

PRICE FOURPENCE HALFPENNY,  
OR FIVE SHILLINGS PER QUARTER











THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR EVILS.  
"OVER-POPULATION, AND OVER-PRODUCTION" ANSWERED.

The last, like the preceding Parliamentary weeks, has been devoid of public interest and unproductive of public good. Squabbles about seats; renewal of declarations of the necessity of hacking the back of the poor soldier; arguments concerning foreign policy; declarations in favour of negro emancipation and white slave bondage; Malthusian exultation at the success of wholesale plunder; virtuosopery against the already unjustly oppressed Catholics; Harbour Bills; Rail-road Bills; Pier Bills; Irish Poor Law Bills; with all the other absurdities, have been discussed in the National Jobbing House; while not a word, not a single word, has been uttered, having for its object, the advancement of the millions. Thus we find elective power and non-elective influence once again opposed; justice at war with injustice; unprotected truth contending against protected falsehood; and naked misery, starvation, and want laughed at by those who live upon national plunder, depravity, monopoly, and force.

These things we know; these things we feel; these things we preach; but so violent must be any change for the better, that it is almost vain to expect that men will give up old prejudices, long cherished predilections, and crochets, for what appears a subversion of established order, and a plunge into chaotic confusion. We grant, that, opposed as our present rulers are to every species of progressive improvement, that the move, if not restrained by a timely application of reforming principles, will be a dash to clear the breach which corruption has made, and in one dreadful struggle to accomplish more by violence than would have been required if something had been yielded to justice. The system of private contention, individual monopoly, and party aggrandizement, has disgusted the non-electors, with the delegation of representative power, by a few interested individuals to the keeping of those who legislate for themselves, and against the interest of the commonwealth.

In all ages, and through all time, there has been cant phrase to account for the condition of the working classes. We hear of idleness, drunkenness, want of education, and a thousand imperfections and deficiencies, attributed to them as a reasonable means of accounting for their want of improvement and moral elevation. We have heard the thunder of pulpit eloquence, senatorial reproof, sectarian denunciation and declamatory ravings of paid and itinerant demagogues, unmercifully hurled at the "swinish multitude;" all their vices have been represented as characteristic of a low born race; while few have declared them to be consequences of oppression and misrule. Men possessing philanthropy and love of justice, mourn, as it were, that with the best intentions to serve them, the working classes cannot be induced to conform to those rules laid down by their professed friends and champions. Alas! they have no friends; they cannot have friends under the present system of legislation.

The people witness the disorganization of their moral societies, while fashion in high life proceeds apace with rapid strides. They witness the breaking up of their small once happy and social communities, and see a squalid race of living skeletons marching in sad procession, in filthy towns, by arithmetical rule, from the den of misery to the loathsome factory, and thence (when old age, or exhaustion, or danger of speculation overtakes them,) to the dungeon of the remorseless Devil-King, whose deputies receive them as a part of the over-population of the country. Behold then the mystery. A new order of things has sprung up, and we require a new order of men to govern them. The rapid changes which society has undergone by the introduction of machinery without corresponding laws to regulate its proceeds, is the one great plague spot, which now affects the body politic. All the fault is attributed to the people themselves, while those who are entrusted with their government, are held exempt from censure.

Of late, more than ever, the cry of over-population, as compared with the means of production, has been trumpeted in our ears. The means of regulating population in one country, by the commercial wants, speculation, and power of production, of other countries, has been reduced to a singular nicety; and has been solved and laid down with an exactitude, which no science (even less abstruse) has attained. A table of grain has been established which, in the opinion of political economists, should regulate population; and instead of effecting an equitable distribution of the fruits of the earth and of rendering them subservient to the wants of the people, "so as in due time they may enjoy them," it would appear as if the order of nature were reversed, and that the scale of population should be made subservient to the commercial speculation of the capitalist, the wants of the lord of the soil, and to the financial necessities of a money-mongering Government. The question of over-population cannot be solved by any given number of inhabitants. Man has been displaced from his natural position in society, by the introduction of machinery; and if to-day ten millions should be considered a thin population, to-morrow, by the invention of some new piece of machinery, one million might be looked upon as a superabundant population. By power of production, is meant the means of producing, at the smallest possible remunerating price for labour, with the greatest possible amount of profit to the speculator. The whole question of distress and dissatisfaction is to be thus accounted for. For ages the people of this country have been accustomed to one line of life, and one description of labour, in the enjoyment and prosecution of which they have been governed by laws made with reference to their habits and occupations. But of late a new spirit, a lively soul has been infused, which requires a new code of laws; first to arrange the profits, and then to govern the system. Under the old feudal laws, some scale was established, to regulate the landlord's profit upon each class of land according to its producing power. The political economists, subdivide the price of the raw material, the profits upon production, outlay, risk, and speculation, with nice precision; while they hand the scheme for factories regulation, over to the tender mercies of the Russian, the American, and other inhabitants of foreign parts.

