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establishments, which are maintained in order to quarter the dependents of the aristocracy upon the people. When public money is so misemployed, there will never be any to devote to the service and advantage of the people.

Mr. STANFORD's plan, however, would not require much outlay on the part of the State, even in the way of a loan.

He wishes, in order to establish a better provision for the poor, to extend the allotment system under the powers of an act of parliament.

He proposed this measure to Lord JOHN RUSSELL twenty years ago, but it was met by the objection, that the poor could not procure a measure to cultivate the land.

The system has, however, been successfully in operation in the north of Bucking-hamshire. At Sherrington there is a plot of land of about fourteen acres, which has always been considered as bad and valueless, that person could cultivate it with advantage, and it would not let for more than *five shillings per acre*.

A few years since it was sold to a poor man named Rose, for a small sum, and he not only let it out in allotments to the poor of a quarter or half an acre each at *three pounds per acre*.

Mr. STANFORD says that the poor took the land with avidity, and that price and are cultivating it with very possible success, and procuring from it produce of crops. This fact proves that the poor can and do procure a measure, and that in very sufficient quantity.

But this is put beyond question by another fact, that they obtain from this bad land *sheaves of wheat per acre*, and moreover have a continual succession of crops.

We observe that convicts are to be employed in reclaiming Dartmoor as much as possible, and that it is expected that moor will be remunerative property in a few years.

That of course it will depend upon the management of the men and the money.

Such is the spirit of jobbing in every department of public service, that there can be no hopes of realising a profit. But why cannot a similar experiment be made with the poorest poor?

Are the sympathies of the legislature and government to be always with the *few*? By giving employment to the poorest poor, allowing them to pay rent for the land which they reclaim, there would be fewer felons, and fewer paupers, and thus two sources of great cost and trouble would be done away.

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Foreign intelligence.

FRANCE.

The details connected with the reception of the President, at the various towns he visited in the course of his popularity hunting journey, constitute the staple of the French intelligence this week, according to the correspondents of the "Times"—but the are, for the time being, ultra-Bonapartists—no reception has everywhere been of the most enthusiastic and brilliant description. They are unwilling to admit, that he has everywhere been received with the cry "Vive le Republic," while the anticipated exclamation, "Vive l'Empereur," has at rare been heard, and when raised has been gorgorously responded to by the opposite party; but they try to account for this decidedly republican manifestation of feeling by alleging that the parties who cry for the Republic are hired for the purpose, and stimulated by liquor. The absurdity of the allegation is so evident that it would be waste of time to attempt its refutation. One incident is worthy record:—

On visiting Fins he went to a bronze statue of the Emperor erected upon the estate of M. Noisot, his grandeur of the imperial guard, who accompanied Napoleon to the Isle of Elba. It appears that one of M. Noisot's dearest friends is Colonel Guindard, now languishing in the prison of Doullens, in consequence of a sentence of the high Court of Verailles. M. Noisot, influenced doubtless by a generous feeling, did not fail, after the ceremonious accomplishments of reception, to allude to the painful position of his old comrade, and to solicit the exertions of the President in his behalf. Neither Louis Napoleon nor his suite were prepared for such a serious close to the complements of a formal reception. The President made answer with the unfeigned air of one who finds himself trapped into an affront. It is sufficiently well known that the constitution does not allow the President the prerogative of pardon; nor was M. Noisot probably ignorant of what all France knows, but merely solicited the exertion of the President's good offices.

M. de Balzac, the famous novelist, expired on Sunday night last.

A member of the Committee of Permanence has received a letter from the Prince de Joinville, which contains an explicit declaration of his opinion that the question for France can only lie between the legitimate monarchy and the republic; but that a "republican prince" is chimerical, and cannot last. As to the monarchy of expedients, which we have had for eighteen years, a second trial of it would be dangerous in the extreme. It should seem from this that Prince de Joinville has turned Legitimist.

M. de Larochejaquin has written a cloudy letter to the "Gazette de France" respecting what he terms "The pretended Legitimist Congress" at Wiesbaden. He denied that any "special rendezvous" was given by the would-be Henry V. but states he was very gracious, though reserved, to those who waited upon him. All that the writer lets out, as to the result, is that past divisions were condemned, and that they "left, promising very cordially to use all their efforts to march as one man on all questions," and in the next session have the same eyes, feel the same conscience, and take an absolute direction." What the rule of Henry V. would be, if placed on the throne, may be judged of from the following, extracted from the Vienna correspondent of the "Daily News":—

"M. Benal, who keeps the leading hotel at Frohsdorf, and his court been honoured with a great increase of company owing to the number of travellers who come to pay their respects to the Count, especially in the spring. To meet this increase of patronage by a corresponding liberality in the administration of his establishment, M. Benal became a subscriber to most of the principal newspapers of Austria and Europe, a measure which he was able to carry out more completely, as his hotel is beyond the radius within which the existing press ordinances apply. M. Benal's premises are held on advantageous terms under the count himself. A few days ago the host was astounded by a message from the count, communicated through his steward, to the effect that the lease, which would expire in the course of some weeks, would not be renewed. On inquiring the grounds upon which his most gracious Majesty King Henry V. had been advised to take this resolution so sorely afflictive to the interrogator, M. Benal was informed that the proceeding was intended to mark his Majesty's displeasure at the conduct of the inn-keeper in subscribing to surrealist and Radical newspapers, a dull journal published at Brunn being at the same time indicated, and it was added that his Majesty regarded the buyers of such journals as contributing to maintain the cause in which they were published. Up to the present moment all the endeavours of the stricken hotel-keeper to procure a reversal of his sentence, which to him is almost one of death, have been vain. He has volunteered the most solemn promises instantly and for ever to discontinue his subscription to the "Press," the Brunn journal which had caused the difficulty, and to exclude from his establishment any papers which his Majesty might be pleased to proscribe. The only reply vouchsafed is that the king's resolution is unalterably fixed, and that he would be surrounded by no persons in any relation of whose political soundness he was not well assured. This little incident of the court at Frohsdorf appears to justify Napoleon's well-known words, applied to the ancestors of the Pretender:—"Those people have learned nothing, have forgotten nothing."

GREAT INUNDATIONS IN BELGIUM.
By the Belgian newspapers it appears that nearly the whole of the country has been laid under water, to the serious destruction of property of all kinds, though as yet no great loss of life is reported.

At Brussels the water has been so high as to give serious anxiety. In many of the suburbs the water was five feet high. The quays of the Charleroi canal had been carried away by the torrents, and four men drowned at one place. In the Feubourg de Flandre, fifty houses had been thrown down, and an immense number of cattle lost. Boats were to be seen navigating the streets in masses. The whole of the suburb of Anderlecht was still under water, according to the latest accounts. In the fish market, a large house, in the occupation of Gerard and Co., carriers, came down with an immense crash, and fell into the Seine.

At St. Josse Tenuode, outside Brussels, the waters were still very high by last accounts. At Laken, the residence of the King, they were on the increase. The communications between Brussels and the stations on the Northern Railway were all interrupted. It was not till late on Sunday evening that a train could get forward to Antwerp.

Similar intelligence is given from a great number of other towns. Some districts are reported as entirely inundated. In the vicinity of Mons, the river Haine threw down a great part of the Mons and Manage railway, three enormous breaches were made, and, of course, all communication stopped.

The "Independence Belge," dated Charleroi August 17th, says:—"All the lower town is under water; the tributaries of the Sambre have overflowed and are so many torrents bringing down a deluge of water. The railway is submerged, and the travellers by yesterday's train had to pass the night in the upper stories of the station. The timber and sleepers, the property of the Quelaines Railway Company, have been carried away by the flood, and planks, piles, and logs, are everywhere seen floating about. Stores of charcoal, corn, hay, and the newly-gathered harvest, have been carried away by the current."

The journals of the 19th report an increase during the night of the waters to the height of two feet and a half, and at half-past ten of that date not the least abatement was discernible. Several walls had fallen down. In the Rue de Seminaire, of Namur, the water was upwards of ten feet in height; the gendarmerie were compelled to quit their barracks. The aspect of the Sambre at its confluence with the Meuse is terrific; the billows are dashing six and nine feet high.

