

Hedder and Galloway, 7 Wellington Street, Strand.

# 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.*

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1855.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

## News of the Week.

THE death of the Emperor NICHOLAS, the return of Lord JOHN RUSSELL to the Cabinet without yet returning from Vienna, whither he has been wandering by very slow stages, and the final construction of the PALMERSTON Cabinet out of the old Whig Rump, and a few minor incapacities in subordinate posts, are the three grand events of the week.

Respecting the Czar, we only have what the telegraph could tell our Foreign Office—that he died yesterday morning, not quite suddenly however, of "pulmonary apoplexy." How few words can tell events that involve the fate of empires!

Of the new Cabinet, we have more to say. If Lord PALMERSTON could have formed a Ministry congenial with his own active and courageous mind, it is extremely probable that it would have been such as might take up the conduct of affairs at a point of difficulty in the history of England, and have wielded the power of this country with credit to itself and glory to the nation. But he is surrounded by gentlemen who "have claims;" he has a House of Commons elected under the DERBY régime. These may, perhaps, be reasons to account for the comparative failure which he has had in constructing a Cabinet to promise a courage equal to the occasion. The new Ministers in place of GRAHAM, GLADSTONE, SIDNEY HERBERT, and CARDWELL, are CHARLES WOOD, CORNEWALL LEWIS, JOHN RUSSELL, and VERNON SMITH. Sir CHARLES WOOD has done much better at the Board of Control than he ever promised to do, and his return to the Admiralty does not indicate any improvement either upon himself or upon Sir JAMES GRAHAM. The colonies thought well of Lord JOHN RUSSELL: they had no reason to think ill of Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT; on the contrary, they would have anticipated good administration from the Duke of NEWCASTLE's brother-in-arms. Lord STANLEY of Alderley, an elderly and experienced official, is not likely to be any improvement upon Mr. CARDWELL at the Board of Trade; Mr. VERNON SMITH will scarcely do better than Sir CHARLES WOOD at the Board of Control; and if Sir GEORGE LEWIS is well up in questions of finance, he is confessedly a peace man and a closet man, and we may look for a prolongation of an established passé "political economy" spirit in Government. A hint seems to have been given

to Lord ST. GERMAN, that as his friends had left office, he must leave Dublin Castle, and he is replaced by Lord CARLISLE, followed by the chivalrous HORSMAN. The general rearrangement is not promising. The accession of Sir GEORGE LEWIS does not strengthen Lord PALMERSTON'S hands, and he has had little success in beating up recruits for the minor offices. Sir ROBERT PEEL and Mr. DANBY SEYMOUR have been invited; we do not know that they have acceded. Lord DUNCAN does take the place of Lord ELCHO as a Lord of the Treasury; Mr. WILLIAM COWPER succeeds Mr. MONSELL; Mr. LAYARD and Mr. LAING have been invited, and have not accepted; and there is a strong feeling out of doors that they occupy a position more calculated to advance themselves as public men, by standing independently, than if they had prematurely entered into office.

On this part of the subject considerable light is thrown by the speech of Mr. LAYARD to his constituents at Aylesbury. The treatment which he has received at the hands of official magnates is not of a kind to create confidence or to dissipate the impression that "the cold shade of the aristocracy" is really working mischievously for this country, if not dangerously. Mr. LAYARD has distinguished himself by his official services in the East, and by the originality of his researches in a field which was there open to him; and he was offered a post under the RUSSELL Cabinet, which he took. He went out with that Cabinet, and he had reason to consider himself a recognised adherent of the party; but he was not invited to resume office under Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and he has been subsequently subjected to a series of offers and retractions terminating in the proposal of an office for which his previous habits had not fitted him. Mr. LAYARD had a higher idea of the manner in which the public men ought to be selected than the Minister who invited him; so he declined office and remained an independent member of the British people. Respecting one man, at all events, we now have the complete story. The offers made to Mr. LAYARD show that Ministers do not think him disqualified for such posts; the retractions proved that they think themselves free to take the grossest liberties with men who do not belong to "the families." And by keeping Mr. Lowe in a subordinate post, they proved that they do not really wish to let the "new blood" take the place monopolised by "blue" blood.

The proceedings of the week in Parliament have not been glorious. A new member has been added to Mr. ROEBUCK'S committee in the room of Sir GEORGE LEWIS, temporarily disqualified by his appointment to office, and translated to the highest ranks of the Government. More discussion has occurred on going into committee of supply, or in committee, about the mode of working the transport, the contract system, and the military administration in the East; and the House of Lords have assisted in these criticising debates. The Secretary for War, Lord PANMURE, admits the abuses, and affirms that they are in course of being remedied. Unluckily, after so much mystification, the English people will not be convinced without tangible results. We are sick of hearing it said that all the mismanagement in the East *will be set right*, as that Sebastopol will be taken, or that the Cabinet will be invigorated by "new blood;" when, in fact, Sebastopol is not taken, and nothing but hoary locks are shaken at us from the mystic doors of the Cabinet; while the immense sums voted by Parliament—far more than doubling the ordinary naval and military expenditure—form the most substantial test that the country is prepared to strengthen the hands of its Government.

The division on Lord GODERICH'S motion to revise the system of promotion in the army presents a more even balance of members than might have been expected. Lord GODERICH had to steer his way between two difficulties; if he had made a proposition so extensive as the interest of the case really demands, such a thorough reform of our military system as would satisfy justice and the requirements of national safety, he would have laid himself open to a charge of hastily overturning the existing order of things. On the other hand, by rendering his motion very limited, only suggesting an extension of present promotions for non-commissioned officers, he did lay himself open to the retort of the officials, that he was proposing a partial change where the whole system would have to be considered together. The retort comes with a very ill-grace from those who uphold a system that entrusts the sword of an officer only to men possessing a moneyed qualification; but it sufficed, with a few promises from Lord PALMERSTON, and the House was satisfied to leave our present absurd and mischievous army system unaltered. Lord GODERICH'S opening of the subject, however, is a great fact; it is a great fact that he had so many as 114

votes to support him against the 158 in favour of the commission-market; and a fact quite as great is the noble, soldierly, patriotic speech with which Sir DE LACY EVANS proved, from his knowledge on the field and his personal experience, the unjust, corrupt, antinational, unsoldierly working of the present system.

As yet we are without results from Sebastopol or Vienna; but the "indignation meetings" held in various parts of the country, especially in the active north, show that the people will be very ill-prepared to view with leniency any more disastrous results of official negligence.

A voice of another kind is rising. A meeting has been held at Manchester, confessedly the first of a series, to "prepare the public mind" for a peace on the terms now suggested by Russia! This is confessedly the object of the speakers at that meeting—leading men in the once famous league—the WILSONS, RAWSONS, and ASHWORTHS. An organised agitation for a disgraceful peace is commencing with that party, which, equally small in numbers at first, set going the Anti-Corn-Law League. We doubt whether there will be the proportionately magnificent results; but we do fear that there may be men in office, and not a few of them, quite prepared to truckle to that Manchester party if it can make itself strong enough.

It is not that Russia shows any sign of conciliating this country. The Manchester men remark that her agent has been "waiting for a month at Vienna;" but the Government of Russia has not been waiting. The preparations for a war, the calling out of the entire militia, the aggressive movements on all parts of the frontier proceed; and Sardinia is chastised by a Russian declaration of war, because she has joined the alliance of the Western Powers.

