

TH The prominent event of the week, to which all other events give place, is what is called the Royal Speech, made on the opening of the Session of Parliament. Of course everybody knows that the name is a misnomer; that it is no more the Speech of the Queen than it is the speech of the Emperor of Japan, but a collection of sentences formed by the Ministers for the time being, by whom her MAJESTY is made to talk sometimes Whiggism, sometimes Toryism, but on all occasions as little of any definite policy as possible. If any one thing shows more than another, how much the power of the Crown has declined, how fully the highest dignity has become a Constitutional form rather than an influential reality, it is this fact, that the SOVEREIGN does not speak his or her sentiments, but subsides into speaking the principles of the Cabinet. Time was when the MONARCH had a will, potent either for good or evil, and the ruler of the realm was a ruler in fact, and told his thoughts in good plain set terms; but now MAJESTY trips mincingly through a set form of words, carefully studied, so as to contain the smallest possible quantity of meaning, and it is thought worthy of record, that the wearer of the Crown reads the lesson in an audible voice, and with faultless enunciation and pronunciation. So fades the glory of the world. Royalty is praised, not for high thoughts or great deeds, but for attainments shared in common with the upper class National School children.

There are times, however, when even a Royal Speech contains something worthy of remark. The most elaborate dullness cannot always contrive to frame words to say nothing. The exigencies of the State have made the Speech more pregnant with matter than such productions usually are; and we propose to run over the principal points indicated, and attempt to gather from them some clue to the intentions of those who sway the destinies of the kingdom.

It is evident, that this year those who pin their faith to Financial Reform, need not expect much from the forthcoming Session. They must content themselves as they may, with rejoicing that the reductions which have been made in taxation have been effected without materially reducing the National Income. Whether or not that will prove consolatory is a question for them to decide, seeing it means that whatever taxes may have been taken off, somehow or another, by hook or by crook, the same grand total has been extracted from their pockets, and that, too, during a year of bad trade and declining profits. But, whatever that may, or may not do, to pour balm into their minds, it is quite certain that they must prepare themselves for an increase of taxation for the next twelve months. No doubt, as HER MAJESTY was made to say by those who framed the estimates, that those estimates are framed with a due regard to economy, and the efficient service of the State. That has been said of all estimates since such things first came into fashion, and will be said to the end of time. We cannot expect Ministers, no matter to what party they belong, to derry their own commodities, and, a due regard to economy has grown into one of those stereotyped common places which may mean profuse extravagance or pinching parsimony, but is much more likely to conceal the former than the latter. There can be no possible ground for suspecting also that for any increase which may appear in said estimates excellent reasons would not be given. When reasons are as plenty as blackberries, who would be without capital reasons for asking for more money. What with France, with her half million of idle bayonets, and Cossacks whose horses are always ready for that often quoted quip, at the end of which they shall be watered in the Rhine; and Austria, with its Red Emperor, and Italy, with its smothered discontent, and the Kaffirs shooting down our Redcoats and decimating with the flocks and herds of Cape farmers, truly there is a superfluous stock of reasons for new coast batteries, augmentations of artillery, more ships and more soldiers; in other words—for that is the plain English of it—for more money. So Messrs. Financial Reformers, your occupation is clearly gone for twelve months at least. You may lay aside your blue books, cease your meetings, and send your whole stock of pamphlets to the butlerman or the trunkman, for remission of taxation is utterly out of the question. If any adjustment of the Income Tax be required, it must be an adjustment of your own circumstances to its burden. If you want a newspaper without a stamp, and ask for it this year, you will stamp yourselves as dolts. If you desire any modification of the excise and customs, you must wait for a happier era. No gentleman, make up your minds to it as you may, not a penny of revenue can be spared; and if, as is more than probable, it should happen that a new spot is looked for to lay a new tax upon, you must dispose yourselves to bear it with patience. Cold comfort that for the Financials, we admit, but all that is available in their present melancholy circumstances.

If, however, there is to be no Financial Reform, there is to be a Parliamentary Reform; but the prospects of the measure which is in due time to be forthcoming, do not exhilarate us in any very extraordinary degree. We think it probable that the people of this country could have borne a vast deal more than they are likely to get, without being thrown in a delirium of joy. From the Royal Speech we gather, that the new Reform Bill is intended to develop the principle of the old Reform Bill, which means, we suppose, that property is to be kept as the basis of representation, intelligence being regarded as something too unsubstantial and intangible for the foundation of a representative system. The traditional superiority of bricks over brains is once more sure, at all events, to receive a Ministerial sanction. Her MAJESTY is also made the medium for supplying us with the very definite and extremely valuable information, that the recognised principles of the Constitution are in the Reform to be adhered to. It is a pity certainly that we are not enlightened as to what are those recognised principles; but we suppose we may at least take it for granted that that which was a recognised principle during a part of the period when the Tudor Dynasty reigned over England—the principle, namely, of all freemen voting for the election of Knights of the Shire—is not the principle alluded to, but that the recognition hovers somewhere between that and the recognised principles which were dominant during the reign of George the Third, of intellectual and liberal memory. We fear that these same hints of "recognised principles" of an unrecognisable Constitution, and of developing the Sham Reform Bill, say very plainly that we are to have as small an extension of the popular power as can be made to appear consistent with those large professions in which Whig statesmen are so prone to indulge.

As regards this subject, another paragraph of the speech points attention to the Constitution for New Zealand, which may, it seems, now be allowed to emerge from its suspension. If we recollect rightly, that Constitution was based upon Universal Suffrage. We are sure Englishmen should be proud of the implied compliment that the liberty with which New Zealanders may be endowed is too great to be safely trusted to them—that a tattooed barbarian is more fit to choose his representative than an artisan or a factory operative. That, however, seems to be the estimation in which our rulers hold those who produce the wealth of the country; and we fancy that the feeling of the rulers is fully reciprocated by the ruled. No doubt we shall be told that there are great differences between the two cases—that here there are vast and important interests—that the interests of the working man are to be considered—that there is not that antagonism and conflict of warring classes which here distract us. It may be, too, that a Property Qualification would be difficult to apply to savages who set a high value on tomahawks and war-clubs. But, whatever may be said, it is a significant fact—a fact for the proletarians to ponder on, and wring the meaning out of—that the tribe of HERI are in Whig eyes more fit for Constitutional liberty than the descendants of the Saxon.

In another paragraph we find the announcement uttered with a deep expression of thankfulness that crime has lulled in what have been hitherto the most lawless districts of unhappy Ireland. What is the meaning of that sentence? It means—though statesmen are not honest enough to speak the truth—that pestilence and famine have done their work in the charnel-house of the Celt, and that what they have left undone the exodus of a people flying as though from the

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wrath to come, has accomplished. That after levelled cottages and evicted tenants, crowded work-houses and overfull graves, have caused and marked the diminution of the people; what remained of vitality has shrunk away as though from contact with a putrefying corpse, and that there is not left enough of spirit and energy even for crime. A great thing that for a QUEEN to be thankful for, and all the more a matter for rejoicing when with it is coupled the announcement that to districts where more of bone and sinew are remaining, the crime has transported itself. But of course there is a remedy for that. The old remedy of rulers—repression. Let guilt grow first, and then catch it and hang it. That has been already tried in the South and West, with what indifferent success our readers are aware. It is now to have its turn in the North. Is there any reason to suppose that it will be more potent there? None in the world. Repression of crime is a broken reed piercing the hand that holds it. Repression is the mode adopted by those who have not wisdom enough for prevention. In plain terms, repression alone is the policy of fools, and will bring about events which would be ridiculous, if they were not melancholy and terrible. As we said last week, the evils of Ireland—evils producing all her crime—are moral and social ones, and if they are to be met at all they must be encountered by laws not appealing to selfishness or fear, but having a social and moral bearing. But of such laws these aristocratic, economic politicians, the Whigs, have as much idea as—to use a homely, but apt illustration—a pig has of a side pocket.

The passages of the speech, with regard to Foreign Affairs, tells us that we maintain amicable relations with all Foreign Powers. The plain meaning of that is, that we are on good terms, not with the people of other nations, but with their rulers. Is that a thing to be proud of? Will Englishmen at large felicitate themselves upon the fact, that those who assume to represent the national mind are exchanging courtesies with that Modern Nero, the PRINCE PRESIDENT of France—an excellent friend with his most Christian and lazzaroni-like MAJESTY of Naples—are keeping up an agreeable acquaintance with the human leech who has sucked the blood of Hungary—are on visiting terms with the greatest despot of the North, the turnkey of that great national dungeon Siberia? We think not. It may be a wise part for England to stand aloof from the strife of the Continent, to preserve a guarded neutrality; but let us call it by its right name, and not gild it with the term "amicable relations." When honest men consort on terms of equality and friendship with promise-breakers, perjurers, assassins, and wholesale murderers, then Englishmen may bear it said, without a blush, that they "maintain amicable relations with the rulers of Continental Europe, but not till then. It is evident, however, that those who use the words do not believe in them, else why call out the militia. Our governors seem to think that the training of the population into soldiers is the best proof that they are good friends with all the world.

So much for the Speech itself. A word or two for the debates which followed it. The sneers at Chartists, and so forth, were to be expected, and we pass them by with much the same feeling that animated the man, who, when a long eared animal kicked him, remarked that he took it with a due regard to the quarter from whence it came. But the remarks upon the Press are more noteworthy. Thank Heaven, the time for a censorship has gone by in England. It will be a long time before English journals submit their leading articles to the police for approval. The right of speech, at all events, we have got, and mean to keep it. Noble lords and honourable gentlemen may rest assured of that. And though some scores of their own numbers may grace the festivals at the Elysee—festivals from which all that is honourable and dignified in France is self-banished—they may depend upon it, that Englishmen, with more candour than senators can take credit for, with more courage than they dare evince, and with more intelligence and power than they can bring to bear, will stigmatise such homicides as LOUIS NAPOLEON, with a plainness which the atrocity of his acts both justifies and calls for.

