The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

Contents:

VOL. IV. No. 179.] SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1853. [PRICE SIXPENCE.

News of the Week.

WHILE the Turkish Government is reported to have accepted the proposition of the Four Powers, with a very slight verbal emendation—an acceptance which would settle the Menzschikoff stage of the Turkish question—new difficulties appear to arise. A third Russian army has crossed the Pruth, whether to help in retaining the Principalities notwithstanding the settlement, or whether to help their comrades in removing, who can say? Possibly, it may only be to show the quantity of men and arms which Russia can pour into the territories of an ally. In the meantime the ruler of Servia, Prince Karageorgewics, who has recently manifested some disposition to preserve his allegiance to Turkey if he can, has been obliged to remove from the capital of his dominions to a mountain fastness; giving way before his rival, the son of Prince Milosch. The latter has long been known as the tool of Russia; and, in his perplexity, Prince Karageorgewics declares that he will accept as friendly aid the entrance into his Principality either of a Turkish, or an Austrian, force. Strange alternative between his Sovereign and the doubtful ally of that Sovereign! The temper of the Turkish people in Constantinople is said to be uncertain; they have fretted under Russian insults and West European delays; and "insurrections" in this or that quarter are now the form which constant rumours take; but this "settlement" may have killed such talk for the present.

Regardless of policy, certain foreign powers appear determined to drag the United States into European quarrels. The republicans are almost forced into action by the taunts which they receive; and we regret to say that these taunts emanate from London, as well as continental States. The Austrian Government has issued a diplomatic note to other European Powers, representing that the conduct of Captain Ingraham of the corvette *St. Louis*, in demanding the surrender of Kossta, was an act of "war," doubly aggravated by the fact that it was committed in the port of a neutral and friendly power. This is well answered by the *Siècle*. Forcible protection of a person colourably enjoying the protection of American citizenship is not "war," or we might extend that dignified epithet to the most improbable street-rows. It may be an illegal action, and that point would form the proper subject of negotiation between the Austrian and American Governments; but this appeal to foreign courts on such a subject at once betrays the weakness of the Austrian Government, and is an impertinence to the United States.

Another provocative we notice in the columns of the leading English journal. A pretext is found in the manly language of Mr. Soulé, on taking leave of his fellow citizens; a speech in which he makes a declaration, as "the fixed idea of his life," of what is an unquestionable fact, that "the American nation cannot be chained now within the narrow limits which fettered the Young Republic of America," and in which he affirms, "a small whisper from this country will decide the fate of nations, more potently than the decrees of Emperors." This is seized as the pretext for condemning the administration of that same President Pierce, whose proceedings and appointments not long since were represented as wanting in character. President Pierce, who has thrice in the space of a life, not yet extended to the age at which Presidents have hitherto been chosen, achieved public distinction, entirely by his personal ability and energy; that Franklin Pierce who rose to high distinction in the Senate of his own State, and then of Congress, at a very youthful period of life—who rose from being a private volunteer to a Brigadier-General in the Mexican War—and who was again dragged out of private life by the almost unanimous vote of his countrymen to take his place at their head—that man is systematically disparaged by the leading English journal, as "a man of fair ordinary capacity," and so forth! The same journal which declares the Pierce policy to be without mark, couples these declarations of Soulé with "passages," *not* quoted, in Mr. Pierce's inaugural address, "creating an impression," says the writer, "that the democratic party now in power are disposed to modify, considerably, the principle of non-intervention." The words of Mr. Soulé are *true;* and America is a country in which an earnest man never will think it unpatriotic, or wrong, to declare the truth. President Pierce's words are not inconsistent with the acts of his administration, with the energy which has been imparted to every branch of the American service, whether we look to the patronage of scientific activity, which has descended from Jefferson, or to the decision which makes the American flag respected in the East. America *is* the champion of liberty; America *is* unfettered by the treaties that firmly bind those who might champion liberty in Europe; and unquestionably her influence *can*, and *will*, make itself felt. If it be impeded instead of recognized, perverted instead of invited, it may be the worse, not for America, but for those who attempt to thwart her. We cannot understand these systematic attempts to sow ill-feeling between the actual, and the popular, administrators of America, and the English people. We know, however, that they appear in the same quarters where there have been systematic attempts to soften national English feeling at the conduct of the Emperor of Russia. We also know that in the United States there have been systematic attempts to sow bad feeling against England and her Government, and to hint that a Russian Alliance would promote the objects of the Republic. We believe that these attempts in America are seen through; and we do not think that the English people are duller than their brethren across the Atlantic.

If a report from Paris may be trusted—and we must confess that we are not yet able to ratify it—President Pierce has already taken a step which will show that the Republic recognizes her natural duties in the world, and does not shrink from taking her position on that ground which would to her be the most congenial vantage ground in Europe. The Government of Switzerland, menaced by the Absolutist Powers, sent, sometime since, a representative to the Government at Washington; and the American President, it is said, has replied, that in the case of an actual struggle, Switzerland shall have the active co-operation of the United States. We only trust that this is true.

The Pope of Rome has taken rather an important step, if the intelligence be confirmed, in authorizing his bishops, in Holland, to take oaths entailing civil responsibilities. This concession of the Pope is explained, perhaps, by the vigour with which, under a strong Ministry, the new Parliament of Holland is, by large majorities, pushing forward a Ministerial bill to prevent the assumption of ecclesiastical authority in Holland without the consent of the civil powers.

Other Continental news pales its ineffectual fire before these more important proceedings. The retreat of the Emperor Napoleon with his Empress to Dieppe, where he is enjoying a half-holiday ease, and "endearing" himself to his subjects by enquiring minutely into their local affairs:—the marriage of the Duke of Brabant with an Austrian Archduchess; that of the Austrian Emperor to a Bavarian Princess—are events not without their significance. Would the time were come when

peoples were less compelled to watch with distant awe the movements of crowned and titled persons, in order to learn from them by divination—not unlike that with which the Romans looked into the intestines of a split fowl—to learn from such portents the fate of nations!

A foreign invasion of England is threatened: there is again a cry of cholera; but as yet the plague is too far North to cause much alarm. Coming from Persia, the cholera has ravaged Moscow and St. Petersburg, Posen and Warsaw, Copenhagen and Christiania; and is now reported at Archangel and Hamburgh. How soon it may overleap the German Ocean is matter for conjecture; but warning has now been fairly given to all dwellers in dirty places, all managers of sewers, and municipal corporations, to make them as sweet and wholesome as time may permit. These shocks from abroad are salutary.

Meanwhile, Death has been busy among the veterans. Soon we shall have to look forward for a new race of leaders of men in the perilous strife of war. Adam and Saltoun, men who fought and commanded at Waterloo, and Cockburn, who knew what it was to earn words of praise from the lips of the great sea-captain of our century, have passed away, dying peaceful deaths far from the carnage of battle. And one of their former foes—General Montholon—who shared that captivity of Napoleon to which Cockburn conducted the fallen conqueror—he, too, has sunk to rest; while report whispers that the Napier of Indian wars lies awaiting only the final stroke. Bransby Cooper, also, distinguished alike as the alleviator of human sufferings in war and peace, has gone to his grave.

Brutal crimes continue to be rife among us, especially those connected with marriage relations. Husbands beating and even murdering their wives, are among our commonest criminals. It will behove the magistrates to put the law in force with more vigour; and Government must see if it cannot devise some mode of either preventing these demoralising incidents of city life, or of punishing them severely when committed. We should be a greater nation if we pursued and eradicated the low vices that deprave and demoralize our poor, and paid less attention to the crimes against "property"—sacred idol! Unquestionably, a man may nearly kill his wife, and escape with six months' imprisonment; but if he steal a watch or forge a signature, he lives some years at her Majesty's expense, with other gentlemen of like breeding and vocation. Our Queen is a woman; and this is not as it should be.

Some jurymen, mindful of their duty, have severely fined the Yorkshire and Lancashire Railway Company; decreeing damages for death and injuries sustained on their line to the amount of 7300*l*. This is mere justice. But the company have retaliated by using a ticket which passengers are to sign, pledging them not to hold the company responsible whatever accident may occur, from whatever cause. We should like to see one of these bonds. The devil always attacks us through our own foibles: Mephistophiles counts on the thirst for knowledge and pleasure to make the German student sign away his soul; the railway dæmon perhaps counts on the English love of speed and cheapness to make the passenger sign away his body.

Politics in a police-court are not of common occurrence, but sometimes we see them there. In fact, nearly all the political matter of the week is connected with offences moral or legal. Clitheroe, notorious for bribery, treating, intimidation, all the corruption and terror of electioneering, has chosen another representative—the third within the year. Stamford has received from its master, the Marquis of Exeter, his second son as its representative. The metropolitan dockyards, lately under the immaculate guardianship of a Stafford, have been this week minutely inspected by Sir James Graham and Sir Baldwin Walker, who were seen eating hard biscuits, newly baked; while Mr. Stafford, as ingenious publicists remember, fed daintily last year in a tavern, at Devonport, and expected the State to pay his bill. And lastly, Mr. Whiteside, late Solicitor-General for Ireland under Lord Derby, has insulted the Roman-Catholic professors at the Cork College, and refused explanation or satisfaction. He asserted in Parliament that the divisions in the college were due to the machinations of the Roman-Catholic clergy, "acting under the mandate of the See of Rome." He is told that the *Protestant* Professors alone caused, and engaged in, the divisions. Still, wanting in manliness and candour, he refuses to retract or apologise, but "reiterates his opinions!"

But Ireland is emerging from party anarchy, as she is from poverty. The Lord Chief Justice of England, presiding over the tenantry of his new Galway estate, and, with the parish priest on his right hand, preaching the doctrine of mutual trust, absolute religious equality, and education irrespective of sect, is not a bad improvisation of that better Union of the two countries which has superseded "Repeal."

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

THE only matter of any moment in Parliament on Saturday was a statement of Lord PALMERSTON with reference to the occupation of the Principalities.

Mr. MILNES inquired whether, in the absence of the noble lord the member for London, the noble lord the Secretary for the Home Department was able, under present circumstances, to assure the House as to the moral confidence which her Majesty's Government entertained with respect to the evacuation of the Danubian Principalities being such as to allow Parliament to be prorogued without anxiety? To this one point the attention of the country was mainly directed; and he believed that, for the security of commerce, it was most important that it should be settled.

Lord PALMERSTON.—"The answer as to the confidence of her Majesty's Government will be given in the shortest possible space—namely, that their belief is that Parliament may be prorogued under present circumstances. As to the evacuation of the Principalities, I have only to say that I am confident the Emperor of Russia, having that regard to his honour and character which every sovereign of a great country must always be inspired by, will take the earliest opportunity, after the settlement with Turkey, of his own accord, to make a merit of evacuating the Principalities without the smallest delay. That is my confident expectation and belief." (Cries of "Hear, hear.")

The Commons were then summoned to the House of Lords, where the following Royal speech was read by the Lord Chancellor:—

"MY LORDS and GENTLEMEN—

"We are commanded by her Majesty to release you from your attendance in Parliament, and at the same time to express her Majesty's cordial approbation of the zeal and assiduity with which, during a protracted and laborious session, you have applied yourselves to the consideration of many subjects of great importance to the public welfare.

"Her Majesty has seen with much satisfaction that, by the remission and reduction of taxes which tended to cramp the operations of trade and industry, you have given fresh extension to a system of beneficent legislation, and have largely increased the means of obtaining the necessaries of life.

"The provision which you have made for meeting the demands of the public service, not only in the present but also in future years, is of a nature to give permanent stability to our finances, and thereby to aid in consolidating the strength and resources of the empire.

"The buoyant state of the revenue, and the steady progress of our foreign trade, are proofs of the wisdom of the commercial policy now firmly established; while the prosperity which pervades the great trading and producing classes, happily without even a partial exception, affords continued and increasing evidence of the enlarged comforts of the people.

"The measure which you have passed for the future government of India has been readily sanctioned by her Majesty, in the persuasion that it will prove to have been wisely framed, and that it is well calculated to promote the improvement and welfare of her Majesty's eastern dominions.

"Her Majesty regards with peculiar satisfaction the provision you have made for the better administration of charitable trusts. The obstacles which existed to the just and beneficial use of property set apart for the purposes of charity and of education, have been a serious public evil, to which her Majesty is persuaded that in your wisdom you have now applied an efficient remedy.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—

"We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the supplies which you have granted for the service of the present year, and for the provision which you have made for the defence of the country both by sea and land. Her Majesty will apply them with a due regard to economy, and consistently with that spirit which has at all times made our national security the chief object of her care.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN—

"Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she continues to receive from her allies the assurance of their unabated desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with this country.

"It is with deep interest and concern that her Majesty has viewed the serious misunderstanding which has recently arisen between Russia and the Ottoman Porte.

"The Emperor of the French has united with her Majesty in earnest endeavours to reconcile differences the continuance of which might involve Europe in war.

"Acting in concert with her allies, and relying on the exertions of the Conference now assembled at Vienna, her Majesty has good reason to hope that an honourable arrangement will speedily be accomplished.

"Her Majesty rejoices in being able to announce to you the termination of the war on the frontiers of the settlement of the Cape of Good Hope, and she trusts that the establishment of Representative Government in that colony may lead to the development of its resources, and enable it to make efficient provision for its future defence.

"We are also commanded to congratulate you, that, by the united exertions of the naval and military forces of her Majesty and of the East India Company, the war in Burmah has been brought to an honourable and successful issue. The objects of the war having been fully attained, and due submission made by the Burmese Government, peace has been proclaimed.

"Her Majesty contemplates with grateful satisfaction and thankfulness to Almighty God, the tranquillity which prevails throughout her dominions; together with that peaceful industry and obedience to the laws, which ensure the welfare of all classes of her subjects. It is the first desire of her Majesty to promote the advance of every social improvement, and, with the aid of your wisdom, still further to extend the prosperity and happiness of her people."

The LORD CHANCELLOR then, in the usual form of words, prorogued Parliament until Thursday, the 27th day of October next.

THE RIVAL YACHTS.

"ONE of the finest races ever witnessed" took place on Friday last, at Cowes, the chief competitors being the Julia and Alarm (English), the Aurora Borealis (Swede), and the Sylvie (American).

Precisely at five minutes before eleven, the preparatory gun was fired, and in five minutes more another for starting. In a moment afterwards the Julia began to feel the breeze, which was now blowing tolerably fresh from the W.S.W., and she took a lead on the first of the ebb tide. The Sylvie soon set her mainsail, and was well under weigh, taking slightly the lead of the Aurora Borealis, Arrow, Julia, and Aurora. At 11h. 23m., when nearly abreast of Osborne House, the Aurora Borealis, who had been holding a good wind, challenged the Sylvie, and an exciting race ensued between them. Shortly after passing Osborne, the Aurora, that was now lying close to the wind, met with a most unfortunate accident by carrying away her topmast, which had the effect of at once putting her at considerable odds against her rivals. The Arrow, Julia, and American were well up together off Ryde, but the wind now freshening, the Alarm emerged from the position she had hitherto been in, and took the lead.

The Sylvie and Osprey were now close together, but half a mile astern. But little change of position took place in the course to the Nab Light, which was passed in the following order:—Alarm, Julia, Aurora Borealis, Sylvie, Arrow, Osprey.

From this point the whole squadron were close-hauled, and it was now supposed that the American would at any rate exhibit those extraordinary powers that report had assigned to her. When off White Cliff the Julia weathered her in gallant style—the Arrow and Alarm being well together. A series of fine manœuvring now followed between the Swede and American, for, when off Sandown, the Swede weathered the American. The wind, that had been blowing fresh from the time of passing the No-man Buoy, now dropped, and, when off Shanklin Bay, a fine trial of skill took place, for in coming about from her tack, the Syl-

vie weathered the Aurora Borealis in a style that excited admiration, and it was even now thought she might turn out to be worthy of her fame.

At seven minutes past three o'clock, the required distance of eighteen miles, from the Nab Light to sea, having been run, the steam-vessel, on board of which were the committee of the squadron, was brought to anchor. In the progress to the steamer, in consequence of the very great drop in the wind, the Alarm had fallen considerably astern—the Julia maintaining the lead against the Sylvie, who made a desperate effort to overhaul her, but all in vain. The two vessels, containing the latest embodiments of the science and modern improvements of both England and America, were now fairly pitted against each other, and never was there a greater proof of British superiority, even admitting for the moment that some of the best points of the Julia were obtained from American lines. When it is known that Nicholls, the captain of the Mosquito, had charge of the Julia for the day, with some of the crew of that successful yacht, no doubt whatever could exist that, with the advantage of his superior handling and experience, it would tell fearfully against her American opponent. She had it all her own way, running away from her, as did the old Arrow, which will be seen by the following order in which the steamboat was rounded :—Julia, Arrow, Sylvie, Aurora Borealis, Osprey, Alarm, Aurora.

On the return to the Nab, when off St. Catherine's, the Julia was leading the Arrow by about three-quarters of a mile, the American at this time being a good three miles astern. When off Ventnor, at half-past five o'clock, the Julia had obtained a lead of the Arrow by nearly a mile. Off Culver Cliff, at two minutes past six, the wind freshening from the south-east, the Arrow, with her immense balloon jib, began sensibly to draw upon the Julia, who, throughout the entire race, was sailing under her ordinary going sails. From the time that the American had been observed so far astern, but little attention was paid to her; and as to her chances of obtaining the prize, or even a second place, they were never for a moment entertained. Great was the surprise, as the steamer was waiting at the Nab, watching the progress of the Julia to it, which was to be the winning-post of the race, when the supposed almost lost Sylvie was observed so near abreast of the Arrow, as to be a question of very great doubt which of them had the lead. The light wind that had for some time prevailed had been turned by her to good account; and, although it was not ascertained at the time, she would most likely then take advantage of her novel construction, by hoisting up her keel, and leaving nothing but what has been aptly termed her "skimming-dish" upon the water—thus drawing but three feet at the fore and six aft, she was able to appear in the extraordinary manner here described. The Julia could, however, never be overhauled, and on her appearance at the conclusion of the race was greeted with loud and hearty cheering. The following statements of the time of the arrival of the respective vessels given below are those taken by the sailing committee on board the Nab Light ship, and by those persons who remained on the steamer, the difference mainly arising from the variation of watches :—

	Committee's time.			On board the steamer.		
	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.
Julia	7	7	3½	7	5	12
Sylvie	7	13	42	7	11	40
Arrow	7	14	29½	7	12	34
Osprey	7	18	36	7	16	45
Aurora Borealis	7	19	6	7	17	32

The Julia was then declared the winner, after one of the finest races ever witnessed. The winning vessel was built by Mr. Ratsey, of West Cowes, and was only launched about three months ago. No restriction whatever was placed upon the Sylvie, either in the use of her dropping keel, the number of men, or in any other respect, and she sailed here perfectly on her own terms.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LETTER LXXXVII.

Paris, Thursday Evening, August 25, 1853.

WERE it not for our foreign, especially our English visitors, Paris would now be a desert. The whole population is off to the country, or to the seaside; all society is broken up. All sorts of business and news are at a standstill. As if by enchantment, the whole machine of public life is suddenly stopped. The metropolis is become a vast Necropolis. Inhabitants there are none: only wandering Shades. The few political men that remained in Paris are dispersed. It is impossible just now to get at any information; we are reduced to the public prints for news, and they having none to tell, tell none. Since the 10th inst., the *Moniteur* has not opened its official lips. Not a syllable has it breathed of late about the Eastern Question. It is understood that the French Government has received two despatches—one from St. Petersburg, the other from Constantinople. Bonaparte put these two despatches in his pocket, and the public has not known a word of their contents. You in England, by the bye, have little cause for boasting the superiority of your regime in these respects. Your Government, which, you are always pretending, does nothing but with the consent of the nation, has not, it seems, told you a word of what is going on. You are as much in the dark as we poor imperialized Frenchmen are. We, however, have good reason to believe that the first of these two despatches announced the adhesion of the Czar to the propositions of Vienna, and that the second, on the contrary, brought the refusal of the Sultan to assent to the terms imposed upon him. The Divan, it would appear, was assembled on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of this month: the Sultan himself brought forward the propositions of the Vienna Conference: opinions were not merely divided as to their acceptance: the great majority of the Council pronounced themselves *against*. Reschid Pacha and the Sultan, to appease the anger of the national party, were obliged to declare that, although approving the note of Vienna, they would not consent to send an ambassador to St. Petersburg before the evacuation of the Principalities. As soon as he received this despatch, Bonaparte sent orders to Toulon for the *Chaptal* to prepare to take letters for M. de Lacour, the French ambassador at Constantinople. It is whispered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that in these letters M. de Lacour is instructed to proceed to the Sultan, and to prevail upon him to send an ambassador *at once* to St. Petersburg.

On the other hand, we know from letters received by the Vienna route that the Turkish army is all but in insurrection. The Rédifs (national militia of veteran soldiers) have sent deputations to Omer Pacha to signify to him that they would not stand being called away from their households and fields to be made fools of as in 1849; that if Omer Pacha would not lead them against the Russians, they would march without him. I have told you repeatedly during these last three months that the internal condition of Turkey is not sufficiently taken into account. I am only afraid lest great complications should arise in this quarter, and the whole affair have to be gone over again.

After the battle of Wagram, Napoleon said to General Marmont, *that he had manœuvred like an oyster* (*comme une huître*). I fear this description may even be applicable to your own Ministers. I must do this justice to Bonaparte; if he becomes entangled in the consequences of a mistake, it is your Government that paralyzed him. He at least saw clearly, while your Cabinet had the sight of a mole.

Another grave circumstance is, the *declaration of independence of the two governments of Moldavia and Wallachia.*

The Sultan had suspended the two Hospodars from their functions. The Boyards, at the instigation of Russia, compelled the two Hospodars to remain at their posts. The consequence is, if the Russians evacuate the Provinces, the Hospodars, finding themselves exposed to the fury of the Turks, will rise in insurrection, and recall the Russians. This follows as a matter of course. I shall wait with considerable anxiety to see what grimaces your Lord Clarendon will put upon *that!*

If that single affair goes ill with you, however, I don't mean to imply that matters in general are going on better at all with us. On the contrary, the *status quo* continues, and that is saying a good deal. The result of the Appeal in the affair of the Foreign Correspondents is now made public. As I had told you was probable, the Government, stunned for a moment by the formidable decision of the Court of Cassation, would not consider itself beaten. The Court of Rouen has been found a complaisant instrument of its will. That Court has condemned MM. Cœtlogon, Virmaitre, Flandin, and Plunhol for the third time. But the remarkable fact is, that it has condemned them by treating the decision of the Court of Cassation as absolutely null. Interpreter of the arbitrary will of the Government, it has erected in this case a new jurisprudence which threatens to upset altogether the whole system of jurisprudence in force hitherto. In other countries, perhaps I may say in all civilized States, the legislature has carefully separated the judicial power from administrative functions. In France, hitherto, the judge had been carefully distinguished from the public functionary: the judge charged with the rendering of justice was never confounded with the Prefect charged with the administration of public affairs. The decision of the Court of Rouen, in its eagerness to ascribe to the Government the right of violating the secrecy of letters (as if a violation could ever become a right) has just destroyed all those elementary distinctions. The Prefects are declared to be charged with the examination into crimes, misdemeanours, and contraventions, and, consequently, vested with the right of reading letters committed to the post whenever they suspect a crime, misdemeanour, or contravention. Now, as they are paid to suspect, it follows that they are henceforth entrusted with the right of opening just what letters they choose to suspect, whether there be any delinquency proved or not. It is a Norman advocate, and in that quality, craftiest of the crafty (*trois fois retors*), who has discovered all these beauties in our Code. His name deserves to be handed down to remotest posterity.

Bonaparte is gone at last to Dieppe with the Empress. The poor town of Dieppe, stupified by such an honour, has acted with pardonable extravagance. It had voted in the first instance 100,000 francs (4000*l.*) for the reception; then, for fear of that sum being insufficient, it had given *carte blanche* to its Mayor. Finally, being quite at its wits end, it offered to Bonaparte and to the Empress *in perpetuity* the Hotel de Ville, where they are at present residing. The good town of Dieppe omitted to mention that in 1825 it had given this same Hotel de Ville *in perpetuity* to the Duchesse de Berry. Indeed if I am not mistaken, it gave the same Hotel de Ville *in perpetuity* to the Empress Josephine in 1805. Unfortunately the good town of Dieppe has forgotten this time to give *in perpetuity* to its "august" visitors a few days of fine weather. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday it rained torrents, and Bonaparte had plenty of leisure time to examine his new property within. To-morrow or the day after, I hear, he is to leave Dieppe for the camp at St. Omer, where great manœuvres will take place, and he may even gladden the eyes of the loyal population of your countrymen at Boulogne. S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

M. VISCONTI, the imperial architect, was sent to Dieppe to prepare the Hotel de Ville for the reception of the Emperor and Empress. He is said to have astonished the population by the magic celerity with which he transformed the dull and rickety old municipal fabric into a palace. He brought an army of workmen from Paris, and superintended the operations by day and night. The Emperor (remembering perhaps the traditions of the place to which our correspondent alludes) has, it is said, declined the handsome offer of the Hotel de Ville, alleging that the demands on his civil list do not allow of his increasing the number of his palaces. What will the present expenses of mere lodgings cost may be asked?

We have been informed by an English gentleman, just returned from Dieppe, that as soon as the Emperor's visit was positively announced, many of the old French aristocracy took their departure.

En revanche, our Ambassador, Lord Cowley, has arrived at Dieppe, and has visited the Emperor.

General Montholon, who shared the Emperor Napoleon's captivity, has died in Paris. It is reported that he will have a State funeral.

The annual meeting of the French Academy, for the distribution of prizes, was held on the 18th instant, M. Viennet in the chair. As usual, a large assemblage of literary, artistical, and fashionable personages were present. Amongst the adademicians in their seats was M. Guizot, whose son, M. Guillaume Guizot, divided with Charles Benoit, *agrégé* of the faculty of letters of Paris, the Monthyon prize of the year (3,000fr.) for the best historical and literary paper on the comedies of Menander. No prize was awarded for poetry, none of the compositions sent in being thought by the judges of sufficient merit. The subject proposed, the "Acropolis," remains over for the year 1854. M. Villemain, the distinguished writer, Minister of Public Instruction under Louis Philippe, in his capacity of perpetual Secretary of the Academy, delivered a brilliant report on the compositions to which prizes had been adjudged.

The Paris papers relate with great gusto an adventure which befell two Englishmen—"eccentrics," of course—on the Quai de Sèvres. These two *eccentriques*, who were seeing all the *curiosités*, felt in that neighbourhood a sudden thirst, and, to satisfy it, entered boldly a wine shop. Having seated themselves, they asked for a bottle of Bordeaux, and a bottle of Seltzer water, with which they were immediately served. The two islanders were, however, soon seized simultaneously with a frightful colic, which they did not hesitate to ascribe, with a belief in the old international enmity, to poison. They didn't conceal their opinion, and caused an immense uproar. A crowd rapidly collected round the door. A doctor was sent for, and speedily arrived, to whom they made a complaint, and who, on their demand, examined the bottles. It was found, that instead of *Eau de Seltz*, *Eau de Sedlitz* had been given to them by mistake. The Englishmen went home in a voiture, amidst the profuse excuses of the *marchand du vin*, and the hilarious hootings of the crowd.

A school of religious music, vocal and instrumental, with a subvention from the Ministries of Public Worship, and of State, has been established by the Minister of Public Instruction, under the direction of M. Niedermayer.

Madlle. Rachel is reported to be about to sell her magnificent house in the Rue Trudon. The house, with all its furniture, is estimated at 40,000*l.*

The Royal Families of Austria and Belgium have just been united by the marriage of the Duke of Brabant, a boy of eighteen (but of precocious manners, tall stature, and a Bourbon face), and the Archduchess Maria of

Austria, a young girl of seventeen, cousin to the present Emperor—being the daughter of his uncle Joseph, Archduke and Palatine of Hungary. The bride progressed through Cologne and Aix la Chapelle, and reached Verviers, a Belgian town, close to the Prussian frontier, at nine o'clock on Saturday morning. Austrian guards and officials accompanied her to the town—and here the young bride was to be delivered over to her new friends. According to the traditional ceremony, presuming national hostility, and therefore suggesting mutual fear, the farce of declaring the Hotel de Brolley "neutral ground" was gone through. Here, after some tedious ceremonies, the bride was delivered to the Belgian authorities, represented by the King, the young bridegroom Duke, and some Royal Commissioners. The Duchess took leave of her Austrian guard, and then proceeded by train to Brussels, passing Verviers, adorned with flags, and Liege, the Birmingham, and Wolverhampton of Belgium. At Louvain, where Republican sentiment is said to obtain, the Town Council advised the people not to be "turbulent;" an awkward marriage proclamation. At Brussels, the party were met by the Burgomaster of Brussels, who detained the wedding guests by a judicious speech. The *Times* correspondent says:—"This remarkable person, considered by all Belgium as a great citizen, is somewhat past the middle age, and, with gray moustaches and a clear liquid intelligent eye, has in his bearing all the signs of nature's aristocracy. Possessed of a handsome private fortune, he devotes a powerful intellect and an energetic will solely and entirely to the public service, and is, in fact, made of the very stuff that in days of yore rendered Antwerp and the cities of Flanders the Venice and Genoa of the north—a man, who under Alva would have been sent to the scaffold, but under Leopold the Prudent is the rampart of the throne against democratic ambition." In passing through the streets of Brussels, the young couple were cordially received by the people—and the bride, "*toute rayonnante de beauté et de jeunesse*," gave delight by taking a petition from a poor woman.

The marriage took place on Monday, being postponed owing to the indisposition of the young Duchess. The long journey, and the emotion of being speeched at by burgomasters, and shouted at by crowds, had naturally fatigued the young girl; and even when she appeared on Monday, she was still pale. The civil marriage took place in the grand hall of the palace, in the presence of the Burgomaster of Brussels.

