purposes. The tabular headings of her chapters read like the announcements on a provincial play-bill in the comic season. These are examples:—

Squalid Streets.—Are you Really Virtuous?—The Gate of a London Graveyard.—The Feverish Child.—Who knows the Fate of his Bones?—Emblems of Death or Life.—Why be Buried alive in Bermondsey.
The Misanthrope's Mansion.—Armour not from Wardour-street.—The Love of a Good Thing spoilt.—Aphrodite abdicated and Psyche pursued.—Face to Face with a Foe.
Saturnine Seclusion.—Parson or Paragon?—The Glory, not the Thing "Isms."—Clap-Trap.—Plant or Paramour.

And so on. The story is one of woe and sympathy, beautiful deaths and heavenly sacrifices—all that Mrs. Challice delights in as romantic life and its sweet poison of passion and duty. We knew what to expect, however, when Eustace, the hero—who is reserved for great things—having saved the heroine's life, is introduced into the castle of her proud, world-hating father, after an icy interview with whom he is led through gloomy galleries to a place made lovely by sculpture, but divine by a presence in the centre, 'where, standing bathed in prismatic hues which fell with the sunbeams from the stained glass above, was a living form, surpassing in interest any of the silent groups in the background. It was Beatrice Lester.' We have shown the reader his way into the episode intended to lure him on, and if he proceeds he may, or may not, find a tale to his liking.

Nightshade: a Novel. By William Johnstone, M.A. (Bentley.)—The title *Nightshade* is intended as a blister of sarcasm against the Romish Church. Mr. Johnstone, whose style is superior to his story, belongs to the phalanx in which such ladies as Catherine Sinclair clash Protestant spears against Protestant shields, and do battle with dreadful clamour. The Jesuit of the novel is a fiend, and nothing but his death will satisfy the retributive author. For has not De Vere, cloaked under the name of Ricci, forged a will, abducted two Protestant daughters, ensnared them in Italian convents, and performed other services in the cause of that faith which the Reverend Mr. Pike, with apostolic tenderness, designates as 'the curse of Christendom.' The shadows of perverts enhance the darkness of the drama, but what is most horrible of all is, that one of the young ladies having been conducted to a nunnery, is there stripped, whipped, and otherwise most inelegantly treated, to punish her Protestant obstinacy. And Mr. Johnstone believes all the time that he fulfils a Christian duty in depicting this wrestle of consciences and systems. With more than the usual bitterness he has more than common capacity.

Glenwood Manor House: a Novel. By Esther Bakewell. (Arthur Hall and Co.)—There is agreeable reading in *Glenwood Manor House*. It is a tale of old and new times. Miss Bakewell writes with grace, and invents a stirring story.

Don Viquete de Los Montes: a Novel. By H. Jameson. (Edinburgh Wilson.)—Mr. Jameson constructs Spanish romance with a bold pen. We should say he is inexperienced, but he puts together a vivacious drama, the complexion of which may be imagined from the conclusion:—

"I hasten—I come to desolate their plains, their villages, their cities! Pillage, fire, and slaughter attend me! I come!—I come!"

Then, bounding forward over the precipice, and stretching out his arms in a frantic manner, he screamed forth—

"THE DEMON CALLS ME TO POSSESSION!—I HASTEN!—I HASTEN!—THUS!—THUS!—I SEIZE THE WORLD!"

Uttering these last words, he stepped upon air, lost his balance, and fell forward over the precipice with stretched-out arms; and his body, dashing from rock to rock, plunged heavily into the whirling pool below—sank—arose—moved round with the circling foam, tinged with his blood; then, being seized by the current, was borne into the cavern gulf, and seen no more!

SUCH WAS THE

LAST MINUTE

OF THE CAREER OF DON VIQUETE DE LOS MONTES.

Under the Lime Trees. By Caroline Ricketts, Author of 'Trials, or Life's Lessons.' (Booth.)—The arbitrary choice of unmeaning titles is a spreading sin. We could think of many names for this volume quite as appropriate as 'Under the Lime Trees.' It might be 'Scaton Court,' or 'Tales of the Avenuc,' or 'Living Love,' or, if meant to be descriptive, 'Five

Stories.' In fact, certain relatives congregate at Seaton Court, a variously gabled pile, and under certain lime-trees narrate the following histories:—'The Sisters,' 'Lucy Dawson,' 'The Grange,' 'Sœur Marguerite,' and 'Limenian Life.' These are tender, touching stories, with a tinge of real life, and are told in a way to interest the emotional reader.

BALLADS: OLD AND NEW.

Ancient Poems, Ballads, and Songs of the Peasantry of England. Taken down from Oral Recitation, and Transcribed from Private Manuscripts, Rare Broad-sides, and Scarce Publications. Edited by Robert Bell. (Parker and Son).—When Mr. Bell first announced his "Annotated Edition of the English Poets," he said that the collection would include "those stores of Lyrical and Ballad Poetry in which our literature is richer than that of any other country, and which, independently of their poetical claims, are peculiarly interesting as illustrations of historical events and national customs." In fulfilment of this promise, we have already had a volume of "Early Ballads;" and the work before us still further carries out the design.

From a not very clear Introduction, it would seem that the volume in question is a reprint (with considerable additions, subtractions, and emendations) of Mr. James Henry Dixon's book bearing the same title, and published by the Percy Society in 1846; though whether the annotations in the present work are to be ascribed to Mr. Bell's pen, or to Mr. Dixon's, is left in doubt. But, however this may be, we have to thank the former gentleman for including in his series a very interesting and pleasant collection of the Poetry of the People.

The value of these songs and ballads lies emphatically in the circumstance of their origin being (with a few exceptions) from the hearts of the people themselves, and not from the brains, however ingenious or ennobled, of professed literary men. They are real growths of the national life—as much so as the oaks that shadow our forests, or carry our thunders out to sea; genuine productions of the soil, like the blackthorn in the hedges, or the turf that brightens our fields with perennial verdure. In these snatches of robust and vigorous song we see the heart of our old Saxon England laid bare—see it in all its native joviality and strength, its love of adventure, its muscular will, its tendency to alternate between rugged work and boisterous merriment, its stalwart self-reliance, and its broad substratum of conscience underlying its very prejudices. To read this collection is to feel an enlarged respect for our countrymen—to behold some of the unsquared rubble which has built up our national greatness. Energy exhaustless, humour fantastic and warmly-tinted, a genial good-nature and quick generosity of sentiment for which we have not generally obtained credit, and a profuse outpouring of animal spirits, commonly supposed to be the exclusive attribute of more southern lands, are among the prominent qualities which we find in these Poems of the Peasantry. And we rejoice to perceive that many of the songs are yet sung in roadside alehouses and in chimney-corners of old farms. Educate the brain as much as you will; but it is certain that no amount of culture should set aside the utterance of the affections, or supersede the native impulses of the heart.