The other point to which we wish to allude shortly, is the dismissal of Lord PALMERSTON. It is now unquestionable that the late Secretary for Foreign Affairs fell from office, because he expressed his approval of the traitor who now dominates over France. He admits that he did so—he avows that his opinions have not changed. The man who could so disgrace the name of England deserves to fall, never to rise again. Lord PALMERSTON can never have the confidence of true Liberals; and we were rejoiced to see that his defence, brilliant and talented as it was, fell dead upon the Members of the House of Commons, who appeared to recognise that the question was, not if other Members of the Cabinet were as bad as he, but whether or not he could justify himself. In that he signally failed. And though it may be true that Lord JOHN and his colleagues shuffled and truckled to the rising star, as is natural for Whigs, still England, waiting an opportunity to deal with them, will, if she regards her own honour, say to Lord PALMERSTON "never more be officer of mine."

Free Correspondence.

[As the columns under this head are open for the free expression of all opinions, the Editor is not responsible for, or committed to, any.]

ORGANISATION OF LABOUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

DEAR SIR,—Nothing is of so much importance for the "Organisation of Labour," on true principles, as a thorough knowledge of the nature and uses of money, and a just standard and measure of value. On these subjects I would recommend the careful study of Bishop Berkeley's Works, Dr. Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," and John Gray's, of Edinburgh, last work on "Banks and Currency." The following are some questions taken from Bishop Berkeley's writings, which are well worth the attention of the "National Association of United Trades," and to this body they are by me particularly addressed for their most attentive consideration. *Trade's Union, as hitherto conducted, though they have always been successful, have undoubtedly been useful in many trades in preventing that rapid downward progress in wages, the effect of excessive competition, which has involved the mass of the working population in these Islands in the extremes of poverty and destitution. But, not being based on general principles, they are only temporary expedients, benefitting a comparatively few for a limited period, and can never emancipate or in any way improve the condition of the working classes generally. Bishop Berkeley's questions are:*

- 1.—"Whether the four elements, and man's labour therein, be not the true Source of Wealth?"
- 2.—"What makes a wealthy nation? Whether mines of Gold and Silver are capable of doing this? And whether the negroes among the gold sands of Africa, are not poor and destitute?"
- 3.—"Whether a fertile land, and the industry of its inhabitants, would not prove inexhaustible funds of wealth, be the counters for conveying or recording thereof what you will—paper, gold, or silver?"
- 4.—"Whether, in order to understand the true nature of wealth and commerce, it would not be right to consider a ship's crew cast on a desert island, and by degrees forming themselves to business and civil life, which industry begat credit, and credit made to industry?"
- 5.—"Whether they would not set themselves to work? Whether they would not subsist by the mutual participation of each other's industry? Whether, when one man had procured in this way more than he could consume he would not exchange his superfluities to the wants? Whether this must not produce credit? Whilst to facilitate these conveyances, to record and circulate this credit, they would not soon agree on certain tickets, tokens, or counters?"
- 6.—"Whether paper money or counters in such a case would not, and whether paper does not by its stamp and signature acquire a local value, and become as precious as gold? and whether it be not much fitter to circulate in large sums, and therefore preferable to gold? Whether it be not agreed that paper hath in many respects the advantage above coin, as being of more dispatch in payments, more easily transferred, preserved, and recovered when lost?"

7.—"Whether, therefore, the use and nature of money which all men so eagerly pursue, be yet sufficiently understood or considered by all?"

8.—"Whether money is to be considered as having an intrinsic value, or as being a commodity, a standard, a pledge, as is variously suggested by writers?—And whether the true idea of money, as such, be not altogether that of a ticket or counter?"

9.—"Whether money be not useful only so far as it stretches up industry, enabling men mutually to participate in the fruits of each other's labour?—And whether there be any virtue in gold or silver, other than as they set people to work, or create industry?"

10.—"Whether the sure way to supply people with tools and materials, and to set them to work, be not a free circulation of money, whether gold, silver, or paper?"

11.—"Whether money could ever be wanting to the demands of industry, if we had a National Bank?"

12.—"Whether the discovery of the richest gold mine that ever was in the heart of the Kingdom, would be any real advantage to us?"

13.—"Whether we are sufficiently sensible of the peculiar security there is in having a Bank, that consists of land and paper, one of which cannot be exported, and the other is in danger of being exported?"

14.—"Whether, therefore, a National Bank would not be more beneficial than even a mine of gold?"

15.—"Whether the opinion of men, and their industry consequent thereon, be not the true wealth of Holland, and not the silver supposed to be deposited in the Bank of Amsterdam?"

16.—"Whether there are not to be seen in America, fair towns, wherein the people are well lodged, fed, and clothed, without a beggar in their streets, although there be not one grain of gold or silver current among them?"

17.—"And whether the great evils that have sometimes attended paper money in the British Possessions in America have not sprung from over-rating their lands, and issuing paper without discretion, and from the legislators, breaking their own rules in their own favour, thus sacrificing the public to their private advantage? And whether a little sense and honesty might not easily prevent all such inconveniences?"

18.—"What is Wealth? Whether the power to command the industry of others be not real wealth? And whether money be not issued by tickets or tokens for conveying or recording such power, and whether it be of great consequence what materials the tickets are made of?"

19.—"Whether to promote, transfer, and secure this commerce, and this property in human labour, or in other words, this power, be not the sole means of enriching a people; and how far this may be done independently of gold or silver?"

20.—"Whether counters or money be not referred to other things, which, so long as they keep pace and proportion with the country, it must be owned the counters are useful; but whether beyond that to covet or value counters be not directly folly?"

21.—"Whether the term *Pound Sterling*, Crown, Livre, &c., are not to be considered as merely exponents or denominations of proportion? and whether gold, silver, or paper are not tickets or counters for reckoning, recording, and transferring thereof?"

22.—"Whether the denominations being retained, although the bullion were gone, things might not, nevertheless, be bought, sold, and industry promoted, and a circulation of commerce maintained?"

These are only a comparatively small selection from the great thoughts of this truly great man upon this most vital question, and from these extracts it will be seen that Bishop Berkeley was not behind the most liberal and enlightened writers of the present day on this generally supposed mysterious subject. But there is no mystery in money, if people will only give themselves the trouble to think upon the subject. The bullionists and usurers, and their paid and unpaid supporters and advocates, say and do all they can to frighten the public from thoroughly investigating their enormous golden juggle, and they have so far succeeded hitherto, that not one man in twenty will pay any attention to the subject. But its paramount importance, and the poverty and distress of the country, will force the people soon to thoroughly unravel the whole swindle.

I am, very respectfully, dear Sir, yours,

Liverpool, Feb. 2, 1852. JOHN FINCH.

THE DEBT OF GRATITUDE FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

SIR,—I have read the noble address of the men of Stockport, in the "Star" of Saturday last, on behalf of our persecuted chief, Mr. Feargus O'Connor; every word of which I most emphatically endorse. The Chartists of this city will not hold their regular meeting this week in consequence of the lectures of our talented friend, Mr. Cooper, and no official response can be given until we meet. But, as I feel deeply interested in that gentleman's present ungrateful situation, and as I have always looked upon ingratitude as a crime of the blackest dye, I therefore, humbly, individually, to respond to their noble call, by pledging my might and humble co-operation with the Old Guards of Bristol in raising that fund which I think ought to be called the "National Debt of Gratitude Fund," and earnestly hope that every man who has imbibed a spark of those noble principles which he has so long and consistently advocated from John O'Grat's to Land's End—any, and even my native countrymen, on the hills of Cambriva, will nobly contribute their mite. Let the tributary streams flow into a mighty ocean of gratitude, such as will strike dismay and disappointment into that variegated of capitalists and governmental miscreants all the machinations to crush him, as an individual, and his idolised Land Plan, in order to destroy every vestige of confidence which he has so honestly won.

Some members of the Land Company may ask, "Where is the sympathy for them?" I answer, "In the redemption of Mr. O'Connor." The blow that strikes him down was aimed at us, but he must first be sacrificed in order to effect the deed. Just imagine all our chagrin and disappointment brought into one focus, and then you may form an estimate of the weight that hangs on the devoted head and heart of Mr. O'Connor; add to that his thousands, his all, perhaps, looked up with yours for years, or for ever, for I fear he will be the last to receive justice at their hands. Then, I say, if you wish to rescue him who has spent his thousands yearly in the cause of the working men of England from a premature grave, to which your ingratitude would surely hurry him, rally to the call of the men of Stockport; lift the burden that weighs him down, and let it recoil on the heads of our oppressors. Let us no longer be guilty of adopting the old and foolish cant of erecting monuments of stone, and inscribing thereon fulsome lines of adulation over the remains of neglected, starved, and broken-hearted patriots, but let us at once erect a living monument to liberty, such an one that shall convince our oppressors that we deserve freedom, and scorn the brand of slaves.

After fourteen years of servitude in the ranks of Democracy it is the first time that I have attempted to wield my pen publicly, and however imperfectly or unsuccessfully I may have done so, I shall have the consolation of having made the attempt in the cause of justice and humanity.

I remain, Brother Chartists, yours truly,

Bristol, Feb. 3. JOHN ROZENS.

THE WEST RIDING DELEGATE MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

SIR,—On behalf of the Chartists locality of this town I am instructed to state, that the resolutions come to at the West Riding Delegate Meeting, held at Halifax on the 1st inst., and which were supported by our delegate, do not meet with our approval.

Be kind enough to insert the above in your paper, in order to prevent an erroneous impression being formed of our opinions.

