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The Northern Star,

AND NATIONAL TRADES' JOURNAL

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Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE SECRET SERVICE FUND.—The debate in the Chamber of Peers upon the Secret Service Fund Bill terminated on Friday evening, and upon the question being put to the vote there appeared—

For the grant	111
Against it	44
Majority for Ministers	—67

The debate was more protracted and more animated than is usual with that grave assembly. The third day's debate turned entirely upon the abuse committed by the Archbishop of Lyons in his *mandement* against M. Dupin's book, and for which he had been censured by the Council of State. The Keeper of the Seals and the venerable Count Portalis, who had been a Cabinet Minister under the Restoration, vindicated the independence of the Gallican Church, and proved that the doctrines of the Archbishop were subversive of the law of the land.

TOULON, MARCH 3.—STRIKE OF THE WORKMEN IN THE ARSENAL.—*(From the Morning Herald.)*—At break of day this morning the drums beat to arms—all the authorities were at their post; a stranger would have imagined that the town was besieged. The fact is, all the workmen in the arsenal have made a strike—they refuse to work to-day, but in all probability will to-morrow. The anger of the men was roused because Admiral Baudin had docked off the few minutes given after the ringing of the call-bell. Little or no importance is attached to the strike. Two battalions of infantry have been sent into the arsenal to keep four thousand galley slaves in order, and Admiral Baudin, the maritime prefect, has issued a proclamation of a most humane and soothing description.

MARCH 4.

The workmen still hold out, and have torn down the proclamation. Several of the men, particularly the bakers, having shewn a disposition to give in, have been ill-treated by their comrades. The cooks, bakers, and nearly all the men of the squadron lying in this port, have been placed at the disposition of the prefect.

MONDAY, MARCH 10.—DEFEAT OF THE MINISTRY.—On a ballot on the Pension Bill this day in the Chamber of Deputies, there were—

For the bill	188
Against it	201
Majority against Ministers	—13

M. Remusat afterwards proceeded to develope his proposition relative to the incompatibility of certain public functions with those of deputies. M. Guizot combated it on the ground that it was defective in itself, and contrary to the institutions and interests of society. He would accordingly oppose its adoption, but had no objection to its being taken into consideration, because it would lead to a discussion of its merits, which would induce the Chamber to reject it. M. Beaumont complimented M. Guizot on this resolution, and reminded him that he had hitherto opposed even its being taken into consideration. M. Dupin, who spoke next, said that he had always voted against the proposition, but that the recent dismissal of several public functionaries on account of their votes had converted him to its principle. The taking into consideration of the proposition was then put to the vote, and agreed to by the Chamber without a single dissenting voice.

SWITZERLAND.

THE DIET.—We learn from the *Gazette de Zurich* that the proposition for referring the question before the Diet to a committee, had on the 5th been carried by a majority of three. The Diet adjourned to the sixth to name the members of the committee, and would then adjourn further for a month to receive their report.

LETTERS FROM ZURICH of the 7th inst. state, that the Minister of France presented to the President of the Diet on the 6th a note from M. Guizot to the same effect as that of Lord Aberdeen. The Diet was not to meet until the 10th to resume the discussion on the free corps.

The Grand Council of Vaud elected on the 7th a committee of fifteen members, who were to be charged with the revision of the Constitution of 1831.

General Sonnenberg, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Catholic League, had disbanded a great portion of the troops levied by Lucerne on the 5th inst.

MEXICO

CAPTURE OF SANTA ANNA.—The Tay brings the following news:—"The accounts respecting the movements of Santa Anna state that after his attack upon Puebla he fled with 1,000 cavalry to San Antonio, and from thence he stole away in the night, with four attendants only, and left his followers in the lurch. He attempted to reach his farm, that is, his private property, at Encerro, but on his way was caught by a small party of Indians, who captured and made him prisoner. This took place at the village of Hicoa about three leagues from Calopa, whence they escorted him, their party having been reinforced, and delivered him over to the authorities. He was shortly afterwards removed to the castle of Perote. The general impression is, that he will be shortly put upon his trial, afterwards banished the country, and the whole of his property confiscated to the state. He was careless enough to write to some friends at Vera Cruz respecting his money and other treasures, and giving directions for their safe disposal. The letters were, however, seized, and an embargo laid upon the whole. General Bravo, it is supposed, will be the new President. The country is now tranquil.

UNITED STATES.

IMPORTANT NEWS.—THE SENATE AND ANNEXATION.—By an arrival at Liverpool we have received New York journals to the 12th of February. The last accounts from Washington stated that the committee of the Senate on the foreign relations had reported on the Texan question. The report is very long, but the importance of the document lies in its conclusion, which is as follows:—

"The committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

"'Resolved—That the joint resolution from the House of Representatives for the annexation of Texas to the United States be rejected.

"'Resolved—That the several bills and joint resolutions originating in the Senate the resolutions of sundry state legislatures, and the petitions and memorials of many citizens of the United States, for and against the annexation of Texas to this union, which have been referred to this committee, do lie upon the table.'"

The committee consisted of Mr. Archer, of Virginia, chairman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Berrian, Mr. Morehead, and Mr. Choate. Mr. Buchanan only dissented from the report. The discussion was expected to commence immediately, and no doubt appears to have been entertained of the adoption of the above resolutions.

WEST INDIES.

SOUTHAMPTON, MARCH 11.—The Tay royal mail steam-ship, commander Richard Sharp, arrived this morning, at half-past eleven o'clock.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT BARBADOES.—Between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock on Monday night, Feb. 3rd, a three-story stone-wall dwelling, in the occupation of Mr. I. Lobo, situate opposite the north-western extremity of Swan-street, Bridgetown, was discovered by some of the occupants to have taken fire on the ground-floor in a front room, in which a coloured woman, of the name of Dial, *alias* Mulatto, kept a cook-shop, and in which she was in the habit of using a coal pot for the purpose of dressing food and making sugar cakes for sale. A strong scent of burning rag and a smother first attracted the suspicions of the family, who were in the drawing-room above, when Mr. Isaac Lobo immediately hastened down stairs, searched the kitchen, buttery, &c., but not seeing any fire in either, went to a door of the room occupied by Dial, and finding it closed, peeped through the key-hole of the lock, when to his utter surprise, he discovered the whole of the room enveloped in flames. Mr. Lobo instantly gave the alarm of fire. Two gentlemen, Mr. Bynoe and Mr. Pile, who were passing at the time, at the request of Mr. Lobo, assisted him in forcing open the door which was in the inner part of the house, and on doing so, the fire, which had now received a current of fresh air, burst forth with tremendous fury, communicated to the stair-case, and in a few minutes after the whole of the building was in a blaze. By this time crowds of persons had rushed to the spot, and every exertion was made to arrest the progress of the devouring element, as before this could be effected the rising flame had mounted up and taken possession of the garret and roof, and was now pouring forth dense volumes of fire and smoke through every door and window of the building. As soon as the fire-engines could be brought to the place, they were made to play upon the front and rear of the burning premises, but it was evident that every such attempt to extinguish the fire, which raged with great violence and had nearly consumed the roof, would be in vain, and the water from the engines was then discharged upon the roofs of the nearest houses, in order, if possible, to preserve them from the effects of the numberless sparks which were falling thickly upon them; this attempt proved likewise fruitless and unavailing. A house to the west of Mr. Lobo's was the next which took fire, and shortly afterwards one aback at the east end of Chapel-street, tenanted by Miss Innis, and another at the opposite corner to the north of Broad-street, the property of Mr. John Wilson, were in a blaze. From the position of the wind, which was blowing but moderately from the north-east, the fire took an opposite direction, and one house after the other to the west of Chapel-street on both sides was consumed until it had reached a large dwelling, the property of Mr. Aaron Robinson, on the right side, where it stopped, while on the left side the fire burnt to nearly the last house, and communicating in its course with George's-street, which is next to Chapel-street, and runs parallel with it, laid this portion of the town also in ashes. The fire by this time had reached from Wilson's house across Beckwith-square, and made its way into Lower Broad-street; a large house of Mrs. Alkins, adjoining the *West Indian* office, was speedily wrapt in flames; these quickly communicated to the chambers of the Hon. G. N. Taylor and the Hon. the Solicitor-General, next, to the valuable druggist establishment of Mr. John Gill, and from thence passed over to the opposite side, burning with great fury and spreading the flames to every house in the whole street, on the right until it reached the house of Mr. John Wrong, where it stopped, but on the left still more calamitous consequences ensued. Here the fire passed in a southerly direction to Canary-street, destroying the valuable stores of the Messrs. Hardy, the handsome residence of Mr. Torres, and almost every other building in this quarter and vicinity, until it arrived at the back stores of the Messrs. Moore, where it was brought under and extinguished at this point, at about three o'clock in the morning. At this moment the whole of the west end of the city, from the house where the fire originated as far down as within a few feet of Miss Rebecca Phillips' hotel in Cumberland-street, presented one unvaried scene of ruin and desolation, no trace remaining of the burned houses but their blackened and dilapidated walls. During the conflagration the spectacle was truly awful and terrific. In Lower Broad-street more especially, where the fire raged with unabated violence throughout the whole night, and where every building covering an area of fully a mile and a-half was burning together, the spectacle was heart-rending in the extreme; nor did the confusion attendant upon the removal of the few articles of household property which could be saved from the general wreck add a little to the prevailing terror and dismay. The wharf, Prince William Henry-street, and many other parts of the town, were literally thronged with hogsheads, barrels, boxes, furniture, and other packages, belonging to individuals who had either fled from their burning dwellings, or had them removed there as a place of safety. On its being found that the engines had but little or no visible effect upon the burning masses, it was at length resolved, as the only alternative, to blow up such of the houses as would, from their position, connect the chain of flame at several points with those streets lower down to the westward, and further on to the southward. The materials requisite for the undertaking were provided, and this duty was performed by a detachment of the Royal Sappers and Miners, and another of the Royal Artillery, under their superior officers, in a highly creditable and effectual manner. Several explosions took place with good effect. His Excellency the Governor, the Commander of the Forces, the Lord Bishop, and Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Adam, were in the town from an early hour, and were eye-witnesses of the terrible effects of this awful visitation, a calamity which we have but imperfectly described, and of which the power of language can convey no distinct or adequate idea to those who were not the beholders of the terrific spectacle. At this moment even, indeed, it is impossible to compute with any degree of accuracy the aggregate amount of losses occasioned by the destruction of property. Some persons estimate it at £400,000, some at half a million, and othersat even more. If, however, the valuable houses and buildings destroyed were to be rebuilt upon the same plans, the like furniture replaced, and the stolen and consumed goods thrown into the calculation, we should think it would require little short of a million to do this. Barriers have been placed in various parts of the city to prevent any interruption to the performance of this duty. Notwithstanding the almost incalculable destruction of property which resulted from the conflagration of Monday night, and the confusion and dismay it created, we are enabled to state that there was no loss of human life, and although hundreds of seamen with the daring character of these brave and hardy sons of the ocean, were actively engaged in working upon the burning houses and assisting otherwise, only one of them, a man belonging to the Pique frigate, received an injury, and this not to a very considerable extent, a consoling circumstance in the midst of our distress.

Trades' Movements.

THE TRADES CONFERENCE.—The Preliminary Committee held its weekly meeting at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey, on Wednesday evening, March 12th; Mr. Reid (Steam-engine-maker) in the chair. The room was crowded with delegates, anxiously looking forward to Easter Monday, and zealously co-operating in the preliminaries necessary to give *eclat* to the forthcoming Conference. Two bodies of Steam-engine-makers were represented on the committee for the first time. A body of Plasterers likewise had their delegates present, as had two of the most important houses of Tailors at the West-end. The secretary (Mr. T. Barratt) read between thirty and forty letters from the provincial trades. Many of them had already elected their delegates to the Conference, and the remainder had taken the necessary steps for that purpose. The sub-committee brought up their report for the guidance of the Conference, with sundry important suggestions to that body. The report embodied the points contained in the letters of Messrs. Drury and Duncombe. It was unanimously adopted. "Messrs. Barrett and Wartnaby were deputed to wait on Mr. Duncombe, to request his attendance at the opening of the Conference." "Messrs. Bush, Wartnaby, Dunning, Robertson, Allen, Cox, and Wilson were appointed a sub-committee, in conjunction with the secretary, to receive the delegates on their arrival." The sub-committee to be in waiting at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey, from nine o'clock in the morning for that purpose. The delegates are expected to bring their credentials with them. The committee then adjourned.

TRADES CONFERENCE.—In *consequence of the* London press (with the exception of the *Northern Star)* entirely suppressing every movement connected with the better organisation of the Trades, the Directors of the City Chartist Hall, Turnagain-lane, Skinner-street, have determined to open the above place to discuss any question affecting the working classes. The following subject is named for Sunday evening, March 16th—"Is the projected Trades Conference calculated to benefit the working classes?" Delegates from the country will attend. Chair taken at seven o'clock precisely.

SHOEMAKERS.—The *en masse* meeting of City men's men was held in the Hall, 1, Turnagain-lane, on Tuesday evening, March 11th, for the purpose of electing a delegate to the forthcoming "National Conference of Trades." The meeting was most numerously attended. The greatest enthusiasm was displayed on the occasion. Mr. M'Fredericks was called to the chair. Messrs. James, M'Carthy, and Ditthon were duly nominated as candidates, and, after a sharp contest, Mr. James was declared duly elected. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

CARVERS AND GILDERS.—A meeting of the above body was held on Tuesday evening, March 11th, at the Green Man, Berwick-street, Soho, to elect a delegate to the Conference. Mr. Williams was proposed and unanimously elected. Steps were taken to effect a corporation of the whole trade in the matter, and the meeting separated.

IMPORTANT TRIUMPH OF THE NEEDLE FINISHERS' UNION.—Some weeks since the Needle Finishers of Redditch and neighbourhood formed a Union of the whole Trade to resist the encroachments made by a portion of unprincipled manufacturers, especially Baylis and Son, who demanded 20 per cent. from the workmen after a certain quantity of work had been performed. In their resistance they have succeeded, and have even gained an advance of 15 per cent. This chagrined the masters so, that every despicable means was adopted to injure those who had been instrumental in establishing the Union. One young man was dismissed for taking a leading part. His case was immediately brought before the Operatives' Committee, when Baylis and Son were informed, unless he was reinstated in his place, all those in employ would immediately leave work. To this demand the masters consented and also to another advance of 15 per cent. Afterwards, by comparing the prices paid for finishing darning needles, the "hards" found they were still receiving 20 per cent. less than other firms were paying. In this also they induced the masters to give the advance. The last act we have to enumerate is an attempted reduction of a halfpenny per thousand on blunts and betweens, or something more than 10 per cent. A committee meeting was directly called, when it was unanimously resolved to support the men against this reduction. As soon as this decision of the committee was known to Baylis and Son, they agreed to give the usual prices paid; and the men resumed their work after a few days. Thus, in every strike, have the men here been successful.

BRADFORD TRADES.—On Monday evening the members of the Trades' Committee met in the Council-room, Butterworth-buildings, when the reports of several trades were delivered in. With respect to the forthcoming Conference, the printed circular from the London committee was read, and the following resolutions were adopted:—"That a public meeting be held on Tuesday next, in the Temperance-rooms, Victoria-buildings, to elect delegates to the forthcoming Conference."—"That the nominations of each Trade be forwarded to the committee by Tuesday evening, at six o'clock."

SEPTIMUS DAVIS will visit the following places next week:—Monday, 17th, Cawthorne; Tuesday, Silkstone; Wednesday, Stanbro' or Crain-moor.

BRADFORD TRADES' MEETING.—A special meeting of the Shoemakers' Society will be held at the Boy and Barrel Inn, Westgate, on Monday evening, at seven o'clock.—A public meeting will be held in the Temperance-room, Victoria-buildings, on Tuesday evening, at eight o'clock, to elect delegates to the Trades' Conference about to be held in London on Easter Monday and following days. The Trades' committee are requested to meet at six o'clock on Tuesday evening, to arrange the business of the meeting. All trades are requested to forward nominations to the committee on Tuesday afternoon.

MINERS' INTELLIGENCE.—The next general delegate meeting of Lancashire Miners will take place at the house of Mr. N. Gaskell, Queen's Arms, Clayton, near Manchester. Chair to be taken at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. The levy for the fortnight is 2s. per member. W. P. Roberts, Esq., will address the Miners of the neighbourhood on the same day. The names of the persons elected to represent the Miners of Lancashire in the forthcoming Conference of Trades, about to be held in London, are, Mr. John Berry, Mr. Matthew Pasquell, and Mr. Joseph Brockbank. The Miners, late of Kirkless Colliery, most thankfully acknowledge a second contribution of £4 10s., in addition to one of £5, from the Miners of Aspull district.

COLLIERS' STRIKE.—The pitmen lately employed at Mr. Smith's colliery, Longton, have struck for an advance of wages. Four shillings per day, we are informed, is the rate of wages sought to be obtained, being an advance of 7d. per day over their late scale of remuneration. Rumour states that other colliers in the neighbourhood will soon follow their example.—*North Staffordshire Mercury.*

GEORGE BROWN will also visit the following places:—Monday, the 17th, Birchencliffe; Tuesday, Melthem; Wednesday, Huddersfield.

BURY.—CASE OF ASSAULT.—It will be remembered by the readers of the *Star*, that there has been a strike on the part of the iron trades of Bury for some time past, and the following case arose out of this dispute. As is too often the case, three of the Boiler-makers turned traitors to their fellow-workmen, and one of the traitors was the defendant in this case. The Boiler-makers' club is held at the Boar's Head Inn; at their meeting night on Saturday, March 1st, the defendant, George Lomax, with his father and two brothers, went into the above-named house, evidently with the intention of kicking up a row with the Boiler-makers on strike. The complainant, Wm. Riley, is also a Boiler-maker, and was at the club-house on the night in question. When the Lomax's came in, the complainant good-naturedly said to Wm. Lomax, "Come in, and sit down, no one will harm thee." George Lomax replied, "He was on wait, and was not afraid of any b—— of them." Riley and Wm. Lomax got into conversation concerning the strike. At this time George came out of the bar, and Riley remarked that he would not have done as he had done, if he had to beg his bread from door to door. Upon this George Lomax, a very powerful man, struck the complainant and knocked him down. This was the assault complained of. The complainant Riley took out a summons against George Lomax, upon which the four Lomax's took out nine summonses against parties on strike. The case was brought before the magistrates on Friday, March 7th, when Mr. Gill, on the part of W. P. Roberts, Esq., applied to the bench to have the cases postponed until Monday, the 10th inst., as it was not in the power of Mr. Roberts to be present before that time. This was granted. On Monday morning the case was brought up again, when Mr. Roberts appeared on the part of the men on strike, and Mr. S. Woodcock for the "knobsticks."—Mr. Roberts applied for the case of Riley *v.* Geo. Lomax to be entered into first, inasmuch as it was the first summons taken out, and therefore had the priority of claim.—Mr. Woodcock objected to this, and laid claim to having his case heard first. The bench decided that the cases of the Lomax's against others should be heard first.—Mr. Woodcock called George Lomax, a great coarse-looking fellow. He, of course, swore that he had ill-used nobody; he had struck nobody, but he had been beat, and kicked, and much abused himself. However, in the cross-examination which Mr. Roberts put him through, he admitted that he did just lay his hand gently on poor Riley (who is a mere dwarf to him), and he did defend himself against James Pollard; he did strike him. The next witness called was D. Horracks, another "knobtick" of course. He did not see the Lomax's strike any one; he saw no blow struck.—Cross-examined by Mr. Roberts: He came out of the fight, lest he should catch it himself. He did not see any of the Lomax's stripped. He only saw George Lomax give Riley a gentle pat.—William Lomax and George Green supported the credence of the other witnesses. After which, two young lads were called to prove that five weeks ago one of the turn-outs named Brook (a very small man) said that he would warm G. Lomax's ear-hole for knobsticking.—Mr. Roberts then applied for the evidence of Riley to be taken for the other defendants; upon which a long argument took place betwixt him and Mr. Woodcock. Mr. Roberts cited the case of Cartledge at the Lancaster trials, that, notwithstanding he was a defendant, he was allowed to give evidence. The bench overruled the application, and refused to hear Riley, upon which Mr. Roberts requested that their refusal should be entered on the books of the court.—Mr. Roberts then applied for leave to call the defendants' wives as evidence, not to prove anything favourable for their own husbands, but for the other defendants.—Mr. Woodcock never heard of such a thing as bringing men's wives forward as evidence.—Mr. Roberts said it was time his friend on the opposite side was going to school again, for it appeared he did not know what law was yet.—The magistrates granted Mr. Roberts' request.—Mr. Roberts then called several witnesses unconnected with the Boiler-makers. One of the witnesses heard the Lomax's say in the street, "It is the Boiler-makers' club-night—let's go to old Joe's, and have a b—— row." And, also, that they commenced the fight by George Lomax giving Riley, not "a gentle pat," but a blow, which knocked him off the form on which he sat. This concluded the case. The magistrates then retired for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned into court. The magistrates said, after giving the case their due consideration, they considered it to be an ale-house row, and therefore their decision was, that both parties be bound in their own recognizances to keep the peace for six months.—There was also a case of intimidation brought before the bench. Mr. Grundy appeared for the prosecution, and W. P. Roberts, Esq., for the defence. The case was one of those which frequently occur in times of differences betwixt masters and workmen. The facts of the case are simply these. Some of the "knobsticks" were coming up King-street, when the women and children commenced calling them "knobsticks," "black sheep," &c., and one or two of the turn-outs being in the street, it was now sought to make them the victims of the "knobsticks'" vengeance. The case having been heard, Mr. Roberts addressed the court for nearly an hour, in a speech of thrilling eloquence, maintaining that no case had been made out against his clients. The magistrates sentenced the men to two months' imprisonment and hard labour. But Mr. Roberts appealed against their decision, and the case will consequently be taken into a higher court.

BRISTOL TRADES.—A meeting of Trades secretaries and delegates was held at the Crown and Dove, Bridewell-street, on Monday evening, March 10th, to consider the propriety of sending delegates from the trades of this city to the Easter Conference; Mr. Heffer, Cork-cutter, in the chair. Mr. Jacobs was elected secretary, and read the correspondence on the subject. The Bristol plan was then read and approved of. The Brass-founders' delegate reported that they considered one delegate sufficient to be sent from the trades, and would be their share towards the expense. At ten o'clock the meeting adjourned to Monday next, to receive the reports of other trades, and conclude the arrangements.

YORKSHIRE.—The next general delegate meeting of Miners will be held at the house of Mr. Samuel Rowbottom, the Unicorn Inn, Adwalton, on Saturday, the 15th day of March—to commence at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when it is expected that every colliery will send a delegate to the said meeting, to take into consideration the propriety of Yorkshire sending a delegate to the Trades' Conference, to be held in London on Easter Monday.

"PROSPERITY" AT CULLOMPTON.—On Saturday fortnight the Woolcombers in the employ of Messrs. Tyscott were informed by (Mr. John Tyscott, son of the elder Tyscott) that they were to work for one farthing per lb. less from that day forward. The men consulted their brother workmen in the western district on this attempt, and came to the conclusion of striking work, rather than submit to the proposed reduction. Accordingly they struck, and have stood out, being supported by their fellow workmen, over a district of nearly 200 miles. The workmen seem sanguine of ultimate success, as no men can be obtained, although every means has been tried—another proof of the utility of a General Union. It is rather a "curious coincidence," that, on the same day that your paper arrived with the news of the Premier's "Financial Plan," with Mr. O'Connor's comment thereon, the worthy who informed the workmen of the proposed reduction, had the audacity to talk of the men "affording" to work for less, as sugar would be cheaper! And this is another of those benevolent gents, who wish for "cheap food" for the Labourers! His sympathetic nature seeks for this, that the men "may work for less!"

Imperial Parliament.

(Continued from our eighth page.)

Mr. B. Escott said he was sure that his friends who had objected to the details of the bill could not be aware of the enormities which it removed. He showed that clerks to the magistrates had taken many fees to which they had no legal title, and to which parties had been rendered liable for no other purpose than to expose them to annoyance and oppression, and concluded by warning the House not to measure the amount of compensation to be granted to these officers in the shape of salary by the amount of their peculations.

Mr. WAKLEY gave Mr. B. Escott high credit for the labour and assiduity with which he had ferretted out all the enormities connected with the fee system in our subordinate courts, and trusted that he would turn his attention to the fee system in the superior courts at Westminster. A magistrate sometime ago had filed a criminal information against him. He was served in consequence with a piece of paper which told him nothing. Wishing to know what he was accused of, he applied to his legal adviser, who informed him that he could not learn the nature of the accusation against him until he had paid a fee of £3 or £4 to some officer of the court for the affidavits filed against him. He afterwards found that he had to pay a still heavier fee before he he could file the affidavits necessary to his own defence. He denounced such a system as obnoxious to the free and impartial administration of justice.

The bill was then read a second time.

The Bastardy Bill went through committee, and the House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13.

The House resumed at five o'clock.

The Bedford, Birmingham, and London Railway Bill was read a first time.

It was reported to the House, on behalf of the committee on the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway, that the standing orders might be dispensed with.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.

Mr. SHEIL presented a petition from Signor Palliotti, in reference to the transactions connected with the Government opening of letters addressed to foreigners resident in London. The petitioners declared that they had found it impossible to reconcile the treatment of the Bandieras with the declarations of her Majesty's Government.

Mr. WAKLEY presented a petition from the electors of the Borough of Finsbury, praying that the House "will forthwith institute such a full inquiry as shall satisfy the public at large, and the electors of Finsbury in particular, whether any, and what warrant existed for the opening of Mr. Duncombe's letters, and whether any suspicion justly attached to his character, so that they may judge if that gentleman is any longer fitted to continue the representative of a free and independent constituency, and that you will enact a full and sufficient remedy, so as to prevent the recurrence of such abuses as are now complained of."

The HON. MEMBER then gave notice that he should, to-morrow, move that the petition be printed, with the votes.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. SHEIL gave notice that he should, on Tuesday next, bring forward the motion of which he had given notice on Tuesday last, on the subject of the opening of letters of foreigners at the Post-office.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD gave notice that if the Government did not propose any measure for the amendment of the law of landlord and tenant in Ireland, he should himself, after Easter, move for leave to bring in a bill to enable the tenant, if ejected, to recover compensation from his landlord for any improvement he might have made upon the land, and also to amend the laws regulating the value of property in Ireland.

Mr. WYSE gave notice that, after Easter, he should renew the motion which he had made last session on the subject of national education.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS, IN THE HANDS OF THE LEAGUE.

Mr. COBDEN rose to move for a "select committee to inquire into the extent and nature of the alleged existing agricultural distress, and into the effects of legislative protection upon the interests of landowners, tenant-farmers, and tenant-labourers." His object was, he said, to decide a long disputed question, between the agricultural and manufacturing interests. In doing this he would endeavour to show that the interests of neither landowner, farmer, nor labourer, were in harmony with the protective policy of the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House; but rather in favour of the principles of Free Trade. This he could show, not only from facts collected from the manufacturing districts of the kingdom, but from the admissions and reasonings of tenant-farmers themselves, many of whom had become members of the Anti-Corn-Law League. One great effect of the protective policy might be seen in the present state of the agricultural districts; in the absence of improvements—in the inferiority of implements—and in the general debasement of the labouring population. Nothing could more strikingly display the evil effects of the policy pursued in agricultural matters, than the general condition of the rural districts, as compared with the manufacturing portions of the kingdom. In the former, everything was nearly stationary: few improvements were to be found either in mechanical contrivances or in scientific skill; while in the latter, the most gigantic results had been brought about within a very limited period of time. The Hon. Gentleman then went into a long statement of facts in support of the general position which he had laid down; showing up, in his peculiar manner, the "evil effects" of the tenant-at-will system, the slavery to which the tenant farmers had been reduced by the landowners, and the deplorable state into which the labourers had been brought by a system of neglect, of ignorance, and of oppression. These evils, he maintained, ought to be inquired into, so as they might learn how far they had their origin in the system of protection, or the contrary. If the House would only consent to let him have such an inquiry, he would send forth such evidence into the country as should effectually put an end to the Corn Law monoply before the passing of two years over their heads. Why did they cling to the "tattered rag" of protection? He believed it was only to maintain their political influence; but he was happy to say that a new and better state of things had arrived, which would, ere long, seal the doom of monoply and protection.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT (Secretary to the Treasury) was decidedly against the motion; as all previous inquiries of *that* kind had led to no useful result. He denied that improvements were not frequently taking place in agricultural matters; and would caution the House against listening to the desires of such gentlemen as the Hon. Member for Stockport. It was his (Mr. Herbert's) opinion that if such inquiries were allowed to take place, they would lead to the greatest uncertainty throughout the country, and very much increase the existing agricultural distress.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN moved an amendment to Mr. Cobden's motion, that "a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the extent and causes of the existing agricultural distress." It was his opinion that this a committee would be materially for the advantage of both the farmers and labourers, while such a committee as that required by Mr. Cobden would be merely one for the discussion of questions in political economy. He (Mr. O'Brien) was returned upon protective principles to the House of Commons, which principles he believed to be true, as he had never yet seen any reason to doubt them. At the suggestion of Sir Robert Peel the amendment was afterwards withdrawn.

Lord HOWICK supported the motion. He thought the statement of Mr. Sidney Herbert was incomprehensible. The Members on the Conservative side of the House were sent there for the protection of agricultural interests, but instead of improving the condition of the farmers and their labourers they obstructed their progress. He admitted the truth of a remark made by Lord John Russell, that "protection was the bane of agriculture." Improvements in the arts, sciences, and manufactures, which were unprotected, were so vast that they could scarcely be chronicled: but what was the case with agriculture? why in every part of the country was to be seen large tracts of land uncultivated and unproductive, from want of proper draining?

Mr. BRIGHT, in a long-winded address, supported the motion. He said the time was coming when Sir Robert Peel would have to announce in one of his long financial statements that he was a convert to absolute Free Trade principles.

Mr. WODEHOUSE opposed the motion in a rambling and excited speech.

Mr. VILLIERS supported the motion in a very clever address, and intimated that whether the motion were granted or not, he should persist in bringing forward his annual motion for the total repeal of the Corn Laws.

Mr. BANKES opposed the motion, and said the present agricultural distress was occasioned by the Government breaking protective principles.

Lord WORSLEY also opposed the motion. He did not think the labours of any Select Committee could settle the question.

Mr. COBDEN briefly replied, when the House divided, and there appeared—

For the motion...	121
Against it...	213
Majority against the motion	—92

The orders of the day were then disposed of, and the House adjourned.

THE CASE OF THE LONDON COMPOSITORS AND THEIR KIND EMPLOYERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

Sir,—In thanking you for the manly article which appeared in your last *Northern Star*, I hope you will excuse my correcting one mistake you have made, and allow me to lay before you the real facts of the case, hoping that they will assist you in another article upon the subject. You state that "a Mr. M'Dowall has been selected by the masters to try the foul experiment upon the pliancy of his men." This is not quite correct; for Mr. M'Dowall was the *sole originator* of the scheme,—he having taken the "Appeal Cases" so much below the other masters, that he found he could not pay the regular established price to his men and put profit in his pocket: so he took, as he thought, a *safe time* to propose to the Master Printers of the metropolis a reduction in the price of this particular work. With this in view, he, as secretary to the Masters' Association, summoned a committee of that association to meet at *his own house*, where he had prepared the resolutions eventually sent round to the trade. A meeting was then called of the Masters at Anderton's Hotel, Mr. Spottiswoode in the chair, when M'Dowall endeavoured to convince them that *five-sixths* of the Masters paid only 7d. per thousand; a statement totally devoid of truth, 8d. having always been paid. Mr. M'Dowall's resolutions were then put by the chairman to the meeting, *as recommended by the committee*; and, as most employers are ever willing to benefit themselves by trampling on the rights of the men working for them, it is unnecessary to say they were carried by a large majority. The Master Printers, however, were not aware that the Compositors of the three kingdoms were united in an Association as well as the Master Printers of London; and they entirely forgot to consider the most important part of the question, viz.:—whether the Compositors of London would *take* the offered reduction? It was speedily settled by the whole body *that it should not be taken*. Sir, the necessity of an union amongst the members of every trade was never more fully exemplified than in this instance; and nothing can more fully show that if men continue firm and true to each other they must triumph. The London Compositors have remained true to this principle, *and they have triumphed*—for on Saturday it was resolved by the Masters (more *unanimously* than they were passed), "*That their former resolutions should be rescinded, and the men offered their frames at the former prices*;" thus proving, sir, that unanimity and determination in a good cause must triumph against oppression and tyranny.

Should you think proper to notice the question again, I hope you will notice the shameful and unjust practice adopted by Mr. M'Dowall of "*Posting*" the men who would not submit to take precisely what price he liked to pay them for their labour, in opposition to the established scale price; thus endeavouring to prevent men, who had been guilty of no fault, from earning for themselves and families that support which every man had a right to.

I hope, sir, you will continue to advocate the cause of the industrious classes in the same manner as you have done in this instance; and press upon every trade the immediate necessity of uniting firmly together to protect industry, and to oppose tyranny in whatever shape it may offer itself. If they prove true to each other they must triumph. Had our employers succeeded in reducing us in this one instance, a general reduction would most certainly have followed. As it is, the *union of the men has foiled them.*

I remain, yours, truly,

"A TYPE-LIFTER."