From Lille we learn that the Marque has overflowed and carried away the harvest in that neighbourhood. The bridge over the river was carried away just as a number of peasants were watching the rise of the waters from its summit. The parties were saved without injury. Houses have fallen before the torrent at Lille, and communications have been cut off in several directions."

ITALY.

The "Corriere" published the following from Rome, dated the 10th:—"A capital sentence has just been pronounced against a man named Pino, who on the 2nd ult. assassinated his father-in-law. This murder was attended with such atrocious circumstances that it appears certain that the sentence will be approved of by the Pope, and that the execution will take place after the *feast* of the Assumption. This will be the first time that Pius IX. will have sanctioned a capital condemnation. Malefactors, however, have recently become so audacious in their proceedings that severity has become an imperious necessity." On Saturday last, a frightful attack was committed on the environs of Rome on the family of an advocate, who had taken up their residence in a country-house. In the evening of that day, the advocate, after finishing his business in Rome, went as usual to his country-house to pass the Sunday with his family, when he was met by his servant, who told him that his house had been attacked by robbers who were pillaging it. The advocate, who was armed with a double-barrelled gun, on coming to the house found the door guarded

by two brigands, both of whom he immediately shot. He then entered the house, when he was suddenly surrounded by five or six men, with whom a desperate struggle took place. He was overpowered by numbers and killed. The servant, in the meantime, had run off to procure assistance, but unfortunately it arrived too late; the robbers had taken flight, leaving behind them their two dead companions. The wife of the advocate was wretched in her blood, but still breathing, and a little girl of nine years of age was hanging to a beam. She was immediately cut down, and hopes are entertained of saving her life. No clue has yet been discovered of the robbers. There is much talk here of an arrest which has just been made by the police at Naples of an individual who had arrived there under an assumed name, with an English passport. This individual passed himself for some one of consequence, and was provided with letters of recommendation and credit. A search at his hotel led to the discovery of very important correspondence with the principal revolutionaries of France, Italy, and Germany. The port of Naples was yesterday the scene of a sanguinary quarrel between a liberated convict and a young man whose father had been killed by the former. The young man having been grossly insulted in a public-house by this fellow, prudently left the place to avoid a conflict, but finding himself closely pursued by the man, who had armed himself with a pitchfork, he in his own defence laid hold of a long knife, which was lying on a stall, and plunged it into the breast of his aggressor, and laid him dead at his feet. The young man immediately surrendered himself to the police, but it is thought that the act will only be considered as justifiable homicide.

PIEDMONT.

The quarrel between the government and the Jesuits still continues. The latter, though stunned for a moment by the energetic measures of the Piedmontese government, are recovering from the blow. Their organ, the "Arimoni," has resumed its publication, and foreign diplomacy comes to their aid by demanding the expulsion of the refugees most hostile to the clergy. The government has just signed, at the dictation of the Austrian minister, an order for several of these to quit the Sardinian territory.

Meanwhile the Archibishop of Turin has found an imitator in Switzerland. M. Marillez, the episcopal conspirator of Fribourg, has ordered his clergy to abstain from all relations with the civil power, even before the tribunals, and authorizes them to receive nothing from the state, that is, with the exception of pensions and benefices.

On the 9th inst., about nine in the evening, an imposing demonstration was made at Alexandria, under the windows of the Pères Servite monks. The populace did not commit any act of disorder, but gave the government distinctly to understand that the time had arrived when a religious order who consumed without producing anything could no longer be tolerated.

HANOVER.

By order of the government the police has issued a *steckbrief* (writ of caption and pursuit) against the twenty or more refugees who came from London to Altona for the purpose of offering their services to the government of the Duchies, but were not only rejected, but ordered to quit the Illyrian territory forthwith, under penalty of arrest. The *steckbrief* directs the all Hanoverian authorities to arrest any of these individuals who may be met with, and, in case they should be subject to any previous charges to commence their prosecution forthwith; if not, to see that they be conducted, under escort, to their place of domicile.

AUSTRIA.

Letters from Vienna of August 11th say:—"An increasing variance between our government and that of Sardinia has shown itself of late. Its principal ground, apart from the offensive tone in which the Turin papers are allowed to speak of the imperial government, is to be found in the growing influence of England, which seeks to injure the commercial interests of Austria in Sardinia.

At this court, the government is greatly disengaged at the cold greeting with which the late partial amnesty was received. It was expected that when the men of the October revolution were released from fortress imprisonment, the streets would ring with the clemency of the Emperor; but the enthusiasm was for the victims, and the government was only thought of in connexion with its half-kept promise.

It is utterly impossible to explain the singular policy of the Austrian cabinet, which is continuing its measures of oppression, while endeavouring to puff off its grace. Just as men are pardoned for their share in the events of 1848, persons suspected of participation in the same insurrection, and who until the present moment have been unmolested, are seized, thrown into prison, and made the subjects of legal processes; and this is the conduct of the government, not only in Austria, but in Hungary, which seeks to injure the commercial interests of Austria in Sardinia.

The tailors are going to demand a strict investigation of this master from the authorities as early as possible, and both the American and German Societies adjourned early, to meet at an early hour this morning.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.

Intelligence from Hamburg, under date the 17th inst., is to the effect that a naval engagement had taken place on the previous evening, between a Danish steamer and two Danish gun-boats and the Holstein steamer and two gun-boats.

The fight was carried on at intervals till eight o'clock on the morning of the 17th, when the Danish force retired. One of the Schleswig gun-boats got on fire, but the flames were promptly extinguished.

Neither party had thought proper to risk another battle.

GREECE.

King Otho having resolved to visit his family in Bavaria, has appointed his wife regent during his absence, and this produced a ministerial crisis, two of the ministers having resigned. Every one of the public journals seems to think a crisis is at hand. It is said the country is to be placed under martial law till the return of the King.

INDIA.

By the last mail it is announced that Sir Charles Napier has resigned his command. The cause of his early resignation of his high and important office being, it is supposed, an assumption of authority on his part beyond the limits of his office. Sir Charles conceives that this authority extends to the decision of all purely military questions, without reference to the head of the government, and in two or three cases that have come before him has reduced his theory to practice. One of these was the disbanding of the 66th B. N. I., a measure which is said to have been resolved on and promulgated without once consulting the opinions of the Governor-General, who, while willing to defer to the superior military judgment and experience of the head of the army, could not allow his own precedence to be thus openly slighted without a protest. It is accordingly believed that the Governor-General addressed an official wigging to Sir Charles Napier on his undue assumption of authority, which led him to tender his resignation.

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and notified the late of affairs to the steamer. Captain Cawley, with officers and passengers, crossed over the connecting beam to the cargo boat, but as they were merely armed with sticks and swords, they could do nothing against the loaded muskets pointed at them. The apparent inaction of the Sikhs during this interval is explained by the fact that the liberators were merely covering their comrades' efforts to extricate themselves. The Sikhs were nearly prepared for action, when their antagonists had fairly retreated to the steamer. They now commenced a rattling fire upon the steamer, and would have done great damage, but for the huge pile of firewood taken on board at Patna, and stowed away at, which served as a useful bulwark. A rapid search convinced the garrison of the Berham-potter that they had no arms on board at all, and pointed a revolver with effect at his assailant, though he did not actually do so. In short, the committee came to the conclusion, that it was very wrong to indulge in personalities, or carry fire-arms in the senate, and concluded with recommending just nothing at all!

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The select committee of the United States senate, to whom was referred the subject of the personal alteration between Messrs. Beaton and Foote, on the 7th of April last, have at length made a report. It contains a very dry narrative of the facts, and expresses the opinion that Mr. Benton did meditate an assault upon Mr. Foote, and Mr. Foote had reason to think so; that Mr. Foote retreated as Mr. Benton approached, and gained a position whence he could point a revolver with effect at his assailant, though he did not actually do so. In short, the committee came to the conclusion, that it was very wrong to indulge in personalities, or carry fire-arms in the senate, and concluded with recommending just nothing at all!