From yours respectfully,

RICHARD MILFORD, Secretary.

Bradford, February 3rd, 1852.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

SIR,—Mr. Ernest Jones says, in his "Notes," that my letter, which appeared in your valuable paper of last Saturday, is "a miserable attempt to cripple the subscription of funds to the People's Paper, by a base, unfounded falsehood—an attempt to raise a doubt as to the security of the money." Without using the same kind of scurrilous language, I wish to say a few more words upon the subject. At the time I wrote last week, Mr. Jones was under the jurisdiction of the Insolvent Court; and, therefore, any property he had at the time belonged to that Court. If he had been discharged by that Court, all his future property would have remained liable for his debts. But his petition was dismissed, because he had on a former occasion petitioned under the Protection Act in the Bankruptcy Court. But in dismissing the petition, Mr. Commissioner Law emphatically said "that any property Mr. Jones may have, belongs to the assignees in bankruptcy." I suppose that, although Mr. Jones has shown himself most lamentably ignorant of the law, not only in his prospectus for a People's Paper, but also in taking up his own case last week to the Insolvent Court, he will admit that the Commissioner does know the law. Therefore, from what that Commissioner said, it is clear enough that Mr. Jones can neither inherit nor create any property to be enjoyed by himself until full payment of his debts, which, according to his own showing, are not far short of £10,000.

I have not the slightest objection, personally, to Mr. Jones doing his best to get up a newspaper; but since he himself has undertaken to lay down the law at such length concerning the proprietorship of his contemplated journal, and has laid down that law so very erroneously, I think it my duty to throw a little light upon the matter. Two or

three weeks ago he himself said to a correspondent, "never mind my motives, touch my arguments." I now say the same thing to him; and I promise you, Mr. Editor, that if it is necessary, I will next week point out, and quote from, the Acts of Parliament that bear upon Mr. Jones's position.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
A LAW CLERK AND STATIONER,
Clarendon-street, St. Pancras, February 3rd, 1852.

CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE AGENCY,

76, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy Square.

WEEKLY REPORT, Jan. 20th, to Jan. 26th, 1852.

The Agency transacted business with the following stores:—Ullesthorpe, Woolwich, Burnley, Galashiels, Banbury, Leeds, Baintree, Rotherham, Birmingham, and Swindon. The members of the Agency were waited on by a deputation of the Bookbinders' Society, who are desirous of buying their groceries, &c., of the Agency.

An evening party took place on Friday, January 23rd, when the managers of the Association were invited to meet Messrs. Newton, Allan, and Musto, of the Amalgamated Iron Trades, and other gentlemen interested in the Co-operative Movement.

The Bantury Store applied for some one to lecture for them. They were informed that one of the members of the Agency undertakes to attend.

The petition for modifying the Law of Partnership, in order to facilitate Associations of Working Men, now lies for signature at the Central Office of the Co-operative Agency. [The above was inadvertently mislaid last week.]

WEEKLY REPORT, Jan. 27th to Feb. 2nd, 1852.

The Agency transacted business with the following stores:—Ullesthorpe, Woolwich, Burnley, Galashiels, Banbury, Haslingden, Burnley, Bradford, Derby, Brighton, Mauchline, Swindon, Birmingham, Hawick, and Glasgow.

An application was received from Mr. Henry, of West Moulsey, for some members of the Agency to attend a meeting there for establishing a Store. Mr. Wood attended from the Agency. Mr. Furnival of the Council of Promoters, and Mr. Walter Cooper, manager of the Working Tailors' Association. The establishment of a Store in that village was decided on.

The Spinners of Bolton, 400 in number, intend forming a Store in connexion with the Agency.

The last public discussion in Halifax between Mr. Lloyd Jones and Mr. Ernest Jones, took place before a crowded audience, and it ended very favourably to the Co-operative Movement as it is at present carried out.

Several applications have been received during the week for prospectuses and catalogues of the Agency, and for Mr. Vansittart Neale's pamphlet, "May I Not Do what I Will with My Own."

GALASHIELS CO-OPERATIVE PROVISION STORE.

The quarterly meeting of the Store Company was held in the Black Ball Inn Assembly Room, on Tuesday evening, February 2nd, which was well attended by the members. The balance sheets of the several branches were discussed and adopted. They show that in the gross the public sales were £2,249 15s. 9d., and the profits £128 15s. 10d., on thirteen weeks. Towards the end of the meeting, an anxious discussion took place on organising an association to employ its members. Much interest is displayed on this subject, as nearly all the workmen of the town are idle, or but partially employed at present, and who, but for the provident habits created by the Co-operative Movement, would have been starving.

LEEDS REDEMPTION SOCIETY.

We have been compelled to adjourn our meeting again until next week, our rooms not being completed. We are extending our relations with other Stores, a course we hold to be at the very basis of successful Co-operation. We should be glad to hear of a delegate meeting of the northern Stores; it would, we feel assured, be of great mutual advantage. The monies received are as follows:—Leeds subscription, £1 6s. 1d.; Huddersfield, for France, 19s. 3d.; Longton, per Riley, 1s. 6d.; Building Fund, 6d.; Propagandist Fund, 2s. 6d.

Public Amusements.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

A new farce by Mr. Stirling Coyne, under the title of "A Duel in the Dark," was produced here on Saturday evening. There are only three characters in the piece. Mr. Gregory Greenleaf, Mrs. Greenleaf, and a waiting-maid, and the scene of action is an hotel at Dieppe. Mr. Greenleaf is an adventurous Cockney, who has left his home and his wife for the purpose of taking a trip to Paris. Being addicted to "aristocratic flirtation," he falls in love with a French Countess, who induces him to accompany her to Dieppe, and having arrived at that place the lady torments him by a variety of threats and promises in the French language, and by keeping him in ignorance as to her name and habitation. He is driven almost to destruction by love, disappointment, and brandy, when his wife suddenly makes her appearance on the scene, but, in his delirium, he refuses to acknowledge her, and she determines, with the assistance of her waiting-maid, to be revenged upon him by disguising herself as a fire-eating Frenchman, and challenging him to fight a duel, upon the plea that he has been trifling with the affections of a lady (the supposed Countess), who is dear to another. The duel takes place—but, as the tide of the farce implies, in the dark, and poor Greenleaf is led to believe that he has mortally wounded his antagonist. Much amusement arises from this apprehension, Greenleaf being alarmed and horror-struck at the consequences of his "aristocratic flirtation," but in the end he discovers that the Countess and the duelist are one and the same person, viz. his own wife. Matters are then cleared up to the satisfaction of all parties. There is nothing very new in these incidents, but their sero as a vehicle for the display of Mr. Buckstone's drollery, and in this respect the result was quite satisfactory to the audience, who laughed heartily throughout the performance, and at the fall of the curtain the piece was announced for repetition amidst considerable applause.

FLOODS IN CUMBERLAND, CARLISLE, FEB. 3.—In consequence of the heavy fall of rain on Monday, the waters of the Mersey and the Ebor, and the Eden, into which the two former streams run, burst their boundaries in all directions, sweeping hedges and fences of all descriptions before their overwhelming torrent. The scene in the immediate vicinity of Carlisle is at this moment peculiarly striking. Nothing but water for miles, as far as the eye can reach, with here and there a portion of a tree projecting from the surface, as if to mark the extent of the deluge. A fatal accident occurred at Longtown yesterday. It appears that Sir James Graham and family proceeded from Netherby in a couple of hired travelling chaises and pairs, driven by postillions, to the Gifford Station, to catch the express train for London. On returning, the postillions proceeded to the River Ebor, and, as they were about to cross the foot and carriage wheels, when, in consequence of the swollen state of the river, they were drawn into the stream, one of the postillions and all the horses were drowned. The other escaped by swimming to the shore.

The Gazette.

From the Gazette of Tuesday, Feb. 3rd.

BANKRUPTCY.

Thomas Arnold, Elmore, Gloucestershire, miller—Thomas Byrom, London, ironmonger—James Hall, Hove, a farmer, and shire, farmer—Thomas Harris, Camborne, Cornwall, grocer—John Padgett, Idle, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturer—Robert Sewell, Swaffham, Norfolk, scrivener.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.

John Lamb Cunningham, Dundee, manufacturer—Alexander Findlay, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, tenant of the farm of Mainhill—David Stewart, Glasgow, brewer—James Campbell, Glasgow, ironmonger—James MacLellan, Glasgow, ironmonger—James MacLellan, Glasgow, ironmonger—Adam Wilkinson, Glasgow, printer.

Auckland papers received, via Sydney, at Singapore, are to October 5th, 1851. The chief and only topic of interest, was the reported discovery of gold near Kookiang. Dr. Barry's Revelations Andromeda is a pleasant and effectual remedy for the various ailments of the stomach, liver, and bowels, and is under all circumstances, a valuable agent in the aged as well as infants, cramps, paralysis, rheumatism, gout, &c. The best food for infants and invalids generally, as it never turns rancid, and imparts a healthy relish for lunch and dinner, and restores the faculty of digestion and nervous and muscular energy to the most debilitated. The only remedy which has obtained 50,000 testimonials of cure, from Lord Stuart de Decles, the Venerable Archbishop Alexander Stuart of Ross, Mr. James MacLellan, Glasgow, and other persons of high position, and other persons of the highest respectability. A copy of the 50,000 cures sent gratis by Dr. Barry & Co., 127, New Bond-street, London—Caution.—The name of Messrs. Dr. Barry's invaluable Food, as also that of the firm, have been so closely imitated, that it is not safe to look at the name alone, but to see the name, which have undertaken to recommend them, but the reckless audacity of their ignorant and unscrupulous compounders, and which, though admirably adapted for invalids, would pay sad havoc with the delicate stomach of an invalid or infant—see Advertisement in our (to-day's) columns.