We require some defined specific rule for the regulation of all profit made by labour, otherwise we shall have a savage and a bloody civil war to right society. The facility which machinery affords for gambling, makes the avaricious capitalist (speculating on hourly return from each drop of sweat), look with apathy upon the uncultivated soil in view of his mill, and with contempt upon the dull clod-pole cultivator, who is satisfied with the poor profit of four or five per cent., and that annually, for his labour and speculation. The anxious gambler who hazards his all upon one throw of the dice, does not look with more ineffectual contempt upon the frequenter of the penny lovable, than does the quick-return-capitalist upon the slow procedure of his farming neighbour. Is it not monstrous to talk of over-population, and to resort to foreign and fluctuating markets for human food, while at each step we see thousands of acres merely requiring wholesome labour to produce wholesome food? Over-population indeed! Lay low the lordly heads of your forest trees; dispose of your hunters, race horses, pleasure horses, dragoon horses, dogs, and

animals, who consume without producing; turn your parks, your race grounds, your deer parks, and vast domains into available produce: then show us an over-population, and we will join with you in quest of distant countries, to which the younger branches of nature's family shall repair for sustenance, shelter, and relief. Speak then, henceforth, in terms which the sufferers can understand. Lay aside your economical mysteries, with regard to free trade, over-production, over-population, and competition. Take the fragments of misery from your political Kaleidoscope, and show the fair picture to the people. Speak to them in homely phrase—tell them that to be great abroad, we must first be great at home. Talk to them of national free trade—tell them to dissolve the incestuous union between Church and State, and to restore the tithes to the uses of the people. Tell them to make the laws such as can be obeyed from love, and disband your army. Get rid of your pensioners, your drones, your locusts, and your expensiveness of every description: and then, those who now complain of disorder and want of moral perfection, will speedily find that the cause being removed, the effect will have ceased to exist. We admit that any new science, by the operation of which the government of a country is much affected, requires time for consideration, before new laws can be made applicable to the working of new circumstances. But at the same time, all must allow, that no disposition has been evinced to remedy a single evil created, by recent great and important changes. The few whom machinery has not as yet vitally effected, serve as a political guard for those who are becoming rich (as if by magic) under its unrestrained influence. In conclusion, let it not be understood that we are enemies to machinery. On the contrary, we are staunch supporters of the system; but we are enemies to the unequal distribution of the funds made under its application. Machinery, which should be man's holiday, has been made man's curse; and when we know that the manufacturer who can rob 4,000 men, women, and children, of two hours labour per day at 3d. per hour, puts thirty one thousand eight hundred pounds per annum into his own pocket, with out any speculation as to the price of material, or manufactured article—then we say, regulate the profits made by machinery, or the people will be obliged to regulate them for you.

## TO THE EDITORS OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

London, March 28th, 1838.

GENTLEMEN.—I have seldom perused a Journal which afforded me more real satisfaction than did your "Star" of Saturday last. Let me briefly explain why that number in particular has so much pleased me, and why, I think, it must have pleased thousands of other persons whose good opinion is of more consequence to you than mine.

Your "Star" of Saturday abounds in matter which shows that you, its conductors, are preparing to act as well as to write and talk, and what is by far more important, that the Men of the North are preparing to act with you and even to go beyond you, if that be possible. You will see by this, that I allude not so much to your own editorial articles, as to the general contents of your last number—more especially to your correspondence, and your reports of public meetings. I would not give a fig for all the editorial scribbling and speech-making in the world, unless they be of a nature to make the people act; but that your scribbling and speech-making will have that effect, if they have not already produced it, is evident to me from almost every part of the contents of your last number. In the first place there is your report of the Radical meeting at Bury. The sentiments expressed at that meeting need only to be universally acted upon by the working classes to render their cause invincible. It is the first example I have seen of a Trades' Union having the intelligence and the boldness to declare that politics was an essential part of the legitimate objects of such societies. The old cuckoo cry—"We have nothing to do with politics"—that cry which knaves originated, which fools were taught to reiterate—and which has hitherto proved the bane of all Trades' Combinations—was most wisely and manfully disowned at Bury. Talk of the signs of the times! I know no sign of the times so pregnant with salutary consequences to the British public, as this conduct of the Unionists of Bury. Had the Grand Consolidated Trades' Union (which presented such an imposing array of strength a few years ago) only acted upon similar resolves to those of the men of Bury, it would not only have been still in existence, but would be the most formidable combination that ever menaced Governmental Despotism. At the time of that Union, I did all in my power to induce its members to embody the single question of Universal Suffrage amongst the number of its declared objects; but neither myself, nor those of my readers who belonged to the Trades, could make any impression against the overwhelming majority, whose cry was—"We want no politics."