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W. H. Willis, Actor, writes: "I am quite cured now. I had suffered from gravel and pains in the back and loins, I consider them a great blessing."

Mr. Edney, Hackney, writes: "They cured my scrofulous disease after all other medicines had failed."

Mr. Howe, Actor: "I had tried every pill advertised to no purpose."

Dr. Thompson: "I consider your pills more adapted to those diseases generally than any formula I have met with."

Rev. J. Stone, Wigan: "Send me four boxes for some of my poor parishioners; they are a great blessing."

Mr. T. P. Rutherford, Actor: "Send me 4s. 6d. box for a friend; the one I had quite cured me."

Address Dr. Alfred Barker, 48, Liverpool-street, King's-cross, London, where may be consulted daily from 9 till 11, mornings, and 5 till 8 evenings; Sundays 9 till 1.

EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THE NEW REMEDY!!
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Address Dr. Alfred Barker, 48, Liverpool-street, King's-cross, London, where may be consulted daily from 9 till 11, mornings, and 5 till 8 evenings; Sundays 9 till 1.

EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF THE NEW REMEDY!!
PAINS IN THE BACK, GRAVEL, LUMBAGO, RHEUMATISM, GOUT, DEBILITY, STRUCTURE, GLEET, &c.

THE NEW MODE OF TREATMENT. DR. ALFRED BARKER, 48, Liverpool-street, King's-cross, London, having a large number of patients from various parts of the world, and from the Continent, is enabled to treat with the utmost certainty of cure, every variety of disease arising from solitary and sedentary habits, indiscriminate excesses, and infections, such as gonorrhoea, gout, scrofula, and syphilis, or venereal disease, in all its various forms and stages, whether primary or secondary, which, owing to neglect or improper treatment, involve great danger to life, such as skin diseases, gout, rheumatism,

Poetry.

THE THE SLAVEHOLDERS AND THEIR ALLIES.

AN AMERICAN POEM.

Quench every free discussion light—
Clap on the legislative souders,
And caulk with "resolutions" tight
The ghostly rents the Union souders!
Let Church and State brand Abolition
As heresy and rank sedition.

Strike down, at once, each breathing thing
That whispers of the rights of man;
Give the free girl who dares to sing
Of freedom o'er her dairy pan;
Hark! the old farmer's steps about,
And but his cherished treason out.

Do more, fill up your loathsome galls
With faithful men and women—set
The seal off in those green vales,
And let the verdant turf be wet
With blood of unresisting men—

Aye, do all this, and more—WHAT THEN?

Think ye, o'er heart of man or child
With falter from its lofty faith,
At the mob's tumult, fierce and wild,
The prison cell—the shameful death?

No!—burst in storm and trial long,
The weakest of our band is strong.

Oh! while before us visions come
Of slave-ships on Virginia's coast—
Of mothers in their childless home,
Like Rachel, sorrowing o'er the lost—
The slave-gang scourged upon its way—

The blood-hound and his human prey—

We cannot falter! Did we so,
The stones beneath would murmur out,
And all the winds that round us blow
Would whisper of our shame about.

No! let the tempest rock the land,
Our faith shall live—our truth shall stand.

True as the Vaucluse, hemmed around
With papal fire and Roman steel—

Firm as the Christian heroine, bound
Upon Domitian's torturing wheel,

We late no breath—we curb no thought—

Come what may come, we FALTER NOT!

John G. WHITTIER.

REVIEW.

CALIFORNIA. ITS PAST HISTORY, ITS PRESENT POSITION; ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS. M'GOWAN AND CO., Great Windmill-street, Haymarket, London.

We have no hesitation in pronouncing this book the best that has yet been issued on this exciting subject. To the character of originality the author makes no pretensions, but he has, by careful and extensive research, brought together a mass of information under the three heads set forth in the title page, which is not to be found in any other single work extant. From the introduction it would appear, that it was first intended specially for the use of intending emigrants to the El Dorado, and a great amount of very useful information for that class of persons, and emigrants generally, is contained in the preliminary and closing chapters. The author seems, however, to have been speedily induced, by the romantic and extraordinary nature of the subject, to abandon the originally limited plan of his work. Commencing with a graphic and interesting geographical and topographical description of this magnificent region, we are conducted through the successive phases of society it has presented since its first colonisation by the Spaniards, in the year 1602, to its conquest by the United States, in 1846; the subsequent discovery of the gold on the American river, and the almost incredible influx of population, wealth, and enterprise into a country which, previous to that period, was a wilderness. The work is also enhanced by the stirring and dramatic style in which the adventures of gold diggers are skillfully interwoven with graver matters, and the growth of large cities, and of mighty commerce; the formation of a constitutional government, a legislature, and a complete judicial and municipal system, with a rapidity never before known in history, are forcibly depicted by the writer.

The description of the system of colonisation introduced under the Spanish monarchs by the Dominican Friars, and applied with such success to the native tribes, is exceedingly interesting, and contains all the elements of a systematic plan of colonisation, far superior to anything that is now attempted in that line by our enlightened philosophers, who prescribe emigration as a panacea for our social evils. Under the mild rule and admirable discipline of the Friars, the Californian missions prospered in the highest degree, and amply repaid to the state all the assistance granted to them at the outset. When the rule of the Spanish monarchy was thrown off by the Mexicans, however, the Republican government virtually confiscated the vast domains and large wealth possessed by the Friars, and at the time the United States took possession of the country, but little of the former high cultivation of the missions was to be seen. The government and the people combined to neglect the resources of the country. The native Californian residents were an indolent, proud, pleasure-loving race, among whom anything approaching to systematic industry was unknown.

The government and people, (says our author,) were expelled from their country, and the system of intolerance. No Protestant had any civil rights, nor could they hold any property, or indeed retain a few weeks on shore, unless they belonged to some of the trading vessels.

Under the influence of the blind cupidity of the government, and the habitual indolence of a race such as has been described, the country gradually relapsed into wilderness and barbarism. The stocks found in the missions were disposed of without any attempt to replace them by breeding. The herbage was luxuriant, and at times so rank that it almost became unwholesome; yet the inhabitants were too lazy to undergo even the slightest exertion which was necessary to provide an abundance of milk, butter, and cheese from the abundance of milk cows which crepted it. They chose rather to slaughter the vast herds of cattle which wandered from pasture to pasture, for the hides and tallow, with for these the necessities of life could be obtained without labour. Their flesh was partly consumed, and partly left to decay upon the ground, which in many places around the missions was whitened for acres with the bones. In the rural districts deserted villages became of more frequent occurrence. The towns fell into decay, the Indians fled into the woods to resume their old habits, or took possession of the domains formerly under the sway of the Friars, and thus a rustic, more extensive than Great Britain and Ireland, a few years since had a population of only eight thousand white inhabitants, and perhaps six times that number of roving Indians.

Influences, however, were silently at work destined to change this system of wasteful mismanagement on the part of the Mexican government, and of sloth and superciliousness on the part of the people. The American and English adventurers who settled in Monterey and other towns, married Californians, became united to the Catholic Church, and acquired considerable property.

An Anglo-Saxon party had thus been gradually and unsuspectingly formed in all the principal towns, and it latterly received an immense accession of strength by the influx of Americans, who, having been disappointed in Oregon, crossed the Bear Mountain into the more fertile valleys of Alta California. Other adventurers, Americans and a few English, with little property beyond their lives, crossed the Rocky Mountains from the western States, and after traversing the dreary region of the Great Basin, established themselves where would give them the greatest political protection. The result was, that like the Israelites spurs of old, they discovered the fertility and productive power of the soil, and that it was "indeed a good land." The spirit of emigration was excited in the United States; a war with the Mexican Republic was provoked; rightly or wrongly, it is not our purpose here to inquire. The Southern Republic was no match for the powerful Federation of the North, and the war speedily ended in the cession of Upper California and New Mexico to the United States; Mexico receiving, as compensation for the same, twenty-four millions of dollars, or, in round numbers, about five millions sterling.