A VILLAGE SWEEP AWAY.—ONE HUNDRED PERSONS MISSING.

A terrible calamity occurred on Thursday morning at Holmfirth, a large manufacturing village, a few miles from Huddersfield. Several of the factories in the place are supplied with water from reservoirs in the elevated parts of the locality. The rain during the past few days had caused such an extraordinary pressure of water, that the Bibberly reservoir gave way, and at two o'clock in the morning burst its banks, and caused most appalling devastation and loss of life. The immense body of water rushed with fearful force and impetuosity upon the village, and swept away in its resistless course whole rows of houses, hurrying the sleeping inmates into eternity. Not only houses, but warehouses and mills were swept away by the mighty rush of water, and the streets were blocked up with the wrecks of buildings, woe, casks of oil, the bodies of the dead, &c. A bridge over the Holme, which formed the only communication between the parts of the village of Holmfirth which were situated on the opposite banks of the river, was washed away. This added greatly to the confusion and alarm of the inhabitants, as those on one bank were unable to ascertain the fate of their friends on the other side of the stream. By four o'clock in the morning, the water had so far subsided, that preparations were commenced for recovering the dead, and at seven a.m., sixty bodies had been taken up. In one row of houses swept down there were fifty-four persons.

LATER PARTICULARS.

HUDDESFIELD, THURSDAY, 10 P.M.—The excitement and grief occasioned by the terrible calamity at Holmfirth is beyond description. A body of water ninety feet deep and 100 yards wide was liberated from a narrow mountain gorge (by the bursting of an embankment belonging to the River Holme Reservoir Commission) almost at a sweep, and precipitated down the valley. An immense mill, built of stone with its steam engine, spinning and weaving frames, and huge boilers and other heavy iron machinery, was totally swept away. A row of bodies have been taken away, and the river fifteen miles distant. A hundred persons are missing, and there are more than sixty corpses lying at the mill. Some say nearly ninety have been picked up. Total loss some hundreds of thousands sterling.

In the neighbourhood of Manchester the rivers overflowed their banks, submerging all the low grounds in the neighbourhood. At Wallaces, the left bank of the Irwell was overtopped, and a great portion of the Peel Park laid under water. A large portion of Lower Broughton was also submerged, the ground in some places being covered to a depth of nine feet. Two rows of houses at Broughton-view, between Broughton-les and the river Irwell, seemed, at four o'clock Wednesday afternoon, in imminent danger of destruction. The flood had cut off all the approaches to these houses, but a boat having been sent, thirty-three persons availed themselves of the opportunity of quitting their homes before seven o'clock. About two hours afterwards the water began to subside.

Near the lower part of Oxford-street, a good deal of property was submerged, and the inhabitants of some of the houses in Little Ireland were compelled to take refuge in the upper stories. Several of the mills in the neighbourhood had to be stopped in consequence of the lower stories being flooded.

A reservoir, belonging to Mr. John Brooks, at the Hopefield cotton-mill, at Stockport, is said to have burst its banks. The water flowed into the mill,

entirely ignorant of or has been most grossly misinformed as to the character of the late prosecutions, and of those who have been begging of his bounty, or holding so prominent a position in the government as to be able to have permitted his name to be paraded before the country as the public apologist and patronizer of a set of obscure and litigious timen. We are not surprised that the manufacturers, &c., of Wolverhampton, should rally round men who thought so unscrupulously for their class, and we rely with some confidence upon the public spirit of the manufacturers of England, to evince an equal energy and spirit against the despotism of Capital.

The effect of the 'Writs of Attachment,' is the indefinite imprisonment of the 'Conspirator,' terminated only by the absolute payment of the whole amount.

We appeal to the justice and patriotism of the country to extricate us from this position.

Queen's Bench Prison.

THE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS. THE STRIKE.

LONDON.—During the last few days a convulsion of employers has been sitting to consider the time when the conditions under which the shops should be reopened. It is rumoured that the Company was much divided in opinion, and that one of the largest employers in the metropolis stated to a member of the Amalgamated Society that, in all probability many of the closed establishments would be soon re-opened, although some of the larger ones might sustain the contest for some time longer. The workmen state that they have good grounds for believing that many of the smaller masters will be ruined should their machinery remain idle for any considerable length of time, as they have no capital to fall back upon to meet the current claims of creditors.

The position of the workmen remains unchanged; they even express no symptom of regret for the step they have taken. The number of men out of employ in the metropolis remains nearly the same as last week—viz., about 8000 persons at 170 non-society men. A large number of moulders discharged from Penn's factory at Greenwich, have, however, obtained employment elsewhere; and the men who formerly worked for Messrs. Easton and Amos, Southwark, who have been soliciting for the establishment of a shop for their own employment, have succeeded in obtaining suitable premises in the Mile End-road, and are now actively at work on their own account.

The London trade societies have generally promised to contribute towards the support of the movement; and it is expected that a large amount of subscriptions will be this week received.

Although a few districts of small importance have sent no returns relative to the £10,000 grant for Co-operative purposes, the grant is, we understand, considered as affirmed, and measures are being quickly taken towards carrying out the proposition of the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society; and, in fact, the undertaking will, in all probability, be proceeded with even in the event of a speedy settlement of the dispute; as it is felt that the existence of extensive Co-operative establishments would, in any event, confer great benefits upon the operatives.

Over 1,800 members of the society are employed at the different railway locomotive works, and as the men did not solicit any alteration in the system of labour, it was thought that they would be retained in their situations as usual. Such, however, it would seem, is not to be the case. The Eastern Counties is the first railway company to open up a dispute with its engineering workmen, and some 200 men will in the course of a week or so be turned out on this line, that number of members of the Amalgamated Society being employed in the several engineering sheds of the company.

During the past week some ill-feeling has been exhibited by the labourers towards the Amalgamated Society, owing to the fact that the former are to receive no aid from the funds contributed by organized bodies towards the support of the workmen thrown out of employment, but only from the amount contributed from the unorganized trades and the general public. The labourers consequently resolved to act for themselves in collecting subscriptions, and to begin by applying for aid from their employers. The Employers' Association refused to treat with them as a body, but advised individual appeals to the respective employers. The men have done so, but generally with no definite result up to the present moment. They have appealed for assistance to the nobility, gentry, and many of the great names of the country.

Messrs. Maudsley and Co., who employed about 100 labourers, intended to allow them to work by relays of five men per week, so that the strike might have lasted twelve weeks before the last relay can derive benefit from this determination.

Messrs. Miller and Ravenhill employ three men by turns out of about forty to watch their lower factory by night, so that each man may have for about one night's pay per week at the rate of three shillings and sixpence per week; that is, three days per week to fifteen labourers out of about forty-five or fifty, so that each man may look for one day's work, on an average, in three weeks.

At a meeting of the members of the Central Association of Employers of Operative Engineers, &c., held on Tuesday at their office in Bucklebury, it was resolved to open their establishments on Monday next to any or all the operatives required on each signing a copy of the following declaration:—

"I do hereby honestly declare that I am neither now nor will I ever engage in any engagement with any person engaged in the strike, nor will I support any society which, directly or indirectly, by its rules, meetings, or funds, professes to control or interfere with the arrangements or regulations of this or any other establishment, the hours or terms of labour, the agreements of employers or employed, or the qualifications or period of service. I do also further declare that I will not, while in my present employment, call in question the right of any man to follow any honest calling in which he may desire to engage, or of any employer to make what arrangements, and engage what workmen he pleases, upon whatever terms they choose mutually to agree."

"Dated the _____ day of _____ 1852
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It has been before stated that an intimation had been conveyed to the employers engaged on the works connected with the Eastern Counties Railway, that they would be dismissed if they continued to contribute to the support of the men discharged from the various factories; and that the men replied to this intimation by a formal resolution, passed at a full meeting of workmen, pledging themselves to contribute each a day's pay per week, until the end of the strike. This resolution was adopted on Thursday night, and it was thought by many that the threat of discharge would be acted upon by Mr. Gooch; an expectation which was only realised in the case of two men, who, by Mr. Gooch's desire, communicated his determination to their fellow workmen. These men received notice of discharge on Saturday, but, beyond this, nothing, we understand, has resulted, of a remedial nature, from the expressed determination of the workmen to continue their contributions.

At the works of the South Western Railway, at Nine Elms, it is stated that police constables keep watch in plain clothes, to prevent the attendance at the gates of agents of the Amalgamated Society, for the purpose of receiving subscriptions.

MEETING OF WORKMEN.

On Sunday night a numerous attended meeting of engineering workmen, took place at the Central Club-house, Stepney, to consider their position, in consequence of the resolutions passed by the Employers' Association, and which were recently published in the daily papers.

Mr. BERRY, on taking the chair, said that the resolutions referred to, and which had been made public contrary to the intentions of their authors, who marked them "private and confidential," showed the treachery and villainy of the employers, and had the effect of giving fresh energy and determination to the men, who were frightened, as the employers would probably expect they would be. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MATTHEWS felt proud of the noble answer to the employers' resolutions which had been issued by the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Society. The masters might strive as they please, but the Amalgamated Society was too noble an institution to be overthrown at the dictum of a few employers. With respect to the social position of the workmen, as effected by the strike, the deplorable picture presented by the names of "Paupers"—(laughter)—had not yet been realized. The men, as he said, did not yet come to Sunday meetings in their working clothes, but looking as respectable as ever, and apparently with much money still in their pockets. The labourers of Brighton had advised the labourers of London to go into the shops, and do the work of the society men. (Laughter.) Yes, they might laugh at such nonsense. As for himself, sooner than betake himself at whatever sacrifice to his family, to the East, or Australia, or, even starve, and he thought that feeling was entertained generally by his fellow workmen. (Cheers.)