"Precisely at half-past ten A.M., the Royal family, with its new member, entered the grand hall of the palace, where were already assembled the Burgomaster of Brussels (ready to discharge his functions); the eight witnesses (four for the Austrian and four for the Belgian court) of the ceremony; Colonel Seymour, Envoy Extraordinary of Queen Victoria; and Baron Löwenfels, Marshal of the Court of Saxe Cobourg and Gotha; with a few Belgian notables. The selection of the persons invited to be present gave the meeting the air of a family party. The preliminary ceremonies at an end, the Burgomaster of Brussels asked the Duke of Brabant the usual question, 'Do you agree to take for wife, &c.?' His Royal Highness bowed to the King, as if asking his consent, and then in a subdued, though audible tone, answered, 'Yes, Master Burgomaster.' To the similar question addressed to the Duchess, she replied, with a slight blush crossing her pale countenance, 'Yes, sir.'"

The religious marriage took place in a few hours afterwards. Precisely at noon the royal *cortege* reached the grand entry of the cathedral. A temporary Gothic altar was erected in this magnificent building, which was brilliantly illuminated, crimson and gold *prie-dieus*, &c., being placed for the illustrious actors in the ceremony, and Belgian and Austrian flags waving from every pillar. The grand nave, from the threshold to the transept, was kept open by a double row of grenadiers. The Cardinal Archbishop of Malines, Primate of Belgium, presided over the clergy. On the arrival of the royal party, the deep voice of the organ gave them a solemn greeting, the clamour of the bells chiming in. The Cardinal Archbishop received the royal party on the threshold; his Eminence preceded them, to point out to the young married couple the places they were to occupy. The Duchess was pale and excited, and walked with a tottering gait. As soon as she and her spouse had placed themselves, the Cardinal pronounced the nuptial benediction. The organ then intoned the first notes of the marriage mass. "At the elevation of the Host, all the soldiers in the church presented arms."

The *Daily News* correspondent points to some suggestive reminiscences. He says—"The Belgian journalists are ecstatically eloquent on the honour and glory of having an Austrian Princess again to reign over them. This is natural: the house of Austria was so regardful of the liberties and immunities of these provinces, so prompt and energetic in their defence against external aggression, from the time that Maximilian suppressed the liberties of Ghent, till the time when Joseph II.'s meddling sowed the seeds of revolution, that the Belgians must be rejoiced to see their King taking shelter under the wings of the double-headed eagle. His Majesty, too, must be highly gratified to find himself no longer the mere *parvenu* sovereign of the revolutionists of 1830, but a recognised member of the old Austrian family. The fruits of this alliance for the people will doubtless show themselves in good time."

The marriage of the Duc de Brabant with an Austrian Archduchess has evidently given umbrage to the French Imperial Government. The pompous flatteries of the official addresses on the occasion, and the allusions of the Belgian Government journals to the political advantages of such an alliance with the House of Austria, dwelling particularly on the high dynastic position of the bride, have, perhaps, appeared a pointed slight to the rejected *Parvenu* of France. At all events, a significant article, of considerable length, has appeared in the *Constitutionnel*, signed by M. Amedée Céséna, one of the lately decorated for "important services" in the political press. M. Céséna takes the pamphlet of a supposed Belgian, published by the Bonapartist publisher, Ledoyen, in Paris, as a text for his discourse. This pamphlet represents the marriage of the heir to the Belgian throne to the daughter of the House of Austria as a sort of defiance to French imperial pretensions, and as a step towards the complete isolation of the French empire. Belgium enters into a dynastic alliance with Austria on the one hand and England (through Leopold and the Coburg family) on the other. The writer insists that it is the interest, political and commercial, of Belgium to be merged in France, and that it is the wish of the Belgian people; and, consequently, that this match is anti-national as well as anti-French in its object and tendency. M. Amédee Céséna adopts this perilous pamphlet with great circumspection, and surrounds his own comments with unusual precautions of language, so as not to compromise his employers; and it will be observed by our readers how convenient such an organ as the *Constitutionnel* is to fire the big guns, while the elegant and optimist *Pays* is preaching peace and concord. It is reported that M. Rogier, the Belgian Minister in Paris, has already asked for explanations of this article, and has been met with the ever ready reply from the Minister of Foreign Affairs—"The *Moniteur* is our only official organ—we have nothing to say to any other journal."

It may also be remarked that M. Adolphe Barrot, the French Minister at Brussels, was ordered to Paris for a fortnight's *congé* just before the royal nuptials. His absence was particularly noticed. With regard to England, France need scarcely fear that we shall allow ourselves to be drawn into any dynastic alliance for the sake of the House of Coburg, whatever we may have to say to the views of France upon Belgian annexation.

Another royal marriage is that of the bride's cousin—the boy Emperor of Austria. Elizabeth Amelia Eugenia, Duchess of Bavaria, who has been affianced to the Emperor of Austria, was born on the 24th December, 1837. Her royal Highness is the second daughter of Maximilian Joseph Duke of Bavaria and of Ludovica Wilhelmina, Princess of Bavaria; she has three brothers and four sisters. She is grand-daughter of the late King Maximilian Joseph of Bavaria, cousin of the Emperor of Austria, and nearly related to the Queen of Prussia.

The Vienna *Zeitung*, of Wednesday last, officially announces the betrothal of the Emperor, and publishes ordinances which considerably modify the state of siege in the Lombardo-Venetian provinces.

La Presse remarks, as a "monarchical heresy," the fact, that at the marriage of the Duc de Brabant with the Austrian Archduchess, the civil register of the marriage was held, not by an officer specially appointed for the occasion, but by M. de Brouckere, the Burgomaster of Brussels; and that it was in the presence, as it were, of the population, that the formalities of the civil marriage were accomplished.

The *Indépendance Belge* defends these liberalizing innovations as particularly salutary in a State like Belgium: it says, that in other countries perhaps it is proper that royalty should remain placed in an exceptional sphere, but that in Belgium it is never so much respected as when it puts itself in direct contact with the nation; as in this case, through the public officer of the municipality of the capital city.

The Austrian camp at Olmutz is beginning to attract attention. It is to last from the 25th to the 30th of September, and to consist of 42,000 Austrian troops, including every branch of the service—six regiments of heavy and five of light cavalry, twenty-eight batteries of artillery, and a due proportion of engineers. The medical staff will also be complete. The regiments will be detached from the forces serving in Austria Proper, in Moravia, and Bohemia. They form the Austrian federal contingent, that is the first, second, and third *corps d'armée* of the German Confederation, and in that character they will be inspected by the Prince of Prussia, and the federal military commission of Saxony and Hanover, according to the decree of the Diet, which has ordered military inspections to take place this autumn throughout the States of the Confederation. The King of Prussia is expected to visit the camp at Olmutz.

The minor German States under the influence of Austria show a decided ill-will to Switzerland. A house at Arau had contracted to supply the Swiss Confederation with a certain number of carbines and pistols for the use of the Swiss Cavalry. The consignment was sequestered on its transit through Bavaria by the authorities of that State. Thereupon the consigners applied to the French Minister of War for permission to pass the arms through French territory, which the Minister accorded.

M. Ochsenbein, the chief of the federal military department, accompanied by Colonel Bourgeois and General Dufour, is presiding over the committee of superior officers appointed to organize the defences of the Swiss territory on the Austrio-Italian frontier.

It is rumoured that M. Manteuffel, the Prussian Premier, has sent in his resignation to the King, which has not been accepted as yet. The retirement of M. Manteuffel at the present moment would be considered a triumph of Russian influence at Berlin.

The general discussion on the new law for the surveillance of religious bodies by the State, or, as we should call, it the Ecclesiastical Titles bill; it having, as our readers remember, been suggested by the Papal appointment of an Episcopal hierarchy in Holland, was concluded in the Dutch Chamber on Saturday last. The discussion of the articles of the new law was to be commenced this week. An amicable arrangement of the differences between the Papal Court and the Dutch Government, occasioned chiefly by the bad faith of the former, and the complicity of some members of the latter government, is expected, as M. Lightenvelt, Minister of Catholic Worship in Holland, is about to return from Rome with new concessions on the part of the Government of the Pope.

The Second Chamber in Holland has unanimously carried the project of law opening the Molucca Islands to the commerce of all nations. This act on the part of the Dutch Government is another step in the direction of free trade and towards the abolition of international and inter-colonial monopolies of commerce and navigation.

The Austrian army is represented at the camp of Satory by Prince Jablonousky, Field Marshal, by two archdukes, Colonel Baron Leykau, brother-in-law of Prince Metternich, and two other colonels.

The Austrian *Correspondenz* of the 16th inst. publishes an extract from the Memorandum drawn up by the Austrian Government upon the affair at Smyrna. This document states that negotiations are still in progress with the United States Government, and that it is expected that the captain of the American corvette will be disavowed at Washington. The Austrian Memorandum insists that in no case can such an act on the part of an inferior officer be permitted, as it amounts to a declaration of war without notice; and that the conduct of the American officer was a flagrant violation of public law in a neutral port. The reply to this Memorandum is surely not difficult for the Cabinet at Washington. With whom did the flagrant violation of public law begin? With the Austrian officers who violently seized a person furnished with an American passport, and entitled to the respect due to an American citizen; or with the American officer who resisted that interference, and asserted the rights of American citizenship?

M. Soulé, the newly appointed American Minister to Spain, accompanied by his son as his private secretary, is at present in Paris *en route* to Madrid.

A grand ball has been given by the officers of the American Frigate, the *Cumberland*, to the Queen of Sardinia in la Spezzia bay. The *Louis* corvette arrived at the anchorage from Smyrna in time to participate in the *fête*, which passed off brilliantly. Dancing was kept up till five in the morning. The American navy is becoming very popular in the Mediterranean. It is recognised as the only active champion of liberty in the European waters.

Free-trade is spreading itself—the rumours of a scarce harvest giving wings to its progress through Europe. The King of Naples has followed Louis Napoleon in suspending all duties on corn.

The elections for municipal authorities have been suspended in Tuscany.

In its second edition of yesterday, the *Times* printed a submarine message:—"We have news from Constantinople to the 19th instant. The Turks were anxious for a pacific settlement through the aid of the Four Powers, but they required some alteration in the note that had been sent from Vienna. A Turkish courier was to proceed to that place on the 20th, with the note modified according to their wishes. The changes are said not to be of an important character, nor such as will prevent a peaceful solution of the question."

The Boyards of Moldo-Wallachia have petitioned their Hospodars not to obey the Sultan's order to withdraw. (The Boyards are the landed aristocracy of the Provinces.)

Servia is stirring. The Prince Alexander Karageorgewitsch has left Belgrade, the seat of his government, taking with him the archives of the State, &c., and has retired to Kraguavatch, a town in the centre, and the most mountainous part, of the province. He has, moreover, called out all the national militia, a disciplined force amounting to 40,000 men, and has appointed Knitshianin the Commander-in-Chief, publicly declaring that he will repel every invasion, either Turkish or Austrian. All this has given rise to the greatest ferment at Belgrade.

The *Times* correspondent at Constantinople writes, under date August 11th:—"General Gortschakoff arrived on the 28th of July at Bucharest, with a brilliant *état major*, holding very diplomatic language in speaking of the hopes he had of avoiding war; but the officers of his suite, in their confidential conversations, spoke of war as decided on at St. Petersburg, and that nothing would dissuade the Emperor from it, since he believes it to be indispensable to the maintenance of his power in Russia. The *matériel* which the Russian troops bring with them, the fortified works they undertake at various points, and the pontoons and artillery stores show that they do not intend to remain on the left bank of the Danube."

He adds, in a postscript:—"A report is current in the city, to the effect that a collision has taken place between the Russian and Turkish troops on the Danube, but we have no official confirmation of it, nor any details. It is not altogether incredible, however, since it is well known that the Russians were about to send a small war-steamer past the confluence of the Pruth and the Danube, which further infraction of treaty Omer Pasha declared he would resent by firing into the steamer, and gave notice of his intention so to do to General Gortschakoff."

The *Presse* of Vienna states that the Russian consul at Constantinople, who had left his post, has received instructions to return to it.

Among the papers recently presented to Parliament on the subject of the closing of the mouths of the Danube is a despatch from Count Nesselrode to Baron Brunow, dated October 23, 1851, in which the Count, alluding to the efforts of the Turkish engineers to maintain clear the navigation of the Sulina Bar of the Danube, expresses his opinion that an English dredging machine is preferable.

"We are persuaded," says the Count, with true Russian suavity, "that the English Government, like ourselves, considers the prejudices of English commerce relative to our supposed designs upon the Danubian Principalities, to be unfounded"—(*peu fondés*).

The Russian Government is preparing for another campaign against the tribes of the Caucasus. The operations will commence in the latter part of August. A flotilla is being armed in the Sea of Azof to support the movements of the army.

According to accounts from Galatz the Russian Government has ordered surveys to be made with the view to the construction of an electric telegraph between St. Petersburg and the ports of the Black Sea. The *Austrian Lloyd* anticipates a connexion between this line when completed and the Austrian, either by way of Czernowitz or through Bessarabia and Wallachia.

PERKIN WARBECK AMONG THE FISHES.

WHILE England and America are disputing about the North American fisheries, a new claimant steps in. The Earl of Stirling claims to be the owner of all the fishes in those seas in right of his ancestor Sir William Alexander, of Menstrie, Scotland, Viscount of Canada, Viscount and Earl of Stirling, and Earl of Dovan, to whom royal charters under the great seal were granted, which were recognised and confirmed by the act of Parliament in the presence of King Charles I. These are all on record at Edinburgh :—

10th September, 1621.—Original charter of Nova Scotia.

12th July, 1625.—Charter of Nova Damus, of the lands, lordship, and barony of Nova Scotia.

3rd May, 1627.—Charter of the country and dominion of New Scotland.

2nd February, 1628.—Original charter of Canada, including fifty leagues of bounds on both sides of the River St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes.

These charters gave the Earl of Stirling vast political and administrative powers. He was made his Majesty's hereditary lieutenant-general over the whole countries of Nova Scotia and Canada. He was also made justice-general, high admiral, lord of regality, and hereditary steward. The power was conferred upon him of making officers of state and justice, of conferring titles of honour, of coining money, and the privilege of making laws concerning the public state and good government of the country. He had the power of appointing one hundred and fifty baronets, called Baronets of Nova Scotia, who were to take precedence of all other baronets. Under this power the first earl actually made over one hundred baronets; nearly fifty of the present baronets in Great Britain hold their titles from patents granted by the first Earl of Stirling.

The charters of Nova Scotia and Canada give to Lord Stirling, his heirs and assigns, the complete right of fishing within six leagues of the shore, on precisely the coasts which we have relinquished; an extent of coast over three thousand miles in length. The charter of Nova Scotia, after giving the boundaries of the country granted, including New Brunswick, proceeds in these words:—"Including and comprehending within the said coasts and their circumference, from sea to sea, all the continents, with rivers, brooks, bays, shores, islands, or seas lying near or within six leagues of any part of the same, on the west, north, or east side of the coasts; and from the south-east, where lies Cape Breton, and the south part of the same, where is Cape Sable, all the seas and islands southward within forty leagues of the coasts thereof," &c. And the charter proceeds to grant to Sir William Alexander, his heirs or assigns, among other things, all "marshes, lakes, waters, fisheries, as well in salt water as in fresh, of royal fishes, as of others," &c.—("marressius lacubus aquir piscationibus am in aqua salsa quam recenti tam regalim piscium quam aliorum"). The charter also refers to undertakings which the grantee may make with "divers of our subjects and others, who probably shall enter into contracts with him and his heirs, assignees, or deputies, for lands, fisheries," &c.

It is alleged that,

1. Courts of competent jurisdiction have judicially established that the present Earl of Stirling is lineally descended from the first Earl of Stirling, and the real heir to his titles and estates.

2. The titles of the present Earl of Stirling have been officially recognised on the most solemn occasions in England and Scotland.

It is further alleged that the Earl of Stirling's name was inserted upon the great roll of the Peers of Scotland in 1831, a roll inscribed in the archives of the King at Edinburgh, drawn up by order of the House of Lords, entered upon its register, and transcribed upon its minutes. Since that period the Earl of Stirling has voted again at the general elections of 1835 and 1837. His name is also entered on the list of those peers who competed at those elections—lists recorded in the royal archives of the Upper House. From these lists results the proof that from 1825 to 1837 the present Earl of Stirling, always recognised in his rights, voted during a period of twelve years as a peer of Scotland, without effective protest.

Lord Stirling and his friends are at Washington, taking legal steps to assert his right by force of arms, and thus bring the question to an issue. We will watch with interest this legitimate monarch of North America, or "Smyth" of the fisheries.

Indeed, the pretence of the Earl of Stirling is already exposed by a writer in one of the daily papers, who remembers the trial of the said "Earl of Stirling" for forgery. He claimed the earldom, and put forth papers and maps to establish the claim.

"One incident in the course of the trial made, I remember, a great impression at the time. Among the documents which Mr. Alexander produced in proof of his descent, and which the Crown alleged to be forgeries, was a French map of Canada, bearing the date of a given year and the imprint of a well-known map designer of the reign of Louis XIV., who designated himself 'map designer to the King.' On the back of this map were written in holograph observations by most of the eminent Frenchmen of that day—among others, by Archbishop Fenelon and by Louis himself—all bearing upon the grant made by Charles I. to the Earl of Stirling, one of them quoting the words of the royal charter, and Fenelon going so far as to say that if ever Canada (then a French province) should fall into the hands of the English, the descendants of Lord Stirling would have more interest in the conquest than the English monarch himself. The year in which the map was published, as well as the name and office of the designer, were inserted at the bottom. There was no doubt that in the year so mentioned all the parties whose names were on the back were alive, and might therefore have written the observations assigned to them. But a gentleman from the office of the Public Archives in Paris was produced on the trial, to prove from official documents that the map designer in question did not receive the royal appointment till ten years after the date in question. How, then, was it to be explained that this map with the early date bore the late title? Very simply. It was proved to have been a common practice with this artist, when he received his appointment from the King, to subject the plates of his maps to a process well known among engravers, by which, without altering other parts of the plate, or even his name, his former designation was punched out, and that of map designer to the King substituted in its place. The map on which such important consequences hung, therefore, was in reality ten years at least later in date than the year mentioned at the bottom indicated, and this simple fact was fatal to the whole scheme. For in the ten years between the apparent date and the real one, most of the persons whose holographs were on its back, and Archbishop Fenelon among the number, *had died.*"

This "tracing" may not be unuseful to our American friends, if they suspect that their friend is not Stirling after all.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE PARISH PRIEST.

LORD CAMPBELL has come out in the part of an Irish landlord with great *eclat* and indeed jovial splendour. He has visited his Galway estates this week, and gave a pleasant feast to his tenantry. The Honourable Mary Campbell was present with her father; the tenantry were all in holiday attire, and, quoth the Irish reporter, "nothing could exceed the decorum and hilarity which prevailed throughout the entire proceedings. The setting sun streamed in through two open windows, and shed a flood of golden light on the beautiful landscape without, which imparted to the scene a charm of fairy loveliness unsurpassed in any clime." But beside this fairy loveliness in the mind's eye of our poetical friend, the occasion seems to have been really happy. The best speech was by the parish priest, a very singular Irish priest indeed, for he said he confessed diffidence; said that was the first time he had ever taken part in a festive scene, and called himself humble. But what he said is worth reprint in itself; though the sentiment overflows there is something good at the bottom :—

"This is, my friends, a glorious day for your country; it is an event full of joy and gladness to us all; it is, I am sorry to say, an event of very rare occurrence in this part of the world to see the lord of the soil—one of the highest noblemen in her Majesty's dominions, seated at the festive board at the head of his tenantry, and with an humble priest at his side, dispensing with a noble and generous hand the fruits of that wealth which he possesses. I hope this day my friends is a new epoch in the annals of modern landlordism. It teaches a lesson, and it proclaims a fact which I hope others will learn and practise, and which carries out the truth of what we have been often told, that there is in the Scottish and English nobleman a kindness of heart for, and a sympathy of feeling with the tenants and dependants under them. Let, my lord, your tenantry on the Moycullen estate enjoy the advantages of the English and Scotch tenantry—let them feel that they are under the protecting and auspicious influence of a paternal landlord—let them only enjoy the means and facilities of becoming a solvent and independent tenantry—let them enjoy the fruits of their honest and hard-earned industry—('Hear, hear,' from Lord Campbell)—my head on the block, my lord, if you do not find these men as hard-working, as laborious, as willing, and as ready to discharge their obligations to you, as any other tenantry on the face of the earth." (Cries of "We will," and immense cheering.)

Lord Campbell's own remarks did not fall far short in warm-heartedness, and an enthusiasm almost Irish. He praised the "Christian pastor," promised not to eject poor tenants, blamed proselytism, but sandwiched earnest praise of the Queen's Colleges, and said the Pope was "adorned with almost every Christian virtue." The following passage deserves quotation :—

"I should, perhaps, think that advantages might arise to me from having my estate divided into larger holdings than it is at present; but I trust in God I shall never bring that about by either evictions or any harsh measure whatsoever. (Loud cheering.) I believe, gentlemen, that where an emigration is voluntary, where it is the spontaneous wish of those who go and leave their near and dear relations, and seek in a foreign clime that prosperity which they despair of finding at home, it may be for their advantage, and for the advantage of those who remain, because there always follows a greater demand for labour; wages are higher, and employment more abundant. I believe, gentlemen, that where the holdings are very small, it would be for the benefit of the tenant sometimes, instead of having a miserable patch of land on which he bestows his labour for a few weeks of the year, and remains idle for the remaining portion, especially when the winter sets in, during which time he remains unemployed, that he should be engaged as a labourer during the whole year round, having an earning of two shillings or half-a-crown a day, which would maintain his family more comfortably than the poor patch of land on which he is striving to drag out an existence. When any of you, having small tenements, are willing to surrender them that they may be conjoined with other tenements, and when out of these there may be a large farm formed, I shall rejoice, but God forbid that I shall ever sanction the turning out of a family for such a purpose, not knowing where they shall lay their heads, or, if worse should not befal them, compelling them to go into the workhouse for relief. (Loud cheers.) I wish, gentlemen, to make one or two further observations with regard to the views which I hold as your landlord, as I understand it has been the custom on the property of which I am not the owner, both in Moycullen and Barna, to use the influence of the proprietor in parliamentary elections for both the town and county of Galway. Now, I tell you, that I never will interfere with your exercise of the elective franchise." (Immense cheering.)

Towards the close of the evening the proceedings became still more convivial. Lord Campbell's son proposed "the ladies of Moycullen," and Lord Campbell himself said he wished he could stay all night. He then proposed the health of the parish priest, and praised him highly. "He will not allow weeds to grow up; he will root them from the soil; he will then sow the good seeds of the Gospel, which, with the blessing of God, will bring forth fruit abundantly."

The evening ended happily, and the tenantry seemed thankful—a little too thankful perhaps, considering the present value of the working man.

ALLEGED SALE OF INDIAN PATRONAGE.

THE charge against Mr. Norman Wilkinson of having attempted to purchase a situation in the gift of the East India Company was heard at the Mansion House on Monday. Mr. W. A. Wilkinson, the member for Lambeth, and brother to the accused, was called by the counsel for the Company, but he persistently refused to tell the name of "the party" whom his brother had mentioned as concerned in the incipient negotiation for the sale of a place. He said that he knew the name but would not give it. In reply to the counsel for his brother, Mr. Wilkinson explained that his brother on being satisfied of the illegality of the proposed proceeding had at once resolved to have "nothing more to do with it."

The summons has been dismissed, there being no proof of where the alleged offence was committed. Mr. Clarkson then asked, on behalf of the Company, that Mr. William Arthur Wilkinson should be committed for contumacy in not answering the question as to the name of the person who entered into the negotiation with his brother, but the Lord Mayor decided that for such a proceeding there should be grounds for believing that the witness is likely to give material evidence and will not voluntarily attend. But he has voluntarily attended, and frankly answered all material questions. The application was, therefore, refused.

MR. NORTON'S DEFENCE.

Mr. NORTON has stated his case in the papers, "compelled" by the late publications "to break the silence which the forbearance of seventeen years has made habitual to me." His being deprived of a hearing in the police-court also induces this course, for all in court were "overpowered by Mrs. Norton's demeanour." "None who witnessed that scene can forget it to their lives' end—all must remember it as the most splendid piece of acting ever exhibited, however much the sober mind of England must revolt against the disgrace of a court of justice being turned into the stage of Drury-lane."

Mr. Norton then at length states the history of the case. The first memorandum was not binding: and one of its stipulations was not observed, as people have frequently applied to Mr. Norton for payment of his wife's debts. Mrs. Norton, in 1852, denied that she

had ever received an annuity from Lord Melbourne's representatives; but only two or three weeks ago, Mr. Norton's solicitor ascertained that she has been in the receipt of that annuity since 1849. In 1837, a reunion was contemplated. But Mr. Norton, "loving her to madness" was, he confesses, "weak and vacillating in the extreme;" but on hearing some tidings of her *sejour* in the Isle of Wight, he gave up the idea. Afterwards Mrs. Norton gave several hints towards a reunion, such as saying, "What nonsense, when there is a room for you in this house," when Mr. Norton spoke of taking a new lease of his own house. At the first separation Mr. Norton gave his wife 300*l.* a-year; in getting a larger income he raised it to 400*l.*; to purchase her necessary signature to a mortgage deed he raised it to 500*l.* a year, and then having learnt that she had been left 500*l.* per annum by her mother he reduced it to 300*l.* a year, which she has never accepted. Respecting the children, Mr. Norton states that during their whole life he has paid for their clothing, schooling, and support, with the exception of their viands when they were living with their mother.

Respecting Lord Melbourne, Mr. Norton stated that he saw his wife with her arm round Lord Melbourne's neck, and that she said, "Well, and what if I had my Mell round the neck—what was it?" Afterwards his suspicions being aroused by the removal from the house of piles of Lord Melbourne's letters left accidentally exposed, he discovered three letters of Lord Melbourne's in another part of the house. Other evidence, "not called upon the trial," convinced Mr. Norton of the truth of his suspicions respecting Lord Melbourne and his wife. With regard to Mrs. Norton's charge, that he had claimed the copyright of her works, he denies it; his solicitor had "inquired" after her works to ascertain her income. The signature of "Greenacre" was only "a poor joke;" but it originated with Mrs. Norton herself, who adopted the name of "Hannah Brown." Mr. Norton also states that Lord Melbourne promised him the appointment of Police Magistrate before he visited at his house, and "before, I believe, he even knew Mrs. Norton."

Mr. Norton's income from every source does not average 2400*l.* a year. Mr. Norton's final statement as to money matters is:—"It is not true that I refused to perform the agreement of 1848 because it was made between man and wife; but it is true that the agreement, having been of a temporary and not of a permanent nature, and the amount allowed under it being necessarily dependent upon the amounts of our respective incomes, I did, in 1851, upon Mrs. Norton's income being increased by 500*l.* a-year upon her mother's death, while mine was, from various causes, diminished, propose to reduce the 500*l.* to 300*l.*, which I was afterwards willing to increase to 400*l.* It is also true, that down to March in the last year (1852), since when, and from the year previous, the amount of the allowance has been the subject of discussion, I allowed to Mrs. Norton the undiminished sum of 500*l.* a year."

HOW THE IRISH ARE TAUGHT.

THE national education of the Irish goes on very well, with added numbers taught each year, and better ways gradually introduced. At the end of last year there were half a million and forty-four thousand children being taught, being twenty-four thousand more than were taught the year before. The school-houses had increased by one hundred and seventy. When the new schools being built are completed, they will afford accommodation to 7475 additional pupils. Thirty new schools were opened in the year 1852. The total amount expended in 1852 was 157,764*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; the amount for literary agency, out of this sum, 82,964*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*: the repairing of schools cost 813*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, while the cost of the seventy-five schools being built has been 5249*l.*, 19*s.* 2*d.* The amount expended in premiums for cleanliness and good order was 767*l.* 10*s.* In the Dublin Model School 1479 pupils are being taught, and, during 1852, 302 teachers (17 Established Church, 43 Presbyterians, 240 Roman Catholics, and 2 Dissenters) were sent out, finished, during the year. There are 133 workhouse schools in connexion with the Board. There are twenty-six model agricultural schools, teaching 207 pupils, in the industrial classes, and 2355 day pupils. The workhouse-agricultural schools number twenty-three. The agricultural teaching makes great progress.

The separate creeds of the children attending the schools were lately ascertained. Of 491,927 children, 24,684 were members of the Established Church, the Presbyterians were 40,618, other Protestants, 1908; Roman Catholics, 424,717.

After giving these satisfactory statistics the commissioners refer to their proceedings, relative to the religious books. They state the withdrawal from their publications and sanctioned books of the *Lessons on the Truth of Christianity* and of the *Evidences of the Truth of Christianity*, but these may still be used in *separate* religious instruction. They do not *insist* on having the *Scripture Lessons* or the sacred poetry read in any school, nor do they *allow* them to be read in *combined* religious instruction, unless no one objects to them. In *separate* religious instruction any of the books may be used.

NEW WAY TO DIG.

MECHI, the Napoleon of Agriculture, informs the public, (through the *Times*,) of a new digging machine. He writes:—

"A calm and rigid investigation and computation have convinced me that the doom of the plough, as an instrument of culture, is sealed, and that the rotatory forking, or, as it is wrongly called, digging machine, is the only profitable cultivator. Even with six or eight horses it is cheaper, and infinitely more effective than the plough.

"Since the trial of implements at my 'gathering,' I have received from one of our North American colonies the model of a newly-invented machine, which, by a happy and most simple combination of horse and steam-power, will—and I pledge my agricultural reputation for it—not only deeply, cheaply, and efficiently cultivate and pulverize the soil, but at the same time sow the seed, and leave all in a finished condition. It will also, by a simple inversion, cut and gather the corn without any rake or other complication; while both in cultivation and harvesting its operation will be continuous and without stoppage.

"The inventor and his machine have, by the government of the district, been placed under my charge and guidance. I have, therefore, on public grounds, and considering the vast importance of the invention in a national point of view, advised the inventor to grant licenses for its manufacture, at a very moderate royalty, to the most eminent agricultural-implement makers in various parts of the kingdom, so that our agriculturists may be secured by competition against monopoly or inferiority, while the inventor will benefit in proportion to the appreciation of his merits. I shall call together a meeting of the various implement-makers, and in due time my practical friends of the old school (who must now consider me quite insane) will have an opportunity on my farm of forming their own conclusions.