BOROUGH OF GREENWICH.—A public meeting was held at the George and Dragon Tavern, Blackheath-hill, on Tuesday evening, March 11th, in support of the Duncombe Testimonial, and in denunciation of the espionage at the Post-office.—Mr. J. Morgan, tallow-chandler, was unanimously called to the chair. He said gratitude was pre-eminently due to Mr. Duncombe; for had it not been for the great service rendered by the Member for Finsbury, the working classes would at this moment have been subject to be dragged from their employment and placed on the treadmill at the mere nod of any capricious employer, through the operation of the Masters and Servants Bill, happily strangled in its birth by Mr. Duncombe. (Cheers). Who was there that did not owe that gentleman a deep and heavy debt of gratitude for his very able and effective *exposé* of the nefarious system of espionage at the Post-office?—Mr. Woldridge, licensed victualler, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting view with admiration the manly and consistent Parliamentary conduct of Thomas Slingsby Duncombe in advocating the rights and liberties of the many; and hereby pledge themselves to aid and assist the Central Committee in raising a grateful testimonial to that gentleman." Mr. Turner seconded the motion.—Mr. Stallwood, as one of a deputation from the Central Committee, in a brief speech supported the resolution.—Mr. M'Grath, in a few *eloquent* and pertinent remarks, also ably supported the motion. He said the poor and impoverished Irish raised £15,000 annually for Daniel O'Connell, and he asked was T. S. Duncombe less worthy of their gratitude? If Duncombe was to have a testimonial the working classes must raise it. The Master and Servants Bill, alluded to by their chairman, was a vile concoction of Toryism; a measure which, if it had been suffered to pass, would have conferred perpetual serfdom on the working classes. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Duncombe, too, had let the light of day in on the nefarious practices of the Home Secretary. He believed every one was aware of Mr. Duncombe's Herculean labours on behalf of the working classes. (Loud cheers.) He trusted the borough of Greenwich would do her share in raising such a testimonial as would be worth Mr. Duncombe's acceptance, and worthy of the people to give. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried unanimously. Mr. Robson moved the second resolution as follows:—"That this meeting have heard with detestation and alarm of the system of espionage, as practised at the General Post-office under the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department; and look forward with hope to the introduction of Mr. Duncombe's promised motion for an end of a system fraught with such baneful consequences." Mr. Robson contrasted the conduct of Mr. Duncombe with that of the Home Secretary. The former was consistent, patriotic, virtuous, good—doing all he could for the working classes, to relieve them from political and social degradation; whilst the other, by the most degrading and vile means, was rendering all the assistance in his power to aid foreign despots to crush the liberties, and endanger the lives of their more virtuous fellow men. (Hear, and loud cheers.) The useless non-producers might daily be seen traversing the "great metropolis" in a splendid equipage, revelling in luxury, whilst the useful wealth-producer was allowed to "shiver and perish in his rags." Mr. Duncombe had seen those things, and felt for the miseries of the poor and oppressed; and in his place in Parliament claimed for them a larger share of the "good things of this life." (Loud cheers.) It was now for them to show that they duly appreciated the labours of so worthy a champion. (Cheers.) Mr. Dowling, the other deputy from the Central Committee, said he perhaps might be pardoned if he travelled a little out of the record. Splendid testimonials had been presented to a Cochrane, a Marlborough, a Nelson, and a Wellington: then why should not a National Testimonial be presented to a Duncombe, who, in a social point of view, was much more worthy of it. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Duncombe had consistently supported the shortening the duration of the hours of labour; the abolition of church-rates; the abolition of those remnants of gross superstition, the Ecclesiastical Courts; the abolition of the rate-paying clauses in the Reform Bill; and that great and crowning measure, the right of suffrage to all—(loud cheers): therefore, as his friend Stallwood had justly said, all classes of reformers were indebted to Duncombe: and, for his part, he never would be satisfied until Graham was hurled from power, and Duncombe filled his place. (Cheers.) Mr. Blackmore ably supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. A

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Immense Demand for Holloway's Pills in the East Indies.

Extract of a letter dated 20th of September, 1842, from Messrs. S. Ferdinands and Son (Agents for the sale of "Holloway's Medicine," in the Island of Ceylon. These gentlemen state—"All classes of people here are desirous to purchase your wonderful Medicines, and we regret that we have now scarcely any left to meet the immense demands that are daily made upon us for them. We enclose you a testimonial from J. Davison, Esq., the superintendant of Lord Elphinston's Sugar Estate, at Caltura, Ceylon; and we can, if necessary, send you abundant other proofs, not only from the middling classes, but also from the opulent and influential here, many of whom have derived immense benefit from the use of your invaluable medicine.

Copy of the letter from J. Davison, Esq., which is the same alluded to in the extract of the letter above:—

Caltura, 7th August, 1844.

My Dear Sir,—Mrs. Davison has received so much benefit from Holloway's Pills, that I am induced to trouble you for another supply, viz., an eleven shilling box.

Yours truly, J. DAVISON.

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Colics	Indigestion	Tic Doloreux
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Debility	Liver Complaints	Weakness from whatever cause
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Read the following account from Mr. Hollier, Dudley:—

To the Proprietors of Parr's Life Pills.

Dudley, Sept. 14.

Gentlemen,—I forward you the copy of a letter sent to me (as under), and which you can make what use of you think proper. I am, your obedient servant,

E. HOLLIER, Dudley.

Tipton, Staffordshire.

I, Joshub Ball, hereby testify that I had been dreadfully afflicted with Rheumatic Gout for seventeen years, so that I have, at times, kept my bed for months together, and could not get anything to do me good till I took *Parr's Life Pills*, which I am very happy to state have nearly restored me to perfect health. As witness my hand, this 11th day of September, JOSHUA BALL.

To the Public.—No sooner is a medicine well established in public favour, than a host of imitators arise, who, for the sake of gain, not only wrong the proprietors of the genuine medicine, but inflict a serious injury on the unwary purchaser of their base counterfeit trash. These observations apply with increased effect to the medicine which is now so well known as "*Parr's Life Pills.*" This famous remedy has been established by undoubted proofs of its efficacy, and by a mass of evidence and testimonials which no other medicine ever yet called forth. These facts have had the effect of producing a very large sale—more than 15,000 boxes per week. When this large sale came to the knowledge of some unprincipled persons, who for the sake of gain to themselves, and reckless of the injury it may do to others, are attempting to foist on the incautious various imitations, and in order that pur chasers may be able to detect these frauds, care must be taken to look at the *Government stamp* pasted round each box, and be sure it has the words "*Parr's Life Pills,*" in *white letters on a red ground* engraved therein, and forms part of the stamp; also that "T. Roberts and Co., Crane-court, Fleet-street," is painted with the directions wrapped round each box.

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"Although a newspaper is not the ordinary channel for the expression of opinion upon the merits of a medical work, this remark is open to exception in any instance where the public, and not the isolated and exclusive members of the profession, are the parties addressed. Upon that which is directed to men indiscriminately, the world will form its own opinion, and will demand that medical works for popular study should be devoid of that mysterious technicality in which the science of medicine has hitherto shrouded its own ignorance. The work before us treats of subjects we believe generally, yet very strangely, neglected by the medical attendant, and requiring doubtlessly (as in operative midwifery and the surgery of the eye) an entire devotedness to a deeply important branch of study. The tone of this book is highly moral, and it abounds in well-written, harrowing, yet correct displays of the suffering consequent upon unbridled sensualism. No human being can be the worse for its perusal; to multitudes it must prove a warning beacon, a well-told appeal to reason, a permanent blessing. It is written in a clear intelligible style, and is evidently the production of a mind long and practically conversant with the diseases of the most delicate division of the human organization."—*The Magnet.*

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WRAY'S BALSAMIC PILLS, a certain, safe, and the most speedy remedy ever discovered for the permanent and effectual cure of strictures, seminal weakness, pains in the loins, affections of the kidneys, gravel, rheumatism, lumbago, gonorrhœa, gleets, local debility, irritation of the bladder or urethra, and other diseases of the urinary passages. The unprecedented success that has attended the administration of these pills, since they were made public, has acquired for them a sale more extensive than any other proprietary medicine extant, and the circumstance of their entirely obviating the necessity of having recourse to those disgusting, nauseous, and in many cases highly injurious medicines (as copaiba, cubebs, &c.), has obtained for them a reputation unequalled in the annals of medicine. Prior to being advertised, these pills were employed in private practice in upwards of 1,800 cases, many of them most inveterate—in many thousand cases since, and in no one instance known to fail, or to produce those unpleasant symptoms so often experienced while taking copaiba, and that class of medicines usually resorted to in these complaints. The proprietor pledges himself that not one particle of copaiba, either resin or balsam, cubebs, or any deleterious ingredient, enters their composition. Copaiba and cubebs have long been the most commonly employed medicines in the above complaints; but, from the uncertainty in their effects, together with their utter inefficacy in many cases, are fast declining in reputation; and, from the unpleasant symptoms invariably produced from taking copaiba, especially in the early stage of the complaint, many of the most able modern practitioners condemn it as dangerous, and a medicine not to be depended upon. Many persons, after having suffered more from the effects of the remedy than the virulence of the disease, and, after a patient but painful perseverance, have been compelled

Poetry.

HARROW REMINISCENCES—PEEL AND BYRON.

"Peel and I were at Harrow together. Peel is a knowing fellow, and will get on in the world. He beat me at classics, but in declamation I was at least his equal."—*Moore's Life of Byron.*

"Robert has doubled his fortune, and ruined his country."—*Sir Robert Peel's father.*

"All our happiness consists in being well deceived."—*English Public.*

BYRON.

"There is a pleasure in the lonely woods;
There is a rapture on the sounding shore;
There is society when none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:
I love not man the less, but nature more
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal."

PEEL.

"There is a pleasure in the artful dodge;
There is a rapture in the official phrase;
There is society where none intrudes—
On Treasury bench, and Cabinet dinner days,
In Downing-street, St. Stephen's echoing floor:
I love not man the less, but *self* the more,
From these re-unions, whence my colleagues find
Life's truest wisdom is—well to deceive mankind."

BYRON.

"O that the desert were my dwelling place,
With one fair spirit for my minister,
That I might all forget the human race,
And, hating no one, love but only her.
Ye elements, in whose congenial stir
I feel my soul exalted! can ye not
Accord me such a being? Do I err
In deeming such inhabit many a spot,
Though with them to converse may rarely be our lot?"

PEEL.

"O that St. Stephen's were my dwelling place,
With a well gulled 'majority' mine own,
That I might humbug the whole human race,
And, hating no one, love myself alone;
Ye 'ayes' and 'noes,' in whose congenial stir
I feel my soul exalted! can ye not
Accord me such a party? Do I err
In deeming such must dwell in such a spot,
Though well to gull them *all* may rarely be my lot?"

Chronicle.

NOTICE.

The "*Feast of the Poets*" will be postponed from the 22nd to the 29th inst.

Reviews.

CONINGSBY; or, THE NEW GENERATION. By B. D'ISRAELI, Esq., M.P.—London: Colburn, Great Marlborough-street.

(Continued from the Northern Star of March 8.)

SIDONIA AND CONINGSBY—HEBREW ASCENDANCY.

Since your society has become agitated in England, and powerful combinations menace your institutions, you find the once loyal Hebrew invariably arrayed in the same ranks as the leveller and the latitudinarian, and prepared to support the policy which may even endanger his life and property, rather than tamely continue under a system which seeks to degrade him. The Tories lose an important election at a critical moment; 'tis the Jews come forward to vote against them. The Church is alarmed at the scheme of a latitudinarian university, and learns, with relief, that funds are not forthcoming for its establishment; a Jew immediately advances and endows it. Yet the Jews, Coningsby, are essentially Tories. Toryism, indeed, is but copied from the mighty prototype which has fashioned Europe. And every generation they must become more powerful and more dangerous to the society which is hostile to them. Do you think that the quiet, humdrum persecution of a decorous representative of an English university can crush those who have successively baffled the Pharaohs, Nebuchadnezzar, Rome and the feudal ages? The fact is, you cannot destroy a pure race of the Caucasian organisation. It is a physiological fact; a simple law of nature, which has baffled Egyptian and Assyrian kings, Roman emperors, and Christian inquisitors. No penal laws, no physical tortures, can effect that a superior race should be absorbed in an inferior, or be destroyed by it. The mixed, persecuting races disappear; the pure, persecuted race remains.

You never observe a great intellectual movement in Europe in which the Jews do not greatly participate. The first Jesuits were Jews: that mysterious Russian diplomacy which so alarms Western Europe, is organised and principally carried on by Jews; that mighty revolution which is at this moment preparing in Germany, and which will be, in fact, a second and greater Reformation, and of which so little is, as yet, known in England, is entirely developing under the auspices of Jews, who almost monopolise the professorial chairs of Germany. Neander, the founder of Spiritual Christianity, and who is Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Berlin, is a Jew; Benary, equally famous, and in the same university, is a Jew; Wehl, the Arabic Professor of Heidelberg, is a Jew. Years ago, when I was in Palestine, I met a German student who was accumulating materials for the History of Christianity, and studying the genius of the place; a modest and learned man. It was Wehl; then unknown; since become the first Arabic scholar of the day, and the author of "The Life of Mahomet." But for the German professors of this race, their name is Legion. I think there are more than ten at Berlin alone.

I told you just now that I was going up to town tomorrow, because I always made it a rule to interpose when affairs of state were on the carpet; otherwise, I never interfere. I hear of peace and war in newspapers, but I am never alarmed, except when I am informed that the sovereigns want treasure; then I know that monarchs are serious.

A few years back we were applied to by Russia. Now, there has been no friendship between the Court of St. Petersburg and my family. It has Dutch connexions which have generally supplied it; and our representations in favour of the Polish Hebrews, a numerous race, but the most suffering and degraded of all the tribes, has not been very agreeable to the Czar. However, circumstances drew to an approximation between the Romanoffs and the Sidonias. I resolved to go myself to St. Petersburg. I had, on my arrival, an interview with the Russian Minister of Finance, Count Cancrin; I beheld the son of a Lithuanian Jew. The loan was connected with the affairs of Spain; I resolved on repairing to Spain from Russia. I travelled without intermission. I had an audience, immediately on my arrival, with the Spanish Minister, Senor Mendizabal; I beheld one like myself, the son of a Nuovo Christiano, a Jew of Arragon. In consequence of what transpired at Madrid, I went straight to Paris, to consult the President of the French Council; I beheld the son of a French Jew, a hero, an imperial marshal; and very properly so, for who should be military heroes, if not those who worship the Lord of Hosts?

And is Soult a Hebrew?

Yes; and several of the French marshals, and the most famous, Massena, for example; his real name was Manassch. But to my anecdote. The consequence of our consultations was, that some Northern power should be applied to in a friendly and mediative capacity. We fixed on Prussia, and the President of the Council made an application to the Prussian Minister, who attended a few days after our conference. Count Arnime entered the cabinet, and I beheld a Prussian Jew. So you see, my dear Coningsby, that the world is governed by very different personages to what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes.

You startle, and deeply interest me.

You must study physiology, my dear child. Pure races of Caucasus may be persecuted, but they cannot be despised, except by the brutal ignorance of some mongrel breed.

To the above list are added MAIMONIDES and SPINOZA; and the Jews are shown to have an exclusive monopoly of musical genius.

Musical Europe is ours. There is not a company of singers, not an orchestra in a single capital, that are not crowded with our children, under the feigned names which they adopt to conciliate the dark aversion which your posterity will some day disclaim with shame and disgust. Almost every great composer, skilled musician, almost every voice that ravishes you with its transporting strains, spring from our tribes. The catalogue is too vast to enumerate; too illustrious to dwell for a moment on secondary names, however eminent. Enough for us that the three great creative minds to whose exquisite inventions all nations at this moment yield; Rossini, Meyerbeer, Mendelsohn, are of Hebrew race; and little do your men of fashion, your "muscadins" of Paris, and your dandies of London, as they thrill into raptures at the notes of a Pasta or a Grisi, little do they suspect that they are offering their homage to the sweet singers of Israel!

TAIT'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE—MARCH.

As we have not yet received the numbers containing the commencement of Mrs. Johnstone's tale of the "Goldsmith's Daughter," we have up to this time been debarred the pleasure of reading this, her latest contribution to *Tait*. When we can make ourselves acquainted with the story from the beginning, we may have something to say thereon. This month's number is mainly filled with reviews of newly-published works, embracing the "Correspondence of Edmund Burke," CARLETON'S "Valentine M'Clutchy," the "Baron de Bode's Travels in Luristan and Arabistan," BORRER'S "Journey from Naples to Jerusalem," and a number of other works. BON GAULTIER contributes an amusing criticism on the "Poetry of the Month," in which several unfortunate poetasters, whose names in mercy we withhold, are made the victims of this clever writer's bitter merriment. From the review of CARLETON'S beautiful novel, we give the following extract. *The reviewer says*—"Many capital incidental scenes occur, such as the death-bed of Bob Beatty. Bob had originally been a Protestant, but was converted to Romanism, from being miraculously cured of epilepsy by Father M'Cabe. The struggle between Mr. Lucre (the Protestant rector) and Father M'Cabe (the Catholic priest's curate) over the death-bed of poor Bob—the one resolved to gain back the stray sheep to the true fold, and the other to keep his new convert—is sufficiently comic, and we dare say, not much overdrawn. The dying man endeavours to stand well with both parties, but secretly sends for Father Roche (the Catholic parish priest). Of this diverting incident we can only give the steeple-chase of the two parsons, cheered on in their gallop by the peasantry."

THE HOLY RACE.—IN AT THE DEATH.

Father M'Cabe having heard an account of Bob's state, and that the minister had been sent for, was at once upon the alert, and lost not a moment in repairing to his house. So very eager, indeed, were these gentlemen, and so equal their speed, that they met at the cross roads, one of which turned to Bob's house. * * *

So, sir, said the priest, you are on your way to Bob Beatty's, who is, as you well know, one of *my* flock. But how do you expect to get through the business, Mr. Lucre, seeing that you are so long out of practice?

Bob Beatty was never, properly speaking, one of your flock, Mr. M'Cabe. I must beg leave to ride forward, sir and leave you to your Christian meditations. One interview with you is enough for any man.

Faith, but I love you too well to part with you so easily, said the priest spurring on his horse, cheek by jowl—and a beautiful one you have—will I ride with you, my worthy epicure; and, what is more, I'll anoint Bob Beatty before your eyes.

And, perhaps, perform another miracle, replied Mr. Lucre, bitterly.

Ay will I, if it be necessary, said the priest; but I do solemnly assure you that by far the most brilliant miracle of modern days is to find the Rev. Phineas Lucre at a sick bed. Depend upon it, however, if Beatty had not turned Catholic, he might die like a dog for the same Mr. Lucre.

I will not abtract the last shilling from his pocket for the unction of superstition, at all events.

Not you, faith; you'll charge him nothing, I grant, and right glad am I to find that you know the value of your services. You forget, however, that my flock pay you well for doing this nothing—this is, for discharging your duty—notwithstanding.

Both now pushed on at a rapid rate, growling at each other as they went along. On getting into the fields they increased their speed; and as the peasantry of both religions were apprised of the circumstances connected with Bob's complaint and conversion, each party cheered on their own champion.

More power to you, Father M'Cabe; give him the Latin and the Bravery!

Success, Mr. Lucre! Push on, sir, and don't let the Popish rebel send him out of the world with a bandage on his eyes. Lay in the Bible, Mr. Lucre! Protestant and true blue for ever—hurra!

The true Church for ever, Father M'Cabe, the jewel that you are! Give the horse the spurs, avourneen. Sowl, Paddy, but the *bodagh* parson has the advantage of him in the *cappul*. Push on, your reverence; you have the divil and the parson against you, for the one's drivin' on the other.

Cross the corner of the Barny Mether's meadow, Mr. Lucre, and wheel in at the garden ditch; your horse can do it, although you ride the heaviest weight. Lay on him, sir, and think of Protestant Ascendancy. King William against Popery and wooden shoes; hurra!

Father, achora, keep your shoulder to the wind, and touch up *Parra Gastha* wid the spurs. A groan for the Protestant parson, father darlin'!

Three groans for the Popish Mass book. Bravo, Mr. Lucre! That ditch was well cleared!

Divil a purtier, father jewel! Parra Gastha's adarlin' and brought you over like a bird—hurra!

Have you no whip, Mr. Lucre? Whip and spur, sir, or the Popish garran will be *in* before you. By the great Boyne, *I'm afraid the charger's blown.*

God enable you, father avilish! Blown! Why what would you expect, an' it the first visit ever the same horse made to a sick-bed in his life; he now finds it isn't on the king's high-way he is—and *I'll go bail it's himself* that's cursin' the same duty in his his heart. Bravo, Father Pat! Parra Gastha's the boy that knows his duty—more power, Parra Gastha! Devil pursue the hair's turned on him; but be me sowl, it wouldn't be so if he led the life the Protestant blood did—feedin' high, and doin' nothin'.

Mr. Lucre, pull out; I see you're hard up, sir, and so is your charger. Push him, sir, even if he should drop. Death and Protestantism before Popery and dishonour! Hurra, well done!

Ah, be me sowl, it's near the last gasp wid him and his masther, no wondher; they're both devilish far out of their element. Faith, if they had Father M'Cabe and Parra Gastha's practice, they wouldn't be the show they are this minute. Well done both! fresh and fair, snug and dry, you do it. Hurra!

When the two worthy gentlemen had reached Bob's house, they dismounted, each in a perspiration, and rushed to the bed of the dying man. Mr. Lucre sat, of course, at one side, and the priest at the other; Mr. Lucre seized the *right hand, the priest the left*: whilst Bob looked at them both alternately, and gave a cordial squeeze to each.

You thought, sir, said Mr. Lucre to the priest haughtily, that he would have died an idolater.

Bob squeezed Mr. Lucre's hand again.

And *you* thought, replied Father M'Cabe, that he would die a Protestant or a heretic, which is the same thing.

Bob squeezed Father M'Cabe's hand once more.

Gentlemen, said Bob, be pleased to sit down—you are *both* Christian ministers, I hope.

No, said Father M'Cabe, there is but one of us a Christian; Mr. Lucre here is not worthy of the name, Bob.

Bob squeezed the priest's hand a third time.

Beatty, said Mr. Lucre, this is a solemn occasion, and I'm bound to say that the priest here is merely a representative of Antichrist. This is not a time to disguise the truth.

Bob squeezed Mr. Lucre's hand a third time also.

Beatty, continued Mr. Lucre, if you permit yourself to die a Papist, you seal your own everlasting punishment.

True, said Bob.

Bob, said the priest, after the explanations of the true church which I have given you, if you allow yourself to relapse into heresy, you will suffer for it during all eternity.

True, said Bob.

There is no hope for those, who, like the Papists and idolaters, hew for themselves vessels that will hold no water, said Lucre, &c. &c.

The victim of this spiritual worry dies at last in peace under the pious ministrations of Father Roche. On the whole this is a good number of *Tait*.

WADE'S LONDON REVIEW.—MARCH.

This is the second quarterly part, embracing the monthly numbers for January, February, and March, of this *Review*, the whole forming a mass of 240 pages of matter which may risk comparison with more than one of the elder and more assuming quarterlies. Each succeeding month we notice improvements in this periodical, which give promise that its existence will be both vigorous and lengthy. There is a genuineness and force in the Editor's productions truly refreshing. With all the views entertained by him we cannot agree, but we heartily admit the good service his writings, as a whole, are calculated to do for the cause of "progress." The articles on "Religious Changes" are "a heavy blow and sore discouragement" to priestly impostures and fanatical insanities; while such contributions to history as the "Rise and Progress of British Industry" are invaluable. If we have any fault to find with this and similar articles, it is that the writers scarcely do themselves and their subjects justice, by compressing so much into little. Subjects disposed of in a single article, require, to do them justice, the elucidation which only a series of such articles could admit of. Not the least valuable of the contents of this *Review* is the autobiography of its Editor, a delightful history which we should be glad to find in the hands of every youth, and which even those of maturer years, particularly heads of families, would do well to be acquainted with, for the sake of their offspring. Sincerely do we thank the author of the "Autobiography" for the following castigation of the mad tinker's printed trash. In boyhood we ourselves suffered all that he describes; and to this day we remember the nights of horror which it was our doom to bear through reading the revolting fables of—

BUNYAN'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

Notwithstanding the popularity of John Bunyan's *writings in the religious world I consider them extremely* pernicious to young or ignorant people. I judge them from experience, without the least desire to weaken the effect of any sober work, calculated to promote virtue and rational piety. I have a strong objection to the use of allegories, emblems, and fables in early education: with adults who can understand and rightly interpret their application they may be harmless; but with children they are puzzling and misleading, as I found them to be. A child understands everything as presented to him till better information has corrected his errors; he knows nothing of double meanings, of symbolical or allegorical allusions; what anything appears that he believes it to be. His conclusions are necessarily such; consonant to the inexperienced state of a mind still pure and untutored in falsehood, in deceptive appearances, allegorical allusions, and conventional understandings. All, therefore, that is presented to a child for improvement and instruction, ought to be presented in the same literal form and expression in which they are literally received, understood, and interpreted.

I remember being extremely perplexed with the heathen mythology. Jupiter, Juno, Vulcan, Minerva, and the rest, I considered real personages. A book of emblems I met with puzzled me much; enterprise was exemplified by the voyage of Jason for the golden fleece; friendship by the story of Castor and Pollux, whom I considered veritably, and perhaps they were, the Siamese twins of antiquity. The labours of Hercules and the exploits of Theseus I swallowed as authentic relations. Had Ovid's Metamorphoses come in my way I should have considered the narratives strange but true. Of course many are more favourably situated than I was; they have friends about them to correct false impressions. But why should anybody's children be suffered to receive false impressions? why should they wilfully and aforethought be set wrong for a while to be set right afterwards? Why not start with them right at the outset? Why this needless embarrassment to infants, and corrective trouble afterwards to adults? But such unhappily constitutes too large a portion of what is called education; nothing more than the pouring down the throats of children a stream of falsehood to be pumped up afterwards by their friends and the world. Neither an allegory, emblem, nor fable, is a matter of easy understanding or elucidation. Let any one try and he will find it a wordy and diffusive undertaking. For a child to understand them I hold quite unlikely. My father, poor man, essayed to unravel the perplexity to me. He was very fond of old Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, and used to require me to read it to him while he was sorting or overlooking wool, and which I did, with a horrid enunciation, I dare say, of its barbarous nomenclature. I asked him for explanations of names and things, of Apolyon and the Dragon, Giant Despair, the Slough of Despond, and what not, and which I doubt not he gave me to the best of his belief and understanding. The result of such reading, with other helps, was to people my young brain with a horrid phantasmagoria of bodiless and misshapen images, from whose midnight tortures and distractions I was happy to escape, after much suffering, with my faculties underanged.

I was not the only sufferer. All the house suffered except my mother, *whose naturally good constitution and elastic spirits preserved her from the mental leprosy.* I have known a whole chamber full of children set screaming from the imagined sight or noise of some lurking devil, ghost, imp, cherub, or other illusive figment of a disturbed and ill-trained fancy: I myself have yelled out at a ghost that had perhaps no better origin than my mother's gown or night-cap hanging on the bed-post. I should not notice such laughable things, for laughable they now are to me, did I not know that many children, and those of larger growth, suffer from the apprehension of spectral appearances. In the benighted and fanatical districts of the kingdom non-belief is the exception, not the rule, in the existence of good and evil spirits—the most evil those sought in a dram-shop—and of supernatural visitations. The mischief often begins in the early period of infancy, at a period the right direction of which is often too much neglected by intelligent and not undutiful parents. "You little naughty imp!" says a little naughty nursemaid to a rosy blue-eyed babe on her lap, "be quiet; leave off crying, or I'll call Old Bogo. Hark! *he is up the chimney.*" *She then scrapes with her foot,* shakes the fire-irons, or turns her head with a deep guttural *imitation of Giant Thrumbo. The child is silent,* listens, looks aghast, and clings to Lizzy's bosom, and firmly believes that Old Bogo dwells in the chimney, the attic, or coalhole, ready at any time, at Lizzy's bidding, to snatch away mamma's darling!

The foundation is thus early laid for a belief in invisible existences. An inlet is opened for the admission of any future, greater, or more imposing supernatural invention. But the injury is not confined to the nursery; it is abroad, wide, and rampant in the world. Adults, too, have their Bogos, with which they are well frighted under the sage and political pretext of checking moral aberrations; and with which they will continue to be frighted so long as a numerous class find it profitable, not for profit only I own, to resist their analysis and dispersion. I have doubts, however, myself whether a more literal and genuine procedure would not be preferable to this costly and misery-spreading contrivance. If Lizzy cannot keep the child quiet, and it is restless without cause, she had better be allowed to give it a smack, a shake, or pinch of the ear, and there's an end, than fill its young mind with vague terrors that may ever after haunt and distress it. The inquiry, however, is too vast and vital to be handled by me, and incidentally; and I shall drop it curtly with a quotation from Dryden, who, with the characteristic vigour of his intellect, has described in four lines the origin and course of that I have been dwelling upon, and which has carried me away from my narrative:—

"By education most have been misled;
So they believe because they so were bred.
The priest continues what the nurse began,
And thus the child imposes on the man."

Amongst the reviews of new books we notice in the March number a review of "Captain SIDORNE'S Waterloo Campaign," which we have read with much interest, our only regret being that the reviewer has not been lengthy enough in his comments and extracts. In the article in the same number on "Religious Changes" we must complain that the notice contained therein of the "Levellers" and "Fifth Monarchy Men" is far too brief and imperfect. In religion, fanatics and fools they undoubtedly were; but their ideas of the political and social rights of man were in the main correct. Their principles, reproduced a century and a half later, under the cry of "Equality and Liberty," by the French Revolutionists, still survive, and are widely disseminated through England, France, Germany, and other nations: and the day is coming when the believers in those principles will command an attention not hitherto accorded to them. We wish the *London Review* every success, and we doubt not but that the talent of its Editor will ensure that consummation.

SIMMONDS'S COLONIAL MAGAZINE—MARCH.

There are several valuable papers in this months' number, some of them continuations of former articles, some of them new contributions. Amongst the former we notice "The Agriculture of Hindostan," and "The North American Fisheries;" and amongst the latter, "Australian Sketches," by THOMAS M'COMBIE; "Colonisation in Algeria," by Lieutenant LATTER; "Confabs with a Colonist;" and "Port Phillip as she is at Present," by J. PORTER. The "Australian Sketches" are lively and entertaining, the author giving a history of the notorious native chief JACKY JACKY, of whom we remember to have read a very interesting account some time ago in *Tait's Magazine*. Lieutenant Latter's paper on "Algeria" contains much curious information, and we confess to having derived from it enlightenment on several points on which we had previously held mistaken views. "The Prairie Grave" is the title of a sweet little poem, which we would have gladly quoted, but must forbear, to make way for the following interesting account of

THE INDIA RUBBER TREE.

The caoutchouc tree grows, in general, to the height of forty or fifty feet without branches; then branching, runs up fifteen feet higher. The leaf is about six inches long, thin, and shaped like that of a peach tree. The trees show their working by the number of knots, or bunches, made by tapping; and a singular fact is, that, like a cow, when most tapped, they give most milk or sap.

As the time of operating is early day, before sunrise we were at hand. The blacks are first sent out through the forest, armed with a quantity of soft clay, and a small pick-axe. On coming to one of the trees, a portion of the soft clay is formed into a cup and stuck to the trunk. The black then striking his pick over the cup, the sap oozes out slowly, a tree giving daily about a gill. The tapper continues in this way, tapping perhaps about about fifty trees, when he returns, and with a jar, passing over the ground, empties his cups. So by seven o'clock the same blacks come in with their jars, ready for working.

The sap at this stage resembles milk in appearance, and somewhat in taste. It is also frequently drunk with perfect safety. If left standing now, it will curdle like milk, disengaging a watery substance like whey.

Shoemakers now arrange themselves to form the gum. Seated in the shade, with a large pan of milk on one side, and on the other a flagon, in which is burned a nut peculiar to this country, emitting a dense smoke, the operator having his last, or form, held by a long stick or handle, previously besmeared with soft clay (in order to slip off the shoe when finished), holds it over the pan, and pouring on the milk until it is covered, sets the coating in the smoke, then giving it a second coat, repeats the smoking; and so on with a third and fourth, until the shoe is of the required thickness, averaging from six to twelve coats. When finished, the shoes on the forms are placed in the sun the remainder of the day to drip. Next day, if required, they may be figured, being so soft that any impression will be indelibly received. The natives are very dexterous in this work. With a quill and a sharp-pointed stick they will produce finely-lined leaves and flowers, such as you may have seen on the shoes, in an incredibly short space of time. After remaining on the forms two or three days, the shoes are cut open on the top, allowing the last to slip out. They are then tied together, ready for the market. There pedlars and Jews trade for them with the country people; and in lots of a thousand or more they are again sold to the merchants, who have them stuffed with straw, and packed in boxes to export, in which state they are received in the United States. In the same manner, any shape may be manufactured. Thus, toys are made of clay forms. After drying, the clay is broken and extracted. Bottles, &c., in the same way. According as the gum grows older, it becomes darker in colour, and more tough. The number of caoutchouc trees in the province is countless. In some parts whole forests exist, and they are frequently cut down for firewood. Although the trees exist in Mexico and the East Indies, there appears to be no importation into the United States from these places. The reason, I suppose, must be the want of that proficiness found in them here.

The caoutchouc tree may be worked all the year; but generally in the wet season they have rest, owing to the flooded state of the woods; and the milk being watery, requires more to manufacture the same article than in the dry season.

We can cordially recommend this *Magazine* to all who would make themselves acquainted with the history, capabilities, social state, and prospects of those magnificent possessions which, with our "island home," make up that glorious British Empire "on which the sun never sets."

A BOWL OF "PUNCH," FRESH BREWED.