Lord Robert Cecil observed at a public meeting the other day that the genuine English peasant—more especially he of Sussex—has not his equal for dull, brutish stupidity in all the world. We fear there is but too much warrant for the assertion; yet it could hardly have been so always. The volume before us disproves it. Here are scores of songs—and they are only a selection—issuing out of the familiar daily life of the peasantry, and throbbing with that bright, though rough, vivacity which is in itself half an education. How is it that the character of the people has changed?—for, although some of these lyrics are still occasionally sung, they are no longer produced. We think an answer is implied in the fact that there are no songs of the Puritan party among the productions of the Commonwealth era. The Roundheads only "sang psalms to hornpipes." We desire to speak of those men with respect, as they were noble politicians, and have left us a legacy of freedom; but they and their religious successors, the Methodists, have done much to destroy the old genial life of England. While they forbade mirth, they did not advance education; and the result has been that the English labourer has been reduced to the level of the Styrian boor.

It is on record that in former times a knowledge of music, and the ability to sing it, even when it presented learned difficulties, were common in England; and we see evidences of the fact in these national songs. Their lyrical instinct is indeed wonderful. The measures start out upon you with the sudden impulsiveness of birds, or like an air unexpectedly struck up beneath your window by a travelling organ. They may almost be said to sing their own tunes—to suggest their own music. For instance, what a quick and vital spurt of melody is this, supposed to be sung by a young girl in the pride of her youth and beauty!—

There was an old man came over the Lea—
Ha-hà-ha-hà! but I won't have he!

He came over the Lea,
A-courting to me,
With his grey beard newly shaven.

Listen also to this lively catch of the days of Charles II:—

Now, since we're met, let's merry, merry be,
In spite of all our foes;
And he that will not merry be,
We'll pull him by the nose.

Cho. Let him be merry, merry there,
While we're all merry, merry here,
For who can know where he shall go,
To be merry another year?

He that will not merry, merry be,
With his sweetheart by his side,
Let him be laid in the cold churchyard,
With a head-stone for his bride.
Let him, &c.

Here is a bit of robust politics and overflowing animal spirits. We take it from a Harvest Home Song:—

We cheated the parson, we'll cheat him again;
For why should the vicar have one in ten?
One in ten! one in ten!
For why should the vicar have one in ten?
For why should the vicar have one in ten?
For staying while dinner is cold and hot,
And pudding and dumpling's burnt to pot;
Burnt to pot! burnt to pot!
Till pudding and dumpling's burnt to pot,
Burnt to pot! burnt to pot!

There is a world of popular feeling in that reiterated question, "Why should the vicar have one in ten?" and in the chuckle with which the singers recal the fact that they have cheated the reverend gentleman, and affirm that they mean to do it again.

As an instance of utter abandonment to lyrical feeling, even to the coining of gibberish, in order that the heavy trotting of a rough country horse may be represented in the metre, we quote the following:—

Last New-Year's day, as I've heard say,
Young Richard he mounted his dapple grey,
And he trotted along to Taunton Dean,
To court the parson's daughter, Jean.
Dumble dum deary, dumble dum deary,
Dumble dum deary, dumble dum dee.

The varieties of measure are as remarkable for their number as their beauty. Sometimes the rhymes will be iterated and interweaved with marvellous prodigality; as in this stanza from a poem about the plough:—

A country life is sweet!
In moderate cold and heat,
To walk in the air, how pleasant and fair!
In every field of wheat,
The fairest of flowers adorning the bowers,
And every meadow's brow;
To that I say, no courtier may
Compare with they who clothe in grey,
And follow the useful plow.

This species of stanza appears to have been a favourite; for there is a poem in Mr. Bell's collection, called "The Farmer's Son," and two or three versions of a song in honour of the milking-pail, which exhibit the same construction. For a similar exuberance of rhyming, and for a charming buoyancy of feeling and play of verse, we must refer to "The Rural Dance about the May-Pole"—a true pastoral, neither coarse nor conventionally ideal. Considerations of space forbid our reproducing it here.

The spirit of mirth sometimes becomes so fast and furious that it boils over into a kind of Bacchanal orgie. In the song, "Joan's Ale was New," which is supposed to contain an allusion to Oliver Cromwell and his wife, six jovial tradesmen sit down to drinking, and are joined by various mechanics and others:—

The next that came in was a ragman,
With his rag-bag over his shoulder;
Sure no one could be bolder
Among the jovial crew.
They sat and called for pots and glasses,
Till they were all drunk as asses,
And burnt the old ragman's bag to ashes,
While Joan's ale was new.

The excess of animal spirits is so great that beggary itself becomes something jolly and seductive—the true primal state of liberty:—

There was a jovial beggar,
He had a wooden leg,
Lame from his cradle,
And forced for to beg.
And a begging we will go, we'll go, we'll go;
And a begging we will go!

I fear no plots against me,
I live in open cell;
Then who would be a king
When beggars live so well?
And a begging we will go, we'll go, we'll go;
And a begging we will go!

To be able to drink lustily was one of the virtues of our ancestors. They carried that virtue too far, no doubt; but the excesses of robust men, who neglected none of the manly exercises, and who at any rate drank unadulterated liquors, were something very different from the dull, sottish boozing of the modern town dweller, exhausted by in-door work and a fetid atmosphere, and seeking a virulent stimulus in poisoned beer and gin.

The songs in the collection before us are from all parts of England—from the north to the south, from the east to the west. They vary in some degree with the soil from which they spring. Those from the southern parts of the island have, we think, more of rough joviality; those from "the North Country"—the old home of romance and minstrelsy—are distinguished, in many instances, by something of the Troubadour grace and amorosness. The southern lovers are a little boorish in their wooing; not so those of the north.

A few of the ballads in this collection were, perhaps, hardly worth printing; but, on the whole, the book is a delightful addition to the library shelves, and we beg to thank Mr. Bell for this half-crown's worth of sunshine.