"I may venture to state generally that the implement when complete will weigh about 20 to 25 cwt., will require a pair of horses, and will represent the power of about eight to twelve, or more, real horses.

"I trust I need hardly say that I shall have no pecuniary interest in this matter. The invention has been duly secured."

He adds:—"The implement for digging will require one man and one boy only, including the management of the steam-engine; in reaping, the same, with the addition of three men to bind, as the corn falls into their arms. The men will be carried on the machine."

IMPROVEMENTS IN PRINTING.

SOME improvements in printing have been just completed by Major Beniowski. They will, it is said, make the setting of type as easy as writing, and one half cheaper than at present.

Single types for *words* are the chief part of the new improvements. At present, to print the common word "and," the compositor must take up *four* types, three for the letters and one for the white space between the "and" and the next word. In the new plan, the compositor has one type with "and," and the necessary space engraved thereon. By having a great variety of types expressing ordinary and often-used English words, the saving of time can be very great. The separate types for spaces can be always disused, as there will be distinct types for terminal letters, having a space attached. Thus, to print the "e" in "help," an ordinary "e" will be used, but to print the "e" in hope, an "e" with a space after will be set up. This new plan is called logotypes. It has been often thought of before, but the difficulty always has been the multiplicity of classes of type. If you have three or four hundred kinds of word-types, you must have a case of little boxes to hold them, and the case will be so large, that the compositor must walk about to reach the boxes in succession. For the ordinary way of keeping types for use is to throw into little shallow compartments of one case the little metal square-shaped sticks, (as thick as a good bodkin, and only an inch and a half long,) on the end of which the letter is printed. It therefore required practice in a compositor to know *which* was the box for each letter, as the little sticks (lying confusedly in their respective boxes) did not present their letter end to the eye. The difficulty is increased by the fact that the cases are not alphabetically arranged; the letter "e" is a large compartment in the centre, near the hand, because it is most wanted, while "j" may be in a small box at the bottom. Under the new system the arrangement is different. The types, instead of being in boxes where they lie confusedly, are inserted in Indian file into long cases or channels, sloping down towards the compositor's hand. They are loose enough in their channels to allow the second type to slide down when the first is taken away. Thus, as the soldier in the second rank steps into the place of the first-rank soldier taken away, so that an unbroken front is ever present to the enemy, the compositor will likewise find the succession duty faithfully fulfilled by each little type. All the "e's," for instance, instead of crowding together, will range themselves one after another in a long row, the compositor seeing only one at a time, and as that one is removed, the next "e" steps down into his place. Another point is worth notice. At present, the little metal stick called a type is blank at one end, so that you have to turn it up and read the inverted letter (inverted in the type, that it may print rightly on the paper) before he knows it. But in the new plan, the type is also marked with the letter rightly engraved on the other end, so that the compositor sees before him the very letter he is about to print. Thus, the compositor requires very little training. A child who picks out letter after letter of a toy alphabet, and spells a word rightly, does what the new compositors will merely do. At an experiment on Saturday, a young lady printed 4700 letters per hour, a speed three times greater than at present attained by experienced compositors.

Printing machines of a new kind, to print 20,000 copies an hour, and improved inking-rollers, have also been invented and perfected by Major Beniowski. On Saturday, he showed the working of his inventions to a large party of literary men, Douglas Jerrold and Shirley Brooks among them. Some M.P.'s were also present.

THE WORKING CLASSES.

THERE are many demands for higher wages, as yet unsatisfied. At Stockport the shoemakers ask thirty-five per cent. advance on former wages; the masters offer ten. The shipwrights of Bridgewater ask 24*s.* instead of 21*s.* a-week. The builders' labourers in Westminster demand an advance. The London coal-heavers ask an advance of 9*d.* per ton. The Ashton spinners have issued a circular calling for five per cent. in addition to five per cent. previously paid.. The bricklayers of Messrs. Holland, builders, demand ten per cent. advance. (The *Times* complains that they made the demand on the morning of a workman's feast, to which the Messrs. Holland contributed largely. But if the demand were just, any time was suitable for it.)

The advance of wages is extending over the Manchester district. "In many scattered establishments it is quietly paid, and the public hear nothing about it." At Blackburn, Preston, Burnley, Accrington, and the neighbourhood included under those names, the ten per cent. is given both to the weavers and spinners. The stonemasons of Worcester have got 2*s.* a-week advance.

General prosperity advances. Pauperism in Bucks has rapidly declined. Some parishes, which formerly paid 20*s.* in the pound for poors rate, now pay but 9*d.* in the pound. The altered condition of the manufacturing districts tells the same tale. In July, 1848, there were not fewer than 2074 cases of adult males, married or single, relieved in the Manchester union, on account of want of work, or similar causes, while in July last the number reported by the clerk, under the same head, was only nine. The shoe manufacture in Norwich is extending. There are twenty-five wholesale boot and shoemakers, employing 5000 persons. A new Corn Exchange is to be built at Haddington. A large covered market is to be erected at Manchester. It will enclose a space 440 feet long, by 244 feet wide.

CURIOSITIES OF JUSTICE.

THE olden Court of Chancery, peculiar to the Palatinate of Lancaster, has been revived, and with good effect, in making justice cheaper and more accessible. Manchester is to participate in the benefits of this resuscitation; two courts are to be held yearly in that town.

A Liverpool jeweller sold jewellery to two women, called Polly Storers and Madame Annie: a diamond bracelet for thirty guineas, and a pink topaz brooch at ten guineas were among them. On suing for the money, the women pleaded and swore that they were women of vicious lives, that the jewellery was used as an adornment intended to entice men, and that the jeweller knew of the fact. This defence failed, and the women were adjudged to pay the value of the jewellery, something less than the charges of the shopkeeper.

Changes in our ways of treating criminals deserve careful record. Therefore, although we have already noticed in our Parliamentary report the new Act to Abolish Transportation in certain cases, we re-state here its character in its completed form. It will come into force on next Thursday. After the commencement of the act, from and after the 1st of September, no person is to be sentenced to transportation except for life or fourteen years or upwards. Any person who might have been sentenced to transportation for a term less than fourteen years is to be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be kept in penal servitude. Persons liable to transportation for fourteen years or upwards, or for life, may still be sentenced to transportation, or to penal servitude instead. The following terms of penal servitude are to be awarded instead of the present terms of transportation:—Instead of transportation for seven years, or for a term not exceeding seven years, the penal servitude to be for a term of

four years. Instead of any term of transportation exceeding seven years, and not exceeding ten years, the penal servitude is to be not less than four and not exceeding six years; instead of transportation exceeding ten, and not exceeding fifteen, penal servitude for not less than six, and not exceeding eight years; where it exceeds fifteen years, the penal servitude to be not less than six, and not exceeding ten years; and instead of transportation for life, the penal servitude to be for the term of life. There are three clauses in the act with respect to tickets-of-leave in the United Kingdom, and the system is to be tried for the first time in this country. It is now declared to be lawful for her Majesty to grant to any convict now under sentence of transportation, or who may hereafter be sentenced to transportation, or to any punishment substituted for transportation by this act, a license to be at large in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, or in such parts thereof respectively as in such license shall be expressed, during such portion of his or her term of transportation or imprisonment, and upon such conditions in all respects, as to her Majesty shall seem fit; and it shall be lawful for her Majesty to revoke or alter such license by a like order, at her Majesty's pleasure.

The functionaries hitherto called "Masters Extraordinary in Chancery" are now called "Commissioners to Administer Oaths in Chancery in England."

The Act for the Suppression of Betting Houses comes into operation on the 1st of December.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

OLD tales are being repeated every day. Among the shipping and business paragraphs of the *Times*—among long statistics of large quantities of gold sent to India and China (such as "for Alexandria, 40,590*l.* in gold; Hong-Kong, 9820*l.* in silver, and 20,065*l.* in gold")—we find a story—not strange or singular—of a woman. A young lady, very pretty and of good family, was seduced. To avoid the embarrassments of an exposure, the ruffian who seduced her—a person evidently wealthy and moving in fashionable society—took a passage for India on board the *Euxine*. Hearing of his intended departure, the young lady came to Southampton, and sought an interview with her former lover, at an hotel where he was stopping with an uncle, who had come down to see him off. This being refused, the lady posted herself during the whole of Saturday on the deck of the *Euxine*, in the expectation of inducing a reconciliation with her faithless friend. On the departure of the vessel she had to be removed by force, the services of the police being called in by the officials of the company for this purpose. In the meantime, the gentleman, under the advice of his uncle, and to avoid an unpleasant scene, had engaged a boat to convey him a considerable distance down the river, where he leisurely awaited the coming of the vessel, and secured an uninterrupted embarkation. Finding herself defeated at every point, the poor girl flung herself into the water, in a paroxysm of disappointment and despair, there, if possible, to drown her sorrows and her shame. A seaman, who happened to be upon the jib-boom of the *Euxine* preparing to set the canvas, instantly let go his hold and dropped into the water for the purpose of rescuing the lady. This he effected, having managed to lay hold of her, notwithstanding her struggles, and to keep her above water till a boat came to her assistance, into which she was hauled, and by it taken on shore, where the necessary attentions brought about a gradual recovery. She is now lying at the Canute Hotel, and will be taken before the magistrates on Monday, on a charge of attempting self-destruction.

Lord Denman has been robbed of the gold box in which the freedom of the city of London was presented to him for his noble defence of Queen Caroline, and of the testimonial from all the judges, presented on his retirement from the Bench. Other things were taken from the house (Middleton Hall) at the same time. The thief, a wandering mason, has been arrested at York.

The interior of a bad heart has been exposed in the confession of Flack, the murderer of the old housekeeper at Bacton. Some curious points turn up. He details with plainness his crime. "I took a case-knife. I cut her throat with it I think in two places; at least, I cut twice." In such style the confession proceeds; but the following passage betrays a peculiar tendency in some minds. "I had thought of doing the deed some days, even a fortnight before. I several times dreamt about doing it, and once that I had done it, and that I was not found out. I went to the house with the full intention of murdering Mrs. Steggles, and to get what money I could find. I had been to the house before on a Sunday, either a fortnight or three weeks before, intending to do it, but could not. I do not know that I had any spite against Mrs. Steggles, but there always appeared something on my mind until I had done it." The dreaming reminds one of that fatality in gambler's dreams—they invariably succeed in their imaginary contests.

A deserving young soldier—Corporal Brown, of the 12th Foot—reported Private O'Neill for some slight breach of discipline. O'Neill vowed revenge. In a few days, the young Corporal, who was an expert penman, was engaged writing at a table in one of the barrack-rooms, at the south end of the square, and two or three other soldiers were variously employed in the apartment, when O'Neill entered. It should be stated that in this room were situated O'Neill's quarters, as well as those of the men present—the entire party, including O'Neill and deceased, numbering five persons. The deceased continued to write; one of the men, after O'Neill's entrance, left the room, another stretched himself on a "bunk" to rest, and a third was employed for a time arranging some of his accoutrements at another part of the room, and during this time O'Neill had his musket on his knee, and appeared to be engaged in cleaning it. Suddenly, without attracting the observation of any one in the room—who never dreamt of the dreadful purpose he had in view—O'Neill moved suddenly towards the doorway, levelled his piece, took deliberate aim, and poured the contents of the musket into the unfortunate man sitting at the table. The flash from the musket was the first intimation those in the room received of what was going on, but it was too late for them to do aught to rescue the life of their comrade. Brown, after receiving the fire, uttered a slight cry, and dropped his head on the table, and his murderer ran down the steps leading to the barrack square. He was of course instantly pursued, and on his reaching the square, he was called on to stop, when he turned round with great coolness, and said, "Oh, I'll stop; 'twas I shot him;" and afterwards expressed himself as happy as if he were in heaven that he had done the deed. Brown was shortly after removed to the hospital. He spoke but little, said he was getting very cold, and died in a few hours.

Rum and true religion flourish in Scotland. At Greenock the pious people use sticks to enforce Sunday quietness, and meet in noisy mobs to beat their neighbours for the love of God. The Glasgow folk, who don't drink whiskey, or like dirt, went out on Sunday last to enjoy the fresh air on the Clyde, and on their return they were assailed by a crowd of those who think such conduct disgraceful. The affair ended in a riot, in which the offensive promoters of the Sabbath were beaten.

The wife beating makes way. John Flaherty beat his wife most brutally with a poker on the head, and flung her from the top to the bottom of the stairs. Mobbs, a wine cooper, had a brutal quarrel with his wife, cut her in the neck and killed her. He then cut his own throat, but is not dead.

A curious application of evidence for character was made on Tuesday at the Worship-street Police-court. Joseph Mull, Scripture reader and organist to the district church of St. Thomas, Bethnal-Green, behaved in a most infamous manner in the presence of a young nursemaid and some children. The charge was clearly proved, and the testimony of the witness could not be shaken in cross-examination. But "the Reverend Mr. Williams, one of the curates of St. Thomas; Mr. Carter, the organist at the old church; and several respectable inhabitants of the parish, some of whom had known the defendant for a period of ten years, were severally examined, and spoke in the highest terms of his general good conduct and morality." This inconclusive defence was useless; the man was sentenced to three months imprisonment and hard labour.

MISCELLANEOUS.

COURT life at Osborne has been enlivened by that pleasant incident, the annual fête, on the occasion of Prince Albert's birthday. The labourers and workmen employed at Osborne; the seamen, marines, and boys of the Royal yachts; the non-commissioned officers and men of the detachment of the 23rd Royal Welch Fusileers; the Trinity House men, and the Coast Guard stationed at East Cowes, amounting in all to about five hundred persons, dined together in a tent on the lawn at Osborne, on Saturday. The Queen was a spectator of the procession to the banquet, and afterwards witnessed the games and dances that succeeded.

Mr. J. R. Ingersoll delivered his letters of recall as United States Minister, and Mr. Buchanan was presented by the Earl of Clarendon on his appointment to succeed Mr. Ingersoll, on Tuesday.

The Admiralty has been down at Deptford and Woolwich, inspecting ships, machinery, and men. The *Globe* discovers, also, that they "eat at the public expense," after the manner of the notorious Stafford. "But while Sir James Graham and Sir Baldwin Walker regaled themselves on mouthfuls of sea-biscuit, Mr. Stafford took his friends to a tavern, joyfully partook of the best, and magnanimously sent in the bill to head-quarters."

The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses (Scotland) have made their annual inspection. They looked well at all the lighthouses in the Firth of Clyde, and then "judicious drank, and greatly daring dined." The *Shipping Gazette* asks, "At whose expense?" Really, if this habit of inquiry is continued, things must come to such a "low" state that every man shall have to pay for his own dinner.

Major Beresford and his fellows are to be tried in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the ground that difficult questions of law are likely to arise on the trial, and that a special jury is less likely to be influenced by political prejudice than the jurors of the Criminal Court.

Mr. Beamish, "Liberal Protestant," has been returned for the city of Cork, defeating his opponent, Colonel Chatterton, Derbyite, by 1183 to 1003.

Mr. Starkie, Conservative, has been returned for Clitheroe, beating Mr. Jonathan Peel, Liberal, by 216 to 205.

Lord Robert Gascoyne Cecil, of politics "decidedly Conservative," has been returned for Stamford, in room of Mr. Herries.

The Scotch seem contented with the legislation for their country, carried in the late session. There were seven Government Bills:—1. Sheriff Courts; 2. University Tests; 3. Bankruptcy; 4. Entails; 5. Burgh Harbours; 6. Sheriffships Consolidation; 7. Evidence (which was a measure of the Lord Advocate, though adopted by Lord Brougham). The *Scotsman* says:—"What, then, is the sum of the whole session as regards Scotch business? That no bill especially affecting Scotland has been carried or even introduced, but such as had the support of the Scotch representatives; and that every Scotch bill which they supported has become law. If, therefore, Scotland has not got 'justice' this year, it is entirely her own fault. No Englishman has refused anything she asked, nor meddled with anything that belonged to her. Can Ireland, with her special officers of state, and double the number of representatives, say half as much?"

"Man preys on man," and even big bishops can swallow up little bishops, after the approved fashion of Aaron's rod or Joseph's lean kine. An educational squabble among the guardians of the South Dublin Union the other day elicited a curious revelation with regard to Mr. Secretary Stanley's celebrated measure for the reform of the Irish branch of the established church by the lopping off of ten of its bishoprics. It transpired, on the high authority of Captain Lyndsay, son of the late and last Bishop of Kildare, that this bold step was taken by the advice and with the sanction of the present Primate, Lord John Beresford. In order that there might be "no mistake" about the matter, Captain Lyndsay stated that when Lord Derby (then Mr. Stanley) brought forward the Church Temporalities Act he proposed to reduce the salaries of those bishops, but the Primate objected, and recommended that the sees should be suppressed.

The fleet, which looked so well *en masse* at Spithead, is being sent to sea, or other ports, in squadrons or singly. Rear-Admiral Corry's and Commodore Martin's squadrons are to cruise separately at sea until the 17th of September, when they are to assemble at Queenstown, to meet the Lords of the Admiralty, who will inspect them. The *London*, 90, Captain Charles Eden, only awaits the payment of wages to her crew to leave and join the sailing squadron under Rear-Admiral Corry. The *Odin*, 16, paddle-frigate, Captain F. Scott, left Spithead on Thursday for Lisbon. The *Vesuvius*, 6, paddle-sloop, Commander Powell, is under orders to sail on foreign service.

Another old soldier is gone: Lord Saltoun died on Thursday last. He served in the Peninsula, defended Hougoumont, and was, said the Duke, "a pattern to the army, both as a man and a soldier." He was sixty-nine years old, and was Major-General, and the Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Foot.

The gallant wife of a brave soldier is another of the distinguished persons who, this week, have gone into the "remarkable retirement of the grave." Lady Sale died at Cape Town on the 6th of July. The *United Service Gazette* says:—"Though not a highly-accomplished or even well-educated woman, she had quick perceptions and a strong mind, readily adapting herself to her position as her husband advanced in rank and consequence. The journal which she kept of the unfortunate occurrences at Cabul, and of the subsequent treatment which she and her fellow-captives experienced at the hands of Mahomed Akbar Khan, sufficiently demonstrated the masculine quality of her understanding and the firmness of her heart. In the 13th Light Infantry, in which Sale rose, and of which he died the colonel, she was much respected, and many officers and men to this hour remember her unvarying kindness. Since her return to India, after paying a visit to this country on her release from captivity, Lady Sale resided on the hills in a state of comfort, her Majesty having granted her a pension of 500*l.* a-year, as a mark of her approbation of her own and her gallant husband's conduct."

An old sailor of repute has also lately died. Sir George Cockburn, aged 82, died on the 19th, at Leamington. Sir George, early in his eventful career, attracted the notice of Lords Hood and Hotham. He commanded the *Minerva* frigate, attached to the fleet of Sir John Jervis, previous to the battle of Cape St. Vincent, in which he performed an extraordinary exploit. Having shortly before the engagement fallen in with the Spanish fleet, he was immediately chased by the whole force. In crowding all sail to get away from their pursuers a man was carried overboard; and, contrary to the opinion of most men, when three hundred and fifty lives were at stake against one, the high minded captain determined "to wear ship." He succeeded in picking up his man, ran through the enemy's line, with several of whom he exchanged broadsides, and continued his course in triumph. He was subsequently Nelson's Commodore in the Mediterranean off Sicily and Naples; but his greatest services to his country were those which he rendered in the American war. Arriving in the Chesapeake on March 3, 1813, the Rear-Admiral commenced a desultory mode of warfare by clearing the river James of its vessels, and carrying consternation into the heart of Virginia. He next penetrated to the upper part of Elk river, at the very head of the Chesapeake waters; landed and partially destroyed the town of Havre de Grace, the settlements of Georgetown and Fredericks-town, as well as many other places, inflicting incredible losses upon the enemy. In pursuance of a bold plan which he had formed, the Rear-Admiral, joining an army of 4000 men under Major-General Ross at Marlborough, now advanced upon Washington, the capital of the United States itself, which he hoped to take by a *coup de main*. Reaching Bladensburg on the 24th of the same month, the British encountered the enemy's army, of about 8000 strong, which, although firmly posted, was attacked and completely routed. Thus encouraged, the victorious troops pushed forward without loss of time, and on the same evening entered Washington. The whole of that night and of the following day were devoted to the work of destruction; and by the evening of the 25th, when the British commenced their retreat, public property to the value of between two and three millions sterling had been demolished. After conducting many other operations on the southern coasts of the United States, he hoisted his flag in the *Northumberland*, 74, as Commander-in-chief at St. Helena. It was his fortune to be selected to convey the ex-Emperor Napoleon to St. Helena, and his tact and delicacy in discharging this critical duty were such, that the ex-Emperor, who at that time was not one to be easily pleased or propitiated by any officer wearing the British uniform, emphatically pronounced Captain Cockburn "a gentleman." At his death, Sir George Cockburn was Admiral of the Fleet, Major-General of Marines, and Rear-Admiral of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Roebuck is greatly improved in health. He is to attend the Cutler's Feast this year at Sheffield.

Major-General Stavely, C.B., has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Company's forces on the Madras establishment.

The Polish Historical Society of Paris has presented medals to Lord Palmerston, as "the protector of the rights

of nations, and of Justice, Freedom, and Humanity all over the world."

And the people of Derby, who spurned "W. B.," and despised "horse-nails," propose to give a dinner to Lord Palmerston, as a man they delight to honour.

Mr. John Sadleir, the Catholic Lord of the Treasury, is a person of city eminence, being chairman of the London and County Bank, and in many ways a prosperous gentleman. Grand candlesticks, worth 600*l.*, have been given to him by the shareholders of the bank, as a mark of their esteem. He deserves the gift: for lately when a provident fund for the officers was being arranged, he gave four thousand pounds towards it.

Lord John Russell is staying at Roseneath House, on the banks of the Gareloch. His wife and children are with him.

Sidney Herbert and his wife, who seem to have "an unwearied spirit in doing courtesies," gave a feast to the school children of Wilton on Saturday. There were music, flowers, and a pleasant country-dance, in which the givers of the feast cordially joined.

With his "foot on his native heath," Mr. John M'Gregor, M.P. for Glasgow, waxed eloquent on Monday in giving an account of what he (and others) had done in Parliament. He boasted that no Scotch members had been unseated for bribery or corruption, while 127 English members had been petitioned against.

New lines of omnibuses between Camden-town, and the West-end, and City, are to be started: the increased traffic between the places requiring more conveyances than at present.

The enormous value of building ground in the City is shown by the rent of 1300*l.* a year given lately for a piece of ground containing but 400 square yards. This letting, if calculated at its freehold value, at the present price of consols, would represent the extraordinary sum of rather more than 520,000*l.* per acre.

A servant-girl died of Asiatic cholera in Princes-square, on Sunday, after a brief illness. There is no drainage to the house; there is a cesspool in the yard, which contains all the filthy water, &c., from the house, and it lies in pools in the front of the house all day long. The whole of the residents complain of the bad drainage in the houses of the square, and many are ill.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company have been compelled to pay 7300*l.* to the widows and orphans of the persons they caused to be killed on the 4th of March last. The family of Constantine Carati, a Greek merchant who resided at Glasgow, obtained 3000*l.*, divided equally, one quarter to the widow, and the rest to three children. Another family obtained 2000*l.*, and the other families obtained the remainder in smaller sums. The Company have since stated on their tickets that they are not answerable for accidents.

A magnificent mansion between St. John's-wood and Highgate is to be purchased by Prince Albert, and converted into a "nursery" for the royal children.

The Irish are making decent and judicious preparations to receive the Queen. Illuminations of private houses are to be dispensed with, but the public buildings and large shops are to be lighted. The Exhibition proceeds in popularity.

A new valuation of Irish property is to be made, under the superintendence of Dr. Griffiths, the Chief Commissioner of Valuation. This will form the basis of all future taxation.

A good sample of *African* cotton has been shown in Manchester. It was grown near Abbeokuta, on the Gold Coast.

Daguerreotypes in future are to be passed free of duty.

Four hundred thousand head of cattle are imported into Liverpool every year.

The *Himalaya*, recently launched for the service of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, is equal in tonnage to the *Duke of Wellington*, and sixty feet longer than that immense war steamer.

Since 1846 the amount of letters posted has increased by 156,000 in the day: and even since last December the increase has been 33,000 per day. In 1841 the money orders of the Post-office amounted but to 960,000*l.*; while in 1852 they swelled to no less than 9,400,000*l.*!!

The value of our manufactures exported to Australia was, in 1850, 2,602,252*l.*; and in 1852, 4,222,250*l.*

Lola Montes has married an editor in California.

Mrs. Graham and Mr. Kennedy attempted to get up in a balloon at Dublin, but failed on account of the balloon not being made strong enough to carry two. The lady, a practised aeronaut, was hurt by being knocked about among roofs, tiles, and chimney-pots.

At Bristol three children were bitten by a rat, which rushed into their bed, bit them on the nose and arms, and left them besmeared with blood. The next evening the father killed the rat. It was an immense animal of the Norway breed—a species of rat which found its way into England about sixty years since, and which has now nearly exterminated the ancient black rat of England.

A London gentleman, staying with his wife at Ventnor, went out in a boat with two fishermen, and was seen no more. On the next morning the boat was found washed ashore. None of the bodies have been found.

The discipline and management of the Borough Gaol at Birmingham, lately noted for the alleged cruelty of the Governor towards the prisoners, is to be investigated by Government Commissioners.

The Exeter and South Devon Rifle Corps is making progress in discipline and practice. It is the only one in England of the kind as yet sanctioned by royal authority.

An India plant as good as gutta percha has been found. Its milky juice when dried becomes tough and hard. The chemical tests correspond exactly with the established results of gutta-percha. It becomes plastic in hot water, and has been moulded into cups and vessels. It will unite with the true gutta percha. It also produces an excellent fibre, useful in the place of hemp and flax. It is called the Muddur plant of India (Asclepia gigantea.)

The latest report of Paris fashions says—"Bonnets are very small, and are more worn about the *neck* than on the head."

Over one hundred thousand pounds has been subscribed to the Wellington College Testimonial.

The Post Office is an exceptional institution of the age: it retrogades. One of its latest faults has been an ingenious arrangement by which the London morning newspapers will not leave town for Glasgow until the evening newspapers are printed.

A pleasing fact is the holiday made for the Ragged School children of Spitalfields by Mr. Gurney, at Upton Park. He feasted 600 of the little fellows, who rejoiced exceedingly at the day's excursion.

Railway excavators are now being drafted, *en masse*, to Australia. Three hundred and seventy labourers, with their wives and families, left Southampton on Monday in the *Herefordshire*. They are intended for the service of the Sydney Railway Company, to whom they are under agreement to work for two years at 5*s.* per day.

Cremorne is to see a sight of rare splendour on Tuesday. A grand day and night gala is to surprise the usual visitors and the new folk tempted by the notification that it is the benefit of Mr. Simpson, who for his good works (in fire and otherwise) is much liked.

In the New York Crystal Palace the articles of art and industry from Lombardy were placed in the compartment inscribed "Austria." This, though politically correct, gave offence to American feeling, and the proper inscription of "Lombardy" was therefore substituted.

The mines in California continue to yield richly, and new diggings of great value have been discovered. The trade of San Francesco is rapidly extending.

The town of Ophir, in California, has passed through the usual fiery ordeal of Californian cities. It has been destroyed by fire—for the first time.

Australian magnificence is almost monotonous. It is great in wool and gold, men and ships. The commerce of New South Wales is rapidly increasing. During the first three months and twelve days of this year, the shipments were, of gold, 325,464 ounces, worth about 1,300,000*l.*; of wool, 27,708 bales; and of tallow, 3697 casks. With regard to the arrangements for cotton-growing, it is mentioned that the accounts from the Moreton-bay district, where an experiment was going on upon a rather extensive scale, continued to give promise of an excellent crop. A statement of the shipping entered, and the movements of the population during the same period, shows the arrivals of ocean vessels at Port Jackson to have been 108, and the number of passengers 3935, of whom 2359 had subsequently sailed for other places. Sir Charles Fitzroy's address to the Legislative Council takes a cheerful view of the general prospects of the colony: it notifies the concessions by the home Government.

An English Mormonite has written home to his friends in Norfolk an account of his progress to the New Jerusalem. He, with a wife and young family, seems to have been half-starved on the passage; and turned off ashore, when his means were exhausted. He describes irreligion and licentiousness as wofully prevalent; and is especially aggrieved at the sudden prosperity of one S——, apparently the leader of the Norfolk detachment. "All things are open to our eyes now. Brigham Young have no authority in this place; he is no more than I am, call'd and ordained by God. He toket (took it) because he was the Bigest man. I believe it was wonce the true charch, but it split up and Postide (apostatized)." Happily, he managed to get a small farm in a neighbouring county; where, revelling in prosperity, and surrounded with old neighbours, he can "hardly know but what he is in Bucknham."

Niagara Falls, "as a lost wonder," looms in the future. Professor Silliman prophesies their downfall. But he discredits the opinion advanced by some, that the gradual wearing away of the rocks of Niagara Falls may possibly result in draining Lake Erie. In a recent lecture he remarked:—"They will not halt at their present station, but retreat slowly and surely about two miles further, when they will stop again for an unknown period, and probably for ever, since at this place the hard limestone will form both base and top of the falls, and thus stop the destruction of the rock. Some have thought that they would finally reach Lake Erie, and that then the lake would be completely drained. Such an event is impossible. At the point already mentioned the torrent will gradually wear away the surface of the limestone, forming a rapid, and thenceforth Niagara will be one of the lost wonders of the world."

Bull-fights are spreading from Spain ("an advanced part of Africa") to Belgium and France. In Brussels some accidents occurred. At Beaucaise, one man had his thigh torn by the horn of the beast, and another was tossed into the air.