From the time the flag of the United States was raised in the country, in July, 1846, everything began to wear a different appearance. Prosperity appeared to approach by rapid strides; villages sprung up, as though by magic, in various parts of the country; the sound of the axe was heard in the forest; the anvil echoed among the raynes; and

hammer rattled in the workshops. The harbour of San Francisco was furrowed by the ships of an increasing commerce. The sites of new towns were prepared; old communities revived; and San Francisco itself, which may take as a type of the other towns, as Monterey, New Helvetia, and the City of Angels, from a village containing some two hundred inhabitants, grew, within a comparatively few months, to be a thriving little town, with a population of twelve hundred. So sudden was the revolution of feeling in the country, that the people who had before slumbered in utter idleness and apathy, now laboured so perseveringly, and with so much heart, to recover lost ground, that they forgot, as Captain Folson expresses it, to divide the Sunday from the rest of the week. California was clearly on the highway to prosperity and commercial importance.

But another and more extraordinary change was at hand—a change affecting not only the destinies of California, but of the civilised world. This was the discovery, that a large portion, if not the whole, of the region westward of the Sierra Nevada, is richly impregnated with the precious metal.

As soon as this fact was known, Such a scene immediately ensued in the country as perhaps has not been witnessed since Marion first assumed his imperial sway over mortals. The whole male population of the adjoining districts abandoned their ordinary calling, and betook themselves to the tributaries of the Sacramento to collect the precious metal. The success which attended their efforts outvied the imaginative creations which the most sanguine followers of *Crusus* ever conjured up before him. In the bed of every torrent, at every rivulet, gold of the purest quality was to be found. With the speed of the very cross the news spread over the whole country; and never did clausum obey the summons of his chief with half the alacrity that on the present occasion every person in the valleys of the San Joaquin and the Sacramento exhibited in deserting his duty to join in the aureal race. No sooner was the discovery of such abundance of the precious metal made known in San Francisco, than, with two or three exceptions, every person that could wield a shovel or a pick-axe set out for the favoured region. The soldiers on manoeuvre abandoned their posts, apply to their use the officers' horses in their eagerness to arrive sooner at the goal. Only two sergeants remained to protect the magnificent prey which the Americans had so long coveted, and but recently secured. The sailors in the bay deserted their ships, and the labourers on land followed their example, leaving the merchandise lying useless, lumber on the shore. The merchant forsook his ledger, the clerk contemptuously flung away his pen, the lawyer threw up brief, and all, including farmers and priests, mechanics and physicians, pressed forward to the regions of gold.

The Valley of the Sacramento was made populous by the influx of adventurers. A city of tents sprang up in all directions. Encampments thickened along the banks of the river; the bivouac fires of the gold-seekers blazed in every hollow and on every hill; wagons and teams poured in from the coast; the Indian villages emitted their inhabitants to swell the army of delvers which swarmed and toiled throughout the gold region. Nothing can be imagined more extraordinary than the spectacle presented by the hills, valleys, and slopes; tents of white canvas, shining in the sun, and scattered irregularly over the country, contrasted strongly with numerous huts of souther colour, which, constructed of rushes and branches, and stored with rude implements, constituted the only shelter of many who were rich in gold, but who could scarcely obtain sufficient food to support life.

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ASTOUNDING POST-OFFICE REVELATIONS.
FLAGRANT MISAPPROPRIATION OF THE PEOPLE'S MONEY.

AND RETRENCHMENT.

ADDRESSED TO ALL CLASSES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

BY A WORKING CLERK, RECENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

SECOND EDITION, PRICE TWOPENCE.

LONDON: W. HORNIS, 13, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

"These few facts tell how mischievously the Public Money has been squandered, and show the amount of tyranny on the part of the authorities of the Post Office, which would be exposed if this pamphlet renders it imperative that the administration of this department should undergo a searching parliamentary inquiry. We are not mere spectators, but sharers in the same marks, with the movement, that will end in such an exposure as this statement of 'Treasury Patronage' has done. It is a brute beast, that has nothing else to do than to succumb to their impudent bidding." — *Red Wedge*, Oct. 27th, 1849.

"So impressed have many gentlemen been by the statement in this pamphlet, that a Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, Oct. 1st, 1849.

"A fall and a rise in the expenses of Post-office inquiries: showing how the aristocracy oppress the working clerks.

"A fall and a rise in the expenses of Post-office inquiries: showing how the aristocracy oppress the working clerks.

"N.B.—The writer of this pamphlet (Mr. Samuel Sanders) has most handsomely presented to the Executive Committee, one thousand copies to the various localities, and the friends of Democracy in general, to aid in its distribution, especially when it is stated that Mr. John Arnott, the General Secretary, 14, Southampton-street, Strand, will supply them to two thousand persons, on THURSDAY EACH.

"The pamphlet consists of forty-eight pages of closely-printed statistical and valuable information.

AN EFFECTUAL CURE FOR PILLES, FISTULAS, &c.

AA BERNETHY'S PILE OINTMENT.

A BERNETHY

the Directors had recourse to the services of Mr. Gooch? We do not pretend to answer these questions. We only say that naturally suggest themselves on the perusal of the documents connected with this affair; and if our inferences be correct, what conclusion must we come to as to the character of the Directors, and their pet Superintendent? What epithet will correctly designate the astounding in impudence of the *Daily News*, in attempting to justify their endeavour to plunder their hard-working and valuable servants of their time and their earnings? What becomes of the identical interest of Capital and Labour? What of the public benefit being best promoted when everybody is working for his own benefit? Is it a public benefit to have a large district of the country suddenly deprived of the greatest portion of the facilities for passengers' and goods' traffic they have hitherto enjoyed, and if they avail themselves of the diminished means which remain, to do so under the too well-grounded apprehension of being smashed, scalded, or cut to pieces before they arrive at the end of their journey?

Apart, however, from the facts of this particular case, it—in conjunction with the strike of the type-founders in the employ of the Messrs. Casson, and that at Wolverhampton among the tin-plate workers—is calculated to engender grave reflections among the producing classes as to their real position and prospect under the present cannibal system of society. Space will not allow us, this week, to give this part of the subject the attention it demands. We will merely remark, that the *Daily News* affirms that, for the admitted "hard, hazardous," and exposed work of the engine drivers, they are highly paid with £6. 6d. to £7. 6d. a day in the best cases, and have no reason to complain when the wages descend even now to 5s. 6d. It adds—

The high rate of wages is, of course, the consequence of that inevitable law of supply and demand which regulates all prices, be they of bread or of labour. The demand for first-class engine drivers is still greater than the supply; therefore their remuneration is large; when the supply exceeds the demand, their wages will fall.

And by way of further make weight, throws in "the reduced cost of living" in these times. Here the cloven foot peeps out, which the owners of the *Daily News* were so anxious to hide during their Anti-Corn Law agitation. They always denied then, that wages and the price of provisions had any relation to each other—they emphatically disclaimed the wish to lower bread as means of putting down wages. That, like other of their hollow and selfish humbug, must now be seen through.

But reverting for a moment to this great "law of supply and demand," we find the *Daily News* very plainly intimating to the refractory Engine Drivers the way in which they are to be "served out" as soon as the capitalists can manage to overstock the market. "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest," the mode in which the capitalists are to conspire, for the purpose of robbing what the same paper describes, in a previous article,

An exemplary body of men: intelligent, skilful, labourous and sober; taking a pleasure in the duties for which they are engaged; a pride in the punctuality and regularity with which they perform their journeys; and acting unworthy of a due sense of the heavy responsibilities of their position. A good engine driver is, in truth, an invaluable servant.