"We will have nothing to do with politics." What reason and common sense could not effect then, time and experience have since partially effected. All intelligent working men are now convinced of three things—First, that without a voice in the laws, their Trades' Combinations will ever have but a precarious tenure of existence, being always liable to be crumpled and broken up by the verdict of a middle-class jury. Second, that without a voice in the laws, such combinations can, at best, only partially stay or prevent the downward progress of working men, but are never of any avail to permanently raise wages, much less to materially affect the arrangements of society in favour of the interests of labour. And Third, that Universal Suffrage, so far from operating against, or being inconsistent with, the other declared objects of Trades' Unions, would materially assist them and expedite the march of opinion in favour of still more comprehensive objects. These convictions are now pretty generally entertained, and thanks to the men of Bury and to the "Northern Star," they bid fair to ripen into the golden fruit of action before long.

Who that reads your account of the Bury Trades' Meeting will not rejoice to see such sentiments as the following expressed by working men—"We do not come here (says Mr. BOURGEOISE, millwright), to hear Dr. FLETCHER, or FEARLESS O'CONNOR, or Mr. STEPHENS, or Mr. OASTLER; we are come to repel the foul charge of assassination" (O'CONNELL'S charge). Again—"Some of those present had probably been accustomed to say what we do to with politics!—but he, Mr. BOURGEOISE, would tell them that if there had been fair legislation to protect the interests of labour, there would have been no need for Unions, for trades, or for Secret Societies. They would soon find that it concerned every one to understand politics, &c."

Mr. B. then proceeded to refer to the House of Commons' Committee now sitting on the subject of Trades' Societies—a Committee, two of whose members are the JUDGES ADVOCATES, who condemned the five Glasgow Cotton Spinners, and Mr. DANIEL O'CONNELL, who has branded the Unionists generally as assassins, or the abettors of assassination. Well may we exclaim with this honest millwright—"A pretty set of fellows these!"

Mr. THOMAS BIRD, cotton spinner, was no less decided than his friend BOURGEOISE in repudiating the cowardly cuckoo cry of "No

politics!" "No politics!" I call this cry cowardly, because in nine cases out of ten it proceeds as much from cowardice as from ignorance. The leaders of the Unions are afraid of their masters, and still more afraid of the Government, which, they vainly imagine, will let them alone so long as they let politics alone, and confine themselves to wages, limiting the number of apprentices, or the like trade regulations. But no delusion can be more complete. Every one of the regulations alluded to is as much an attack on the Government as the carrying of a resolution in favour of Universal Suffrage or Annual Parliaments. The reason why the Government does not give Universal Suffrage, is simply because the classes which make the Government, derive the bulk of their incomes from the slavery and low wages of the working classes, which, they know, Universal Suffrage would put an end to. But what matters it to those classes whether slavery and low wages be put an end to by Universal Suffrage, or by the regulations of Trades' Unions? Not a straw's value of difference does it make to them, except in so far as Universal Suffrage would be a more effectual remedy against them than the other. In either case, their Government is sure to do its utmost to crush whatever tends to do away with slavery and low wages. All members of Trades' Unions may, therefore, rest assured, that by discarding politics, they conciliate neither the Government, nor their masters' customers; whilst, at the same time, they discourage all their best friends, lose one half their real strength, and neglect the only effectual means of permanent amelioration. Messrs. BOURGEOISE and BIRD explained this well at the Bury meeting. "Go to the savings' banks," said Mr. BIRD, "and fetch out your money, and call on your fellow-workmen throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland to do the same." Your correspondent, R. J. RICHARDSON, recommends the same, and who will tell me that this admirable recommendation has nothing to do with politics? Had the Government no political object in establishing or sanctioning the establishment of savings' banks? In limiting the amount of deposits to be made by each depositor? In enabling the working classes to purchase annuities with their accumulated savings? And in limiting the amount of these annuities to twenty pounds? Why, the whole affair is a political one of the worst machivellian stamp, and yet there are working men so perverse and blind to their own interests, as to say, I will have nothing to do with politics!—God pity such deluded creatures, and open their eyes before the New Poor Law Act, and the New Rural Police shall have convinced them to their cost, that their not having anything to do with politics will not prevent politics from having to do with them. If Mr. RICHARD TAYLOR, (another of the speakers at the Bury Meeting), had held such inflated notions, he would never have had the good sense to say, in reference to the House of Commons' Committee on the Trades, "It would have been better if O'Connell and his set had got a Committee to enquire into the CAUSES of distress, instead of their present proceedings." Messrs. CLEGG, STOKES, LORD, and FLETCHER, showed themselves no less intelligent than the speakers already named. It is impossible to read even your brief outline of the speeches of these persons without feeling a thorough conviction that if all the working people were but equally well-informed and public-spirited, their cause would be invincible.

The address of the Edinburgh Committee in behalf of the victimized Cotton Spinners, is another feature in your last week's paper, which must delight every friend of humanity. Who that reads that eloquent address, can doubt the ultimate triumph of Right over Might, and of enlightened benevolence over the brute empire of force and cunning? The letter of HARNET, NERSON, and IRELAND, is another important sign of the times, for the publication of which, as well as of the letters of Mr. RICHARDSON, in reference to the Savings' Banks, we are indebted to your last number. But what most gratifies me, of all, in that number, is, your announcement of the Great Northern Union, and your recommendation that the returned Dorchester Labourers be forthwith put in requisition to make a tour through England in behalf of the five Glasgow Cotton Spinners. This is something better than mere talking and writing. The Northern Union, if it be good for anything, may be made the foundation of a real national Guard to protect the British Democracy in its first essays of Sovereign power. In truth there is no telling to what uses such a body may not be convertible, provided it be strong in Numbers and Union, and that it be actuated by a proper sense of the wrongs it has suffered, and of the rights it has to gain. Heartily thanking you, gentlemen, for your last number, and wishing you every success,

I remain, &amp;c.,

BRONTERRE.