With these lyrics of a past age we link a volume of modern ballads:—

Songs of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, Jacobite Ballads, &c. &c. By George W. Thornbury, Author of "Shakspeare's England," &c. With Illustrations by H. S. Marks. (Hurst and Blackett.)—On turning the title-page of this work, we find the following dedication:—"To Douglas Jerrold, the Dramatist, Satirist, and Novelist, these Verses are Dedicated by the Author. From one who is struggling, and hopes to win, to one who has struggled, and has

won." We were hardly prepared, after this connexion of what was to follow with the name of one of the sturdiest of radicals, to find that the ballads were all imbued with a vehement hatred of "old Noll" and his "Cropears." It is true that "Songs of the Cavaliers" could not be otherwise; but how about the "Songs of the Roundheads?" Mr. Thornbury has a savage picturesqueness—a devil-may-care swing and dash—a power of versifying the forms and colours and feelings of a past age. He has evidently a strong feeling for that wild era of history beginning with the Civil Wars of the Seventeenth Century, and ending in the days of the second Pretender; and he is manifestly well acquainted with their facts and characteristics. But his knowledge is not merely antiquarian; he has sympathized deeply with the life of the periods. The old vanished London of the days before the Great Fire, with its picturesque outlines, and its ruffling gallants, gorgeous in lace and plumes and many-coloured doublets—and the later, soberer London of the Hanoverian monarchs, with bag wigs and cocked hats—rise before us as we read, and we enter fully into the hot passions that made politics then a game of blood, the stake not seldom being one's own head. But only a part of Mr. Thornbury's book refers to the Cavaliers, Roundheads, and Jacobites. He appends some "Dramatic Monologues" and Miscellaneous Poems. The fault of the volume consists in its unrelieved melancholy and tendency to the horrible. We meet with nothing but savage contests, bloody feuds, smouldering treason, or treason with its head upon the block, the wild excesses of debauchery (as in the terrible dance of drunkards round the plague-pit), the wanderings of madness, sad glints and gleams of autumn weather on decaying landscapes, starved weavers working frantically for bread, poisoned pasties, witchcraft, nightmares, and suicides. We breathe a close, charnel-house atmosphere, which would be intolerable were it not for the fierce energy of the language and the hot pulsations of the verse. We could wish, too, a little more repose, as well as a little more cheerfulness. Mr. Thornbury's strength is sometimes feverish; but his faculty is unquestionable.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

Divorce in 1857. The Talbot Case. Letters by Cujus. (Ward and Lock.)—"Cujus" supplies in a series of letters an excellent history of the Talbot Divorce Case. He writes with point and precision, and we certainly prefer his summing up to that of Lord St. Leonards. The volume contains a melancholy, repulsive record; yet it should be extensively circulated, for it is the last appeal in a case of injustice and misery.

Stars and Stripes; or, American Impressions. By Ivan Golovin. (Freeman.)—We have long delayed to notice this foolish and ill-meaning book. It should not be mentioned in these columns, were it not in some sort a duty of criticism to discountenance the pretensions of writers who rely on their own garrulity and the gullibility of the public.

Other reprints are—the fourth volume of Professor Wilson's *Essays, Critical and Imaginative* (Blackwood), containing "Homer and his Translators," in seven critiques, and "The Agamemnon of Æschylus;" and *Jack Hinton, the Guardsman*, by Charles Lever (Chapman and Hall), with illustrations by Hablot K. Browne.

We must not omit to notice a new issue of *The Poetical Works of Sir Walter Scott. Including his Metrical Romances, Copyright Lyrical Ballads, and Miscellaneous Poems and Ballads, with a Memoir of the Author.* (Adam and Charles Black.)—It is a handsome, portable volume, illustrated with numerous excellent engravings on steel and wood. Such an edition has long been called for.—Mr. Toulmin Smith's standard work, *The Parish*, has been reprinted, with important additions. (Sweet.) It should be adopted as the handbook of all local bodies and parochial officers throughout the kingdom. Mr. Smith is entitled to say, "There has never before been published such a mass of thoroughly authentic and practically available information on the institutions and working of the parish."—Mr. Murray has published a fifth volume of Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Lord Chancellors*—fourth edition; *à propos* of which, we may allude to the forthcoming *Lives of certain Chief Justices*, by the same author—an announcement sure to excite general interest. Among popular publications we have also volume the second of Mr. Kaye's brilliant *History of the War in Afghanistan* (Bentley), and the interesting novel, *Nightshade*, by William Johnstone, M.A. (Bentley).

The Arts.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

III.—LANDSCAPE.

Art is powerful and healthy in its influences, in so far as it reflects the great aspects of life. Landscape excites the sympathies which are in harmony with the healthy life of the inorganic world, if we may call it so, as exhibited in the architecture of man, and the broad field of Nature. We measure the artist's power by his ability to give us the aspects of that life, shown in its most active manifestations. It is not necessary, indeed, that the scene should be agitated with storms, for there is as much vital energy in the power of the sun, in the lusty growth of the plants, and in the tranquil running of the stream, as there is in the more transitory paroxysms of the elements. But like all great poetry, art is strictly matter of fact; its strength is drawn from the simplest powers; and in proportion as its truth is unadulterated, it will affect us. We here have the key to judge of every school of landscape-painting. We have the distinction between the mere imitation of the still life of Nature and portraiture of the living life. Judged by these tests, we are inclined to think highly of the present exhibition. There is, if we may say so, less arrogance, less straining for effect, less self-assertion of the peculiarities of "genius," such as we saw when Turner occupied the walls; but there is a sober, a working, almost a religious spirit of truthfulness, which is a great gain for the whole class. As we have remarked with regard to the exhibition generally, the effect of this better study is seen

especially in the humbler range of works. If we find a more confident strength in the leading men, we also see an extraordinary amount of average ability amongst those who have yet attained a less conspicuous position. Early in the catalogue lies a little picture, a "Water Mill," by Mr. N. O. LUTROX, which has not been thought worthy of any but a place below the line; where, indeed, we find one of the most masterly pictures of the present exhibition. And that little picture, placed so humbly, goes far to illustrate what we have been saying. So does the "View of Mont Blanc from Servoz," by Mr. H. MOORE: there are faults, but there are also considerable merits, and especially the broad effect of open air and light and shadow upon the intermediate mountain.

The first landscape to arrest you is a "Crab and Lobster Shore," by Mr. E. W. COOKE; which illustrates the more general principle that we have laid down. It is admirably painted, yet not pleasing. It is a curiosity for the truthful effect of a stony beach, with lobster-baskets fastened about it. It is an ugly dead wall of the sea-shore, with little variety of tint, but a miraculous accuracy in the remarkable individual stones and pebbles—all pale, hard, uncharitable, enough to create grief even in a lobster. It is a curiosity, masterly in its success, and not possessing the mind, like some landscapes of inferior skill and happier subject. Why? Because in it the expression of inorganic life is very slight; it is a portraiture of the still life of the Creation.

Far more striking is Mr. REDGRAVE'S "Well-known Footstep," in which the landscape is more important than the figures; it represents a garden path, with a side view of a cottage front on the one side, and a glimpse into the little household; on the other, a glance into a tall grove of trees; and over all an endeavour to photograph every leaf, every sprig, every brick, every household utensil that peeps through the open door. There is too much of this literalism; but the painstaking fidelity of the artist has made him follow the branching of the boughs and the leaves, the glancing of the light, the play of the shadows, the changing of the tints under the fitful sun or in the distance; and the consequence is an effect of living nature.