VIRTUES OF BACON.—LABOURERS AND RECTORS.—A "Rector and Conservative" writes a letter to the *Times*—a really affecting letter—on the virtues of bacon. He rejoices over the tariff that "lard" is to be admitted free, but is "sorry to see bacon omitted." And then the Rector goes on to paint an Apician feast. "Bacon," he says, "when *they can get it*, is the staff of the labourer's dinner." Listen, further: "The frugal mother provides a large pot of potatoes, and while she indulges herself and her younger ones only with salt, cuts off the small rasher and toasts it over the plates of the father and elder sons, as being the bread-winners; and this is all they want." "And this is all they want!" How very easy is it for a capon-lined belly to give laws to a labourer's stomach; to interpret its huge contentment with a small rasher. The "frugal mother and her younger ones" never think of bacon at all. Oh no! they inhale its odour with nostrils of stone—it never awakens a yearning appetite in them—certainly not! they are indulged with potatoes and salt; and, doubtless, this is all they want. Can we not fancy a labourer, writing of the families of the Deans and Rectors of the Church: "The frugal mother has an early dinner provided for her little ones and their governess; a plain joint, plain pudding, everything plain. At six or seven o'clock, she cuts off the fins of the turbot, she slices the fat of the haunch for the father and the elder sons. They afterwards take their port and claret, and—*this is all they want.*" On this point, we are sure, the labourer can better answer for the rector than the rector for the labourer.

Chartist Intelligence.

LONDON.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, Turnagain-lane, March 9th; Mr. Heath in the chair.—After several reports had been delivered in relative to the forthcoming Chartist Convention, the case of Mr. Lewellyn was again brought before the Council. Mr. T. M. Wheeler read a letter he had received from Merthyr on the subject. After considerable discussion the question was adjourned until Sunday next. On the suggestion of Mr. T. M. Wheeler, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That this Council recommend all the localities within the borough of Marylebone, to co-operate in the return of a delegate or delegates to the ensuing Convention. They recommend the several localities within the borough of the Tower Hamlets to unite for the same purpose. They recommend the localities in Southwark and Lambeth to unite for the like purpose. They also recommend the localities of Westminster and London to unite for the same purpose. Lastly, they recommend all the suburban towns or districts, where it is not practicable to return a delegate on their own account, to unite in a similar way with the next town locality or district, the delegates to report on the subject at the next meeting." The council then adjourned.

WESTMINSTER.—At a meeting of the Clock House locality, Westminster, held on the 2nd inst., the following resolution was moved by Wm. Cuffay, seconded by Wm. Smith:—"That this locality are of opinion that P. M. M'Douall is no longer a fit person to be a member of the Chartist body; and that our confidence in Feargus O'Connor has never been shaken." Carried by a large majority. The present Executive were then nominated for the ensuing year.

THE GENERAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE TO THE CHARTISTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—BRETHREN, We beg to remind you that on or about the 25th day of this present month (March) overseers of the poor are nominated for the ensuing year. By the nomination of Chartist overseers, the registration battle will be more than half won. Then remember your duty! The surveyors of highways are appointed at the same time. The elections of Poor Law guardians also take place about now, for the first time under the new alterations and regulations of the Poor Law Commisioners, in accordance with the 7 and 8 Vic., c. 101, which enables the rate-payers to vote, if rated six months, instead of twelve as heretofore, and which prevents all owners from voting who neglected sending in their claims before the first of February last. Up, then, and be doing! Obtain local power, that you may be the better enabled to contend for National Regeneration, politically and socially.—On behalf of the Committee,

EDMUND STALLWOOD.
THOMAS MARTIN WHEELER.
JOHN SIMPSON.

TURNAGAIN-LANE.—The usual weekly meeting of the members took place on Tuesday last, Mr. John Overton in the chair, when the following resolutions were passed:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting, that Thomas Cooper, now a prisoner in Stafford Gaol, is a true and sincere Chartist, and deserving of the sympathy and support of the country;" and "That copies of the above resolution be sent to the *Star* for insertion, and to Mr. Peplow, to be forwarded by him to Thomas Cooper." The auditors of the Quarterly Balance-sheet give in their report, which was received. Mr. Bayley moved, "That our Sub-Secretary write to the Executive for a balance-sheet of the two last quarters," Agreed to.—Mr. Tucker moved—"That we co-operate with the Camberwell locality in sending a delegate to the approaching Conference." Agreed to.—Mr. T. M. Wheeler was then nominated as a candidate on the part of this locality. The meeting then proceeded to nominate for the Executive Committee, when Messrs. P. M'Grath, Thomas Cooper (late of Leceister, now of Stafford Gaol), C. Doyle, F. O'Connor, T. M. Wheeler, Wm. Jones (of Liverpool), D. Ross (of Manchester), Cuffay, and Clark, were proposed, and the first five were elected as the most proper persons for the Executive. In consequence of the lateness of the hour the election of a General Council was deferred till next week.

BACUP.

PUBLIC PROCESSION TO CONGRATULATE MR. TATTERSALL ON HIS RELEASE FROM LANCASTER CASTLE.—On Saturday last a large number of people left the town at five o'clock, with a band of music, and a number of splendid banners, and met Mr. Tattersall, accompanied by Mr. Clark, member of the Executive, a mile from the town. Messrs. Tattersall and Clark entered a gig, and were drawn into the town amidst the hearty congratulations of the people. After the procession a public tea party took place in the Association-room, when about two hundred sat down to tea. An excellent band enlivened the proceedings. As soon as the tables were cleared, Dr. Smith was unanimously called to the chair, who opened the proceedings by a powerful speech, after which he gave the first sentiment:—"The people, the source of all legitimate power;" which was ably responded to by Mr. Barker. The chairman gave the next sentiment:—"The health of our respected guest, Mr. Tattersall, and may he long live to advocate the rights of the people;" which was well responded to by Mr. Clark, in a splendid and eloquent speech. The next sentiment was:—"Frost, Williams, Jones, and Ellis;" and was responded to by Mr. Tattersall. His address was masterly and powerful, and created a great impression on the meeting. The next sentiment—"Feargus O'Connor and T. S. Duncombe, Esqrs.; and may they long live to defend the working millions"—was responded to in an able manner by Mr. Tagg. Mr. Clark moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Tattersall, and carried by acclamation. Three cheers were given for the Charter, three for O'Connor and Duncombe, three for Tattersall and Clark, and the assemblage broke up highly delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

SUNDAY.—At six o'clock in the evening the room was crowded to overflowing, numbers being unable to gain admittance to hear Mr. Tattersall, who had been announced to deliver a lecture. Mr. Tagg was unanimously called to the chair, who, after a few preliminary remarks, introduced Mr. Tattersall, who passed in rapid review the plug war, its causes, and consequences. He next gave an account of his arrest, trial, and imprisonment. The lecturer then proceeded to show the present position of the various classes of society, and the future prospects of the people. He gave the workers a severe lashing for their apathy and indifference, and called on them to rise, like the fabled bird, from the ashes of their own degradation, and throw the shield of protection around the Executive, by swelling the ranks of the indomitable army of Chartists. Mr. Tattersall concluded his powerful lecture, after having spoke nearly two hours. At the close, Mr. Barker moved a vote of confidence in Feargus O'Connor, Esq., which was seconded by Mr. Shackleton, and carried by acclamation; after which, thirty-nine persons came forward and joined the association, who all took out cards of membership.

MONDAY.—*At eight o'clock in the evening a public* ball took place in the Weavers' Arms. There was a goodly number of the fair sex present, who had rendered assistance in getting up the tea party, and taken an active part in all the proceedings. Thus ended the regalings and proceedings of the week, having given a stimulus to the cause and general satisfaction to all parties.

YORKSHIRE.

WEST RIDING DELEGATE MEETING.—This meeting was held, according to notice, in the Working Man's Hall, Halifax, when the following places were represented:—Halifax, Bradford, Hebden-bridge, Dewsbury, Littletown, Birstall, and Sowerby—Mr. B. Rushton in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the secretary, on the motion of Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Shaw, they were confirmed. Several sums were handed in for the Executive, as per the general secretary's list. The following resolutions were adopted:—"That each locality in the West Riding send their account once a quarter to be examined by the meeting." "That it is the opinion of this meeting the West Riding ought to have two delegates to represent the Chartists of the Riding in the forthcoming Convention, to be held in London the third week in April; and that each delegate lay this resolution before the Chartists of his locality." "That the next West Riding delegate meeting be held on Sunday, March 23rd, to arrange for the election of two delegates to represent the West Riding in the forthcoming Convention; and it is requested that each delegate will come prepared with full instructions." "That the secretary correspond with those localities who have not sent a delegate to this meeting." The thanks of the meeting were given to the chairman, and the meeting separated. J. CROSSLAND, Secretary.

NOTTINGHAM.

PUBLIC MEETING.—On Monday evening last a public meeting of the inhabitants of Nottingham was held in the Town-hall for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against the Post-office Spy System. Mr. Thomas Roper was unanimously elected to the chair, who made a business-like speech, and called upon Mr. Lilly to move the resolution as follows:—"That this meeting considers the conduct of Sir James Graham, Secretary of State, in the opening of letters sent to Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, Esq., member for Finsbury, subversive of all social order, and a gross violation of the sacredness of private correspondence; and this meeting expresses its unqualified disapprobation of an outrage so glaring upon the privileges of a member of the British House of Commons. Further, the meeting resolves that a petition be laid before the House, praying that T. S. Duncombe, Esq., may be allowed to examine at the bar of the House certain parties employed in the General Post-office, to prove the truth of his allegations." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Dorman in an excellent speech, and carried unanimously. Mr. Sweet then moved the petition, and made some heavy hits at the renegade Graham and his backer, Sir Robert Peel. The petition was seconded by Mr. Widdowson, and carried unanimously. The petition was ordered to be forwarded to—Watson, Esq., member for Kinsale, for presentation; with a letter to B. D'Israeli, respectfully requesting him to support the prayer thereof. A vote of thanks was given to the mayor for granting the use of the hall, and to the chairman, when the meeting dispersed.

OLDHAM.

LECTURE.—On Sunday last Mr. T. K. Taylor delivered his third lecture on the life, writings, and genius of Robert Burns, in the Chartist-room, Greaves-street. The lecturer gave a short narrative of the poet's life after he entered upon his farm at Ellisland, and recited a variety of his poems, which gave general satisfaction. After the lecture, a meeting of the members took place for the purpose of nominating fit and proper persons to serve on the Executive Committee, when the following gentlemen were unanimously agreed upon, viz., Feargus O'Connor, Esq., Mr. M'Grath, Mr. T. M. Wheeler, Mr. Christopher Doyle, and Mr. T. Clark.

MANCHESTER.

CARPENTERS' HALL.—A lecture was delivered in the above building on Sunday evening last, by that stanch defender of the people's cause, Mr. George White, of Bradford.

BURNLEY.

LECTURE.—Mr. Thomas Clark, of the Executive Committee, lectured in the Chartist-room on Sunday, the 9th inst., in the afternoon, on the "Present State and Prospects of Political Parties;" and in the evening, on "Trades' Unions." Mr. C. gave general satisfaction to his audiences. Collections were made at the close of each lecture in aid of the Executive Committee.

BRADFORD.

ON SUNDAY the members of the General Council met in their room, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when it was unanimously resolved—"That the proposition of the West Riding Delegate Meeting, to elect two delegates to the Chartist Conference, should be agreed to."

DISCOVERY OF A NEW ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.—The *New York Courier and Inquirer* publishes the following account of the discovery of a new island in the Pacific Ocean by Captain Simmons, of the brigantine Faith:—"Captain Simmons was on his way from Sidney to Valparaiso, and, after leaving Otaheite, first saw it on the 31st of October, 1843. Seen from the deck of the vessel, the island had the appearance of a mass of rocks, but a nearer approach showed it to be an island, covered with cocoa-nut trees, with thick underbush. When convinced that it was an island, Captain Simmons supposed it might be one already known, and at first mistook it for Carisfoot. To be sure, however, he lowered his boat and attempted to land, but was prevented by a reef of black coral rocks, with heavy breakers, which surrounded the island. He went completely round it, however, and found it to be about six miles in circumference. At a short distance from it he found no sounding in sixty fathoms of water. After examining it for two or three hours, as thoroughly as he deemed necessary, he steered for Carisfoot, according to his reckoning, made it in the course of a few hours, and passed to the south of it. A large lagoon was in the middle of the island, which seemed to be rich and fertile. On reaching Valparaiso, where he remained for some months, he waited upon the commander of the British squadron and informed him of the discovery. He examined the most recent English charts, but no indication of such an island was to be found. It is situate in the track from Otaheite to Valparaiso, in south latitude 21 degrees and 10 minutes, and west longitude 138 degrees 54 minutes. He named it the Isle of Faith, from his vessel."

Bankrupts, &c.

BANKRUPTS.

(From the Gazette of Friday, March 7.)

Frederick West, Southampton, boot and shoemaker—William Spencer, Wallingford, Berkshire, brewer—Charles Jacobs, Farringdon-market, fruit-salesman—Joseph Wilson, Jermyn-street, St. James's, bootmaker—John

Police Intelligence.

MANSION HOUSE.

Monday.—"Werry Drunk."—A man named Richard Simmons, who has been long known as an incorrigible brawler and drunkard, was charged by a policeman with having distinguished himself in his favourite way on the preceding night. When the prisoner was disappointed in numerous attempts to kick and strike the policeman, who merely endeavoured to prevail upon him to go away, he began to tear off his own clothes, and to rub the parts of his person which he thus made bare with mud, so that he presented a most deplorable figure.—The Lord Mayor: What have you to say to this?—The Prisoner: Oh, why I was werry drunk, and I'm blessed if I know what I did. I was too drunk to do much. Precious drunk I was, to be sure, your lordship.—How did you procure the drink?—That I don't know. Somebody gave it me, depend upon it. It was rum I took. I was drunk, and no mistake; but I hope you'll look over it, my lord.—The Lord Mayor: I fine you 10s.—The Prisoner: I ain't got no 10s; and I'm blest if my toggery will fetch that money (looking at the stock of rags which hung about him).—The Lord Mayor: Then you must go to the House of Correction for a month.—Committed.

LAMBETH.

Monday.—The Late Mysterious Case of Poisoning at Camberwell.—George May, shopman to the late Mr. Montague, who, it will be recollected, had, with Mrs. Montague, been poisoned at Camberwell on the 11th of last month, was placed in the felons' dock before Mr. Henry, on the following charge, as entered in the police-sheet—"For feloniously appropriating to his own use various sums of money received by him for and on account of his late master; also with forging the name of the deceased to various receipts in the parish of St. Giles, Camberwell." Mr. Dodd briefly alluded to the melancholy circumstances which led to the apprehension of the prisoner, and said that since the mysterious death of Mr. and Mrs. Montague, their books and accounts had been examined, and it was found that the prisoner, who had been their shopman and confidential servant, had received various sums of money on account of his master, of which he had made no entry in the books kept for that purpose; and coupling this fact with the information which had been obtained from the customers themselves, the nephew of Mr. Montague, who is next of kin, deemed it advisable to give him into custody on the charge of embezzlement and forgery. Evidence was then adduced as to certain declarations of the prisoner to police-inspector Campbell, with respect to the accounts, and of the receipt of monies, of which no entry had been made. Mr. Humphries observed that on the inquest holden after the melancholy affair, on the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Montague, the prisoner had been examined for hours, and though not upon oath his deposition had been taken down touching these very accounts, with the greatest minuteness. He complained that it was an indirect attempt to connect the prisoner with a charge of murder. Mr. Henry said he had nothing to do with such irregularities, and that he should countenance no more inferential imputations. He was of opinion, however, that there were grounds for remand, and he asked what was the total amount of the alleged embezzlement? Mr. Dodd replied from £50 to £100, and added that he would be able to show on a future occasion that the prisoner had represented himself on many occasions as the nephew of the deceased. The prisoner was remanded to a future day, and Mr. Henry consented to take good bail for his appearance.

WORSHIP-STREET.

Capture of another "Lady Thief."—On Saturday, Elizabeth Farmer, an elegantly-attired elderly widow, residing in Brunswick-place, City-road, was placed at the bar before Mr. Broughton, on the charge of having stolen a piece of salted beef at the shop of a butcher named Flowerdean, in Pitfield-street, Hoxton.—Charles Welford, a shopman to the prosecutor, stated that the prisoner entered the shop between ten and eleven o'clock that morning, and he was privately ordered by his mistress to keep a watchful eye upon her, as she was suspected to have purloined some meat when she last called, a few days previously. Having advanced to the counter, the prisoner requested to be served with some sausages, and while giving the order she stooped forward over a pan containing several pieces of salted meat, one of which she adroitly abstracted, and secreted it underneath her shawl. He made no observation at the time, but handed her the articles she had purchased, which the prisoner paid for, and immediately left the shop. Witness followed her out into the street, and on accusing her of the robbery, the prisoner vehemently denied the charge, when he suddenly lifted up her shawl and exposed the stolen property. The prisoner then earnestly entreated forgiveness, but he turned a deaf ear to her supplications, and on the arrival of a policeman he gave her into custody.—On being asked if she wished to say anything, the prisoner, who was dreadfully agitated, made an energetic appeal to the magistrate to induce him to take a lenient view of the case, and spare her the pain and ignominy of a committal to prison. She assured him that she had acted on the occasion under a sudden and uncontrollable impulse, which she felt it impossible either to account for or excuse. She was connected with a family of the highest respectability; and having herself been a householder in the parish for more than twenty years, she implored the magistrate to deal mercifully towards her, and she was willing to make any pecuniary atonement for her folly and indiscretion.—The prisoner was remanded.—On Monday the prisoner was again placed at the bar. The only witness now present in support of the charge was the policeman, Baines, 52 N, who had taken the prisoner into custody, and who, on being questioned by the magistrate, stated that he had seen the prosecutor at his house that morning, and that the latter faithfully promised him that all the witnesses should be in attendance. He accordingly came down to the court, but, after waiting till ten o'clock without their arrival, he again called at the prosecutor's, and saw the shopman (Charles Welford), the principal witness in the case, who told him that he would follow him to the court as soon as he could dispatch the business he was then engaged in. On his proposing to wait till he was ready, the shopman immediately put on his hat and accompanied him part of the way to the court, but suddenly left him at the corner of a street, stating that he would be back in a few minutes. After waiting a considerable time to no purpose, he hastened on to the court, in the expectation of finding him there, but had seen nothing of him since. He had been informed by some of the prisoner's friends that they had been in communication that morning with the prosecutor, who said he had no wish to proceed further with the case.—Mr. Broughton said he could not suffer the interests of justice to be compromised by the withdrawal of the evidence in a case of this description, and he should, therefore, again remand the prisoner, and order summonses to be issued to compel the attendance of the necessary witnesses at the next examination.—The prisoner, who made no observation, was then removed.

Serious Case of Embezzlement.—On Monday John Connell, a middle-aged respectable looking man, was placed at the bar before Mr. Broughton, the sitting magistrate, upon a serious charge of embezzlement preferred against him by his employers, Messrs. Ballance and Sons, silk-manufacturers, in Spitalfields.—Mr. Ballance said he had at least forty cases of embezzlement to bring against the prisoner; and that, on taking stock, he had found a deficiency of £1,500 worth of silk.—The prisoner was remanded for a week.

Awful and Untimely Death of a Ruffianly Peterloo Butcher.—A short time since, the notorious Brown, of Lea Castle, near Kidderminster, was on his way from Birmingham to attend a ball got up in honour of Mr. Godson, the representative of the Tory party of Kidderminster. Being late, he was driving furiously along, and came in collision with a dog-cart that happened to be in the road. The gig was overthrown, and Brown received such severe injuries that he expired immediately. Thus ended the career of a monster, who openly and exultingly boasted that *he* had severed a woman's breast off with his sabre at the ever-memorable *Peterloo Massacre!*

THE NORTHERN STAR.
SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1845.

RESULT OF "SHORT HOURS" OF LABOUR IN PRACTICE.

It will be remembered that during the last Session of Parliament, "the House," giving way to a suddenly new-born impulse of *humanity*, solemnly resolved that "young persons" and females *should not be called on*, or permitted, by the mill-owners, *to work more than ten hours a day:* and it will never be forgotten, that "the House—" the "first assembly of *gentlemen* in the world—" the "Collective *Wisdom* of the nation;" *it will never be forgotten*, we say, that the "*high*," the "*free*," the "*independent*," the "honourable" members of this same "House" withdrew their "resolve"—eat their words—*rescinded their votes*—at the bidding of one man, their "*leader*," who threatened to resign his post if "the House" should commit such a solecism as legislate in accordance with the demands and dictates of common humanity! He admitted to the full, that *humanity* was against him; that it was cruel to consign the young and the "weaker sex" to twelve hours work a day; nay, he felt as strong a sympathy for them in their bondage as any, the greatest, humanity-monger in the House: but still State-necessity—still the maintenance of our national institutions—still the existence even of our foreign trade—still the "productiveness" of capital employed in mills and manufactures—still the *Civil List* of the Queen, and Prince Albert's £38,000 a year—still the Pension List, the Half-pay List, the Dead-weight List, the Sinecure List, and the Allowance List—still "National Faith:" still all these things required that the Legislature should close its ears to the demands of our common nature—that it should commit an act of gross and unmitigated cruelty, and doom the child and the mother to toil more unhealthy, more debasing, and *longer in duration*, than that *forced* from the property-slaves in the Indies, or from the felons in our gaols at home! and "the *noblest* assembly of freemen in the world" did the dictatorial bidding of the Minister, and meanly and servilely surrendered their resolution and *judgment* to the threats of the son of a Cotton-spinner, whose father, after having realized a "family fortune" from the extended and death-dealing labours of his factory "hands," spent *thousands* in an endeavour to procure an Act embodying the very *limitation of time* which the "high and honourable" had RESOLVED was *necessary* to protect the objects of its application from social and physical evils of the direst magnitude.

This base surrender of the acknowledged claims of justice to the baser threats and *false alarms* of the Minister cannot be palliated, even on the ground of *ignorance*. "The House" had something more than the mere *ipse dixit* of Sir Robert Peel, or the cold-blooded *economical* reasoning of Sir Letter-opening Graham, to guide it. There were the *opinions* of some of the most extensive employers and mill-proprietors in the kingdom—that the disastrous efforts to the existence of the nation, predicted as the consequence of a *limitation* of the labours of infants and women to something like a reasonable extent, were mere chimeras, conjured up to

"Fright the isle from its propriety,"

without reason or even probability for a groundwork. They declared *it as their solid conviction*,—*a conviction* derived from experience,—that the step was one that would not even diminish "profit," while it would add immensely to the *gain* of the labourers, in time, in instruction, in domestic comfort, if not even in money-amount of wages. There was Mr. John Fielden, a member of "the House" itself; a man intimately mixed up with the prosperity of the manufacturing system; a man who has been *made* by that system, and whose existence as a tradesman depends on its well-being; a man in most extensive "business" in the cotton-manufacture; a man whose *profits* alone have just been assessed to the Income-tax at £24,000 a-year; there was this man, so circumstanced—so bound up with the manufacturing system,—that system whose very existence *demanded* two hours extra toil from *little children* and from females!; there was this man bearing honourable testimony as a *practical* man, that the act of justice resolved on by "the House," would add to the well-being and the wealth of all concerned, both employers and employed. There was the firm of Wood and Walkers, of Bradford, the largest worsted-spinners in the kingdom, bearing similar testimony; and who have proved their *sincerity* by spending, in the endeavour to procure a similar act of justice to the one resolved on, thousands upon thousands of pounds. There was William Rand, of Bradford, another great worsted manufacturer, and a great contributor to the means of agitating the question. There were Mr. Hargreaves, of Accrington, and Mr. Gardner, of Preston; and there were five-sixths of the mill-owners of the Oldham district, all bearing similar testimony, and all protesting against the assumption that it was necessary to preserve *their* profits and *their* trade, to work children and females *two hours* longer than the felon on the treadwheel. Therefore it could not be *ignorance* that induced the "Collective Wisdom" to accede to the representations of Graham, and Peel, and the *League* Free Trade Members: but it was an abject, servile, base bowing down of "independence" to power, and a slavish surrender of judgment and conviction to the claims of faction and party.

Since the period when the "high and *chivalrous*" "eat the leek," *short hours* have been in practice. Mr. Gardner, a most extensive mill-owner, in the neighbourhood of Preston, notwithstanding the universal practice of his brethren, determined to run his works only *eleven* hours a day instead of twelve, as he had formerly done, and as all his neighbours still continue to do. This step he determined on now near twelve months ago; and the experience of that period is calculated in some degree to show *what truth* there was in the representations of the Minister and the Leaguers that "short hours" would annihilate profits and diminish wages. The result of that experience we are fortunately enabled to give: and while it must make the "honourable" *slaves* who obeyed Sir Robert Peel's arbitrary commands, to blush crimson trebly dyed at their criminal conduct and pusillanimity, it will prompt the factory-workers of the empire to renewed, energetic, and unceasing efforts to secure *generally* the manifold blessings and benefits shadowed forth by a *partial* adoption of the "short-hour" system. They will properly reason, that *if such* be the result of abridging labour only *one hour* a day, and in a case, too, where but one master adopts the plan, having to compete in the market with his neighbours who have the "advantage" of the "extra" hour; if such be the result of this slight abridgment of excessive toil, under such circumstances as these, they will naturally imagine what the benefits and advantages would be to all—employers and employed—from a general limitation of factory labour to *that period* which the eminent of the faculty have assigned as the longest that can be safely endured even by the strongest adult. They will naturally judge the "sack by the *sample*:" and what the *sample* is the reader shall just now see:—

Preston, Monday, March 10.

A meeting of the hands employed by Mr. Robert Gardner in his extensive factory in this town was held on Friday evening last, at a public-house near the factory, in Marsh-lane, in compliance with a resolution of the delegate meeting of factory workers held at Bolton last week, for the purpose of ascertaining the advantages which have resulted, and are likely to result, from the regulation, adopted nearly twelve months ago by Mr. Gardner, of working eleven hours a-day instead of twelve, and paying the same wages as under the longer hours' system. The manager of the works and all the overlookers were present during the whole of the proceedings. The chair was occupied by one of the hands, who opened the proceedings by briefly enjoining order, and bespeaking attention to the various speakers.

The meeting was then addressed by an operative Spinner, who stated the advantages which he had derived from the adoption of the eleven hour system, among which were—that he had better health, a better appetite, slept more soundly, and at the end of the week received more wages for his work than formerly. So great, he said, had been the advantages which he had derived from eleven hours, that he could safely venture to say that no danger could be apprehended from the adoption of the ten hours' system. So decidedly favourable had he found the change, that nothing but the direst necessity could ever induce him to return to the long hour system again.

The Book-keeper of the establishment next presented himself. He said that the chairman having alluded to the subject of wages, he (the speaker) considered it his duty at that stage of the proceedings to give some statements which he thought would be of some importance in connection with the subject of long or short hours. After the eleven-hour system had been in operation for ten weeks, he had been requested to take from the books a statement of the wages paid during that period, and also the wages paid in the ten weeks preceding the adoption of the eleven hours. The result was, that after a careful calculation he found, that for each pair of looms the advance paid in money to the weavers was 1d. per week more than during the ten weeks preceding the change. For the same period the spinners averaged 2d. per week more than under the old system. These were all piece hands, or those who were paid according to the quantity of work done. The day hands, or those who were paid by the day, got the same wages as before. When the system had been in operation a few weeks, he found that the sick list was much diminished, and that very few had to leave work from ill-health. On referring to his books, he found that for a period of six weeks *not a single spinner was off work from sickness,—a circumstance which had never before been known;* and he was glad to be able to say, from the same authority, that the *health of the hands continued to improve under the new regulation.* The change to eleven hours had been commenced in April, 1844, and up to the end of June only one man had been off work, sick, and he was consumptive. He was then speaking in the presence of the operatives themselves, who could bear testimony to the truth of what he had said. There was some difficulty in giving accurate particulars as to the quality of the work produced, owing to the changes in the numbers of the yarn, and other circumstances; but, on the whole, he was fully warranted in saying that the work was *much better under the new* than the old system. He made that statement without hesitation, as he had had no less than ten years' experience in the capacity which he now filled, and he hoped, therefore, he was competent to give such an opinion. There were many parties present, however, who could speak from their own actual experience—he meant the weavers, to whom the work of the spinner was taken to be made into cloth, and they could say whether or not the "cops" were not better now than under the old regulation of twelve hours, and whether also there was not less waste made from the work of the spinners now than formerly. He might add, that the wages of the warpers and winders had been fully maintained. He thought it right to state, that no alteration had been made in the speed of the machinery during the periods to which he had referred.

A Power-loom Weaver corroborated, in every particular, the statements made by the last speakers, and added, that he could say, for those employed in his department, that they would prefer going to ten hours, even though their wages should be somewhat reduced. His wife was working in the mill, and he had no hesitation in saying that a considerable saving to him had been effected, even by the single hour a day, which she could now give to her affairs at home.

The Superintendent of the Card-room said, that their machinery had not been speeded, and yet the hands under him turned off more work, and of a better quality, now than under the twelve-hour system.

A Piecer said he had been enabled by the eleven-hours' system to attend school. He understood that several schoolmasters in the neighbourhood had found a considerable increase in the number of their scholars since the adoption of the eleven hours.

Many others of the hands made similar statements; after which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting of the hands in the employ of Mr. Robert Gardner, grateful for the numerous blessings he has conferred upon us by the adoption of the plan of working eleven hours a day, return him our best thanks, and most respectfully request him to join us, his operatives, in petitioning Parliament for an efficient Ten Hours' Bill for all hands employed in factories.

"That the adoption of the eleven hours' system be celebrated by a festivity on the 22nd of April next, and that a committee be appointed to conduct the arrangements."

Thanks were then voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

There, now! What do the factory-workers of Lancashire and Yorkshire think of *that?* And what will Peel, and Cobden, and Bright, and George Henry *Canning* Ward, and Villiers, and Hume, think of it?! What becomes of their predictions of *lower* wages—no profits—destruction of foreign trade—home embarrassments—and *national bankruptcy*, as the consequences of a *less amount* of labour than twelve hours a day?! What becomes of all their famous arithmetical calculations, which defied examination or refutation?! What becomes of all the "solemn warnings," and the "dreadful apprehensions," and the "stern realities" which could afford no more than an expression of *sympathy* for those who were being destroyed, body and mind, morally and physically, by murderous toil?! What has become of them?—why facts and experience have proved them to us baseless as the predictions and promises of Peel, which induced "the House" to agree to *his* famous Bill, to "set the question of currency at rest for ever!" by *doubling* the amount of every debt! and diminishing *the means* of the people to pay! and as worthy of dependence on, as the present *promises* of good and happiness by Cobden and Co., as certain to flow from a repeal of the Corn Laws without previous adjustment. The whole of the predictions, threatenings, promises, and conduct of the Minister and the Leaguers, as to all these questions,—the limitation of the hours of labour, the *actions* on the currency, and the effects of an unconditional repeal of the Corn Laws,—are either prompted by gross stolid ignorance of the true principles of State policy, or by a wilful disregard of truth and consequences, that purely *selfish* ends may be promoted.

Let the reader look at the RESULT of "short hours" *in practice* above set forth! More work; higher wages; less sickness; a better and more valuable production; increase of scholars to the schools; and greater domestic comfort: these are the answers to Peel and Bright's dismal borebodings and positive predictions of all sort of *evil* consequences. Here is practice. Here is fact: will it do to set against the *wind* of those who cautioned, and warned, and threatened, and dragooned "the House" into the *rescinding* of its solemn resolves to grant a modicum of justice?

To Mr. Gardner, who has had the courage and the manliness to take steps to prove Peel an ignorant charlatan or a dishonest legislator, and to show up, in glorious manner, the *Leagued* "friends of the poor," the greatest praise is due. He has earned for himself the gratitude of the factory population in general, and of his own "hands" in particular; a gratitude which, we are sure, will be gladly and freely accorded. Mr. Gardner's reward will be the approbation of his own conscience, and the blessings and love of those to whose happiness he has directly contributed in no common degree, and *indirectly* to all, by showing the *safe* road to a greater degree of comfort and enjoyment for all engaged in factory labour.

In this matter we are happy to say that Mr. Gardner does not stand *alone*. He is not the only millowner that has tried the experiment of "short time." He is the first that we have heard of in the "great cotton district;" and to him, as such, every praise is due. But justice requires that we should state that *for years* the Messrs. Starkeys, of Huddersfield, have acted on that system, though their neighbours, with *one* exception, which we shall shortly specify, have been running their mills whenever they could full twelve hours. In addition to this *boon* of an hour a day less work, and no reduction of wages to those hired by the day, the Messrs. Starkeys have broken up ground into garden-patches, and let them at a fair rent to their work-people. And, in addition to all this, they are at the present moment engaged in erecting a school-house for the use of the children of their workpeople and of others in the neighbourhood of their mill we believe, which is estimated to cost from £2,000 to £3,000. Now we have peculiar pride in naming these circumstances, and in bearing honourable testimony to the kind manner in which the Brothers treat their workmen: the more so, because we have on more than one occasion used this same firm as an illustration of the factory system, which so rapidly raises up fortunes for some few, and keeps the toilers in a state of lingering life and death. The Messrs. Starkeys have been made by the factory-system. They were "nothing" but a very few years back; *now* they are "Justices of the Bench," roll in splendid carriages, and live in princely mansions. To this we don't object. They had a right to avail themselves of the system that exists—and make money. Had *they* not done so, others in all probability would; others who might not have been as disposed as the Starkeys to confer advantages on their workpeople with the money made by their labour. The Messrs. Starkeys had a right to do as they have done; they had a right, as long as the present system lasts, of obtaining mills and machinery, and of accumulating fortunes. Nay, they might even have been contented, when they had done so, had it so pleased them, to button up their pockets, and keep all they had to themselves, for any claim which the present system would have made on them for the toilers who had produced it. In doing so they would but have done what ninety-nine out of every hundred of their competing brother mill-owners invariably do: and they would have been looked on as very good sort of folk in their way. Therefore, when we find them disposed, as they have proved themselves to be, to enhance in some degree the comforts and condition of their work people, and this too *unasked*, we should be sour in nature indeed did we not say that the case was deserving of special mention, and worthy of being held up as an example for others to follow.