## TO READERS &amp; CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. J. Ogilvie, news agent, Bow Lane, Cross Street, has left his residence, without communicating his present address to us, which is of importance, for a certain reason. We understand he has gone to Scotland; and shall give any person 10s. who will be kind enough to forward his present address to this office—Northern Star.

We have been obliged to exclude much matter of importance this week, and amongst the many, a most important report of a meeting of rate-payers held at Dukinfield, which shall appear in full in our next.

Those persons who have paid Mr. Miller, of Glasgow, for the Star, shall receive them (till the time expires) from our agent, Mr. Henry Robinson, of Glasgow; but we beg to state that, in future, we shall do as we are done. We should be happy to hear from Mr. Miller.

We have much pleasure in accepting the invitation of our Barrow friend for Easter, Tuesday, and thank them for their kindness, we shall do our utmost to make them spend a pleasant evening.

We never were more delighted than with the meeting of the good men of Birstal on Tuesday night last, so much so, that, with their permission, we shall, on Monday, the 23rd of April, hold a general meeting of the several villages in the neighbourhood, when, with God's blessing, we will lay the foundation-stone for opening the road, and presenting of the great county of York, and wrenching it from the hands of faction. It must be done, and at Birstal, among the many villagers.

We have received as much poetry as a donkey could draw; we shall select from it as occasion offers, so let none be jealous, or we will take it by lot.

Comprehensive address.—A new London publication, after having purchased an entire leading article from the Northern Star, says, from a "North of England newspaper." Well done, Harry; it won't do, we'll be at you all, and you know it.

Mr. O'Connell received a letter from his excellent friend, Robert Eddy, of Rochdale, which he will shortly answer, but has been very busy. He hopes this apology will be satisfactory. Robert was sent £2.10s. from Sheppard, who will give his receipt as cash to Mr. Heywood, of Manchester.

All agents who choose to allow their accounts to remain unpaid for a week after receipt of their copy, can do so; but they will be allowed only a half penny per paper; they can please themselves.

Specimens of Stephens's portrait will shortly be in the hands of our Agents. Stephens is an honour to his country and our cause; he must be valuable to deserve so much vituperation from "Slashing Harry's" steam tongue.

We are not quite satisfied with the position of our Halifax friends, they must spring up as summer comes. Our correspondent sent us news this week—was there none? He said no.

If our Bradford friends want more local news, let them communicate with our correspondent; we give all we get, and shall be happy to give more, but we cannot manufacture it.

In future, Cooke, of Staley-Bridge, must get his papers from our Staley-Bridge Agent, Mr. Deegan.

All Orders for Lancashire must be sent on Wednesday, next week.

## CIRCULATION OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

As many bets are pending with respect to the Circulation of the Northern Star, and as we have received several communications expressing a wish to know our present Circulation, we subjoin an Average for the last six weeks, together with the Numbers Sold in Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, and Halifax, respectively, during that period. This we give though against our own interest, as the Star is rising weekly; but we give it on our own word, which can be confirmed by Messrs. J. WRIGHT and SON, Paper Manufacturers, from whom we get Stamps, and from our several Agents, and will be confirmed by the Parliamentary Returns we pledge ourselves. The present is the Twentieth Number of the Star.

Leeds ..... 11,422 or 1,903 Weekly.  
Bradford ..... 5,026 or 836 Weekly.  
Halifax ..... 5,188 or 837 Weekly.  
Huddersfield ..... 5,999 or 1,000 Wanting a fraction Weekly.

Should this prove incorrect we shall pay all the bets.

Total Circulation of the "Northern Star" for the last Six Weeks 63,954 or 10,659 Weekly.

Some time ago we announced to our readers that the circulation of the Star had become so great, as to render it necessary for us to erect a Steam Engine, to enable us to print off the quantity required in time. That Engine we have now at work for the second week; and we notice it here for the purpose of thus publicly testifying to the merit of the makers, Messrs. Smith, Beacock, and Tannett, Engineers, Leeds. The Engine is of two horse power, and the whole of it, with the exception of the fly wheel, stands in a space not more than two feet six inches square. The working of it is most satisfactory; indeed, it commenced work without the least difficulty the first moment the steam was properly applied to it. To those requiring a similar Engine, or, indeed, Engine work of any kind, we can most heartily recommend the above Firm.