STANFIELD aims at a more stirring scene, in every sense. He endeavours to give you a story of the elements, whether it is in the tranquil blackness of "Fort Socca, St. Jean de Luz," or in the large picture, "Port na Spania," near the Giant's Causeway. Here a ship of the Spanish Armada has gone on shore in a gale, which is still tearing up the billows and sweeping spray, mist, and clouds in dizzy wreaths around the tall wall of basaltic rocks. STANFIELD does not approach so close to the object that he paints, does not reproduce it in detail; but he knows what is wanted to give the effect of the whole scene. You have in the rocks beautiful specimens of the architecture of the Creation, standing unmoved by the billows or the winds which have for centuries kept up a ceaseless war upon the outpost of land. The great movements of nature which have so large an influence upon organic life are present to the eyes.

Nature has many aspects:—you may endeavour to reproduce a whole view, as Mr. J. STARK has done, in his works "At Rest," "Marlborough Forest," and others, with great success; you may choose chiefly to give the effect of vegetable creation, as WITHERINGTON does in "Early Summer," and "Lyndale, North Devon;" or you may take the broad sweep of light over hill and dale, in a moorland view, after the manner of J. F. LINNELL'S "Mountain Path;" but in either case, fidelity to the truth will be rewarded. WITHERINGTON is a veteran, but an immortal youth seems to dwell in his tranquil scenes; and we are inclined to think that even this long familiar friend has profited by the new spirit which has come over the English school. There is more painstaking, and less attempt at a lower style of scene painting, in which dabs of colour were made to pass, and effects were attempted by a random hit-or-miss style of handling. He still endeavours to preserve the breadth of light and shade, still has a tender half-tint of transparent shadow with glancing sunlight from one side, still contrasts the vivid colour of one tree against the more neutral tints of another, still delights to paint the effect of that interweaving vegetation in which the grass springs up thick and sharp from the ground, the tree stem springs from the grass, and the leaves and branches of the trees interlace with each other. But the outline is more carefully painted, the details are moulded with more distinctness, and the reality is strengthened without impairing the brilliancy of the whole. The "Early Summer," which presents a pathway along the side of a river, with haymaking in the intermediate grass-plot, is full of life and air. Through the eyes it almost makes the other senses conscious of the atmosphere, and produces in the heart the same feeling of gladness that man was created to feel, when he witnesses the life-giving power of the elements over even his mute companions, the creatures of the vegetable world.

Under the broad sunlight in the open air, lights and shadows are sharp and well defined, but every shadow is transparent. LINNELL'S "Mountain Path" exactly copies these traits; we are looking up a winding pathway, with heath stretching above us to the right; a little rivulet has made its bed in the midst of the pathway. Higher up than we are stands the figure of a girl, who seems stopping to look back; her shadow falls across the path, and through the shadow, sharp as it is, you see every pebble and every ripple.

J. C. HORSLEY, who has heretofore attended principally to figures, has now given us a landscape with figures, which he calls "Youth and Age." An old woman in a red cloak is wending her way towards the spectator, down a hilly path, which runs through a wood. A little child is offering the aged woman a flower; other figures are proceeding up the pathway: save as contrasts of personal characteristics, they are little more than accessories in the scene. The water has worn away the banks, which are steep on both sides; old tree-stems rising above the banks. The immediate foreground is under a deep shade; a little further back the light is glancing through the trees; and further on lies the broad open green distance. Even through the deep shade a flash of light is glancing upon the hood of the woman's red cloak. The shade is deep but not black; as in nature, it looks at first as if the objects within it were dim, yet the eye grows accustomed to discern them; while here and there glancing half-lights convey a sense of motion in the leaves of the trees above, and bring out the fresh complexions and brighter dresses of the more youthful figures. The whole action of nature upon the surface of the ancient hill, upon the old trees, the young plants, the winds, and the sun itself, is brought within the framework; and a degree of luminousness is attained which is beyond the reach of pigments, unless used by a truly skilful hand. It is, we repeat, the best work that we have seen from the pencil of HORSLEY; and the accomplished landscape-painter his uncle, CALCOTT, would be rejoiced indeed to have recognised his heir in this work.

REDGRAVE'S "Cradle of the River" tells the same overlasting story in his new manner: it is one of his best pictures. A "Moorland Child"—a more trifling work, with a single figure and a landscape background—is very pretty.

J. R. HERRERT'S "View on the Coast of France, in the Autumn of 1853," is interesting as a landscape-painting from a hand which has told some powerful

stories. It presents an open and breezy effect; but it does not improve upon re-examination.

"An Autumn Morning, where brook and river meet," by CRESWICK, also one of the best pictures by that painter; but others are beginning to overtake him: the comparison offered by the matter-of-fact manner of the new school somewhat damages a style which is mixed in part with mannerism.

DANBY'S "Court, Palace, and Gardens of the Alcinoüs—a ruddy morning," is *all* mannerism: it is a tea-tray landscape, on a classic subject, painted principally in red and black.

LA TRAVIATA AT THE LYCEUM.

THE SINNERS' OPERA was produced at the LYCEUM on Saturday with a success justified by the perfection of the *ensemble* as well as by the indisputable superiority of the principal singers. The opera is splendidly put on the stage (it is only at ASTLEY'S that operas are 'mounted'); the scenes, the dresses, the appointments, the groupings, reveal the careful superintendence and accomplished skill which have become a tradition at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA; the orchestra is, perhaps, the best in Europe, and while even minor parts are not disdained by such artists as TAGLIAFICO, ZELGER, and POLO-NINI, it would be difficult to find another *Violetta* equal in all respects to Madame BOSIO, or an *Alfredo* who can look and sing like MARIO. We are not called upon to institute impertinent comparisons, but we may suggest *en passant* that the charm of Madlle. PICCOLOMINI is the charm of youth, of freshness, of enthusiasm; and in the *Traviata* it is perhaps not so much the marvellous instinct with which that pure child of genius and impulse identifies herself with the fevered life of unpermitted and unpardoned passion, as the sense of *contrast* in the unconscious and inevitable innocence, the girlish freshness and coquetry of the actress, that fascinates and enchants the audience.

Madame Bosio, in the part of *Violetta*, has surprised her warmest admirers: she takes all hearts captive, not only by the marvellous combination of voice, method, and expression in her singing, but by the bewitching grace, the adorable languor, the despairing tenderness, and the quiet intensity of her acting. The Italians have the word which expresses the peculiar charm of Madame Bosio. It is *morbidezza*, that softest delicacy which is the very opposite of harshness and angularity, and in which the varying expressions melt and mingle, with no abrupt transition and no jarring contrast. Always supremely elegant, she betrayed once or twice a feeling and a power for which few would have given her credit. In her tone and manner there was a caressing waywardness, in her attitudes a *désinvolture*, in her gaiety and sadness a playing light and shadow irresistibly touching. We need not say how lovely Madame Bosio looked in each change of that prodigal luxury of dress beneath which the poor lost heart is beating itself to death. The eye, the ear, and the heart were equally satisfied, and we could not help inwardly repeating poor MOORE'S lines:

Some eyes there are so holy,
They seem but given, they seem but given,
Like shining beacons, solely
To point to heaven, to point to heaven.
While some—oh! ne'er believe them—
With tempting ray, with tempting ray,
Would lead us—Heaven forgive them!
The other way, the other way!