"Exemplary" as are their virtues, however "skilful, laborious, sober, and intelligent" as they are admitted to be, all this sinks into insignificance, compared with the immense sum of ten millions sterling! During the sessions that have passed since he took office, he has shown not the slightest desire to set about the task of socially regenerating Ireland—not has he exhibited any comprehension of the means by which that object could be achieved. All the monster abuses, all the causes fruitful of a dire progeny of evil under which Ireland has groaned so long, still flourish in all their rank luxuriance and deadly virulence. Above the chorus of complaint and obloquy raised in this country, and in all our Colonial dependences, against the fatal and mischievous misgovernment of the present Administration, the voice of Ireland rises highest. Its lamentable condition is the deepest, blackest stain upon their official career.

people are flying, *en masse*, from a land thus once more given up to the plunder of an insatiate and an insensate aristocracy. They will make a desert, and call it peace. They carry on a war of extermination against the peasantry. Scarcely a day has passed within the last two months in which we have not had the details of *razzias*, under the command of the landlords, which, in many points, equal those committed by the French in Algeria. Not long since, in one of these wholesale evictions from a village in the County of Clare, twenty-eight houses were levelled in one day, and their inhabitants, one hundred and sixty in number, were cast out upon the road. In another case, a *razzia* was perpetrated on a larger scale, upon a district comprising four townlands, in the North Riding of Tipperary, from which *four hundred and seventy* human beings were eradicated, and their dwellings levelled to the ground. What was the excuse for this cruel extermination? Simply that the "Landlord wished to get rid of small holdings" and to "amalgamate farms." To effect this object, he proceeds to clear off the human beings on the estate as coolly as if they had been so many rabbits. They were not accused of the horrible crime of being in arrears with their rent, nor were they charged with having participated in agrarian combinations or disturbances. The landlord simply claimed "a right to do what he liked with his own." He wanted the land farmed in another style; and though starvation, disease, and death might be the lot of the swarm of helpless creatures he ejected from their humble homes, it mattered not to him. In fact, the consummation of their wishes would be to see the population swept away by some great pestilence as completely as the potato crops in 1847-8. The idea of our brethren in Ireland being permitted live and labour to enjoy peace and happiness in their native land, is one which seems to the landlord-mind most preposterous. Their great desire is to expel the majority of them from the land that gave them birth, or, at all events, to thin down, by any means short of what the law calls murder, a population which is yet inconveniently large for their purposes.

It is any wonder that, under the insane and cruel domination of this exterminating class, every one who has the chance is flying from this doomed country—or that, in their hurry to escape, such infamous and shocking transactions should take place as those stated to have occurred on board some of the steamers at Cork? We are informed that the poor people were crammed to such excess on board one of these vessels that it was found necessary to send some of them on shore when it arrived at Passage. This thinning of the human cargo was characteristically effected. "The people were taken indiscriminately, and forced to leave the vessel, *their property and friends being detained on board*." One man is stated to have been brought out of the ship whilst his wife and £25 were detained! Truly, the people seem smitten with a landlord panic, and, in their haste to flee the country, act with the blind precipitation and terror which induces a crowd in a theatre to trample down and suffocate each other when a cry of "Fire" is raised!

This is the result of all Lord JOHN RUSSELL's promises—this the reward for our having assisted the Irish landlords with the immense sum of ten millions sterling! During the sessions that have passed since he took office, he has shown not the slightest desire to set about the task of socially regenerating Ireland—not has he exhibited any comprehension of the means by which that object could be achieved. All the monster abuses, all the causes fruitful of a dire progeny of evil under which Ireland has groaned so long, still flourish in all their rank luxuriance and deadly virulence. Above the chorus of complaint and obloquy raised in this country, and in all our Colonial dependences, against the fatal and mischievous misgovernment of the present Administration, the voice of Ireland rises highest. Its lamentable condition is the deepest, blackest stain upon their official career.

THE BARREN SESSION.

We had intended to present an analysis of the acts of the session just closed, but, upon investigation, find that we can winnow so few grains of damaged wheat from the mountain of chaff in which they are contained, that our task is ended almost in the same breath as its announcement. The Session began with small promises, and ended with smaller performances. Of some twenty or thirty comparatively important measures introduced at an early period, and discussed till a late period of the session, the numerical majority have been entirely withdrawn, and the rest have been

"Sent into this breathing world
So tame and unfashionably made up,
That even the gods 'may' bark at them."

Yet we are told by the Ministerial Times, notwithstanding this utter break down of our legislative machinery that it "ventures to say the Session just ended may fairly take rank with the worthiest of its predecessors." If so, Heaven pardon its predecessors, and grant that in future we "may never see the like again." The man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba without seeing anything worthy of note, is certainly not to be envied, but we question whether he is not in a better and safer frame of mind than the imaginative tourist, who, with "eyes in a fine frenzy rolling," and a fervid imagination can, in what should be sober matter of fact, conjure up phantoms, and "give to airy nothing a local habitation and a name." If the Session just ended may fairly take rank with the worthiest of its predecessors, we should say that the perfection of legislation is to do nothing, or, as near as possible, next to nothing. But then the question comes, might not nothing be done more cheaply, with less fuss, noise and bother? We pay too high for nothing; we talk too much about, and for nothing. If drivelling inanity, or hopeless vacuity, are henceforth to be the characteristics of Parliament, let us forthwith openly state the fact, and act upon it in the only sensible way, namely, by shutting it up entirely, and leave things to drift to ruin as they will.

How are the industrious classes to escape this horrible fate deliberately prepared for them, and if the system lasts, certain to be endured? "Thereby hangs a tale" which we must endeavour upon other occasions "to unfold."

THE IRISH LANDLORDS' WAR OF EXTERMINATION.

When the potatoe rot swept away the whole crop upon which the people of Ireland depended for subsistence, and threw the nation upon the charity of Great Britain, one consequence was believed to accompany that vast and almost overwhelming calamity. The baleful and hateful ascendancy of the landlord class, which had been the crowning curse of that country, was, in the hope and estimation of many thinking men, destroyed with the root out of which it grew. Every one anticipated that, warned by the terrible consequences of entrusting a whole people to a class as utterly selfish, heartless, and unfitted for the grave responsibilities of their situation, the Government and the Legislature would have made their deposition the main condition of rendering state assistance, while we were called upon to find ten millions sterling to repair the immediate results of their past mismanagement and culpable extravagance; it was but reasonable to imagine, that every possible precaution would have been taken against their being again enabled to inflict such wide spread and deplored misery and wretchedness upon the unhappy country whose destinies were committed to their keeping.

In the memorable speech of Sir R. Peel, when by an unprincipled coalition of the Whigs and Protectionists he was driven from power, some pregnant indications were given of the true spirit in which Ireland ought to be governed in future. Lord J. RUSSELL then declared also, that the time for a totally different policy had arrived; while, by refusing to the government of his political rival the extraordinary powers asked for, in order to put down agrarian outrage and political agitation, he expressly pledged himself to the practical adoption of that policy, and the introduction of just, equal, and humane government into Ireland.

To the everlasting shame and disgrace of himself and his colleagues, they have flagrantly broken the faith on which they dismally accepted power and patronage. Never were such opportunities granted to any Ministry to make what terms they pleased with the beggared, broken down, powerless landlords of Ireland; never were such opportunities so shamefully neglected, so wantonly thrown away. Landlordism is again in the ascendant, and Ireland is delivered over to it, bound hand and foot. Instead of fulfilling their promises, and bringing forward a remedial policy, Ministers have held fast by the ancient, exploded, and futile system of coercion. The results are seen in our Irish news of this week. The

MONIES RECEIVED FOR THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND 1850.

FOR THE WINDING-UP OF THE LAND COMPANY.