## LEEDS AND WEST-RIDING NEWS.

## LEEDS.

THE VALUE OF THE LEEDS TOWN COUNCIL.—In consequence of the decisions of its incorporation of apportionment, no less than fifteen persons were, on Saturday last, summoned before the magistrates to answer charges of non-payment of poor rates, highway rates, &c. Many of them seemed to be the creatures of the greatest destitution. Some had but little work for a very long time, and could scarcely obtain the means of subsistence. Others had been unable, from illness, to attend to their usual avocations, and had nothing to depend upon except what was earned by their wives and little children. And yet the magistrates, Dr. Williams and William Williams Brown, in every case but one, adjudged the parties able to pay. Besides the pauper sums for which these poor persons were summoned, there was to each case added FIVE SHILLINGS for costs!! One person who was summoned was a poor widow with two children, and receiving parish relief. These are some of the blessings of the Corporation Reform Bill, which has been appropriately denominated, "The Whig Beggars' Act." That Act is the effect of "Wage Slavery," and therefore the Whigs are highly deserving of the support of every man who loves Liberty and Justice.

FORGING A CERTIFICATE.—On Saturday last, a woman named Lydia Crawshaw, was brought before the Magistrates, charged with forging a certificate of the birth of her child, in order to enable her to get her work done in Topley, Farnham, and Walker's Works, School-cloze. The charge was made by Mr. Baker, who produced several witnesses to substantiate it. The certificate was given from the parish church of this town, stating that the child was born and sprinkled in the year 1835. The woman, however, was altered from 1835 to 1834, being dated a year back. The clerk of the parish wrote to the alteration in the figures, and the woman, Lydia Crawshaw, proved that the certificate had never been out of her possession from the time of receiving it to the time of delivering it to the baptist of the works. The case excited considerable interest, and occupied much time. After the whole of the evidence had been gone into, the Magistrates said that they found it was greatly in their interest that this alteration should be made, whereby she could obtain the value of the labour of her child. She, however, was answered for her alteration by the clerk, who stated that he had no knowledge, and as she had given currency to a false certificate, knowing the same to be untrue, she was liable to be imprisoned in the House of Correction for any period not exceeding two months. They were unwilling to sentence her to any serious imprisonment; but it was their duty to mark the offence. They believed it was an offence which was practiced every day. They thought, therefore, that it was their duty to send her to the House of Correction, which they certainly should do if she or any one else, was brought there on a similar charge.

A THORNY SUBJECT.—On Tuesday last, a Mr. Thomas Page, of Arnsley, was summoned before the Magistrates by the Surveyors of Highways for the township of Arnsley, to answer a complaint made by them in reference to a high hedge on the farm of Mr. Page's house, which they said prevented the wind and sun from drying the roads, and the consequence of the hedge being so very high. The case had been before the same Magistrates, about a week before, when (after having stated that as the hedge was a kind of protection to Mr. Page's dwelling-house, it was an exception to the law regulating hedges) they advised the parties to the dispute to arbitration, which was agreed to. One of the nominated arbitrators, however, refused to act, and the matter was again brought before the bench, and notwithstanding the "exception to the law," the Magistrates decided that the surveyors might proceed to cut the hedge; but they hoped the overseers would cut as little as they could, so as to leave the hedge in a condition which they could be satisfied with, so as to leave no feelings of hostility on the part of Mr. Page. Mr. Page, at the same time, threatened that, claiming three feet of the road from the hedge, he should take in that ground, if they cut his hedge, and build a wall as high, or higher, than the hedge; for he required some shelter for his house from the dust on the road, as well as from the continual glare of passengers. Mr. Page, we understand, is a staunch blue. The surveyors are all yellow; the Magistrates, likewise, are of a yellowish caste; and we leave our readers to infer the rest.

A SHILLING'S WORTH.—On Tuesday last, an old woman of the Green Isle, was brought before the magistrates charged with having stolen a shilling, the property of Ann Pearson, a resident of St. James' street. It appeared that on the day previous the old woman (who from age alone really seemed much more an object of the tenderest sympathy than of prosecution), was selling matches, and called at the house of the complainant, who, at the time happened to turn eight shillings out of her pocket upon the floor, and the old woman, who had been told that a girl who was present said that she saw the old woman pick up something like a shilling, and put it in her pocket. A policeman was sent for and she was examined. A shilling was found upon her, which she stated she had received the day before for the same value of copper, and declared that she had not picked up anything. She presented a note from the Rev. Henry Walmesley, catholic priest, to character, and she was discharged after being warned by Dr. Williamson to take care for the future lest she should be sent to the House of Correction. Poor old soul! they had more need have talked of making her comfortable for life, when from age itself appeared as if it could not be very long.

MATRIMONIAL DISPUTE.—Last Wednesday a man named Thompson, of Beeston Hill, a notorious dog-fighter, was brought up at the Court House, charged with beating his wife, and otherwise ill treating her. The fair complainant seemed very bitter against her husband, and was well supported by her mother. Thompson was also supported by his step-father, who, we were told, in consideration of some of the temptations to which the youth are most subject, pointed out the best means for escaping their influence.