Another blow to the Russian strength has come from the once despised Turks at Eupatoria, where Omar Pacha's first act is to repulse an attack of the Russian army in great strength. And the Emperor Napoleon, it appears now certain, will proceed to Sebastopol, probably to take the command in person. He is conscious, it is said, that he is responsible for pressing the Crimean expedition, and if so, his present step is at least not an ignoble way of accepting the ultimate responsibility. Interest thickens in that part of the world; but there is no sign that "Russia"—be it NICHOLAS, MICHAEL, or CONSTANTINE that wears the title—yields, South or North; and for ourselves, we only feel solicitude to learn that British statesmen have been able to sustain their part in the North with a courage corresponding to the aroused spirit of their own nation.

Discord has broken out in another part of the world. Totally misconceiving the incapacities of official coercion in the back parts of a colony, the Government of Victoria has attempted to enforce the fines for gold licences; the people burn their licences, organise themselves, and make declarations respecting the rights of English and Irish subjects; the officer of Government reads the Riot Act; blood is shed on both sides, and the riot seems likely to become an insurrection. "The Australian flag," it is said, has been raised once more; but the statement makes us doubt whether the Australians have fixed upon their flag, or, if they have, whether the gold diggers know it. The flag that we have seen floating on the Thames displayed the Five Stars; the "Southern Cross" is now raised as the standard of the Australians, though it would be quite as appropriate to the New Zealanders. We doubt whether Australia has yet, like America, found her Mohawks or her Washington.

#### THE MINISTRY.

The following is the composition of the Ministry up to the present date.—

Lord PALMERSTON, First Lord of the Treasury.  
Lord CRANWORTH, Lord Chancellor.  
Lord CLARENDON, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.  
Lord PANMURE, Secretary of State for the War Department.  
Mr. F. PEEL, Under Secretary for War.  
Sir GEORGE GREY, Secretary of State for the Home Department.  
Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Secretary of State for the Colonies.  
Sir G. C. LEWIS, Chancellor of the Exchequer.  
Sir CHARLES WOOD, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Chief Commissioner of Woods and Works.

Lord GRANVILLE, President of the Council.

Lord CANNING, Postmaster-General.

Duke of ARGYLL, Lord Privy Seal.

Lord DUNCAN, Lord of the Treasury, in the room of Lord Elcho, retired.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr. VERNON SMITH, President of the Board of Control.

Lord CAMPLING, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, upon the resignation of Lord St. Germans.

Mr. THORNTON, Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Mr. KEOGH, Attorney-General for Ireland.

Mr. JOHN DAVID FITZGERALD, Q.C., Solicitor-General for Ireland.

The Duchy of Lancaster, and one or two other posts, are, we believe, not yet filled up.

#### THE BALTIC FLEET OF 1855.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF—Rear-Admiral of the Blue, the Hon. Richard Saunders Dundas, C.B.

Second in Command—Rear Admiral of the Blue, Michael Seymour.

Third in Command—Rear Admiral of the Blue, Robert Lambert Baynes, C.B.

Captain of the Fleet—The Hon. F. T. Pelham.

The fleet contains one ship (the flag-ship, Duke of Wellington) of 131 guns; 1 of 102 guns; 6 of 91 guns; 2 of 81 guns; 1 of 70 guns; 9 of 60 guns; and 35 ranging from 3 to 51 guns; the horse-power varying from 60 to 700. The floating batteries are to be 5 in number, of 16 guns each; mortar-vessels, 8, of 1 gun each; steam gunboats, 28, of 2 and 3 guns each. So, at least, says the *Hampshire Advertiser*, which adds:—"In addition to the naval forces of England, which are to consist of 100 steamers, France will send 50 steam-vessels and a powerful land armament, which is now stationed (says *Galigiani*) along the coast from Calais to Cherbourg. For the conveyance of these troops and all the war matériel, the French Government have entered into a contract with an English company, the representative of which is at present in Paris—an arrangement which will have the advantage of leaving the vessels of war to act with all their power against the great Russian strongholds in the Gulf of Finland."

#### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

A DEBATE took place in the House of Lords, on Monday, on the second reading of the Criminal Justice Bill, which proposes to give Justices in petty sessions cognisance of all simple larcenies where the property stolen does not exceed 20s. in value. At present, said the LORD CHANCELLOR, there are some ridiculous distinctions. Justices in petty sessions can try the stealing of a dog, but not of a duck; of peaches or nectarines picked from the wall, but not of fruit that has fallen to the ground.

Lord BROUGHAM stated some aggravated results of the present system in its absurd delays. Sometimes prisoners are dismissed with a nominal imprisonment of one day, because they have been already thirty or forty days in prison before trial. Last Lent, at Aylesbury, the Lord Chief Justice had to try fifteen prisoners who had stolen property, in the aggregate valued at 12s., and, therefore, averaging 10d. each. Lord Brougham also mentioned cases of three men, more than sixty years of age, sentenced at different sessions to imprisonment with hard labour ranging from four to six weeks, for stealing one farthing, one halfpenny, and one penny. In the same year, a man in his seventieth year was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour at the treadmill for stealing to the value of threepence. Probably there was aggravation in these cases, but they suggest the propriety of employing professional assistance for magistrates who have to pronounce sentence. In five counties, containing a population equal to the one-tenth of England and Wales—namely, Somerset, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Dorsetshire—out of 1500 cases tried at quarter sessions, 895 were larcenies under 5s., 450 under 1s., and 240 under 10d. In a similar proportion, it might be calculated that of 15,000 offenders tried annually throughout England and Wales, about 12,000 are tried for larcenies under the value of 5s. By the present law, expenses are enormously increased and justice is delayed.

New writs were ordered to issue on Monday for the City of London, in the room of Lord John Russell, appointed one of her Majesty's Secretaries of State; for Halifax, in the room of Sir Charles Wood, appointed Lord High Admiral; for Radnor, in the room of Sir George Lewis; and for Forfarshire, in the room of Lord Duncan, appointed one of the Lords of the Treasury.

Also for the Montrose District of Burghs, in the room of Mr. Joseph Hume. This writ was moved by Lord PALMERSTON, who paid the tribute of a high compliment to Mr. Hume, reversing, in his case, what Goldsmith said of Burke, "who gave up to party what was meant for mankind." The party to

which Mr. Hume devoted the labour of his life was his country, and beyond his country the general interests of mankind at large. Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY said that Mr. Hume never made an enemy or lost a friend. He trusted that a grateful people would not let the opportunity pass without a more fitting memorial worthy of Mr. Hume and the country.

The army Estimates were continued in Committee of Supply on Monday; on giving rise to the usual conversations, both before the motion and in committee, Mr. FANNON put forward the claims of Sergeant Sullivan, who had so distinguished himself, and had been mentioned by his General of Division. Lord PALMERSTON repeated the answer, that Lord Raglan had authority to promote one non-commissioned officer in each regiment—the man selected in Sullivan's regiment perhaps being not less distinguished. Mr. W. S. LINDSAY complained of immense effort with little result in the transport service. He found a tonnage of 350,000 tons of shipping engaged in supplying our remnant of an army—a tonnage with which he would undertake to convey the whole British army in the Crimea. He described a visit to the French Minister of War in Paris, who sat in a room with a large map on which he marked the positions of the divisions of the armies in Europe, and the same Minister had daily reports from the five directors of transport, infantry, cavalry, commissariat, and the medical corps, enabling him to know the state of every department and its stores in every place. The reply of Admiral BERKELEY consisted in the remark that the vessels employed are in the service, not only of the English, but of the French and Turkish service, and they amount to not less than 100,000 men.