And the "short hour" principle has been found as beneficial in practice at Huddersfield as at Preston. In the former place, it has been in operation *for years:* therefore the experience is greater. As before observed, the wages of the day-hands have not been reduced; and in only a very few instances of piece-work has there even been a semblance of reduction in amount of work and wage; and what little there has been, has been more than compensated for by the *time* allowed for gardening operations, and the increased amount of domestic comfort—so much so, that none of the workers have any desire to go back again to the "long hour" practice. The employers are also equally satisfied. Like Mr. Gardner, they find their work *better* done, and on the whole *as much of it;* and they have the gratification of having reduced the duration of labour for their hands one-twelfth in amount, and of having given some degree of *time* for mental improvement and intellectual enjoyment. Indeed, so *satisfactory* has been the working of the "short-hour" principle in the Starkey's establishment, that another eminent firm, the Brook's of Armitage-bridge, have also adopted it: and with similar beneficial results.

And is it not alone at Preston, or at Huddersfield, that the plan has been tried, and found successful. At *Sheffield* the most important results have followed the adoption of the principle. The case of several of the Trades of Sheffield was brought before "the House" by Mr. Duncombe, in answer to the "warnings" and "alarming predictions" of Sir Robert Peel and the Leagued Free-Traders; and Mr. Duncombe was told that the only effect of such "*insane*" conduct would be the *driving of the trade from the town*. Well, just upon one twelvemonth has elapsed since that "*opinion*" was given; the "*insanity*" has been most rigidly adhered to: and the result is, that instead of the trade *having* "left," as George Henry *Canning* Ward said it would, *every man* is better and more remuneratively employed than he has been for many years past!! Before "*insanity*" began, the hours of work for Grinders were commonly fourteen and sixteen hours a day. Then *the workers* could scarcely live—while many of the hands were constantly on the parish books, unable to obtain employment at all. The men were "*insane*" enough to try to regulate this matter; they were "*insane*" enough to think that if the then number of workers worked *less*, it would require more "hands" to produce the required amount of goods. *With a demand for labour*, they had been taught that *wages would rise:* and they were "*insane*" enough to try it. Instead of working fourteen or sixteen hours a day, they resolved that they would labour only as follows:—

	HOURS.
On Monday	5
„ Tuesday	3
„ Wednesday	8
„ Thursday	8½
„ Friday	9
„ Saturday	8½
Total for the week	42 hours;

and the result has been, that every man of them *is in full employ*, receiving higher wages for the short-week's work than they did for the long one! What a fact for George Henry *Canning* Ward to crack his teeth against!

And now to the Trades generally. Are these *facts* to have no weight with *you?* Are not *you* disposed to endeavour to secure for yourselves similar benefits to those enjoyed by your brethren whose cases we have laid before you? If "short hours" are of advantage in one establishment at Preston, in two at Huddersfield, and in many at Sheffield; if they tend to drive sickness from the hearth; to advance wages, and enable the toiler to perform his work *better;* if they give time for schooling, and for domestic duties; if they add to the workman's stock of enjoyments, and increase his worldly store: if they do these things for the "hands" of Mr. Gardner, the Messrs. Starkey, the Messrs. Brook, and for the Grinders of Sheffield; if "short hours" will secure these things for *them*, will they not do the same for *you?* And are not the benefits worth trying for? Could your delegates in the Trades' Conference be better employed than in devising means to *make the benefits of* "short hours *in practice*" as general *as labour itself?* We scarcely think they could. To them we commend the question; and on the Trades we urge the *duty* of appointing delegates to meet their brethren from all parts of the country, to duly consider this question amongst the many others that must engage their attention. *The time is now short.* What is done must be done quickly: and if the Trades do their *duty*, their cause will occupy a far different position at the end of the Conference from what it does now.

We cannot conclude this subject without referring to the meeting in Exeter-hall on Wednesday, at which Lord John Russell presided. It was for an object similar in nature to that on which this article treats. It was to put an end to the "late hour system" of shopkeeping. The vast hall was crammed to excess; and right well did the chairman maintain the ground he took during the factory debates in last session. He did not flinch from his position. He did not let *defeat* act as an excuse for his throwing the "short hour" question overboard; but he boldly and eloquently maintained it, in manner following:—

It was one of the greatest evils of this country that toil had become so excessive therein that every consideration of health, all attention to intellectual improvement, and the time which should be devoted to spiritual worship, were entirely lost by the excess of labour into which the people felt themselves compelled to embark. (Cheers.) It was quite clear that those who began their employment at six o'clock in the morning, and did not close it till ten or eleven o'clock at night, had little time but for the needful rest to recruit their bodies for their next day's occupation. It was not necessary for him to prove that such constant employment must debilitate the health, must destroy the mental character, and must greatly, if not altogether, deprive those who followed it of that which ought to claim so much of a man's time—that of preparing for another and a future life. Why was it that one generation of men after another were to pass away consumed in this hopeless, fearful toil, absorbed in such pursuits, and without, in this respect, the means of improvement for their minds and morals? (Cheers.) For it would be observed, that while they had the mechanical advantages of civilisation—if they looked to the hours of toil—to the time left for intellectual culture or other improvements, they would not find that civilisation had advanced them beyond a time of comparative pauperism. (Cheers.) They must endeavour then to improve society. There were evils of this kind beyond the power of legislation, in which, if legislation was to attempt to interfere, while doing good in one direction, it would infallibly do much greater evil in another. (Cheers.) But there was a power in this country of the greatest weight, and which required only direction to be made available against such evils—the power of public opinion. (Cheers.) Should they not look, then, by the help of this power, to a time when labour, which was their task, while it still continued for a proper number of hours, might be of moderate length, and when a sufficient part of the twenty-four hours would be left to make men more instructed, better men, and better Christians? If he could think that nothing but the constant attention to the amassing of wealth constituted the sole or the greatest object of the country, he should not have that respect which he really entertained for the character of England. (Cheers.) When their great poet was describing the occupation of the Spirits of Darkness, while about to build Pandemonium, he said—

"Mammon led them on;
"Mammon, the least erect of all the spirits,
"That fell from heaven."

And if such was the character of the spirit that the poet deemed fit to lead on the powers of darkness for the erection of their palace, should not they who sought a better temple—a temple of civilisation, of happiness, and of religion—should they not enlist under better auspices, and look for brighter spirits to lead them to the erection and execution of the fabric which they wished to raise? (Loud cheers.) They (the shopmen) formed but a small part, to be sure, of those who suffered from the evils complained of; but if the stream flowed on it would increase till it became irresistible. (Cheers.)

This man is to be Minister *again some day:* does it bode no good to find him enunciating such sentiments as *these?* Whether would it be better for the factory-worker, that Lord John Russell—(provided that he would give *life*, reality, to those ennobling principles)—or Peel, who dragoons "the House" out of its resolves to give the Ten Hour Bill, should be Minister? No matter that Lord John has been converted since he got "*out*": the conversion is there: and he cannot get "*in*" again, except on an *understanding* that he will give as a Minister that which he has asked as a "leader" of her Majesty's Opposition. Will it not be worth while for the factory-workers to consider, whether it may not be wise to turn Peel "out," that *he* too may be "converted"—and to put Lord John "*in*," that he may give effect to the conversions of both?!

GLORIOUS TRIUMPH OF THE LONDON COMPOSITORS.

In last week's *Star* we made some comments on a struggle then pending between a number of Master Printers and their hands; and we were sufficiently confident in the honour, the organisation, and resolution of the men, to venture a prediction that the mere exhibition of those necessary elements of Union would bring the haughty capitalists to their senses. This week it is our pride to state that we were not mistaken nor deceived. The men were true to themselves; and the masters, in accordance with their best interests, have been (though most reluctantly) compelled to give way for the present. We say for the present; because the past leads us to a fair guess as to what amount of mercy the men might reasonably expect, if their fate depended upon Malthusian philosophy, Masters' clemency, or Capitalists' calculations as to the deduction to be permanently made from wages, in consideration of the anticipated reductions in the price of food. Enough for us that the first blow has been struck, and warded off. The men have united and triumphed. The masters have grudgingly yielded; but only for the present. There is an armistice—a cessation of hostilities—rather than proclamation of peace upon honourable terms. Let the "weak" rest assured that the "strong" will improve their position by every available means for the next encounter; and, cognizant of the means by which they were enabled to beat the foe, let the men also *improve their union*. It has stood their friend; and therefore they should, for self sake, cherish it. Of all things, let it become general; and forthwith let the men lay by a fund, be it ever so small, to sustain them in the next conflict, whether legal or social. They are in good employment; and if their Association numbers no more than one thousand, a shilling a man per week would give them £2600 a year as a general fund to meet the next assault.

The battle having been fought and won, we have only to add our congratulations to those of the victors, and remind them that a Conference is about being held for the purpose of consolidating the National Trades' strength: and, having so recently tasted of the sweets of union, we trust they will see the necessity and expediency of electing a delegate to represent their body in that Conference.

The short, but admirable and temperate letter of "A Type-Lifter," which we publish in our first page, obviates the necessity of saying more upon *this subject at present, further than we pledge* ourselves at all times to advocate Labour's right against Labour's oppressors. We are always happy when we can be instrumental in making the working classes do their own duty. They can beat tyrannical employers when they have justice, and union, and numbers, and MONEY, on their side. Justice they invariably have; but the want of union and want of MONEY often destroys its potency.

To Readers & Correspondents.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Cooper.—We are urgently requested by Mr. Cooper to insert the following brief remarks on Mr. O'Connor's note of last week:—"I beg to observe that Mr. O'Connor is again wrong when he says he 'advanced liberally' to my 'two newspapers,' though it is merely through inadvertence, I have no doubt, that he has made that statement. Mr. O'Connor *did* 'advance liberally' to the support of the Illuminator as long as it remained the property of the working men, by whom it was commenced. But when the paper became mine, by my taking on my own shoulders their debt, as well as receiving their stock, &c., Mr. O'Connor's support (which was the handsome sum of 10s. weekly) ceased. In the multiplicity of Mr. O'Connor's concerns, it is scarcely to be expected that he should have kept his *distinction* as to the proprietorship of a little local paper, in mind; but his letters, if he looks them over, will show him that I am right; and Mr. Markham, and others in Leicester, know well the truth of what I say. On one occasion Mr. O'Connor lectured in the Leicester Amphithehtre, for the benefit of the fund for carrying on the Commonwealthsman; and when his expenses at the inn, the rent of the building, the gas-rate, &c., were paid, the *net* produce was forty shillings, while I spent and lost upon the paper as many pounds. It was certainly a proof of Mr. O'Connor's zeal for the spread of Chartist principles, that he *gave his services* for assisting the paper; but still his expressions of '*money given*,' 'donations,' and 'advanced liberally' to my 'two newspapers'—are not borne out. I did not make use of the phrase 'personal benefit' for the purpose of *evasion*, but for *explicitness;* and I am sure it behoves Mr. O'Connor, as well as myself, *to be explicit*, and not to use loose and unguarded terms, in making references to these money transactions. I have been wounded too deeply by ingratitude myself, to think lightly of a favour where I have received it; and *if I had received* a personal pecuniary favour from Mr. O'Connor, he would not have found me backward to acknowledge it, and thank him for it. But I repeat, still more unequivocally, that *I have never received one farthing from Mr. O'Connor's purse, either in the shape of gift, loan, or salary, or in any shape whatever.*—Thomas Cooper." [I was not aware till now, that the paper in question did not belong to Mr. Cooper. All I say is, that on *his* application, I gave 10s. a week as long as it lasted; and on *his* application, I sent him £5 for what I termed at the time, "*his* bastard"—the first paper he started. As to my expenses at the Inn, Mr. Cooper ordered dinner and a room for me, and insisted on paying, as I went to Leicester to lecture for him; and whenever it shall again be in my power, I shall be happy to do the same.—Feargus O'Connor.]

Mr. Pitkethly, of Huddersfield, who was the means of procuring for Mr. Duncombe the information as to the restriction of the hours of Labour adopted by the Grinders and other Trades of Sheffield, writes to us as follows. We are sure that his request will be complied with by those who can give the required information:—The Grinders of Sheffield desire to possess, from localities where the allotment system has obtained, particular information as to the number, the size, the rent paid, and the other burdens; with information as to what are the general and most beneficial crops. The Grinders contemplate purchasing, or leasing, a quantity of land, principally for the purpose of employing any surplus "hands" they may have, and thus prevent the lowering of wages; and therefore would be glad to hear from the Wire Workers' Society of Manchester, and any others who have land in possession for a similar object. Promptitude in the transmission of the required information is most important. Address to Mr. John Broomhead, 54, Sidney-street, Sheffield.

H. H., Halifax.—We cannot answer his query. He had better act on the advice of some lawyer, who will advise when he is made acquainted with all the facts.

The Spy System at Leeds.—Will any of our friends at Leeds forward us a copy of the placard that "one of the Mozeley's" has so plentifully daubed on the walls? We wish to see what "virtuous innocence" has to say, when taking on *itself* a charge thrown amongst "a crowd." We have a letter ourselves from *two* of "the Mozeley's;" and we have seen another in the *Leeds Mercury;* when we get the placard we speak of, perhaps *we* shall have "something" to say to the *fumers* and the valiant—something which they would have been wise to hear before they had made such a *stir*. In such affairs we do not act with *precipitancy*. We generally know *where we are* before we make sign: and in dealing with certain people, we find it the easiest plan to "give plenty of cord." A man that is *his own* Jack Ketch saves a deal of trouble to other folks. The Mozeley we had, and *have*, in our eye, shall have *enough of it* before we have done with him.

A Cry of the "Poor" against the Robbery of the "Rich."—The following, which we insert just as we have received it, has been handed to us from a number of labouring men in the parish of Burnham, in the county of Buckingham. We commend the case to the especial notice of the Duke of Buckingham—the "poor man's friend." The "poor" of his own county have surely a claim upon his unbounded benevolence: and if the power of "protection," which the social position, through an "accident of birth," has given, be not exerted in defence of the "poor" of his own county, the Duke may depend on it that his neighbours will not only begin to *doubt* his protestations of regard and professions of benevolence, but they will also seriously entertain the question as to *what amount of good* is conferred on any body but Dukes and Lords, by the institution of which "his Grace of Buckingham" is so distinguished a member. We also commend the case to Mr. George Henry *Canning* Ward, as another instance of that "eternal war of the rich on the poor," which begets the spirit of *democratic* resistance which Mr. Ward has so often and so sensitively denounced, and invoked the aid of the *brutal jester*, Canning, to aid him in "putting down." Perhaps Mr. Ward will *advise* the poor of Burnham how to proceed in this matter—how to make the rich robbers *disgorge* that which is no more "theirs" than the domain "belonging" to Mr. Ward himself. There is a mode, no doubt, by which the thieves in this case may be made to "give up" and make restitution: though what the "cost" of the process might be would puzzle longer heads than ours even to guess at. We publish the case in the hope that it may either have its due effect on the parties so withholding, or aid the poor of Burnham to a "friend" who will proceed on their behalf. Here is their complaint, in their own language:—"Burnham, Feby. 28, 1845. Sir, whee, the poor of the parish of Burnham, in the county of Bucks, fell ourselfs verry much disfatisfied, in conciquence of Lady Anne Grenvile stoping of the payment of twenty Pounds, wich was left to us by Mr. Henry Sayer, Esquire, of East Burnham, in the parish of Burnham, who died on the fifteent of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten. The will of the said Henry Sayer, Esq. was proved in the perorogative court, on the eleventh day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten, wharby the said Henry Sayer, Esq. left to us, the poor of the parish of Burnham, twenty Pounds a-year to be distributed to us, the said poor of the parish of Burnham, in bread, to be given to us, the said poor, on Christmas day, or the Sunday after, for ever; and the payment of the said twenty Pound was to be payed out of the Mansion-house, Farm, and Lands of Huntercombe, in the said parish of Burnham for ever. The said twenty pounds his stoped from us (wether legal or ilegal remains for us to ascertain) as the said Lady Anne Grenville haf sold the Mansion-house, and part of the said land of Huntercombe, to her relation, Lady Elizabeth Wells; wich said estate was sold to the late Lord Grenville by John Popple, Esq. whose property it was after the death of the said Henry Sayer, Esq., and the death of Isabella Popple, wife of the said John Popple. Theairfore whee, the poor of the parish of of Burnham, wishes to know if thair can be a means of restoring the same back to us again or not, and what will be the expences of the same; has whee hope that whee might find a friend to procede in our behalf in this and other donations specified in the parish church of Burnham. As far has whee can understand, that when John Popple, Esq. sold Huntercombe estate to Lord Grenville, it was sold £500 cheaper in consiquence of the said £20 being left to us, THE POOR OF BURNHAM."

Mr. Thomas Hood.—The readers of the *Star* will be much concerned to learn the melancholy news of the present condition of "*the* fellow of infinite jest" and humour, which we here give them from the last number of *Hood's Magazine:*—"We can hardly congratulate our readers on presenting them, this month, with an effigy

by a squint. When he approached the bar he was very pale, and looked anxious, but betrayed no timidity or nervousness, and on being asked by the clerk of the assize (after the reading of the indictment, which contained but one count, charging him with having caused the death of Sarah Hart on the 1st of last January, by giving her poison), "How say you, are you guilty with respect to that murder or not guilty?" he replied in a firm and audible tone, "Not guilty."

Having also pleaded "Not guilty" to the same charge upon the coroner's inquisition,

The jury was sworn, after a challenge by Mr. O'Malley on behalf of the prisoner of thirteen names.

Mr. Serjeant BYLES, addressing the gentlemen of the jury, began by saying,—You have heard from the clerk of the assize that the prisoner at the bar stands indicted for the most serious crime known to the law—the crime of wilful murder. I rejoice that upon the present occasion the prisoner, as the law now stands, may have the benefit of being defended by counsel, and that he will have the assistance of my learned friend, than whom the bar of Europe could not give him greater. In cases of this kind you are not to expect direct and positive evidence. No man who meditates the crime of assassination by poison fails to take some precaution so that, at all events, direct or demonstrative evidence of the fact shall be inaccessible. No eye sees death poured into the cup, save that which is All-seeing, and in every place. All that a human tribunal can do is to gather together the circumstances of the case, and from those circumstances to form as just and conscientious a judgment as is possible for fallible mortals to do. The prisoner at the bar formerly carried on the business of a chymist and druggist. He had the misfortune several years ago to lose his first wife. Shortly before her death the deceased, Sarah Hart, then a young woman somewhere about thirty years of age, entered into his service, and I shall show you by evidence, which I need not open in detail, the nature of the acquaintance which subsisted between her and the prisoner, and that when she left his service she was in the family way. She lived first after quitting his service at a place called Crawford-street, London, where I shall show you that the prisoner was in the habit of visiting her. She lived afterwards at Paddington-green, thence removed to Slough, and for some time previous to her death was living at Bath-place, which consists of four small cottages, forming one detached building. Bath-place stands upon the Great Western-road, about a quarter of a mile beyond the Windmill public-house, which is kept by a person named Botham. In the end house, towards London, lived Mrs. Ashley; in the next the deceased, Sarah Hart, the mother of two children, who was living there with them, and who, as it will appear to you in the course of the case, was entirely dependent on the prisoner for her support, and whom he was in the habit of visiting at Bath-place, and supplying with money. The prisoner himself has recently resided at Berkhampstead in circumstances of apparent ease and affluence. He married no long time since a second wife—a lady to whose deep misfortune no man can allude without feelings of commiseration. I shall show you that, notwithstanding the apparent ease and respectability of his circumstances, he was at the time this occurrence took place by no means in such circumstances. I shall call his banker's clerk to show you that at this moment he had overdrawn his account. You will find that he was in the constant habit of visiting Sarah Hart, that she was dependent upon him for money, and that he found himself in this position,—that money must be supplied, or that what would otherwise be secret must become apparent, namely, the nature of his connexion with this person. On the 1st of January, in the present year, I shall show you that the prisoner was at the Jerusalem Coffee-house, Cornhill, London, the waiter of which he told, about the middle of the day, that he was going to dine at the west end of the town, and desired that his great-coat should be left for him on his return about nine o'clock. He did not proceed to the west end of the town, but to the station of the Great Western Railway, by the four o'clock train of which railway he proceeded to Slough. On arriving at Slough, he went to the residence of Sarah Hart, at Bath-place; and it will appear that after he had been a short time with her she went by his direction to the Windmill public-house for a bottle of porter. It is important to bear in mind that she was at that moment perfectly well and in very good spirits. Having bought the porter, she borrowed a corkscrew, and brought both home with her to Bath-place. I shall call a person who spoke to her on her way back, from whose testimony you will learn that she was then perfectly well. Very shortly after her return Mrs. Ashley, the person who resided in the next house, being seated at work before a candle, heard a noise in the room of Sarah Hart. I should observe to you that these cottages consist each of two very small rooms on the ground floor. Mrs. Ashley heard in her neighbour's apartment a moan or stifled scream. She laid down her work; the noise continued; she became very much alarmed, and, taking up the candle went to the door, and proceeded down the path leading from the cottage to the road; but before she reached the gate she saw the prisoner approaching the gate which terminated a similar path from the cottage of Sarah Hart. Mrs. Ashley will tell you that at this moment the moans of the deceased were distinctly audible. The prisoner went to the gate; he trembled, appeared greatly agitated, and had much difficulty in opening the gate, which, I believe, Mrs. Ashley, who had reached it by this time, assisted him in opening, saying "What is the matter with my neighbour; I am afraid she is ill?" the moans of Sarah Hart being distinctly audible. The prisoner made no answer, but passed out of the gate and proceeded towards Slough. Mrs. Ashley, in consequence of the noise, went up to Sarah Hart's house, and turning round, saw the prisoner going down the road. She then went into the house, and observed in Sarah Hart's room just before the fire-place a small table and on it a bottle of porter open, and partly drunk, also two tumblers, one of which was next the window and towards the chair upon which Sarah Hart had apparently been sitting. In one of these tumblers there was some froth, in the other there was porter or porter and water, it is not quite certain which. The deceased, Sarah Hart, was lying on the floor; her cap was off, and her hair hanging down. Her clothes were up to her knees; one stocking was down, and one shoe off. She was still continuing the moaning noise which I have described to you. Mrs. Ashley went up to her and asked her what was the matter, and raised her head up, but the deceased was unable to speak. Mrs. Ashley called in two neighbours, and some water was brought. Eventually, Mr. Champneys, a surgeon, was sent for. He felt her pulse and said he thought he could discover one or two beats. She moved her tongue or jaw a little. Mr. Champneys put his hand under her clothes to feel her heart, but he could discover no pulsation. She was clearly dead. In the meantime, I shall show you, gentlemen, that the prisoner, who had gone out of the house, was going on quickly towards the railway station. He came that day from London, and was about to return, and did return; but instead of staying at the station then, he got into an omnibus to go to Eton, Eton being in a direction away from the station. He was asked by the driver where he desired to be set down in Eton. He replied, "At Herschell-house." "Oh," said the driver, "Herschell-house is a long way this side of Eton." It appears that it is in Slough, a few hundred yards from the station. He, however, rode a short distance, and was set down at Herschell-house, where it appeared he had no business, for on getting up to the door he proceeded to walk on towards Eton. The omnibus went on in the same direction. What became of him in the interval we do not know, but he certainly went back to the station, and took a place in a first-class carriage for London. At that time suspicion became attached to the prisoner. Another gentleman of the name of Champneys—the Rev. Mr. Champneys—was there, and suffered him to depart. But as soon as he was gone Mr. Champneys communicated his suspicions to the person who conducts the electric telegraph. A signal was made to the station in London that a person was in the first-class carriages who ought to be watched. Quick as the train went, the signal was there long before the train arrived at the London terminus. A policeman was on the platform, and as soon as the prisoner got out of the carriage the policeman saw him get into an omnibus, and, putting on a plain coat over his police dress, he stepped up behind the omnibus with the conductor. The omnibus proceeded to the Bank, where the prisoner got out, the policeman taking 6d. from him. He went forward to the Wellington statue, turned round, looked back, and then went to the Jerusalem Coffee-house, in Cornhill, and inquired for the coat which I have mentioned in the early part of my statement. The waiter gave him the coat, and he then went from Cornhill down Gracechurch-street to London-bridge, and over that to another coffee-house in the Borough, the policeman still watching him, and taking care, of course, that he should not be observed. The prisoner stayed there about half an hour. He then came out, and retraced his steps over London-bridge, and went down Cannon-street, to a lodging-house in Scott's-yard, kept by a person of the name of Hughes, who is, I believe, a member of the Society of Friends. The policeman having waited half-an-hour, and finding that the prisoner did not come out of the lodging-house, went away. The next morning further intelligence was received from Slough, and the policeman, taking another officer with him, proceeded to the house in Scott's-yard. He found that the prisoner had left the house; and he then went to the Jerusalem Coffee-house, in Cornhill, where he found the prisoner, and said to him, "I believe you were down at Slough yesterday?" The prisoner denied it. He said he knew nobody at Slough, and had not been there. "You must be mistaken," said he, "in the identity; my station in life places me above suspicion." The officer, however, took the prisoner into custody, and took him down to Salt-hill, where he was handed over to the custody of Perkins, the superintendent of the Eton police. He slept that night in Perkins's house. On the next day, at dinner, some conversation took place about Sarah Hart; and to that conversation, gentlemen, I invite your attention. It was in the presence of two witnesses, who will be called to establish it. The prisoner said, "That wretched and unfortunate woman once lived in my service for nearly two years and a half. I suppose you did not know that, Perkins?" Perkins said he had heard so, but was not certain about it. The prisoner added—"She left me about five years ago. She was a good servant when she lived with me. She has often sent to me for money." The prisoner was cautioned to mind what he said, as it would be taken down and used against him as evidence. He replied, that he had no objection to that. He was asked if he had the deceased's letters. He said he did not keep letters of that sort. "I was pestered," he said, "with letters from her when I was in London, and I determined to give her no more money. She was a bad woman—a very bad woman. She sent me a letter, threatening to do something. She said she would make away with herself if I did not give her any money. I went down to her house and told her I would not give her any more money. She then asked me to give her a drop of porter. She had a glass, and I had a glass. She held in her hand over the glass of stout a very small phial, not bigger than her finger, and said, 'I will, I will!' She poured something out of the phial into the stout, and drank part of it and did so—" and then the prisoner described her manner by signs. He continued, "She then lay down on the rug, and I walked out. I should not have gone out, if I thought she had been in earnest; I certainly should not have left her." Now, gentlemen, you will observe, that in this conversation the prisoner expressly states that she took something out of a small phial at that time in his presence. Gentlemen, this conversation took place at Perkins's house. We will now revert, if you please, to the scene at Salt-hill. By direction of the coroner a *post mortem* examination took place the next day, I believe, after the death of the woman. You will hear what was the nature of that *post mortem* examination more in detail from the surgeons. But it is necessary for me to tell you, in the first place, that the surgeons could not discover any external injury to account for death. They examined the brain; there was no appearance of anything in the brain which could have produced death. In the same manner they examined the lungs, and found nothing but an old adhesion, which, they will tell you, is quite consistent with perfect health, and is very common. It had nothing to do with the death of the deceased. They examined her heart, and found it perfectly healthy; and so were the intestines. There was nothing, so far as they could form an opinion, to show that death had resulted from external injury or from internal causes. In opening the body one of the surgeons thought he smelt prussic acid, but the other could not discover anything of the kind. Either it did or it did not exist; I will not pretend to say which. Probably the surgeons will not. But certainly when they came to examine the stomach they could discover no smell of prussic acid; but inasmuch as it appeared to them clearly that deceased had not died from either external injury or internal causes, they came to the conclusion that she had died by poison of some kind or other; and in order that the contents of the stomach should be known, they took them to a scientific chemist in London, who submitted them to a chemical examination. At the time the surgeons conjectured that the woman had died through swallowing oxalic acid. Tests for that poison were applied, and none were discovered. Tests were also applied for sulphuric acid, for opium, for various mineral poisons, and for prussic acid. Sulphate of copper and nitrate of silver were used. I am not competent to describe fully the nature of all the tests that were applied; but the surgeons satisfied themselves upon that occasion that prussic acid had been the cause of death. They found prussic acid in the stomach, and that it produced what they will tell you is an infallible test of its presence, the "Prussian blue." Gentlemen, at this time it was not known, and it will be very important for you to bear this in mind, that the prisoner had had any prussic acid at all. There was no reason at that time to attribute death to the influence of prussic acid, except what had been found in the stomach. Subsequently the remainder of the stomach was taken to Mr. Cooper, and it was tried by sulphate of iron, nitrate of silver, and cyanide of silver, and prussic acid was clearly proved to exist. Mr. Cooper was now able to say, observing the contents of the two portions of the stomach, that in the stomach there were not fewer than fifty grains of prussic acid, according to the strength of the prussic acid of the "London Pharmacopœia." But, gentlemen, of all poisons, this is the most volatile, being subject to evaporate most rapidly, inhaled while living, and absorbed by the tissues after death. The quantity is equal to one grain of pure prussic acid, which is quite enough to cause death. This poison is so subtle and so energetic, that a single drop of the pure acid placed upon the tip of a rod and put into the mouth of any small creature—a bird or a dog, would cause almost instant death. About two-thirds of a grain—a grain and a drop I am told are nearly synonymous terms—of pure prussic acid, has been known to kill as many as seven adults one after the other. Before the residue of the contents of the stomach had been brought out the knowledge of the fact I am about to state was acquired, though it was not known when the first prussic acid was found in the stomach. Owing to the publicity which things of this kind naturally obtain, it was discovered that, on the Wednesday when the alleged murder was committed, the prisoner had been to the shop of a chemist in Bishopsgate-street and asked for two drachms of Scheele's prussic acid. But that strengthens the case I have described. He said he wanted it for an external injury. He brought a bottle with him with a glass stopper, but the shopman gave him another bottle, which was labelled for him, and he took it away with him on the day he left London. I shall show you that he was again at the chemist's shop on the Thursday, the day after he slept at the lodging-house; and that he then said he had lost the bottle he had before, and obtained the bottle which he had originally brought and left there. Now, gentlemen, that is an outline of the material facts which will be laid before you with respect to this attempt on the life of the deceased. But there is other evidence, which I think and fear will induce you to believe that this is not the first attempt which has been made by the prisoner upon the life of the deceased. It will appear to you that, towards the end of September, or the beginning of October last—the witness will fix the date—that a person of the name of Charlotte Hoard, who is, I believe, in service with a family in this neighbourhood, was staying with Sarah Hart. It was late in the evening, about seven o'clock, that the prisoner then visited the deceased. It will be proved to you that Mrs. Hart, upon that occasion, was perfectly well, and that the prisoner requested Mrs. Hoard to go to Botham's house, the Windmill, at Salt-hill, to purchase a bottle of porter. She did so; and took it home, and left it on the table. Not very long afterwards the prisoner went away; Mrs. Hoard heard the front door of Mrs. Hart's house shut as he went out. She then saw the deceased; her cap was untied, and she looked dreadfully ill. She complained of being violently sick, of a severe pain in the head; and she retched and vomited very much. Upon the table thirteen sovereigns were lying; and it is a circumstance which ought not to escape attention, that she was too ill to see after that money. It was left loose on the table, she being so ill as to be compelled at once to go to bed. She was dreadfully sick in the night. The witness Hoard will declare that she threw up above a hand-basin full, and was obliged to keep her bed all day. She complained of great giddiness, and heat in the throat. She attributed these sensations, as did the woman whom I shall call before you, to the porter; there being no suspicion at that time, as I am bound to tell you, that these effects were caused by anything deleterious being introduced into the porter. She recovered from that attack in the course of a short time, and was as well as usual. Such, then, is the case against the prisoner.

The address of the learned Serjeant was listened to with breathless interest throughout.

Mr. F. KELLY requested that the prisoner might be accommodated with a seat.

Mr. BARON PARKE: Prisoner, do you wish to sit down?

Prisoner: Yes; I should be much obliged, as I have long had a varicose affection.

A chair was then placed in the dock for his accommodation.

[Evidence in support of the statements made in the Learned Sergeant's speech was adduced. Nearly every witness was cross-examined by Mr. Kelly, but no material variation from, or addition to, their direct testimony was obtained, except it be in the following, which was the cross-examination of Mrs. Ann Ashley, who had deposed to the facts set forth for her by Mr. Serjeant Byles:]—

Mrs. Ashley cross-examined by Mr. F. KELLY: Before I heard the stifled scream, I had heard the voice of the deceased in rather a loud tone. I can't say whether there was any quarrelling. I heard only a few words, not loud talking, for some minutes.—Did you not think they were quarrelling about money matters?—I did not hear enough to make me think they were quarrelling. When I first heard her scream I thought she might be in hysterics, as I knew there were money matters between them. She was not hysterical, nor violent in her conduct. I never knew her subject to fits of passion, or of her quarrelling with Mr. Tawell about the children. I have heard her say she had been advised to put them out and go to service; but she never told me that she had differences with the prisoner about them. I heard no voice but hers on the night in question, so that I could not have supposed that they were quarrelling. The screams I heard before leaving my house were repeated several times. I cannot say whether or not Mr. Tawell heard the observation I made about my neighbour being ill. The surgeon, Mr. Champneys, on being sent for put his hand under the clothes of Sarah Hart, and felt her heart. He then bled her. I held the basin for him. Blood flowed from her—about as much as would cover a plate. I believe she was dead before she was bled, at least I heard the surgeon say so. That is my own belief also. I do not recollect having been asked the question when I was before the coroner, or having said that the deceased died almost immediately after she had been bled. I do not think I could have said so, as my belief always was she had died before she was bled. I am aware that the deceased had received a present of a box of apples some time before her death. She gave me some of them; when I saw the box it was not full. It would hold about a peck, but I did not see it when she first received it.

[We pass the evidence of the other parties, which relates to the departure, and watching, and apprehension of the prisoner, as it would be merely repeating what is fully set forth in the opening speech of the counsel for the prosecution. We give at full length the examination and cross-examination of the surgeons, as it is likely that on *that* evidence the defence will be mainly grounded.]