MARIO was the ideal of an *amant de cœur*, in a somewhat fantastic costume. He sang with that voluptuous fulness of tone for which his voice in its best moments is distinguished from all other tenors, and with unsurpassed refinement of style. GRAZIANI is an effective *Germon*: it is quite a tonic to listen to his clear, resonant, virile voice; but his acting wants relief and ease, and the swaying of his arms is too constantly that of the Statue of the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*. It was fancied by some, who forgot the conscientiousness of all real superiority, that Mr. COSTA, lord and arbiter of Handelian solemnities, would ill disguise his contempt for the sweet siren melodies of VERDI; but this apprehension was entirely dissipated by the first notes of the Introduction, played by his admirable band with the tenderest delicacy and the choicest care. If there be any secret beauty in a score, Mr. COSTA is sure to search it out.

ON Thursday evening, Madlle. PAREPA, who has sung in Italy (with GIUGLINI, we believe) with considerable success, made her first appearance in England as *Elvira*, in the *Puritani*. Madlle. PAREPA is a lady of rare personal attractions, and possessed of a fine rich soprano voice, well trained, and still in all its strength. As an actress, she is careful and intelligent, and we have little doubt she will be much admired when she has got over the terrors of a first appearance. On Thursday next, Madlle. VICTOIRE BALFE will make her first appearance on the stage in *La Sonnambula*. This announcement excites the liveliest interest, and we believe we may without fear of contradiction promise our readers that on this occasion the highest expectations are likely to be fully realized. Richly gifted by nature, endowed with an hereditary predisposition to art, furnished with the advantages of the finest education, and with all the secrets of the most accomplished culture, this young lady enters upon her career under the most brilliant and encouraging auspices. The English public will, we are sure, give her a hearty national welcome.

THE BOUFFES AT ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

WE have already told our readers what the BOUFFES are, and in what the speciality of their entertainment consists; with all best wishes for their success, and with a vivid remembrance of pleasant hours in Paris, we hinted a doubt of their being thoroughly appreciated in London. The audiences of the THÉÂTRE COMTE and of the FOLIES NOUVELLES are of a peculiar flavour and quality, and it is sometimes difficult to say on which side of the curtain the dramatic element predominates. The wit, the slang, the jokes, the puns, the parodies, the burlesques, are all specially addressed to a public of initiates; the colour is essentially local, and the allusions with which every piece is plentifully sprinkled are caviare to an audience not 'well up' in Parisian life. Now we know that the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE is in the most aristocratic quarter of London, its audience is the *fine fleur* of Belgravia and May-Fair, who may relish a short season of French plays of the GYMNASIUM order, but whose palate is a little too dainty for strong meats. It was, therefore, a bold experiment of the

BOUFFES to pitch their tents in that exclusive quarter of this exclusive 'world' of London, but

Nil desperandum MITCHELL duce

was probably the device under which they sailed for England. Wednesday was the first evening, and a crowded and brilliant audience, such as Mr. MITCHELL has the secret of bringing together, were assembled to greet these Fescennines. The first piece, *M'sieu Landry*, a broad caricature of French peasant life, introduced M. GUYOT, who played the husband with much dry, quiet humour; M. GERTPRÉ, as the gay deceiver (capitally made up with enormous 'gills,' and a waistcoat and continuations of inexpressible pictorial grandeur), whose indomitable vivacity is only equalled by his sublime stolidity; Mademoiselle DALMONT as the buxom wife; and Mademoiselle MARESCHAL as the country coquette. The two ladies have each a pleasant little chirping French voice, piercingly shrill, but clear and true, with which they trill away in the happiest style imaginable. This little piece, roundly played and interspersed with little songs that fizz like fireworks, was heartily enjoyed. The second piece, however, was the success of the evening. *Les Deux Aveugles* was literally what they call at the ADELPHI a 'screamer.' From first to last the audience was in a roar of laughter.

This is something like a *tour de force* for two actors to achieve in a piece that has no story, no incidents, no *dénouement*.

Les Deux Aveugles are simply two hardened and particularly wide-awake professional beggars, who take their station on the Pont des Arts, the one with a trombone and the other with a guitar, each with a lamentably misspelt appeal to pity labelled on his breast, and who, with these instruments of mendicant warfare, terrify or seduce the passer-by into desultory alms. It is a capital satire on that professional beggary which flourishes in the British as in the French metropolis. M. PRADEAU, who is the leading actor of the Bouffes company, is colossally funny as the blind beggar who plays the trombone. His face, a satire on the sun in a fog, is an incessant provocation to Homeric laughter; and he has a twist of the cheek and eccentric movements of the arms or legs fit to convulse an audience of Trappists. M. PRADEAU is the incarnation of farce extravagant and immense; but there is wonderful truth and a very nice perception in his humour, while it would take a dozen WRIGHTS to surpass his laughter-moving powers.

It was, we think, a mistake to play *Les Deux Aveugles* as the second piece: anything, however intrinsically comic, coming after such an explosion, was necessarily and fatally an anti-climax. Besides, there is only a certain fund of laughter available in the most cachinnatory of audiences; and too much laughter leaves a residue of savage and dull depression. Hence *Ba-ta-clan*, which was a great success in Paris (where everything Chinese is a sort of traditional burlesque), fell terribly flat, and, before it was half over, two-thirds of the audience had oozed away. Another, but a secondary cause of this conditional failure of *Ba-ta-clan*, was, that its fun is almost absolutely local and pure Parisian, and the parodies can only be appreciated by those who are familiar with the contemporary celebrities of the theatres on the Boulevards. On Thursday, we are told, the order of the pieces was inverted, and *Les Deux Aveugles* was played last. Last evening two new pieces, *Le Deuil de Benjamin* and *Les Pantins de Violette*, were played. We trust *Le Savetier et le Financier* will be one of the early productions. The orchestra is conducted skilfully by M. OFFENBACH. On the whole, we cannot help surmising that the Bouffes would have found a more triumphant success at the SURREY GARDENS or CREMORNE; but a visit to the ST. JAMES'S during their short visit of one month is about as pleasant a way of passing a disengaged hour or two as can be imagined, and we advise our readers not to lose the opportunity.

WE may be permitted to invite attention to Mr. MITCHELL'S announcement of the Cologne Choral Union's first concert at the HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS on Monday afternoon, at half-past three.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

AN original English drama has been produced at the ADELPHI THEATRE, under the title of *Joseph Chavigny, or Under the Thumb*. At least, it would have been original had not M. FRÉDÉRIC SOULIÉ accidentally preceded Mr. WATTS PHILLIPS in the order of being. But whatever Mr. PHILLIPS may have lost in priority of creation, he has gained in fidelity of reproduction. Both his plot and his dialogue attest his easy familiarity with French literature, and especially with the works of that versatile novelist. We hope that Mr. PHILLIPS will persevere in the mission he has seemingly chalked out for himself of introducing the British public to the inexhaustible sources for original drama furnished by the lively imaginations of our dramatic neighbours. Mr. WATTS PHILLIPS would render still greater service to English play-writers by publishing in *juxta-columnis* his own and M. SOULIÉ'S version of the same story. It would thence appear how little it is necessary to deviate from the ideas and expressions that have suggested themselves to the *creative* writer.