Colonel DUNNE called attention to the neglect of officers of Sandhurst in staff appointments. Out of 53 officers who have received the rank of brevet-major, 41 were on the staff. The senior department at Sandhurst, replied Mr. HARDINGE, can only accommodate 15 officers, and 9 of the recent brevet promotions have been from Sandhurst. Only 9 out of 50 rejoined Mr. Otway. Lord HOTHAM pointed to other defects, even in the recent arrangements of promotion; for example, an equerry of the Sovereign can be appointed as a general officer when he has served six years in that domestic capacity. The want of forage, and the ill-assorted provisions for the soldiers were amongst the subjects of complaint, Mr. LAYARD and Mr. DUNDAS stating particulars. Mr. Layard found the horses literally eating each other's tails and manes off through starvation, standing in pickets for two or three successive days in rain, hail, and snow. The men are exhausted; they have got on to the sick list in order to have a few hours' rest. The want of hospital room in Scutari is still a grievance; a ship with 300 sick men made the voyage from Balaklava to Scutari in two days, and then waited ten days to land a great number of the men. An extraordinary instance of management was mentioned by Mr. Dundas:—

"When it was found that the men on the plateau required vegetables, the steamer Harbinger was sent to Constantinople to purchase some. On her return to Balaklava the captain could find no one to relieve him of his charge—no one would take the responsibility of receiving it. They remained on board until a strong remonstrance was made to head-quarters, and then an order was issued by the commander-in-chief that the officers and men should be allowed to go on board and take the vegetables for paying for them. At that time, however, vegetables were to be had on shore, though at a great price; and as there was some difficulty in getting on board few persons availed themselves of the permission thus given. Time went on, and the great mass of the vegetables began to rot, and, further representations being made at head-quarters, another order was issued—the order which ought to have been made at first—that officers and men should be allowed to go and help themselves, without paying. The effect of this order was that, though a great proportion of the vegetables had rotted, yet so much of them as could be used at all was very soon got rid of."

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT explained the consequences under which certain societies had given aid for chaplains in the army. Originally it was proposed to send out twelve Church of England men, four Presbyterian ministers, and eight Roman Catholic ministers—the Roman Catholics being the proportion of about one-third, perhaps less. Certain religious societies wished to send out a larger number, proposing to pay half the expense, and the consequence was that the numbers sent out were doubled.

Amongst the votes passed on those days was 3,813,000*l.* for the embodiment of the militia.

The House having resolved into Committee on this bill, on Tuesday, the LORD CHANCELLOR stated that he proposed to reduce the jurisdiction which the petty sessions would have under the bill from 20s. to 10s.; to reduce the power of imprisonment from two years to one year; to enact that no conviction under the bill should be attended with any forfeiture; to include the elective magistrates of the City of London within the provisions of the bill; and to give prisoners the option of having their cases summarily adjudicated on, or tried by a jury.



# THE COMMAND OF THE TURKISH LEVIES.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH asked, on Tuesday, whether there would be any objection to lay before the House a statement of the war services of Major-General Vivian, who had been appointed to the command of the Turkish levies. He did not impugn the abilities of Major-General Vivian; his appointment as adjutant-general of the Madras army showed he was respected, and he may be fit for the same service in the Turkish levy; but the Earl thought for the command of that levy a person should have been selected who had had experience of Orientals. Major-General Vivian, having been only in the Madras army, which has seen little service of late, could not have much experience in war, and must be uninformed in the management of irregular corps, between which and regulars there is a great difference. The number of officers whom Major-General Vivian will have to recommend is considerable—125 at the least. Now, where are those officers to come from? In his opinion, the Governor-General of India should be written to, and requested to recommend the fittest officers for the service. He had at all times held the opinion that it was impolitic to confine the services of Indian officers to India alone. Service in India is of a larger and more instructive nature than the ordinary service of the British army. Indian officers have more extensive and more valuable experience; and there is no doubt that the deficiencies observable in many branches of the military service in the Crimea might be supplied by the officers of corresponding departments in India. The military reputation of this country has been impaired; and the only remedy consists in selecting the fittest men for the various commands.

Lord PANMURE denied the justice of Lord Ellenborough's remarks on Major-General Vivian, as well as their prudence with reference to our army in the East. Major-General Vivian is in every way qualified for the post, from the exemplary manner in which he filled the highest stations in the Madras army; and, as soon as it was known that he was to have the command of the contingent, applications for service poured in. Lord Panmure would undertake that fitting officers should be appointed, even if it were necessary to select them from the East India Company's service.

Lord VIVIAN briefly spoke in vindication of his gallant relative, and read a testimonial in his favour signed by Sir Richard Armstrong, the commander-in-chief of the Madras army, when General Vivian resigned his office of adjutant-general.

## THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

The Earl of HARDWICKE moved, on Tuesday, for certain returns connected with the transport service, and enumerated the mistakes which had been committed in that department—paying for space, for instance, by measure, instead of registered tonnage—for space occupied by engines.

Lord PANMURE acknowledged that great abuses had existed in the transport service; but said that these were under inquiry, and would speedily be amended. He had no objection to produce the returns.

## THE GREAT KENNEDY CASE.

Sir JOHN SHELLEY moved on Tuesday for a Select committee to inquire into the grounds for the removal of the Right Honourable J. Kennedy, Commissioner of Woods and Forests, &c. Sir John Shelley described his dismissal as arising from a difference between Mr. Kennedy and a subordinate in the same office; but he ascribed it in reality to Mr. Kennedy's being over-zealous for the views of certain members of the Government, and the dismissal was in effect an imputation upon his veracity and honour. Mr. GLADSTONE called upon Sir John Shelley to put the charge which he had made, in writing upon the table of the House, and then Mr. Gladstone would leave it to the arbitration of the House. Sir JOHN SHELLEY did not accede, and then Mr. GLADSTONE explained that Mr. Kennedy had made a charge against a subordinate in the same office. The charge seemed to have been founded on a misapprehension, and Mr. Kennedy showed no disposition to do justice to his subordinate when the error was proved. Mr. GLADSTONE read very full details from correspondence, to show that Mr. Kennedy's conduct was such as to be destructive of authority, and such that, as his superior, Mr. Gladstone, could not be responsible for it. Other members, on both sides of the House, expressed a feeling that Mr. Kennedy had been intemperate; and all the Ministers who spoke concurred in admitting that there was no imputation upon his honour and veracity. On a distinct statement to that effect from Lord PALMERSTON, Sir JOHN SHELLEY withdrew his motion.

In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, the Marquis of BLANDFORD moved the second reading of the Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill, and explained and defended its provisions, which were the same as those introduced in previous years, and aimed at the better payment of the working clergy.