The oldest republic in Europe is the republic of Andorre in Spain. Yet a bishop has made an aggression upon it: claiming to be its sovereign prince in virtue of some old right divine. The prelate was accompanied by a military detachment, and by a great number of persons on horseback. The firing of musquetry took place as he proceeded. He was received at the limits of the valley by all the authorities, and a number of persons armed with muskets and pistols, placed on an eminence, fired a salute. When silence was restored, the chief magistrate addressed him, and said that though they recognised him as their sovereign prince, it was necessary that before entering he should take an oath to respect their privileges and defend their neutrality. This the bishop did, whereupon the Syndic and all the magistrates kissed his episcopal ring. Enthusiastic cries of "Long live the Prince of Andorre" were then raised. More discharges of musquetry took place, and a "Te Deum" was chanted in the church. The prelate then took formal possession of the territory, and a deed notifying that act was drawn up. A grand banquet followed, and some pieces of money were paid to him as tribute, but after receiving them he gave them to the poor.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 7, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on *one side of the paper only*. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1853.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

RATIONALE OF STRIKES.

SEVERAL of our contemporaries have been writing lately against strikes, and we see that Mr. William Crawshay, the great iron-master, has also entered the field on the same side. But it appears to us that this discussion is a species of beating the air, in which the writers do not come to the point. They talk of strikes, as if a strike were a definite thing, bad in itself, and having always the same kind of consequences. If they were to argue against disputes between masters and men, they would speak, not less, but more to the purpose.

What is a strike? It is the withdrawal of men from a bargain disadvantageous to them. To speak exactly, it is not proper to consider the labour employed by a particular house of business as separated into the individuals composing it. As a matter of political œconomy, it should be considered in mass, as the employers are considered in mass. There is a firm on one side, the labour on the other. The firm comes to a combined judgment on its own interests, the partners all acting together. It would be false reason, as well as false justice, to withhold from the men the same right to act on the view of their common interests; especially as the interest of each man can only be fully attained when all go together. The masters exercise the right of combining; the iron-masters most especially and systematically have their quarterly meeting to regulate the price of iron, which they withhold from the customer at pleasure. The same right justly belongs to the men, although at present it is restricted by one-sided law.

If the masters find that they cannot afford to pay a certain amount of wages, they would effect a lower amount; and if the men insisted upon a higher amount than the masters could really pay, the masters would cease to employ the men. A corresponding right belongs to the labourers: if they want higher wages than the masters will give them, they have a right to withdraw from the employment, collectively as well as individually. It is always to be regretted when disputes occur between masters and men; it is to be regretted if one side obstinately refuses a reconciliation on reasonable grounds, and men are to blame who strike without sufficient cause. But if the masters refuse to go on according to the terms proposed by the men, their refusal is nothing more nor less than a "strike" of the masters; and if their refusal is unreasonable, they are as much to blame as the men. In some respects, indeed, they are more to blame, since they ought to have better information. But without going into niceties, let us be content for the moment with observing, that a refusal to work is as much a strike on one side as on the other; and that when refusal is made to back unreasonable terms, it is as culpable on the one side as the other. It follows, from this view, that there can be strikes which are quite justifiable and strikes which are unjustifiable, but that the want of reason is not shown in the strike itself, any more on one side than the other.

An instance occurred lately, in which a manufacturer produced his accounts to his men, and

showed them that if he gave them the wages which they asked, his profits would be obliterated. Under such circumstances it would have been unreasonable for the men to persevere; but they did *not* persevere. They had struck because their information, so far as it went, led them to suppose that they could have higher wages: when they found out their mistake, they returned to work at the old rate.

In another much more remarkable instance, the strike was justified by the events. The people at Stockport asked for an increase of their wages; the masters said that they could not give it; the men declared that what they asked would but place them on a level with the rate of wages given elsewhere; the masters maintained the contrary, and declared that the amount demanded would be *impossible* for them to pay; and the strike lasted several weeks. As it was believed that the masters could not give the increased amount, strong censure was levelled at the men for being so obstinate as to persist in the strike. "You are only inflicting injury on yourselves," it was said, "in keeping yourselves out of wages for so many weeks. Think of the poor shopkeepers with whom you generally deal, and to whom now you pay nothing!" The men still maintained that it would be possible to give them the amount they asked, and they resolved to continue until they should be proved to have made a mistake. And what was the result? The result was, that the masters yielded. They discovered that they *could* pay the increase which they declared to be impossible, and the strike of the men succeeded in obtaining that which had not been granted on grounds either of reason or justice.

Yet Mr. Crawshay ventures upon this sweeping assertion against all strikes—

"The consequences of all strikes, without exception, have been, and ever will be, more injurious to the men than their employers. The master only loses time, which can be regained by subsequent manufacture and sale of goods which were not manufactured or sold during the strike; but the workman has irretrievably lost his time and wages, and has deeply distressed himself and family."

Now, this statement is so incorrect as to be the reverse of the truth. It is not true that the consequences of all strikes are more injurious to the men. In the Stockport case the men succeeded in obtaining higher wages, which they would not have done without the strike. But the Stockport case was only one of innumerable instances which have happened during the present year, of strikes amongst the working classes; we have recorded cases of masons, carpenters, shoemakers, in all parts of the country, who have obtained in many instances a very great advance; and so little is it true that the strikes were more injurious to the men, that the employers are forced in almost all instances to concede. We may be quite sure, from the obstinacy exercised in Stockport, and professed by Mr. Crawshay, that in many other instances the masters would not have yielded if the strike had not been more injurious to *them*. The men, however, in all the cases to which we allude, obtained a positive *advantage* from the strike—they obtained, with very short hesitation, considerably enhanced wages.

Mr. Crawshay says of his works—"I was, I am, thoroughly determined that they shall stop, if I am not to be master and the sole arbiter of what wages I can afford to give for labour performed in them for me." The right may be absolutely conceded to Mr. Crawshay, but then the corresponding right must be claimed for the men of being "masters and sole arbiters" of what wages they can afford to take for the labour performed by them for Mr. Crawshay; and they have as much right to a collective opinion on that point as the master. If he chooses to be master and sole arbiter without consulting his men, the men have a right to be masters and sole arbiters without consulting him. But it is that arrogating and fixing the terms of a bargain without consulting the other side which gives rise to most of these strikes; and in the sequel of his letter Mr. Crawshay shows that he feels the impropriety of remaining "master and sole arbiter," because he offers to the chairman of the workmen means of testing the fairness of the rate of wages which he proposes, by effecting a particular bargain in the sale of rails. Mr. Crawshay, to a certain extent, argues it out—rails, he says, are under 9*l.* a ton, and at that price he cannot afford more than ten per cent. under the head of wages which his men force him to pay.

It is, however, want of these explanations that leads to strikes; and also, let us add, the want of rational or truthful language on the part of the masters to the men. Here we see the masters of a whole town asserting that a certain advance of wages is impossible, and afterwards making that very advance. Now, then, after such an assertion and such a result, can men believe the masters? It is not in human nature to do so. But if the masters make themselves the sole arbiters of what they can afford, unquestionably they will take a different view of wages, both as to justice and possibility, from what the men will take. Experience, therefore, justifies the men in saying, that the masters fix the wages on a one-sided consideration, and do not use correct language when they speak of impossibilities. The only test remaining to the men is to stand back from the bargain—to "strike;" and although in many cases that test proves that they were mistaken, yet, also, in innumerable cases, as we have so often seen this year, it proves that they were right. We regard the strike as being in itself an absolute evil; but it is the only resort to which the man can appeal, unless he will submit to let the master always fix the rate of wages according to the master's view.

We do not believe, however, that there is no other alternative between this submission, or the rude process of strikes, whether these are strikes of workmen or strikes of masters. Mr. Crawshay has himself supplied the alternative, when he gives his men reasons and details. Yet something more is wanted. We believe that Mr. Crawshay thinks himself to be telling the strict truth in these accounts: no doubt other masters have thought the same; yet they have made assurances to their men which their own actions have subsequently falsified. It is very probable that the Stockport masters believed what they said when they thought they could not afford to give ten per cent. more wages, yet they found that they could. Under such circumstances it is only reasonable to say, Mr. Crawshay's arguments and figures would be much more convincing, if they were more complete, and corroborated by vouchers. Nevertheless, his exposition is a commencement in the right direction; and we believe that if masters would only proceed a little further in that right direction, strikes would be comparatively rare, if they did not die out altogether.

Because, under no circumstances can it be advantageous either to masters or men absolutely to arrest the industry which they carry on in common. In most instances of a strike it will be found that there are faults on both sides—impatience and obstinacy on the one—obstinacy and want of explicitness on the other. Sometimes the fault is all on one side; and looking at the greater difficulties with which uneducated men have to contend, it does appear to us that the masters ought not to grumble if the balance of the fault lay with the men. Yet the masters ought to confess that, in fact, the balance of fault has more frequently lain with themselves. Until masters consent to adopt the means of securing a thorough understanding with their men on the nature and terms of any bargain between them, they ought to admit that the only appeal which the workman has against the employer is to strike—an appeal which has as often been successful as not.

A BRITISH STATESMAN'S IDEA OF THE CUBAN QUESTION.

THE precise nature of the claim which the United States have to Cuba appears not to be understood in this country, even by those statesmen whose business it is to understand such matters. We do not object that such statesmen refuse to admit the claim of the United States, nor do we object that they underrate the right of the American Republic; because both the claim and the right are undeniably proper subjects for debate; but what we mean is, that they do not seem to perceive the force of the arguments, or even the meaning with which those arguments are advanced. If we want a proof of this misconception we should find it in the despatch addressed by Lord John Russell to Mr. Crampton, the English representative at Washington, on the 16th of February last. The despatch is intended as a reply to a despatch by Mr. Everett to Mr. Crampton, on the 1st of the previous December — a despatch stating the reason why the United States Government did not feel inclined to accept the proposal of the French and English Government to join in a tripartite convention, guaranteeing possession of Cuba to Spain.*

We will now state the case in as brief terms as we can, somewhat as it is presented by Mr. Everett. If any one will take the map of America, he will see that towards his own right hand the St. Lawrence pours forth the waters of the northern interior into the North Sea; the Hudson, the Susquehannah, and other rivers of considerable size flow from the water of the Alleghanies, and corresponding heights, into the Atlantic; but behind that water-shed, on the other side, the Mississippi, with its two northern tributaries, the Missouri and the Ohio, each sufficient to be the river of a continent, opens into the Atlantic between the two continents of North and South America. Very far to the left lie the Rocky Mountains, and on that side the chief river is the Columbia. But to the mightiest of all these streams, flowing down the centre channel, which is the largest continental valley in the world, are those waters of the Mississippi. Scarcely yet peopled, the valley of the Mississippi is destined to be the produce ground of a countless race, yet unborn. The waters do not flow directly into the Atlantic between the two continents, but they first pour into the gulf of Mexico, a circular basin, with two land-heads: on your left is the peninsula of Yucatan; and on your right, the southern limb of Florida. Between these two, as a species of break-water, lies the island of Cuba—itself large enough to be a kingdom. The distance between Cuba and Florida is about a hundred miles; and the sea is not so deep but what there have been projects for damming the navigation between the two. Thus, Cuba constitutes a natural key to the whole water-shed of the interior of North America, even from the sources of the Missouri, the Ohio, and the Mississippi, for the whole length downwards. The Americans, therefore, say that in war time it would be necessary, in a military sense, for them to be sure of the friendly disposition of any person in the occupation of Cuba; that power to be actually at peace with the United States, at war with its enemies; for neutrality would as little suffice as the neutrality of a man holding your street-door and its key between you and a riotous mob outside seeking to enter your house.

There are also other reasons why amongst the American people there should be a desire to obtain possession of the island. The violent Abolitionist spirit already has a hold upon Cuba, and is very likely to turn it to account as an instrument of annoyance to the United States. Already the Spanish Government has gone tolerably far in a species of emancipation, the sincerity of which is thrown under the greatest doubt by the connivance of the same government at the slave-trade. A strong prejudice has been circulated amongst the Americans by the report that the English have also joined in conniving at the slave-trade; and that having stuffed it with rude, savage, "liberated Africans," they intend to emancipate them, and to establish there a species of model Abolitionist universal-suffrage Negro-revolt-provoking colony—hateful to white Americans, incitatory to black Americans—altogether detestable, malignant, and inconvenient. That there is any truth in this report our readers will not conceive; nor will they readily conceive the really plausible colour which such a report may be made to bear by putting together the facts, that Cuba is replenished with savage Africans, that emancipation is making progress notwithstanding the connivance at the slave-trade, and that the British Government, by failing to enforce anti-slavery treaties with the slippery Government of Spain, appears to back the connivance of the Spanish Government by an hypocritical sufferance.

Independently of these grounds, the Americans believe, and we also believe, that a large proportion of the most intelligent inhabitants of Cuba desire

* These papers appear in the recently published "Correspondence between the United States, Spain, and France, concerning alleged projects of conquests and annexation on the island of Cuba. Presented to the House of Commons by command of her Majesty in pursuance of their address of April 11, 1853." In some eighty pages of the parliamentary folio, the reader has presented nearly the whole case of Cuba and its possible annexation to the United States, going back to negotiations which are ascribed to Great Britain in 1822, for the acquisition of that island by a species of purchase.

to be relieved from the cruel and corrupt rule of the Spaniards, and to be annexed to the United States. The examples of benefit derived to other States by the annexation would naturally suggest such a desire: Florida, Louisiana, Texas, have all shown in the development of their commercial as well as their political prosperity—in the material comfort as well as the independence and freedom of their inhabitants, how much more beneficial is the rule of the republic than that of France or Mexico. To be a despised and enchained dependency, or to be a great state?—that is the question for Cuba; as it was for Texas. And while the Cubans may naturally desire to share in the wealth and greatness of the republic, the Americans not less naturally desire to vindicate the supremacy of their own republic by new conquests.

This desire on both sides gave rise to that movement which ultimately became embodied in the Order of the Lone Star, and which we believe will not cease even after Cuba shall have been annexed. The rumours occasioned great uneasiness to Spain, and representations were made to the Government at Washington. That Government discountenanced piratical attacks; but inasmuch as it did not *prevent* the annexation of Texas or New Mexico, doubts were entertained of its good faith. Spain appealed to France and Great Britain, and those Governments invited the United States to join in a declaration of all three, that they would not countenance the possession of Cuba by any other power save Spain. The United States Government declined, and pending the negotiation, before the refusal was ultimately given, the Spanish Government, through the Señor Isturitz, asked the British Government to join with that of France in a declaration that those two Governments "would never allow any other Power, either European or American, at any time to possess itself of the island of Cuba, either by cession, alienation, conquest, or insurrection of the same." Thus there was an idea in the Spanish Government of inviting the Governments of France and England to guarantee the possession of Cuba against conquest by any Power, against insurrection of the inhabitants under any Government, however bad, or even against cession—against the weakness of the Government itself! Such an idea exhibits at once the preposterous lengths to which these contracts between royal families and *bureaux* may be extended, and the total want of confidence which the Spanish Government has in itself.

The United States Government naturally refused to join in the declaration. In the first place, because the Americans, having the desire to possess Cuba if it should come to them legitimately, cannot be expected to disclaim it for ever. In the second place the Government of one period cannot pledge the Government of a succeeding period. In the third place, should war happen to break out, we have already stated the grounds on which the American Government would be obliged to hold some certainty with regard to the friendly occupation of Cuba. And in the fourth place, that very Marquis de Miraflores who was inviting the French and English Governments to guarantee Cuba even against cession, received with satisfaction certain overtures from the American representative at Madrid, Mr. Romulus M. Saunders, towards a possible sale of Cuba to the United States for a sum of money. Under these circumstances it would be impossible for the United States to make the negative pledge demanded of it; and Mr. Crampton, in a communication to the Earl of Clarendon on the 18th April, states, as the result of an interview with Mr. Marcy, the new Secretary of State under President Pierce, that the question is now definitively closed.

But in expounding the reasons why the United States could not join in the tripartite disclaimer, Mr. Everett, to repeat the words of Lord John Russell, *did* show "that the United States have an interest in Cuba to which France and Great Britain cannot pretend." In reply, Lord John Russell, with an air of simple astonishment, represents that France and England, "the only Powers who could be rivals with the United States for the possession of Cuba," were willing to disclaim it for themselves; but all the reasons for a superior interest which we have explained, as possessing so much force with the United States, are destitute of force as applied either to France or England. There has been no progressive annexation; there is no desire in Cuba to be annexed to England, still less to France; and above all, Cuba does not stand in the midst of the Thames, or of the Seine, or of the St. Lawrence.

Lord John Russell appears to think that he meets this part of the subject by a measurement of distances.

"The distance of Cuba from the nearest part of the territory of the United States, viz., from the southernmost part of Florida, is 110 miles.

"An island at an equal distance from the mouth of the Thames would be placed about ten miles north of Antwerp, in Belgium; while an island at the same distance from Jamaica would be placed at Manzanilla, a town in Cuba.

"Thus there are no grounds for saying that the possession of Cuba by Great Britain or France would be menacing to the United States, but that its possession by the United States would not be so to Great Britain."

This is amusing. We can imagine a parallel case in England: A man, occupying a small house at the entrance of your garden gate, might claim to an equal possession of the key of that gate, because it was only forty or fifty yards from the window of his house or the cupboard of a neighbour's on the other side, to the lock of that gate; whereas, from the lock to your own street door it would be sixty feet. But there is another argument employed by the United States Secretary of State "which appears to her Majesty's Government not only unfounded but disquieting:"

"Lord Malmesbury and M. de Turgot put forward, as a reason for entering into the proposed compact, 'the attacks which have lately been made on the Island of Cuba by lawless bands of adventurers from the United States, and with the avowed design of taking possession of that island.' To this reason, Mr. Everett replies in these terms: 'The President is convinced that the conclusion of such a treaty, instead of putting a stop to these lawless proceedings, would give a new and powerful impulse to them.'

"The Government of Great Britain acknowledges with respect the conduct of the President in disavowing and discouraging the lawless attempts here referred to. The character of those attempts, indeed, was such as to excite the reprobation of every civilized State. The spectacle of bands of men collected together in reckless disregard of treaties, for the purpose of making from the ports of the United States a piratical attack on the territory of a Power in amity with their own State; and when there, endeavouring by armed invasion to excite the obedient to revolt and the tranquil to disturbance, was a sight shocking, no doubt, to the just and honest principles of the President. But the statement made by the President, that a Convention duly signed and legally ratified, engaging to respect the present state of possession in all future time, would but excite these bands of pirates to more violent breaches of all the laws of honesty and good neighbourhood, is a melancholy avowal for the chief of a great State. Without disputing its truth, her Majesty's Government may express a hope that this state of things will not endure."

And then Lord John Russell goes on to preach about "the law of nations" and Christianity! He ought to know, however, that the Government of the United States may lead, but cannot compel, its "subjects;" that it is not greater than the republic, but the servant of it; and that the will of the great mass of that people is the will of the republic. President Pierce was chosen, not by some exclusive body to coerce his fellow-countrymen, but because he was supposed to share the feelings and convictions which they already owned; that he was willing to lead them, in short, according to their own convictions; and these convictions are shown, of course, in the spontaneous, not less than in the formal, efforts of the people. If annexation be shocking to English ideas, the Americans may point to the result in the happy citizens of great and flourishing states, which would have been miserable as Cuba or Mexico to this day, if they had remained unannexed.

THE NORTON CASE AND THE LAW OF DIVORCE.

We allude to the case of Thrupp *versus* Norton on public grounds. Much might be made of it, as one of those instances which come to the surface, and which more than justify statements that have been advanced in this journal as to the condition of society in the relation of man and woman; and we believe that if this case were investigated more deeply, it would show something further than is proved by the bare facts;—it would show the sort of opinion which may prevail amongst people of the upper classes—the kind of toleration which may be shown in "the best society." But let us take it, for the moment, on the ground where Mrs. Norton puts it.

The case interests the public because it assumes a commercial form. "Because I am Mr. Norton's wife," says the lady, "he can cheat me; and because I am Mr. Norton's wife, I can cheat others." This appears to be literally the case; and it is grounded on the circumstance that by the law of England a woman is supposed to have no substantial existence. Thus, *de facto*, the Hon. Mrs. Norton has been maintaining a separate household from her husband, but in law she is presumed still to belong to him, her property to be his property, and she incapable of carrying on her affairs independently.

While Mrs. Norton was still young, her husband brought an action, on the ground of "criminal conversation," for damages, against Lord Melbourne, and it is well remembered, that notwithstanding the nefarious character of the evidence brought into court,—evidence of a kind that any true man would have been thought incapable of producing,—the verdict was against the plaintiff. Subsequently to that action—at the instance, we believe, of her husband—Mrs. Norton was for a time reconciled to him. Mr. Norton still holds the post given to him by Lord Melbourne, and when he and his wife separated, with some form, he entered into an agreement to allow her 500*l.* a year. Her mother left her a bequest, for the purpose, Mrs. Norton says, of augmenting the small income allowed her by her husband. Mr. Norton is variously stated to make an income of 2400*l.* or 3000*l.* a year. Mrs. Norton had her allowance from her husband, her mother's bequest, which would perhaps be another 500*l.* a year, and what she could earn by her pen,—a varying source. Mr. Norton withholds her allowance on the plea, it is understood, that she no longer required it since her mother's bequest, and yet it does not appear that her income nearly equalled his.

Other pleas, however, are advanced to account for the retractation. One is, that Mrs. Norton had received an allowance under a bequest from Lord Melbourne, which she denies. And "inquiries" have been made of her publishers about her copyrights. Such are the facts which appear before the public. With the motives we can have nothing to do, but the circumstance that both sides have made a public appeal, authorizes us to deal with the facts.

In the first place, then, we find the wife deprived of civil rights, and enjoying, so to speak, a corresponding opportunity of swindling people, if she chooses. She may keep up the appearance of an independent establishment, but her husband may step in, and may meddle with her own earnings. No wonder that many women submit to intolerable slavery at home, when even the flying from home does not release them from slavery.

Tradesmen, however, have some interest in this. Here is a marriage law which maintains rules in total defiance of commercial laws. No man can be safe who trusts a lady, unless he knows how she stands in her domestic relations. She may cheat him, as Mrs. Norton says; her husband may cheat her; and there appears to be no redress.

But there is yet a further moral. It perplexes us to know what can be the state of opinion and convictions, amongst innumerable persons who sustain injuries very much resembling those which came into court last week, who suffer from practical evils, and yet who continue to suffer, without either boldly raising their voices to declare the evil, or without making any attempt at concerted action, to procure redress. We can understand, indeed, the behaviour of persons who admit the evils, but think the endurance a lesser ill than the consequences of altering existing laws. There are many who, on grounds not without their force, believe the indissoluble nature of our marriage law to be, in itself, so good, so productive of domestic happiness and morality, in the majority of instances, that their own sufferings are not too great a sacrifice for the general good. Although we have never seen reasons advanced in support of such a conviction, which appeared to us to be complete, yet, as the conviction is entertained with a show of reason, as it is honestly obeyed, and, most especially, as it is obeyed at a sacrifice, we cannot help respecting such persons.

But there are still greater numbers, we believe, who derive from the practical evils of the present law a conviction, that, in part, at least, it is essentially erroneous. These people, occasionally, bring their own "wrongs" before the public, make much outcry, but do not steadily apply themselves to the work of procuring an amendment. Mrs. Norton has placed herself in a

position so distinguished, as a writer on social subjects, that she has given others a right to challenge her, and to expect from her some explanation of the apparent discrepancy between these public appeals, and the passive acquiescence in the evil. In such a case no generous mind will be content to say, I suffer the evil, and I am content to bear it, without taking the trouble to mitigate or abolish it. Because the evil does not fall upon one alone; others, who are less endowed with power, also have to sustain it. Others, less endowed with power, not only suffer from the evil, but would be prepared to co-operate in practical steps to mitigate, or counteract it. But, when they see the most distinguished examples of their case yielding to the enemy, they are perplexed and disheartened.

We believe that the true cause of the passive acquiescence is twofold. In the first place, whatever social evils we may incur from existing regulations, there is one thing of which we are most of us much more afraid,—that is, of the punishment under the most trivial of those laws. We are more afraid of "committing" ourselves to familiarity with those who are in a class "beneath" us, of having our sufferings confounded with the sufferings of "vulgar" persons, than we are of the common infliction; forgetting that each little circle is but an exception, and that if we take the estimate of cliques, we shall have to confess that those whom we call vulgar people are the more numerous classes—the mass;—in short, mankind. In other words, this exclusive distinction is translatable into the absurd assertion that *mankind* is "vulgar."

In the second place, bold as we may be, we so far fall in with the vulgar prejudices, that we still reverence the authority which we deny, and will rather suffer in servile submission than "compromise ourselves" by defying that authority whose results we hate and despise. And in the third place, in these days we will rather suffer anything than take up any effort hopefully or zealously.

HOW TO CHEAPEN BLOOD.

THE Directors of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company act upon a principle exactly opposite to that of the contractors of the works of the Crystal Palace; and it will be a question of interest to note in the results which is the better economy. The railway in question produced one of the least mysterious accidents that ever happened on a railway. A train went off the line, and on inspection, professional witnesses deposed that the line was one from which trains would naturally run off. Some of the passengers were inconvenienced enough to be hurt, or to die, and the company has been called upon to pay their relatives for the loss. Amongst the passengers was a merchant—a human being of high mercantile value—and there were other persons injured of less price. The total of sums awarded by the jury was 7300*l.* for six human beings, more or less costly, and more or less hurt.

In the Crystal Palace has also happened an accident—an accident more fatal and more inscrutable. We are assured, on competent authority, that the principle upon which the scaffolding or "trusses" was framed is a perfectly sound one. It is also said that the materials were sound, that the system was sound, and yet in spite of all this soundness, the trusses gave way, and twelve men were killed. It is implied, however, that their deaths were not owing to anything in the materials or the structure, but perhaps to some neglect of fastening. But to this we might reply by asking whether some competent officer did ascertain the fastening of every portion of such a structure before any risk was run by permitting the men to go upon it, and whether the completion of each portion was established before regarding it as available for its purpose? If that had been the case, there would have been no question whether or not the "trusses" were properly fastened, because the competent officer would be able to say that he knew them to have been so. Thus, if the principle and the materials were sound, it does appear to be still possible that the management was not quite sound. But if the fault was in the management, why discontinue the use of these sound trusses? why resort to old-fashioned fastenings if they were really not so safe? It appears to us, speaking unprofessedly, and only on the facts that have come before the public, that the use of such trusses in lieu of scaffolding is not recommended by any saving, or any superior safety, but that it is an engineering feat pleasant to the pride of structurers, and by no means luxurious to the limbs of the men who have to trust it.

As soon as the disaster occurred, and as soon as the sufferers are known, a provision is made to compensate their dependents, and a small pittance is granted to the widows for the time, in weekly instalments. Labourers are not amongst the expensive forms of man, and it is not necessary to make the allowance very large: 3000*l.* for the widow and three children of a labourer, on the death of the labourer, might set up his family in life. The compensation, however, is paid on the nail, and discount is allowable for prompt payment. Besides, the character of the building for safety has to be retrieved. Hence the return from sound trusses to scaffolding appears to be dictated by a far-seeing policy, since a recurrence of accidents in the place might have the most disastrous effects upon the public mind. It is averred that there were no forebodings of this disaster, and that the reports of panic are imaginary; but however that might have been before the accident, there is no doubt that there are plenty of forebodings after the fact. Men walk about under the great iron framework, with a strong sense of the attraction of gravitation on that space of ground, and a feeling about their heads and shoulders that there is something above them. It is very desirable, therefore, to avoid any new illustration of the attraction of gravitation in that building as opposed to the attraction of cohesion in the parts of the human frame. For these are philosophical experiments of which the public have an ignorant fear, and although the sacrifice of life has only been made amongst inexpensive human beings, persons who are expensive are in the habit of having a proportionate value for themselves. It is to be remembered that labourers who find bread not easy to get are paid for entering the building, whereas visitors pay to enter. On these grounds, the policy of making surety doubly sure, by compensating the sufferers, is a wise policy, and we truly believe that a prompt payment will also prove to be the very cheapest mode of rendering the price of blood.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company are trying the opposite principle; after the verdict calling upon them to pay 7300*l.* for six human beings, they have issued the following notice to be signed by passengers:

"This ticket is issued by the company, and accepted by the holder, upon the express understanding and agreement that the company are not to be in any way held responsible to the holder, or his representatives, for the consequences of *any accident, however caused,* which may happen to the holder while travelling in any of the company's vehicles, or being at any of the company's stations. It must be exhibited to the company's officers whenever required; and any person using it, other than the person named herein, will be liable to the same penalties as a passenger who does not pay his fare."

It appears to us that, by this notice, the passenger who signs it binds himself to undergo what may happen in person or luggage, and to be struck, stunned, bruised, cut, broken, maimed, crushed, smashed, divided, annihilated, or otherwise disposed of, at the discretion of the directors, or their subordinates on the railway, without calling these railway subordinates or directors to any account whatever; without permitting the widows or children who survive to exact any account. Whatever passengers may say to this release, it appears to us that those widows and children ought to have a voice in the matter. The railway must be made for worthless parents and children, who are onerous to their family. Who would think of trusting his furniture to a railway, which required him to sign a declaration that his books may be soaked in wet, his carpets singed, his glass broken, without any claim against the company whatever the consequences. No man would trust a decanter by such a railway. But the directors are, perhaps, right, when they act upon the presumption that, in this commercial country, men think more of their decanters than of themselves. The directors, at all events, have a merit of establishing a distinct rule to begin with: any injury, but no compensation, is a rule. The Crystal Palace people pay down for a corpse on the nail; the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company declare, before any bargain, that they make no allowance for corpses. Both experiments have their interest; but we are inclined to think that the Crystal plan will prove to be cheaper in the end.

HOW TO DRESS A SOLDIER.

IN discussing how the soldier should be dressed, we must bear well in mind the spirit of the military institution, and the popular feeling regarding it. The British army has at present a complete organization, however faulty its details. The costume, uniform, peculiar, and distinct from the apparel of the civilian, and the loud display in marches and music, so averse to the dull life of civil citizens, have their use in keeping the mind on the ends of the organization and exercise. No brilliant dress is trivial if it make the looker-on think heartily of the splendid deeds of brave soldiers. No procession is out of place, and no music out of time, if they remind the people of the victories won for the nation. The effect on the soldier himself is equally essential. You cannot expect animal spirits without animated sources of inspiration. The men who face physical pain and death must have sensuous stimuli; colours and forms which glad the eye, sounds and stirs full of life and grace. Of old, "bravery" of attire accompanied bravery of action. A coward may wear brave attire, but he usurps it; for loud dress is the compliment which cowardice pays to courage. Men of thought can do without surface splendour, or the *eclat* of lightning deeds; but men of action must demonstrate their nature in some way—Rienzi in his snow-white robes; Napoleon in his Notre Dame solemnities; or Murat with his animal heroism and grand dress. The *penchant* may be vulgar; but physical fighting is a vulgarity of the same class. While you require sensual courage you must minister to the senses, and elevate them by association with sentiment; else you may have an army of bull-dogs—not an army of spirited men.