Mr. Champneys, examined by Serjeant BYLES.—I am a surgeon at Salt-hill. I was sent for to attend Mrs. Hart a few minutes before seven o'clock on the 1st of January. I ran all the way. I saw Sarah Hart lying on the floor. I felt her pulse at the wrist. I was not certain there was any pulsation. I put my hand under her clothes to feel her heart, and I perceived at that moment a slight convulsion of the lower jaw. There was no pulsation of her heart. I considered her dead then. Nevertheless, I opened a vein in her arm. I did so not to leave the usual means untried. About an ounce of blood flowed. I still think that she was dead before I opened the vein. I saw the bottle, glasses, and beer on the table. I put them in the recess by the fireplace. About nine o'clock the same evening I returned and took possession of them, and carried them all away home with me, and looked them up. On the following day I inspected the body, assisted by Mr. Norblad, Mr. Pickering, and another surgeon. By direction of the coroner I afterwards made a *post mortem* examination. I dissected the body in the presence of Mr. Norblad and Mr. Pickering. I smelt the odour of prussic acid the moment I opened the body. I made a remark. I examined the heart. It was perfectly healthy. I examined the lungs. The lung itself was healthy, but the coverings had the remains of old inflammation, old standing adhesion. There was nothing to account for death in the lungs. The abdominal viscera were healthy. I examined the stomach. The internal surface had more mucus than usual. I removed the stomach and its contents for the purpose of analysis. I placed them in a bottle, which I took home and kept until I took it to London next day (Friday, the 3rd). I went to London accompanied by Mr. Norblad, and Mr. Pickering joined us in London. We went to Mr. Cooper, whose son also was present. The contents were tested for oxalic and for sulphuric acid, and I don't remember the other poisons that were sought for. Nothing could be discovered of them. An experiment was then tried for prussic acid. Mr. Cooper tried first the proto-sulphate of iron. He distilled a portion of the contents of the stomach. I saw the result of the two experiments for prussic acid. The second was with nitrate of silver. Prussic acid was found. During the experiments we found no smell of prussic acid. I am of opinion the deceased died from the effects of prussic acid. I have no doubt about it. I saw Mr. Cooper after the adjourned inquest, between Saturday and Wednesday. I saw him on Sunday. Mr. Cooper analysed the porter in the bottle, in the glass, and the bun. No prussic acid was discovered. They were not tested for any other poison. I went to Mr. Cooper again on the 8th of February, when I said I thought the deceased had been poisoned by prussic acid. I had not heard that the prisoner had purchased any. I know the strength of the prussic acid of the London Pharmacopeia. Its strength is two per cent. to ninety-eight of water. Scheele's prussic acid contains five per cent. to ninety-five of water. I would begin with three drops of the London Pharmacopeian acid as a dose. I might give four. Of the undiluted prussic and pure hydrocyanic acid less than a grain could only be taken with safety. Two drachms of Scheele's solution would contain six grains of pure hydrocyanic acid. When persons die from prussic acid there are cases on record where the smell is not discovered in the stomach. In my opinion there is no importance in the absence of odour as a proof that prussic acid was not taken. There is a case where a boy took three and a half drachms of one of the solutions, I do not know which, and there was no odour from any part of the body after it. A person died in an hospital in Paris, after having taken seven-tenths of a grain of pure acid. The acid is very voluble, and may be carried off by the lungs, or absorbed by the tissues. I never heard of a person taking an ounce. If fifty grains of the London Pharmacopeian acid were found in the stomach, that is one grain of real, it would be impossible to ascertain how much had been taken, and it would be impossible to say how soon death might ensue. There is a case where a lady took twelve drops of Scheele's acid, and she died in twelve minutes and a half; but no deduction can be drawn thence to other cases. I put some prussic acid in porter on the evening of the Thursday. I put half a drachm in a tumbler, and the tumbler was filled up with Guinness's stout. The smell of the acid was then scarcely perceptible. I don't think a person, after taking enough to cause death, would walk more than a few yards from the house.

Cross-examined by Mr. KELLY.—I have been four years in practice. I never examined a person before who had died from prussic acid. During my apprenticeship I have killed some of the lower animals, cats and dogs, with it. I experimented on four dogs, and dissected them. Except that practical experience, and some I saw tried on rabbits, all the rest of my knowledge on the subject is theoretical. I attended the case of a man who had taken some prussic acid, which did not produce death. I have read "Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence," and from that, as well as my other knowledge, I should expect always to find the odour of prussic acid. It is laid down by Taylor, that the stomach and all the cavities present the odour after death. My authority for the case I have cited, in which no odour was perceptible, is in Taylor. The body was examined thirty hours after death. I apprehend that in that case the contents of the stomach were tested by the smell. I have read that case I think elsewhere at greater length. The odour may have passed into the blood after thirty hours.—Mr. Kelly: Do you, sir, really believe that enough of prussic acid to cause death may be swallowed, diluted in porter or otherwise, without leaving any odour from the mouth?—Witness: I should certainly always expect to find the odour, but I cannot say that it would be impossible that it would be absent. I smelled the mouth of the deceased woman when I was called to her, and again subsequently, but I perceived no smell of prussic acid. On the subsequent examination by Mr. Norblad, Mr. Pickering, and myself, I remarked the smell of prussic acid. Mr. Norblad said he perceived none, but I was positive that I did. Prussic acid is excessively volatile, and it is this volatility which produces the smell. It has a very peculiar odour.—Mr. Kelly: Did you not boil down the contents of the stomach?

Mr. Serjeant BYLES objected, as he was about to call Mr. Cooper.

After some discussion, Mr. Baron PARKE decided that Serjeant Byles should resume the direct examination.

Witness examined by Mr. Serjeant BYLES.—The contents of the stomach were first exposed to evaporation. The retort was placed in a sand bath, and the sulphate of iron was applied to the distilled portion of what came off, and the sulphate of potassum and muriatic acid were subsequently added, and the result was prussian blue. The production of prussian blue is considered an infallible test of the presence of hydrocyanic acid. Mr. Cooper then placed the retort in a water-bath to obtain a lower temperature. The distillation was again tested. Mr. Cooper regulated the temperature by a thermometer. It would be impossible, in my opinion, to produce prussic acid from the decomposed contents of the stomach. The nitrate of silver was applied to the second distillation, and cyanide of silver was the result deposited on the glass. All the tests for prussic acid produced it.

Cross-examination resumed by Mr. KELLY.—Prussic acid is highly volatile, and of peculiar odour. Whilst it is volatilising a strong odour perceptible to any one is emitted. The contents of Sarah Hart's stomach were exposed to a boiling heat of 212 for several minutes. During that time we all tried to catch the odour, without discovering it. I don't know that I ever saw prussic acid distilled before. There was no odour from the few drops of blood I drew from the deceased. I don't feel competent to say that epileptic patients would be more easily acted on by prussic acid than others not so afflicted. The case to which I have alluded, in which 7-10ths of a grain was fatal in Paris, was that of seven epileptic patients, to whom by mistake a dose containing 7-10ths of a grain was administered to each, and they all died, some within a few minutes, others after three quarters of an hour.

[A debate here arose as to this case, it being reported differently in different books. Mr. Baron Parke referred to the original book, in which it was found that one died within fifteen minutes, and the rest at different periods to the last, who lived three-quarters of an hour.]

Cross-examination resumed. The odour was, in some cases, found eight days after death. After the froth had subsided from the porter I poured on the drachm of acid, I perceived the smell strongly. Hydrocyanic acid exists in many substances. In apples, and many fruits, for instance. I agree with Christison, who says, at page 756, that hydrocyanic acid is found in numerous substances, where it was not previously supposed to exist. The prussic acid of commerce is obtained from the blood and horns of animals. The chief components of prussic acid are 62.12 carbon, 12 of nitrogen, and 1 of hydrogen. It is said to exist in the human saliva; but not as prussic acid. It is called the sulph, cyanide. It exists as hydrocyanic in cherry stones and other fruit kernels. There was no smell at all during the tests of the deceased's stomach for the other poisons, and we then came to the conclusion that there must be prussic acid. The process through which the stomach and contents were then put, would produce prussic acid from apple pips or other fruit kernels. When we obtained the prussic acid it had no smell. Down to the last experiment, in which we obtained a certain large quantity of prussic acid, I perceived no smell at all after the first odour I perceived on opening the body. We did not burn any of the substances produced.

By Mr. Baron PARKE.—We did not try to burn the cyanide of silver.

Cross-examination continued.—The first thing I did when called in to Sarah Hart was to feel her pulse. I thought at first I perceived a slight pulsation—a throb or two; but now I imagine I did not feel any. When I put my hand upon the region of the heart there was no pulsation at all. I have never seen a positive case before where death ensued from prussic acid. The analogy between man and the inferior animals is very doubtful. I should say that Sarah Hart's lungs were slightly congested. They were in a natural and healthy state, but they contained more blood than usual. That is, not a perfectly healthy state, but there was no symptom of disease productive of death in them. That appearance might arise from many sorts of sudden death. The pericardium was empty. I don't think the quantity of blood contained in the lungs, although more than ordinary, could be properly called congestion, but it might be called slightly congested. I did not examine the spinal marrow. The gall bladder was of a natural colour. I examined the glottis particularly in order to find if any foreign substance had got down into it. I did not open the bronchial tubes; so that if there was water in them I don't know. I did not examine so low down. I felt satisfied the deceased was dead when I tried to bleed her. I thought it better to do so, as one of the usual means, merely in order to leave no means untried, as in cases of congestion of the head.—Mr. Kelly: Do you mean to say that you did not open the vein for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of death?—Witness: I may have tried to see whether the blood contained anything to account for death, and I wished to satisfy the persons present that nothing was left undone. I took out the contents of the stomach eighteen hours after death. The vessel into which I put them was perfectly clean. It was a broad-mouthed pickle bottle. I did not wash it out, but I held it up and looked through it, and saw it was clean and quite clear. That is the bottle (produced).

The witness was re-examined by Mr. Serjeant BYLES, at very considerable length, upon the subject of the qualities, &c., of prussic acid, and with regard to the cases of the seven epileptic patients in Paris.

The Court adjourned at seven o'clock.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY.

The Court resumed this morning at a few minutes before nine o'clock. The entrance to the Court-house was crowded to a dense degree, and it was with considerable difficulty an entrance could be effected.

The prisoner when placed in the dock seemed particularly nervous. He paid marked attention to the evidence, and particularly to the cross-examination of the witnesses by Mr. Fitzroy Kelly.

Mr. Cooper, the chemist of London, was the first witness called, and he was examined at considerable length by Mr. Serjeant BYLES, with reference to his experiments on the contents of the deceased's stomach, which had been submitted to him in order to test the existence of poison. He found in the stomach of deceased the pips of some apples. He discovered in the seeds of those apples a quantity of prussic acid. He was not enabled to say how much prussic acid had been originally introduced into the stomach before the contents were removed. A variety of circumstances might tend to decrease this quantity, as absorption by the system, &c.

Cross-examined by Mr. KELLY.—He had never before that time examined the contents of the human stomach where a person had been killed, or where prussic acid had been taken. He had had a good deal of experience of the chemical properties of prussic acid. It had a peculiar smell, whether in its strongest state as concentrated acid, or in its weakest form. It affected the back of the throat in a peculiar manner. He had met it more frequently in a diluted form, when combined with water, than in its concentrated state. He began his investigation with the view of ascertaining the presence of oxalic acid. When he tested the contents of the stomach he took various portions for the purpose of discovering the presence of various poisons. (The witness then detailed his mode of testing it.) He did not discover the smell of prussic acid on first testing the contents of the stomach. The smell of beer was the most predominant. When his experiments had failed to discover the other forms of poison, he directed all his skill to discover the existence of prussic acid. On the second examination, on the 8th of February, he took a great deal more care than on the previous examination. This was a test of quantity, not of quality. The quantity actually obtained was one grain and forty-three hundredths of a grain of prussic acid. One hundred and thirty-six grains of cyanite of silver was equivalent to twenty-seven grains of hydrocyanic acid. The stomach of deceased contained some undigested flesh, the apples he had already mentioned, and a pulpy mass, of which he could make nothing. He did not see the apple pips, but knowing that that tribe would yield prussic acid, he afterwards tested them. He was not aware that sweet almonds would yield prussic acid; the bitter almonds certainly would. He made an experiment, on two separate occasions, on different kinds of apples, and extracted a little prussic acid from both. The test was simply placing the pips in a retort with water, and distilling it. He then added to the distilled liquor a little sulphate of iron, and the contents of the other phial on the table was the result. He did not think it necessary to crush the pips; the distillation was the only test. He thought that no substance contained pure prussic acid. Prussic acid was so extremely volatile, that if it existed in a free state it must be continually evaporating, and it could not therefore exist unless combined with some other substances. Animal substances contained prussic acid. He would not say that it was likely to be produced by a change in organic matter. As far as he was aware of, he was himself the first discoverer of prussic acid in apple-pips. He was not aware that if apple-pips were macerated, that they would yield more hydrocyanic acid.

Mr. KELLY quoted from "Taylor on Poisons," to the effect that the odour of prussic acid was present when the poison itself was not existent. Did Mr. Cooper agree in that opinion? Witness—I do not.

By Mr. Baron PARKE.—After all the experiments he had made, he had no doubt of the presence of prussic acid in the stomach. The absence of smell might be accounted for by its dilution, or by its odour being covered by that of other substances. It did not follow that the prussic acid should be in the form of salt. He had never stated that it was in the form of salt. In his opinion it could not exist in the stomach as a cyanite of potassium, where another and more powerful acid, as muriatic acid, was present in the stomach in considerable quantities. He was not of opinion that prussic acid could be formed in the contents of the stomach by putrefaction.

Joseph Cooper, jun., was son of last witness, and had been his assistant for four years. He smelt the prussic acid in the course of these experiments at the time his father did.

Edward Weston Norblad, surgeon at Stroud.—He had practised for ten years. On Thursday, the 2nd of January, he went with Mr. Champneys to Mrs. Hart's house. He saw the body of the deceased there. He had heard the evidence of Mr. Champneys, and he would infer the existence of poison if death had suddenly followed the matter taken into the stomach. He would attribute the very sudden death of this person to one of two poisons—either prussic acid or oxalic acid. He was present at the two first examinations of the contents of the stomach. Mr. Cooper had correctly stated the tests he had applied, and he (witness) agreed with him in the inference he drew therefrom. Oxalic acid must have been detected if it contained that acid. He had no doubt that prussic acid was in the stomach, and he attributed the death of deceased to that cause. He had heard the account of the last witness of what took place in October, and the symptoms were such as would be on the whole of the animal creation. It destroys life in the same manner in all. He had himself tried experiments upon animals. He had seen goats, cats, and dogs poisoned. He had especially tried experiments upon dogs. He had administered to two dogs, some hours after feeding them—to one of them beer containing half an ounce of Scheele's and to the other one drachm of prussic acid. He gave it them at seven in the evening, and the effect was, that in fifty seconds the dog which had received the smaller dose fell, and in ten minutes he died. The second died in half the time. He opened the bodies of the dogs eighteen hours after death, the same period at which the deceased was opened, and he could ascertain no smell of prussic acid. On opening the stomachs of the dogs the prevalent smell was that of sour beer. The food was but half digested. He should have expected a smell of prussic acid in the case of a person who had died in a quarter of an hour after its being administered. He attributed the absence of smell to the admixture with the stout. He had examined the body of Mrs. Hart, and he would on opening the body have expected to find the cause of death, and if prussic acid had not existed in the stomach he had no doubt he could have traced some other cause. The body was perfectly healthy. He was much in the habit of opening bodies, and he was satisfied that less than one grain would cause death.

Cross-examined by Mr. KELLY.—He had never attended any one who had taken prussic acid. When taken as a medicine, the ordinary quantity was, of Scheele's, five minims, or drops. Prussic acid, he thought, might with advantage be used in varicose affections. He agreed with Dr. Thomson, of London, that, externally applied, prussic acid might be found useful in cancerous diseases. He had the sense of smell very acutely, and he could not detect the smell of the acid in the stomachs of the dogs. The dogs were kept in an outhouse after they were dead, and before they were opened. He tried these experiments on the dogs on the 18th Feb. succeeding the death of the deceased. Headache and vomiting frequently followed a disorder of the stomach occasioned by something being taken into it. The quantity vomited bore no proportion to the quantity taken into the stomach. He had given medicinal doses of prussic acid to allay irritation of the stomach.

Mr. KELLY.—In the whole course of your experience did you ever find vomiting produced by prussic acid?—I have seen dogs affected to vomiting.

Mr. KELLY.—I speak of the human being.

Witness (emphatically).—The stomach of the dog is exactly similar to that of the human being.

Mr. KELLY.—You speak very dogmatically, but I would wish a plain answer to a direct question. Have you, sir, in the course of your experience, seen vomiting from the stomach of a human being induced by prussic acid?—No; I have not.

Henry Thomas, chemist, Bishopsgate-street.—He remembered Wednesday, the 1st of January, perfectly well. He saw the prisoner on that day between twelve and two, at his shop. He asked for two drachms of Scheele's prussic acid. He brought a half-ounce phial, labelled "Scheele's prussic acid." He gave that bottle to put the prussic acid in. The phial had a glass stopper. Witness could not get the stopper out, and was in consequence obliged to give him a stopper of his own. He thought the prisoner said, "You need not put a label on;" but the circumstance was so common that he did not pay any attention to it. He said he wanted to apply the acid externally to a varicose vein. (The book in which the entry was marked was produced.) Witness saw the prisoner on the following day, between the hours of ten and twelve, and he asked for two drachms more. He said he had had a misfortune, he had broke the bottle. He had the same quantity as formerly in the bottle he had originally brought. He had been frequently to the shop before that time.

Cross-examined by Mr. KELLY.—If he covered the phial at all, it was with leather, and not with paper. He had no doubt that the prisoner was at that time affected, as he stated, with varicose veins. He did not believe that Scheele's prussic acid could be taken into the stomach and yet not ascertained by the smell. He had mixed thirty drops of Scheele's with eleven ounces, or nearly a tumbler full, of porter, and the smell was slightly perceptible. The bottle does not contain the quantity of eleven ounces. It is the property of this acid while it is volatilising to give out a smell. He was aware that apple-pips contained prussic acid. He saw fifteen small apples tested by distillation, and then with sulphuric acid and sulphate of iron. The quantity of prussic acid that resulted was one grain and one-fifth.

Mr. — Smythe, clerk to Barnett, Hoare, and Co., examined.—The prisoner had been in the habit of banking with them. On Wednesday, the 1st of January, he came between two and three o'clock, and drew a cheque for £14. Paid him in gold. His account was overdrawn at that date. He believed the paper shown him to be his handwriting. (The paper referred to was a prescription for varicose veins.)

Cross-examined.—There was not the slightest objection to his overdrawing his account.

Mary Ann Moss was next examined. She was aware of the intimacy between the prisoner and the deceased. Knew that he visited her at regular periods—once in six weeks, and that the prisoner was father of one of the children at Slough.

Sarah Bateman knew the deceased before she went into the prisoner's service; when engaged by the prisoner it was to nurse the first Mrs. Tawell, who shortly after died. In April, 1839, knew that the deceased was in the family way by the prisoner.

Grace Hadler.—The deceased was my daughter. I saw her last when she was living at Mr. Tawell's, in Bridge-street, in the Borough. I never saw her or heard of her afterwards until after her death.

Mr. Cooper recalled.—I tested the contents of the phial found in the cupboard in the deceased's parlour. It contained some liniment. Not a particle of prussic acid was in it.

This being the close of the case for the prosecution, the Court adjourned at half-past one o'clock, for a few minutes, for refreshment.

Mr. FITZROY KELLY proceeded to address the jury on behalf of the prisoner. He should perhaps have contented himself with a brief narrative of the facts of the case, but he could not forget that the circumstances connected with this case had, no doubt, come before them through the usual channels of public information, and he therefore felt it his duty to advert to another matter. It was stated that the unfortunate prisoner at the bar had many years ago been sent from his country for the commission of a certain act of which he was found guilty by a jury of his fellow men: but it was likewise known that he had cleared his character, and re-established himself as an honest Christian and charitable man. It must first, in order to convict the prisoner, be proved that the woman died in consequence of taking a dose of poison—that, in point of fact, prussic acid was administered to her by Mr. Tawell. These facts had not been proved; the evidence with regard to them was perfectly illusory. If they believed that the woman died of poison, it was necessary for the purposes of the prosecution to prove beyond the smallest doubt that the poison was administered to her by the prisoner. The jury must be made aware of that fact by certain and irresistible evidence before they could convict. With regard to poisoning by prussic acid, there were only eight or nine and thirty cases on record, and only two of those were found to be committed by design, the others were all accidental. Little, therefore, had been the experience of medical men in questions of this nature, and not one single person had been brought forward who could speak practically of the appearance of a body when under the influence of prussic acid. The opinions given by the medical men were framed upon what they had read in certain books, which were merely the opinions of the persons who wrote the books, and which could be no evidence at all. They were bound to prove, in the first instance, that one grain of prussic acid was sufficient to destroy life, and that one grain was found in the woman's body; and they had no such proof before them founded on practical experience. Mr. Champneys, who it could not be denied was the principal witness, when asked respecting the result of his own experiment, said that when he put the true quantity of prussic acid into the true quantity of porter "he could scarcely perceive the smell" until the froth had gone away. Now, if Mr. Champneys had written the result of that experiment in a book in the terms in which he gave it in evidence, and that his opinion was brought forward in a similar case to the present in a year to come,

THE HEIR-AT-LAW SOCIETY SWINDLE.

Last week a correspondent wrote us, asking for information respecting a Society ostensibly formed to aid parties who may be poor, and yet think they have claims and evidence that will establish them as heirs-at-law to certain properties. When we received the letter alluded to, we could do no more than state that such a society *did exist*—for of its nature and constitution, and of the degree of reliance to be placed on it, we had no means of knowing. At the very time, however, that we were penning a notice to that effect an examination was going on before Sir J. Duke, at the Guildhall, which calls in no common degree, on those about to place themselves in the hands of the said society to be cautious and wary, else they may happen to find themselves the victims of an arrant swindle. To put such on their guard we give the examination referred to. It took place on Thursday last:—

Hugh Williams, the clerk of the Heir-at-Law Society, again appeared before Sir J. Duke to answer the complaint of a poor man named Bridger, who has come to London to prosecute a claim to an estate in the country worth £40,000. The charge was, that the society had received £2 4s. 6d. for the special purpose of taking counsel's opinion, and in violation of good faith had not so applied it.

Williams had attended on a previous day, when he stated that the manager, Mr. G. Ross, was out of town, and that, in fact, Mr. Ross knew nothing of the matter, as the complainant's money had been embezzled by a late clerk. The complainant having ascertained that the manager is a prisoner in the Queen's Prison, and not a visitor in the country, renewed his application.

Sir J. Duke asked if Ross was now in attendance?

Williams answered he was not; but he was there on behalf of Mr. Ross and the society.

Sir J. Duke said he had received letters from parties who complained that they had paid money, and received no service from the society. If this was the practice of the society it bordered on swindling.

Williams said he was ready to answer any charge.

Sir J. Duke asked who Watson, the chairman of the society, was?

Williams replied, he was a gentleman.

Sir J. Duke said that was no answer. If Mr. Watson was really a respectable man he need not shrink from publicity.

Williams replied, that the proceedings were too public, and that was the reason he should not give names.

Sir J. Duke said, Mr. Boyle, of the Temple, had come forward to disclaim being what Williams had represented, the standing counsel of the society.

Williams stated that he was the society's standing counsel now. Cases were drawn, and submitted for his opinion. He produced the book in which the cases and opinions were entered, and said the society's early cases had been submitted to Mr. Barker. It was very easy to cast imputations.

Sir J. Duke asked who Mr. Barker was?

Williams replied, he was a barrister of long standing.

Sir J. Duke said, he was astonished the public could be led astray by a society which had attracted the notice of one of the Queen's judges, and pointed out as a fit object for prosecution by the Attorney-General. The alderman asked if Mr. Ross was still out of town?

Williams said he was. He had gone to Brighton.

Sir J. Duke asked when he saw him last?

Williams said he should not answer that question. There was no complainant in court, and was he to be examined and to make a defence where there was no charge? Sir J. Duke said if he would tell who were the seven directors of the society he should feel obliged.

Williams said he would not tell, for the reason he had already given.

Sir J. Duke hoped the public would be cautious in their dealings with a society, the directors of which shrunk from the disclosure of their names.

Williams said, of course they would be ashamed to see their names in a police report. Surely the case was not to be entered upon *ex parte*. Who accused the society? Had Sir. J. Duke any right to examine him (the clerk) at all?

Sir J. Duke said the complainant had taken out the summons, and perhaps Mr. Williams could account for his absence?

Williams declared that he had not compromised with the complainant, and if he now came for his money, perhaps the magistrate would order it should not be paid.

The Alderman called for Mr. Toole.

Mr. Toole said he would state his case. He had not exactly a complaint to make. He was at Hull some months ago, and he undertook to obtain an opinion on the claim of a poor man named Doughty. He obtained the opinion of a respectable practitioner, which was adverse from want of certain papers. The poor man got more papers, and, as a last resort, placed them in the hands of the society. Upon paying the money, he obtained the following receipt:—

"Heir-at-Law Society, No. 358.
"Office, 14, Chatham-place, Blackfriars.
"Received, the 13th of August, 1844, of Mr. Joseph Doughty, the sum of £2 4s 6d, being the fee of counsel for his opinion and advice herein. George Ross."

Williams, interrupting the complainant, asked what was the charge?

Toole said he did not make a charge.

Williams observed that he had no right to be heard at all; he was not to cast imputations on the society if he had no charge. He protested in the strongest manner against anything further being heard, as he had no charge to make.

Sir J. Duke said it was for him to judge whether there was ground of charge after hearing the circumstances.

Williams again formally protested against Mr. Toole being heard.

Mr. Toole, however, continued.—Such a society, honestly conducted, would be a great benefit to society.

Williams said he was willing to return Mr. Toole the papers.

Sir J. Duke said he would not allow Mr. Toole to be interrupted; the time to reply was when he had finished.

The complainant continued.—After paying the fee the client received a letter promising that his case should be submitted to counsel in its turn, but from August to March that turn had not arrived. A great many applications had been made at the offices in Trafalgar-square and Chatham-place, but no information had been obtained.

Sir J. Duke asked if an opinion had been taken on this case?

Williams referred to his book, but could not find one.

Sir J. Duke remarked, that it would not have been difficult to manufacture an opinion and affix any counsel's name to it. He asked Williams if he should read the opinion of the society expressed by one of the Queen's judges?

Williams protested energetically against any *ex-parte* proceedings—any expression of insinuations against the society.

Sir J. Duke said, it did not appear that the society had done anything in the case mentioned by Mr. Toole but give a receipt for the money. The gentleman sitting at his left hand, and whom Williams did not appear to know, was Mr. Boyle, whom he had misrepresented as being the standing counsel of the society.

Williams denied that he had so represented Mr. Boyle.

Sir J. Duke said he gave the society credit for engaging a man of Williams's ingenuity and boldness.

Mr. Boyle begged to state that he was not the standing counsel of the society, nor in any way connected with it. His opinion of certain cases had been obtained through a solicitor in the ordinary manner. He had a list of the cases in which he had advised, and would show it to the Alderman.

Sir J. Duke thanked him for his attention, and said it might be of some utility to print that list; it ran as follows:—"To advising on papers, Jan. 19, re Salomon; Jan. 19, re Pelham; Jan. 26, re Phillips; Jan, 29, re Barrett; Feb. 8, re Danvers; Feb. 14, re Crump; Feb. 15, re Haweis; Feb. 28, re Carew; March 5, re Wood; March 27, re Wood; May 29, re Salusbury; May 29, re Barnes; June 11, re St. Aubyn; June 11, re Meredyth; Aug. 6, re Swinton; Aug. 6, re Rawlins; Aug. 6, re Eustace."

Mr. Tomkinson, of the Walworth-road, made a complaint, but in his case a legal opinion seemed to have been taken.

The chief clerk told Williams if he wished to see Mr. Ross he might find him in the Queen's Prison, but Williams turned a deaf ear to it.

Sir J. Duke, therefore, asked him if he wished to hear where Mr. Ross was?

Williams said no, he did not. It was shocking that there should have been an inquiry when no charge was made. Such insinuations ought not to be permitted. The society was ready and able to answer every accusation that could be brought against it.

Sir J. Duke was glad to hear it, and discharged Mr. Williams from further attendance on Bridger's complaint.

From a prospectus, dated 1842, which was put in, it appeared the society was described as having a capital of £100,000, in 100 shares of £1,000, one-half paid up, the other half made up of accumulating profits. Rest, £25,000. Established 1839. Conducted under the superintendence and management of seven directors (three being a quorum); and able assistants. George Ross, manager; W. H. Watson, chairman. A paper, which gives the resolutions of the committee held on the 9th of November, 1841, states that the society have now placed by clients at their disposal various sums amounting to upwards of £800,000, to be laid out in mortgage. Another prospectus, dated February, 1845, which was handed to the magistrate, gives the amount to be loaned on mortgage at only £500,000; but it states that the society has 450 claims relating to property amounting to £20,000,000 under consideration.

On Tuesday last there was another case before the magistrates at Guildhall. The following are the particulars:—

After disposing of some business, Sir P. Laurie asked if a person named Henry Scholefield, of the Bull's Head, Tottenham-court-road, was present?

Scholefield presented himself.

Sir P. Laurie said he understood he had some application to make respecting the Heir-at-Law Society. Sir P. Laurie found, by a letter addressed to him at his private residence, that the society had obtained something more from him than a fee for counsel's opinion.

Scholefield said, he had come up to London from Lancashire to obtain the aid of the society, as it purposed to be instituted for the special benefit of the poor. He was a power-loom weaver, and his finances would not allow him to remain any longer in town. He wanted, therefore, to ask the alderman's advice how he was to recover his papers, and also a sum of £10 obtained from him under the pretext of taking some proceedings in Chancery, to compel the executor to pay the legacy he claimed.

Sir P. Laurie asked him if he had been to Chatham-place to ask for his papers?

He said he had been five times that day, and Hugh Williams, the clerk, told him to come again at two o'clock, and then he would see Mr. Ross, and get a letter for Mr. Smith.

Sir P. Laurie asked who he was?

Scholefield said he was acting on behalf of another, a poor man named Thomas Smith, at Lowton, near Leigh, Manchester. The first sum of £2 4s. 6d. was paid on the 11th of November, 1843, and he received a reply, requesting a statement of the particulars. He afterwards received a copy of the case and counsel's opinion thereon. Then followed the application for £10, which was remitted. He received the following answer:—

December 23, 1844.

Sir,—I am directed by this Society to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st, enclosing £10, which you may rely on being applied to the best advantage of the claimant, and that you shall shortly hear from us again on the subject. In the meantime, give us the name and residence of Mr. Kidd, and you need not doubt he will soon be brought to account by this Society, for whom

I am, &c., Geo. Ross.

Sir P. Laurie looked at this letter, and said it was in the handwriting of Ross. He knew the man; and he asked how the applicant first heard of the society?

Scholefield replied, a person who had obtained a circular in Lancashire, showed it to him and others who had claims to property.

Sir P. Laurie asked what amount Smith was seeking to recover.

Scholefield replied it was a legacy of £4,000.

Sir P. Laurie said, he wished he had not known so much of Ross. The applicant would never get a 6d., and he should be thankful he had not been duped to a greater extent. Perhaps, Williams might be indicted with Ross for conspiracy, but the sessions did not begin till the second week in April, and the applicant had better return to Lancashire if he could obtain his papers. He had no notion how much money was obtained in London by mere schemes.

The Lancashire man said he supposed about half a million per annum. (Loud laughter.)

Sir P. Laurie said it might be as much as that, for many persons were gulled with schemes to make money, who were ashamed to confess it.

The list of opinions given by the company's counsel was referred to, and the opinion produced (which was not signed) was not amongst them.

The applicant said Mr. Ross was only the manager. He had asked for an interview with the Mr. Wentworth Watson, who was chairman of the Board of Directors, of whom three were magistrates (as Hugh Williams assured him), but he had not been honoured with one.

Sir P. Laurie said if there were three magistrates in the Direction, it was not enough to establish their respectability. All magistrates were not spotless characters. He knew Mr. Watson. It was the same man that projected a bridge across Farringdon-street, to avoid the declivity of Holborn-hill. Sir P. Laurie recommended the applicant to return home if he could get his papers.

The applicant withdrew.

Correspondence.