Received by W. H. H. Brown, Chartered Surveyor, per Mr. Hobson, 1806 £d.—Brown, Chamberlain 6d.—C. H. H. H. Brown, 1806 £d.—Brown, Chamberlain 6d.—R. H. Hobson, 1806 £d.—Mr. Hobson 6d.—Messrs. Tennant, Wilkinson, and Faworth, Gilling 2s.—Nottingham, per Mr. Sweet 2s.—Sheffield, per G. Cavill 2s.—Land Members, Kirkcaldy, per W. Hepburn 2s.—Lands Members, Birkdale, per W. Hepburn 2s.—Messrs. Dernie, Cordwell, Birch, and Co. 2s.—F. E. Reynolds, per Mr. Royton, per Mr. Cowan 2s.—E. E. Land Members, Stockton 2s.—W. Woodhouse 2s.—Astherstone District, per H. Root 2s.—Winton, per E. Summerfield 2s.—Land Members, Bouloug 2s.—Received at Land Office—J. Nightingale 6d.—J. D. Mof 1s.—W. Francis 1s.—E. Kinder 1s.—J. McGuire 1s.—Stalybridge, per Lawton 1s.—W. Sheppard 1s.—J. Reynolds 1s.—Manchester 1s.—Mr. Barcley 1s.

Received by W. Rider .. . 5 2 11
Received at Land Office .. . 3 4 3
Total .. . 2 7 2

Received by W. Rider .. . 0 12 3

FOR MRS. LACEY.

Received by W. R. R. Nottingham, per J. Sweet 4d.—From Birmingham—Collected at Ship Inn 7s 2d.—Mr. Carter 2s.—Mr. J. A. Paskell 6d.—Mr. Buckley 6d.—Mr. Cadby 6d.—Mr. Keeling 6d.—Mr. Overall 6d.—Received at Land Office—Mrs. Purnell 6d.—Received by J. ANNOTT.—A Socialist 1s.—Messrs. Ivory 1s.—Three Friends East Marpleton 1s.

THE ROUTE OF MR. ERNEST JONES.

Ernest Jones will attend the Camp meeting at Mountsorrel, on Sunday, the 1st of September, and will be at

Leicester on Monday, the 2nd.

Northampton, Wednesday, 4th, and Thursday, the 5th.

Longbord, Friday, the 6th.

Sutton-in-Ashfield, Saturday, the 7th.

Sheffield, Monday, the 9th.

Rotherham, Tuesday, the 10th.

Further dates will be given next week. All letters for Mr. Jones to be forwarded to 62, Queen's-road, Bayswater, London.

As I decline practice, I beg especially to request that no legal business may be brought before me on my tour.

UNION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY.

The Conference for the purpose of forming a federal union between the National Charter Association, the National Reform League, and the Social Reformers, was held at the Literary and Social Institution, John-street, Fitzroy-square, on Sunday afternoon, August 18th. Present on behalf of the

NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION.—Messrs. G. W. M. Reynolds, T. Brown, J. Arnott, G. J. Harney, J. Milne, and E. Miles.

NATIONAL REFORM LEAGUE.—Messrs. Rogers, Olivine, Maundur, C. Jones, Blair, Swift, Leslie, and McNeil.

FRATERNAL DEMOCRATS.—Messrs. W. Shute, D. W. Ruffy, Peirce, Godwin, Leno, Pettie, Bezer, and Woodward.

SOCIAL REFORM LEAGUE.—Walter Cooper, Lloyd Jones, H. Ivory, Clements, G. J. Holyoake, and Austin Holyoake.

The following friends were also present by invitation:—Messrs. Le Blon (one of the Executives of the National Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association), S. M. Kydd, W. J. Vernon, and John Shaw.

The seats around the room were densely crowded with spectators, who appeared anxiously alive to the proceedings. Mr. W. J. Ivory was called to the chair, and Mr. Jones Arnott was elected Secretary to the Conference.

Mr. Arnott then detailed the object the promoters of the conference had in view, and in desiring a federal union of the four societies whose representatives were now present, namely, that preventing a collision amongst those who were zealously desirous of promoting political and social reform, and of effecting a cordial co-operation, and a more speedy realisation of the excellent objects they had in view. It would be for that Conference to take such steps as it might deem advisable to carry out the object, if it should fail with the views of the promoters.

Mr. W. J. VERNON then addressed the Conference, employing the Executive Committee of the National Charter Association for conveying that meeting, and heartily approved the forming of a federal union for the promotion of political and social democracy.

Mr. G. W. M. Reynolds, in an eloquent speech, moved the following resolution:—"That this Conference approves of the idea of fusing the scattered democratic elements in one grand concentration of objects, energies, and funds, for the purpose of carrying on a powerful struggle against the political and social wrongs existing in the country; and that this Conference decides upon appointing a committee to draw up a profession of faith, and a plan of organisation, in order to carry out the above aims."

Mr. G. J. HARNEY seconded the motion.

A debate ensued in which Messrs. Pettie, Leno, Kydd, Brown, Rogers, Swift, Ivory, Harney, Le Blond, G. J. Holyoake, and the Chairman took part. The mover (Mr. Reynolds) having briefly replied, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Arnott moved:—"That a committee consisting of two persons from each body, with five added, be formed to carry out the foregoing resolution."

Mr. PETTIE seconded the motion.

Mr. LENO suggested the following, which was accepted by Messrs. Arnott and Pettie, and agreed to:—"That a committee be composed of two persons from each of the organised bodies present, and that the representatives of each particular body shall be chosen by the members now present of the specific body to which they belong."

The election ultimately fell on Messrs. Reynolds and Arnott for the Charter Association; Messrs. Swift and Rogers, Reform League; Messrs. Leno and Pettie, Fraternal Democrats; Messrs. G. J. Holyoake and Ivory, Social Reform League; and the following friends:—Messrs. S. M. Kydd, Le Blond, Broderick O'Brien, W. Cooper, G. J. Harvey, J. Shaw, and D. W. Ruffy.

It was then resolved:—"That the committee meet for despatch of business on Thursday evening, August the 22nd, at the office of the National Charter Association, and that when their report shall be prepared, the Conference shall be re-assembled to consider the same."

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and the Conference broke up.

THE NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting was held at John-street, Tottenham-court-road, on Tuesday evening, August 20th.

Mr. ROBERT AMERY was unanimously called to the chair, and briefly opened the proceedings.

Mr. C. URINO, in a forcible speech, moved the following resolution:—"That, as every one must be cognizant of the fact that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, is a most corrupt assembly, and the system which it represents is a great sham: this meeting, therefore, calls on the toiling masses to organise themselves to obtain the enactment of the People's Charter, thereby to remove the monstrous system of which they have just cause to complain and effect their political and social emancipation."

Mr. W. A. FLERCHURST ably seconded the resolution, which was supported by Messrs. Weeks and Swift, and was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the meeting dissolved.

THE LATE ADDRESS FROM THE CHARTERVILLE ALLOTTEES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

Sir,—In consequence of my name not appearing in an address to Mr. O'Connor, of which address I was totally ignorant until it appeared in your valuable paper of the 12th inst., and to which address, in part, I would have cheerfully subscribed, for I would be one of the first in showing my respect to Mr. O'Connor, for his good, great, and untiring exertions for the benefit of the working men, for whom he has braved so much prejudice and persecution; nor could I be found entertaining Mr. O'Connor's side, the Messrs. Clark, on their part, I hear, have it in their power to defend Mr. O'Connor's reputation, assured that he is well deserving my best regard.

I can only account for keeping me from

the knowledge of the existence of the address from

the circumstance of my having always opposed

the under-current which has been in motion ever since we have been here, and which, I am certain, has been the source of much mischief. My desire to

have given expression to my gratitude to Mr. O'Connor, and to convince many friends, the readers of the Star, that my sentiments remain unchanged, has prompted me to trouble you with these remarks.

I remain, yours truly,

GEORGE BUNN,

Charterville, Aug. 21, 1850.

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY AND FINANCIAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday evening, a *soirée*, under the auspices of this association, was held at the New Globe Tavern, Mile-end-road. The chair was taken by Mr. G. Thompson, M.P., Sir J. Walmsley, M.P., was also present, and many of the leading and most active of the Reformers of the Tower Hamlets were conspicuous in the proceedings. The *soirée* was most numerously attended.