But the present dress of the British soldier is defective and improper in many particulars. The tail-coat exposes a bad figure, and does not display a good one; while a frock-coat, concealing the stature, would give an uniform appearance, and impart comfort and dignity to the lower part of the body. Any other hat than the present would have the merit of being more handsome; but a stiff felt helmet, bound with steel, would be of use and beauty. A simple collar of lithe materials would be better than the choking stock. Loose light boots, meeting at the knee a loose half-trouser, and thus covering the deformities of some British legs, would be an improvement on the short boot, letting in the water on crossing a ford, and the long trousers draggled with mire, and rain-pervious and ugly in their close misfit. The present coat cannot be opened on parade or regular march; common sense suggests breast-flaps that would look well when opened to let in the summer air, and be doubly comforting in the change when buttoned up to protect the chest. The white belts are praised as gay and enforcing cleanliness on the soldier; but dragoons without them are handsomely dressed, and the work of getting them up is not "cleaning"—it is the laying on of white dirt, for "dirt," quoth Lord Palmerston, "is matter in its wrong place." In aiming at a pleasant effect in the dress, we must simply make the most of the materials: a man, some cloth, and some bits of metal. The man must be made the most of, for naturally a man's figure is a pleasant sight. The cloth must be of no mean or mixed colour: green is raw; brown mongrel; grey, hybrid; and orange gaudy. But blue is severe and pompous; while scarlet has beauty as well as power. In the one colour of the coat the chief ornament should lie. If any other ornaments appear they should turn up naturally. The cuffs and breast-collar turned back for convenience should have lining of a harmonious hue, for when anything handsome has also use, its beauty has power. In the single soldier, the golden trousers-stripe may please, but we are roused by the brightness of the bayonet. And in a long array of soldiers, the nodding plumes are nothing, but the deadly sabres, lighted by the sunshine, are respectable, because of real use. Distinctions in dress are also of use. The officer should be known from the private, that his honourable standing may be plain to the eye, that his leading presence may be distinct in battle. (The danger of the officers being picked off in preference, is no just reason for doing away with the distinction. The danger gives the officer the

palm of a higher courage and the claim to a higher glory.) Different regiments might also have distinctions, and the whole army should be clearly distinct in appearance from the civilians of their day. The moustache and beard would serve this end as well as preserve the throat and lungs of the soldier. It is also well that he should be widely different from the common enemy—say "the Russians"—lest he should be mistaken and worsted, a result natural to anything like a Russian. The Duke was strong on this point; *his* enemy being "the French." "If they by chance went right he'd purposely go wrong." He wrote in 1811:—

"I hear that measures are in contemplation to alter the clothing, caps, &c., of the army. There is no subject of which I understand so little; and, abstractedly speaking, I think it indifferent how a soldier is clothed, provided it is in a uniform manner, and that he is forced to keep himself clean and smart, as a soldier ought to be. But there is one thing which I deprecate, and that is, any imitation of the French in any manner. It is impossible to form an idea of the inconveniences and injury which result from having anything like them, either on horseback or on foot; —— and his piquet were taken in June because the 3rd Hussars had the same caps as the French *chasseurs à cheval* and some of their hussars; and I was near being taken on the 25th September from the same cause. At a distance or in action colours are nothing; the profile and shape of the man's cap, and his general appearance, are what guide us; and why should we make our people look like the French? A *cocked-tailed* horse is a good mark for a dragoon, if you can get a side view of him; but there is no such mark as the English helmet, and as far as I can judge it is the best cover a dragoon can have for his head. I mention this because in all probability you may have something to say to these alterations, and I only beg that *we* may be as different as possible from the French in everything. The narrow top caps of our infantry, as opposed to their broad top caps, are of great advantage to those who are to look at long lines of posts opposed to each other."

The suggestions have the one view well expressed, but then it is the mere look out of a soldier guarding one point.

The last point is the suitability of the dress for the character of the service. Our troops must pursue as well as fight, so their dress should be easy. They must carry with them conveniences for impromptu lodgment and personal shelter, and therefore should carry knapsacks — the lighter, of course, the better. Circumstances dictate other changes. Late improvements in offensive weapons make the soldier less liable to sword thrusts or sabre cuts than before, and more likely to be picked down by that human speck nine hundred yards off, or swept away in mass by grapeshot or ball. Defensive breast-plates and very heavy helmets are therefore gravely useless—

> Like Saul's plate armour on the shepherd boy,
> Encumbering but not arming him.

Metal shoulder scales — the first form of the useless worsted epaulette—might be retained as easily borne and really defensive in close conflict; while they eke out and point the manly squareness of the shoulder. But all other heavy pieces of metal are bad. In the wars of to-day the soldiers are not to win by *vis inertiæ*, as the British partly won at Waterloo; modern science would soon make short work of a standing army, or kneeling squares. Our troops must make good running as well as fighting; they must be quick to circumvent the enemy, or quick to meet him full in the face before he can load his batteries a second time. In short, our system should make the soldier easily moved—his own spirit will suggest the direction. The best dress for use is easily found; the object of the man should alone suggest the beauty.

THE EARL OF STIRLING AND THE RUSSELL CONVENTION.

THE Convention concluded between Lord John Russell and Mr. Ingersoll, in February last, on the part of the British and American Governments, seems to have been destined to provide for the "portentous" event that has happened at Washington. The Convention arranges the appointment of a joint commission to decide claims preferred by corporations, companies, and private individuals of either State upon the Government of the other State. It is proposed that her Britannic Majesty and the President of the United States shall each appoint a Commissioner. The two Commissioners to meet in London with the least possible delay. They are at once to appoint an umpire, or if they cannot agree upon an umpire they are to nominate two; and on each question of disagreement between the Commissioners the case is to be referred to one of those umpires, who shall be selected by lot for that particular judgment. Every claim must be presented to the Commissioners within six months from the day of their first meeting, or any special case requiring delay within three months longer. The Commissioners must examine and decide all claims within one year from the day of their first meeting, the two Governments binding themselves to accept the decision of the Commissioners or of the umpire as final. Any payments decreed under the Commission to be paid within one twelvemonth of the decision without any deduction save a slight per centage towards the expenses.

It is a well-considered plan, and promises to work well. A contemporary has vaunted it as a proof of the good feeling between America and England, and far be it from us to deny to Lord John Russell and his colleagues the credit that they deserve for their share in a practical arrangement, which, by tending to prevent many mischievous understandings between two important States, will promote a real understanding. They have done something towards the American alliance; and it is not our part to withhold from them the due acknowledgment of their contribution. But to our agitated minds at the present moment the convention has a solemn destination. If the property of an English country gentleman was recently threatened, by the sudden apparition of a "Sir Richard Hugh Smyth," the possessions of her Britannic Majesty are in like manner threatened by a portentous individual calling himself the Earl of Stirling and Dovan, Viscount Stirling, and Viscount of Canada, in right of his ancestor Alexander Earl of Stirling, &c., hereditary Lieutenant-General and Lord Proprietor of Nova Scotia and Canada. The present noble earl claims territory extending to fifty leagues on each side of the St. Lawrence and the Lakes, with all the fisheries which were recently the scene of disputes between English and American fishermen. This venerable nobleman —for he is upwards of seventy years of age—is not only accompanied by his son, but also by the traditions of his family; he holds "the original charter of Nova Scotia," also "the original charter of Canada," with other charters giving vast political and administrative powers, including the power of making "baronets." A company is forming itself for the purpose of supporting the noble earl in his claim, and when they have made it good for him, he, reciprocating the favour, will make over the fisheries to them. Here we have, therefore, a corporation, an individual, and a company; so that the Earl can come before the new Commission in all capacities, and we can foresee something of the turn which the examination would take before the Commissioners. The parallel, we believe, with the late Smyth case would be very close.

The Earl would prove that he had been in correspondence, under his title, with Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, First Lord of the Treasury Grey, Mr. Robert J. Walker, late Secretary to the Admiralty of the United States, English Lords of the Committee of Council, and other officers of State, whose authenticity is undoubted. He will probably bring forward "the original charter of Canada," "the original charter of Nova Scotia," and other original documents; one of which irrefutably makes over to the ancestor of the present noble Earl, "*marressius lacubus aquir piscationibus tam in aqua salsa quam recenti tam regalium piscium quam aliorum.*" It seems impossible to contest a claim sustained by such Latinity! He will bring forward, also, we dare say, rolls showing that he has voted in the election of representative peers; likewise maps setting forth the territories which are his, or ought to be his.

And then the Commissioners will examine. They will ask him whether the charter of 1628, offering to him Canada, and some small appurtenances—a sort of territorial watch and seals—then belonged to his Britannic Majesty to give? Should the Earl loyally answer in the affirmative, perhaps a reference to history will show that at that period the country in question belonged to France. Too late, therefore, in one sense, and much too early for Wolfe. The Commissioners will then perhaps inquire whether the map of Canada, by "the map-designer to the King," Louis the Fourteenth, endorsed with holograph observations by the most eminent Frenchmen of that day, including the King and Archbishop Fenelon, is the same map which was exhibited in Edinburgh on a distinguished occasion, in respect of which it was proved that "the map-designer to the King" had not received his appointment until ten years after the date of the map, and that the persons whose names were endorsed, including Fenelon, had most of them died before the designer was appointed? So true it is that persons advancing claims to ancient estates and titles should be exquisite archæologists and chronologists!

The Commissioners will also ask the noble and alleged Earl, whether, before he voted as a Scotch peer, he had proved his style, title, and estates? Whether, indeed, any such proof is absolutely necessary before voting? Because we have an impression that other gentlemen have voted in that assemblage, and have afterwards been disproved. The Commissioners will, perhaps, admit that Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, Earl Grey, and other distinguished Englishmen, were in themselves authentic; but they will ask, whether that authenticity extended to everybody with whom they might happen to correspond? We have heard of a case in which a merchant wrote on the back of a bill of exchange—"I will be d——d if I accept this bill, John Smith," was judged to have accepted it by his signature; but we never heard that the Lord Chancellor, by the single act of writing to a suitor in Chancery—possibly denying his claim—thereby certified the title of the suitor. If it were so, the more absurd a claim was the more sure the man would be of ratification; and a very impudent application to Chancery, extorting an indignant reply, would be the surest and quickest process for a suitor.

The Commissioners also will probably ask the alleged Earl whether he is a Mr. Alexander, who took his trial in Edinburgh, in 1839, on a charge of forging documents to support his claim, the map included? Whether the jury did not pronounce the documents to be forged? And, whether the verdict of "not proven," as bearing on the charge of personal complicity on his own part, is in itself a proof that he was the Earl of Stirling.

They might also ask him some other interesting questions. Whether, for example, he intended to claim, as a British subject, those parts of his territory which lies within the jurisdiction of the United States; and, through his "company," as so many American citizens, that part of his territories which lies within the British dominions? This would be a most magnificent example of an individual under the Commission making a cat's paw of two great States—setting the United States to seize the fisheries and colonies of Great Britain for him, and Great Britain to reconquer a large portion of the independent republic? A further question might be put—whether in the event of his success, he intended to make every shareholder in the company a baronet; and thus for the first time, to introduce, by the high prerogative of Stirling, that chivalrous title into the model republic?

WOMEN.

IT is easy to say that the man who raises his hand to a woman save in kindness should be whipped at the carts' tail, or brutally mauled by Barclay's draymen. A natural instinct suggests this wild justice. But surely our best possible instructors are at fault when brutality against brutality is their only device. The cell and the treadwheel have been tried for years; in single cases they have instilled a useful fear, and in single cases they have hardened a bad heart; but their general effect on the population in making men kindlier towards women, has been of no account. We are now advised to try a harsher remedy; to meet greater brutality in offence with greater brutality in the punishment. If we find a greater brutality in the effect the logic of this barbarous justice will be thoroughly carried out. That crimes committed through a cold and callous thirst for giving pain should lead to prompt physical retribution we freely admit, but there are traits in many of the late cases which make us hesitate to believe that the whip is our best reformer, or our only resource. The reluctance of injured wives to prosecute, whether it come from the forgiving heart of woman, or from the

necessary submission of a dependent, is a fact should give us pause. Here is a close relation of life, the closest we can conceive, bound up with worldly progress, the love of common children, and the comfort of a common hearth. For the most ordinary happiness of that hearth something like good feeling is required between the two. A quarrel arises; in a drunken mood, or stung by the many bitter things which needy people have to bear, the man beats his wife. We straightway put a vengeful weapon into her hands, and she locks up her husband for six months, rolls his tortured feet on a treadwheel, or whips him at the carts' tail through the public streets, herself and children starving meanwhile. It is not in the nature of things that that man can return to his home a kindlier husband; a rankling memory must remain. Vagabondage and vice are the resources of the woman; some coarse companion replaces her in her home; the children become thieves and grow up to perpetuate the festering sore—the great sin of great cities.

Where have the "lower classes" learned this vice? Rich people do not beat their wives, and gentlemen do not maim their sweethearts. Yet daily in our streets, and in the life of our 'better classes,' is an example which homely instincts quickly imitate. A gentleman meets a poor girl. He does not treat her with open roughness; he knows a better game. He sees her weak in comforts, poor in worldly goods, bare indeed even of the cheapest pleasures. He strikes at her with the strong temptations of comfort, clothes, pleasures; and robs her of her honour. She becomes the victim of a brutality as gross as that of the wretch now on a treadmill for trampling on an *enceinte* wife. She loses her chance of decent living; finds the burden of a living shame thrown on her for support; and is an outcast from the homes of all good people. If the silly wretch do not drown herself, she may accuse the gentleman, and when the case is fully proved, he is fined half-a-crown a-week. From the class of women thus treated the working men must select their wives; and yet we wonder that they treat them badly! We allow well-dressed men to set the pattern, and we cry out for the whip when men in fustian better the example. If the young lady who flung herself into the water at Southampton the other day had been insulted or outraged by a working man; if her arm had been bruised or her face cut, the revenge of the law had been terrible. But she was only betrayed and deserted by a gentleman; her life and fame were only blasted, and the gentleman sailed away to India with flying colours and a gallant reputation. Working men live among people who talk freely of such coarse facts; they note the facts, and take up the manly tone. They have not the finesse to seduce or the art to betray; but they gratify their passion with bludgeon blows or win consent to their lust by rude force. We are too delicate to talk on these incidents, and too refined to apply to the evil direct legislation. We gracefully veil the sins of the seducers; we do not talk of them in the drawing-room, nor compile statistics of them in the office; but their existence is the current cant in any meeting of young men. Working men imitate our actions and follow out our practices in their own way.

It would be wrong to say that a full remedy for brutality towards women would be a just punishment of all kinds of outrages upon them committed by all kinds of men. We know well that the causes of this constant crime lie deeper. The many social customs which cramp woman's power of earning bread, and the many laws and rules which fetter all kinds of industry, are among the obvious causes which place her at the mercy of man; while a materialized tone of society, making good dinners and strong stimulants the chief good, and innocent amusement an oddity, establish the dominance of man, and abridge woman's own domains—the pleasure-ground, the ball-room, and the home. But strict equity in meting measure for measure to all who do wrong, would at least mark the public sense of justice, and bring a better social tone through the spirit rather than through the letter of a new legislation.

THE WILKINSON CASE.

MR. BRIGHT is to be congratulated that, after all, the result of his rash communication to the House of Commons of a private conversation with Mr. W. A. Wilkinson, in regard to the projected sale of an Indian cadetship, has only cost that gentleman, and his brother, Mr. Norman Wilkinson, some few hundred pounds for law charges incurred in resisting the virtuously indignant persecution of the East India Directors. The public verdict upon this whole affair is very simple: that Mr. Bright was indiscreet; that the Messrs. Wilkinson, compromised unexpectedly, have exhibited the most careful honour; and that the Directors have gained nothing by insisting upon national attention to the charge, but, on the contrary, have only deepened the impression, which this particular case merely illustrates—that Indian patronage *is* sold as a commodity in the city market at the purchase of good, and wealthy, and safe families. But the moral of the case, as it was closed, is a special one, applying to the laws of "honour." Mr. W. A. Wilkinson was bound, as a gentleman,—and his demeanour in court indicates the perfect gentleman—not to give up the name of the implicated person. Mr. Norman Wilkinson preserves at once his character for veracity, and his reliability as the receiver of a confidential communication. But clear as was the course for these gentlemen to take, and unimpeachable as is the decision of the Lord Mayor upon so much of the facts as came before him, the course which should have been taken by the third party—the implicated individual—he is spoken of as "a gentleman"—is equally plain. He ought to have declared himself, before either of the Messrs. Wilkinson was placed in the witness-box, bringing down on him, if necessary, the whole edifice of East Indian corruption. We suggest to the Directors, as they *will* be in earnest, to make some such appeal to him now that they have failed in eliciting anything from the Messrs. Wilkinson on the Mansion House rack. There is another point for the consideration of this same gentleman—ought he or ought Mr. Bright to pay the Messrs. Wilkinsons' law costs?

THE SESSION.

THERE is a remarkable consentaneousness in the comments of the journals upon the Session of Parliament which closed last week. By one and all, whatever the reserved references to the Ministers, the House of Commons as a body is congratulated upon the extent of the work it has accomplished, upon the manner of the performance, and generally upon its capacity to deal with and direct the complicated affairs of this enormous Empire. Reading these compliments, and studying these eulogiums, it requires a mental exertion to remember, that by universal consent the next Session is to open with debates upon the best method of revolutionising the House of Commons—upon the best method of obtaining Parliamentary Reform!

If it be a fact that the House of Commons is equal to its functions, and adequately reflects and expounds the wishes and the principles of the nation, why Parliamentary Reform? The indifferentism of the age is painfully illustrated in those comments of immoral British journalism, which is craftily careless of being more alert than its public. But the fact is to be faced: that it is agreed that we have seen the last Session of the unreformed Reformed House of Commons; and it is a fitting period to ascertain where and what are those defects in constitution and practice which demand the remedy of a change equivalent to a revolution. Or is the defect simply in the constitution, and not in the practice? Are we going to have a revolution for the gratification of our theoretical anxieties, in despite of the perfect practical success of a theoretically bad system? On this point, perhaps, the Queen herself is unintentionally an authority. Her Majesty closed this Session with a speech from the throne unparalleled for the variety and extent of its congratulation of Parliament and country upon the actual work done: her Majesty will open next Session with a speech from the throne, in which the prominent paragraph will suggest the expediency of a consideration of certain measures framed for the purpose of remodelling this strangely admirable House of Commons. Can Lord John Russell expect that the inconsistency will escape his Queen? The whole nation must detect it; and, as it is a practical nation, it may be inclined to regard Lord John as a visionary politician, risking the peace for the sake of his theories.

But there is no doubt this resource for a Ministry pledged to a measure of Parliamentary Reform—they may repudiate their speech from the throne, and laugh at the laudations of their journals; and contend that the Session has been an infamous failure, and the Parliament an audacious sham. Not to take some such course leaves them in a humiliating difficulty, and strengthens incalculably the hands of those cynical statesmen who are disposed to believe that good government means as little government as possible, and that Parliaments are good or bad, not in reference to their constitution and origin, but in reference to the excellence or vice of the age in which the Parliament is placed; who, consequently, contrasting the concluding declarations of this with the initiatory demands of next Session, will ridicule with effect Lord John Russell's scheme on which Lord Aberdeen is now popularly supposed to be brooding. This school of politicians had no chance in 1792 and 1830—the two eras of parliamentary reform agitations: then they were the theorists, and their assailants were the practical men. They argued that an English House of Commons was simply an assembly of English gentlemen who, when they got together, whatever their separate origins, would, of necessity, do just what any other average meeting of English gentlemen would approve; that is, that inevitably the House of Commons would, in the end, represent with admirable accuracy contemporaneous educated public opinion: and some of them, even so late as 1830, pushed their philosophy so far as to suggest that a good, a practical, and a patriotic House of Commons could be obtained out of an assembly exclusively nominated by the Crown. But when the people said, irrespective of the theory, "We have no faith in the House of Commons as at present constituted," it obviously became indispensable to appease the people by a change which should simulate a reform,—as in 1830. Now, however, what is to resist the reasoning of that school which disbelieves in the virtue that is to arise from closer contact between mob and party? The people are not demanding a Reform: the popular journals see no faults in the career of the Session: Lord John Russell, therefore, committed by his Queen's speech and his newspaper pæans, must, in February, 1854, when he rises, puts his elbows in his hands, and mentions Hampden and Sidney, meet the question—"Why should there be a reform of Parliament? Admitted that it is not a Parliament theoretically perfect in its constitution: that, statistically, it does not represent the property, the intelligence, and the population of the country, but only sections of the property, species of the intelligence, and classes of the population; but what then—does it not work well? At least you told us so, only last session." In anticipation of so natural a controversy, admirers of Lord John Russell should prepare materials to show that his last Queen's speech was a complete mistake; that, as a summary of the session, it was a wrong one.

But a similar contrast,—between ministerial satisfaction with the past and ministerial intentions for the future,—is, in the Session itself. Two sets of facts stand out prominent in the Session: it has been a Session of Bribery Committees, and the Budget. The Bribery Committees proved that anyone can buy his way into the House of Commons: and the Budget was based on the Succession Duty Extension Bill, a bill which annihilated class legislation, the noblest, boldest, and most truly national piece of recent legislation. Thus, villanous as is the source, pure, so far, is the flow of the House of Commons. Again: it was a session which commenced under the influence of, in a House selected under the influence of, a corrupt Tory Ministry; and at the end of the session we see firmly seated (on a broad bottom) in power, a Ministry whose distinction it is—the distinction of a coalition—that it is not a party and not a class Government; but that it is a British Government pledged, in all it undertakes, to take a *national* view. Can we reconcile these contradictions; and, if we can, would not the reconcilement be fatal to the *rara avis* which is to result from our Premier's incubation? In fact, is not the existence of a coalition Government in itself an argument against the cry of Parliamentary

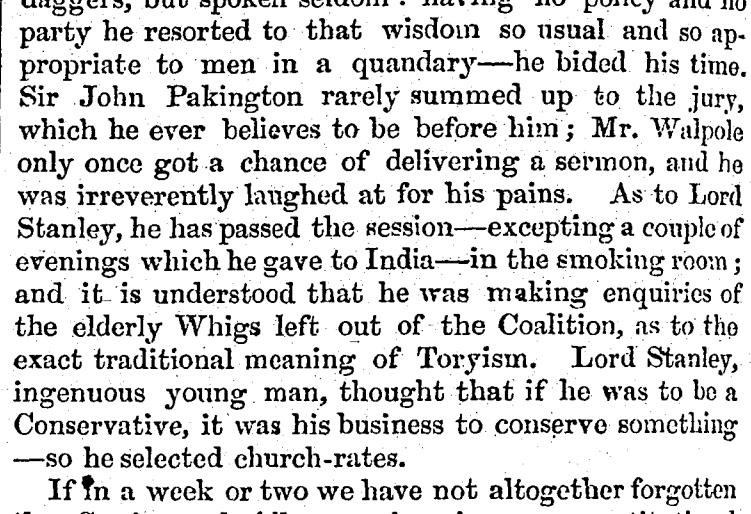
reform? In 1830, the reform of Parliament was said to be required to restore a balance; to make provision for the representation of those vast civic communities which had risen up since the beginning of that war, which, nevertheless, we are told, ceaselessly, ruined England. A Reform Bill was required, it was also maintained less publicly, to let the Whigs have their turn at power—the Whigs having sided with the middle class against the country class, and having, consequently, according to the Whigs, been kept down by throne and peerage. But now? The civic communities are triumphant: they have carried the repeal of the Corn Laws; and they have got a representative Chancellor of the Exchequer who has put legacy duty on real property, land included. The Whigs have no complaint to make. Of the twenty years which have elapsed since the passing of that Reform Bill, which they drew up, they have been out of power only five years,—in those fifteen years having fully rewarded and enriched their party and younger sons by Government patronage; and, at this moment, no more Whigs are left—Lord John Russell having, with their consent, destroyed them. On the other hand, there is no Tory party. Mr. Disraeli, who abused Sir Robert Peel for disorganizing it, has destroyed it. Hence a coalition; hence, in consequence, the apparent infelicity of the period selected for a suggestion of a Reform Bill. A coalition Government, including nearly all the reliable statesmen of the day, represents the country: the House of Commons supports the coalition;—therefore, the House of Commons represents the country. Why, then, a Reform Bill?

There is, perhaps, an argument left for the Reform Bill. The middle classes now overmatch, or are, at least, fully equal to, the aristocratic classes in the House of Commons: if they hav'n't all their own way, it is simply because, little as Mr. William Williams would suspect so simple a reason, they are not entitled to have all their own way—the land and landlords being still a considerable portion of the wealth and intelligence of this country. But as between 1800 and 1832 there grew up a great anti-aristocratic middle class, insisting, when it ascertained its strength, on practical power, so between 1800 and 1853 there has grown up a great, intelligent, *wealthy* working-man class; and this class is in no sense and in no degree directly represented in the House of Commons. For this class, to introduce into the "lobby" a third community to struggle with land and capital, a reform bill may be necessary. But that can only be a theory. This class is not demanding a reform bill; takes little interest in public affairs; and would not appreciate the contingent blessing contemplated by Lord Aberdeen. It is a class which has lost its faith in the possible blessings to be conferred by State interference—has lost this faith only a few years after the passing of the act which cheapened bread and emancipated trade; and so completely is it understood and felt that our orators, and journalists, and statesmen are not to appeal to the people, which won't listen, but to "society" merely, which is interested, that, notwithstanding the Coalition, nationality of aim and style is the exception and not the rule in our speeches and leading articles, which are addressed to an audience, not to a nation. This class, which is no doubt the democracy Lord Derby gratuitously undertook to put down—a St. George, who set out after news had arrived of the death of the dragon, will even bear patiently and unmurmuringly the neglect, not to say the impertinence of Parliament, when its interests are concerned. This is a year of strikes; a year in which the working classes have been intensely interested in the laws affecting combinations in reference to wages; and yet this democracy has not uttered a word in complaint of the insolence of the law lords in the Upper House, and the indifference of country gentlemen and capitalists in the Lower House, in regard to that Combination of Workmen Bill which Mr. Drummond adopted from Mr. Hume, and which contained the beginning of a candid politico-economical legislation towards the artisan. With so enduring a democracy, which seldom reads the debates, which laughs at corruption and jokes the bribed, and which doesn't want votes, not even being eager for their market value, so flourishing is the enlightened democracy as to wages, why should a Coalition Government precipitate a reform bill? The capitalists, who have most that they want, and the aristocracy, which, *not* being led by Lord John Manners, cannot hope for allies in fustian-jacket members, must decidedly think that Lord John Russell is, as usual, energetic at precisely the wrong time. Because what may after all be wanted is not a reform of Parliament, but a reform of the country.

Nevertheless, a survey of the session cannot fail to suggest, that if Parliament is to be congratulated on what it has done, Parliament is to be condoled with on what it has not done. The Budget was a great measure; it manifested, in its author a really able man, inevitably the future Premier; and its facile passage was honourable to the House of Commons. But though we are a commercial country, we cannot please ourselves with the belief that a session of nine months should be devoted merely to the gestation of a single financial measure. To test the completeness of the "business" done in the course of a session, we should—alas! for an enlightened and highly civilized country, the investigation would be disheartening—examine the prayers of the whole number of petitions presented, and then ascertain how many of all these alleged and probably admitted grievances have been redressed. Or, as it is the fashion in this constitutional land to sneer at petitions, we could go over the list of "questions of the day," and observe how many have been settled, or even responded to. Reduced to such tests, sorry indeed are the results of the session, which lasted from the autumn of 1852 into the autumn of 1853. We saw the Budget passed, and we saw the India Bill bustled through; some customs reform; a cab unsettlement; a wife-mangler discouragement; nationality in the mercantile navy put down; betting-houses put down to rise up again; a few grosser legal mischiefs partially remedied; the voluntary principle adopted—for Canada; transportation stopped—to Australia, not to Milbank: and that is all, literally all the results of nine months' sittings. And of one in the list it is needful to remind people that the India Bill was the bill of a bureau; that there was profound British indifference to Indian misrule; and that the bill only received the assent and approval of Parliament in the sense that Parliament staid away from all the petty committee discussions upon it. No doubt there have been other "subjects" before Parliament. To go back: there was much public advantage derived from the debating-society sort of discussions which took place upon statute consolidation and codification; tests in the universities of Scotland and the proper curricula for the universities of England; salt monopoly of the honest East India Company in India; the smoke, filth, and pestilence of this enlightened metropolis; landlord villanies in Ireland; trustees' villanies in charitable institutions in England; families' rogueries in the ecclesiastical courts; bishops' rogueries in capitular and other estates; Jeranjee Merjee and his amiable relative, Pestonjee Merjee; the Baron de Bode; magistrate recklessness with county rates; Mr. Keogh's veracity; Lord John's sympathy with Jews; Lord Hotham's horror of M.P. judges (eliciting a great speech from Macaulay); that pure and honest establishment, the Irish Church; that excellent and charitable system of church rates insisted on by the Christian Establishment; the tendency of lady abbesses to starve and beat young nuns; the honourable nature of the Irish members (as sketched by Mr. Dufly); the liberality of Liberal Lord Palmerston, when foreign refugees have to be annoyed and tortured to please Absolutist courts; our Australian colonies; the virtues of the Duke of Wellington; the ignorance of this enlightened country, as admitted by every one in urging Lord John to go on with an education scheme; and lastly, the scoundrelism of this enlightened country, as admitted by every one in the course of the debates upon bribery petitions, election committee reports, special commissions, and new writs. Then, to conclude with, can there be a doubt that the highest national gain has been derived, in the way of instruction and increase of national self-respect, from the repeated interrogatories of independent members, and the as frequent explicit statements of Ministers, in regard to the conduct of Great Britain in her protectorate of Turkey against Russia? Did not the whole of the negotiations, the manner of conducting them, the candour with which they were confided to us by our statesmen, and the happy and honourable issue, fully demonstrate that we are a self-governed people, and that we passionately insist upon the Christian policy of peace and good will in the East? Yet, balancing the results of the session against the length of the session, is it not clear, gratifying as it has been to have our selected representatives talking on all these mighty points, that it would have been better to have had less talk; and if there could not be more actual work, at least less time about it? However, it is to be remembered, that this has been a session remarkable for the disappearance of the orators. A coalition Government, which included all the great statesmen, included, as a necessity—for this is a country in which, in addition to being a sage, you must be an actor—nearly all the great orators: and the Treasury benches are not often favourable to the graces of elocution, and to the exercitations of declamatory genius. And, unfortunately, the lucrative taciturnity of the crack debaters silenced by place and their awful sense of responsibility—which crushes even Bernal Osborne—has not been compensated for by the activity of the Opposition. Mr. Disraeli has looked an armoury of daggers, but spoken seldom: having no policy and no party he resorted to that wisdom so usual and so appropriate to men in a quandary—he bided his time. Sir John Pakington rarely summed up to the jury, which he ever believes to be before him; Mr. Walpole only once got a chance of delivering a sermon, and he was irreverently laughed at for his pains. As to Lord Stanley, he has passed the session—excepting a couple of evenings which he gave to India—in the smoking room; and it is understood that he was making enquiries of the elderly Whigs left out of the Coalition, as to the exact traditional meaning of Toryism. Lord Stanley, ingenuous young man, thought that if he was to be a Conservative, it was his business to conserve something—so he selected church-rates.