SERMONS TO YOUNG MEN.—On Sunday evening last, Mr. J. E. Giles, of South Parade Chapel, addressed a discourse to young men from the words; "Whereof shall a young man cleanse his way?" &c. There was a goodly company of young auditors, who listened attentively to the plain, practical discourse of this excellent preacher, who on that occasion principally confined himself to the consideration of some of those temptations to which the youth are most subject, and pointed out the best means for escaping their influence.

INQUEST.—On Tuesday morning last, an inquest was held at the Court House, before Justice Blackburn, Esq., coroner, on view of the body of William Odell, a labouring man, aged forty years, and who for some time was resident at Gildersome. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had, for a short time, been in the workhouse, when, a few days ago, his clothes accidentally caught fire, from the effects of which he was so seriously injured as to be removed to the infirmary, where he expired on Monday last. After a patient investigation of the case, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

VAGRANCY.—Sarah Hall was brought before the Magistrates on Tuesday last, charged by a policeman with begging at the doors of several respectable people. Sarah appeared to be an innocent, and certainly was a modest and interesting looking young woman, of about seventeen years of age. She stated that she was without father or mother; that she had been accustomed to stocking weaving, and had come from Worcester to seek work, trade being very dull in that place. Dr. Williamson directed the relieving-officer to grant her some assistance, and also directed the girl to leave the town immediately on receiving that assistance, on pain of being sent to the House of Correction. Hey! what happy times we live in!

EMBEZZLING FLAX.—On Wednesday last, two men, named George Ayton and William Stones, were charged with embezzling flax yarn, the property of Messrs. Hives and Atkinson. Ayton is a gardener, and lives in Jaxby, near the entrance of the Dewsbury-road. Stones was the watchman at the factory of the firm above-mentioned. It appeared from the evidence, that Ayton had, for the last four years, been in the habit of selling quantities of linen twist; and some suspicion being attached to his conduct, he was called upon to produce evidence to show how he became possessed of such property. This he was unable to do, although he had been a dealer in the article for many years. He said that persons came around the watchman's place, and he generally bought of them. The Magistrates intimated that if he could produce one person from whom he had at any time bought flax yarn, they might be disposed to take a favourable view of the case. He said he could not produce any person, for he had not taken any notice of the parties from whom he had bought yarn, as he was totally unaware that he was subject to any danger. Several persons appeared to give him a character, all of whom testified to his honesty and his general good character. Mr. Ayton pleaded the case very ably for the defendant, and argued very strongly on the point of his excellent character, and his having a large family to support. On the other hand, the overlooker of Messrs. Hives and Atkinson said he would swear that the flax belonged to his employers, and that latterly upon several occasions, he had seen Ayton carrying away considerable quantities. Mr. Ayton also pleaded that he was not one of the ordinary cases specified by the law, but that he was a person who had been employed in the service of any manufacturer, &c. Now, the prisoner was not employed, and therefore this was not a case cognizable by the act. Mr. Ayton objected that the act was intended to apply to all persons having this kind of goods in their possession, for which they could not be held responsible, because, though the law stated the penalty to be absolute, it was the practice of the magistrates to mitigate, to grant a mitigation. He referred to one case under the Beer Act which he had seen reported in the newspapers; and he thought that the same discretionary power might be exercised in this case. The magistrates denied having exercised any discretionary power in such case, and stated that it was no positive and absolute law, but that it was £20; and in default of payment he was to be committed for one month to the House of Correction. Stones was dismissed, there being no charge against him. On the following day (Thursday) Mr. Ayton applied to the magistrates to enquire whether it was convicted for them to pursue two remedies against a person; he stated that he was a warrant of distress had been issued, and Ayton's house and property had all been seized, and was about to be sold for the payment of the penalty. At the same time, Ayton was still confined in prison, and he, Mr. Ayton, demanded his liberation. Mr. Lothhouse said that nothing had been done except what was in strict conformity with the law. And if Mr. Ayton intended taking any steps in the business, he should decline giving any reasons for the course that had been adopted. The magistrates stated that, as the distress warrant had not yet been returned, they could not liberate the prisoner; but they recommended Wood to get the business settled as soon as possible, and when the warrant was returned, he should be set at liberty.

THEFT.—Owen Bower, was brought before the magistrates on Thursday last, charged with stealing a shovel and spade, the property of a man named Thorpe, in whose employ he had been for some days ago. He had absconded with the tools, and sold them at the London Tavern to a labouring man, for considerably less than their value. Bower's husband might be forgiven this time. The poor fellow seemed exceedingly sad, and said he had been very badly off for a long time, and had only had three-fourths of a day's work with Thorpe. The prosecutor said he did not wish to press the charge against the man, as he believed he was badly off. The magistrates, however, were clearly proved, and they had no alternative; they must commit him to the sessions. Really it is very strange that the magistrates have a discretionary power in some instances, and not in others, which are precisely similar; we have known many instances in which even Dr. Williamson himself has taken upon him to exercise discretionary power in cases where felony has been distinctly proved. These men, however, were apparently very poor, the prisoner was a poor fellow; but we do not say that that was the reason, there was no discretionary power to be exercised. We would, however, recommend the magistrates to be consistent, and not make a paltry excuse for a crime at one time which they think of no value at another.