A MORNING OPERA.

AMONG all the morning amusements of London, we remember few instances of a morning opera. Morning concerts have long been an established institution, and the convenience and popularity of the arrangement has been testified by many a crowded house. The Direction of HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE have, however, announced their intention of giving a morning performance on Monday, June 1st, which is to be not a mere concert, but an opera proper. The programme is arranged especially with a view to gratify those who are prevented by distance and other causes from being frequent visitors of the Opera, and promises to supply, as completely as a single entertainment can do, the opportunity of hearing almost all the artistes whose names have become of late so widely known. Of the thousands who give up the ordinary attractions of a London evening for the sake of a pleasant and healthy residence just beyond the smoke, many must have been tantalized to hear of the fascinations of PICCOLOMINI, the exquisite art of ALBONI, and the advent of a new tenor like GIUGLINI, and to know that such attractions are beyond their reach, or to be obtained only at the cost of much trouble and inconvenience. To the dwellers in the pleasant country around the metropolis, the announcement of a morning opera will be like the discovery of a new pleasure, and the announcement for the first time promises something to suit every variety of taste.

The performances will include *La Traviata*, with PICCOLOMINI, GIUGLINI, and BENEVENTANO. The *Barbieri*, condensed into one act, will be given as a specimen of ALBONI'S wonderful vocalisation, while BELLETTI will appear as the Barber, BENEVENTANO in the part of *Bartolo*, and VIALIETTI as *Basilio*.

The opera will commence at half-past one, and is expected to terminate about half-past five. The experiment gives every promise of success.

IRON SCREW STEAMERS AND THE WHALE FISHING.—A powerful iron screw steamer, capable of carrying six hundred tons of cargo, has left the Tyne for the North, to proceed to the Davis' Straits whale fishing.

SUICIDE.—Mr. Bedford, coroner for Westminster, held a painful inquiry on Monday, into the circumstances connected with the death of Captain John Brown, aged fifty-nine years, late of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and a member of the Junior United Service Club, who committed self-destruction by shooting himself with a revolver, at his residence, No. 8, Charles-street, St. James's-square, on Friday week.

BURIED ALIVE.—A large quantity of earth fell on Monday morning in the Cooper's Bank Colliery, near Dudley, while some men were driving a heading through a large pillar. One man was only partly covered, and drawn out without much hurt; but another was completely buried, and the body was not discovered till life was extinct.

ANOTHER POISONING CASE.—A Mrs. Grace Beard, a woman in humble life at the village of Belah, about five miles from Truro, is in custody, together with her father, under suspicion of causing the death of a little girl, four years old, the illegitimate daughter of the woman, who, on being taken into custody, said that her father had sent her to Truro on the 1st of April to procure some poison, but that she did not know what she did with it, though she believed she had murdered her child with it, and had accused her father of having done so.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BROWNE.—On the 31st of March, at Fort William, Calcutta, the wife of Captain C. F. Browne, 35th Foot: a daughter.

HICKEY.—On the 4th of April, at Jhelum, the wife of Robert Fayer Hickey, Esq., 1st Fusiliers, second in command 1st Irregular Cavalry: a daughter.

PRITCHARD.—On the 14th inst., at Milford, the wife of Mr. Charles A. Pritchard, Paymaster, R.N.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

WYLDE—BARROW.—On the 19th inst., at St. Margaret's, Lee, Kent, Henry Ernest, youngest surviving son of the late Rev. Robert Wyld, vicar of Clavendon, Warwickshire, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Charles Barrow, Esq., of Lec.

ESTRIDGE—DRUMMOND.—On the 19th inst., at Croydon, the Rev. Henry Estridge, B.A., of Trinity College, Oxon, curate of Christ Church, Ramsgate, and eldest son of the late Rev. H. T. Estridge, of Tunbridge, to Mary Eleanor, second daughter of the Rev. J. Drummond, rector of Achurch, Northants, and niece of Lord Lilford, and of the Bishop of Sodor and Man.

DEATHS.

WILLIAMS.—On the 14th inst., at his residence, Greenpark House, St. Clears, Carmarthen, Captain Walter Nanngaves Williams, deeply regretted.

ENGLAND.—On the 15th inst., Emma Hamilton, the wife of Thomas H. England, Esq., of Snitterfield, Warwickshire.

BROWN.—On the 15th inst., Captain John Brown, formerly of the 23rd Fusiliers.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, May 19.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—FREDERICK BLUCHER DOWLAND, 3, Dacre-place, Church-lane, Lee, Kent, builder—CHARLES FOX, Chester-road, Hulme, Manchester, corn and flour dealer.

BANKRUPTS.—HENRY IVIMEY COX, High-street, Stratford (and not Shalford, as stated in the Gazette of Friday last), West Ham, grocer and chesomonger—SAMUEL PEACH WARD, Cheshunt, Herts, late of Ledbury-terrace, Westbourne-grove, West, Bayswater, timber merchant, brick-maker, bill discounter, and dealer in shares—CHARLES MOODY, 128, Queen-street, Portsea, saw and file maker—THOMAS REGINALD KEMP and GEORGE CLAY, 7, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, City, bill brokers—ALFRED ELLIS, Winborne, Dorsetshire, wine merchant—LEWIS LEWIS, 58, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, draper—SAMUEL MUNDAY, 110, High-street, Gosport, baker, pastrycook, and confectioner—CHARLES WILLIAM HILL, Digbeth, Birmingham, mill maker—THOMAS BAILEY STEVENSON, Stoke-lane, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, grocer and provision dealer—RICHARD TORRING, 50, Cobourg-street, Plymouth, builder—WILLIAM JOHN GREGORY, Leeds, bedding manufacturer—GEORGE ATKINSON, Lincoln, commission agent and dealer in agricultural implements—GEORGE WARD, Liverpool, licensed victualler and window blind manufacturer—JOHN HENRY BROWN, the younger, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, commission merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. AITKEN, Polmont, by Falkirk, baker—J. DOUGLAS, Glasgow, measurer—A. CUMMING and Co., Virginia-street, Glasgow, commission merchants—T. BROWN, 7, Melville-street, Portobello, commission agent—Hood and Co., Kelso, drapers.