If in a week or two we have not altogether forgotten the Session, placidly reposing in our constitutional recess, which was invented by our ancestors for good reasons, but is maintained by ourselves for none, we shall remember it only for one feature: that it was the Session in which Parliament and people alike confessed—a confession apart from the question of Parliamentary Reform—that the House of Commons is elected by a constituency two-thirds of which are utterly base and corrupt: the proofs of that baseness and corruption being ample and complete. And remembering this remarkable fact, we shall wonder at the easy, happy, confidence we have placed so long, and are likely so long to continue to place, in that assembly; and we shall also wonder perhaps at our own profound conviction that we are an enlightened nation, far away at the head of the world's civilization. But no doubt we are very practical; we are content with our constitution; and so satisfied with our self-government that we are rejoicing at the prospect of having no control whatever over the Government until next February. Which must convince the Emperor of Russia, just about to change his tactics, that we are an astoundingly free country.

A STRANGER.



Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

SUNDAY IN GLASGOW.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

SIR,—Your correspondent, "Ion," has favoured us with a long and extraordinary letter, anent the "*Emperor* steamer."

Glasgow, like most large cities, contains some narrow, unhealthy streets, here called *wynds*. Sandy's dirty wynds and curled butter are brought forward to prove him a bit of a sloven and a Sabbath breaker. "Ion" labours hard to find a hole in Sandy's coat.

Whilst dwelling upon that very important subject (the *curled* butter), "Ion" has omitted to mention some other circumstances, which are, at least, equally important. When he said that the working classes of Glasgow are debarred from breathing the air of Dunoon or Gourock on Sundays, he ought to have told that there are twelve trains daily from Glasgow to Greenock, by which one can get to Greenock for sixpence, or a return ticket for ninepence. Thus, a person can leave Glasgow at eight o'clock Saturday night and be back about seven o'clock on Monday morning, after enjoying the fresh air all day Sunday, and that without depriving his brethren, the crew of any steamer, of *their* Sunday. Return tickets to Dunoon on Saturday, and back on Monday, for fourteen pence, including pier money.

If one chooses to go by steamers all the way from Glasgow to Dunoon, &c., they come yet cheaper than by rail—fares from Glasgow to Rothesay, in Bute, are only threepence.

When he said that "*all classes of people, of all religious persuasions,*" approve of the *Emperor* sailing on Sunday, he ought to have mentioned that there has been a public meeting, in the City Hall, to consider this matter—that though parties favourable to the *Emperor* published placards, urging the people not to attend, yet the hall was crowded.

That after several working men moved resolutions condemning the running of the boat on Sundays, those who approved of the running of the boat were heard in reply.

A person named M'Guire, well known as a leading infidel, was particularly violent and unreasonable; one Dodds first spoke in favour of the boat running on Sunday—said it would improve the morals of the people—said the people of France were more moral than those of this country—referred to Dr. Guthrie and the Vicar of Aberdare in support of his views—Dodds concluded about ten minutes past eleven, having spoken about forty minutes.

M'Guire proposed another amendment, similar to Dodds. It being now twenty minutes after eleven the meeting granted him only five minutes to speak—he had previously declared that he would have *unlimited* time to speak in spite of either the chairman or the meeting; the audience would not submit to this, but hooted and hissed him; he, however, maintained his ground, and effectually succeeded in *gagging* the opposite speakers, who were eager to speak to show the fallacy of Dodd's argument—to show that the people of France are more frivolous and trifling in their dispositions, and are inferior to the Scotch both mentally and physically.

Yet, although those who moved the resolution, condemning the running of the *Emperor* on Sunday, had no opportunity of exposing the fallacy of Dodd's arguments, or of showing M'Guire's unreasonableness, yet, when the motion and amendment were put to the meeting, the resolution which declared, among other things, "*that the sailing of the steamboat on Sunday was injurious to the working-classes, and would lead to the general corruption of morals, alike hostile to the peace and prosperity of the entire community; therefore the meeting agreed to protest against such a project, and pledge themselves not to patronize Sunday desecrating steamers when they have occasion to travel throughout the week*"—this resolution was carried almost unanimously, whilst the amendment—viz., "*that it was the duty of this meeting to support the Emperor steamer,*" was rejected.

The City Hall, which will contain about 6000, was crowded to overflowing, and there the people of Glasgow passed a resolution condemning the running of the steamer on Sunday, both on the grounds of religion and of utility. "Ion," in his letter, carefully suppresses those facts, and coolly asserts that "*all classes of people, of all religious persuasions,*" approve of the running of the steamer—this is certainly extraordinary.

"Ion" appears to be out of temper; he charges the *Guardian* with acting "infamously," and, because some persons yelled, or merely hissed, he at once asserts that they were sent by Kirk influence.

When he says that the Christianity of Scotland is cowardly, he is quite at liberty to do so—perhaps he is not the best qualified to judge; but when he charges the church with sending persons to hoot, and to annoy the passengers of the *Emperor*, does it never occur to him that he ought to give some proof or authority in support of these charges?

His letter shows him to be from the south side of the Tweed. Sandy's good breakfast elicits a compliment to Sandy's clear head, illustrating Cobbett's famous saying respecting the *way to an Englishman's brains*—some parts of his letter indicate him to be a cockney.

With that pardonable vanity peculiar to cockneys, he gives us to understand that the working classes of England will interfere in the matter. If "Ion" ever reads history, he ought to know that the English have, on several occasions, attempted to interfere with Scottish affairs, but that almost all their attempts failed. From the days of Edward I. to those of Laud, the Scotch never felt any gratitude for the alliance offered them by Edward, or for the Bishops and Liturgy proffered by Laud. In religious matters particularly the Scots have been extremely jealous of interference by any other party whatsoever.

The people of Glasgow had a similar struggle with a railway company some years ago, and effectually succeeded in stopping railways on Sunday, the consequence is, that hundreds of railway employés can spend their Sabbaths in the bosom of their families, whilst, according to "Ion's" *wise* plan they would be toiling either as firemen, as cleaners, or whatever their work might be.

Remembering the victory thus gained, the good accomplished thereby, and the many blessings earned for the men thus liberated from this seventh day slavery, can any person be so foolish as to suppose that the men of Glasgow will now abandon their posts or flinch from doing their duty?

They are exerting themselves to shorten the hours of labour on week days, so that parties desirous of going to the watering places may have still better opportunity of doing so; I have mentioned the cheap rate at which they can travel, either by rail or steamboat.

Such of the inhabitants of Glasgow as do not go to watering places, can walk out, enjoy the pure air, and see the country. Kelvin Grove, and other delightful properties in the neighbourhood, have been purchased for the use of the inhabitants of Glasgow.

The people of the city, therefore, consider that they are doing everything in their power to allow the utmost freedom in spending the Sabbath in an *honest* and *humane* way, but they do not consider it either humane or honest, that other people, who toil hard on six days, should be doomed to toil on the seventh likewise; they consider it would be oppression. "He who allows oppression shares the crime."

Therefore they will do their utmost to prevent it. Considering the Heavenly precept—to do to others as they would wish others to do to them—*they* would not like to be deprived of the Sabbath day—neither do they see how they could be justified in the sight of God or man if they were to allow their brethren to be deprived of it. Still more guilty would they be if they were to aid or abet in thus dooming their brethren to the seventh-day slavery.

Yours very sincerely,

Glasgow. JNO. MACGREGOR.

AN UNSTAMPED PRESS.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

DEAR SIR,—Knowing your anxiety to obtain for working men an unstamped press, I venture to appeal to you on behalf of the late *Potteries Free Press*, which was published to discover, first, whether the working classes would support a well-conducted penny newspaper; and, secondly, whether the Government, which allows every other class interest to set up a newspaper in defiance of law, would allow the working class to do the same.

Those who know how the Government dread the enlightenment of the people, will not be surprised that they have determined to enforce against the working classes a law which all other classes are allowed to violate with impunity. Those who know the anxiety of the working classes for information will not be surprised to hear that the weekly sale of the *Potteries Free Press* reached 2400, and might easily have been more than doubled in a short time, had its legality made it safe to invest capital in a press which could have printed fast enough.

Owing to the peculiar circumstances which always attend an experiment in opposition to the authorities, the *Potteries Free Press* was not self-supporting. Besides the money for its sale, I have received 37*l.* 6*s.* in subscriptions; and there is still a debt of 27*l.* 13*s.*, or two thousand two hundred and twelve threepences. I venture to suggest that you and other Editors equally anxious to obtain a free press, should endeavour to collect from your readers a definite number of threepences for the liquidation of this debt.

The Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge have undertaken the legal expenses attending the paper, but do not feel justified in making use of their funds for the support of a newspaper which must, of course, take a definite part in politics, and of necessity be opposed to the opinions of some members of a body which contains various shades of opinion. Requesting your kind attention to this suggestion, I remain yours respectfully,

C. DOBSON COLLET.

20, Great Coram-street, May 31, 1853.

ION'S REVIEW OF WENDELL PHILLIPS'S SPEECH.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

SIR,—I have read very attentively the speech of Wendell Phillips, and the review of it written by your correspondent ION. As one who takes a deep interest in the subject of American slavery (having spent several years in the United States), perhaps you will kindly permit me to say a few words in reply to your correspondent's strictures.

His principal objection to the proceedings of the American Abolitionists seems to be produced by the "denunciations" they level at the advocates of slavery. But I really fail to understand how any monstrous evil can be faithfully assailed without the denunciatory style of writing and speaking being employed by its opponents. In dealing with a system like American slavery (teeming as it does with such frightful iniquities), an Abolitionist cannot well avoid "abusing it." But ION talks of separating the sin from the sinner. There are certainly differences of opinion, and important ones too, which are perfectly allowable, and to which his theory would well apply. But it strikes me that no opinion, or act, which tramples upon self-evident and universally recognised principles of morality and justice should be subject to this charitable rule. If a man who perpetrates a burglary is denounced as "a robber," why should the man who steals another be exempt from the disgraceful but well-merited designation? Is an opprobrious epithet to be applied to the man who commits the minor offence, while he who is guilty of the infinitely greater crime is to be spoken of in mild terms, simply because he belongs to a powerful and "civilized" nation, which is deeply involved in the same iniquity? For God's sake, let us call things by their right names.

The *Leader* is the representative of democratic opinions. You have "denounced" in no measured terms "the perjured House of Hapsburgh," and that Imperial burglar, the Autocrat of the North; but, according to ION'S theory, you were wrong in doing so. You should rather have attacked despotism, while you spared the despot! Depend upon it, nothing is lost to humanity by refusing to address the villain as if he were an honest man; for it is only by speaking the truth faithfully that men's consciences are aroused. Garrison's terrible pictures of the guilt of slaveholding have awakened shame and remorse in many a pro-slavery heart, and prepared it for the reception of anti-slavery truth.

ION takes exception to the following remark made by Wendell Phillips:—"We warn the living that we have terrible memories, and that their sins are never to be forgotten. We will gibbet the name of every *apostate* so black and high, that *his children's children will blush to hear it.* We will teach caution to the living by dealing out *relentless* justice to the dead. We will insist on explaining the chance expressions (whispered in a corner) for liberty by the tenour of a long and base life." Your correspondent then makes the following extraordinary comment:—"You feel so much resentment at this language, that you would rather, as you read it, be a slaveholder than an Abolitionist." Does he not believe that this is the fate that should be allotted to traitors? He knows, probably, that Wendell Phillips's remarks apply particularly to Webster; and does not the man who, after having expressed sympathy with the oppressed betrays their cause, and becomes their greatest oppressor, from ambitious motives, deserve to be "gibbeted," if it were only to serve as a warning to others?

I would respectfully ask ION how he would comment on the piratical attempts that are being made to annex Cuba and Mexico to the United States for pro-slavery purposes, without denouncing the individuals who are seeking to perpetrate the robbery; and whether, in writing on the Rev. Mr. Hooker's pamphlet, which attempts to prove that slavery is "*a missionary institution,*" he would employ any other language than that of "scorn?" Yours, very respectfully,

S. W. CHESSON.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. D. D.—The letter on the "Paisley Block-cutters and Dock Labourers" next week.

ERRATUM IN OUR LAST NUMBER.—In the article on the "Fleet and the Camp," a slight typographical error (of a numeral) makes us speak of the "enemy" under canvass at the Spithead Review as *four* line of battleships. It should have been *three* line of battleships,—viz., the *Prince Regent*, bearing the flag of Admiral Fanshawe, the *London*, and the *Queen*.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review.*

WHILE the season is drawing to a languid close, and all Literature partakes of a "recess," it may not be without interest to many if we sharpen anticipation, by reminding them that THACKERAY'S new serial will open the Autumn season. It is announced to commence in October. Its title is to be *The Newcomes*—not a very promising title; but the signature of the writer is attractive enough, to dispense with eye-catching labels!

There is a story told of some omnivorous and omniscient philosopher, who read everything, knew everything, and foresaw everything, being suddenly, yet gravely, asked if he had seen BIOT'S paper on the "*malleability of light?*" and replying "Yes: he sent it me last week." The malleability of light is a good joke; and yet such are the marvels of scientific discovery, and such the outrages committed on the propriety of language, that one might hesitate before suspecting even light not to be malleable. The "polarization of light" is not much less absurd; and yet it is the indication of a most important phenomenon.

And what a lesson it teaches of the frivolity and foolishness which would attempt to coerce Science within the limits of the obviously useful,—which would say to any proposed investigation, What is the use of it? Nothing can, at first sight, seem more remote from any practical advantage, than that we should be able, by a bit of Iceland spar, to twist a ray of light; but enlarged experience teaches, that, in the first place, all knowledge is necessarily of practical advantage, and, in the second, by means of this twisted ray, we can lead investigation into recesses inaccessible to others. By the polarizing prism the Manufacturer, the Chemist, the Anatomist, the Astronomer, are severally guided. The farmer can ascertain, by it, the amount of sugar in the wort; the manufacturer can detect annealed from unannealed glass, while, for the man of science, there were chemical reagents, and the most powerful microscopes are useless—this twisted ray of light gives indisputable evidence.

Among the great results of this application of polarized light is certainly the insight it has given into the structure of certain organic substances. If a ray of polarized light be transmitted through solutions of albumen, of sugar, of various vegetable acids and alkalis, and some essential oils, the ray will be found to turn upon itself, so to speak; if the solutions are then crystallized they will be incomplete crystals, *i. e.*, dissymmetrical. These two properties are always found together, and are probably related causally. They betray a difference in the molecular arrangement of organic substances, an arrangement which, be it observed, persists even during solution, therefore belonging to the organic molecule. Could we but *see* a molecule of tartaric acid, we should doubtless find that its atoms were not arranged with the symmetry of an inorganic molecule.

The French chemists are actively engaged in investigating this subject, and M. PASTEUR, to whom we owe the decomposition of racemic acid into an acid of right-handed, and an acid of left-handed, polarization, has announced the artificial transformation of the two with the formation of an acid symmetrical and inoperative on the ray of polarized light. It seems nothing—who shall calculate its consequences?

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

Sketches of Russian Life in the Caucasus. By A. Russe. Ingram, Cooke, and Co.
The Poetical Works of Alexander Pope. Vol. I. Ingram, Cooke, and Co.
Whittington and the Knight Sans-Terre. By Miss E. M. Stewart. Ingram, Cooke, and Co.
The Universal Library. Ingram, Cooke, and Co.
Lawson's Merchant's Magazine. T. F. A. Day.
The Vices; or, Lectures to Young Men. By Rev. H. W. Beecher. Clarke, Beeton, and Co.
Lectures on Intemperance. By Lyman Beecher. Clarke, Beeton, and Co.
Louis XVII. His Life—His Suffering—His Death. By A. De Beauchesne. Translated by W. Hazlitt, Esq. 2 Vols. Vizetelly and Co.
The Emigrant's Guide to the Gold Fields. Piper, Brothers and Co.
The Biographical Magazine. Partridge and Oakey.
The Prospective Review. John Chapman.
Chapman's Library for the People. Phases of Faith. By F. W. Newman. John Chapman.
Readable Books. Three Tales. By the Countess D'Artouville. Clarke, Beeton and Co.
Spirit Rapping in England and America. Clarke, Beeton and Co.
Bohn's Antiquarian Library. Matthew of Westminster's Chronicle. Vol. II. H. G. Bohn.

LAMARCK AND THE VESTIGES.

Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation. Tenth Edition. With extensive Additions and Emendations, and Illustrated by numerous Engravings on Wood. J. Churchill.

[THIRD ARTICLE.]

WE now come to an appreciation of the validity and imperfection of the Development Hypothesis, as set forth in the *Vestiges*. There is a current notion, industriously circulated by adversaries, that the *Vestiges* is only a reproduction of Lamarck. People are so very fond of talking about what they do not understand, and of using celebrated names with easy familiarity, that we may attribute this accusation more to such vanity than to deliberate desire of falsification; but it is incumbent on us here to state that, as every one who has *read* Lamarck knows, the *Vestiges*, so far from reproducing Lamarck's Hypothesis, takes as directly opposite a view of it as the nature of the case admits. We may render their difference appreciable if we say that, while Lamarck is too much of a "materialist," the author of the *Vestiges* is too much of a "metaphysician;" one lays the whole stress of his argument on "external circumstances," the other on a "pre-ordained plan." Lamarck was one-sided, the *Vestiges* is metaphysical and false. More of this anon. Meanwhile let us call attention to the fact, that the *Vestiges*, even in the *first* edition, so far from reproducing Lamarck's Hypothesis, pointed out what seemed its error, and spoke of it with a superciliousness which we are glad to see replaced, in subsequent editions, by a more respectful tone, one more worthy of that great thinker, selected by De Blainville as the representative of the French school, compared with whom De Blainville considers Cuvier to have been a mere *littérateur*. Here are the passages to be compared:—

FIRST EDITION.

"Early in this century, M. Lamarck, a naturalist of the highest character, suggested an hypothesis of organic progress which deservedly incurred much ridicule, although it contained a glimmer of the truth. He surmised, and endeavoured, with a great deal of ingenuity, to prove, that one being advanced in the course of generations to another, in consequence merely of its experience of wants calling for the exercise of its faculties in a particular direction, by which exercise new developments of organs took place, ending in variations sufficient to constitute a new species. Thus he thought that a bird would be driven by necessity to seek its food in the water, and that, in its efforts to swim, the outstretching of its claws would lead to the expansion of the intermediate membranes, and it would thus become web-footed. Now it is possible that wants and the exercise of faculties have entered in some manner into the production of the phenomena which we have been considering; but certainly not in the way suggested by Lamarck, whose whole notion is obviously so inadequate to account for the rise of the organic kingdoms, *that we only can place it with pity among the follies of the wise.* Had the laws of organic development been known in his time, his theory might have been of a more imposing kind. It is upon these that the present hypothesis is mainly founded. I take existing natural means, and shew them to have been capable of producing all the existing organisms, with the simple and easily conceivable aid of a higher generative law, which we perhaps still see operating upon a limited scale. I also go beyond the French philosopher to a very important point, the original Divine conception of all the forms of being which these natural laws were only instruments in working out and realizing. The actuality of such a conception I hold to be strikingly demonstrated by the discoveries of Macleay, Vigors, and Swainson, with respect to the affinities and analogies of animal (and by implication vegetable) organisms. Such a regularity in the *structure*, as we may call it, of the *classification of animals*, as is shewn in their systems, is totally irreconcilable with the idea of form going on to form merely as needs and wishes in the animals themselves dictated. Had such been the case, all would have been irregular, as things arbitrary necessarily are. But, lo, the whole plan of being is as symmetrical as the plan of a house, or the laying out of an old-fashioned garden! This must needs have been devised and arranged for beforehand. And what a preconception or forethought have we here! Let us only for a moment consider how various are the external physical conditions in which animals live—climate, soil, temperature, land, water, air—the peculiarities of food, and the various ways in which it is to be sought; the peculiar circumstances in which the business of reproduction and the care-taking of the young are to be attended to—all these required to be taken into account, and thousands of animals were to be formed suitable in organization and mental character for the concerns they were to have with these various conditions and circumstances—here a tooth fitted for crushing nuts; there a claw fitted to serve as a hook for suspension; here to repress teeth and develop a bony net-work instead; there to arrange for a bronchial apparatus, to last only for a certain brief time; and all these animals were to be schemed out, each as a part of a great range, which was on the whole to be

TENTH EDITION.

"Early in this century, M. Lamarck, one of the most distinguished of modern naturalists, suggested that the gradation of animals depended upon some general law which it was important for us to discover. So far he was right; but the theory which he consequently formed with regard to the causes of the varieties of animated being, was so far from being adequate to account for the facts, that it has had scarcely a single adherent. What M. Lamarck chiefly grounded upon was the well-known physiological fact, that use or exercise strengthens and enlarges an organ, while disuse equally atrophies it. He conceived that, an animal being brought into new circumstances, and called upon to accommodate itself to these, the exertions which it consequently made to that effect caused the rise of new parts; on the contrary, when new circumstances left certain existing parts unused, these parts gradually ceased to exist. Something analogous was, he thought, produced in vegetables by changes in their nutrition, in their absorption and transpiration, and in the quantity of caloric, light, air, and moisture which they received. This principle, with time, he deemed sufficient to have produced the advance from the monad to the mammal. His illustrations were chiefly of the following nature. The bird which is attracted to the water by the necessity of seeking there its food, wishes to move about on the surface of the flood, and for this purpose strikes out its toes. Through the consequent repeated separations of the toes, the skin uniting them at the roots is extended, and at length becomes webbed. In like manner the shore-bird which has no desire to swim, but has to approach the water for food, is constantly subject to sink in the mud. The bird, disliking this, exerts all its efforts to lengthen its legs; the result is, that by continual habit for many generations, the legs of this order do at length become long and bare, as we see them. The error of the theory is in giving this adaptive principle too much to do. What undoubtedly is effectual in modifying the exterior peculiarities of animals, was obviously insufficient to account for the great grades of organization. In the present day, we have superior light from geology and physiology, and hence comes the suggestion of a *process analogous to ordinary gestation* for advancing organic life through its grades, in the course of a long but definite space of time, with only a recourse to external conditions *as a means of producing* the exterior characters. It must nevertheless be acknowledged that the germ of this natural view of the history of the animated world is presented in the work of Lamarck."

rigidly regular: let us, I say, only consider these things, and we shall see that the decreeing of laws to bring the whole about was an act involving such a degree of wisdom and device as we only can attribute, adoringly, to the one Eternal and Unchangeable."

In the sixth edition the author says, "Hence comes *my* suggestion of a process analogous to ordinary gestation;" the alteration of "my" into "the," given above, seems a disclaimer of originality. Taking the passages as they stand, however, is it not remarkable, first, that opponents should have accused the *Vestiges* of holding an hypothesis so distinctly repudiated; and, second, that they should have ignored the theologico-metaphysical conception of a "pre-ordained plan," and persisted in accusing the author of being a materialist, and every other "ist" which could be supposed to damage his repute?

But to continue our examination of the Lamarck question. We find, in the preface to this edition, that, at the time the first was produced, the author had only heard of Lamarck, which will account for that levity of tone just noted; since then he seems to have learned something more of him, though we question whether he has read the *Philosophie Zoologique* very carefully. He admits that the germ of the natural view is in Lamarck.

Lamarck's error, as it appears to us, arose from his not having the true fundamental biological conception, since elaborated by De Blainville and Comte, viz.,—the indispensable co-relation of an *Organism* and a *Medium*. From the want of this guiding conception he kept the influence of circumstance in modifying and developing the Organism, constantly before his eyes, as the *one* determining cause; but, if this were so, *every* change in the Medium would change the organism, and, in process of time, the result of a sufficiently constant set of conditions would produce absolute uniformity in the organism, so that all birds would be alike, all fishes alike, &c.

Historically, one can but applaud Lamarck's efforts in ascertaining the influence of external circumstances, for it was to them, mainly, that the modern theory of the Medium owes its existence. It has led to extravagances beyond the Lamarckian Hypothesis; for example, that profoundly unbiological attempt of Cuvier to determine all modifications by mere alimentation. But, while doing Lamarck justice, one must see that the one-sidedness of the view necessarily landed him in error. He gave too much and too exclusive an importance to external conditions; yet, even in doing so, he did not entirely set aside the other factor, which has been brought into such metaphysical prominence by the *Vestiges*. In the Introduction to his *Philosophie Zoologique*, he says:—

"The conditions necessary to life being found complete in the least complex organizations, but also reduced to their most simple form, the question arises how this organization, by any process of change, should develope into a less simple one, and finally result in the more complicated organizations, traceable in the extent of the animal scale. Here, by the aid of the two following considerations, to which I had been led by observation, I imagined I had discovered the solution of this problem.

"In the first place, numerous established facts prove that the continual exercise of an organ contributes to its development, strengthens, and even increases it in size, while on the other hand, habitual inactivity retards the development, deteriorates, and even entirely effaces the organ, should this inactivity continue for a long period, with individuals of successive generations. From hence we conclude that, should a change of circumstances compel the individuals of a race to a complete change of habits, the organs least in use will disappear by degrees, while those more actively employed will gradually develope, and acquire vigour and size, in proportion to their habitual exercise.

"Secondly, by reflection on the powers of motion exercised by fluids in the extremely yielding substances in which they are contained, I became convinced, that, in proportion as their motion is accelerated, the fluids of an organized body have power to modify the tissues containing them, to open for themselves a passage, to form various canals, in fact, to create different organs, according to the state of organization at which they have arrived.

"From these two considerations I concluded, with certainty, that the *motion of fluids* in the interior of animals—a motion accelerated in proportion to the complexity of the organization, and the *influence of new circumstances*, operating, by degrees, as animals become exposed to it, by being dispersed over inhabited districts, were the two general causes which have affected the state of animals, as we at present see them."

There was necessarily an organic vitality—a power of adaptation—implied in this hypothesis, over and above the influence of the Medium, and this, although a mere "germ," determined Lamarck in the creation of his first zoological principle, viz.:

"*The progression in the composition of an organism is affected, here and there, in the animal series, by certain anomalies due to the influence of circumstances, and of contracted habits.*"

The most decisive passage we remember, containing the "germ" subsequently developed in the *Vestiges*, is the following:—

"Arriving at the *invertebrated animals*, we enter on an immense series of different animals, the most numerous class existing in nature, the most curious and interesting, with reference to the differences observable in their organization and faculties.

"We feel convinced on observing their state, that in developing each successive existence, Nature has proceeded gradually, from the most simple towards the more complex. Now her object being to arrive at a scheme of organization, which should admit of the utmost perfectibility, (that of the organization of the vertebrated animals,) a scheme differing greatly from those which she was previously forced to create, in order to attain this object,—we feel that there must exist, amongst these numerous animals, not one system of organization progressively developed, but differing and distinct systems, each developing from the point at which each organ of primary importance began to exist.

"In fact when Nature had created a special organ for the process of digestion, (as in the *polypes*,) she gave, for the first time, a peculiar and unvarying form to the animals furnished with such organ; the infusoria, by which she first commenced her creative scale, possessing neither the faculty proper to this organ, nor the form and organization favourable to the exercise of its functions.

"When, subsequently, she established an especial organ for *respiration*, and in proportion as she varied this organ, to perfect it and to adapt it to the differing circumstances of animal life, she diversified the organization, according to the requirements of the existence and development of other special organs.

"When, later, she succeeded in producing the *nervous* system, it then became possible to create the *muscular* system, and thenceforward she needed parts possessing solidity, for the attachment of the muscles, double parts, to constitute symmetry of form, and from hence resulted various modes of organization, differing on account of external circumstances, and additional developments, which could not have come into being previously.

"Finally, when she had obtained sufficient motion among the fluids contained in the animal tissues, to organize the *circulation*, very important peculiarities developed themselves, distinguishing this organic system from those in which circulation did not exist."