Mr. H. G. LIDDELL moved to defer the second reading for six months, as he considered that the property of the Church was not general property,

but belonged to the purposes of the Church, and ought not to be managed by a centralised power.

Various other members having spoken (the Liberal members being mostly against the bill, and the Conservatives in favour of it),

Sir B. HALL said, he had been requested by Sir G. GREY to state that he was anxious that the second reading should pass if Lord Blandford would consent to postpone the Committee until the Cathedral Commissioners had reported, and until time had been allowed for the consideration of the report.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD having agreed to this proposal, the second reading, after a short discussion, was carried by 102 to 66.

## MR. ROEBUCK'S COMMITTEE.

Mr. BENTINCK moved that Sir GEORGE TYLER be substituted in lieu of Sir George Cornwall Lewis in the Army before Sebastopol Committee. He thought it fitting that in this case there should be a naval man on the Committee, as naval witnesses would have to be examined.

Captain SCOBELL supported the motion; but Mr. ROEBUCK could not admit the alleged necessity, as he considered the Committee would be perfectly competent to decide upon the evidence of the professional witnesses.

Upon the House dividing, the numbers were—For the motion, 74; against, 87; majority against the motion, 13.

Mr. ROEBUCK then proposed Sir John Hanmer in the place of Sir G. C. Lewis; but a quarter to six o'clock having arrived, the motion was postponed, and the House adjourned.

On Thursday Colonel DUNNE proposed that Sir G. B. Pechell should be added to the Committee. This was opposed by Mr. ROEBUCK, and negatived; and subsequently Sir J. Hanmer was appointed.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, Mr. ROEBUCK brought up a report of the Select Committee to Inquire into the Condition of the Army before Sebastopol, which had resolved that, in their opinion, the objects would be best attained if the committee were a committee of secrecy.

On the same day, Mr. ROEBUCK appeared at the bar of the Lords with a message from the Commons, requesting their lordships to give the Duke of Newcastle leave to attend and give evidence before the Committee of Inquiry into the conduct of the war.

## PROMOTION BY PURCHASE.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, Lord GODERICH moved an Address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to take into her consideration the present system of promotion in the army, under which non-commissioned officers rarely attain to the rank of commissioned officers, and scarcely ever to that of field-officers, and humbly to express to her Majesty the injustice and danger of the system. He said, the people of this country, including the wisest among them, are impressed with the necessity which existed for the fittest men in the right places. In the army, the theory of promotion is, that the power is vested solely with the Crown; but the selection of officers was greatly influenced by the purchase system. That system, which he believed had never been established by any law, is only a system of barter and sale. The officers of our army, generally speaking, are drawn from the wealthier classes, and the privates from the poorer classes; and between the two there is a wide and almost impassable gulf. It is true, any attempt to abolish the purchase system at once would be simple confiscation; but a beginning might be made. No doubt particular instances might be brought forward of promotion from the ranks; but these are only exceptions to the rule. The present period, when the high and the low were fighting side by side, was the fittest for the inauguration of a different system. He appealed to the example of France, and more especially to the case of Ney, who rose from the ranks to be a Marshal and a prince; and, referring to the noble letters written by our soldiers from the Crimea, asked if such men did not possess an amount of reason, loyalty, and gentleness not to be surpassed by the highest? It had been said there was a difficulty in obtaining fit men for recruits; but he believed this difficulty would vanish if the men had a fair chance of promotion. Many young officers were sent out raw and untutored, very shortly after receiving their commissions, and had to be instructed by the sergeants, who ought not to have such men put over their heads. A number of commissions would shortly be at the disposal of the authorities, who might give them away to the deserving. He did not believe that the gentlemen of England would object to serving with men who had risen from the ranks; and he believed that by adopting the present motion, the House would be performing a truly conservative act.

The motion was supported by Mr. OTWAY, Mr. WARNER, Captain SCOBELL (who pronounced the present system to be a shopkeeping mode of getting on in a profession), Mr. J. BALL, Sir DE LACY EVANS, Sir ERKINE PERRY, and Mr. W. O. STANLEY; and was opposed by Mr. F. PEEL, Lord LOVAT, Colonel SMITHORPE (who thought it advisable to "let well alone"), Sir J. WALSH, Lord SEYMOUR, Lord

ELCHO, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, and Lord PALMERSTON.

Mr. F. PEEL said the present system could not be charged with having injured the interests of the country or of the army. Lord Goderich had failed to show in what way the system was unjust to the private soldier. If merit was to be the rule of promotion, who was to be the judge? There were advantages in the present system, and inconveniences in that proposed, which should induce the House to hesitate before it assented to the address.

The chief speech of the evening was that of Sir DE LACY EVANS. Referring to the decisions of the Duke of Wellington in favour of the purchase system, he asked if we were to be for ever bound to the opinions of one man, and that man one who was influenced in his judgment by political feelings, by aristocratical sympathies, and by a belief that the interests of the aristocracy were of greater importance than the welfare of the army. The opinion of the Duke also influenced those of other military men, who were afraid to differ, seeing that those who had the courage to do so suffered for it. The Duke had opposed all improvements in the army—the Mintie rifle included; and yet we are told we should never deviate from what he said.

"If the system of purchase be so admirable a thing, why not introduce it into all the institutions of the country? why not introduce it into your navy and into your civil offices? why not set up your Secretaryships of State for sale? (*Cheers and laughter.*) Sir, the system is a corruption—it is dishonourable to the country—it will be a disgrace to this House if you continue to sanction it, and the people of Europe wonder at its existence. But some gentlemen come with their six-penny economy and tell us, forsooth, that if we attempt to establish a system of promotion by merit it will cost us 100,000*l.* a year. That is the statement of the gentleman who has been selected to fill the second place in the conduct of the war. Well, sir, I think it is a very cheap thing if you can get it for 100,000*l.* a year. (*Cheers.*) Sir, it is said that it is not the sons of the aristocracy merely who purchase their promotion, but also the sons of the manufacturer and the shopkeeper. But it is not so easy to pass some of the higher steps when he goes to the Horse Guards if he is the son of a humble person. My objection to the system of purchase is, that it affords facilities for the manifestation of a favouritism which entirely eschews the commonalty, and admits only to the higher prizes of the profession the sons of the gentry and nobles. (*Cheers.*) I desire very much to see a larger proportion of the nobility and gentry than of the commonalty in the command of the army, but what I object to is, the exclusion of the latter, and that those should be deprived of the opportunity of coming to the higher appointments of the State who by nature are possessed of the talents to render great service to their country. (*Cheers.*) It has been well asked, why we should not upon the same principle set up situations on the bench for sale? But that is not so, and the result is, that we see upon the bench what never occurs in the army—namely, that the sons of the humblest persons in the scale of society have risen to the highest rewards in their profession. (*Cheers.*) This is morally impossible in the army. It is almost impossible even for the sons of the gentry. (*Oh! and 'hear, hear!'*) Look at my own position! We are beaten by time. (*Cries of 'hear, hear.'*) We are kept back (said the gallant general, with feeling) until we are worn out. (*Continued cries of 'hear, hear.'*) Those who have more friends get up to the higher ranks of the army; but, if there is a question of selecting some one for the command of a corps or an army, the answer is—'Oh! such a man is not of such a class,' and 'Don't talk to us of him.' When the hon. gentleman the Under-Secretary for War tells us that fifty or one hundred commissions have been sold for appointments in the Crimea, and when he talks of economy and ulterior expense, I really think that he takes a very low and inferior ground on this question (*cheers*), and that he takes, in truth, a most discreditable view of the subject. (*Cheers.*) Because men have 400*l.* or 500*l.* are they to be put over the heads of all those non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, and especially those non-commissioned officers who are bearing with exemplary patience and fortitude dangers, toils, and difficulties in the Crimea? All these men are to be set aside because 50,000*l.* is to be made of it. (*Cheers.*) There was a time when it was contended that all the soldiers should be nobles, and in some countries it was necessary for a man to have ten or twelve quarterings of nobility before he could be admitted into the army. But that has passed away. There have been great officers of all classes of the community. Princes have become great officers. But let us compare the number of great officers that have arisen in which the very highest classes alone obtain the command, and compare them with the same countries where at periods of revolution all classes have free scope for the development of their energies and abilities. Where you have 10 great officers in one case, you have 50 in the other. In the time of Louis XIV. there were great commanders no doubt, but we had a greater commander than all his. Our own Revolution was political rather than military, but still there was a gentleman of great power and position—Mr. Oliver Cromwell—(*a laugh*)—who made himself heard of. But compare the com-