CONVEYANCE BY RAILWAY.—We have heard some curious and almost incredible statements respecting the conveyance of goods by a certain railway, such as altering the addresses of packages, warehousing them after they have been altered, and then selling them for expenses. We have had frequent complaints of a similar nature, but must make diligent search and inquiry before we give publicity to the branch against which the charge persons interested in the several railways, who shall see this notice, to make suitable inquiries as to the mode of conveying and delivering goods by those lines.

AWKWARD AFFAIR.—It seems that a very awkward affair is about to furnish gust for the gentlemen of the robe; and to add to the catastrophe, the scandal is between two unequalled saints, the family name, however, does not seem easily reconciled to piety, as the rule of the clergy, and the especially as one of the clauses of the new Poor Law Bill, of which the gentlemen are a staunch supporter will vest the right of property in the lady, which is of that nature, that she would prefer not being numbered with it at present.

ASSAULT.—On Wednesday last, a young man newly imported from the highlands named Donald Cairn, charged another young man named Thomas Ayr with assaulting him, and threatening to take his life. The affair, however, proved to be a row about some strumpet, and Donald not being much the worse, the magistrates dismissed the case, ordering Ayr to pay the expenses.

ASSAULT.—On Monday, John Wilkinson was brought up at the Court House, charged with having, on Saturday night, in Lady-lane, grossly assaulted Thomas Dalby, a watchman, by beating and kicking him, when acting in the execution of his duty. He was fined £4.10s. and costs, and in default of payment, he was committed for two months to Wakefield House of Correction.

EMBEZZLING COALS.—William Bramley and James Chapelow were brought before the magistrates on Tuesday last, charged by Mr. Thorpe, of the firm of Thorpe and Hutton, with embezzling coals, his property. The coals were the coal staid staid and took 43 cwt. of coals in the wagon of Messrs. Thorpe and Hutton. He had a sack of coals which he filled out of the 43 cwt. This excited suspicion especially as it had been a frequent practice of the prisoner, to give the sack of coals to the firm of Thorpe and Hutton, near the top of Byron-street. Chapelow in his defence said that he had frequently occasion to hire a porter to assist him, and he had given the other prisoner, Bramley, the coals for having gone errands for him on different occasions when he could not go himself. He generally employed him, and sometimes gave him money. Mr. Thorpe, however, stated that he never refused him any portage, which he had during the whole of the nine years he had been his servant. He had given him good wages, generally from 50 to 55s. a week. And he was determined to prosecute him as he had not had the slightest reason to believe that he was a thief. The charge being cleared, Bramley and Chapelow, the one for stealing, and the other for receiving the coals, knowing them to be stolen, were both committed to take their trial at the sessions.

FURIOUS DRIVING.—DEATH OF A MARE.—On Tuesday last, the driver of a hackney coach belonging to Mr. J. W. Atkinson, appeared before the Magistrates, charging John Dobson, of Searcroft, with driving his cart furiously down Kirkgate, whereby it came in contact with the mare he was driving, and the driver of Dobson's cart, broke three or four of her ribs, and killed her on the spot. The hackney coach driver produced three or four witnesses to prove his case, who deposed that Dobson's horse was galloping most furiously, and apparently without any driver; they saw the accident at a short distance, and perceived that the cart was in a dangerous place in consequence of the cart not keeping its proper place on the road, but turning to cross the street just at the time the coach was coming out of East-street, by Timble Bridge. On the other hand, several very respectable witnesses stated that the cart horse was going at a walking pace only, and that the driver was beside the horse the whole time. The witnesses also deposed that the coachman was driving most furiously, and that it was entirely in consequence of his furious driving that the accident occurred. He was without lamps, and the night being, at the time, a heavy fall of rain and snow. The cart was heavily laden, containing eight women and one man, who all killed her on the spot. At the time of the accident, several of them were thrown out of the cart, but were not much hurt. One of the witnesses swore that she heard the hackney coach driver telling one of his witnesses before they came into court, to swear that the cart was going at a walking pace, and that the driver was very condescending. The evidence of the witnesses was very conflicting, but we thought the coachman was a very respectable man, a saddler, or an about Timble Bridge, stated that he distinctly heard the coach pass across the bridge in less than a minute before the accident happened, and being constantly in the habit of hearing such reports, it appeared to him as if the coach was going at a walking pace. The Magistrates decided that the blame was attachable to the cart, but we could not learn on what ground they gave their decision. He was accordingly fined under the Improvement Act. Most probably the case will be again tried at the next assizes, as it is still doubtful whether the witnesses, as it is, is either debts, with interest thereon, and that is considered to be indispensably necessary. On Monday evening, the 29th inst., was the scene of much gaiety.