Mr. CROMACK, of Greenwich, said that the proceedings of the masters during the past week had been of such a damaging nature to themselves and their object, that he was the destruction of the Amalgamated Society. He stated that he had formerly been a member of the workmen were just becoming their friends. (Hear, hear.) Even the "Disrupters" in which they had been so severely denounced, admitted the resolutions of the employers were tyrannical and arbitrary in the extreme. (Hear.) As far as his experience in that direction went, he knew that these resolutions had made the men more firm in their position than they were at the commencement. (Hear.) Rather than sign himself he would go to other countries to seek for a more favourable reception than was accorded him by those who would, in that case, be the means of bating him from his own. (Cheers.)

Mr. NEWTON, amid loud cheers, on rising to address the meeting, said that on last Sunday night he had prophesied that contributions would flow in for the support of those

who had been thrown out. This prophecy had been fulfilled, and he had no hesitation in saying that they would continue to do so however long the dispute might last, so as to leave the funds of the society comparatively unimpaired. (Hear, hear.) He said it stated in the "Times" of Saturday that on the previous day a deputation of employers had asked the aid of Sir G. Grey, at the Home Office. The exact nature of their object was, of course, difficult to know; but it proved, at any rate, that the masters, with all their boasted capital, could not stand the contest without the aid of the Home Secretary. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps they wished to put down the society, but he did not care one pin for that, as Lord Carnarworth had admitted their legal right to combine, and said it was even politic to allow them to do so legally, as trade combinations would exist, more or less, without the sanction of the law. There was another thing, the masters could not get the law altered so as to affect the men, without making it, at the same time, more stringent with regard to themselves, as there was far more of conspiracy in the combination of the masters than in that of the men. (Hear, hear.) The men would keep within the letter of the present law, and therefore the masters could not touch them. The government could not do anything in the matter, and in fact, with an election at hand, trouble themselves with the charge of any unpopular measure, which would expose them to the antagonistic votes of large bodies of the working classes. (Hear, hear.) The workmen were open in their proceedings—they issued no confidential and private circulars, such as that which had recently been issued by the employers, and which was of a more inhuman nature than any circular ever put forward by a body of men before. (Hear, hear.) The masters had endeavored to ascertain how many men could be got to sign the declaration which he contained, but he had not yet heard of a single man who had agreed to do so, nor did he believe that such a man could be found in the whole circle of their trade. (Cheers.) This circular, intended to oppress, would in reality aid the men, as it would bring public opinion to bear against the employers, and he believed even the "Times" would shortly condemn it. (Cheers.) The employers, then, might boast of their capital, and the compactness of their combination; but it was plain they relied upon the aid of the Home Secretary, whose aid the men did not want, because they thought themselves able to manage their own affairs. Co-operation was the only way to success, and would continue to be so, and he hoped shortly to see large numbers of men employing themselves, in addition to smaller shops to be opened by the men themselves, the ex-council were in treaty for the stock and plant of a large establishment. Referring to the attacks of the Press, Mr. Newton said he understood there was another violent and mendacious attack upon their movement. How far this was true, he could not tell, as he was proceeding on his way to the country. That gentleman, who, through the medium of the master-paid agent, constantly slandered and misrepresented them. He did not presume to say that others should do the same, but he was of opinion that those who were so ready to believe the slanders of the Press, should be so to some of those papers which had taken the same line, and an independent and impartial spirit. He saw in the "Star" of that day that Mr. Finch made some important statements as to the treatment of the slaves in America contrasted with the treatment of the workmen in this country. That gentleman had been in the United States many times—he had ample opportunities of personally examining the condition of the slaves, and his well-known philanthropy would naturally incline him to make the most of the results of his experience, and it was in favour of the slave, and the so-called free workman. In all physical respects the slave is better treated and cared for. He trusted Mr. Finch would continue his letters, which, coming from a man of great experience in their own trade, were entitled to the consideration of all who were connected with it. In conclusion, Mr. Newton repeated his earnest exhortations to maintain the same calm, orderly, and peaceable demeanour which had distinguished the strike hitherto, and he had no doubt of a successful, and, probably, a speedy conclusion of the contest.

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Imperial Parliament.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—The Session of 1852 was opened to-day by the Queen in person. The doors of the House of Peers were open at twelve o'clock, and from that time the arrival of peers, peeresses, and those persons who had been fortunate enough to obtain orders, was continuous until the magnificent chamber was filled with an assemblage of landed aristocracy, about fifty peers in their peculiar robes, a full attendance of the House of Lords, and the varied uniforms, and a greater number of judges than we have ever seen present on a similar occasion. The whole scene was one of much beauty and grandeur, the entire body of the house and galleries being filled with gaily dressed ladies, the varied colours of whose dresses with their jewels and other personal ornaments presented a tout ensemble, the effect of which was admirable.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.—The period has arrived when, according to usage, I can again avail myself of your advice and assistance in the preparation and adoption of measures which the welfare of the country may require.

I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with Foreign Powers.

The complicated affairs of the Duchies of Holstein and Schleswig have continued to engage my attention. I have every reason to expect that the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which was concluded at Berlin in the year before last, will, in a short time, be fully and completely executed.

I regret that the war which unfortunately broke out on the eastern frontier of the Cape of Good Hope, more than a year ago, still continues. Papers will be laid before you containing full information as to the progress of the war and the measures which have been taken for bringing it to a termination.

While I have observed with sincere satisfaction the tranquillity which has prevailed throughout the greater portion of Ireland, it is with much regret that I have to inform you that certain parts of the counties of Armagh, Monaghan, and Louth have been marked by the commission of outrages of the most serious description. The powers of the existing law have been promptly exerted for the detection of the offenders, and for the repression of a system of crime and violence fatal to the best interests of the country. My attention will continue to be directed to this important object.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you.

I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal to make adequate provision for the public service.

Where any increase has been made in the estimates of the present year, such explanations will be given as will, I trust, satisfy you that such increase is consistent with a steady adherence to a pacific policy, and with the dictates of a wise economy.

My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.—The improvement of the administration of justice in its various departments has continued to receive my anxious attention, and in furtherance of that object I have directed bills to be prepared, founded upon the reports made to me by the respective commissioners appointed to inquire into the practice and proceedings of the superior courts of law and equity.

As nothing tends more to the peace, prosperity, and contentment of a country than the speedy and impartial administration of justice, I earnestly recommend these measures to your deliberate attention.

The Act of 1843, for suspending the operation of a previous act, conferring representative institutions on New Zealand, will expire early in the next year. I am happy to believe that there is no necessity for its renewal, and that no obstacle any longer exists to the enjoyment of representative institutions by New Zealand. The form of these institutions, will, however, require your consideration, and an additional recommendation which has been obtained from the members of the House of Commons will, I trust, enable you to arrive at a decision beneficial to that important colony.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state to you that the large reductions of taxes which have taken place of late years have not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the national income. The revenue of the past year has been fully adequate to the demands of the public service, while the reduction of taxation has tended greatly to the relief and comfort of my subjects.

I acknowledge with thankfulness to Almighty God, that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws, continue to prevail throughout the country.

I beg to inform you that this is a fitting time for calmly considering whether it may not be advisable to make such amendments in the act of the late reign relating to the representation of the Commons in Parliament as may be deemed calculated to carry into more complete effect the principles upon which that law is founded.

I have the full confidence that in any such consideration you will firmly adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution, by which the prerogatives of the crown, the authority of both Houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people are equally secured.

The Queen was withdrawn in the usual form, and her Majesty adjourned during pleasure.

The house resumed at five o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.—Earl ALEXANDER moved, and Lord LEICESTER seconded, in the Upper House, the Address, which was, as usual, nothing but an echo of the Speech, and the speeches of the noble mover and seconder nothing but a prolongation of the echo.

The Earl of DERBY criticised the choice and arrangement of topics—demanding to know why the Ecclesiastical Titles Act had not been enforced, and why Lord Palmerston had retired—strongly censured the tone of the English press towards the President of France—complained of the Kaffir War and Colonial Administration generally, and contended for a free vote on corn.

Earl GLENCOCKIN concurred in condemning the tone of the press, intimated intentions of preparing for national defence, and replied to the other points of the Opposition leader.

Lord BROCKHAM and the Duke of RICHMOND spoke briefly, and the Address was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The doors of the lower chamber were opened at a few minutes after twelve, and shortly afterwards the members began to flock in, and were speedily seen busying themselves in affixing their names to their favourite seats.

During the recess the chamber has undergone considerable alterations, and other it has been brought to a perfect state of completeness. The temporary hoist gas pendants (not unlike those used in the canvass theatres of country fairs) have given place to ten beautifully executed and appropriately designed gilded chandeliers of bronze decorated with copper and gilded ornaments, and suspended by massive crimson cords. A light and elegant brass rail has been fixed round the galleries. The panels in front of the ladies' gallery, and behind the strangers' gallery, have been filled in with a similar railing. The embellishment of the arms of all the municipalities and counties of the kingdom on the panels of the roof and in front of the side-galleries, and the stained glass windows, have been finished.

The Speaker's chair, table, clock, and other boxes, which are no longer of the old style, have been taken to the new hall, and the other details of the presidential locale have been provided and arranged in order. The seats in all parts of the house are covered with morocco of a most agreeable green hue, and the floor with a cocoa-nut fibre matting or carpet to correspond. Altogether the decorations and furniture harmonise singularly well with the style and proportions of the apartment, and contribute to give it an appearance of snugness and comfort which those who saw it a year ago would hardly suppose could be attained. The neoplastic properties of the new House of Commons too, are very much improved by the change which was made last year in the roof, and afford a most advantageous contrast in this respect to the aristocratic chamber-past.

