

in that country than the Zampa and Fra i vold
our comic operas.

The Provinces.

the Woolwich station. Under the personal supervision of the London-bridge station preparations were instantly made for their reception at the station, if it should arrive there at speed, so as to prevent any ill-consequences ensuing beyond injury to the engine itself. Sleepers were placed upon the road, and the engine was fixed there until the station was reached. On the morning of the 20th, the superintendent met the runaway engine between the Bricklayers Arms junction station and the New-cross-bridge, then backed to follow it, crossing at the junction on to the same line as the runaway, which it pursued and overtook, running on to its special siding at the station. Great care was taken in the pursuing engine on to the runaway, and immediately obtained control over it, and the two engines thus arrived in perfect control at the London-bridge terminus. We cannot record this transaction without turning our eye to the providential circumstances attending it. The Great Eastern railway, being on the up-grade at the platform at the time the engine passed, for which many have abundant cause to be thankful; and many, perhaps, never was an occasion when the use of the electric telegraph was more significant than on this occasion, in order to prevent a catastrophe, or to concert measures to meet the difficulty in the most judicious manner. The telegraphic news from station to station enabled every station to be kept clear, and the information received at London-bridge caused every engine there to be again brought into play to meet the emergency. The news of the runaway engine, the driver who was ready to spring from engine to engine at the moment of contact, and at the risk of being shaken from his hold to the ground, cannot be passed unnoticed.

ACCIDENTS FROM FIRE-ARM.—An accident from the same cause, the playing of a fire-arms, which, Mrs. Ann Dines, a girl about 12 years of age, lost her life, occurred at Hatfield Peverel, on the 27th ult. The gun had been left at the corner of a room, and was taken up by a youth, the cousin of the deceased, who amused himself by exploding the gun, and the powder was so exploded that it killed her before it went off. On the 28th ult., an inquest was held on the body before W. Codd, Esq., and to the surprise of the coroner and jury, on going to view the body they found a gun in the same corner of the room, which on an examination proved to be loaded; the coroner ordered the gun to be opened, and the following evidence was adduced:

W. Dines, the father of the deceased, said about three o'clock in the afternoon, while in the barn near the house, he was informed of the accident, and on going into the sitting-room he found the deceased in the chair with her head against the wall, and she had been lying on the right side of the room; her face was blackened, and she was apparently dead; when he left, the room about ten minutes before a long gun was standing up in a corner near the clock; but he had not the slightest idea what was loaded, as he had not used it for eighteen months, and he had never seen it since the death of the deceased, and their cousin, John Jeffs, but they

never not meddling with the gun; he was not aware that there was a cap on the nipple of this gun, but before he left he took the cap off another gun to see if it was a good one, and when appearing to go to the door he said "it is all right," and also another taken from a boy, which appeared to be defective; his little boy Charles asked if he might have the caps, and he told him yes, and he left the house with the other gun; he never allowed his children to touch the caps, and had no idea that the caps would be used in this manner. He was not aware of any possible practice of taking fire-arms loaded into a house, told Mr. Dines that both the jury and himself were reluctant to aggravate his feelings upon such an occasion, as they must necessarily be very untrue, but he could not but express their surprise at finding any loaded gun near the house in that place—except which he presumed had, from his mistress of mind, escaped her recollection. Mr. Dines assured the coroner and jury he would never have a loaded gun into the house again.—John Selfs, aged 14, who had been living with Mr. Dines, said, as soon as his uncle had gone out of the room, he took the caps from the gun near the clock, put one of the caps on, and pulled the trigger; the cap snapped, but he did not smell anything, nor did he see any smoke. His cousin Charles then put the other cap on, and held it about a foot from the door, and pulled the trigger, and the cap snapped. He then went into the room, and took the gun, and threw it upon the floor, and as he was in the act of taking the gun to put it back in the corner of the room, it went off and shot the deceased, who was sitting on a chair by the window, the charge entering the right side of the mouth and cheek, and striking the brain, and he died immediately. His head immediately fell upon the table, and she watched her breath only two or three times." The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death,"—in the same day another accident from firearms occurred in the neighbourhood. A boy named William Smith, aged 14, was sitting on a bench, some parties firing at a mark, when some shot struck in the eye of his eyes. The boy was suffering from pain, and it is doubtful whether the sight is not destroyed.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—Some of the men who had been employed on the Midland Railway, and who were engaged to work on the Great Northern Railway at the reduced rate of wages; the great bulk of the porters continue to insist on the higher rates of payment. There have been some accidents among the new men; one of their number at Hunslet suffered injuries from the fall of two heavy doors; and another at Hunslet was killed, and it is thought that on the whole the carrying trade has been somewhat impeded, and considerable losses sustained by the damage which delay has occasioned to perishable