manders of Louis XIV., when they were all men of family, with the military talent manifested at the period of the French Revolution. Some of Napoleon's best generals were men of very humble birth, and of very little education. What we do not sufficiently bear in mind is the great amelioration which has taken place among the population and in the army. Look to the general orders of the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular war, and compare them with the general orders issued to the army of most recent date, you will find in that comparison proof positive that crimes and offences were committed in a vastly greater ratio at that time than they are now. (Cheers.) And now, with regard to the army in the Crimea, I declare I cannot call to mind that anything like a capital crime has been committed by any of those soldiers. (General cheering.) Their conduct has been most eminently obedient and subordinate. (Continued cheering.) And is this the kind of army which ought to be excluded from the hopes of advancement, and the members of which ought not to be allowed to entertain those aspirations and hopes of honour and distinction that belong to other classes of society? (Loud cheers.) Why, sir (said the gallant general, with energy), when I have passed the pickets and outposts in the Crimea—the most severe and unpleasant duty to which a soldier can be exposed except a general engagement, and scarcely excepting even that—it has sometimes occurred to me how painful it was to see those brave men exposed to such dire miseries, to wounds and toils, and almost to certain death from disease, with so little of anything to hope for in the future. (Loud cheers.) I appeal to the noble lord upon the Treasury bench, and to the gentlemen near him, who have the power to remedy this, and I ask them to remember that these are men like themselves. (Cheers.) In the conventional sense of the term these brave men may not be gentlemen—a term, however, which is not very correctly used on all occasions, for we have known men of high rank who are not gentlemen, and we know people of lower rank who are essentially gentlemen. (Cheers.) But it is contrary to the general spirit of the orders of the sovereign to suppose that any one in the military ranks is not a gentleman. If you speak of polished manners it may be so, but if you lay it down as a principle that you are determined to proceed on a more liberal system in this respect, you will find that persons of still higher conduct, and still better education, will enter the ranks of the army. (Cheers.) I have no fear of any sort of inconvenience or danger from the proposition of the noble lord; indeed, I think it is a very moderate proposition. The hon. gentleman the member for Bury (Mr. F. Peel) has represented it to be almost impossible to do away with the system of purchase. Why, Sir, the system will do away with itself, if you will only allow it. There is an end of all claim when an officer dies who has bought a commission, and, consequently, there is an end of the whole system in process of time, if you do not sell some fifty or a hundred commissions, as you did the other day. I think it was most improper, most culpable, and most shameful to send persons, by purchase, into your army in the Crimea, and thus set them over the poor men who are toiling there, and whose lives are exposed almost every hour of the day, simply because the former have a few more hundred pounds in their pockets. (Cheers.) I hear some gentlemen say the present system works well. So it was said of the close boroughs, and, though they are not altogether extirpated, many of them have ceased to exist. There is no abuse without some countervailing advantage. I do not say that, in an economical way, you do not secure a greater number of young men of certain education by the system of purchase, but you have this preponderating disadvantage, that you entirely repress all that ambition which is so useful to the public service. I say it is altogether a fallacious economy. The idea of selling the command of a regiment is in itself an absurdity. It is absurd to commit a thousand men, not for a moment either, but for a long period, to the command of a person because he happens to have two qualifications—that he is not very junior, and that he has a certain amount of money. But if it is a good system, after all you are totally inconsistent, because if it is right to intrust 1000 men to a gentleman who possesses 5000*l.* or 6000*l.* you ought to intrust 3000 men, or a brigade, to a gentleman who has 15,000*l.*, and a whole division to one who has 20,000*l.*, or something of that kind. If it is a good system you are bound to carry it out and prove it to be so."

In times of peace, the present vicious system was not so greatly felt; but when war came, the case was different. Wars are prolonged for many years in consequence of the inefficiency and unsuitable selection of the general officers called to the head of the armies. Sir De Lacy concluded by alluding to the case of Sergeant Sullivan, whom he had recommended, but who had been passed over. He considered that omission to be a direct professional affront, though of course an unintentional one. He should therefore support the claim he had made.

Lord PALMERSTON said, if we were forming our army for the first time, no man would think of making commissions matters of sale; but it was difficult to deal with a system long established. Abstractedly, the present state of things was a great evil; but it had its advantages. The change involved very serious consideration, and therefore he could not consent to this off-hand resolution. It

must be recollected that the Commander-in-Chief, even in the case of purchases, exercised a discretionary power; and, with respect to the eligibility of privates, it should be observed that something more than natural qualifications are required in an officer. A cultivated intellect is also needed. Still, he thought it desirable that the prospect of a commission should be held out to such deserving privates as might wish for it; and he assured the House that the Government was desirous that the present system of admitting a certain proportion of non-commissioned soldiers to promotion should continue.

Lord GODERICH, in reply, said he did not feel himself justified in withdrawing his motion.

The House accordingly divided, when the numbers were—For the motion, 114; against, 158: majority against, 44.

#### THE WAR AND OUR COLONIES.

In answer to the Earl of CARNARVON, on Thursday, Lord GRANVILLE said the proper time had not arrived for replying to the addresses of sympathy on the subject of the war which had been received from our colonies; but that the loyalty thus displayed was deeply appreciated. It was afterwards agreed that the addresses and answers should be laid before the House. A similar question was asked in the House of Commons by Sir J. PAKINGTON, and a similar answer given by Sir G. GREY, who stated that there was reason to believe that other addresses and remittances of money would yet arrive from the colonies.

## THE WAR.

THE state of affairs before Sebastopol is decidedly improving, though still sufficiently cheerless on many days. The intense frost and deep snow have disappeared, giving place to violent descents of rain and tornados of wind. The ground about the camp has become a perfect slough of mud; but it is expected that the high winds will speedily dry the earth and render it hard. The correspondent of the *Morning Post* says the men "are now cheerful, light-hearted, and gay," under the influence of a little warmth and sunlight. Typhus and scurvy, however, are making their appearance. Nothing of importance has yet taken place in the movements of the troops; but the coil of destruction is every day being wound closer round the city.