At half-past one the Speaker entered, and prayers being over, the ballot for the order in which members should proceed to attend her Majesty took place.

At twenty-five minutes past two, (by which time at least 300 members had assembled, but not including any cabinet minister, the opposition being in the greatest numbers.) Mr. PULMAN, the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, entered the house, and proceeding up to the Speaker's table, delivered the Queen's command to the house to attend her Majesty immediately in the House of Commons. The Speaker, attended by the great majority of the members present, went in obedience to the command, and on their return the sitting was suspended until a quarter to four.

Shortly after the resumption of business, Lord PALMERSTON entered the house, and took his seat apparently unnoticed on the front lower bench below the gateway which separates the ministers from the independent liberal members. Lord John Russell and Sir F. Baring entered at a few minutes subsequently, and passed on to their seats without recognising their late colleague.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF NEW MEASURES.—Mr. JAYNES stated the course the government proposed to take in asking leave to introduce certain new measures. On Monday the 9th of February, the Bill of the Treasury would be brought in, to bring in a bill to extend the right of voting for members of parliament, and to amend the law relating to the representation of the people. (Loud cheers.) On Friday the 13th, leave would be moved for by his noble friend, to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the local militia; and on the same day the President of the Board of Trade would ask to introduce a bill to carry into effect certain provisions agreed to between the two governments of England and France, the Soldier-General would move for leave to bring in a bill to reform the practice of the Court of Chancery. (Hear, hear.) And on the same day the Secretary of State for the Home Department would move for leave to bring in a bill to exclude the borough of St. Mary from the right of sending a burgess to parliament. (Loud cheers.)

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—THE ADDRESS.—THE SPEAKER reported that the house had been to the House of Peers, where her Majesty had been pleased to make a most gracious speech, which he proceeded to read.

Kossuth, and the sympathy expressed in behalf of his designs by those who professed themselves to be the advocates of peace. With respect to the Kaffir war, he said it was to be hoped that the reinforcements sent out to the Cape would be sufficient to restore tranquillity, and that afterwards the colony with its new constitution would be enabled to defend itself. He proceeded to ridicule the idea of an invasion of this country while it possessed the largest navy in the world, and a mercantile marine to double the amount of that of any other nation in the world. With respect to the projected reforms in the courts of equity, he dwelt upon the improvements which have been effected within the last twenty years in all the other courts in the kingdom, and he said that the courts of equity had been reformed, and expressed a hope that now at last they might be subjected to the hand of improvement. With respect to the new Reform Bill, he shortly stated some views of his own on the subject. He would give a vote to every man paying direct taxes, and to every man paying poor rates, and also to every man who had £50 in a savings bank. He, however, heartily hated vote by ballot and triennial parliaments, believing that no respectable man would subject himself to the nuisance of a triennial election. Who was afraid in that house to extend the suffrage? Who had forgotten that within a very short time the three principal cities of the world, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, were in the hands of a mob, that during that time there existed the greatest order in this country. There was faith in the working classes in England—their loyalty had been tried. It must not be forgotten, that when wretched politicians had collected a monstrous petition, requiring eight horses to drag it to the house, every man who possessed a shilling instantly joined the cause of order, and when the morning came that was to sack London, that miserable, deluded, humbugging set of political preachers—(laughter)—with a member of that house at their head—(continued laughter)—vanished into the holes and corners of the metropolis on the appearance of a few police men. (Loud laughter.) The abolition of Parliament had been for many years threatened to the amelioration of the condition of the people—the bread had been cheapened—the meat had also been cheapened, and he wished he could have stated the same thing of their beer. Their sanitary condition had been improved, and in Ireland much also had been done. The hon. gentleman then appealed to the Irish members to pause ere they openly declared war to the knife against the government of Lord John Russell. In conclusion he expressed a hope that they would vote a unanimous Address to the Throne, and then proceed without delay to the transaction of the business of the day.

Mr. B. GAVEN moved the Address.

Sir B. HALL alluded to the eulogy which was reported to have existed some time ago for the purpose of driving Lord Palmerston from office, and which it now appeared had at last succeeded, though his policy had been approved of by that house, and he believed by the public generally. The noble lord's resignation or dismissal was announced in London on the 24th of December, and yet on the same day the fact of such dismissal was printed in the "Dresdau Gazette," and Vienna was placarded with the news by the direction of the Austrian government.

Lord J. RUSSELL said he would answer the question put on him, though it required him to go into considerable detail, and he would not do so, but he would say that his ability and his ability to state what he considered to be the duties of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the duties of the Prime Minister; after which he proceeded to say: I will now draw the attention of the house to the events which took place in the autumn of the past year. On the 3rd of November last a Cabinet Council was held, and I happen to have my memory the more impressed by what I stated on that occasion by a note which I made at the time. I stated that I thought the situation of Europe was exceedingly critical; that I thought we were on the verge of seeing in 1852, either a social democracy, or a triumph of the despots, and other countries, or a further hearing of the absolute power possessed by the greater part of the Continent. I said that in either case the situation of England would be one of some peril—that we could not expect that the social and democratic Republic in France would observe the faith of treaties, or refrain from attacking our allies. And I said on the other hand, that if absolute power should prevail—that country being an exception in its form of government from the prevailing form—there was a danger of combination upon the subject of the refugees in this country, or upon some other subjects, in reference to which demands might be made upon us which we could not submit to consistently with the interests of the country. (Cheers.)

I stated that, in my opinion, in this critical state of affairs, it was the interest of England to observe a strict neutrality. (Cheers from all parts of the house.) I said we ought to beware most especially of giving any just cause of offence—(renewed cheers)—that we ought to exercise utmost vigilance in order to prevent such cause of offence. And I think my colleagues generally, and my noble friend, who was more immediately concerned, entirely concurred in the general opinion which I then expressed. No formal resolution was, however, come to in that Cabinet, but there was a general understanding as to the principles of adopting the course of policy. Mr. Sir, a very short time after that Cabinet Council my noble friend unfortunately, as I think, received at the Foreign Office certain delegates from districts in the metropolis with addresses containing terms which were most offensive to Sovereigns in alliance with us. (Hear, hear.) But I was fully persuaded, and I am still fully persuaded, that though my noble friend had not exercised due caution in that respect—though he did not take the precaution of seeing the addresses before they were presented to him—though he had not taken the further precaution, when the delegates came to him in reference to a most delicate subject, of assuring himself that his noble friend would be able to give a satisfactory answer to the questions which were put upon him, that my noble friend had fallen into error that day entirely from oversight and the immense press of business in his department. I was persuaded likewise that great misrepresentations were made with respect to the words which my noble friend had used to these deputations. (Hear, hear.) I was ready, therefore, and I declared it at once, to accept with my noble friend the whole responsibility of his conduct on that occasion, although I could not forbear seeing that an error had been committed. (Hear, hear.) I did hope that, after that occurrence, my noble friend would have treated us with the frankness to which I think I was entitled, and that he would have taken up the important step—that he would have made no important communication to a foreign minister without first giving me information, and enabling me to express my opinion upon that step. There was a meeting of the Cabinet, I think, on the 5th of December, and there was, I think, a generally prevailing opinion at that council, that with respect to any foreign power we had nothing more to do than to abstain from any interference whatever with its internal affairs. (Hear, hear.) My noble friend correctly represented the views of the government in this respect, and which had obtained her Majesty's sanction and approval, in the dispatch which he afterwards sent to Lord Normandy. He says in that dispatch:—

"I am commanded by her Majesty to instruct your excellency to make no change in your relations with the French government. It is her Majesty's wish that you should observe the strictest neutrality in all your relations with the French government, and that you should avoid any interference of any kind in the internal affairs of France."

Am, &c.,

(Loud cheers.) A few days afterwards, among the Foreign Office dispatches which came to my hands, was one from Lord Normandy to Lord Palmerston. It is dated December the 6th, was received on December the 8th, and it says:—

Paris, Dec. 6, 1851.

"My Lord—I this morning received your lordship's dispatch, No. 600, of yesterday's date, and I afterwards called on Mr. Turgot, who informed me that I had received her Majesty's commands to say that I need make no change in my relations with the French government in consequence of what had passed. I added that if there had been some little delay in making this communication, it arose from the fact that I had been occupied with other duties. Mr. Turgot said that delay had been of less importance, as he had two days since heard from M. Walewski that your lordship had expressed to him your entire approbation of the act of the President, and your conviction that he could not have acted otherwise than he did. He said that he had no objection to your lordship's mission, and no instructions beyond our variable rule to do nothing which should have the appearance of interfering in any way in the internal affairs of France, but that I had often had an opportunity of doing so, and I have taken with any doubt on my part to be the government here, I attached the utmost importance to maintaining the most amicable relations between the two countries."

"I added that I was sure, had the government known of the suppression of the press, and the suspension of the constitution, that I should have been commissioned to add my congratulations to them. (That had reference to the combat which took place in the streets of Paris on the 4th, and to this dispatch Lord Palmerston replied.) I have thought it necessary to mention to you what I have stated about M. Walewski's dispatch, because two of my colleagues here mentioned to me that the dispatch containing expressions referred to that effect, had been read to them in order to show the decided opinions which England had pronounced."

Lord Russell said that, after having asked for an explanation from Lord Palmerston, after a lapse of several days he received a communication, which stated

That there has been nothing in the language which I have held in the opinions which I have at any time expressed on the recent events in France which has been in any way inconsistent with the instructions addressed to your excellency, to abstain from anything which could have the appearance of any interference in the internal affairs of France."