The conception is vague and confused. In the *Vestiges* it is clear, emphatic, and has become more and more so in succeeding editions. The author is as open to the charge of disregarding the influence of external conditions as Lamarck is of exaggerating it. There is some interest in comparing the original statement with its latest modification:—

FIRST EDITION.	TENTH EDITION.
"The tendency of all these illustrations is to make us look to *development* as the principle which has been immediately concerned in the peopling of this globe, a process extending over a vast space of time, but which is nevertheless connected in character with the briefer process by which an individual being is evoked from a simple germ. What mystery is there here—and how shall I proceed to enunciate the conception which I have ventured to form of what may prove to be its proper solution! It is an idea by no means calculated to impress by its greatness, or to puzzle by its profoundness. It is an idea more marked by simplicity than perhaps any other of those which have explained the great secrets of nature. But in this lies, perhaps, one of its strongest claims to the faith of mankind.	"The proposition determined on after much consideration is, that the several series of animated beings, from the simplest and oldest up to the highest and most recent, are, under the providence of God, the results *first*, of an *impulse* which has been imparted to the forms of life, advancing them, *in definite times, by generation, through grades of organization* terminating in the highest dycotyledons and vertebrata, these grades being few in number, and generally marked by intervals of organic character which we find to be a practical difficulty in ascertaining affinities; *second*, of *another impulse connected with the vital forces*, tending in the course of generations to modify organic structures in accordance with external circumstances, as food, the nature of the habitat, and the meteoric agencies, these being the 'adaptations' of the natural theologian. We may contemplate these phenomena *as ordained to take place in every situation*, and at every time, where and when the requisite materials and conditions are presented—in other orbs as well as in this—in any geographical area of this globe which may at any time arise—observing only the variations due to difference of materials and of conditions. The nucleated vesicle is contemplated as the fundamental form of all organization, the meeting-point between the inorganic and the organic — the end of the mineral and beginning of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, which thence start in different directions, but in a general parallelism and analogy. This nucleated vesicle is itself a type of mature and independent being, as well as the starting-point of the fœtal progress of every higher individual in creation, both animal and vegetable. We have seen that, the *proximate principles* or first organic combinations being held, and in some instances proved, as producible by the chemist, an operation which would produce in these the nucleated vesicle is all that is wanting effectually to bridge over the space between the inorganic and the organic. Remembering these things, it does not seem, after all, a very immoderate hypothesis, that *a chemico-electric operation, by which germinal vesicles were produced*, was the first phenomenon in organic creation, and that the second was *an advance of these through a succession of higher grades, and a variety of modifications* in accordance with laws of the same absolute nature as those by which the Almighty rules the physical department of nature."
"The whole train of animated beings, from the simplest and oldest up to the highest and most recent, are, then, to be regarded as a series of *advances of the principle of development*, which have depended upon external physical circumstances, to which the resulting animals are appropriate. I contemplate the whole phenomena as having been in the first place arranged in the counsels of Divine Wisdom, to take place, not only upon this sphere, but upon all the others in space, under necessary modifications, and as being carried on, from first to last, here and elsewhere, under immediate favour of the creative will or energy. The nucleated vesicle, the fundamental form of all organization, we must regard as the meeting-point between the inorganic and the organic—the end of the mineral and the beginning of the vegetable and animal kingdoms, which thence start in different directions, but in perfect parallelism and analogy. We have already seen that this nucleated vesicle is itself a type of mature and independent being in the infusory animalcules, as well as the starting point of the fœtal progress of every higher individual in creation, both animal and vegetable. We have seen that it is a form of being which electric agency will produce—though not perhaps usher into full life—in albumen, one of those compound elements of animal bodies, of which another (urea) has been made by artificial means. Remembering these things, we are drawn on to the supposition, that the first step in the creation of life upon this planet was *a chemico-electric operation, by which simple germical vesicles were produced*. This is so much, but what were the next steps? Let a common vegetable infusion help us to an answer. There, as we have seen, simple forms are produced at first, but afterwards they become more complicated, until at length the life-producing powers of the infusion are exhausted. Are we to presume that, in this case, the simple engender the complicated? Undoubtedly, this would not be more wonderful as a natural process,	

than one which we never think of wondering at, because familiar to us—namely, that in the gestation of the mammals, the animalcule-like ovum of a few days is the parent, in a sense, of the chick-like form of a few weeks, and that in all the subsequent stages—fish, reptile, &c.—the one may, with scarcely a metaphor, be said to be the progenitor of the other. I suggest, then, as an hypothesis already countenanced by much that is ascertained, and likely to be further sanctioned by much that remains to be known, that the first step was *an advance under favour of peculiar conditions, from the simplest forms of being, to the next more complicated, and this through the medium of the ordinary process of generation.*"

Although when seeking for *illustrations* the author of the *Vestiges* does of course allow the modifying influence of the Medium to appear, yet whenever he has to state dogmatically his conceptions, he uniformly disregards it, in favour of the "internal development force" (p. 208), or of the "inherent impulse," or of the pre-ordained Plan. For example:—

"The imagination eagerly aspires to picture the world of the Oolitic Era, when there were scarcely any living creatures of more exalted character than reptiles. There were then vast tracts of dry land, as now; their surface bore a luxuriant vegetation of no mean kind. The meteoric agencies, the rise and fall of tides, were common phenomena of that time, as of the present. Day after day, through long drawn ages, the sun passed on his course. Night after night, the sparkling garniture of the sky looked down on this green world. But a being of superhuman intelligence, coming to examine our globe, would have seen all this existing only for fishes and still humbler creatures in the sea, and for reptiles, insects, and perhaps a few birds, and still fewer opossums, upon land. He would have beheld the tyrant sauria pursuing their carnivorous instincts upon the wave, upon the shore, and even in the air; huge turtles creeping along the muddy coasts; still more huge megalosaurs traversing the plain; and with all this, the air filled with multitudes of insects. But no flocks would have met his eye upon the mountains, no herds quietly roaming in the valleys. He would encounter no tiger or elephant in the jungle. None of the smaller mammalian quadrupeds, as the dog, the genet, the hedgehog, the hare, the mole, would have presented themselves. And not only were no human beings to be seen, but our supernatural visitant would know that this scene must lie spread out in perfect capability for their reception, during whole millenniums, before such beings were to exist; the stream flowing and glittering in the sun, but not to cheer the eye of man; the whole jocund earth spread out in unenjoyed beauty, as yet unwitting of the glory and the gloom which human impulses were to bring upon it. How strange to reflect on the contemplations of the supposed visitant! What a vast void! What a stretch of time before there was to be even a commencement to its proper filling! And yet the certainty *that in good time, in the ripeness of the plans of the mighty Author, the higher animals were to come*, and among the last the Creature of Creatures—who, in his infinity of device, was to turn it all to his use—the historical being of the world!

"It has been supposed by some geologists, that there was a special adaptation of the earth at this time to its predominating tenants, as if it presented only low muddy coasts and marshes fit for the residence of reptiles. And it has been thought that this state of the earth is what led to the existence of so many reptiles. But all such speculations rest on insecure grounds. When we consider that the Age of Reptiles, as it has been called, is interposed between an age of fishes and an age of mammals, reptiles being also intermediate to these in the animal scale, we cannot but surmise that *the fact depends on some organic law*, rather than upon one in physical geography."

Now, the positive thinker may reasonably ask for some more precise statement of this "organic law." Are we to suppose it antecedent to, and independent of, such external conditions—a pre-existent idea among the "plans" of the Creator? "Yes," says the author of the *Vestiges*, not doubting that he has penetrated the Creator's plans! We admit that the phrase, "state of the earth," is inadequate, unless in it be included *all* terrestrial conditions, pre-existent and existent. The notion of an "organic law" independent of conditions is a bit of pure metaphysics. But we must reserve our remarks on the metaphysics of the *Vestiges* until our next. Let it suffice for the present that we have shown how the author disregards the one factor, as Lamarck disregards the other. The idea of Life is inseparably connected with the co-relation of an Organism and a Medium; to disregard either is to wander into error.

A BATCH OF REPUBLICATIONS.

IN our anxiety to keep the reader tolerably *au courant*, and at the same time not to express opinions too carelessly or hastily formed, we are as morally perplexed as we are physically, by the want of space necessary to give half the books published notices of reasonable length. By collective surveys we try to get as well out of the difficulty as may be. Here is a collection of works, all of which the reader will be glad to hear of, however briefly.

First in importance, as in bulk, comes the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, volume 2 (A. and C. Black). No ingenuous reader supposes that we have conscientiously gone through these nine hundred double-columned quarto pages, or that we could be in any condition to review the same, if we had gone through them. But we have done more than look at the title-page; we have inspected the articles *Agriculture* and *Anatomy*, and find in each case that the subject is really brought down to the present state of knowledge, and not left to be simply reprinted from former editions. One objection, however, we must make: the article *Anatomy* is not finished in this volume, nor are any of the plates illustrating the portion here published given in this part; now, either the article should have been given entire, or left till the commencement of the new volume, because it will hereafter be found exceedingly inconvenient in making references to have two bulky volumes in lieu of one to take down from the shelves. This hint we give the editor for future guidance.

Lord John Russell has produced a new edition of his *Life of Lord William Russell* (Longman and Co.) in an elegant form. The only point calling for remark is the notice Lord John gives, in his preface, of a better spirit animating the present French Government with respect to the inspection of its archives for literary purposes. Hitherto Lord John had not been permitted to consult Barillon's correspondence; but he now thanks Mignet for the courtesy with which the permission has been executed. He finds that Sir John Dalrymple had correctly copied the despatches. He publishes, moreover, a letter of Louis XIV. to Barillon, throwing light on the state of parties, and bearing "unsuspected testimony to the integrity of Lord William Russell."

Something more than a mere announcement is due to the new edition of *Southey's Poetical Works*, in ten handsome, and remarkably cheap pocket volumes (Longman and Co.), because, while the copyright of the earlier works has expired, and they are being reprinted by other publishers, the public should be warned of the injustice of such reprints to the author (not to mention the questionable propriety of sending forth a confessedly inferior work). Southey was always a great corrector: thus, it is calculated that in the first book of *Joan of Arc* alone, out of 543 lines, a full third have been changed; and if Southey is to be read at all, his reputation demands that he shall be read in his own revised text. Another motive strengthens the already strong motive of self-interest in the purchase of Longman's edition—it is the only one in which the poet's representatives have any interest.

Mr. James Nichol, of Edinburgh, has commenced a great undertaking—a republication of the *British Poets*. There are to be six volumes issued every year, the annual subscription being one guinea; but the volumes are complete in themselves, and may be separately purchased at four and sixpence each. The editor is Mr. George Gilfillan, whose editing, however, appears confined to the biographical and critical memoirs preceding the works. The volumes before us contain Milton and Thompson. They are printed in large handsome type, fitted even for ancient eyes, with liberal margins for the loving pencils of students. As reprints, they are the cheapest and handsomest we can name.

Théophile Gautier's charming gossip on Spain, *Tra los Montes*, has been translated for Messrs. Ingram and Cooke's *Illustrated Library*, under the title, *Wanderings in Spain*. Although, where so much depends on style, the translator has a difficult if not impossible task, this book may be commended to those who have not seen the original as a lively, picturesque, impertinent, gossipy book, and not the worst account of Spanish life that has appeared.

In Chapman's *Library for the People* we have a new edition of Newman's *Phases of Faith*, a work which has produced greater and healthier influence than any theological work published for a long while. It was reviewed at such length in our first volume that we have nothing new to say on it, except to notice the alterations in this reprint. These are spoken of in the preface:—

"I have expanded a few passages in the latter portions of this book, where, by reason (I suppose) of my too great brevity, I have been greatly misapprehended. For the same reason I have enlarged a short discussion into an entire new chapter, on the Moral Perfection of Jesus. Disagreeable experience warns me, that hostile reviewers will endeavour, as before, to excite prejudice against me, by picking out my *conclusions*, and carefully stripping off every *reason* which I assign, as also every qualifying and softening addition; preparatory to turning on me, and charging me with 'inconsistency,' for *not* being as onesided as they have told their readers that I am. I now say: not only is this careful suppression of my arguments a cowardly trick, and a mark of their conscious weakness; but, as they well know that every word whispered against the personal perfection of Jesus is intensely offensive, I charge them (if they have *some* conscience, as I hope), not to outrage their readers, and pretend it is I who do so. To give my reasons, as well as my conclusions, may aid to a true and stable result, whether I prove convincing or unconvincing. To give my conclusions alone, and inadequately, can proceed from none but a malignant intention.

"I have also added a chapter at the end, chiefly in reply to the *Eclipse of Faith* a book which has been highly extolled as a refutation of my writings."

The reply to that extremely shallow and bitter book, *The Eclipse of Faith* is calm, dignified, and crushing. Unhappily the persons who read the *Eclipse* will not read the *Phases*, and, if they do, they are for the most part very insensible to any dishonesty of polemics on *their* side.

Douglas Jerrold's collected works have reached the sixth volume, containing the novel originally published in parts, *A Man made of Money*, and the quaint fantasy, *The Chronicles of Clovernook*. What an accumulation of wit, sarcasm, imagery, quaintness, and indignation in these volumes!

Mr. Bosworth has started a *Literature for the People*, of which two numbers are before us: the first, a translation of Madame d'Arbouville's story, *Christine von Amberg*; the second being the first part of a new edition of the *Spectator*, with a Biographical and Critical Preface and Explanatory Notes—the writer thereof not named. The publisher of the *Critic* has also commenced a *Selected Series of French Literature*. The plan is a good one. *Madame de Sevigné*, who forms the subject of the two parts we have seen, is presented to the reader biographically in a lively Memoir, and in a selection from her Letters (translated) with explanatory notes. This is, perhaps, the very best way of publishing selections. Among railway readings, let us mention Mrs. Taylor's translation of Auerbach's new village tale, *Florian and Crescenz* (Chapman and Hall), a charming bit of Black Forest life; and G. P. R. James's novel, *The Forgery* (Simms and M'Intyre), for the lovers of mild mediocrity.

The Poets of England and America (Whittaker and Co.) is a well-made selection from the best writers—a selection made for the most part by the compiler, and not copied from other compilations. It is tastefully done; and is, what it is called, a "companion" to all lovers of poetry. By way of relieving the dryness of this survey of new books, we will quote two sonnets, which occupy two opposite pages of this volume. The

second is by Vincent Leigh Hunt, whose early death was a loss to literature as well as to his friends. It is curious to trace the father in the son, as in this sonnet:—

AN ANGEL IN THE HOUSE.

"How sweet it were, if without feeble fright,
Or dying of the dreadful beauteous sight,
An angel came to us, and we could bear
To see him issue from the silent air
At evening in our room, and bend on ours
His divine eyes, and bring us from his bowers
News of dear friends, and children who have never
Been dead indeed,—as we shall know for ever.
Alas! we think not what we daily see
About our hearths,—angels, that *are* to be,
Or may be if they will, and we prepare
Their souls and ours to meet in happy air,—
A child, a friend, a wife whose soft heart sings
In unison with ours, breeding its future wings."

LEIGH HUNT.

THE DEFORMED CHILD.

"An angel prisoned in an infant frame
Of mortal sickness and deformity,
Looks patiently from out that languid eye,
Matured, and seeming large with pain. The name
Of 'happy childhood' mocks his movements tame,
So propped with piteous crutch; or forced to lie
Rather than sit, in its frail chair, and try
To taste the pleasure of the unshared game.
He does; and faintly claps his withered hands
To see how brother Willie caught the ball;
Kind brother Willie, strong yet gentle all:
'T was he that placed him, where his chair now stands,
In that warm corner 'gainst the sunny wall.—
God, in that brother, gave him more than lands."

VINCENT LEIGH HUNT.

Portfolio.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—GOETHE.

IXIMAYA AND THE AZTEC LILLIPUTIANS.

AS one specially interested in American ethnology and archæology, I wish to make some remarks upon one of the most daring fabrications ever imposed upon public credulity, in the name of science—a fabrication, too, which, I regret to see, has been received, if not with actual faith, at all events with the most courteous toleration, in the very highest social and scientific quarters. I had supposed it impossible that pretensions so extravagant, as those put forward in connexion with the so-called Aztec children, could have failed to meet with instant detection and exposure, in a great centre of learning like London, but, unfortunately, ethnology and archæology are in so unformed and chaotic a condition, that nothing seems too absurd for credence, when brought forward under the sanction of their names.

The following remarks were written, in substance, immediately after my first visit to these children, July 21st; circumstances having prevented their publication in the form originally intended, I have recast them, in the hope that, though late in their appearance, and in some degree anticipated by what has since been written by others, they may yet have some effect in convincing the public of the true character of the absurd legend offered to its notice, under the seeming sanction of some of the highest names in science.

The entire story of Iximaya, as now presented to the British public, through the means of placards, advertisements, and a shilling pamphlet, entitled, *The History of the Aztec Lilliputians*, is stated to be derived from a Spaniard, of the name of Pedro Velasquez, of San Salvador, in Central America, and compiled from his original manuscript in the Spanish language. It therefore rests exclusively on the word, or, rather, on what is reputed to be the word, of a single individual, of whom the public knows nothing, except by vague report. It brings with it no collateral evidence whatever; it is so framed as to afford the fewest possible means of testing its accuracy; it specially contradicts some of the most notorious facts of American archæology, while it requires us to believe things not only at variance with the observed course of human affairs, but even with the fundamental laws of human action and feeling. Though prolix enough in matters of no importance, it is wonderfully concise in all those cases in which information is most required, and respecting which an actual observer would be the most apt to speak. With the exception of what was necessary for the obvious aim of the story, we are furnished with no particulars relative to the most interesting and critical part of the journey, viz.,—from the village of Aguamasinta to Iximaya, though, by hypothesis, this was a virgin region, and every step of it of intense interest, and, even in the case of Iximaya itself, all is vague and general, with very few exceptions; it would have been better for the credibility of the story had there been no exceptions. In fact, we look in vain for any marks of that individuality and *vraisemblance*, which must necessarily distinguish every true account, however rude, of a new and interesting region.

I can only signalize one among the many archæological absurdities with which this narrative abounds. It describes Iximaya as having lofty parapeted walls, "inclined inwards, in the Egyptian style, its interior *domes* and *turrets* having an emphatically Oriental aspect." This application to Iximaya of a style of architecture, of which not a trace has anywhere been detected on the continent of America, has been excused, on the ground of optical illusion, the statement having been made on the occasion of the first view of the city, from the top of the Cordillera; but the travellers were afterwards in the city itself; and, besides, people who had such good eyes and telescopes, as to detect, at the distance of twenty leagues, the *Egyptian character*, and the slight *inward inclination* of walls forty feet high, were in no danger of mistaking American *truncated* pyramids, for Oriental looking, not to say even Christian looking, domes and turrets. The fact is, it is vulgarly believed that the antiquities of America have an especially Oriental character: hence this absurd allusion to domes, and turrets, and Egyptian walls.

To account for the ease with which 35 or 38 men, all but three of them Indians, entered as conquerors into a vast city under Imperial government, seemingly full of inhabitants, and defended with massive granite walls 40 feet high, and some 12 or 14 miles in circuit, the writer has been compelled to have recourse to contrivances which necessarily involve endless contradictions. Thus we learn that the Iximayans, though maintaining three centuries of independence, where almost all besides were slaves, and overawing their neighbours into unexampled silence and discretion for the same long period, are nevertheless a timid and quiet people, whose whole military force consists of a rural police of 200 men. Thus, too, they were wholly unacquainted with the use of *fire-arms*, the weapons that had conquered all the states around them, and filled with terror and amazement every civilized or partially civilized spot on the entire continent of America, the things of all others most likely to interest a new people, and which even among savages pass, by barter, from tribe to tribe, to vast distances. Yet Iximaya was within 20 or 30 leagues of Spanish settlements in various directions. The maps present a network of rivers and streams, some of which must have approached within a few miles of it, let it be placed where it may: it was surrounded with tribes speaking its own tongue, a widely spread language in Yucatan: it traded with a tribe of its own race, at some distance—distance and direction, of course, not specified; while many other things much less likely to penetrate there than a knowledge of fire-arms had yet found their way. They had herds of deer and cattle; horses and bloodhounds of the purest Spanish breed; they cultivated oats, wheat, flax, and hemp; they had vineyards and fruit orchards, and understood, it seems, the manufacture of *iron*, for we hear incidentally of *rusty* spears in the hands of some of the peasant women. Most of these things, however, were required for the story—the horses and bloodhounds to enable 200 men to scour a range of country some 200 miles in circuit; the advanced state of agriculture to maintain a large population within a very limited space; and so on. The thing has been ingeniously got up in many respects, but every fallacy must carry with it its own refutation, as soon as it speaks in detail.

I must pass without comment a variety of parallel inconsistencies, such as the totally unfortified condition in which a people so timid, and so skilful in building, had left the pass by which the travellers entered the amphitheatre of hills enclosing the plain of Iximaya; the readiness with which they were admitted into the city itself; the absurd facility with which they, in their turn, laid aside their arms and became virtual captives at the very moment in which they were actual masters, and so on. In fact, the whole account, viewed as a history, whatever may be said of it in other respects, is a mere tissue of inconsistencies from first to last. But independently of all this, irrespective of the narrative of Velasquez altogether, a moment's reflection must make it evident that the secret isolation of a great populous and civilized, or semi-civilized city, is a physical impossibility, under all circumstances. Such a city implies a large surrounding agricultural district to feed it, and the less advanced the agriculture, the greater the space required; it implies wealth, and wealth commerce, and commerce travelling; it implies knowledge, and knowledge curiosity, and this again restlessness and travelling; it implies a great diversity of occupations, conditions, and dispositions; conflicts of interests and passions, acts of oppression and resistance, revenge, defection, &c., &c. Add to all this, Iximaya in the centre, the Spaniards around within 20 or 30 leagues, the Maya language between the two, and three centuries of coexistence, and the true character of the entire story will be at once apparent.

That there exists an Indian tradition relative to some such city as Iximaya is evident from the accounts of Stephens and others, but such a tradition may easily have been suggested by some now forgotten fragment of American mythology. All mythologies have their Elysian fields, Islands of the Blessed, or Paradisaical, or other fabulous cities which are occasionally visited by mortals, or beheld from a distance. Thus *Hy Brasail*, the Paradise of the Pagan Irish, which lies out in the Atlantic ocean, is still occasionally seen, in fine weather, from the western shores of *Arran More*, as Iximaya is from the top of the Cordillera.—(VALLANCY, *Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis*, vol. iii., p. 282.)

I have now to speak of the two children said to have been brought from that fabulous city. These children are two little doll-like creatures, extremely diminutive, and very interesting as anatomical and physiological curiosities; but the pretension of their representing a distinct race of men,

much less a race wholly new to science, is ridiculously extravagant. They are simply what the best physiologists have pronounced them, and what, indeed, is obvious at a glance, instances of arrested growth and malformation—well-proportioned dwarfs, rendered additionally curious by a peculiar form of idiotcy; their nervous system, though deficient in *quantity*, being apparently good in *quality*, so that they are not heavily stupid, like most idiots, but extremely active, mentally and physically. As to the assertion that they have been thus debased by artificial means, as well as by restraints acting for ages on their progenitors—that four or five hundred beings like them exist in Iximaya, &c. &c.—all this is not only unsupported in fact, but altogether absurd in principle: nor can I see the least ground for presuming that their parents were not individuals of ordinary stature and character.

As to form and feature, I take the liberty of emphatically denying that these children possess any of the *special* characteristics of the American family, while they do possess others which most decidedly and obviously distinguish them from all known types of that family, ancient or modern. A projecting face, sloping forehead, prominent nose, and dark complexion, are not, either individually or collectively, *special* characteristics of the American family: they exist and co-exist in Africa, Asia, and in the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The races of America have various and very different forms, complexions, temperaments, &c., one from the other; yet in all cases they have an indescribable something which binds them into one group, and separates them from all the rest of the world; and this something, which an experienced eye at once detects, is easily overlooked by, or remains altogether imperceptible to, a superficial or unpractised eye. Who does not distinguish at a glance a Frenchman from an Englishman, when each has the national peculiarities well marked? Yet who can give a formula of the difference that will suit all cases? The same may be said of all great nationalities. It is on this principle I assert that these children do not present to me the faintest trace of Americanism, while they do present the plainest impress of widely different types of humanity. With the exception of a possible tinge of European blood, they belong, in my opinion, to *Asia* and *Africa* exclusively. *Long, straight, lank*, and usually coarse hair is, as far as I am aware of, a universal attribute of all the native races of America, ancient and modern. I do not remember ever to have read or heard of any fact of a contrary nature, and should be glad to be set right if such facts exist. Now, the boy has the *silky, curled hair*, common in Europe and Western Asia; while the hair of the girl is precisely that of *Mulattoes* and other half casts of Negro race. Similar hair is represented in the pictures and sculptures of Ancient Egypt, and exists also among the modern Nubians, and probably many other tribes of Eastern Africa. It is dense, wiry, and falls round the head in small, close, firmly-curled ringlets. All this is the very opposite of American hair. In temperament, also, these children are wholly un-American. They are excessively excitable, volatile, and mobile, mentally and physically; while the American races, though greatly varying among themselves, in this, as in most other respects, are all *relatively* grave, cold, and undemonstrative. The child must shadow forth the man: even the idiot must evince the peculiarities of his race.

I now come to what I have not the least hesitation in considering the true affinities of these children. In cast of features, and especially in *expression*, they are pre-eminently *Jewish*,—not Jewish in any ordinary sense, but even Jewish in the style which most differs from the usual European cast of features. The Jews, like all other races, differ a good deal in form and feature, but there is, relatively to European forms, an extreme type—an ultra ideal to which all true Jews more or less approximate. It is rare, in this part of the world, to find so close an approximation to this type as these children present. In fact, they are a caricature of the ordinary Jew. I except, of course, in this description, the recession of the chin, which is especially excessive in the boy; but then it must be remembered that the children are cases of malformation and arrested growth—that they are idiots, in fact, and that the recession of the chin is a peculiarity often observed in idiotcy. In all other respects, however, the Jewish character is so unequivocal in them, that numbers of persons have spontaneously remarked it, notwithstanding the prevalent belief in their Americanism, and no one, I think, can fail to recognise it when pointed out; it breaks forth, in fact, in the whole play of the features. Fearing to trust to my first impressions, I repeated my visit, after an interval of several days, and was more convinced than ever of the reality. On the latter occasion, I particularly remarked, at intervals, a very distinct *Negroism* in the expression of the girl, though the general character is decidedly Hebrew. Indeed, so obvious is this character in both, and in the boy especially, that the tale itself has been forced to recognise it, though, of course, indirectly. Hence these children are descendants of the sacred *Kaana*, who migrated from the "Assyrian plains" some 4000 years ago; hence *Leprosy* was treated in Iximaya much in the same way as in Ancient Jerusalem; hence the Eastern character of the architecture, and so on. Finally, I must remind those scientific men who have perceived in these children a new race, or a Mexican character, that on this occasion they have had for an instructor in ethnology and archæology the ingenious concocter of the wonderful history of Iximaya and the Aztec Lilliputians.

The foregoing description readily suggests the true genealogy of these children. Their remarkable general likeness to each other proves them to be brother and sister, their special differences show that their parentage is of mixed blood. Let us apply to them a fact of which every observer may discover instances within the range of his own experience—viz., that children often take predominantly after the father in *features*, while they take after the mother in *temperament*, as in complexion, colour and quality of hair, &c. (Sometimes the case is found reversed, the mother giving the features, the father the temperament; but I have always observed that where races widely different intermarry, the males are most like the father, and the females like the mother.) Let all this, I say, be applied in the present case—let us assume for a moment that the father of these children was a *Jew*, the mother a *Mulatto*, the offspring of a Negress and a Spaniard, or of a Negress and a Jew even, and everything becomes at once plain; the boy approaches more to the father, the girl to the mother. The boy has the Jewish hair complete, the girl the Mulatto, while the region from which they are said to have been brought presents us in abundance all the elements required by the problem — Jews, Spaniards, Negroes, and Mulattoes. I may observe, too, that the projecting face and receding chin and forehead are by no means out of character with a Negro derivation. Let the reader accept this theory, and he will not, I think, be very far removed from the true genealogy of these divine Kaana—these pigmy representatives of the great Pontiff Kings of Ancient Mexico!

LUKE BURKE.

THE BALLAD OF THE KING'S DAUGHTER.

PART I.

She twisted up her royal lengths
  Of fallen hair, with a silver pin;
Her eyes were gleaming molten depths,
  Which stirred to flame when I looked within.—

Dressed in a gown of velvet black,
  With a diamond clasp and a silver band,
Walked from the door with a stately step,
  And our young son held by his mother's hand.

Walter ran by his mother's side,
  In eyes more like to her than me;
The Queen would have bartered her ivory throne
  For such a blossom of royalty.

Heavily over the far hill tops
  Booms the bell in the minster tower,
From city to city between the hills,
  Boom the bells at the burial hour.

Amen! saith the bough in the ten-mile forest,
  Amen! saith the sea from its cavernous bed,—
Amen! saith the people, when bowed at the sorest;
  Who is dead? said the rooks; Who is dead? Who is dead?

The young man is dead, in his strength, in his beauty,
  His curls lie loose on his white-fringed pall,
Loud cry the people and priests at the altar,
  Loud wails the requiem over them all.

Low in the midst of the church of the Merciful
  Lieth the young man, gone to his rest,
His sword is sheath'd and his coronet broken,
  Flowers of yesterday cover his breast.

"Babe, child, brave youth," wept the Queen in her closet,
  "Heir of my name," sighed the King on his throne,
"Who leads us to battle?" cried they of the market,
  "My lover," looked one face, as cold as a stone.

Slow tolled the bell from the north to the southern sea,
  Winds caught them up with a desolate cry,
Solemn he lies under darkening arches,
  The hand of eternity pressed on each eye.

PART II.

The market cross, with its sculptured Christ,
  'Mid the crush and the trample stood steady and strong,
The welded masses of voiceless folk
  As a sea at midnight rolled along.

Booming bells as they struck the ear,
  Died away in the silent skies,
Gossiping women were dumb with fear,
  And each gabled house was alive with eyes.

But lo! in the distance a shadowy file,
  They move to the beat of a muffled drum,
The waves recede, as for Israel's march,
  And the thick crowd mutters, "They come, they come."

When the bier was borne by the central fount,
  She stood as still as the carven stone,
Saying, "O King, behold my boy,
  His smile is the Dead's, and his eye is your own.

"From my broad domain in a true man's heart,
  From the home I chose of mine own free will,
I give you my jewel to wear in your crown."
  Then, snatching him back for one last long fill

Of his rippling smiles, they heard her say,
With a haughty glance at her marriage-ring,
"Well is my home by the forester's hearth,
But Walter, my son, is the heir of a king."