Friday, May 22.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JAMES BOOKLESS, Maryport, Cumberland, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.—JOEL PARRY and JOSEPH PARRY, Houghton-street, Clare-market, builders—JAMES SAVAGE, son, CHARLES JOHN SAVAGE, and JAMES SAVAGE Noble-street, shirt manufacturers—WILLIAM HENRY RICHARDS

and SIGISMUND LOUIS BORKHEIM, Gracechurch-street, merchants—BENJAMIN BAKER, Cardiff, apothecary—THOMAS JONES, Merthyr Tydvil, grocer—GEORGE R. BOOTH, Wandsworth-road, engineer—FRANCIS MANSEY, Brownlow-place, Haggerstone, baker—JOHN BARBER, Derby, miller—JOHN DANCE and HENRY WANE, Fairford, Gloucestershire, grocers—ROBERT KEETLEY, Great Grimsby, ship builder—EDWARD ELSAM, Liverpool, merchant—EDWARD TEALL and REUBEN TEALL, Leeds, boat builders—LUKE PRIESTLY, Dudley-hill, Yorkshire, worsted manufacturer—JOHN HAIR, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, insurance broker—JAMES BENTLEY, Warrington, Lancashire, ironmonger—JAMES LIFFE, Birmingham, commission agent—THOMAS CARRIER, Wolverhampton, general dealer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—WHYTE, Brothers, and Co., Glasgow, wool merchants—R. STUART, Glasgow, commission merchant—J. WILLIAMSON, North Richmond-street, Edinburgh—J. MILLS, Glasgow, dyer—WATSON and REID, Glasgow, painters—VIRTUE and M'NAIR, Glasgow, fruit merchants.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, May 22, 1857.

THE increasing demand for money, and the frauds that have come to light in Paris by persons connected with the Crédit Mobilier, have depressed the funds. Consols have fluctuated from 94 to 93½, and are at present about the middle price. Turkish Six per Cent. stock is heavy at 94. It is confidently asserted that the large Greek speculators have been bearing largely, and that in the face of the enormous exportation of silver and gold to the East Indies and China, and the non-arrival of the Australian 'galions,' that Consols must experience a further fall. Nearly one million and a half of gold is said to be now afloat, and will probably arrive before Whitsuntide. The immediate demand for money continues most active, and the rate of discount is fully maintained.

The foreign share market has been heavy throughout. Paris and Lyons have fallen 2½ per share; Luxembourg, 10s. per share.

Ceylons are nearly the same. At one time during the week there seemed a disposition to buy Ceylons, but they have again been freely supplied at 1½ premium.

Great Western of Canada, owing to a considerable decrease of traffic, have fallen 30s. per share. Grand Trunks retain their improved price, and with their bonds form favourite investments. Eastern Counties are a shade flatter; while the heavy shares, London and North Western, South Western, Midlands, Lancashire and Yorkshire, are 15s. to 20s. per share lower than last week. Caledonian, Berwick, and Dovers all show a depreciation.

In Joint-Stock Banks there is but little trade going on. Ottoman look slightly better.

In foreign mines, Linaus Universal (Nova Scotian) and a few others are asked for. At home, Great South Tolgus, Tehidy, Bassetts, Wheal Treclawny, Mary Anne Trewiatha, Edward, and Fowey, are in demand. Crystal Palace shares do not advance in price.

The short account, only fourteen days, and the absence of business, materially affect the different markets, the weather being all in favour of good harvests.

At four o'clock Consols close 94 3/4.

Blackburn, 8½, 9½; Caledonian, 7½, 7¾; Chester and Holyhead, 35½, 36½; Eastern Counties, 11½, 11¾; Great Northern, 96½, 97½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103, 105; Great Western, 66½, 66¾; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 100½, 101; London and Blackwall, 6½, 6¾; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 111, 112; London and North-Western, 104, 104½; London and South-Western, 98½, 99½; Midland, 82½, 83; North-Eastern (Berwick), 86½, 87½; South-Eastern (Dover), 74, 75; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6½, 7; Dutch Rhenish, 1½, 1½ dis.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 29, 29½ x.d.; Great Central of France, 24, 24½; Great Luxembourg, 6½, 7; Northern of France, 37½, 38; Paris and Lyons, 58, 58½; Royal Danish, 17, 19; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, May 22, 1857.

THE arrivals of English and Foreign Wheat and Flour continue trifling, and prices have advanced 2s. Barley with rather a small supply sells steadily at former rates. Oats, which arrive in very moderate quantities, are firm without alteration in value. Since our last report five cargoes of Wheat, nine of Barley, eight of Maize, and one of Rye have arrived at ports of call for orders. The sales reported are, Saidi Wheat, partly damaged, at 4½s.; Tanager Ghirka, 61s. 3d. and 61s. 9d.; of Maize, Foxanian, 38s. 6d., Ibrail, 36s. 6d. poor report, and two cargoes of the same at 36s. 9d.; Galatz, 40s. 9d.; Egyptian, 31s. 6d., all arrived. Also, a cargo of Odessa just shipped at 35s., and one of the same for shipment at 34s., all cost, freight, and insurance. Of Barley the sales have been—Smyrna, 27s. 4d., Orfano, 27s. 6d., Egyptian, 24s. 3d., Galatz, 23s., all arrived, and a cargo of Odessa on passage at 23s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

Table with columns for Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur., and Frid. listing various financial instruments like Bank Stock, Consols, and Bonds.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Table listing foreign financial instruments such as Brazilian Bonds, Portuguese 4 per Cents, Russian Bonds, etc.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—PICCOLOMINI, ALBONI, SPEZIA, GIUGLINI, VIALETTI, BENEVENTANO, BELLETTI.

Second night of IL TROVATORE. On Tuesday, May 26, 1857, will be repeated Verdi's opera of IL TROVATORE. Leonora, Madlle. Spezia; Azucena, Madame Alboni; Manrico, Signor Giuglini; Ferrando, Sig. Violetti.

Thursday next, May 28, EXTRA NIGHT.—LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR. Lucia, Piccolomini; Edgardo, Giuglini. To conclude (each Evening) with the new Ballet, by M. Massot, entitled ACALISTA.

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

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—GRAND MORNING PERFORMANCE, Monday, June 1, 1857.—Piccolomini, Alboni, Giuglini, Bottardi, Violetti, Beneventano, Belletti.

To meet the many applications that have been made, and to accommodate the numerous families resident in the environs, a Grand Extra Performance will take place on Monday morning, June 1, when will be performed Verdi's Opera, LA TRAVIATA. Violetta, Madlle. Piccolomini; Alfredo, Signor Giuglini; Germont Giorgio, Signor Beneventano. To be preceded by Rossini's Opera, IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (arranged in One Act). Rosina, Madame Alboni. In the Lesson Scene, Madame Alboni will introduce Rode's celebrated Variations. Between the Operas a Divertissement, in which the principal artistes of the Ballet will appear.

Morning Dress only will be necessary. Doors open at One, to commence at Half-past One, and end at Half-past Five o'clock.