The Metropolis.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The mortality is decreasing in London. The 874 deaths last week were less by 123 than the deaths in the previous week, and to nearly the same extent less than the average of 10 corresponding weeks 1840-9. If we exclude the week of 1849, when 2300 deaths were registered. In the same season last year the danger of dying in London was twice as great as it is now; and the epidemic of cholera and its inseparable attendant diarrhoea which de-troyed 1,230, and 185, were fatal last week only to 8 and to 159 lives. Six of those who died of cholera were children, one was a dirty labourer of the age of 41, who lay about in stables; and one was a widow of the age of 73, who refused to take nutritions diet. Of the 139 persons who died of diarrhoea, 118 were children under 15 years of age, 8 were adults, and 15 were aged persons. Looking at the numbers as well as the details of the cases of cholera returned, and at the average of the year—so many weeks after the epidemic broke out, not only in 1832 and 1849, but in 1832—it must be admitted that the character of the outbreak in the present year is considerably diminished. The inactivity from attack and disease accrete the great works, which are now in contemplation for the drainage and purification of London; for it cannot be forgotten that the present power of the air which blew so many thousand last year may return, and put the sanitary condition of the city to a second and severer trial. When the population is more conveniently supplied with vegetables, fruit, bread, meat, and the other means of living, it is worth of note, that the decline in the general mortality has taken place on the north side of the river Thames; and that it is observed in both sexes, and in all ages under the age of 60. The mean temperature of the air in the shade was 63.6 deg., the temperature of the Thames water was 62.2 deg. in the day, 62.8 deg. in the night. The temperature of the air was 1.2 deg. above the average of the corresponding week. Electricity was active; and nearly an inch of rain fell—chiefly on Monday. The wind passing over Greenwich at the average rate of less than 100 miles a day.

ARMED FIRE AT THE ST. MARY'S DISTRICT.—On Saturday morning last, under the horns of six and seven o'clock, considerable alarm was caused in the immediate neighbourhood of Leadenhall-street, in consequence of the outbreak of a fire, which at one period threatened the most disastrous results in the extensive rectifying works of the Patent Distilling Company, in Castle-street, St. Mary's. When first received in the flames were seen issuing through the roof, and owing to the many thousand gallons of brandy and other spirits in the stores immediately under, a fearful conflagration was apprehended. By dint of great perseverance, the fire was prevented from finding its way into the stills or liquor-vats, and by eight o'clock all danger of further extension was over. The greater portion of the roof of the distillery, however, is burnt off, and some damage to the plant. It is believed that the heat of an adjoining fire caused the mischief. The premises were insured in the Hand in Hand Fire Office.

EXPENSIVE FIRE AT CLEARENCE-WEAR.—On Saturday afternoon last a fire, attended with a considerable destruction of property, broke out in the extensive range of premises belonging to Messrs. Johnson and Pask, builders and contractor, situated in Baker-street, Baggiore Wells road. The flames commenced, from some unexplained cause, in the manufactory, a long range of buildings composed principally of timber. A heavy fire having been obtained, the engines were worked for some hours, and at length the firemen succeeded in getting the master over the fire, but not before the premises in which it commenced were burnt out, and nearly a dozen houses in Gaveline-square partially destroyed. The following is the official report of Mr. Bradwood:—“Messrs. Johnson and Pask: Two workshops, two drying sheds, three stacks of timber, two racks of iron, and a two-stall stable destroyed; dwelling house damaged by fire, and contents by removal. Building of workshops in the Norwich Union; building of dwelling in the Phoenix. Cause of fire unknown. —Messrs. Noble and Co., licensed victuallers, proprietors of the Union, roof of concert room damaged, building of skittle ground burnt down. Contents insured in the Sun, building in the Guards—Mrs. Pasey, No. 43, Baker-street: Furniture removed. Building and contents insured in the Norwich Union.—Mr. J. Sawyer, No. 44, ditto: Building of dwelling in the Phoenix. Cause of fire unknown.—Messrs. Noble and Co., licensed victuallers, proprietors of the Union, roof of concert room damaged, building of skittle ground burnt down. Contents insured in the Sun, building in the Guards—Mrs. Pasey, No. 43, Baker-street: Furniture removed. Building and contents insured in the Norwich Union.—Mr. J. Adams, No. 27, ditto: Back windows burnt out. Contents not insured. Building, unknown.—Mr. Blackwood, No. 26, ditto: Contents insured in the Scotch Union, building, unknown.—Mr. T. Padwick, No. 25, ditto: Contents insured in the Norwich Union; building in Sun.—Mr. W. Newton, No. 24, ditto: Contents and buildings, supposed to be in Sun.”

STYLICAL SUICIDE.—On Sunday evening, about a quarter past nine o'clock, a loud report, similar to the discharge of firearms, was heard in the back room of a house occupied by Mr. Johnson, signor-maker, No. 26, St. James's-street, L-c-street, Kingsland road. A person broke through the window of the room from whence the noise proceeded, and there discovered the son of Mr. Johnson, a 20 or 22 year old man, of ten years of age, lying on the floor in the agonies of death. Messrs. Munday and Duncombe, surgeons, were immediately sent for, but the unfortunate young man had ceased to live before their arrival. Mr. Duncombe made an examination of the body, when he discovered a large aperture in the stomach of the deceased, caused by a bullet which had entered the body, and caused almost instant death. The instrument used by the deceased was the barrel of an old 18-lb. iron, which had been prepared by drilling a hole at the extremity for priming the charge.

DEATH FROM A BATHING MACHINE.—On Monday an inquest was held by Mr. Carter, the coroner, at the Green Dragon, Belvidere-road, Lambeth, on the body of Benjamin Chamberlain, aged two years and a half, who was killed in a most singular and distressing manner. Mrs. Olfield, wife of Mr. Thomas Alcock, of 7, Thorndale-road, Islington, stated that the deceased was her nephew, and lived with his parents at 36, Belvidere-road, Lambeth. On Tuesday morning they were all at home, in the Isle of Wight, where they engaged a machine for a bath. After they had been in the water, the deceased was standing on one of the steps when the machine went on, and he was thrown on his head agains a beam. The next day there was a contused wound on it, which was punctured at Brighton, but, on reaching London on Tuesday, he was much worse, and Mr. Miskin, the York-road surgeon, was called in, and attended him to his death on Thursday, which in his opinion was caused from inflammation of the brain, arising from the blow on the back of the head. The coroner jury expressed a hope that the deceased would recover, in order that the owners of the machine for bathing might be more cautious for the future. Verdict, “Accidental death.”

INJURIES FROM BLACKSMEN'S BIRDS.—On Saturday an inquest was held by Mr. W. Payne, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the body of a woman whose name is unknown, who leaped from Blaydes-bridge on the previous Thursday morning. Mrs. Oldfield, of 7, Thorndale-road, Islington, stated that the deceased was her nephew, and lived with his parents at 36, Belvidere-road, Lambeth.

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THE NORTHERN STAR.

part in the Times of Tuesday, severely censuring the directors for their conduct, and justifying the men in resisting the tyranny of the railway officials.

On Tuesday evening the late drivers and firemen met at the usual place.

Mr. Hore, the chairman, proceeded to say.—
Fellow-workmen.—Since the meeting of last night, our attention has been called to an advertisement from the directors of the Eastern Counties Railway, which is said to be published “to prevent misapprehension by the public as to the position of the engine drivers and firemen in the employment of the Eastern Counties Railway Company. The directors, after stating that they respect the expression of their opinion on the subject until the day next when they are to meet the shareholders, proceed to give their “statement of facts.” They first allude to the appointment of Mr. J. V. Gooch, the locomotive superintendent of this railway, on the 22nd of last month, and then proceed to state, that on Monday, the 12th instant, a deputation from the engine drivers and firemen waited to see some of the directors, and was received by Mr. Ellis, when they made a formal complaint of Mr. Gooch, and which concluded by stating that they had unanimously determined to leave on the 18th of August, unless Mr. Gooch was removed from being their locomotive superintendent of the line. The advertisement further states that the board had no knowledge of any disagreement existing between the drivers and Mr. Gooch, and that the drivers had neither complained individually nor collectively, and that this was the first intimation that they had given.