THE SCOTTISH POOR LAW SYSTEM.—SHAMELESS TYRANNY AND INJUSTICE AT DUNDEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

Sir,—As your columns have ever been open to expose every injustice or oppression inflicted upon the working classes, I trust that you will give a place (in what is so emphatically and so truly termed Labour's Journal) to the following statement of a new and most gigantic stride of oppression, at present in course of being perpetrated upon the working classes of Dundee. Owing to the late secession from the Established Church of Scotland, the Kirk Sessions, who formerly transacted the business of the receipt and distribution of the poor's funds, became here, as in many other places (by the withdrawing of the greater part of the members), totally inefficient for the purpose; hence a new arrangement was found necessary, and this was undertaken by our magistrates, the new Kirk Sessions, and the landward heritors of the parish (the parties, by-the-bye, who were formerly assessed along with the middle classes and the shopocracy), to make up the necessary sum, for which the voluntary contributions at the church doors were found deficient. The parties above-mentioned held a meeting some time in the month of March, 1844, at which they resolved to assess, not only the heritors, the middle classes, and the shopocracy, but also the working classes (who were never assessed before), if they were in the receipt of 11s. 6d. per week, or £30 per annum of wages, and they appointed a committee to carry out that resolution, which they are now doing with a vengeance. This measure, as was most natural, produced much surprise and discontent among the working classes, as too many of them do not earn so much, and even those who earn 15s. a week (which is considered very good wages) are subjected to great irregularity in employment between occasional want of work, sickness, and the weather. From these causes a weekly wage of 15s. is too often nearer an average of 10s. However, as these measures met with much opposition, the same parties, at another meeting in September last, resolved to give up the first mode of robbing the workies and try another. Having spent some time in maturing their plan, they disagreed again, and had recourse to an opinion of counsel. At another meeting, held in October, the same parties rescinded the resolution of the second meeting, and adopted the resolution of the first meeting, with a most absurd and iniquitous amendment, adopting as the test of a working man's income the rent of the house he inhabited. In this way, a man paying £4 a year of rent, is held to be worth £30 per annum, taking it for granted as a fact, that because he has a house a whole year, that he has work the whole year, health the whole year, and good weather the whole year. No matter, though the working man struggles to keep in one or two benefit societies to meet the rent day, or occasional illness, he must be made to pay into a fund that denies him all assistance, till he has sold all his clothes and furniture, and then, if a doctor certifies he is unable to work, and he signs a will, bequeathing all or any money, or property, that may be bequeathed, or to which he may become heir, he then, if he can prove he has resided six years in the parish, and produce all the receipts for rent and taxes, for those six years previous, he may then *perhaps* be put on the roll, and *perhaps not*, for even all these are sometimes insufficient to rouse the sleeping humanity of the committee; and when he does get any relief, he may get *one shilling, or one shilling and sixpence a week, to maintain a family!* But to return to the subject, the great secret of the whole matter is this: that the more they can screw out of the working classes, the less they have to pay themselves, and a house at £5 per annum is data for £40 worth of labour in a year; neglecting the fact, that as a family increases in numbers, they require a larger house; so that in place of helping a man with a large family, he is more grievously oppressed, while the man who has no family, or a small one, finds sufficient accommodation in a small house, whatever may be his wages. I know individuals who receive from £1 to 30s. weekly, that under this system have been missed altogether, while, within a few doors of them, two poor weavers earning 8s. or 9s. a week, with large families, are rated 3s. 9d. The whole thing is most unjust and oppressive.

The oppressors of the poor held what they called a court of appeal, but it was previous to any intimation to the working classes that they were to pay. After the appeal court was closed, they then sent round, demanding payment, and threatening prosecution if not complied with in seven days. Since then, they have sent letter after letter by post, reiterating the same tune, but, so far as I know, they have not yet put their threats into force. About a month ago, a public meeting of the inhabitants was called to consider the matter, when it was determined to refuse payment, and to assess ourselves in five per cent. of the sums demanded, to raise a fund for the defence of any working man who contributed to it, he being entirely dependent on his labour for support. A committee of twenty-one were chosen to manage the business, and collect funds, for which purpose the town has been divided into districts; and I am happy to add, that already a goodly sum has been collected, and cheering assurances of support if it should be required.

As we hear rumours of attempts to assess the working classes in many other places, we are anxious that they should know that a determined stand is to be made against it; and as an opinion of the court of session, at the request of Mr. Gladstone, of Paskew, has been obtained, that agricultural labourers are exempt from this tax, we, who live by labour alone, maintain that we have an equal privilege, and we are determined to preserve it.

Knowing that the *Star* is read through all "braid Scotland," and anticipating that the working men of Scotland may unite with us at a future period, if necessary, for the preservation of our rights, in a constitutional manner, that the support of the poor may be derived from the land of their birth, and, not from the scanty means of the labourer and artisan.

I remain, sir, by order of the committee, your most obedient servant,

Dundee, Feb. 20th, 1845. Peter Strathern.

The Weather on the Continent.—Hamburgh, March 4.—Letters from St. Petersburgh of the 22d ult. state that the cold had been intense in the extreme there during three weeks (from twenty-three to twenty-five degrees of Reaumur), but that it had somewhat abated in consequence of a very heavy fall of snow, which had rendered the streets almost impassable. The latest intelligence from Norway is of the 21st ult. It appears that the weather there was also mere than usually severe. A Copenhagen paper of the 26th ult., states that on the previous Friday a one-horse sledge was driven across the Sound in three hours and a half, from Landscrona, on the Swedish coast, to the above city. Several persons had crossed on foot from Malmo.

Atmospheric Changes.—Although changes in the temperature are more prevalent in the temperate zone than in other latitudes, there is scarcely a spot to be found where such great differences exist as in Great Britain, varying in a few hours some twenty degrees or more. The effect of such rapid changes on the bodily health is very afflicting to many thousands of persons, especially those in the middle and more advanced ages of life, causing attacks of those painful disorders, Sciatica, Gout, and Rheumatism. Happily for those who are afflicted with those painful diseases, chemical science has produced that excellent medicine, Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills.

Accidents, Offences, & Inquests.

Final Examination and Committal of Thomas Henry Hocker.—Tuesday being appointed for the final examination of Hocker, at Marylebone Police Office, the neighbourhood of that court was crowded at an early hour, and the greatest anxiety prevailed to obtain a view of the prisoner. Mr. Rawlinson took his seat on the bench shortly before eleven o'clock, when the doors were opened, and the rush to gain admittance was, if possible, greater than on the inquiry before the coroner. The prisoner was brought from the New Prison, Clerkenwell, as early as half-past eight o'clock in the morning, and immediately afterwards placed in one of the cells adjoining the court. He appeared on his arrival in good spirits, but shortly after he was locked up he became very distressed, and asked for pens, ink, and paper, for the purpose, he said, of finishing his defence. He was very silent, and refused to answer any questions which were put to him. Shortly after ten o'clock Mr. Rawlinson, the magistrate, took his seat on the bench, but the doors of the court were not opened to the public until a quarter before eleven. In the meantime Inspectors Shackell, Haynes, and Grey had an interview with the magistrate. As soon as the door was opened a tremendous rush took place, and the court immediately became filled almost to suffocation. The Magistrate then proceeded with the night charges. Mrs. Edwards and Miss Philps arrived shortly afterwards, and were taken into one of the ante-rooms of the court. At a quarter past eleven o'clock the prisoner was brought in and placed at the felon's bar. He manifested much the same ease and apparent indifference to the situation in which he stands as on former occasions; but he fell into occasional fits of dejection. The first witness called was John Baldock, S 304. He stated—When I was in the field in which the murder was committed, and while another constable had gone to get a stretcher, to carry away the body, I heard a man coming whistling along. When he had come nearly up to me I called out "Halloa!" and he replied, "Halloa, policeman." I then said, "I have got a very serious case in the corner here." He said, "What is it?" I said, "It is a dead man, and I think he has cut his throat." He said, "Are you sure he is quite dead?" I answered, "Yes, I have felt his pulse, and I think he is quite dead." The man then put out his hand and himself felt the dead man's pulse. He next said, "You have got a nasty job alone, policeman." I said, "They are gone for the stretcher, and I dare say they'll soon be back." He said, "I'll wait with you till the stretcher comes, as you are left alone." He said he felt very much shocked at seeing such a sight, and added, that he had been in the habit of travelling that way at night for the last two years, but never "see'd no danger in coming that way before." He said he transacted business in London during the day, and generally came that way home at night; that he generally had a great sum of money about him, a watch and a ring upon him, and that he had been cautioned by his parents not to come that way, but he never saw any danger in it himself. He afterwards said he felt very queer, and thought he wanted a little drop of brandy. He asked me if I would like to have any, and I said "no;" he next took a shilling out of his pocket, and asked me to take that to get some with. I said, I must not take it, as I was not allowed to do it." He pressed me to take it, and said there was no harm in it, as he should say nothing about it. I said "I would rather not;" but after he pressed me more I took it.—Mr. Rawlinson: That is the reason, I suppose, why you did not tell me or the coroner of this before?—Witness: No, sir; it was not.—Then, why did you not mention it?—I thought it was of no consequence.—Magistrate: But you are sworn to tell the whole truth, and not to judge of what is important and what is not.—The witness proceeded: Serjeant Fletcher and other officers then came with the stretcher and carried away the body. I last saw the person who gave me the shilling near Bellsize-lane. I do not know that I should know him again. He had a cloak on, and was muffled up a good deal, as any person would be on a cold night. I produce the hat which was found at the feet of the dead man; it is bruised, and has blood upon it. I produce a stick also, which has blood upon it too.—A hat and stick were here produced which had marks of blood upon them; they were found near the deceased.—James Euston, police constable 163 A: I was with the prisoner two hours before his last examination.—Mr. Rawlinson: And you had some communication with him?—Witness: Yes, sir.—Mr. Rawlinson: Then tell me what passed.—Witness: Prisoner had some toast taken to him in the cell, but he did not eat it for an hour. He made a noise at the door, and when I opened it he jumped from his seat, and said he could throw some light on the affair, and wished to see the gaoler and the waiter of the Swiss Cottage. Prisoner told me that some time after the murder he went to the Swiss Cottage, called for a glass of rum and water, and paid the waiter a shilling. Prisoner gave the waiter twopence, when the latter replied, "You are a gentleman, sir." The prisoner added, and he did not know me. He next said, "Then, that Baldock, the policeman—I stood in the field five-and-twenty minutes with him, close to the deceased. I had my cloak on, it was a cold night, and I asked him to have some brandy, which he refused. I pressed him to have it very much, and at last he received a shilling. I remained there while they went for the stretcher." That is all he said; I made no remarks.—Mr. Fell, the clerk, said he thought, if the magistrate allowed the witness to recollect himself, he would state something else.—Witness: He said a good deal, but nothing of importance.—Mr. Rawlinson: You are not to judge of the importance; state all he said.—Witness proceeded: O, yes. He said he had got it down, "ins and outs." He had four sides of paper written on. I said, "Have you got it down, then?" and he answered, "Yes, I have got it all down here," and he meant to explain it when he went inside.—Mr. Rawlinson (to prisoner): Have you any questions to ask?—Prisoner: I have a statement to make.—Mr. Rawlinson: You must defer your statement, but are at liberty to ask any question.—Prisoner: The witness has made an important omission. He has said nothing about my asking respecting a knife.—Witness: You never did ask me about a knife.—Mrs. Maria Edwards examined: I live now at 61, Tichfield-street. I lived some time since in Portland-place, as town maid to a gentleman of fortune. I have known the prisoner since Christmas last. I saw him first at Bath-place, New-road, in company with Miss Philps, the young lady who was allowed to sleep in Portland-place. I remember the prisoner coming to Portland-place about nine or half-past nine o'clock on the night of the murder. He came in at the front door, and went to the housekeeper's room. He appeared in very good spirits. I did not see that there was any dirt or blood on his clothes. He said that he had just come from Grafton-street. I noticed that the prisoner had a watch with a chain, which looked like gold, on the Friday night in question. He also had a gold ring, which he showed to Miss Philps. She said the ring was too large for him, and then put it into her pocket. Prisoner had some bread and cheese in Portland-place.—Mr. Rawlinson: People sometimes wash their hands before eating, did he do so?—Witness: Not that I saw; there was water in the room, but I did not see him. I was in and out a good deal. I heard nothing said about blood on his shirt. Miss Philps saw it, and mentioned it after he was gone. I did not hear anything said about any part of his dress. He had a mackintosh on his arm when he came in.—Henry Evans Taylor: I live at 8, Allsop-mews, Dorset-square. About three weeks ago I found a stick on Macclesfield-bridge, Regent's-park.—Mr. Rawlinson: Recollect yourself; you must be mistaken.—Witness: No; it was about three weeks ago.—[The stick was here produced. It is a heavy bludgeon, and rather a formidable weapon.]—Witness continued: The stick is in the same condition as when I found it. It has not been washed. I did not observe anything particular about it.—[There was a mark of blood on the handle, and another near the lower end.]—The witness, who is a lad about thirteen or fourteen years old, appeared uncertain about the time.—Henry Taylor, father of the last witness, said his boy brought him the stick produced eight or nine days before the murder was committed. [The prisoner here smiled.] I heard of the murder the day after it was committed.—The Boy recalled: I have never said it was on the Saturday that I found the stick.—Nathaniel O'Neile examined: I am a plasterer. I do not know the boy Taylor. He never told me anything about a stick.—William Taylor recalled: The stick is in the same state now as when it was given to my son.—Inspector Grey examined: I went to the residence of the last witness on Saturday, when he produced the stick now in court. On looking at it I discovered marks of blood; it appeared evident to me that it had been washed. He told me that he had not washed it.—Mr. Rawlinson: How do you account for the stick being so clean now?—Witness: I think it must have been washed.—Mr. Thomas Hocker examined: On looking at the stick he said, I believe this stick belongs to my son; I have not seen it before for three weeks.—James Hocker examined; I am brother to the prisoner. The stick now produced is my brother's. I am quite positive that it is the one which he used to carry about with him, and the one he told me some time since that he had lost.—This closed the evidence for the prosecution.—Mr. Rawlinson told the prisoner that the whole of the evidence which had been adduced against him would now be read over; after that he (Mr. R.) would hear any statement the prisoner might wish to make.—The prisoner bowed to the magistrate, but made no reply.—Mr. Fell, chief clerk, then read over the whole of the evidence which has been taken, which occupied a considerable length of time.—The prisoner, during the examination, held a bundle of writing paper in his hand; he was very composed during the inquiry, but towards its close became very weak and exhausted, and was obliged to have a seat. At the conclusion of the evidence Inspector Shackell stated that a person had just come into court who was anxious to communicate some important information.—Joseph Henry Nash, on being sworn and examined, said: I live at 17, Old Church-street, Paddington, and on the night of the murder I was engaged on business in the neighbourhood of St. John's-wood. Coming round by the Swiss Cottage, between six and seven o'clock in the evening, for I know that to be the time from that at which I left home, I entered the Avenue-road, and when I got half way down it I heard the cries of "Murder." I stopped to listen to the direction from which the sounds proceeded, and I found that it rose at a distance of half a mile across the fields. I did not pay much attention to the sound, as I did not hear it more than once to the best of my knowledge. I stood, however, for ten minutes listening, and then I saw a man coming close along the hedge towards me, and from that quarter. He ran right up against me and stopped at once, "all in a bustle." I said to him, "Did you hear the cry of murder?" but he never answered, and off he ran. I am confident the prisoner is the same man, for I have seen him before. It was a very fine night, too, being between light and dark; and I am quite sure—I have no doubt—that it was the prisoner I then saw. He appeared to be all in a flurry and bustle when I met him. I did not observe that he had a stick with him at the time, but it might have been so. The scene of the murder is the breadth of three fields and a small space from the spot where I stood at the time; or, as I think, a good half mile. When the prisoner left me, he was running away from the quarter in which the Swiss Cottage lay. I did not observe particularly the manner in which he was dressed, or whether he wore a mackintosh, but his clothes appeared to be dark in colour.—Mr. Rawlinson, having again inquired if there was any further evidence to be produced, and his being answered in the negative, he said: Prisoner, the inquiry before me is now closed, and I feel it my duty to commit you to Newgate on the charge of Wilful Murder. I wish to inform you, however, that the time is arrived when you are at liberty to make any statement you please, but you are not required to do so without you wish.—Prisoner: I thank you, sir.—Mr. Rawlinson: I should also tell you that whatever statement you make will be taken down in writing, and produced at your trial.—The prisoner, holding up a bundle of writing paper, said, "I decline, sir, to say anything to-day." He was then removed from the bar, and shortly afterwards conveyed in the prison-van to Newgate.—Lord Montford, Mr. Long, and a number of country magistrates, were on the bench during the inquiry. The court was crammed to suffocation, and the crowd outside was almost impassable. The prisoner attempted to smile as he was conducted to the cell previous to being removed to Newgate, but it was evident to all near him that he was labouring under great mental agitation and suffering. We were not able to ascertain whether the roll of paper which the prisoner held in his hand during the inquiry relating to his defence or not. He has refused to show it to any person whatever, and will not give any information on the subject. The most remarkable circumstance connected with the day's examination was the apparent discrepancy in the evidence related to the stick with which the murder is supposed to have been committed—the witnesses Taylor and his son both swearing that it was in their possession previously to the crime being committed, while on the other hand the father and brother of the prisoner both speak positively to the fact of the stick being the property of the prisoner Thomas Hocker. It was thought not a little remarkable, also, that the witness Nash should have waited to the very last moment, before he came forward with evidence of so much importance to the case as it affects the prisoner.

Late Explosion at Blackwall.—Inquest on the Bodies.—On Monday morning the adjourned inquest on the bodies of the persons who met with their death by the explosion of a boiler at Blackwall, was resumed before Mr. Baker, at the Town Hall, Poplar. Before the proceedings commenced the coroner said, that an arrangement had been entered into with Mr. Carttar, the coroner for Kent, to bring the body of Jonathan Smith, who was taken to the Dreadnought Hospital after the explosion and there died, into this county, that it might be placed under the inquiry of the same jury with the rest. The jury was then re-sworn; and they proceeded to view the body, which had been placed by the side of the others, and, if possible, presented a more ghastly and revolting appearance than any. On the return of the jury from viewing the body, James Cole identified it as that of Jonathan Smith, labourer, in the employment of Mr. Samuda. No doubt existed that he met with his death at the explosion. John Cockayne was sworn. He said—I live at No. 4, Orchard-place, All Saints, Poplar, and am a grinder of plates for railroads by trade. I have been in the employ of Mr. Samuda about six or seven weeks, and the boiler in question was purchased after I was engaged. Do not know how much was given for it, or of whom it was purchased. Did not think it had been on Mr. Samuda's premises so long as a month. I was not employed in working at it until the time of its connection with the engine. It was to be connected, and we commenced working at it on the Saturday night, and finished by Tuesday morning following, when the steam was got up. The boiler appeared perfect to me, and I observed nothing to make me suppose there was anything the matter with it. By Tuesday it was connected so as to drive the engine. Do not know the power of the engine. I saw the steam occasionally blown off at the safety-valve, and it appeared to do so freely. I have seen it blow off at the safety-valve, both with and without the operation of the hand. The steam is let off by the hand by pulling a lever downwards. Mr. Lowe had the regulation and control of the valve. He is the foreman of the works of Mr. Samuda, and the boiler was entirely under his control whilst I was there. I saw no process of the proof of the boiler before it was connected with the engine, and cannot speak to the power it had. After breakfast, on the morning of the accident, I said to Mr. Lowe that "It was a bad job we can't get to work to-day." He answered, "Yes, it is, but there's plenty of steam, and I can't tell what to make of it." I think Mr. Lowe said there was about 40lb. or 50lb. of steam in the boiler, and he couldn't account for the engine not working faster. I believe when he said that, he meant to the square inch. Four or five men were employed turning the fly-wheel round to see if they could get it to go any faster, but to no purpose. I did not see any more fire put on. I saw a piece of wood, about three inches by four square, placed up against the boiler, with a nail driven into it, about three inches from the top. The witness then described the position of the wood in reference to the safety-valve; and added, that there was room for play between the nail and the safety-valve handle. He then went on to say—I put my foot at the bottom, and pressed the nail up to the handle, so as to prevent the lever from rising. Mr. Lowe told me to leave it alone, and he then put it back again to the same position it was in before I touched it. I then went away to my own shop, and ten minutes afterwards the explosion took place. I saw the steam blowing off when the wood was in the position described, and I could not see that my putting my foot to the bottom of it made any difference in it. The engine by neither operation went any faster.—John Guiber Bernand was the next witness called. He said—I live at No. 12, Store-street, Bromley, and am a wheelwright. I have been in the employ of Mr. Samuda about seven or eight months. I do not know anything of the purchase, proving, or manufacture of the boiler before the accident occurred. I was first employed at the boiler in attaching steam-pipes to it on the night of last Sunday week. The work was done in a proper manner, and the explosion has shown nothing to lead me to suppose to the contrary. The materials appeared to be sound and good, and fit for the purposes they were made for. I observed no flaws about anything at the time of connecting the boiler and engine, but everything seemed perfectly secure. The covering of the boiler was made of wrought iron, and I cannot say what was its thickness, though I do not think it was sufficiently thick. It was a low-pressure boiler and was put to high-pressure use. I have known low-pressure or condensing engines work with the pressure of 9lb., 10lb., and 15lb. to the square inch. The boiler in question once belonged to a pair of locomotive engines, and I consider that if a pressure of 45lb. to the square inch were placed to such a boiler, there would be great danger of an explosion. I have several times remarked, that if it was so used some accident would occur. I have never said so to Mr. Lowe, for it is no use saying anything to him, he will always have his own way. I cannot say what pressure of steam there was at the time of the explosion. I should not consider the boiler safe, or trust my life near it, if it had 20lb. pressure on it. There was a weight on the safety-valve, and the lever attached to it was also kept down. I cannot swear it, but I think there was more than 20lb. pressure at the time of the explosion. There were two weights attached to the safety-valve, a square one and a round one. [The witness then gave in a drawing of the boiler and the safety-valve, with the piece of wood that propped it up. It appears that there were two weights of different sizes attached to the safety-valve, the smaller one being at the end of a rod, attached to a lever, and hanging down the side of the boiler. As the steam in the boiler increased, it opened the safety-valve, raising the lever, and causing the rod or handle with the weight at the end to descend. To stop the descent of this rod, a piece of wood, with a nail driven into it, protruding about three inches from the top, was placed against the boiler, and the weight at the end of the rod or handle rested on the nail, by which the valve was kept closed. The drawings were handed round to the jury for their inspection, and witness proceeded.] Anything placed underneath the handle would prevent the valve from rising, and the valve being prevented from rising would cause an explosion. I was coming out of my workshop to work at the job after breakfast, and heard the steam puffing up and down as if some person was playing with the valve. I went up and saw Mr. Lowe was there, and he told me to get a nail, but I could not find a hammer, so I got a chisel. There was a piece of the small end of a scaffold pole lying down by the boiler at the time. I do not know which of us picked it up, but Lowe held the handle of the safety-valve up whilst I drove the nail into the wood. He then pulled the handle down, and the steam blew off violently. After I fixed the nail in the piece of wood, he had another play with the valve, for I call what he did playing. I saw Mr. Lowe place the piece of wood against the boiler before the nail was driven, and he held it in the position he wished to have it whilst I drove the nail into it. Before the piece of wood was applied, the handle had rested on one of the boiler rivets; a fixture, it was taken off the rivets, and Mr. Lowe held it whilst I drove the nail into the wood, by his orders, under it. The nail would have the same effect as the rivet, except that it would not bear so much pressure. It was an eightpenny or tenpenny class nail—the point was broken off. I removed the handle of the safety-valve from the rivet three times during the morning, not considering it safe in that position. I left the boiler with the handle resting upon the nail. I do not think there was any room for play between the handle and the nail when I left it, and the explosion took place within a quarter of an hour of that time. I cannot say that I saw any one go near the boiler after I left it, as I was too busy to pay that attention. I account for the slow going of the engines by the condensation of the steam in the pipes between the boiler and the engine; and I knew it practically to have been so by putting a cock into an elbow pipe of about six feet length, through which the steam went. I told Mr. Lowe that he ought to have the cock placed in another position, to have the water drawn off, the day before the accident. Mr. Lowe, however, did not do as I proposed, but said, "Ah, mon, ye know nothing at all about it." I think he knew nothing about it himself. There had been a gauge-glass on the Monday preceding the accident, which was broken; and another glass was supplied, but it was a very thin one, and not fit for the purpose it was placed there for. I believe it was only useful in cold water, and not able to bear the hot water. The glass was covered over with a nail bag, or a piece of sack, and I could not see the state of the steam when I went to the boiler. There were two gauge-cocks in front of the boiler, but I consider they were not in the proper place. I consider that there was not sufficient water in the boiler; very little had been pumped in, for the men had not given above two dozen strokes at the pump, which was worked by the hand. In order to prevent the tubes in the boiler from getting red hot, the water ought to be above them, and, if not, the steam would be generated to a high state of elasticity very quickly, and thus cause an explosion, as in this case. It is my opinion that the pressure of steam was too high for the boiler to bear, and rendered the safety-valve useless. I consider the accident attributable to steam only, and that gas had not anything to do with it. The steam-plates were formed for a low-pressure engine, and were not thick enough when the boiler was used for high-pressure engines. I was close by the engine at the time of the accident, listening to the steam, to hear, if I could, its action: but I could not hear it, and I consider the cylinder was acting as a pump, being full of water. I do not think the engine received the steam properly. The water in the cylinder must have been condensed, from the steam that was made on the morning of the explosion. The reason why I did not return to look at the stick after I left it is, because I felt myself rather insulted by Mr. Lowe; so I left it entirely in his hands.—Mr. John Farey, of Guildford-street, Russell-square, was then examined: He said, I have seen the boiler since it has been removed, a small distance from the place where it stood at the moment of the explosion. It was an explosion outwards, and not a collapse, bursting the exterior portion of the boiler. The boiler has been burst by a very intense pressure, which is not accountable to me from any supposition of the safety-valve I saw being merely overloaded, but that it must have been fastened down, rendering this case very distinct from most of those which are on record—all, or nearly all, the steam which was produced being retained and accumulated in the boiler to a pressure which burst the metal of the boiler with an extreme violence, projecting large pieces to a great distance through the air. One piece, in particular, has cut itself into the bricks of a brick-wall, at a considerable distance from the boiler, which shows that that piece must have been driven with a velocity that would be expected from an explosion of gunpowder, but not from ordinary explosions from overloaded steam boilers. The earth, wherever the boiler stood, has been forced downwards by the violence of the explosion, that being a symptom of the explosions by gunpowder, and frequently found on those occasions, and not a usual symptom in explosions by steam. The appearances convinced me, quite independently of any information to that effect, that the valve had been fastened down, and the engines not working at the time to any speed which would consume the steam. That which was produced was accumulated, there being little or no escape or expenditure for it through the cylinder. I feel quite confident that 100lb. on the square inch could not produce the effects which I see at the place where the accident occurred. I have never been a convert to the theory advanced as to the generation of gas. As to the production of gas within a boiler, and the explosion of that gas, it is impossible, unless in cases where the boiler was nearly empty, and the metal in the vicinity of the remaining water red-hot, and I never met with one circumstance of this kind that had occurred from the generation of gas. No atmospheric air can get into a boiler when under pressure. The supposition that hydrogen gas may be produced within a boiler is, that a portion of water has had its oxygen absorbed from it

Foreign Movements.

"And I will war, at least in words,
(And—should my chance so happen—deeds),
With all who war with Thought:"

"I think I hear a little bird, who sings
The people by and by will be the stronger."—BYRON.

THE HOLY COAT AT TREVES.—THE NEW REFORMATION.

We gave in our last an account of the shameless fraud dignified with the title of the "Holy Tunic," now exhibiting at Treves. The Roman Catholic Bishop ARNOLDI, determined, it appears, that no means should be left untried to induce the Germans to stultify themselves by paying for peeping at his "old clo," has had the shameless audacity to declare that, *"Whoever is able to walk, and does not go to worship the Holy Coat, cannot see God, and shall not inherit eternal life!"* After this threat, so powerful over an ignorant and fanatical population, it is no wonder that tens of thousands of peasants, and even fools of a higher class, should be found to do homage at the shrine of priestly fraud and plunder. The consequence has been that thousands have reduced themselves to beggary and misery to ensure a title to heaven by adoration of the relic at Treves. It is stated that above a million of human beings have already been the victims of this infamous imposture. No admirers of priests, and hating the craft of the entire batch of "all denominations"—we nevertheless admit that there are many conscientious, virtuous, and exemplary individuals to be found in all sects. One such it is our pleasing duty to introduce to our readers. This honest and brave man is JOHN RONGE, priest at Laurahutte, in Silesia. Seeing through, and knowing, the fraud practiced by Bishop ARNOLDI on his dupes, JOHN RONGE addressed a letter to the Bishop denouncing the imposture, and calling on his chief to put an end to the scandal forthwith. The following is a copy of the letter which has appeared in most of the German newspapers:—

That which but for a time sounded to our ears like a mere fable, a mere tale—namely, that Bishop Arnoldi of Treves has exhibited a garment, called the coat of Christ, for veneration and religious spectacle—you, Christians of the nineteenth century, have already heard of it; you, gentlemen of Germany, know of it; you, teachers of the German nation and of religion, have now been informed, that this frenzy is not a fable or a tale, but a reality and truth. Five hundred thousand persons have already, according to the latest account, made their pilgrimage to this relic, and thousands more are daily flocking hither, especially since it became known that the above-mentioned garment has healed the sick, and worked miracles! The fame of this occurrence runneth through the length and breadth of all nations; while priests, in France, have asserted, that they were in possession of the real coat of Christ, the one in Treves being false. Truly here may be applied the words—"He who does not lose his reason at some moments has none to lose." Five hundred thousand persons, five hundred thousand Germans, have already hastened to Treves, for the sake of venerating and seeing a garment. The greatest part of this multitude of pilgrims are of the lowest orders; and besides this, they are exceedingly poor, oppressed, ignorant, dull, superstitious, and degenerated; they desist from cultivating their fields, withdraw themselves from their trades, from the care of their household, from the education of their children; and all this they do for the purpose of journeying to Treves to partake of an idol's festival, to participate in an unworthy spectacle exhibited by the Roman hierarchy. Yes, it is an idol's festival; for many thousands of the credulous multitude are thus misled, and offer devotion and veneration, owed exclusively to God, to a garment, the work of man's hands!

And what are the hurtful consequences of these pilgrimages? Thousands of the pilgrims starve themselves to procure the money necessary for the journey, and to make an offering for their spiritual enjoyment—a sight of the holy coat. By deprivation or beggary they obtain their money; and, after their return, suffer hunger, want, or become sick, from the exertions of their journey. These external injuries are great, exceeding great, but far greater are the moral injuries. Will not many have recourse to unfair means, in order to extricate themselves from the difficulties they have fallen into through their expenses? Many matrons and maidens sacrifice the purity of their hearts, their chastity and good name, destroying their peace, happiness, and the welfare of their families.

By this unchristian-like spectacle, a door is widely opened for superstition, for merits by works, for fanaticism, and for vices of all descriptions connected with it. This is the so-called blessing promoted by the exhibition of the holy coat, notwithstanding the dispute of its reality or falsity. And he who exhibits this garment, the work of man's hands, for veneration and public show, is leading astray the religious affection of the credulous and ignorant, who are deficient in intellect; he is promoting superstition and viciousness, cunningly drawing their property from the poor starving people, and exposing the German nation to the mockery of other countries; this man is drawing closer the thunder clouds, which hang already heavy and dark over our heads. The man I speak of is a bishop, a German bishop, Bishop Arnoldi, of Treves.

Bishop Arnoldi, of Treves, whilst addressing your Lordship, I call upon you, by the authority of my office and vocation as a priest—in the name of all Christendom, and as a German national teacher—in the name of the German nation, and in the name of all national instructors, to abolish the unchristian-like spectacle of the exhibition of the holy coat, to conceal the garment from the public view, and to avoid making the offence greater than it already is! For do you not know—as a bishop you ought to know it—that the author of the Christian religion has not left his coat, but his spirit, to his disciples and followers? Christ's coat, my friend, Bishop Arnoldi, of Treves, is the property of his executioners. Do you not know—as a bishop you ought to know it—that Christ has taught, "God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth?" And God can be honoured, not only in the temple at Jerusalem, on the mount Gerizim, or Treves, near the holy coat, but everywhere! Do you not know—as a bishop you ought to know it—that the Gospel expressly prohibits the veneration of every image and relic? Do you not know that the Christians of the Apostolic age, and during the first three centuries, suffered neither an image (though they might have had many) nor a relic in their churches? Do you not know that the veneration of images and relics is heathenish, and on that account the heathen has been derided by the fathers of the first three centuries? It is said, for example (Div. Inst. II., c. 2), "The images ought the rather, if they had life, to venerate the men by whom they have been formed, and the practice of the contrary ought not to be allowed. (Nec intelligunt homines ineptissimi, quod si sentire simulacra et moveri possent, adoratura hominem fuissent, a quo sunt expolita.") Finally, do you not know—as a bishop you ought to know this as well—that the healthy and vigorous mind of the German nation did not become so degraded as to worship relics until the crusades of the thirteenth and fourteenth century, and then only was its noble idea of the Divine Being, which had been impressed upon it by the Christian religion, darkened by all kinds of fables and tales brought from the East?

And now, my friend, Bishop Arnoldi, of Treves, you are, I am persuaded, convinced of all this, and understand it probably better than I am able to unfold to you. You are well aware of the consequences which the idolatrous veneration of relics and other superstitions have brought upon Germany, viz., its spiritual, as well as its outward or visible bondage: and yet you boldly exhibit your relic for public veneration. But if, perhaps, you did not know all this, and your only object in the exhibition of this relic was the salvation of Christendom, you would still have laden a double guilt on your conscience, from which you cannot clear yourself. In the first place, it is unpardonable of you, that if the said garment really possesses a power of healing, you should have withholden it from suffering mankind until the year 1844. And in the next place, it is unpardonable to take oblations of money from the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims. In other words, is it not unpardonable of you, as a bishop, to take money from the starving poor of our people? Have you not had occasion to observe only a few weeks ago, that hundreds have been driven by want to desperate revolts, and have become the victims of death? Besides, let me caution you not to be deceived by the flocking together of hundreds of thousands; believe me, that whilst hundreds of thousands of Germans, full of ardour, are hastening to Treves, millions like myself are left behind, filled with deep horror and bitter vexation at your unworthy spectacle.

This irritation is existing now not only among the various ranks of the community, but even the learned, yea, even the Roman Catholic priesthood, are disgusted with it. Be assured the judgment of God will certainly overtake you sooner than you suspect. The historian already seizes his pen, making known your name, Arnoldi, for contempt to the present age and to posterity by marking you as the Tetzel of the nineteenth century!

But to you, my dear and worthy fellow-countrymen, either far from or near to Treves, put forth all your powers, that no more disgrace may be put upon the nation of Germany. You have magistrates, churchwardens, sheriffs, &c. Well! let them be your co-operators. Let every one of you strive energetically and determinedly to stop and to overthrow the tyrannical power of the Roman hierarchy. Modern indulgences, you are aware, are carried on, not only at Treves, but also in the east and west, in the north and south; the gathering of money for rosaries, mass, remission, funerals, &c., and the increasing darkness of the night, consume the reflecting firmament of spirituality. Be ye all, Catholics as well as Protestants, resolved to engage in this good work, and to contend for our honour, our liberty, our happiness. Do not provoke, I entreat you, the manes of your forefathers, who threw open the Capitol of Rome, and established the dominion of truth in Germany. I again beseech you, do not suffer the laurel-crowns of a Huss, Hutten, and Luther to be dishonoured. Give utterance to your thoughts in words, and manifest your approval.