My noble friend, I attached the utmost importance to maintaining the most amicable relations

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The President has addressed a letter to his favourite, de Maupas, containing the exoteric reasons for the revival of the defunct office of Fouché, and it has thrown the government into a state of confusion. They vie with each other in extolling the marvellous precision of language, the statesman-like sagacity, and the generous sentiments which they discover in this sinister document. It recommends a grand spy system throughout the whole of France, in order that the 'President' may really know what men think of his measures. This army of miscreants is to be paid for by what Louis Napoleon calls 'honorary rewards,' as it would be quite impossible for any country to support a regular expense of this enormous nature. This system will hold out inducements for men to be active and tell lies in plenty, in order to get their 'honorary reward.' M. de Persigny has addressed a letter to the prefects of police, in which he states:—You are aware, M. le Prefect, that if there exist among the insurgents of December perverse and dangerous men, of whom it behoves to rid the country, the others, for the greater part, are unfortunate workmen or inhabitants of rural districts who have only been induced to revolt by weakness or ignorance. Is it not afflicting to think that such poor deluded people, who have been merely tools in the hands of the real culprits, should be delivered, like the latter, to the rigours of an imprisonment thus prolonged, and that so many families deprived of their support should groan in misery and tears? Such a state of things has moved the Prince-President, and in consequence, he charges me to transmit to you the necessary powers to take out of the prisons and restore to their families, no matter what may be the state of the judicial investigation commenced with regard to them, all those prisoners whom you will judge to have been only misled, and whose liberation cannot offer any danger to society. The character of your functions in bringing you close to the most natural sources of information, will permit you, I hope, to make easily the distinction which I point out to you. I announce to you in the meantime that the military and judicial authorities, with whom you will have to co-operate in this matter, will receive at the same time as you, through the channel of the Ministers of War and Justice, the orders of the Prince-President.

The 'Gazette de France' says:—It is well known that, conformably to the circular of M. de Moray, the government will make known the candidates to the legislative body which it recommends to the choice of the electors. This list of candidates will appear in the 'Moniteur.' It is now being drawn up at the Ministry of the Interior. As soon as this task, which is very far advanced, and that relative to the electoral circumscriptions, shall be terminated, the electors will be forthwith convoked.

The corps diplomatique are exceedingly offended that since the 2nd of December the former usage of communicating to internal measures of importance before their publication in the 'Moniteur' has been dropped.

The following papers are, it is said, the only ones besides the 'Moniteur' which will be permitted after the new law on the press is promulgated:—The 'Constitutionnel,' 'Patrie,' 'Débats,' 'Gazette de France,' and 'Gazette des Tribunaux.'

On Thursday last 360 workmen left Paris for Havre on their way to California. They are to embark on board the Vesta, which will sail as soon as the wind is fair.

M. Dupin, ex-Procurer of the Court of Cassation and ex-President of the National Assembly, has just inscribed his name on the list of advocates at the Court of Appeal. The ex-Queen Adelaide has written a letter to M. Dupin, counselling calmness to the adherents of the Orleans family in France.

The Electoral decree has appeared, and states that each department will have one deputy to every 35,000 electors. Nevertheless, there will be an additional deputy allotted to every department in which the surplus number of electors may amount to 25,000. In consequence, the total number of deputies in the ensuing corps legislatif will be 261. Algeria and the colonies will not name any deputies in the corps legislatif. Every department is divided by a decree of the executive power into electoral districts, equal in number to the deputies allotted to it by the schedule annexed to the present law. This schedule will be revised every five years. Each district elects one deputy. The suffrage is direct and universal. The voting is secret.

All Frenchmen aged twenty-five years without a military tax payment, are electors, enjoying their civil and political rights.

Another decree follows convoking the electoral colleges for February 29, in order to elect the deputies to the Legislative Body.

A spirited letter has been addressed by the Duke de Nemours and the Prince de Joinville to the testamentary executors of Louis Philippe.

The Archbishop of Paris and the Bishop of Orleans and Rennes, have renounced, on the part of the poor clergy, all share assigned by the decree of the 22nd ult. in the spoil of the House of Orleans. Louis Napoleon has accepted the family vault from his decree of spoliation.

The military commissioners instituted to judge the so-called insurgents of December are to cease their operations throughout all France. They are replaced in every department by a mixed commission, consisting of the Prefect, Military Commandant, and Procurer-General, which will decide with the shortest delay on the fate of the accused.

The Clamecy court-martial has condemned to death a young man named Eugene Milletot, aged twenty-one, a printer, who was one of the leaders of the rising on the 5th of December. The poor lad admitted that he had taken arms in defence of the constitution, as he felt it his duty to do. He was ready to die for the part that he had taken in that unsuccessful insurrection, but he seemed bitterly to feel the odious charge of murder and robbery upon which the government thought fit to try him. During a conflict between the gendarmes and the insurgents, commanded by Milletot, M. Manier, the schoolmaster of Clamecy, who was walking in the street, unfortunately fell. There was evidence to show that it might have been a shot from the gendarmes that killed him. At any rate, Milletot had no malice against him. He was making civil war upon the gendarmes. The only robbery was this:—He took five thousand francs from the receiver of the place to pay his men, and gave a receipt for the money. The whole sum, within 60fr., was found untouched upon him. I have just learned from a private source that a second prisoner, named Mollet, has been sentenced to death. Hitherto the proceedings of this court-martial have disclosed none of the horrors and excesses attributed to the people of Clamecy at the time.

Private advices from Bordeaux state that a number of prisoners lately removed to the citadel of Blaye were lodged in casemates underground, into which water percolated in abundance. In these horrible dungeons many men of a high class of society were sitting nearly up to their knees in mud. The government threw down a few loads of sand, which was wholly insufficient to get rid of the wet. The inhabitants of Blaye afterwards sent in a quantity of sere vine branches, which rendered the condition of the prisoners more tolerable. It is said that the destination of the greater part of those that are to be transported has been changed from Cayenne to Algiers. It is curious that the reason of this change is believed in Bordeaux to be the apprehension of Cayenne falling into the hands of an enemy in case of a foreign war.

GERMANY.

AUSTRIA.—The 'Vienna Gazette' publishes the following, among a list of sentences upon political offenders:—'Ez Demelmair, for using inflammatory language, to receive twenty blows with a rod, and suffer eight days' imprisonment, sharpened with two fasts upon bread and water.' It also contains sentences upon four-and-twenty journeymen tobacco makers, punished for agreeing among themselves not to work—for striking, in fact. They are to be imprisoned in irons for various periods of from fourteen to twenty-five days, and fast twice a week.

The feeling of Austria towards France is beginning to be characterised by an increasing degree of suspicion as may be sufficiently evidenced by the state of the funds and public securities. In spite of the high quotations for foreign bills their real value is considerably higher, and the moneyed classes seem to be generally of opinion that it is altogether impossible that things can end well. The 'Lloyd' of the 25th of January, in a laboured and able article, endeavours to show that it must be the President's interest to preserve peace, as 'he could not expect the people to share a national misfortune with him, and it disposed to be warlike he cannot count with much security upon victory.' The accession of M. Bersigny to power and the intended sale of the Orleans estates are looked upon equally unfavourably.

PRUSSIA.—In the Chambers sitting of the 25th ult., the subject of Prussia's relations to the Diet was brought before the Second Chamber. As the cabinet has strictly guarded itself from bringing questions of general German policy to discussion, this sitting was looked forward to with great curiosity. The motion contained a protest against any resolution of the Frankfurt Diet becoming binding on the Chambers or internal policy of Prussia, without the consent of the legislature. The committee appointed to report on it recommended the Chamber to go to the order of the day 'considering' that the return of Prussia to the Diet of the Confederation in no degree affected its independence as a monarchy, and that in taking part in any resolution of the Diet, it would make all the reservations necessary to secure that independence of action as to its internal affairs; and that finally the relations of the Prussian government to the Diet were beyond the competence of the Chambers.

A long discussion ensued, after which the Chamber decided, when there appeared for the committee's order of the day, 139; against it, 133. The accustomed triumph of

the Left was thus averted, principally by the desertion of a part of the centre, which has lately voted against the government.

All the Berlin papers are complaining most loudly against the ruinous taxation imposed on the press by the new stamp law. All political periodicals, published either at regular or irregular intervals, whether lithographed or printed, are to pay a tax of half a penny for every hundred square inches of superficial contents; advertising sheets, though containing no news, are not excepted. The 'New Prussian Gazette' declares the tax exorbitant, as it will absorb nearly three-fifths of its gross revenue, an amount of taxation imposed on no other enterprise in which large capital is embarked; one of the provisions of the law affecting foreign newspapers imported into Prussia, imposing a tax of 25 per cent. upon the subscription price of the newspaper, exclusive of the postage, at the place of publication, or, at least, two thalers a year for each paper.

HANOVER.—The Hanoverian Chambers were prorogued on the 29th ult. In its sitting of the previous day the second chamber had passed a resolution calling upon government to facilitate the residence in Hanover of the patriots expelled from Schleswig-Holstein. The proposition was at once carried up to the first chamber, which had just adopted it as it was prorogued. The government has announced that the legislature will not be again convoked before the term fixed by the constitution as the extreme limit of the vacation, has expired.

ITALY.

ROME.—In Ancona the guillotine is in preparation, so that the inhabitants apprehend that they will soon have to witness some sanguinary work. All the moderate party in La Marca (the former parsons of the Pope) are now alienated from the government. For poor Calandrelli, the triumvir, the only benefit to be procured would be permission to spend as much of his own money as he pleases, for at present he is only allowed to spend five baiocheti (two-pence-halfpenny) a day; he is not chained, nor dressed in the degrading gird garments, and is in the same cell with a doctor.

PIEDMONT.—The satirical paper, 'La Mags,' published at Genoa, was seized there on the 30th, for an article offensive to the President of the French Republic.

SWITZERLAND.