Now if this statement was suffered to go forth unchallenged, an inference very prejudicial to our conduct and interests might not unreasonably be drawn, but a very short examination will suffice to set the matter in its true light. Immediately upon Mr. Gooch's appointment he proceeded, without any previous intimation, to levy dues under the circumstances he had already explained, and the reason why we did not sooner appeal to the board was, that Mr. Gooch directed that any complaint should be made directly to himself, and, without our complaining to any other party on pain of instant dismissal. Not, therefore, until the last minute did we make any appeal to the board, when we found all chance of redress from Mr. Gooch was hopeless. This, therefore, accounts for our delay until the 12th instant the sending a deputation to the board. Having made this explanation for the purpose of showing that our conduct was not influenced by any spirit of momentary feeling, we next willingly admit that Mr. Ellis expressed himself kindly towards us, but did not seem to cause of complaint. We thanked him, but did not, as the advertisement states, express ourselves satisfied, and our resolution was soon afterwards sent in, as we found that Mr. Gooch was resolved in pursuing the most tyrannical system of rule, and was unanimously complained, and which was unanimously felt to be so oppressive. It is with regret that I hear a report has been circulated to the effect that the old drivers had put soft soap in the tender of one of the engines, so as to impede its safe working under the recently employed engine driver. As you are aware the only engine on the station have received the soft soap, was one from Colchester, at which station the old engine drivers received from the locomotive fireman a written statement that he had left his engine in good working order. Having made this statement, I will now proceed to report to the meeting some further information which I have received as to the detections and delays since we left the line. The train which should arrive at Wisbech at 11.30 yesterday did not arrive till 1.30, being two hours late. In consequence of that, the train which should leave Wisbech at 1.30 p.m. did not at all, the passengers taking the omnibus to Peterborough, where they joined the Great Northern Railway. The omnibus last night ran past Chelmsford about half a mile, past Kelvedon, with steam full on, about twelve miles, and then had to pull back for water, and the parliamentary train from Norwich, which should have been in London at 1.35 p.m. did not arrive until 2.25, being one hour and a quarter late; the express train that should arrive at 2.30, did not arrive until 3.35 p.m., being one and a half hours late; the previous train, the 11.30 a.m. Ipswich train via Colchester, which should arrive in London at 4.25, did not arrive in London until 5.2. The Woolwich train, from London at 10.15 a.m., did not arrive until 11.15, being twenty-five minutes late; there are several of a similar nature. Several of the Woolwich trains on Monday night, not being able to proceed, had to wait until they received assistance from the pilot engine at Stratford. 5.5 p.m. train from Buxton, due in London at 6 p.m., did not arrive till 6.25, being twenty-five minutes late; the 5.20 p.m. train arrived in London at the right time, with five carriages and eighteen passengers. The Colchester train, due in London at 4.35 p.m., arrived at 6 p.m., one hour and thirty-five minutes late; standing for want of steam at Watton twenty-eight minutes, where a fence was broken down to let it up; detained on Bramcote-bank for want of steam fifteen minutes, with No. 72 engine. Many other cases have occurred, but I do not wish to detain you with them.

Several statements having been made by various of the men in corroboration of the above, the meeting separated.

The engine drivers and firemen lately in the service of the Eastern Counties Railway Company held another meeting on Wednesday night, at the George Inn, Stratford. The main purpose of the meeting consisted in the adoption of a reply to the statement issued by the directors.

The attendance was again very numerous, and not the slightest sign of dissension was visible.

Mr. H. G. Gray presided, and, in a lengthy speech, refuted the statements made by Mr. Gooch to the following effect.—First, that the men were not fired, except for cases of accident, which might have been prevented by care and watchfulness on their part; secondly, that no cases of irregularity in the arrival of trains have arisen, except where tricks have been played with the engines; thirdly, that he has engaged seventy-seven engine drivers, whose testimonies from their late employers will bear the closest inquiry; fourthly, that the fines imposed upon the goods engineers for arriving at intermediate stations before time, were because by such early arrivals the safety of the drivers themselves, as well as that of all other trains travelling over the same part of the line, was at stake; and, fifthly, that he “never had any intention to reduce wages, or to increase the day's work of any man.”

Mr. G. Knows then moved the following resolution.—“That we, the engine men and firemen lately in the employment of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, have learned with regret that statements have been published in the morning papers of Wednesday, on behalf of Mr. Gooch, purporting to be a true explanation of the grievances of which we complain; and, with reference to such statements we have in the most cordial manner to say, that we unite with our chairman in giving to them the most decided and unequivocal contradiction.”

Mr. Amstrong seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and the meeting again adjourned.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders was held on Thursday, in the large room of the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, which was crowded on the occasion. Mr. B. E. Bates, Esq., the chairman, took the chair at one o'clock. The differences between the directors and the engine drivers formed the chief subject of the meeting, and the chairman asserted that the charges preferred against the men by Inspector Gooch were facts, which elicited the unanimous applause of the shareholders present.

Immediately after the close of the railway meeting at the London Tavern, about thirty or forty of the drivers and firemen, who were in the neighbourhood, assembled at the Black Lion, Bishopsgate-street, almost immediately opposite the London Tavern, and adopted the following resolution.—“That the committee of the engine-drivers and firemen, late of the Eastern Counties Railway, be instructed to write a respectful letter to the chairman of the company requesting him to furnish them with the numbers of the various engines said to have been in any way tampered with, or to have had their gauge glasses broken, with the names of the men who had the charge of such engines on the last journey prior to such men leaving the company's employment, to enable them, in defence of their own character as honest men, to give such an explanation relative to each engine as the charges may seem to require. That the chairman be also requested to give the names of those parties who were fired for not reporting accidents or other events connected with their engines.” The meeting then separated.

Mr. BARON PARKE.—At the Chester Assizes, a case came on before Baron Parke, in the *Nisi Prius* Court, in which several of the witnesses spoke the Cheshire dialect very broadly, so much so that the counsel engaged were quite at fault in properly understanding what was said. His lordship, however, seemed to understand the brogue quite well, and explained to the counsel and the jury what the witness meant as they proceeded. In summing up the case he expressed his satisfaction at being able to give the information in question, and explained the reason of his thorough acquaintance with the dialect, which he said, was in consequence of his having spent seven years of his life in Macclesfield, a period to which he often looked back with mingled pleasure and regret. The learned Judge, then Mr. James Parke, was educated at the Macclesfield Free Grammar School, where he was entered a pupil in 1792, under the Rev. Dr. Davies.

The Peace Congress at Frankfort-de-Pan and visitors to the Peace Congress arrived at Cologne on Tuesday evening. They number between 500 and 600.

THE STRIKE AT THE CASLON TYPE-FOUNDRY.

A densely crowded public meeting of the trades of London was held at the Mechanics' Institution, Southwark-buildings, Holborn, on Tuesday evening, August 20th.

Shortly after eight o'clock, Luke James Hansard, Esq., was called to the chair, amidst the plaudits of the meeting.

From a written statement, which was prepared for the information of the meeting, it appeared that there had been disputes respecting wages between Messrs. Caslon and Co. and their men four years ago, which disputes were at length settled by an agreement, that about six months ago an establishment at Ilfordshire was used for the Caslon foundry, and the men and materials of the former were transferred to the latter; that some time afterwards the firm determined to make the wages of typewrivers uniformly two pence per thousand, employing only boys under eighteen in that kind of work, and that, save a few, the same persons when employed had received two pence-half-penny, and others two pence thousand, without any limitation as to age; that the journeyman, ninety-six number, had resisted the alteration, partly on the merits of it, partly on the reduction of their wages of typewrivers uniformly two pence per thousand, employing only boys under eighteen in that kind of work, and that, save a few, the same persons when employed had received two pence-half-penny, and others two pence thousand, without any limitation as to age; that the journeyman, ninety-six number, had resisted the alteration, partly on the merits of it, partly on the reduction of their wages of typewrivers uniformly two pence per thousand, employing only boys under eighteen in that kind of work, and that, save a few, the same persons when employed had received two pence-half-penny, and others two pence thousand, without any limitation as to age; 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