The *Morning Post* of Monday published a tabular statement, pledging themselves for its authenticity, the upshot of which was that our effective force before Sebastopol, on the 6th of February, amounted in round numbers to 26,000 men; but even this indicates a fearful loss. The "navvies" are at work, and the railway is rapidly progressing. An attack upon Eupatoria by the Russians has been signally defeated by Omar Pacha.

We quote the following from the *Times* correspondent, writing on February 14:—

"It blew half a gale of wind all night, and the rain fell till 2 o'clock p.m. in the day, but the wind was warm and the temperature agreeable. The state of the country has been so bad that even our active and sanguine allies were obliged to leave four guns behind them on the recent occasion on which they undertook to arm our right attack for us.

"The French workmen, however, have made considerable progress with the new batteries on our right. On the left they were exposed to a heavy fire from 4 till half-past 4 o'clock, and the Russians blew up another French magazine inside the batteries. They at once opened fire along their lines with six tremendous salvos of artillery, and rushed up on their parapets and gave three loud ringing cheers. The damage done by the explosion was, I am happy to say, very insignificant, and before the Russians had ceased cheering the French took their revenge by discharging a tremendous volley of heavy shells, which burst on the walls of the Admiral's house, and silenced for a time the guns in No. 3 battery at the Flagstaff Fort."

"On the evening of February 14th," says the *Times* correspondent:—

"The wind increased in force, blowing in strong gusts and squalls, which tore down tents and the materials for hutting on the heights over Balaklava, and sent them clattering down the hill. This wind, hot and dry as one of the warm breezes of the tropics, much resembles the Mediterranean sirocco. The sky is overcast and lurid, but there are no clouds visible; the whole atmosphere is of a slaty grey hue overhead and on the horizon, but objects at a distance give well-defined outlines, and are not at all obscure."

#### DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

The subjoined despatch from Lord Raglan, addressed to the late War Minister, has been published by the Government:—

"Before Sebastopol, February 13.

"My Lord Duke,—I mentioned to your Grace in my despatch of the 10th inst. that there had been a return of bad weather, and that the country was again saturated with wet.

"On Sunday it rained or snowed from morning till night, and the wind was very high, and, though it was

fine yesterday, still the ground was in a worse state than I had seen it for some time.

"The enemy has made no movement.

"Major-General Jones, Royal Engineers, arrived a few days ago, and is busily engaged in making himself acquainted with the position occupied by both armies.

"Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown has also returned, and I have great satisfaction in adding, in excellent health. His wound is healed, and, with the exception of not having entirely regained the full use of his elbow, he no longer suffers any inconvenience from it.

"He will resume the command of his division without loss of time.

"I enclose the return of casualties to the 11th inst.

"I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

"His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c."

Lord Panmure has received the following telegraphic despatch through the British agent at Bucharest:—

"Before Sebastopol, February 18.

"A force—said to be 40,000—of Russians, with a large number of guns, attacked Eupatoria at daylight on the 17th, and was repulsed with loss by Omar Pacha. Turkish loss said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pacha, commanding Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British men-of-war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at 10 A.M., when the Russians retired a few miles."

The following is the latest despatch received from Lord Raglan:—

"Before Sebastopol, February 17, 1855.

"My LORD DUKE—I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Grace that the weather has improved since I last addressed you, and the country is becoming drier.

"Two days ago the thermometer was up at 60. It was somewhat lower yesterday, and early this morning it was down below freezing point, and at this moment it is snowing.

"I mention these particulars in order to show your Grace how variable this climate is.

"No movement has been made upon the part of the enemy. The garrison of Sebastopol is engaged in deepening the ditches, and improving the defences of the south front, and in constructing works on the north side of the harbour.

"I have received information that the Russian army, in the neighbourhood of Bakstchi-Serai and Simpheropol is suffering much from want of provisions, and from privations of all kinds.

"I am happy to be able to say that the railway is making considerable progress, and that every hope is entertained that in the course of a very short time it will be available for transit as far as Kadikoi, which will accelerate the conveyance of stores up to the camp.

"I enclose the return of casualties up to the 16th inst.

"I have great pleasure in stating that Colonel Bell, of the Royal Regiment, who received a slight wound in the side from a musket-ball, when commanding in the trenches on the night of the 14th instant, experiences very little inconvenience from it, and has felt well enough to continue to discharge his duty with his accustomed zeal.

"I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

"His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c."

#### RUSSIAN VERSION OF THE ATTACK UPON EUPATORIA.

Advices from St. Petersburg state that the following despatch had been received from Prince Menshikov, dated the 19th of February:—

"On the 17th a portion of the troops, encamped in the neighbourhood of Eupatoria, made a reconnaissance against the town to within a distance of 250 yards. They opened a cross fire of artillery, and in a short time succeeded in dismounting a portion of the enemy's guns and in blowing up five caissons of ammunition. Having assured himself that Eupatoria was defended by 40,000 men and 100 guns, General Chruleff, who commanded the detachment, gave orders to retire out of range, which was done in perfect order. At Sebastopol the siege does not make progress. The artillery and sharpshooters continue to annoy the enemy. On the 13th we blew up a powder magazine in the French trenches."

The *Moniteur* confirms the news of the defeat of the Russians at Eupatoria on the 17th of February:—

"The Russians had 80 pieces of artillery, 6 regiments of cavalry, and 12 regiments of infantry. The combat lasted five hours and a half. The loss of the Russians was 500 killed, with wounded in proportion. The Turks had 88 killed and 250 wounded. They lost 70 horses. Selim Pasha and Rusten Bey were killed. The attack has not been renewed. The town is in a good state of defence. On the night following, the Russians bivouacked without fires or tents during intense cold. On the following morning they withdrew towards Simpheropol. Four vessels of war took part in the action."

#### PROGRESS OF THE SIEGE.

In the Crimean correspondence (Feb. 13) of the *Morning Herald* we read:—"The French have resumed the fire of their mortars, and appear to cause considerable annoyance to the enemy. With a good glass the two or three houses in Sebastopol, in which their terrible projectiles have fallen and burst, can be perceived at a glance. They look precisely like houses which have been 'gutted by fire.'"



The same paper says that Sir George Brown has returned to the command of the Light Division, and that he appeared quite recovered from the effects of his wound.

The *Fremden Blatt* says that an order of the day had been issued by General Canrobert demanding 10,000 volunteers for an assault upon a portion of the fortress. The whole siege corps reported itself ready and willing.

A special correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing from Constantinople on Feb. 14, vouches for the authenticity of the ensuing statements:—

"There has been no recent sortie or any other demonstration made by the Russians of any importance, and notwithstanding the late reinforcement of the garrison by 25,000 men, and the report that the Czar's commands to his sons forbade them to return to St. Petersburg until the invaders surrendered or were driven into the sea, the besiegers do not anticipate that the Russians will resume the offensive. On the contrary, it is confidently stated that the mines of the French are in perfect readiness for the match, that in a week or ten days at furthest those of the English will be equally advanced, and then, after simultaneous explosions of the several mines, a bombardment will commence far surpassing in number, weight, and efficiency of projectiles, anything of the kind hitherto witnessed. The French troops are in excellent condition, as regards their general efficiency, and their sanitary condition is far more satisfactory than that of our own troops, who are still dependent upon them for services, which the numerical weakness of the British forces disables them from performing themselves; and the same kindly feeling which has been so frequently chronicled continues to exist between the soldiers of the two nations."