The news from Switzerland states that party strife is at its height. It was said some days ago the instructions sent to the French minister at Berne were such as to menace the independence of the federal government. It is now said, on good authority, that it has been settled that Switzerland shall be jointly occupied in the spring by French and Austrian troops. It is doubtful whether Prussia will be permitted to take any part in this invasion, the jealousy entertained with regard to that power by Austria enabling France to insist with more firmness upon her exclusion from the projected operations. It is possible that Prussia will, under these circumstances, establish an army of observation in the grand duchy of Baden.

BELGIUM.

The 'Independence' states that the seizure of the 'Bulletin Français,' which took place in Brussels on Friday, was occasioned by a formal complaint addressed to the Belgian government by that of France, alleging the violence of the attacks directed through that publication against the President of the Republic. A prosecution is already instituted against the publisher of the 'Bulletin Français,' in virtue of the law of September, 1816, fixing the punishment incurred by those who publish against injurious to foreign powers. The law in question is of very wide application, since it makes offensive criticism upon the acts of foreign rulers criminal, as well as personal reflections and questioning of the legitimacy of their rule. The penalty of a first offence is a fine of five hundred florins or six months' imprisonment. The defence of the accused has been undertaken by a young advocate named Holt, a member of the Chamber.

HOLLAND.

The 'Independence' of Brussels states that the French government has made an energetic remonstrance to the cabinet of the Netherlands upon the subject of the animadversions of the press of Holland on Louis Napoleon's conduct and government, and demanded that the violence of the newspapers shall be restrained. Cabinet councils have been held, to consider how compliance with the application can be reconciled with the laws.

UNITED STATES.

Advices from New York state that the Austrian chargé, Hulsemann, had addressed a second letter to the President, relative to Mr. Webster's sentiments respecting Kosuth. The cavalier stated that if those sentiments, encouraging a part of the Austrian empire to rebellion, were endorsed by the President, the only course open to the Austrian minister was to quit the United States. The President invited Chevalier Hulsemann, to a confidential conversation, which was accepted, and the Austrian Minister expressed himself satisfied with the result of the interview, but has since studiously given Mr. Webster the 'cut direct.' Kosuth and his suit arrived at Pittsburgh on the evening of the 22nd ult. in sleighs; the uncertainty as to the time of his arrival prevented any display, though arrangements had been made on a great scale for that purpose, and considerable enthusiasm manifested. At Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, his reception by the Legislature was remarkable. A crowd, chiefly of ladies, took possession of the House, and would not be removed by the police, or even by the military! The few senators who got in tried to adjourn, but were shouted down; and the reception was gone through amidst such uproar that the whole affair was dumb show. The 'Times' correspondent declares that he has gone over a thousand (!) American papers within the last few weeks, and finds the great majority strongly in favour of intervention for Hungary; and that the Democratic party will make that cry, and a very promising one, at the Presidential election. The delegations from various states, in behalf of Smith O'Brien, and the other Irish exiles, arrived at Washington about noon on the 22nd ult., and the President immediately called a cabinet meeting, which was held at four p.m. on that day. A procession of about 300 waited upon the President at that hour. The Baltimore delegation presented their memorial, which purported to be signed by 15,000 persons. The President, in responding, said that while his feelings and the feelings of his countrymen generally were warmly enlisted in behalf of the Irish exiles, he was gratified at the disposition manifested by the memorialists to do nothing that would compromise the government, and objected in strong terms against intervention in European affairs generally.

Ireland.

THE MURDER OF MR. BATESON.—The special commission has turned out a failure. The judges sent to Monaghan have returned to town, the whole result of their labours being the conviction of two Ribbon men who were found with arms while the commission was sitting. Francis Kelly has been tried twice for the murder of Mr. Bateson, and the jury in each case has been discharged without arriving at a verdict.

MR. CHAMBER.—Several men are under arrest, on the charge of shooting at Mr. Chamber. It is believed that a special commission is to be issued for the county (Armagh) in which that outrage took place. Mr. Chamber is reported to be out of danger.

THE 'WORLD'—Mr. Birch, the proprietor of the late 'World' newspaper, was, on Tuesday, arrested on a bench warrant, for the libels which appeared in the last numbers of his journal, against Mrs. French, the daughter of Mr. Brewster, Q.C.

A movement has been set on foot to obtain the remission of the sentence of Smith O'Brien, and the other Irish political convicts of '48. Meetings have been held in Wexford, and in the Court-house at Limerick, the mayor presiding, and a large number of the Roman Catholic clergy being present.

ELECTION REMOVED.—The 'Limerick Reporter' gives an authorised contradiction to the statement of the contemplated retirement of Lord Arundel from the representation of that city. The 'Galway Mercury' says: We are informed that Andrew Browne, Esq., of Mount Hazel, has been solicited by many of the most influential and independent electors of this county, to come forward as a candidate for the representation of that county. This nomination, it is also rumored, that Mr. Keogh, the member for Athlone, will be a candidate for the city of Dublin at the next election. Sir R. Howard, the member for Wicklow, is reported a candidate for Kinsale, with Mr. Butt, Q.C.; and Mr. V. Blake, for Mayo.

THE FRENCH VULTURE.—Natural historians are puzzled to determine what sort of fowl is the bird calling itself the French Eagle. That it belongs to the Eagle Family at all, the only indication is afforded by its talons, which are enormous, and exhibit an extent of grasp truly astonishing. But the voracity and greediness for which it is remarkable are rather characteristic of the vulture, or the carrion crow, and its trick of pouncing on the defenceless is a trait of the kite. Moreover, it displays a wonderful alacrity at feathering its nest, which is foreign to the eagle nature. This is a nest, which is foreign to the eagle nature. This is a nest, which is foreign to the eagle nature.

CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.—We are compelled to confess that we have not met with any blunders that more nearly resemble the notion of an Irish blunder, than one which some of our English papers, it was the title page of an advertisement of a washing machine, in these words:—'Every man his own washerwoman.'

THE NATIONAL LAND COMPANY.

On Monday a meeting was held in Vice-Chancellor Kinnersley's court, before Master in Chancery Humphry, for the general examination of Mr. Feargus O'Connor, M.P., the Directors, and others, to inquire into the management and financial transactions connected with the Company's affairs under the act of parliament passed to dissolve the Company, to dispose of the lands and property belonging to it, and generally to wind up its affairs. Shortly after ten o'clock, Mr. O'Connor, accompanied by Mr. Roberts, entered the court.

Mr. Roxburgh, counsel for Mr. Goodchap, the Official Manager, explained to the court that the object of the meeting was to examine into the financial accounts of the National Land Company. He then entered into a brief history of the rise and progress of the Company, and stated that, owing to the small amount of information obtained by Mr. Goodchap, the Official Manager, relative to the affairs of the Company, this examination became necessary. He should first endeavour to lay before the court the amount of money received, when and where it was received, and how expended. He should then go into the titles of the tenants at the various estates, but should first proceed with the examination of Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor was then examined, and in answer to the counsel, stated that he originated the Company in May, 1845. That Messrs. Wheeler, Mr. Gray, Clark, and Doyle were associated with him. That Mr. Wheeler subsequently resigned, and Mr. Deion was elected in his place. The Company commenced to receive money about May. He was not aware of the exact amount received, but he knew that the Company would show the amount. He knew nothing of the money Colley, this examination became necessary. He should first endeavour to lay before the court the amount of money received, when and where it was received, and how expended. He should then go into the titles of the tenants at the various estates, but should first proceed with the examination of Mr. O'Connor.

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The witness here directed first one fist and then also one of the learned counsel, and, feigned to direct also one of the Master (with remarkable mildness): Really, Mr. O'Connor, you must not do that.

The Master retired into one of the side rooms, followed by the learned counsel, and in the interim Mr. O'Connor, addressing some one in the crowd, exclaimed, "Here, now, do you get on the bench." On the return of the Master and Mr. Roxburgh.

Mr. O'Connor, addressing the latter, said: Ah, you ruffian, will you have a pinch of snuff?" and on the Master taking his seat, he said: Gentlemen, for the noble lord, Mr. Roxburgh: Have you any books at all?

Mr. O'Connor: None.

The Master: Did you ever have any?

Mr. O'Connor: I never had any. I cannot come here to-morrow; I must be at the House.

The Master: The Speaker will be ready to excuse you, if there is any necessity. (Laughter.)

Mr. O'Connor: Will you excuse me?

The Master: No, I cannot excuse you.

(Mr. O'Connor here laughed outright.)

The Master: To adjourn these proceedings until to-morrow, Mr. O'Connor and all parties must be present.

Mr. O'Connor (putting on his hat, and retiring laughing): Oh dear, oh dear.

A large crowd of people followed the witness into the Lincoln's-inn Court-yard, and through Lincoln's-inn-fields.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

Mr. Roxburgh stated that he intended to examine the mortgages and other parties connected with the Minister Lovel Estate.

Mr. Bagshaw, appearing for the mortgages, objected to their examination. A Bill in Chancery was already filed against the Minister, and to go into the case now was vexatious. He said that they would put in an answer to the bill.

Mr. Roxburgh replied, that they were compelled to examine all parties who had ever had any monetary dealings with the Company. They had sold Mr. O'Connor an estate for £9,000, with a mortgage upon it of £5,000, to remain for six years, but the covenant of the deed provided that the mortgage could be foreclosed in one year. This looked suspicious. Here was an estate which had been mortgaged for seven years, and the mortgage was to be foreclosed in one year. This was a most extraordinary circumstance, and he was sure that the mortgage was a forgery, and that the Company had been deceived, and now were only restrained by their filing a bill for an injunction.

Mr. Bagshaw: It is a useless expenditure, which would ultimately fall upon the unfortunate shareholders.