oids, hence many and loud complaints prevail against the course pursued by the directors.

THEATRES.

ACCIDENT AT BRITANNIA-BRIDGE.—**CARNARVON, MONDAY.**—Owing to some inadvertence correct information was not conveyed to Liverpool, on Saturday, as to the postponement of a "six foot" of the second tube, now daily progressing towards its final resting place, the consequence of which was that the smacky Robust, Captain Edwards, of Aberystwyth ; on returning from Liverpool, with a general cargo, whilst passing the Swilfies, on the 20th inst., was unfortunately received by a pier mast, against which he was hurled, and so completely overturned, that he was obliged to return to his home. She succeeded, however, in reaching this morning, where a great number of hands were employed during the whole of Sunday night repairing, as far as possible, the effects of the casualty, that the vessel might proceed on her voyage without delay.

SCOTLAND.

MADAME SONTAG IN A SNOW-DRIFT.—On the morning of Friday, the 28th ult., Madame Sontag and her party left Glasgow for Aberdeen, to attend the morning concert on the following day. All went well till the train reached Glamis, when a greater depth of snow was experienced, and from thence to Laurencekirk, the speed was materially retarded. At Middleton Bridge, about a mile or a mile and a half farther on, the engine ran into a cutting filled "with water" to the depth of six or seven feet, and was completely immovable. At this time, five in the afternoon, the blast was most fierce and cutting, carrying the drift from the fields into the hollow of the railway, and rapidly burying the carriages. The situation, as may be imagined, was anything but agreeable for the passengers, the consultation having been held with the guard and driver, Mr. Wood determined to leave the train, and endeavour to reach Laurencekirk on foot. This, with the assistance of two guides, he happily accomplished, although the strength of the wind and depth of the snow brought

procured, and a basket of provisions for the party again started for the embedded train. The wind being now in their faces, the task became more difficult, as well as dangerous, but by avoiding the road and taking through the fields, from which the train had been dislodged, the train was enabled to move more readily. The men were now aware of the cutting, and the summit of the road from the carriages, and gain the summit of the cutting. Madame Sontag, with undaunted energy, at once determined to attempt it, and descend the carriage. The men were sent on before to make the descent. The carriages, after great exertion, and several falls, reached the level ground. There the blast became quite blinding; but Madame Sontag having covered her head with a cloak, was soon supported through the fields and over the fences, to the house of Mr. Wilson, a most hospitable householder. The Count, after Mr. P. Labache, Signor Calzolari, and Signor Priati, she remained all night. Mr. Wood, with some others of the party, again faced the blast, and reached Laurencekirk in safety, although much worn out. Between Drumhaghill and Middleton Bridge, there were tremendous fires, and the air was so thick with smoke, that the people were obliged to stop. No morning, the snow had so completely filled the country as to bury the carriages.

EXPLOSION AT GLASGOW.—A few minutes after seven o'clock on Monday morning, the inhabitants residing at Bath-street, and the streets in the vicinity, were thrown into a state of the utmost consternation by a tremendous explosion, followed by a second, and a third, and so on, till the windows of the houses the glass in every apartment was smashed, and in some instances the window-frames forced out. This, it appeared, had been occasioned from an accidental explosion of gas, which is supposed to have been accumulating for the last few days, and had lately become so much increased, that the serious apprehensions of many of the students. To give our readers an idea of the nature and magnitude of the explosion, we may state that