The same writer says:—

"From January 1 to January 31, there died in hospital at Scutari 1482, the mortality being greatest towards the end of the month, and about the same number died at Balaklava and in the hospital-ships within the same time. During the first five days of February, the mortality at Scutari averaged 110 per diem, but has rapidly fallen to about half that number at present. The accommodation at Scutari being overcrowded, drafts of the convalescents are now being made to Smyrna; but I am sorry to say that the same improvidence which has disgraced almost all our transport arrangements in the East has signalised this also."

THE ADMIRALTY have engaged two more steamers as regular transports, viz., the *Black Sea* and the *Indian*.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday publishes the following despatches:—

"Batoum, Feb. 1.

"The Georgian Militia, forming part of the Russian army in Asia, attacked yesterday (Jan. 31) the camp of Laghva, the advanced post of the Turkish army, which was entrusted to the guard of 800 Bashi-Bazouks. These latter, after a brisk fire of musketry, repulsed the Russians with considerable loss."

"Jassy, Feb. 11.

"An electric telegraphic line is being constructed between Jassy and Czernovitz, in the Bukovina. The poles are already erected, and the wires are being passed through them; in ten days, or a fortnight at latest, the line will be ready for service. It will then be continued to Galatz, passing by Vasloui, Berlad, and Tecoulch. The preliminary works for this second line are going on, and it is hoped that it will be finished in May next."

#### THE RECAL OF LORD LUCAN.

The *Times* correspondent in the Crimea says that the circumstances connected with the above event are believed to be these:—Lord Raglan having, in his despatches relating to the Light Cavalry charge at Balaklava, described the affair as the result of "misconception of orders," Lord Lucan wrote a letter to the commander-in-chief, saying that he objected to that expression, and that, had he used the discretionary powers of a general of division, he should have entirely disobeyed the order to advance. Lord Lucan showed that he had no alternative but fulfilment of the order or disobedience; but the only answer he received was a request on the part of Lord Raglan that he should withdraw his remonstrance. This, Lord Lucan refused to do, and the letter was forwarded to the Duke of Newcastle, who, upon the advice of Lord Hardinge, required Lord Lucan to resign.

It is said that Lord Lucan, on his arrival in London, will demand a court-martial. The *Morning Post* correspondent, who throws some doubt upon the above reason for his recal, says it is reported that General Thackeray is to take the command.

MAJOR POWYS communicates to the *Times* the following extract of a letter from a sergeant at Sebastopol to his son:—

"Camp near Sebastopol, November 30.

"My dear Boy,—I sent your mother 1*l*. some time since, which I hope she has received. I have not spent 1*s*. on or for myself since last August, although I have often felt a great inclination for the little luxuries which I see others indulge in. The other day I went to Balaklava on duty, and saw some of our sergeants drinking bottled porter at 2*s* a bottle. I felt very weak and tired, and was almost tempted to be extravagant;

but I reflected your mother would put it to a better use; so I kept my 2*s*."

Major Powys adds—"The Central Association has had the pleasure of maintaining the wife and family of the writer of this letter ever since the war began, for the small sums of money that he can send go but a little way towards the support of a wife and six children."

A CASE FOR REWARD.—"A British officer," writing to the *Times* with reference to a drummer-boy of the Guards, named Keep, who at Alma and Inkerman behaved in a most gallant manner, makes the following suggestion:—

"Let this brave boy, wearing the Crimean medal on his breast, be instantly sent home; let him, at the nation's expense, be educated at the Royal Military College, and if he succeed in earning honours in the study similar to those he has earned in the field—if, in short, he duly qualify himself for a commission, let that commission be given to him in the Guards, where he commenced a career which under such auspices, would be likely to prove honourable to himself and useful to his country. Such are the stimulants required by the British soldier to raise future effective officers for the ranks."

GENERAL DE LA MARMORA commander-in-chief of the Sardinian contingent to the Crimea, accompanied by the Marquis de la Rovera and the Count Balbo have arrived in England.

THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily News* says:—"There has been no such drift of American sympathy for Russia as your journals complain of, although it is not to be denied that your bad management of the war has cost you that warm feeling of sympathy, which came from our hearts involuntarily when we knew that the Anglo-Saxons of England had landed in the Crimea. The Americans now think that Russia understands the art of war better than England; that her officers are abler men; or, at all events, that they have seen more service."

THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.—On Monday, a large number of young men assembled at a tavern opposite the South-Western terminus for the purpose of joining the Land Transport Corps. Their pay will be as follows:—Superintendent, 5*s*. a day; sub-superintendent, 4*s*.; first-class drivers, 3*s*.; and second-class drivers, 2*s*. 6*d*., with rations and clothing. They are all regularly enlisted for 10 years, but a warrant signed by the Queen entitles each man to claim a free discharge after having completed five years' service. The corps will be commanded by the following officers:—Director-General, Colonel M'Murdo; assistant ditto, Colonel Napier; two regimental majors, one adjutant, one regimental quartermaster, and 24 divisional ditto. There will be about 2000 of other ranks. All the officers have started for the Crimea, except the recruiting staff; and those at the dépôt at Bristol. This corps will have sole charge of the transport of provisions for the army, and will only act on the defensive—never being in the field except on such occasions. They will have the direction of foreign muleteers, and will be well armed and equipped.

A RUSSIAN despatch, dated Sebastopol, February 18, which has reached Paris by way of Czernovitz, states that Prince Menschikoff was unwell.

#### LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

The Russians have demolished the Malakoff tower. Information has been received by General Bosquet of an intended attack on Balaklava.

#### THE CITY RE-ELECTION.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has issued the following address to the electors of the City of London:—

"Paris, February 23, 1855.

"Gentlemen,—Her Majesty having been pleased to confide to me a mission of the highest importance, involving the interest of Europe, and affording hopes of an honourable termination of the present war, I felt it my duty to withdraw for a time from my service to you in Parliament.

"While in this capital intelligence has reached me of the resignation of three of the principal Ministers of the Crown; and Lord Palmerston has asked for my assistance in carrying on the Government.

"In the difficult circumstances in which the country is placed, I have not thought myself justified in withholding from the Queen any aid which it might be in my power to afford.

"I have, therefore, accepted office, and, on my return from Vienna, shall be prepared to assume its duties and responsibilities.

"In these circumstances, I humbly place myself in your hands as a candidate for the renewal of your confidence. I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) "JOHN RUSSELL."

A meeting of the electors of the City was held on Thursday, at which a resolution was passed to the effect that those present would do their best to secure the return of Lord John Russell.

#### MR. LAYARD AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

A NUMEROUS meeting of the electors of Aylesbury assembled on Wednesday in the County Hall of that borough, in consequence of Mr. Layard's publicly expressed desire to explain to his constituents his views upon the present crisis. Mr. Acton Tindal was in the chair.