Pit and One Pair Boxes, 4l. 4s.; Grand Tier ditto, 5l. 5s.; Second Pair ditto, 3l. 3s.; Half Circle ditto, 1l. 11s. 6d.; Pit, 8s. 6d.; Pit Stalls, 1l. 1s.; Gallery Stalls, 5s.; Gallery, 3s. Applications for Boxes and Tickets to be made at the Box-office of the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Under the Immediate Patronage of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.

MR. BENEDICT

Begs respectfully to announce that, in lieu of his ANNUAL CONCERT, he has made arrangements with the direction of Her Majesty's Theatre to give THREE GRAND MUSICAL FESTIVALS, Dramatic, Classical, and Miscellaneous, on WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, June 10, 24, and July 8. The Artists will include Mesdames PICCOLOMINI, SPEZIA, ORTOLANI, and Mad. ALBONI; Sign. ANTONIO GIUGLINI, Herr REICHARDT, Mr. CHARLES BRAHAM, Sign. BELLETTI, BENEVENTANO, ROSSI, CORSI, and VIALETTI.

Instrumental Performers:—Pianoforte—Mad. CLARA SCHUMANN, and Miss ARABELLA GODDARD, Messrs. ANDREOLI, BENEDICT, and LINDSAY SLOPER. Violin—Herr ERNST, and M. BAZZINI. Violoncello—Sign. PIATTI. Double Bass—Sign. BOTTESINI. One portion of the Concert will be conducted by Signor BONETTI, and another by M. BENEDICT.

Supported by THE CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA of that Great Musical Establishment.

The Programme will include MENDELSSOHN'S POST-HUMOUS FINALE to the Opera of LORELEY, performed for the First Time in England on the Stage, and other important works. Full particulars will be duly announced. The Performances have been fixed to commence at Two and terminate at Five o'clock.

SUBSCRIPTION TICKETS (TRANSFERABLE) FOR THE THREE CONCERTS.

Table showing subscription ticket prices for three concerts, including Private Boxes, Pit Tier, Grand Tier, etc.

PRICES FOR EACH SINGLE CONCERT.

Table showing prices for each single concert, including Private Boxes, Pit Tier, Grand Tier, etc.

Application for Tickets may be made at all the principal Librarians and Musicsellers; of Mr. BENEDICT, 2, Manchester-square; and at the Box-office of the Theatre.

CHISWICK FETES.

GREAT HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION

on Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 and 4. Free to Fellows or holders of their Ivory Tickets, on June 3, at 12 o'clock, or June 4, at 10 A.M. Fellows and the holders of their Ivory Tickets may at the same hours be accompanied by any two visitors producing 5s. Admission Tickets. Open to the public, with 5s. tickets, at 2 P.M., June 3, or with 2s. 6d. tickets, 2 P.M., June 4.

On both these days his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Society, has kindly intimated his intention of throwing open the grounds of Chiswick House to the Fellows of the Society and their friends.

Tickets are to be procured at 21, Regent-street, till the days of Exhibition, when Five Shilling Tickets will be charged 7s. 6d., and Half-Crown Tickets 3s. 6d. each.

Special trains to Chiswick by the South Western Railway, and to Turnham-green by the North London Railway.

FINSBURY CHAPEL, SOUTH PLACE.

Gentlemen desirous of promoting the cultivation and diffusion of religious free thought by single lectures or courses of lectures on Sunday Mornings at the above Chapel are invited to communicate with the Secretary.

The Lectures are not expected to be gratuitous.

FRENCH PLAYS. — ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—LES BOUFFES PARISIENS—Every evening for One Month only. These attractive entertainments are selected from the following repertoire—Les Deux Aveugles—Ba-Ta-Clan—M'sieu Landry—Les Pantins de Violettes—Pepito—Une Nuit Blanche—Le Savetier et le Financier—La Rose de St. Fleur—Le 66!—and L'Impresario. The Music by Mozart—Messrs. Pradeau and Mesmacer, Madlles. Marechal and Dalmont will perform every evening—the entire Orchestra from Paris. Director M. Offenbach. Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Boxes, 5s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 2s. Doors open at Eight. Commence at Half-past Eight. Private Boxes and Stalls, at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE. Lessee, and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. Monday, and during the week, **THIEVES! THIEVES!** Characters by Messrs. Danvers, G. Vining, Leslie, Cooper; Misses Swansborough and Bromley. After which, **DADDY HARDACRE.** Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, Leslie; Miss Stephens and Miss Hughes. To conclude with an original farce by Bayle Bernard, Esq., called **A SPLENDID INVESTMENT,** in which Mr. F. Robson will appear. Commence at Half-past Seven.

FIRST CONCERT, ON MONDAY. COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.—**DER KÖLNER-MÄNNER-GESANG-VEREIN** (80 Men Voices), under the direction of Herr FRANZ WEBER. Mr. MITCHELL begs to submit the arrangements for the first week:—
Monday Afternoon, May 25.....Hanover Square Rooms.
Tuesday " " 26..... " " "
Wednesday " " 27..... " " "
Thursday Evening " 28.....Exeter Hall.
Friday Afternoon " 29.....Hanover Square Rooms.
Saturday " " 30..... " " "

The Afternoon Concerts will commence at half-past Three, and the Evening Concert at half-past Eight.—The engagement of this distinguished Society is positively limited to Two Weeks.—Tickets for the whole of the above Concerts may be secured at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

EXETER HALL.—COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.—This distinguished society will have the honour of giving an **EVENING CONCERT**, at Exeter Hall, on Thursday evening next, May 28, comprising the most popular pieces in the repertoire of that society. Director, Herr Franz Weber.—Tickets, 2s. each; area, 4s.; western gallery, 4s.; reserved seats, 7s.; stalls (reserved and numbered), 10s. 6d., which may be obtained at the office, No. 6, Exeter Hall; Messrs. Keith, Prosser, and Co., Cheap-side; at the principal libraries and musicsellers in the City and West-end, and at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

MADLE. ROSA BONHEUR'S GREAT PICTURE OF THE HORSE FAIR.—Messrs. P. and D. COLNAGHI and Co. beg to announce that the above Picture is now on View at the **GERMAN GALLERY**, 168, New Bond-street, from 9 to 6, for a limited period.—Admission, 1s.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of Pictures by Modern Artists of the **FRENCH SCHOOL**, is Now Open to the Public at the **FRENCH GALLERY**, 121, PALL MALL, opposite the Opera Colonnade. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogues, Sixpence each. Open from NINE to SIX Daily.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, COVENTRY STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE. Programme: Lectures by Dr. KAHN, daily, at 3 o'clock, on the Physiology of Marriage and the Diseases of Imprudence, and by Dr. SEXTON, F.R.G.S., F.E.S., as follows: At half-past 1, on Vision; its Laws, Curiosities, Phenomena, and Disorders, &c. 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.

GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN and FLORIST, 10, RAILWAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respectfully 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 accompanied with reference or Post-office Order. Borough Branch.

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