NOBLE AND PRAISEWORTHY.—Some years ago Mr. John Jackson, cooper, now of the firm of Dyson and Jackson, Holbeck Mills, being then in business as a corn miller at Leeds, and in a distressed circumstance, had his line, by dint of persevering industry, raised himself to a state of affluence, and, though clear of all legal demands the full amount of his debts, with interest thereon, to as many as would take it. This noble and praiseworthy conduct has been duly appreciated by his creditors, one of whom, Mr. John Hirst, has presented him, as a testimony of his respect, with a beautiful gold repeater, attached to a gold chain, with suitable appendages. Several other gentlemen, who were his creditors, have also, by subscription, presented him with a noble and valuable plate, consisting of a massive silver teapot, beautifully embossed, surmounted by a peacock crest; coffee pot to match, richly embossed; sugar and cream vessels, and sugar tongs to suit. An appropriate notice from the subscribing parties accompanied the present, desiring that it might descend as an heirloom to his noble and praiseworthy ancestor; and how enviable must be their feelings when contrasting this monument of real worth with that recently erected to the memory of the late Duke of York.

STEALING A HANDKERCHIEF.—On Monday, George Wood and William Sykes, two young lads, who reside at the New Road End, in Leeds, were brought up at the Court House, charged with stealing, from the person of Mary Ann Collis, a handkerchief, on Saturday night, a handkerchief, which was afterwards found in their possession, and has since been fully identified. In consequence of its being a first offence, they were ordered to be whipped by consent of their parents, and discharged.

ASSAULT.—On Saturday, James Whitehead was brought up at the Court House, charged with having, on the 9th of December, most grossly assaulted a watchman, while acting in the execution of his duty, by beating and kicking him. The prisoner had absconded up to the previous evening, when he was apprehended. He was fined £2.10s. and costs, and in default of payment, he was committed for two months to Wakefield House of Correction.

STEALING MONEY.—On Saturday, Abraham Crowther was brought up at the Court House, charged with having on the previous evening, entered the shop of Mrs. Bywater, confectioner, in Kirkgate, Leeds, when he took the liberty of forcing open the till, and stealing a quantity of money, and in the shop, with the amount in his possession, and the case being clearly brought home to him by an individual who witnessed the transaction, he was committed for trial to Wakefield House of Correction.

COAL PIT ACCIDENT.—An inquest was held by Mr. Jewison, at Rothwell, on Wednesday week, of John Chappel, a coal-miner, aged 23, who, while attempting to burrow wood, that is, removing the wooden props which support the roof of the mine, at the Robin Hood Colliery, a quantity of stones and rubbish accidentally fell upon him, which severed his head, and killed him instantly. Deceased was a well-conducted workman











LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Monday Evening, March 26, 1898

An extensive demand has prevailed throughout the week which being freely met by holders, the sales have been large. On Monday a slight advance was obtained, but for the following days buyers have had the advantage, and the market has moved heavily at a decline of  $\frac{1}{4}$  d. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  d. per lb. on the middle qualities of American from the quotations of Friday last; Egypt, Egyptian, and East India are  $\frac{1}{4}$  d. per lb. lower. Speculators have taken 2,800 American, and exporters 1,200 American and 400 Pernambuco. The sales amount to 39,080 bales. The exports for the week are 32,578 bags.

Comparative view of the Imports and Exports of Cotton  
into and from the whole kingdom, from the 1st of Janu

to the 17th inst. and of the Imports and Exports for same period last year.	
Into the kingdom this year:	
American .....	289,246
South American .....	33,357
West Indies, Demerara, &c. ....	403
East India .....	4,126
Egypt, &c. ....	11,043
Total of all descriptions .....	349,175
Same period last year:	
American .....	224,51
South American .....	37,066
West Indies, Demerara, &c. ....	516
East India .....	28,577
Egypt, &c. ....	3,883
	294,583
Decrease of imports as compared with same period last year, bags	
	54,590
EXPORTS IN 1858.	
America, 2,377—Brazil, 25 .....	East Indies, 1,174
Total in 1858 .....	3,576 bags.
Same period in 1857 .....	

The Cotton market has been very dull to-day, and have been made at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. decline on the quotations of Fri-

speculators have offered to-day for some large parcels, but prices being so low they were refused. The sales on Saturday and to-day have been 3,000 bags each day.

The continued dull accounts received from

the decline that has taken place there, have caused a complete stagnation in the British Plantation Sugar market, and though there are still many plantations in the West Indies, the sugar market is now almost entirely stagnant.

and though there are sellers at the reduced quotations, demand is so limited, that they must be considered nominal. The only transactions reported during the

sales to notice in foreign Sugar are 22 cases, 36 brls. nambuco, and 60 brls. of Bahia, by auction, fine white.

23s to 23s 9d and low brown 18s per cwt. The only reported in Molasses is one of 60 punch. Demerara

per cwt. The sales of Plantation Coffee comprise 50 and 200 brls. Jamaica, recently landed, and consist chiefly of ordinary to fine ordinary qualities, which

... sold at a decline of 3s to 5s on previous transactions, with a few lots of fair to good middling sold at no material reduction; the quotations are altered in conformity.