Finally, addressing you, my fellow colleagues, whose anxious desire is the welfare of your congregation, the honour, liberty, and the happiness of the German nation; do not keep silence any longer lest you should sin against Christ's Church, against your father's country, against your own office, by delay. In conclusion, I repeat, show yourselves as true disciples of Him who became a sacrifice to redeem the world and set forth truth, light, and liberty; prove yourselves as those who have inherited Christ's spirit instead of his outward garment.

JOHANNES RONGE, Catholic Priest.

Laurahutte (Silesia), Oct. 1.

No one but the most wretched fanatic, whatever be his creed or no creed, we will venture to assert, can read the above gallant manifesto but will feel the most intense admiration of its author. The denunciations of this modern LUTHER pierce like two-edged swords; and his appeals to the free mind of Germany, Catholic as well as Protestant, sound like the clang of a thousand trumpets bidding the nations rise against the "miserable old chimera of a Pope" and his unredeemable tyranny. It will be seen that JOHN RONGE intimates that the French priests say *they* have the *true* "old clo." And we understand that there are not less than *seventeen (!)* other coats, all said to be the seamless coat of JESUS CHRIST, kept at different places. One thing is certain, that the Russian Church puts in her claim to be the possessor of the only true and veritable "old clo," as the following extract from a letter from Moscow will testify:—

It is perhaps not known in Germany that, besides the holy tunic of Treves, we possess in our Cathedral of the Assumption a piece of the Lord's tunic. It is of linen cloth, of a yellow colour, and the fabric very coarse. After the conquest of Grusinie the Schah took away this fragment from the church of Mzhat, and eventually presented it as a *cadeau* to the Czar Michael Federowitch. A portion of it is still preserved in the Imperial Chapel of St. Petersburgh. At the baptism of every member of the Imperial family a small fragment is placed in the cross which is worn by all true believers on their naked bosoms from the hour of their birth until their descent into the grave, as a sort of holy talisman!

So we presume, NICK the younger, the wholesale murderer and woman-flogger, VICTORIA's pet and Sir R. PEEL's "mighty sovereign," had a bit of this "holy coat"—the Russian one, on his precious person, to protect him from the vengeance of POLAND's sons, at the time of his visit to this country. What a pity but that the Post-office FOUCHE had been aware of this! It might have saved him the trouble, and England the disgrace, of opening Captain STOLZMAN's letters, seeing that NICK must,—thanks to the Russian priests,—be ball-proof. Indeed he must be more fortunate than the famed ACHILLES, such a talisman being no doubt quite as effective in protecting the heel as the head!

Our readers will be curious to learn the result of the honest priest's letter. The immediate result was his own condemnation and excommunication by his superiors. But such men as JOHN RONGE are made of stuff too stern to be awed by the thunders of ecclesiastical despotism; accordingly he followed up his letter—which letter has been circulated to an enormous amount—by a pamphlet addressed to the lower orders of the Romish clergy, calling upon them to unite their exertions with him to reform the German Catholic Church, and render it independent of Roman domination. This has been followed up by a formal separation of himself and followers from the Romish Church, and the adoption of a "confession of faith" and declaration of principles, of which the following is a copy, taken from the *Silesian Gazette*, dated Breslau, Feb. 10th:—

DECLARATION, &c.

1. We throw off the allegiance to the Bishop of Rome and his whole establishment.

2. We maintain full liberty of conscience, and contemn every compulsion, falsehood, and hypocrisy.

3. The basis and the contents of the Christian belief are the Bible.

4. The free investigation and interpretation is not to be restrained by external authority.

5. As the essential contents of our faith, we lay down the following symbols:—

"I believe in God the Father, who has created the world by his omnipotent word, and who governs it in wisdom, justice, and love.

I believe in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who, by his doctrine, his life, and death, has saved us from bondage and sin.

I believe in the working of the Holy Ghost on earth, a holy universal Christian Church, forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting. Amen."

6. We recognise only two sacraments as instituted by Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

7. We uphold infant baptism, and receive, by solemn act of confirmation, as self-acting members of the congregation, those persons who are sufficiently instructed in the doctrines of faith.

8. The Lord's Supper will be distributed to the congregation, as instituted by Christ, in both forms. Auricular confession is rejected.

9. We recognise marriage as an institution ordained by God, and therefore to be kept holy by man; we maintain for it the sanction of the Church, and consider, with regard to the conditions and restrictions applying to it, the laws of the State alone as binding.

10. We believe and confess that Christ is the only mediator between God and man; we reject, therefore, the invocation of saints, the adoration of relics and images, the remission of sins by the priest, and all pilgrimages.

11. We believe that the so-called good works have only value in so far as they are the emanation of Christian sentiments; we reject, therefore, all commands of fasting.

12. We believe and confess that it is the first duty of the Christian to manifest his faith by works of Christian love.

On the tenets of the new sect we shall say nothing, other than, that did they contain of good only the renunciation of that horrible engine of tyranny, auricular confession, the "New Reformation" would be worthy the good wishes of all lovers of truth and freedom. But it will be seen that the reforms of the new sect are not confined to this one point; and the movement is undoubtedly one pregnant with important consequences for the human race—a "sign of the times," proclaiming the advance of reason, and the ultimate downfall of superstition and priestcraft.

Contemporaneously with this movement of RONGE and his followers, another priest, CZERSKI, who stands at the head of a German Catholic community in Schneidemuhl, in Prussia, has abandoned auricular confession, and carries out the principles contained in the above declaration. In Bromberg, it is stated, the excitement in favour of the new church is very great; and from Konisberg an address has been sent to CZERSKI, signed by the most influential men in East and West Prussia, including several professors of the University, the chaplain of the garrison, teachers and directors of schools, and several members of the upper law courts.

On the other hand, the champions of the "old clo," are not idle. The priests are thundering from the altars against the new heresy, and inducing their dupes to burn RONGE's manifesto—the usual priestly mode of answering opponents, except when they dared to burn their opponents themselves instead of their writings. Letters from Coblentz announce that Bishop ARNOLDI, unabashed by the exposure of his impostures, has had the brazen assurance to issue an ordinance to his clergy, announcing that he has resolved to institute a special holiday in honour of the "holy garments," and the other "valuable relics," namely, the "*nails*" and the "*spear*" (!); and that this *fête* shall be celebrated on the Wednesday following the third Sunday after Easter. What a glorious carnival of fools that day will witness! Well, well; no matter—so as they bring grist to the bishop's mill:—

"If humbug'd thus the rabble choose to be,
Why let them, since it brings the chink to me;
There's none so blind as those who will not see!"

Thus stand matters at present. Other subjects will claim our attention next week; but we shall watch the new movement, and report progress on a future occasion.

CONSECRATION OF PUTREFACTION.—The modern Aceldama of Spafields—the field of corruption, not of blood—will be purified. The loathsome trade of the ghouls who claim a vested right in it will be interdicted, for it is only private property. There are other grave-yards in the metropolis quite as noxious, but they are the property of the Church. The heaped-up putrefaction of St. Bride's is consecrated ground, and that perennial fountain of typhus and typhoids must be left uncleansed. Sound Protestants are scandalised at the superstition which can consecrate dead men's bones; yet sound Protestants can tolerate the consecration of rottenness. Now that the stench of Spafields has penetrated into the recesses of the Home-office, and forced the Home Secretary to act, it is to be hoped his interference will not be confined to one of the plague depôts of the metropolis. The church which has cast bones out of its chancel ought not to be allowed to keep rotten flesh in its vaults. The religion which disclaims all sacrifice ought not to be made a pretext for perpetuating such horrid burnt-offerings as those of Clerkenwell. The first and greatest of the Patriarchs desired to bury his dead out of his sight: why should the men of this generation insist that the public at large should perpetually nose their dead in the lobby? Common sense suggests that we should cease to bury among the crowded thoroughfares of men, and that we should also remove the decomposing frames that have already been deposited there. And here sentiment comes in aid of common sense. These relics of mortality, if removed to some distance from the metropolis, will be allowed to rest: if left in their present depositories, they will, when sufficiently softened by decay, be dug up, pounded, and mixed like mortar, by the rude shovels of the gravediggers, and sacrificed by incremation to the demon of "vested rights."—*Spectator.*

MIRACLES OF THE PRESENT DAY BY HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The wonderful powers possessed by these extraordinary Pills are such as to perform the most astonishing cures in almost every disease. They remove most complaints that the faculty pronounce to be incurable. All cases of debilitated constitutions are by their use completely invigorated. The nervous, the delicate, and weak, are made strong. The daughter centering into womanhood, or the mother at the turn of life, is sure alike to derive unspeakable benefit, or even might be indebted for the preservation of life itself to the use of this mighty medicine. It also effectually cures all bilious, liver, and stomach complaints.

Agriculture and Horticulture.

FIELD-GARDEN OPERATIONS,

For the Week ending Monday, March 18th, 1844.

[Extracted from a DIARY of *Actual Operations* on a number of small farms in Sussex and Yorkshire, published by Mr. John Nowell of Farnley Tyas, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire, as a guide to other possessors of field-garden farms to the labours which ought to be taken on their own lands. The farms selected as models, are—First. That of the Willingdon school, five acres in extent, conducted by G. Cruttenden. Second. The Eastdean school, also five acres, near Beachy Head, conducted by John Harris. Third. That of Jesse Piper, consisting of four acres, at Cruttenden. Fourth. That of John Dumbrell, a farm of six acres, at Jevington, near Beachy Head. Fifth. An industrial school farm at Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield. Sixth and Seventh. Two small model farms at the same place, occupied on the estate of the Earl of Dartmouth, by Charles Varley and John Bamford. The consecutive operations in these reports will enable the curious reader to compare the climate and agricultural value of the south with the north of England. The DIARY is aided by "Notes and Observations" from the pen of Mr. Nowell, calculated for the time and season, which we subjoin.

NOTE.—*The school farms are cultivated by boys, who in return for three hours' teaching in the morning, give three hours of their labour in the afternoon for the masters' benefit, which renders the schools* SELF-SUPPORTING. *We believe that at Farnley Tyas six-sevenths of the produce of the school farm is to be the boys, one-seventh the master's, who will receive the usual school fees, help the boys to cultivate their land, and teach them, in addition to reading, writing, &c., to convert their produce into bacon, by attending to pig-keeping, which at Christmas may be divided, after paying rent and levy, amongst them, in proportion to their services, and reach their parents in a way the most grateful to their feelings.*

Remember, if we would improve society, we must begin with the unsophisticated young ones.]

SUSSEX.

MONDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys digging the third time for white carrots. *Eastdean School.* Boys rolling and treading the wheat, and gathering stones. *Piper.* Sowing oats,—always select a *fine time* for doing it if you can. *Dumbrell.* Drilling oats, sowing cabbage seed, digging.

TUESDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys digging as before. *Eastdean School.* Boys digging for oats, planting potatoes with manure, gathering roots and stones. *Piper.* Sowing oats,—the *white* oat answers best for me. *Dumbrell.* Drilling oats, sowing carrots and parsnips in the garden, rolling wheat, and digging.

WEDNESDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys digging as before. *Eastdean School.* Boys carrying out the pigstye tank liquid to the mangel wurzel ground, weeding clover. *Piper.* Hoeing onions. *Dumbrell.* Digging, harrowing oats.

THURSDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys harrowing, and rolling ground for carrots. *Eastdean School.* Boys digging, planting potatoes with manure, placing beans, and hoeing the cabbages. *Piper.* Preparing ground for carrots. *Dumbrell.* Digging, drilling oats.

FRIDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys harrowing, and rolling carrot ground. *Eastdean School.* Boys taking in the last oat rick, clearing up, and planting potatoes with manure. *Piper.* Preparing ground for carrots. *Dumbrell.* Digging, and drilling oats.

SATURDAY—*Willingdon School.* Boys sowing spring tares, harrowing and dressing after it. *Eastdean School.* Boys thrashing oats, clearing up rick, cleaning out pails and school, and clearing oats. *Piper.* Sowing carrots,—a very proper time. *Dumbrell.* Digging, and drilling oats.

YORKSHIRE.

Slaithwaite Tenants.—C. Varley says, "We have had stormy weather since January; no work could be done on the land." Digging for oats this week, wheat stubble for turnips, gathering stones. *John Bamford*, sowed tares. He says, "This week the weather has improved considerably; the snow has partially left our fields, and in some situations, and in certain conditions of the ground, farm labour has been performed; for instance, old lea has been turned up for oats, but such as was dug in autumn, has, up to Friday, been in far too wet a state to work. *James Bamford*, digging for tares, removing clay.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

BARLEY.—[Seed sown, broadcast, three and a half bushels; in drills, two and a half bushels: for soiling six bushels per acre.]—Barley comes best after turnips or other green crops. It is better suited to follow such crops than either wheat or oats. At Eastbourne it is sown in drills; but generally broadcast in the north of England. Roll the sward well after the plants are above ground. Use the steep recommended for oats, with the addition of a few pounds of *nitrate of soda*, or *cubic petre*. Let the seed be parted with gypsum, and sown immediately.

ITALIAN RYE GRASS.—[Seed sown, three or four bushels per acre.]—Sow Italian rye grass seed any time from the first to the end of March, after winter or spring wheat, barley and oats. Let the plant grow alone. It is a *glutton*. It must be harrowed with the bush, or rolled in. No manure is applied until cut the first time, when tank liquid is used, after the rate of 25 gallons to the rod.

RED CLOVER.—[Seed sown, 12lbs. of red clover, and one peck of common rye-grass, per acre.]—After your spring wheat, oats, or barley, has been sown, harrow twice, and work the soil as fine as possible; this process being favourable to the growth of small seeds. Divide your clover seed into *two* portions, sow one half lengthways, the other half across, then give a light harrowing, and roll the land well. Clover sowing on winter wheat may be done earlier, should the weather prove favourable; a bush, or common light harrow, may then pass over, to cover the seeds, after which the land must be well rolled.

[Through our good and valued friend, Mr. Joseph Thornton, of Paddock, near Huddersfield, we have received a note from Mr. Nowell, the compiler of the JOURNAL OF OPERATIONS from which we make weekly extracts, which with more than ordinary pleasure we communicate to the public. It proves the writer to be that which we estimated him—a sincere and disinterested friend to the labourer. With his *Whiggery* as defined in this note we perfectly agree, and would hail the day that saw all the Whigs avow the same principles and take a similar mode of reducing them to practice as Mr. Nowell. Then, indeed, we opine "party bickering" would cease, and "party spirit" be unknown. Here is Mr. Nowell's note; the suggestion contained in it shall be adopted, and carried out next week:—

Farnley Wood, near Huddersfield,
March 4th, 1845.

Dear Sir,—Thank you for the *Northern Star*. The Editor says that I shall appreciate his intention in making extracts from my little Manual; or rather in reprinting the whole of it in the *Star*. I do so; and think that it may prove beneficial to his readers, and be a means of furthering a cause dear to my heart. He says I am a Whig. I hope his *own*, like MY Whiggery, is this:—to give every man, that *can* and *will* labour, a "stake in the hedge"—an interest in the land; and to place those that neither *can* nor *will* under charge of others upon the sod to labour for their bread, and not to receive it as alms. Alms ought to be kept for, and will always be required by, the old and infirm, for whom it is our duty to provide. Let him attend and *interest* his *millions* of useful *workers*; while I will try, as far as in me lies, to interest part of them in this momentous subject, and the class who have heart and power to effect the great change we so heartily desire. In a cause so grand let us eschew political bickerings, and hold party spirit as infinitely below our notice.

I think, in transferring the "Diary" and annotations to the columns of the newspaper, there ought to be a regular settled arrangement, something like what I sketch below. My mottoes are intended to have a special effect, and if possible ought to be printed in a smaller type, exactly as in the "Manual," and the commencement or title of the paragraph in italics. I wish also, that an occasional reader may know what the Eastdean school, farm, &c., are, and how worked; for the mode of education indicated in the commencement of the book, is what I would have kept constantly in view. The note at p. 8 is the very key, along with the chemicalizing processes at pp. 53, 55, 57, 75, and 77, to the system of farming I advocate; therefore, if the Editor could vary the arrangement so as to bring these points immediately forward, it would be well. The *portable pails* are what I am anxious to see introduced; for then we might hope to see the world soon well cleaned up, and kept so.

You may, if you like, communicate this by letter to the Editor, or show him this hastily written note; and do send him one of the "Industrial Farm and School Tracts," the three in one, as well as the pamphlet I presented you with, and order the paper for me.

Believe me always, while your heart continues expansive,
Yours, most faithfully,
JOHN NOWELL.

To Mr. Thornton.

Mr. Thornton, in transmitting the foregoing, takes occasion to say—The "Land Question" is "going a-head" on Lord Dartmouth's estate. At Farnley, in the National School, is now taught practical agriculture, and in Burton a number of individuals are located on a farm, under the directions of Mr. Nowell. Almondbury National School will be placed on the same plan as at Farnley; and Mr. N. informs me that at Leeds £800 has been subscribed, and invested in land for allotments.]

SPADE HUSBANDRY.—Much, however, has been said with respect to the expenses. It is, therefore, necessary to enter more minutely into this part of the subject, and to point out why, in some instances, it has disappointed those who have introduced it. It the first place, probably, the work has not been well executed, nor the land left rough during the winter, nor dug the full depth of the spade. On strong clay soils this is especially necessary, as the rains will pass more freely through it in this state, and, consequently, can be more easily worked the following spring; whereas, were such heavy tenacious soil to be ploughed, it would lie so close during the winter, and become so consolidated before spring, that it would be ultimately more expensive to work it effectually with the plough; and this operation is often obliged to be postponed late in the spring after an excessive bad winter. By digging deep, also, a fresh soil is brought up, which, although it may not be as fertile as the surface soil, yet by being blended with it, may much invigorate its properties. This, however, requires judgment, when the soil is brought into active operation so as to act as an alterative. It is better if possible that a green crop should follow the spade culture, as by the subsequent minute cultivation of the land, either under turnips, potatoes, or mangel wurzel, the two soils will be more effectually blended or mixed together; and, even should the soil brought newly into action be unfertile, the manure necessary to be applied for those crops will soon bring it into profit. By digging shallow land a depth of soil is obtained which will ensure better and more certain crops, for water will pass more freely through tenacious land if worked deep, and will be advantageously retained in arid and calcareous soils if the subsoil be loosed so as to absorb sufficient moisture. It is well known to men of experience that crops in the former soils are often lost from retaining too much moisture, and in the latter from too great an evaporation of this very essential principle of vegetation. To counteract these extremes, therefore, is the great art of bringing land into a profitable state. Those who have old lea for potatoes, or some other such like crop, next spring, had better forthwith set to and prepare it for their reception; it will be much more economical to dig than to plough it for this purpose, all matters taken into consideration. It will, per acre, for digging, cost about three times as much as it would cost for ploughing; but the land by the former mode will produce at least one-fourth more than if only once ploughed, which may make a considerable difference in the profit returned. By digging, also, the sod being well turned down, will be sure to rot in time for the benefit of the growing crop, and there is no risk of failure should a dry season follow, as the fibres of the roots will be nourished by the pulverised soil brought up by digging, and not come immediately in contact with the hard sod, which would be the case if ploughed. When the land is dry the seed should be put in by opening drills with the hoe or spade, which would not be more expensive than sticking them in with the spade in ploughed lea, and less seed is also necessary by the former method. Were the Irish landlords to take a humane view of the state of the cottages of the generality of the Irish peasantry, a revolution for the better in their agricultural, moral, and social state, could not but soon mark the consequence. Most cottages are built on the road side without even a perch of land to the rere for the purpose of accumulating manure or raising the necessary culinary vegetables; and this situation often obliges the tenant to make his dunghill in front of his habitation. The tenant is not therefore altogether culpable for contracting indolent and dirty habits. Many of those wretched habitations have not even a pig-stye attached to them, and hence the indignity of herding with the brute creation, which the cottager and his family are often obliged to submit to. Such matters as those do not require the talent and exertions of any body of men to point out, for they are too evidently to be seen, and too fatal has been their consequences. It is this that has debased our peasantry below that condition in the community to which they are entitled as industrious subjects, and checked that spirit of industry and civilisation which is to be seen among the same classes in the sister country. In that part of the British empire a cottage does not exist without a suitable garden, convenient offices, on a small scale, &c., for its accommodation, and which enable the cottager to carry on his domestic occupations with economy and cleanliness. I will admit that allotting portions of land to this class in Ireland will be a great means of encouraging industry and removing discontent; but in cases where such advantages cannot be conveniently given, let the tenant at least be housed in comfort and decency.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.—So little is still understood by practical men of the analytical—the highest branch of the chemical art—that the rigorous analysis of a soil is looked upon as the work of a few hours, or, at the utmost, of two or three days only; and the money or other value attached to the discovery of this or that ingredient, is judged of accordingly. In this line, the largest amount of work hitherto done has been performed by the German agricultural chemist, Sprengel, and is recorded in his work upon soils. Through the labours of Sprengel chiefly, it has been established regarding soils.—1. That they all contain a certain proportion of organic, chiefly vegetable matter, which readily burns away when they are heated to redness in the air. This combustible matter in peaty soils sometimes amounts to 50 or 60 per cent. of the whole weight; while in clay soils, such as the wild undrained clays of Lanarkshire, less than one per cent. is present.—2. That in all naturally fertile soils, the incombustible part contains a notable quantity of each of ten or eleven different mineral substances.—3. That soils in which one or more of these substances is either wholly wanting, or is not present in sufficient quantity, will not produce good crops.—4. That to these latter soils what is wanting may be artificially added, and that thus their fertility may be increased, restored, or maintained.—5. That some of these substances, when present in excess in the soil, become noxious to the plant; and that to render such a soil productive, this excess must be in some way or other removed.—With the aid of these propositions, the general doctrine of soils, and the action of saline or mineral manures, becomes so far clear and simple. A soil to be fertile must contain ten or eleven known substances. If any of these be altogether absent, you will improve your soil by adding them to it; if they are present, the addition of them will do *no* good. If salt or gypsum, for example, or the ingredients of wood ashes, be wholly absent, you will obtain large crops by adding these substances largely to the soil; if they are merely deficient, a smaller application will be of service; if they are already present in sufficient quantity, any application of them to the soil will be so much money thrown away. The substances hitherto called *stimulants*, now appear to be only necessary ingredients of a fertile soil. But the chemical examination of soils led the inquiring agriculturist to more advanced conclusions. It was seen that, on the same soil, the application of the same substance—for the sake of simplicity, suppose it a saline substance—promoted the growth of one crop and not of another. If clover and wheat, for example, grew on different parts of the same field, it was seen that gypsum or common salt would greatly increase the luxuriance of the one, while it caused little or no change in the appearance or produce of the other. Something therefore must depend upon the kind of plant which is grown upon it, as well as upon the chemical constitution of the soil itself. There must be some as yet unknown chemical relation between the crop to be grown, and the manure which could be beneficially applied to it. What was the nature of this relation? Thus, it no longer appears singular that all fertile soils should contain ten or eleven incombustible substances. These substances are constituent parts of all plants, without which they cannot exist or grow in a healthy manner: and the soils are fertile only because they are in a condition to give to the growing plant everything it requires for the building up of its several parts. Again, a soil in which some of these materials are wanting or defective is barren or poorly productive, because it cannot supply all the wants of the plant, or cannot do so with sufficient rapidity. This explains why, in practical husbandry, a rotation of crops is most conducive both to the profit of the farmer and to the permanent fertility of the land. Of those things of which one crop contains and requires much, another crop contains, and therefore requires less. Thus, if we alternate the kind of plants we raise, we shall exhaust the soil equally; but continue one kind of crop too long, and the land becomes sick of it—that is, it cannot supply with sufficient rapidity or abundance those substances which this crop especially requires. And now the true action of those saline substances, hitherto called stimulants, became more clearly manifest. They no longer appeared to act like wine upon the human body, exciting it to an abnormal or unnatural effort, which was afterwards necessarily succeeded by languor, feebleness, and depression. They were acknowledged really to feed the plant; since they supplied those things out of which its several parts were built up, and without which they could not be satisfactorily completed. And if the soil was less productive in after years, in consequence of the application of these substances, it was because the crop had extracted from the soil more than the manure had given to it. The so-called stimulant supplied potash, or soda, or lime only to the soil, and getting these readily the plant grew rapidly; but it gathered out of the soil, at the same time, magnesia, and sulphur, and phosphorus, without which it could not grow. The large crops which were carried off exhausted the soil, therefore, of these latter substances; and unless these were added again in some form or other, the soil must remain impoverished, and more or less unproductive.—*Edinburgh Review.*

THE POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.—It is not the least extraordinary fact connected with the late strong and personal discussions in the House of Commons, on the prying and spying conduct of the Home Secretary, in breaking the inviolable seals of private correspondence, that the letter about which the greatest stir was made, and the largest amount of interest excited, was one which was sent from Nottingham, to Mr. Duncombe, during the election in which Mr. Sturge was a candidate against Mr. Walter. It was written by Feargus O'Connor, and, as Mr. Duncombe said, had every appearance of having been "operated on." The letter fortunately contained nothing of so private a nature as to prejudice Mr. Sturge's election, but it might have had in its lines matters of the deepest importance to the success of that gentleman, or the defeat of his opponent. The election throughout was conducted on principles too fair and honest for the most searching vigilance to detect a flaw; but we ask, can anything be more unfair, dishonest, or base, than to take advantage of such means for any purpose? Supposing for the sake of argument that any subject of vital import to the election had been contained in that letter—that it had included any matter which could hereafter be used against a successful Liberal in case he had been returned—would it not have been most dangerous and insidious to the freedom of election and the rights of the British subject to have had it hereafter made use of before any tribunal which might have been appointed to sit in judgment? Sir James has refused the explanation every honest man is bound to give to the inquiries of his abused fellow man—but twenty millions of people will remember the slight, to *his* no small future disgrace and discomfiture.—*Nottingham Review.*

Under the distinguished patronage of His Majesty the King of Prussia, and of the Nobility and Clergy of the United Kingdom, and especially recommended by the Faculty.

KEATING'S PECTORAL COUGH LOZENGES.

COUGHS, COLDS, and CATARRHS have been so aggravated by the severity and variableness of the season, that the consumption of these Lozenges is now unprecedented. The proprietor, however, respectfully informs the public, that though the demand is so enormous, he *takes care to keep a constant supply on hand*; and he begs leave to observe that he is daily receiving from every part of the kingdom testimonials of their efficacy in the alleviation and cure of all pulmonary complaints.

It is worthy of remark that these Lozenges are patronized and strongly recommended by the faculty. *To the attendants on Public Worship* they will be invaluable, more especially at this season of the year, when the extreme prevalence of Colds and Coughs is a source of constant annoyance, not only to the individual sufferers, but to the minister and congregation.

RECENT TESTIMONIALS.

Sir,—I should feel extremely obliged to you if you would send me a Tin of your most excellent lozenges, for, having tried them, I find they are the best remedy for Cough that can possibly be had; this I can testify from experience, for I have been troubled with a most violent Cough for many years; and have tried many things, but without any benefit, until I met with your Lozenges, and they afforded me instant relief.

I remain, sir, yours truly,
HENRY WOODERSON.

Feb. 12th, 1845, 1, North Feltham-place, near Hounslow.

To Mr. Keating, St. Paul's.

Dear Sir,—Having been for a considerable time during the winter afflicted with a violent cough, particularly at laying down in bed, which continued for several hours incessantly, and after trying many medicines without the slightest effect, I was induced to try your Lozenges; and by taking about half a box of them, in less than twenty-four hours the Cough entirely left me, and I have been perfectly free from it ever since.

I am, dear Sir, yours very respectfully,
JAMES ELLIS.

(Late proprietor of the Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's.)

9, Claremont-terrace, Pentonville, Feb. 17, 1845.

To Mr. Keating.

Mr. Croft,—Sir,—I am glad I have taken your advice in trying Mr. Keating's Cough Lozenges, as I have for a long time been troubled with shortness of breath and a bad cough, and have tried a great variety of medicines, but derived very little benefit from them: but since I have made trial of Keating's Cough Lozenges, I have breathed better, and the cough is quite gone.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
SARAH FLETCHER.

Cheetham Hill, near Manchester,
August 21st, 1844.

Prepared and sold, in boxes 1s. 1½d., and tins 2s. 9d. 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

F. Griffiths, 2, Wade's-place, East India Road, Poplar.
J. Stock, 37 A, Princes-street, Leicester-square.
A. Causse, 267, Regent-street, Oxford-street.
H. Ault, Gloucester-house, Upton-place, West Ham.
Mr. Sloman, 52, Old Compton-street.

Agents for the North of England.

Manchester, Mr. L. Simpson, Druggist, Princess-street; Cheetham Hill, Mr. Croft, Druggist, Union-terrace; *Leeds*, Messrs. Reinhardt and Son; Mr. Smeeton, Druggist; Messrs. Baines and Newsome, Booksellers; *Halifax*, Mr. W. Jepson, Chemist, Silver-street; Mr. J. Lofthouse, Chemist; *Bradford*, Mr. M. Rogerson, Chemist, Darley-street; Mr. J. Pratt, Chemist, Ivegate; *Stalybridge*, Mr. Wm. Bevan, Druggist; *Hull*, Mr. Reinhardt, Druggist; Mr. J. Simpson, Chemist; Messrs. Ross and Burton, Chemists; *Bolton*, Mr. George Dutton, Chemist, &c., Market-place; Mr. G. La French, Chemist, Cheapside; *Bury*, Mr. Bowman, Druggist; *Birmingham*,

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, March 10.

The second reading of the Jewish Disabilities Bill was moved by

The Lord Chancellor, who said that the object of the measure was to relieve the Jews from their municipal and corporate disabilities. The noble and learned lord alluded to the election of Mr. Salomons as an alderman of the City of London, and argued upon the impolicy of a law which could exclude a gentleman of such respectability from the highest municipal honours which could be bestowed upon him by his fellow citizens, thus diminishing the incentives to good conduct. He proposed to effect his object by omitting from the declaration requisite to be made by a Jew on taking office, the words "on the true faith of a Christian." On every account it was desirable that those words should be omitted, for if it was thought right to exclude the Jews from such offices, they should do so by direct means, and not by a side wind, which could be made to apply, or not to apply, according to the wishes of the corporation for introduction to which the Jew was a candidate. There were Jews amongst the aldermen of Birmingham, of Portsmouth, and of Southampton, and there might be amongst the aldermen of London also, if the corporation chose it, for by varying the time at which the declaration was to be made, they might allow the party to come under the operation of the Annual Indemnity Act, and thus practically admit those whom the law refused to recognise in such a capacity. It was to get rid of such an anomaly that he introduced the bill upon the table, which would place all the corporations in the kingdom in this respect upon the same level. These words had been omitted in the cases of the Quakers, the Moravians, the Independents, and the Separatists; and upon the same principle, he proposed their omission in favour of the Jews. He did not bring it forward as a great measure of public policy, which would admit of difficulty and doubt: but he was content to rest it on the limited ground of putting an end to a useless and absurd anomaly.

The Bishop of London said he should not oppose the bill, but he wished to be understood that he did not therefore pledge himself not to oppose a more extended measure for admitting the Jews into Parliament.

The Marquis of Lansdowne expressed his gratification at the introduction of this measure, which he hoped would ere long be carried still further.

Lord Brougham was rejoiced to find that this bill was to be passed without a dissentient voice, and hoped he should live to see the day when a more extended measure would be introduced.

Lord Campbell was also delighted that this measure was received with unanimity by their Lordships—a measure which he hailed as a large instalment of what the Jews had a right, as British subjects, to expect.

The Bishop of London objected to the word unanimity. It was not to be supposed that he was in favour of the bill because he declined to oppose it.

After some observations from Lord Colchester and Lord Redesdale, the bill was read a second time; after which their Lordships adjourned.

Tuesday, March 11.

The House sat for a short time, but the business was entirely of a routine character. At the rising it adjourned until Thursday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Monday, March 10.