When the shadows fell on our quiet pool,
And the birds were asleep in the firs overhead,
She return'd alone, but her face was white,
Who had given her Living in place of her Dead. B.

The Arts.

THE OPERA SEASON.

(RETROSPECT—BEFORE BREAKFAST.)

THE morning dew is not yet dry upon my feet, the soft rolling clouds of lazy mist, which I left drowsily recumbent on the far-stretching uplands, are still there in spite of the bright sun, the keen and eager birds are twittering, and the bee is busy out of doors, yet I come in to find a somnolent, and a silent house, giving the vaguest possible intimation of breakfast! To fill the painful pause I will do a bit of duty, and take a retrospect of the Opera Season; if I am unusually savage, let some of that fierceness be credited to my Hunger. Why write when hungry? some unwise questioner will suggest. As well suggest, Why be hungry? It all comes of early rising!

Early rising is a virtue greatly esteemed in books, and very necessary —"for others." It is not a virtue which distinguishes me. I am aware that the "early bird gets the worm;" but I am not immoderately fond of worms. Are you? I want some keener motive to make early rising a practice. Not that the charms of dawn, such as they are, find in me an inappreciative observer. There is a positive fascination in the freshness and quiet, smiling gaiety of dawn; the silence is brought into delightful distinctness by the sharpness of the few sounds which start out of it—the cawing of the distant rook, the crisp energy of the little birds, the bark of a dog, or the lowing of cattle. There is a magical influence in the air. The novelty of the sensation makes it delicious. But to enjoy early rising you must rise late; *then* you have the full, keen appetite for the newness of sensation which makes enjoyment healthy. You must not make early rising a debauch! Use it with rare and exquisite moderation.

One comes into the country a languid invalid in search of vigour and ruddy health; from the hot dissipation and gaseous irregularities of a London season, one passes into the generous influence of pure air, copious meals, early hours, and the not deliriously exciting conversation of the agricultural mind: the metamorphosis is complete. A day is sufficient to convince you of the poet's truth—

"God made the country, man the town,"

(But *who* made the "parties" one meets at parties in the country?)—and feeling fanatically virtuous you begin with a convert's energy to do all that Virtue demands—you rise at unheard-of hours! I once declared I couldn't get up at eight o'clock, not even to be hanged; but illness greatly tames a man, making him meek and respectable; it tamed me, and lo! the result.

However if I continue this desultory, and not strictly pertinent, conversation much longer, the breakfast-bell will throb its welcome pulses, and my retrospect will not be written; for after Breakfast a lounging, lazy indifference to duty, and an alacrity at taking up anything except a pen, characteristic of that period, will assuredly step between me and you, dear reader!

The Opera season of 1853 has been distinguished by a dreariness never known before; of all the flat seasons it has been the flattest—yet would it be difficult to say why. It has certainly been mismanaged; but when is it not mismanaged? The fault cannot wholly lie there. There has been no enthusiasm; it has formed but a faint topic of drawing-room conversation. Of the three novelties, *Benvenuto Cellini*, *Jessonda*, and *Rigoletto*, one failed, one didn't succeed, and the other produced no impression. *Benvenuto Cellini* was a mistake, the mistake of a man of genius. *Jessonda* has lovely writing, but is not dramatic; I can compare it to nothing but a fresco painted in the style of a miniature. *Rigoletto* suffers from the prejudice against Verdi, but if Mademoiselle Bosio had any passion in her, the opera would hold its place among the second-rate works of the modern Italian school. The only real success of the season, in the shape of novelty, was *Guillaume Tell*, which was heard for the *first* time here when Tamberlik sang *Arnold*: that *was* singing! Of the music I dare not trust myself to speak, my admiration is so overflowing. For indeed my idea of a grand opera is one in which the *music* is grand, and, if I may be allowed to say so, *musical*. To stun an audience during four hours with a prodigality of military bands, organs, cannon, musketry, church-bells, and big drums, with the trampling of horses, the clang of cymbals, the booming of trombones, the tumult of mobs, with processions of cardinals, emperors, incense-bearers, troops, skaters, monks, nuns, with the noise of orgies, the terror of public executions, the storming of fortresses, and the burning of palaces, to glut the eye, harass the ear, distract the mind with these, and all the grandeurs of grand opera, is really not the supreme end of Art, as I conceive it; and if you were, as an American would say, to boil down to an essence the whole repertoire of grand operas, you would not produce a *Guillaume Tell*, much less a *Fidelio!*

Of the singers what may one say? The novelties have been—Madame Medori, a fine dramatic singer, heard only twice, in spite of her success; Madame Tedesco, a "voice," and that is all, but a noble voice; Signor Luchesi, a pudding-faced *enceinté* tenor of dismal incapacity; and Mlle. Didiée, a neat singer, decidedly useful and improvable. There was also a Mdlle. Albini, of whom nothing need be said. Grisi was in splendid beauty, and in wonderful voice, considering the wear and tear that voice has had. Marvellous woman! she, and she alone, has had the power to attract large audiences this season; and certainly her *Lucrezia* and her *Norma* are things one can never hope to see again. Mario has had a few glorious moments, but, on the whole, his voice has been more uncertain this year than ever it was. Tamberlik had an immense triumph in *Guillaume Tell*, but in *Le Prophète* he disappointed his admirers. Throughout the season, however, he has been of rare service. Ronconi —what can be said of the greatest "artist" on the stage? Nothing but that he is the greatest, and has been equal to his own great powers.

VIVIAN.

LANDSCAPE PAINTING IN 1853.

IT is not many years since a careless public was betrayed, with reference to Art, into a terribly false position. It had been assumed by certain authorities that painting on a large scale, and on subjects either classical or sacred, were alone worthy to be considered examples of High Art. Finding that the assumption was very quietly swallowed, these authorities did not rest until they had shown how vilely the public had behaved to High Art; and so the public, good-naturedly and obligingly horrified, submitted for a long time to the imputation, and to the scoldings of neglected egotism, which it all the while continued to neglect. And the public might, to this day, have borne the imputation and the scoldings both, with British patience under insult, when the subject is only one about which Britons are at times vaguely enthusiastic; but at length one or two voices of the crowd spoke up, and said, "We are aweary, aweary; good sirs, why all this talk about indifference to High Art? Is not the highest Art that which best suits the time, being called forth by the highest intellectual requirements of the time, such as they may be? You have no right to bid us worship (at a shilling a-head) the work of your hands, and to call us infidel because we wont. "The great want of the age," forsooth, "is a want of faith"—in you! Pooh! Your pictures remind us only of the "life-school," (in the narrowest professional sense, by the bye,) and of the property-room and the wardrobe shop; but we say that is no fault of ours. According to the standard you please to assume as the only worthy aim of Art, we may be unable to deny the accuracy of your pictures; but we prefer pictures which we can feel to be true."

This was substantially the protest uttered by men accustomed to take a light and superficial view (not to speak it offensively), but it was in the main a just protest. We know that the highest kind of genius is not and cannot be immediately popular. Misapprehension must, at first, be expected by those who have to strike the key-note of their own fame. It is, somewhere observes Robert Browning, precisely the misapprehensiveness of his age, that a poet is sent to remedy. And he argues, in words which we repeat as nearly as we can recollect them, that the interval between the poet's operation and the generally perceptible effect is not excessive; that it is even less than in other phases of the great human energy; as, for instance, the astronomer's, whose "*E pur si muove*" he asserts to be as bitter a sentence as the poet has a right to utter, "in that depth of conviction which is so like despair." But with respect to the size of pictures, or the particular character of their subjects and treatment, it is ludicrous to imagine any depth of conviction at all; and the possibility of growing savage and scornful on the point cannot well occur, except in the case of some fretful old gentleman with one idea, who is exceedingly fair game for the fun of our good friends, the light and superficial observers before mentioned.

Again, though the "popular test" will never be a perfect test either of Art or Poetry, the space will continue to be lessened between the work and its effect, as it *has* been lessened so incalculably that the very nature of the difference has changed. We believe that a disregard of popular feeling is not now excusable, though it was once necessary, in the operation of Art. To familiarise beauty is no longer to run the risk of vulgarizing it.

The endeavour of Art has at all times been to revive, in their noblest significance, the instincts of humanity. If the greatest amount of living truth and beauty, the highest Art, is to be found almost wholly in landscape painting, the reason may be that life itself has taken that direction. Otherwise, if we had more natural life in our towns, landscape would properly form only the background of Art, as it does in the works of Millais, and a few other exceptional painters, in his school and out of it.

When, therefore, we assert the excellence of landscape art, which at each of the summer exhibitions now closed or closing, seemed to us to carry away the palm from other departments of painting, it is with due regard to the aims of Art, which we need not say include higher life and beauty than those of the lilies of the field. But at present the landscape painter has most work in hand, to bring back life among us "exiles from Nature;" and we find the result accordingly in the almost recent perfection of his powers. Comparisons of "established" painters with men of yesterday will show this result in a direct and very striking manner; as any one may see at the British Artists' Gallery, in Suffolk-street, where the exhibition of Art Union prizes has recently opened. It was generally acknowledged that Lee made a better show of landscapes at the Royal Academy this summer than he has done for some years past. We, who do not join in the loud praise of this artist, were yet among those who remarked on his great success this season. From his six or seven landscapes, a fortunate holder of an Art Union prize of a hundred and fifty guineas has selected perhaps the very best. It hangs, now, on the left as you enter the gallery, and a yard or two from the door. A little further on, along the same wall, is an admirable picture by Boddington, called a "Weedy Branch of the Thames." It is considerably larger than Lee's work, and we are afraid to say how much better. Its price is eighty pounds; Boddington's fame being of more recent growth than Lee's, who is, moreover, an R.A.

We may enter on a closer comparison of these two works, without losing sight for an instant of our main subject. On the contrary, we hope to gain one or two useful illustrations by the way. Lee, in this instance, as much as ever, seems to call for that very safe praise which

critics get through in one word—*chiar-oscuro;* a remarkable fact being that there is no such thing in any of his pictures. The mistake of attributing this quality to Lee is the mistake of unison for harmony. The slender stream of blue that winds across the picture is, we know from its place there, a river; but what *nuance* can you find in the dull, uniform streak, to give you the faintest idea of water winding through several modifications of light and other influences. The water in Boddington's scene lurks darkly in deep, still pools, eddies round the weeds and bulrushes, glides smoothly over the mossy shallows, and anon flashes out into the sunlight. There are a thousand variations in this landscape of Boddington's, and among them all we cannot detect one trivial accident. By this avoidance of what Nature in effect avoids—the result only of a fixed view such as you cannot get in Nature—we are alone able to appreciate the value of chiar-oscuro.

Yet if Lee had abandoned his mono-chromatic style, to produce as wonderful a concord of diverse effects as is this picture by Boddington, what would some critics have said? An artist—especially a landscape-painter—may come, in time, to acquire a certain handwriting—*style* is strictly the expression here—by which not only he himself, but what he means, is recognised; as we become familiar with the vile scrawl of a friend's letters, particularly when they are all on the same subject. In fact, the spectator of a work, the style of which he knows very well, is, to a great extent, the delineator of what he sees in it. Are we hasty in assuming that this fact is often overlooked, to a painter's undeserved reproach, and that it was so overlooked by the critic who wrote thus of Creswick's "Happy Spring Time"?

"Mr. Creswick, we think, has on this occasion hardly done justice to his great powers of depicting English scenery. At all events, No. 375, which he entitles 'The Happy Spring Time,' reminds us far more forcibly of a cheerless and backward season, like the present, than of those genial attributes of Nature which befit that hopeful period of the year. Mr. Creswick is eminently a landscape painter, and has therefore the less excuse for neglecting to pourtray some at least of the characteristic features of the season which he undertakes to delineate . . . . some of Nature's tokens which we look for in a correct delineation of spring, and of which the absence is ill supplied in Mr. Creswick's picture by tall, naked beech trees, devoid of foliage, and a few fallen trunks, the very emblems of desolation and decay."—*Times*, April 30, 1853.

The length to which our paper has run obliges us to defer noticing the works of Jutsum, Percy, Gilbert, the Williamses, T. Danby, the younger, and a long list of rising painters.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

Two cities, rather out of the way of the "Ocean Mail to India and Australia," have been painted by Messrs. Grieve and Telbin for the Gallery of Illustration. They are Constantinople and St. Petersburgh. The first was exhibited two or three weeks ago; the second, only last Monday. We have missed seeing Constantinople, but, as we hear that the city appears in all the glowing splendour of reality, it is easy for us to believe the universal remark that a fine contrast is produced by the change to St. Petersburgh, moonlit, and terrible in its Gorgon beauty, seen across the frozen Neva.

"Illustrations" are nearly always exaggerated pictures; indeed, a little exaggeration is sometimes requisite to give a good idea of reality. But here is a quiet look of truth which disposes us to take for granted as much accuracy as any one would desire. At all events, we can speak with positive approbation of the painting—of its general truth of effect. We have learnt to prize such merit more highly since the stage has shown us that ever so much reading up in the departments of the scene-painter, the property-man, the perruquier, &c., does not generally assist the touch of nature, and that even the actors—those abstract and brief chronicles of the costume of the period—can be formidably accurate without being the least real. To be sure, there would be no end gained or trouble saved in giving an incorrect view of a city which has never been buried, and consequently has not to be dug up before it can be Daguerreotyped. But the picture is worth seeing, if only as a picture. The illusive effects are as skilfully adapted to the painting as they could have been by Bouton or Daguerre. Q.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

THE total number of deaths registered in London, which in the preceding week was 984, rose in the week that ended on Saturday to 1053. Excluding from the comparison the corresponding week of 1849, in which cholera raised the mortality from all causes to 2456, it appears that the result of last week does not differ materially from the average as corrected for increase of population.

Summer cholera and diarrhœa exhibit a small decrease in the present as compared with the previous return. The deaths ascribed to diarrhœa are 126, of which 115 occurred amongst children. The tender age of nearly all the sufferers, 97 of them not having completed their first year, is sufficient to dispel the popular error that the use of fruit is the exciting cause. Small-pox was fatal in only 5 cases, measles in 13, scarlatina in 27, hooping-cough in 28, ague in 1, typhus in 48.

Last week the births of 775 boys and 743 girls, in all 1518 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1348.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·736 in. The reading of the barometer decreased from 29·97 in. at the beginning of the week to 29·40 in. by 9 h. P.M. on the 16th; increased to 29·83 in. by the morning of the 18th: then decreased to 29·77 in. by 3 h. P.M. on the 19th; and increased to 29·81 in. by the end of the week. The mean temperature of the week was 60·4 degs., which is slightly below the average of the same week in 38 years. It was below the average on the first five days of the week, but on Friday and Saturday rose about 4 degs. above it. The *highest* temperature of the week was 77·5 degs., and occurred on Friday; the *lowest* was 45·8 degs., and occurred on Thursday. The greatest difference between the dew point temperature and air temperature was 15·4 degs. on Friday; the least 0·9 deg. on Tuesday; the mean difference of the week was 6·2 degs. The wind blew from the north and south-west.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 17th of August, the wife of W. N. Forbes, Esq., of 17, Beaufoy-terrace, and of Auchernach and Dunnottar, N.B.: a son.

On the 19th, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, the wife of Captain Henry Buckley Jenner Wynward, Brigade-Major: a daughter.

On the 21st, at Richmond-hill, the wife of Arthur J. Otway, Esq., M.P., prematurely: a daughter, stillborn.

On the 22nd, at Cobham-hall, the Countess of Darnley: a daughter.

On the 23rd, at the house of her father, in the British Museum, the wife of J. R. Konyon, Esq.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th of June, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, Jervoise John Grey, Esq., C.S. second son of the Right Hon. Sir Charles Edward Grey, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Henry Holroyd, Esq., barrister-at-law.

On the 15th of August, at Florence, in the Episcopal Palace, the Marquis of Ricci Paraccino, of Rome, and Montepulcino, in Tuscany, to Rosalie Eustace, only daughter of the late Lieutenant-General Henry Eustace.

On the 16th, at the Church of St. Thomas d'Aquin, Paris, the Baron Amable de Montaignac de Chauvance, son of the Vicomte de Montaignac de Chauvance, to Mary, daughter of Owen Davies, Esq., formerly of Chilwell-hall, Notts, and subsequently of Eton-house, Kent.

On the 18th, at Monkstown Church, Captain Alexander Murray, Eighty-seventh Royal Irish Fusiliers, second son of the Right Hon. Lord Cringletie, to Eugenia Grace, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis, C.B., Innismore.

On the 23rd, at Rothley Church, Archibald Smith, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at-law, to Susan Emma, youngest daughter of the late Vice-Chancellor Sir James Parker, of Rothley Temple, Leicestershire.

On the 25th, at St. James's Paddington, Charles James Monk, Esq., only son of the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, to Alice, only daughter of Pantia Ralli, Esq., Greek Consul-General.

On the 23rd, at Rydal Chapel, John Wakefield Cropper, Esq., second son of John Cropper, Esq., Dingle-bank, Liverpool, to Susanna Elizabeth Lydia, third daughter of the late Dr. Arnold, of Rugby.

On the 24th, at All Souls Church, Langham-place, the Rev. John Rowlands, Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, and rector of Grimston, Norfolk, to Georgiana, youngest daughter of Sir George Jackson, K.C.H., her Majesty's Commissary Judge at Loando.

DEATHS.

On the 16th of April, while fording the river near Nelson, New Zealand, the Hon. Constantine A. Dillon, fourth son of the late Viscount Dillon, in his thirty-ninth year.

On the 14th of August, at his residence, Wimbledon, Mr. James Paxton, aged sixty-two, brother of Sir Joseph Paxton, and many years confidential servant to his Grace the Duke of Somerset, at Wimbledon-park, Surrey.

On the 18th, at Auchinroath, near Rothes, N.B., Lieutenant General Lord Saltoun, K.T., and Colonel of H.M. Second Regiment, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

On the 18th, accidentally drowned in Loch Aise, Scotland, Edward Bethell Codrington, aged seven years and ten months, only son of Colonel Codrington, Coldstream Guards.

On the 19th, at Rogate-lodge, the seat of Colonel C. Wyndham, Harriet Dowager Lady Polwarth, daughter of Count Brühl and Alicia Maria, Countess of Egremont, aged eighty-one.

On the 19th, at Leamington Spa, the Right Hon. Sir George Cockburn, Bart., of Langton, G.C.B., Admiral of the Fleet, Major-General of Marines, and Rear Admiral of the United Kingdom, in his eighty-second year.

On the 20th, at Hewshot-hill, near Liphook, Hants, the Hon. A. R. Turnour, Commander R.N., in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

On the 20th, at Haslar Hospital, at the house of his brother-in-law, Commander James Howard Turner, R.N., aged fifty-eight. When a Lieutenant he commanded H.M. brig *Ranger*, on the Falmouth station, and H.M. steam-vessel *Merlin*, in the Mediterranean.

On the 20th, at 20, Upper Harley-street, after a few days illness, J. P. Morier, Esq., in his seventy-sixth year.

On the 22nd, the Right Hon. Edward Vernon, Lord Suffield, aged forty.

On the 24th, at his residence, 14, Hawley-road, Kentish-town, Commander Charles Royer, Royal Navy, aged seventy-seven.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, August 26, 1853.

CONSOLS closed on Friday last at 98⅛ to ¼ for 8th September account, and have, during the week past, varied from that price to 98⅛ to ⅛, 98¼ to ⅛, 98⅜ to ⅛, 98¼ to ⅜, opening yesterday (Friday) at 98 to ¼; the market weak, and leaving off at 98⅛ for money and account. The wet weather, no doubt, has been one great cause in the dulness of the quotations. Eastern Counties shares have at last shown a disposition to rise from the low price they have so long been at. Yesterday they closed at 13¾ to ¼, business having been done at a ¼ and five-sixteenths. The heavy railway shares during the week have slightly fluctuated from the quotations of last week, and generally with a downward tendency. Little business has been done in the Gold Mining Market, and the bargains transacted chiefly in a few Companies; the prices quoted of the others displaying small alteration. There has been some inquiry and business done in Poltimore Mining Shares, which, in consequence of the favourable report issued by the Company, have been dealt in at one-sixteen and ⅛ premium, with a greater inclination for purchase than sale.

The closing prices yesterday were,—Caledonians 66¾ to 67¼; Cork and Bandon, 19¾ to 20¼; Eastern Counties, 13¼ to ½; Great Northern, 83-84; Great Western, 88½-9; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 75-¾; London and North Western, 111¼ to 112 x.d.; London and South Western, 85¼ to 86½; London and Brighton, 101-102; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 69½, 70¼; York and North Midland, 58½, 59½; Great Central of France, 2¼-½ premium; Northern of France, 36-½; Paris and Lyons, 18¾, 19¼ prem.; Paris and Orleans, 51-3; Paris and Strasbourg, 39-½; S. E. France, ¼ to ⅜ prem.; Upper India Scrip, ¼ to ⅜ prem.; Western of France, 9¾ to 10¼; Australian Agriculture, 35-37; Crystal Palace, 13¼ to 2 prem.; Ditto of France, ½ to 1 prem.; N. B. Australian Company, par to ¼; Peel River, ⅜ to 1 prem.; Van Dieman's Land, 16-17.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday, August 25, 1853.

With moderate supplies, our wheat trade is 2s. dearer than Monday. Barley is firm, and rather more ready sale. Oats are also the turn dearer. Beans and peas without alteration.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Satur.	*Mond.*	*Tues.*	*Wedn.*	*Thurs.*	*Frid.*
Bank Stock	229	228¾	229	229	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	99	99¼	99⅛	99⅜	99½	.....
3 per Cent. Con. Ans.	98⅜	98⅜	98⅛	98¼	98¼	.....
Consols for Account	98⅜	98½	98¼	98⅝	98¼	.....
3½ per Cent. An.	101⅝	101⅝	101½	101⅝	101⅜	.....
New 5 per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans., 1860	.....	.....	5 15-16	6	6	.....
India Stock	.....	.....	257	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	2 p	2 p	3 p	par	2 p	.....
Ditto, £500	.....	.....	3 p	.....	2 p	.....
Ditto, Small	2 p	2 p	3 p	.....	1 dis	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	102	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	45
Ecuador	5⅛	Russian 5 p. Cents, 1822	118½
Granada, ex Dec., 1849, coupon	23	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	38¼
Granada Deferred	10	Venezuela 1 p. Cent. Def.	16⅛
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.	85	Dutch 2½ per Cents.	64⅞
Peruvian 3 per Cent. Def.	60	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	98¾

MR. EDWARD MURRAY (Acting Manager) begs respectfully to inform the Public that his BENEFIT will take place at the ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE, on MONDAY Evening, August 29th, when Mr. Leigh Murray (by the kind permission of B. Webster, Esq.), will appear. The Performance will commence with (by the kind permission of C. Dance, Esq.), THE COUNTRY SQUIRE. Squire Broadlands, Mr. Farren, (positively his last appearance in that character at this Theatre,) supported by Messrs. W. Farren, Clifton, and Kinloch; Mesmes. H. Gordon, E. Turner, and A. Phillips. After which, for the first and only time these three years, (by kind permission of H. F. Craven, Esq.,) NOT TO BE DONE. Edmund Quick, (his original character,) Mr. Leigh Murray—Downywag, Mr. Shalders—Sally, Mrs. A. Phillips. With (never acted) an entirely new and original Farce, by F. Talfourd, Esq., to be called WANTED A SITUATION. Mr. Bragg, Mr. F. Robson—Mr. Miff, Mr. Shalders. To conclude with the highly attractive Burlesque, by F. Talfourd, Esq., entitled, SHYLOCK; or, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE PRESERVED. Shylock, Mr. F. Robson.

Stalls, 4s.; Dress Circle, 3s.; Pit, 1s. 6d.

AZTEC LILLIPUTIANS, AT THE MARIONETTE THEATRE, LOWTHER ARCADE, Strand. Open every Day and Evening. The immense crowds who daily visit these extraordinary beings cannot gain admission. The Guardians, in order to accommodate the Public, have altered the hours of Exhibition as follows:—Morning Exhibition, Eleven till One; Afternoon, Three till Five; Evening, Seven till Ten.

Admission, 1s; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. The incredible number of 37,000 persons have seen and looked with wonder on the Aztecs during the last two weeks at the Marionette Theatre.

DIFFICULT TEXTS and TEXTS MISUNDERSTOOD.

TO-MORROW EVENING, Aug. 28, the Rev. WILLIAM FORSTER will deliver the Seventh of a Series of Twelve Discourses, at the Temporary Free Christian Church, Hawley-crescent, Camden-town. Phil. ii., 9-11. Subject—The Exaltation of Christ—the Reward of Obedience, the Admiration of Men and the Glorification of God.

On Sunday Evening, Sept. 4, the Eighth of the Series. 1 John, v., 7. Subject—"The Three Heavenly Witnesses;" or, "the Holy Trinity," its Human Origin, its Disastrous Influence, and its Certain Fall.

REFORMATION of the NINETEENTH CENTURY.—Meetings of the HUMANISTIC ASSOCIATION every Sunday Evening, at Seven o'clock, at 32, Tavistock-place, Tavistock-square. Addresses will be delivered by JOHANNES RONGE and others, on FREE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION, and the Natural Sciences.

J. J. LOCKHART, } Presiding
DR. VIETTINGHOFF, &c. } Members.

THE ANNIVERSARY of the CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—At Freemason's Hall, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday, the 7th of September, at Three o'clock, the Tenth Public Drawing, for Rights of Choice on the Society's Estates will take place, after the regular business of the Fourth Quarterly General Meeting of the Shareholders has been transacted. Viscount Ranelagh will take the Chair, supported by a deputation of the Executive Committee. All uncompleted Shares taken prior to the final numbers being placed in the wheel, will be included in this drawing.—Applications for Prospectuses and Shares to be made to

CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, *Secretary.*

Offices, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand.

ECONOMIC FREEHOLD LAND ASSOCIATION, (Enrolled as the "Economic Benefit Building Society.") Shares £30 each. Entrance Fee 1s. per Share. Payments 1s. per week, with an additional Sixpence per Share for Expenses per Quarter, any Subscription Day during the Quarter. The chief object of this Association is to promote the Social Elevation and Political Enfranchisement of the People. Central Office, Literary Institution, John-street, Fitzroy-square. President: William Coningham, Esq.; Solicitor: Octavius Leefe, Esq., 90, New Bond-street; Surveyor: John William Milnes, Esq., Lorn-road, Brixton; Secretary: Mr. Henry A. Ivory, 52, College-place, Camden-town.

AN ELIGIBLE ESTATE, Situated at Wood Green, close to the Hornsey Station of the Great Northern Railway, consisting of Eleven Acres, has been purchased for the Society, and will be shortly BALLOTED FOR. Persons joining immediately will be eligible to participate in the Ballot.

Mode of Allotment, by Seniority and Ballot. Suspension of Payments in times of illness or depression of trade. No limit to the number of Shares to be held by any Member. Law Expenses not to exceed 30s. per Deed, exclusive of stamps and parchment. Each Member charged from the time of entrance. Payments not increased after the Member has an Allotment. Deposits received at four per cent per annum. Ladies and Minors are equally eligible to the benefits of this Association. Members can enrol for Shares between the hours of Eight and Ten every Tuesday Evening, at the Central Office. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

THE BEST SHOW of IRON BEDSTEADS in the Kingdom is WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. He has TWO VERY LARGE ROOMS, which are devoted to the EXCLUSIVE SHOW of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, (with appropriate Bedding and Mattresses.) Common Iron Bedsteads, from 16s. 3d.; Portable Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 19s. 6d.; and Cots, from 20s. each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from £2 3s. to £13 13s.

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SHIRTS.—FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS are not sold by any hosiers or drapers, and can therefore be obtained only at 38, POULTRY. Gentlemen in the country or abroad, ordering through their agents, are requested to observe on the interior of the collar-band the stamp—"FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS, 38, POULTRY," without which none are genuine. They are made in two qualities—first quality, 40s. the half-dozen; second quality, 30s. the half-dozen. Gentlemen who are desirous of purchasing Shirts in the very best manner in which they can be made, are solicited to inspect these, the most unique and only perfect fitting Shirts. List of prices and instructions for measurement, post free, and patterns of the new coloured shirtings free on receipt of six stamps.

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EDUCATION.—WANTED, by an Accomplished Widow Lady, residing in one of the finest counties in England, within Fifty Miles of the Metropolis, and in the immediate neighbourhood of a Railway Station, TWO YOUNG LADIES to EDUCATE with her two daughters, who are aged about twelve years. Most satisfactory references will be given and required.—Address to A. L., care of Mr. Onwhyn, Bookseller, Catherine-street, Strand.

MILITARY OR OTHER EDUCATION. A MARRIED GENTLEMAN who has been educated at Sandhurst, has passed a first-class examination, and has served in the Army at home and abroad, wishes to receive into his family, ONE or TWO YOUNG GENTLEMEN, to educate for College or the Army.

References given and required. Apply, by letter, to B. C. A., Eldon Chambers, Devereux Court, Temple, or Gothic House, Bromley Common, Kent.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.—A FIRST-CLASS MAN in ARTS and MEDICINE has a vacancy for One PUPIL, who will receive the advantage of Private and Class Instruction for the University of London, the Hall and College. He may be Apprenticed or not. Last July all his Pupils were First-class.—W. B. G., 11, St. George's Villas, Canonbury, Islington.

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INDIA and CHINA, viâ EGYPT.—For Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, and Hong Kong on the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and on the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

AUSTRALIA, viâ SINGAPORE.—For Adelaide, Port Philip, and Sydney (touching at Batavia), on the 4th September, and 4th of every alternate month thereafter from Southampton, and on the 10th of September and 10th of every alternate month thereafter from Marseilles.

MALTA and EGYPT.—On the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

MALTA and CONSTANTINOPLE.—On the 27th of every month from Southampton.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—For Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, from Southampton, on the 7th, 17th, and 27th of every month.

CALCUTTA and CHINA.—Vessels of the Company ply occasionally (generally once a month) between Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghae.

For further information and tariffs of the Company's rates of passage money and freight, for plans of the vessels, and to secure passages, &c., apply at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, London, and Oriental Place, Southampton.

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