On the motion that the report of the Property Tax Bill be read,

Mr. C. Buller moved as an amendment, "That the circumstances under which the renewal of the income tax is at present proposed are such as to render it exceedingly improbable that Parliament will have the power of dispensing with its continuance at the end of three years; and that it is therefore the duty of this House to take care that the tax be imposed in a form in which its operation shall be less unequal and inquisitorial than it now is." He commenced by stating his objections to the present financial scheme of Sir R. Peel, and observed, that though it had been called the poor man's budget, he did not know how any budget less beneficial to the poor man could be devised. The poor man could get no benefit from the reduction of the sugar duties, or from that of the auction duties, nor yet could he obtain any relief from the reduction of the export duties, as they were usually paid by foreigners. In the 420 articles which were to be struck out of the tariff there was not one which entered into the consumption of the poor. Corn and butter were left in the tariff as before; but the poor man was now allowed as a great boon to get duty free alum to adulterate his bread, and lard to adulterate his butter. The reduction of the duties on glass might indeed obtain for him a cheaper and better window; but that was not, he thought, an article of prime necessity. The duty on cotton was reduced, it was said, to give him cheap clothing; but, supposing the poor man to wear one fustian suit himself, and his wife to wear two cotton gowns, in the year, the whole amount of the reduction of the duty on cotton on such garments would not amount to more than 3d. in the year, and it was open to doubt whether the poor man would get even that much benefit. He then showed that by the scheme of sugar duties now proposed by Sir R. Peel, the poor man would have to pay more than 3d. a month in the shape of protection to the West India proprietor. He complained that Sir R. Peel had excepted from reduction every article which entered largely into general consumption, and said that if he had dealt frankly with the articles of tea, coffee, tobacco, malt, soap, spirits, and wines, he might have so benefitted the revenue, by diminishing the price of those articles, as to make up the amount of the loss at the end of three years by the increase of consumption. He then proceeded to show, that the budget was a monopoly budget, and not a free trade budget; for it interfered with no protected interest, except the West Indian interest, and that it elevated. In voting, therefore, for the income tax at present the House was voting in favour of a system which would not only bolster up discriminating duties, but would also weaken its resources for assailing other protected interests. He showed that three or four bad harvests had caused the deficiency in the revenue whilst the Whigs were in power, and that three or four good harvests had restored the revenue to prosperity. But was the Minister provided with any measure to meet a similar disaster in future? If there were in the course of the next three years a bad harvest, or a fall in trade, what would be the budget of 1848? There would be a deficit in it, in spite of the income tax, and the Minister would then be compelled to come forward and to ask for a larger per centage. It was a downright fraud then to say that your revenue would be so far recovered at the end of three years as to enable you to get rid of the income tax. If that were the case, then it behoved them, as plain honest men, to make the tax perfect when they made it permanent. He did not propose any specific amendments in the bill; he would lay before them a clear, intelligible, practicable principle, and would not weaken it by entering at present into any disputable details. On a former occasion he had exposed the unequal, inquisitorial, and odious nature of the property tax, and, though it had been carried into operation in London and the vicinity with greater mildness than had been expected, yet he had received many complaints from the north of England as to the way in which it had been administered there by local commissioners against offensive politicians and rivals in trade.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, that Mr. Buller had indulged in a variety of details which, if not sound in principle, were at any rate lively in detail. The income tax had been previously debated in that House, and had been carried by an overwhelming majority. That was some proof that it was not very unpopular; but, if it were so, why had the Hon. Member withheld his disapprobation till that moment, when the amendment of the bill was scarcely within his reach? and why had he come down to the House at last, not with any specific amendments, but with a general resolution, which denounced the bill without attempting to improve it? If he were so convinced that the income tax would be permanent, his motion should not be for its repeal, but for the repeal of other taxes besides those proposed to be repealed in the budget. Mr. Buller had said that the Government ought to have dealt with tea, coffee, tobacco, malt, soap, spirits, and wine, instead of with sugar, glass, and cotton; but seemed to have forgotten that the articles which he mentioned produced a revenue of £16,000,000 or £17,000,000.

Mr. C. Buller said, that he had mentioned five or six articles, and had argued that the Government would have done better in reducing the duties on any of those articles, than in reducing the duties enumerated in the budget.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed, that if the Government had proposed to sacrifice a revenue of £3,000,000, derived from the duties on tobacco and spirits, Mr. Buller would have been one of the first to raise an outcry against Ministers for pandering to the vices, and for neglecting the morals and comforts, of the people. He then proceeded to show that by imposing an income tax, which did not operate upon the poor at all, and which produced a revenue of £5,000,000 a-year from those classes of society which were in more comfortable circumstances, Ministers were enabled to relieve the poor from many taxes which they now paid. But it was not by the withdrawal of taxation alone that they benefited the poor; you did them as much good when you afforded them increased means of employment, and such means would be afforded to them by the present budget. For instance, in consequence of the remission of the glass duties new capital was already embarked in that trade, and new labourers were therefore wanted in the market. He had never limited the benefit which the repeal of the cotton duties would confer upon the poor man to the increased cheapness of his clothing—he had considered the repeal of those duties to be most valuable in this respect, that it would enable the British to meet the foreign manufacturer in every part of the world, and would therefore call into the labour-market an increased number of men to meet the increased demand of the foreign market. He then went on to show that if Government had proceeded to reduce the tea duties, which produced about £4,000,000, it must have reduced them to the amount of £2,000,000, as anything short of that reduction would be a dead loss to the revenue, and no benefit to the consumer. After dwelling on the impossibility of making any such reduction at present, he proceeded to implore the House not to be deterred from pursuing the course which it had hitherto taken on this subject. He denied that there had been any harshness in the levying of this tax in the north of England, and maintained that the cheerfulness and readiness with which it had been paid was a proof of it. If Hon. Members should support the amendments which were now proposed for exempting from the operation of this bill classes which ought not to be exempted from it, the necessar effec would be either to impose on the other classes of society a higher burden than that which they bore at present, or to render it impossible far the Government to remit the taxes which is now proposed to repeal. For these reasons he should give to Mr. Buller's amendment every resistance in his power.

Lord Howick called the attention of the House to the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had avoided all mention of the manner in which the revenue was to be restored to its present amount, after these reductions should have been made and the income tax should have ceased. He followed Mr. C. Buller through his financial propositions, and observed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not given a satisfactory answer to any one of them. He declined, however, to vote for the amendment, not that he liked the income tax better than his Noble Friend, for it was a most injurious mode of collecting revenue, but because the finances of the country were in such a state that if we took off the income tax, we must put on new taxes to the same amount. Now, he was not prepared to propose new taxes, and therefore he could not vote for the repeal of one which produced a certain amount of income. He considered that a better mode of levying taxation would give relief to the consumer, and more especially to the industrious classes, far more considerable than that which Sir R. Peel had proposed, and would leave the finances in a condition which would justify the belief that all the loss of revenue incurred in making this great experiment would eventually be recovered. He trusted that in the interval between the present time and the next general election the electors would consider whether it was worth while to continue this odious income tax for the purpose of bolstering up for a few years longer a system of protection, which even Ministers themselves had denounced as contrary to the principles of common sense.

Sir R. Inglis expressed his intention to vote with Mr. Buller, although he could scarcely understand his reasoning, that he wished to make the income tax tolerable because he found that it was to be perpetual. He recommended the Government to make some modifications in their bill, to distinguish between annuities and perpetuities, to capitalise the incomes of individuals, and to impose the tax on this capitalised income. He also recommended that the tax should not be imposed on the first £150 of any man's income, but only on that part of it which exceeded that sum.

Mr. Warburton declared that he could not vote for the amendment, because his Hon. Friend denounced the income tax as unequal, and he could not see wherein its inequalities existed.

Mr. Milnes suggested to Mr. C. Buller the propriety of not dividing the House on his amendment, as many of those who agreed with him in denouncing the income tax differed from him as to the propriety of the course he was then proposing. Though he was himself not friendly to the imposition of the income tax as a permanent tax in time of peace, he could not agree with Mr. C. Buller in considering it as very unpopular at the present time. If it had been, the table would have been covered with petitions against it, as it was in the year 1816; but now not more than three or four had been presented.

Mr. Hawes reminded the last speaker that the income tax in 1816 was 10 per cent., and that it was now only 2½ per cent., and intimated that the difference in the amount of the burden might be the cause why the people bestirred themselves more in 1816 to get rid of this tax than they did at present. He then entered into an examination of Sir R. Peel's financial scheme, and contended, that at present there was nothing to justify the imposition of the income tax. If it were imposed, it must be imposed with great inequalities, and that was a sufficient reason for him to vote against it. He had voted against it when it was proposed three years ago. He then thought that it was not justified by the deficit which existed in the revenue, and which he always looked upon as temporary and traceable to natural causes. He should vote against it now, unless Sir R. Peel could show that the income tax was necessary to the maintenance of public credit, and that no other tax could be imposed in its stead. So mischievous and inquisitorial was the tax that nothing but a sense of its insurmountable necessity should ever induce him to support it.

Mr. Spooner dilated upon the injustice of applying the same scale of taxation to a man with an annuity and to a man with an estate in perpetuity. He explained the amendments which he intended to move in the course of the evening, and insisted that he asked nothing unjust in calling upon the House to agree to them. He could not, however, vote for the amendment of Mr. C. Buller, because he could not deal with his motion unconnected with his argument, and to much of his argument he entertained strong objections.

Mr. Hume observed, that Mr. C. Buller and Mr. Hawes had brought before the House two questions, which ought to be kept quite distinct, namely, the income tax and the financial account for the year. Another opportunity would arise for discussing the latter question; at present, he would confine himself to stating that he supported the property tax, because he conceived it to be, not an increase, but a change of taxation. He also defended it as an approach to a system of direct taxation, which he conceived to be much more beneficial to the poorer classes than a system of indirect taxation. He supported the proposition of Sir R. Peel as a whole, though he objected to some of his details. But, as the Right Hon. Baronet had declared that he would not modify them, what use was there in bothering any longer about the matter?

Sir R. Peel complained that Mr. Hawes had completely misunderstood the object and tendency of the financial statement which he had made at the commencement of the session. After correcting the errors into which Mr. Hawes had unintentionally fallen, he replied to the different statements of Mr. C. Buller, contending that he ought to have concluded with a motion condemnatory of the income tax, and not with a motion declaratory of nothing more than the propriety of making some modifications in the bill for its continuance. He then adverted to the proposition of Sir Robert Inglis, who wished to exempt the first £150 a year in every man's income from the operation of this tax. Had his Hon. Friend considered that his proposition amounted to nothing less than this, that every man who now contributed to the income tax should reduce his contribution by the sum of £4 10s.? He believed that there were 200,000 persons at least entitled to demand that exemption; and if that exemption were granted there would be a loss of nearly £1,000,000 to the revenue. He next proceeded to point out the benefits which the community would derive from the reductions which he had proposed in his budget, and went through them item by item, showing that, though the poor would be benefitted by them, they were proposed, not for the benefit of one class, but for the benefit of the whole community. Mr. Hawes took so favourable a view of the financial position of the country, that he evidently must expect a surplus at the end of three years. He would, however, confine himself to the present prospect, and would only say, that he proposed to continue the income tax for three years, in order that he might try a great experiment on the industry, skill, and capital of the country. He admitted that the tax was open to objection, and that the inquisition to which parties were subjected under it was painful; but, seeing that no petitions had been presented against this bill, he hoped that the House would receive it with the same favour as it had three years ago. He hoped also that they would not admit any modifications in the bill—for modifications must open the door to fraud—but would affirm it in its present shape, as a tax both on income and on property.

Mr. Shell contended, that in schedule B, which affects professions and trades, there was an injustice, which might be easily removed by the imposition of a new tax, he meant a tax on the hereditary and testamentary devolution of land. It would be a species of legacy duty, and might be collected in the same manner. He knew that Mr. Pitt had failed in gaining the consent of the House to such a proposition; but then Sir R. Peel was in a better situation than ever Mr. Pitt enjoyed, and if any remonstrance were made against his bringing it forward, he had only to mention the cabalistic name of Russell to get rid of all opposition. Sir R. Peel had said there was no clamour against the income tax. In that respect, too, he had an advantage over the late Lord Castlereagh, who, if he mistook not, accused the people of "ignorant impatience of taxation," on a bill of this very same character. But there were many reasons why there was no clamour at present. First, there had been a succession of good harvests; and secondly, Government had raised up a privileged class in favour of the bill, namely, those who had not, and those who chose to swear they had not, £150 a-year. He then proceeded to condemn the injustice of the tax. Nothing could be more unjust than to impose the same tax on the barrister struggling for existence on his first circuit, and the Lord Chancellor reclining on the woolsack; on the gentleman who was listening to and reporting the debate, and the First Lord of the Treasury, with £30,000 a-year, who was forming the subject of it. After passing a high encomium on the reporters, out of whose ranks some of the first men in the country had risen, he dwelt upon the hardship of compelling them to pay out of the salaries which they earned under great wear and tear both of body and mind, and of which they might be deprived at any moment by the occurrence of ill-health, a contribution equal in proportion to that paid by the highest functionaries of the State, who, when disabled by the labours of office, had large private fortunes to fall back upon. He showed that this tax had been denounced as immoral, unjust, and oppressive by Baring, the prince of commerce; by Wilberforce, the moral and the good; and by the father of the present Minister, the late Sir R. Peel. He quoted the opinion of that shrewd and excellent man on the subject, and expressed a hope that posterity would not have to add, "*Patris dictum sapiens temeritas filii condemnavit.*"

Mr. Cobden thought that Sir R. Peel was congratulating himself too soon upon the absence of all clamour against his measures. When the country understood that the sugar duties were as bitter a pill to them as the income tax, which they were now called on to swallow, there would be a great outcry against both. At the end of the year men would know what they had to pay for the West Indian monopoly of sugar. Then they would combine their dislike of it with the quiet but honest detestation which even now prevailed against schedule B. As a free trader, he denounced both measures. He was surprised that Sir R. Peel, after proposing them, should call himself any longer an advocate for free trade.

Lord John Russell said, that the ground alleged for the imposition of the income tax was that it was nothing more than a commutation of taxes. Such being the case, the House was bound to consider whether the tax was as just, as equal, and as little vexatious as the House could make it. After the statement made that evening by Mr. C. Buller, the House was bound to examine into all the conditions and inequalities of the tax, and to endeavour, as far as it could, to remedy its defects. He hoped that the country would not forget that it was obliged to submit to the income tax, because Sir R. Peel showed so much favour to monopoly and protection. By reducing the duties on corn, sugar, and timber, he might get a better revenue, and make all the modifications which were required in the income tax. He should give his vote for the continuance of that tax for the next three years; but on the understanding that he was at liberty to make any modifications in the bill he might think necessary. If those modifications should diminish by a million the revenue hitherto derived from the tax, Ministers might find a sufficient compensation for it in carrying into execution more fully the principles of which they professed to be the advocates.

Mr. Villiers made one of his usual speeches in favour of free trade, and contended that those who supported the Corn Laws ought to be held by the country responsible for the imposition of the income tax.

Mr. Muntz admitted that the income-tax was not popular in Birmingham. He was for putting an end to it, and for imposing a *bona fide* property tax upon all classes.

The House then divided, when there appeared—

For Mr. C. Buller's amendment	112
Against it	240
Majority against the amendment ...	—128

Mr. W. Miles then proposed a clause for the purpose of providing an easier mode of appeal for the agricultural tenantry. He stated that the measures of the Government had taken from that tenantry the means of paying the income tax. He therefore thought that the condition in which they were placed in the last Act ought to be altered in the present. They were now rated at one-half of their rent, and he thought that they ought not to be rated at more than the sum of 3½d. in England and 2½d. in Scotland for every 20s. of the property they occupied.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that it was not in his power, nor was it consistent with justice, to accede to this amendment.

The House then divided, when there appeared—

For the amendment	92
Against it	196
Majority against it	—104

The report was then brought up, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time on Wednesday next, when the amendments of Mr. Spooner, Mr. Wakley, and others, are to be taken into consideration.

The report of the Committee of Ways and Means was brought up; the resolutions on the sugar duties were agreed to, and a bill founded upon them was ordered to be brought in.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, and agreed, without almost any discussion, to the resolution taking off the export duty on coals. On the House resuming,

Mr. Bright rose to nominate the select committee on the Game Laws.

Mr. C. Berkeley complained of the unfair mode in which this committee was going to be formed, and moved in the first place that the name of Mr. Bouverie be expunged from the list, and that the name of Mr. Gregory be inserted in its stead. He accused Sir James Graham of having acted with great partiality in nominating so many gentlemen on the committee who were known to be hostile to the present system of Game Laws. Six of them, moreover, were members of the Anti-Corn Law League.

Sir J. Graham was sorry that Mr. C. Berkeley should think that he had reason to complain of his conduct in the nomination of this committee; but he was glad to know that he had given no foundation for that complaint. He then stated how the committee had been nominated by himself and Mr. Bright, who had behaved throughout in the most conciliatory spirit. If Mr. Bright was not inclined to accede to the wishes of the Hon. Member for Cheltenham, he should feel himself bound in good faith to resist them also.

Mr. Bright could not assent to the proposition of Mr. C. Berkeley. The Hon. Gentleman was mistaken in supposing that six gentlemen nominated on the committee belonged to the Anti-Corn Law League. There were only four of them members of the Anti-Corn Law League, and only three who had ever taken any active part in its proceedings.

The House then divided, when there appeared for the erasure of Mr. Bouverie's name—Ayes, 13; Noes, 100; Majority, 87.

Mr. C. Berkeley then moved the erasure of the name of Mr. George Cavendish from the list of the committee, and the insertion of that of Lord Palmerston in its place.

Another division was then taken, but Mr. Berkeley's amendment was negatived by a majority of 65 over 29.

The House then adjourned.

Tuesday, March 11.

Sir R. Peel gave notice that he would move, on a future day, that the House should adjourn for the Easter recess on Thursday, the 22d, and meet again on Monday, the 31st inst.

NEW ZEALAND AFFAIRS.

Mr. Somes moved for copies of correspondence respecting the issue of debentures as a legal tender in New Zealand; of all correspondence respecting taxes proposed in the Legislative Council; of all correspondence relating to the measures taken by the Governor of that colony to fulfil Lord Stanley's agreement of the 12th of May, 1843, respecting the grant of a conditional title to the lands of the New Zealand Company; and also of correspondence relating to the affairs of that company, their purchases of lands, &c.

Mr. Aglionby complained of the course pursued by the Colonial Office towards the New Zealand Company, and pressed for the production of the documents. The colony, he contended, was brought to the verge of ruin by home and local mismanagement, instead of being, as it ought to be, under proper management, one of the most flourishing colonies under the British Crown.

Mr. G. W. Hope said that the Secretary for the Colonies and the Governor of New Zealand were exposed to attacks by insinuations rather than by any direct charges, while, on the other hand, the documents before the House were altogether overlooked by those who made those insinuations. With respect to the debentures, they had been disallowed by the Government at home, and had therefore been withdrawn. No information had been received on the subject of local taxation, nor of the recent occurrences arising from the conduct of the natives. With respect to the sale of lands, the necessity for altering the instructions sprung from the increasing knowledge of the natives, which prevented the possibility of dealing with them under the same circumstances as heretofore.

Mr. C. Buller took a review of the history of the colony, condemning in severe terms the whole policy of Captain Fitzroy, who had, he said, taken advantage of the death of Captain Wakefield in order to traduce his memory. As governor of the colony he had given all his sympathy to the natives, and had contrived to lose the confidence of all the European inhabitants of the islands in the short period of six months. He wished to pass no severer censure on Captain Fitzroy, than that he was a most foolish and incompetent governor, unfit to be intrusted with the management of the most ordinary affairs, and whose recall was absolutely requisite for the interests and safety of the colony.

Colonel R. Trevor deprecated the language that had been used towards Capt. Fitzroy, who could not even hear of the charges now made against him until after the lapse of five months, and could not defend himself from them at an earlier period than the next session of Parliament.

Sir R. Peel regretted that Mr. Aglionby, knowing that the motion was not to be opposed, had not followed the example of Mr. Somes, and refrained from discussing a matter in which charges must necessarily be promulgated against Captain Fitzroy, without the requisite information to enable his conduct to appear in a proper and just light to the House. The Hon. Gentleman, upon the mere authority of a newspaper report, had made serious charges against an absent individual whose friends had no means to defend him. The Right Hon. Baronet then observed, that the New Zealand Company were at first quite satisfied with the appointment of Captain Fitzroy, and contended that in common justice they should hear from that gallant officer an account of those transactions before they attempted precipitately to condemn him, or the Colonial Secretary by whom he had been appointed.

Lord Howick rose to defend Mr. C. Buller. He imputed no blame to the motives of Captain Fitzroy, but he had a right, and so had Mr. Buller, to condemn the judgment of that officer.

After some further conversation, the motion, slightly altered, was agreed to.

RESISTANCE TO THE POOR LAW AT ROCHDALE.

Mr. S. Crawford, in bringing before the House the allegations contained in the petition of the rate-payers and inhabitants of Rochdale, observed that the subject which he was then about to introduce to its consideration was not merely local, but one of general and national policy. It involved this question—whether the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners should be forced into that remnant of England which still refused to submit to it? It also raised the question, whether the New Poor Law should continue in its present state, or whether it should be changed so as to make it more consistent with sound policy and the ancient constitution of England? The affairs of the poor in the parish of Rochdale had been managed for the last twenty-five years under the Select Vestry Act, and no fault had ever been found with the mode of their management. In the year 1837 a union was formed of Rochdale and nine other parishes, for the purposes of registration; but the guardians elected were instructed to refrain from interfering with the relief of the poor. Rochdale remained in this position till the 25th of October, 1844, when an order was issued to the guardians by the Poor Law Commissioners, directing them to take upon themselves the administration of the relief of the poor in that union. Now, this order, in point of fact, commanded them, though they had long administered the relief of the poor in their own way, to administer it in that, way no longer. Notwithstanding this order, it was found impossible to obtain a meeting either of the elected or the ex-officio guardians to carry it into effect; for they had determined that they would not do that which in their opinion would prove injurious to the poor in their district. In November, 1844, the Poor Law Commissioners moved for a *mandamus* against the board of guardians, and, as he was informed, not in the usual form, for the common practice was to move for a rule to show cause why a *mandamus* should not issue; but in this case the rule was made absolute at once, on the allegation that the poor at Rochdale were actually starving. Now, it was strange that such an allegation should have been made, as the poor were then receiving relief in the usual way to which they had been accustomed. He charged the Commissioners with something approaching to a deception when they gained a *mandamus* on such grounds, as they thereby deprived the parish of Rochdale of the opportunity of disputing the truth of the harsh imputation cast upon its character for humanity. On the legality of the *mandamus* he would not say a word, as that would be decided at the next assizes for Lancaster. The rate-payers of Rochdale wished to avoid this litigation, and they addressed in consequence a memorial to Sir James Graham, as did also the board of guardians, requesting that the New Poor Law should not be inflicted upon them. Those memorials were signed by 11,415 rate-payers, which was within fifty-three of the whole number; and on their presentation to Sir James Graham he declared that he had no authority to interfere with the operation of an Act of Parliament. Under such circumstances, he asked whether it was right to allow the Poor Law Commissioners to force their authority on the rate-payers of Rochdale? He thought it was not; for his constituents had never been guilty of any misconduct in their mode of administering relief to the poor; on the contrary, their management of the poor had been highly eulogized by several of the Assistant-Commissioners. They, therefore, appealed to the House against the power of the Poor Law Commissioners, and prayed to be heard at the bar of the House in support of the allegations contained in their petition. He then proceeded to state and to enforce the allegations of the petitioners, that the Poor Law was unconstitutional, destructive of the principle of self-government, inhuman in theory, cruel in practice, injurious to the morals, and detrimental to the industry and comforts of the poor. After pointing out various other defects in the Poor Law, he said that he asked for inquiry into these allegations at their bar; but he would not insist on that part of his motion, if Sir James Graham would give him inquiry in any other way—for instance, if he would send down a Commissioner to Rochdale and institute a public examination into the complaints of the petitioners. He warned the House that if the prayer of the petitioners were not granted, the guardians of Rochdale would suffer all the penalties of an attachment rather than yield that which in their conscience they believed would be injurious to the poor and to the ratepayers conjointly—he meant obedience to the mandates of the Poor Law Commissioners. He concluded by making a motion in conformity with the terms of his speech.

Mr. Ferrand.—I rejoice, sir, that I have caught your eye, for I am anxious to bear my testimony to the unanimity of that vast meeting at which this petition was agreed to, and the determined spirit which the inhabitants of Rochdale then exhibited to stand by the principles which they were met to assert. I also rejoice to have the opportunity of calling the attention of the House to the solemn pledges given by those who introduced this law, and the manner in which those pledges have been broken, as well as the fearful results which have accrued to the country. I will prove that the inhabitants of Rochdale are justified in resisting the extension of the system into their neighbourhood; and that obedience, on their part, would be a crime, while resistance is a virtue. (Hear.) There were the most solemn pledges given when this law was introduced; this House was deceived by those pledges, and so was the country; and what can Parliament say now, when I prove that those pledges have been most unblushingly broken? Will it assert that the people of Rochdale are not justified in resisting a law which was carried by unjust and unconstitutional means? (Hear, hear.) Sir, when this measure was first introduced by Lord Althorp, he distinctly said, on the 17th of April, 1834;—"As to the observation of the Hon. Member for Marylebone, who hoped that the commissioners would not interfere with parishes that were well regulated, he had to say, that he hoped they would not; the only mode in which he trusted they would deal with such parishes would be by following their example. When a parish was really well regulated, it need not entertain the slightest apprehension of interference upon the part of the commissioners." Upon this pledge, given by the mouthpiece of the Government of this House, this House gave its consent to the bill, and the country did not offer that opposition to it, which it would otherwise have done. Afterwards, on the same day, Lord Althorp said, "he need not say that an immense advantage would be obtained by a uniformity of system throughout the country;" and on the 27th of June, he observed, "The proposed amendment would destroy one of the principal advantages of the measure, namely, uniformity of practice." The Right Hon. Baronet (Sir J. Graham) said, on a latter occasion, on the 20th of July, 1839, that "the law contemplated that, on a given day, the refusal of out-door relief throughout England and Wales should be general." Lord Althorp said, on the 1st of July, 1834, "the object of the bill was to put a stop to the allowance system." On the 12th of June, 1834, the same Noble Lord stated "that it was not intended as a general rule, that a man should be separated from his wife, or children from their mother, or that paupers should have their hair shaved, or be compelled to wear badges." On the 9th of June, 1834, Lord Althorp said, "it would prove of the greatest possible benefit to the labourer;" and on the 27th of that month, "the farmer and his labourer would both be benefited; the latter being made independent by increased wages, and the former, in consequence of that increase, would have his work much more effectually and zealously done and performed." He asserted that the average rate of wages in the north of Nottinghamshire was 13s. a week; in Northamptonshire, 9s. But there was a statement made by a Noble Lord, who has been quoted to-night. I allude to Lord Brougham. In moving the second reading, his Lordship said, "Such a system (that is the old Poor Law) deadens all sense of shame, all sense of real dignity; erases from the mind every feeling of honourable independence, and fits its victims only for acts of outrage or of fraud. Look at that volume (the *Poor Law Commissioners' Report*), the record of idleness and her sister guilt which now stalk over the land. Look at the calendar which they have filled to overflowing, notwithstanding the improvement of our jurisprudence, and the progress of education." He then called the attention of the House of Lords to the state of the country, and spoke of it as "that which I could not bear to think of, did I not know that the same hand which lays it bare to your eyes, and makes its naked deformity horrible in your sight, will be enabled by your assistance to apply to the foul disease a safe and effectual remedy; restoring to industry its due reward, and visiting idleness with its appropriate punishment; reinstating property in security, and lifting up once more—God be praised!—the character of that noble English peasantry to the proud eminence, where, but for the Poor Laws, it would still have shown untarnished, the admiration of mankind and the glory of the country which boasts it as its brightest ornament!" Now, I ask the House of Commons—I ask England—have these pledges been redeemed? (Cheers.) What has been the conduct of the Poor Law Commissioners in defiance of those solemn pledges? Have they refused to enforce this law in "well regulated parishes?" Have they taken well-regulated parishes as "their example" in enforcing the law elsewhere? No; but they have trampled under foot the rights, the liberties, and the privileges of the people of England. (Hear, hear.) How has your "uniformity of practice" been carried out? Has that been enforced throughout the country? Why, I want no other evidence than that of the Hon. Baronet himself (Sir J. Graham), who, in this House, after this law had been five years in existence, was obliged to bear testimony to its utter failure, and to the breaking down of all "uniformity of practice" in the granting of out-door relief, and in the allowance system. what said Sir R. Peel on the 8th of February, 1841? He said. "It was in the hope and in the belief that a new test would improve the condition of the labourer himself, and that it would teach him the happiness and pride of an independent position, that he had consented to the alteration in the law." The "independent position" of the labourer of the present day! (Cheers.) I see in the House the Noble Lord, the Member for London (Lord J. Russell), and I wish to bear to his face the testimony which I have borne behind his back, that it was a manly way in which he adhered to the New Poor Law, previous to the last general election. No doubt the Right Hon. Baronet at the head of the Government sits on that bench, placed there by the New-Poor-Law cry throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) Ay, it was fanned into a blaze by the Conservative party at the last general election (cheers), and fanned by the Right Hon. Baronet the Secretary for the Home Department. (Hear, hear.) I have not forgotten reading the speech of that Right Hon. Baronet, and the First Lord of the Treasury when they abused the Poor Law Commissioners for their disgraceful language, when they had declared that the New Poor Law was to put a stop to alms-giving in this country. (Cheers.) The First Lord of the Treasury raised his hands, and appealed to Heaven if such language ought to have been used. (Renewed cheers.) But what said the Noble Lord the Member for London, when he saw these Right Hon. Gentlemen breaking the pledges which they had privately given, to stand by the New Poor Law, which ever party was in power. On the motion of the Hon. Member for Sussex (Mr. Darby) to allow out-door relief to persons who had married before the passing of the Act, and had families, the Noble Lord (Lord J. Russell) said, "he considered it to be at variance with every other clause in the New Poor Law Act. It was a renewal of the worst part of the old system—the allowance system. It would expose the new law to universal relaxation, and would in that respect alone be productive of the most pernicious consequences. It would create great dissatisfaction among the labourers, as it would divide them into two distinct classes, one of which would be entitled to relief out of the workhouse, and the other not, and that too without the slightest reference either to the goodness or the worthlessness of their character. By the cogency of such arguments, and by the want of uniformity thus created in the system of Poor Laws, the House would be compelled to break down by degrees all the efficiency of the present law." Sir, the House has "by degrees broken down all the efficiency" of that law. The New Poor Law is a dead letter; there is not such a thing in existence. (Hear, hear.) There is one law in the north, another law in the south, another in the east, and another in the west. There is one law carried out in one union by Lord This, and another in the next union by the Duke of That; and the practice varies with the extent to which the Commissioners have ground the guardians into submission. The whole law is a farce. (Cheers.) The Noble Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord G. Somerset), hearing that speech of the Noble Member for London, jumped up and "expressed his intention to support the clause. So far was he from being willing to extend the authority of the Commissioners, that he had every desire to abridge it; for he would tell the Noble Lord that he had no confidence whatever in the Poor Law Commissioners." Cabinet Ministers within these walls have expressed themselves to be adverse to this law; and I remember being in this House, when there were either eight or nine gentlemen sitting on the Treasury bench, who had either obtained their seats by violently abusing this law upon the hustings, or had spoken violently against it in this House. (Hear, hear.) I ask the Right Hon. Baronet (Sir J. Graham) whether Lord Althorp's solemn pledge has been kept, that as a general rule a man was not to be separated from his wife, or a child from its mother, nor paupers to have their heads shaved, or be compelled to wear badges? And I know that these indignities and insults have done more to arouse the spirit of disloyalty and disaffection among the masses in this country, than all other evils put together. (Hear.) Have you not continued the allowance system?—You have; in the north of England you have been compelled to do it. You are enforcing the rule at Bradford; but the day will come when you will bitterly repent it; and you are not enforcing it at Leeds, a few miles off. (Hear, hear.) Well did the Noble Lord (Lord J. Russell) say, that it would "create great dissatisfaction among the labourers." Is it not disgusting, that a law is now in force in England, which on one side of a brook treats the labourer with apparent consideration, and on the other with inhumanity? (Hear, hear.) But Lord Althorp assured the country, when he introduced the measure, that wages would rise. What are the wages in the country now? Why, your labouring man in the agricultural districts is well off if he obtain 7s. a week! Has the Poor Law raised wages, and redeemed that pledge? (Hear.) But I come to more startling facts. We were told that the New Poor Law was to eradicate poverty, and reduce the poor-rates! I find by a return I hold in my hand (the Poor Law Commissioners' tenth report) that the population of England and Wales in 1841 was 15,906,829. And now let the House listen to the following returns, remembering that 1842 and 1843 have been good years in the manufacturing districts. The numbers relieved were—In 1842, in-door, 222,642; out-door, 1,204,545. Total, 1,427,187. The cost—Of the in-door, £934,158; of the out-door, £3,090,884. Total, £4,025,042. In 1843—In-door, 238,560; out-door, 1,300,930. Total, 1,539,490. Cost—In-door, £958,057; out-door, £3,321,508. Total, £4,279,565. The increase of 1843 over 1844 being, in-door, 15,918 in number, and £23,899 in cost; out-door, 96,385 in number, and £230,624 in cost. Total, 112,303 in number, and £254,523 in cost. Again, the parochial rates levied were—In 1834, £8,338,079; in 1837, £5,094,566; in 1843, 7,085,595; showing an increase in 1843 over 1837, of £1,891,029, and a decrease of 1843 as compared with 1834, of £1,252,484. There was expended in relief—in 1834, £6,317,255; in 1837, £4,044,741; in 1843, £5,208,027; showing an increase in 1843 over 1837 of £1,163,286, and a decrease of 1843, as compared with 1834, of £1,109,228. I now wish to call the attention of the House to the expenditure of parochial rates otherwise than for the relief of the poor. In 1834 the expenditure otherwise than for the relief of the poor was £2,020,714; in 1837, it was £1,249,852; in 1843, it was £1,877,568, giving an increase of such expenditure in 1843 over 1837 of £627,716. That is the result of your attempt to save the poor-rates of this country! Sir, I call the attention of the House to the price at which you have obtained this result. Lord Brougham, in moving the second reading of the Poor Law Amendment Bill in the House of Lords, gave a picture of the blessings which were to flow from this law. It would eradicate crime, it would put down poverty and pauperism, and prevent the Noble Lord himself from becoming a Cumberland pauper. What is now the state of crime in England and Wales? I will read to the House an extract from the statistics compiled by Mr. Redgrave, from the records of the Home-office, where the Right Hon. Baronet may see them to-morrow if he pleases. I have extracted them from the *British Almanack* for 1845, of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Lord Brougham chairman of the committee. The amount of crime as evidenced by the commitments in 1836 was 20,984; in 1837 it was 23,612; in 1838, 23,094; in 1839, 24,443; in 1840, 27,187; in 1841, 27,760; in 1842, 31,309; in 1843, 29,591. The result is, that the increase of crime in 1842 over 1836 is 10,835, being years after the New Poor Law came into operation. The increase in 1843 over 1836 is 8,607. I ask, has the New Poor Law diminished crime? This is a startling result, and must enforce conviction. But is that all that has occurred under the operation of the law? Why, instead of a decrease, there is a