Mr. Layard first referred to the unfortunate affair between Admiral Dundas and himself. The publication of his letter had arisen from pure accident, having been privately addressed to a gentleman connected with the *Times*, and by him, through some unlucky mistake, inserted in that paper. He never intended that letter for publication; and although he did not mean to convey any imputations against Admiral Dundas's private character, he agreed to explain whatever might appear to contain such imputation. This he had done, as they had seen in the papers. Mr. Layard expressed what had passed with respect to the proffers of office which had been made to him in the Russell Government. Lord Granville offered him the post of Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which he occupied until the fall of the Government, about three weeks after his acceptance. Lord Derby wished him to remain in the Foreign Office until the return of Lord Stanley from India, after which he promised him a diplomatic mission on the Continent, but he refused on account of Lord John Russell's opinion that he could not conscientiously accept the offer, since his political principles differed from those of Lord Derby; and on the accession of the Aberdeen Government, Lord John Russell promised him the Under-Secretaryship of the Board of Control, but subsequently requested him to withdraw in favour of another gentleman, and offered him instead a consulship in Egypt, which he declined on various grounds. He afterwards went out to Constantinople with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe; but, having a disagreement with him, he returned to England. Lastly, he was offered by Lord John Russell the Clerkship of the Ordnance; but, as he had no confidence in the Government, and as he was unqualified for the Ordnance, he refused. On the recent resignations of Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Sidney Herbert, Lord Palmerston offered him the Under-Secretaryship of War; and, as he did not wish to seem afraid of incurring the responsibilities of office, he accepted the offer upon certain conditions; but, on the following day, Lord Palmerston told him he could not hold to the engagement, and therefore offered him the Under-Secretaryship of the Colonies. This, however, he declined for the same reason—unfitness—which made him decline the Ordnance. Mr. Layard then replied to the assertion of the Manchester party that we are fighting in the interests of the Turks alone. He contended that we are fighting more in the interests of the Christian subjects of the Porte than in those of the Mussulman Turks; for, although the country has made great progress during the last few years, there are causes which will probably lead to the extinction of the Mahometans in European Turkey. Christians are now employed by the Sultan even as ambassadors at foreign courts; though it is not to be denied that they still have grievances to complain of. Liberal opinions in politics and religion are gaining ground in Turkey; and it was out of a fear of these that the Czar invaded the Ottoman territory. That invasion was precipitated by Lord Aberdeen's accession to office. We committed great errors in not making the passage of the Pruth a *casus belli*, placing the negotiations in the hands of Austria, and in telling the Emperor of Russia that we did not mean to make the war a territorial one. The placing the troops in the pestiferous neighbourhood of Varna was the next false step, and one against which he repeatedly warned the Government. Mr. Layard averred that the proper men are not selected for the work; he doubted the utility of sending out a Commission of Inquiry; he feared that Mr. Roebuck's Committee, if not conducted with great prudence, might endanger the interests of the country; and he asserted the necessity for a higher class of public men. England must demand that the great interests of a great country be not sacrificed to the little interests of little men. (He sat down in the midst of loud cheering.)

The following resolution was carried unanimously, and it was resolved that a petition in accordance with it should be presented to Parliament:—

"That this meeting entirely approves the course adopted by Mr. Layard, and fully agrees with him in the necessity of a radical change in the system of army promotion."

#### PROVINCIAL MEETINGS ON OUR MILITARY SYSTEM.

MEETINGS have been held in several provincial towns, to impress on Government the necessity of inquiry into the recent disasters in the Crimea, and to urge a more vigorous prosecution of the war, and a reformation of the present military system.

One of the most important of these was held in the Town Hall of Birmingham on the evening of Thursday week, being convened on the requisition of four hundred of the principal firms and inhabitants. The chair was occupied by the Mayor, and between six and seven thousand persons were present. The principal speakers were Mr. W. Matthews, Mr. G. Dixon, Mr. George Dawson, Mr. T. H. Gill, and Mr. T. Windsor, a working man.

Mr. Matthews commented severely on the management of the war. The business of the country had not been placed in the hands of proper men; and the people must say to their rulers that they will have no more of this jobbing; that merit must be rewarded, crime punished, and responsibility fixed. Mr. Matthews expressed great pleasure at the resignations of Sir James Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Sidney Herbert.

Mr. George Dawson, who was received with prolonged cheering, said, they were not there to discuss the war itself. They met, at the invitation of others, to demand an inquiry. Did they think that even that great hall would hold every widow who wept for the slain?

In these days silence is a sin. They who lift up their voices shall say with the Apostle in the olden time, "I call you all to witness, the day, I am guiltless of the blood of every man." (*Cheers.*) He dreaded the time, five or six years to come, when these orphans will grow up to be men, saying, "Tell me the story of my father's death." If he said it was at Alma's glorious steep, at Balaklava's awful charge, at Inkerman's terrible fight, he could say it with joy; but to say, "Your father died of rage, of vermin, starved, choked by a green coffee-berrie, killed in the roadless Crimea; and, as he lifted up his accusing voice, a nation stood dumb and calm, and allowed Government to shuffle in and out of place, and, not to embarrass a Minister, took no part in the solemn inquest of blood"—to tell them that there's shame in prospect for us. (*Cheers.*) In the army the system was rotten. Who had not seen Field Marshals made in a day? Who had not heard of officers blooming out into full skill by purchase in an hour? It was a strange system—one bought skill in the army. No man could buy brains, skill, or learning in the law or letters; but in the army, if we could not buy either skill or brains, they could have the fiction of them. It was a miserable system altogether. Boys were put over the heads of men who had seen service, for no better reason than that the former were members of the aristocracy. Was there no brave-hearted man that would cut through at a dash the entangled meshes of routine—who would dare to be censured, cashiered, tried by court-martial, and broken for duty—(*cheers*)—no man who would come home and say, "I have eaten the show bread of routine; I have sinned. I didn't do my duty as a soldier, but I did it as a Christian and a man?" (*Loud Cheers.*) We would keep at it, then, till we got the right men. Then came the green coffee question. He should like to paint them a picture. He should like to show them an English soldier in rags, hungry, gaunt, and lean, with the top of a tin pot, and twenty green coffee berries, with a rush-light underneath; trying to roast them; and that done, too, under an inolement sky, up to the knees in mud. Glorious picture! Sing "Rule Britannia," and let fifes and drums strike out "The Roast Beef of Old England." (*Loud cheers.*) He would put the picture to them—a tin pot, rushlight, and green coffee berries; misery, wet, cold, mud, rags, and dirt, and the meal necessary to save the poor fellow's life. (*Shouts of "Shame!"*) He would put it to them of men lying for hours after battle uncared for, unattended, stiffening slowly into death. "Oh," said the aristocracy, "that was the medical department—it was their fault—we have nothing to do with it." We said, "No." (*Cheers.*) We asked who put the surgeons down, snubbed them, gave them the cold shoulder? Why don't surgeons go into the navy? Why, if they were not of the proper blood, clique, class, or order, they were snubbed, put down at once, sent to mess with some pert midshipman. The nation demands that the whole system of England shall be altered—not the army and navy only, but all the Government departments, which should be open to approved ability, tried by examination. The Indian service has been reformed, and is now open to all England; and that should be the rule for all services. He doubted the efficacy of the commissions that were to be sent out to the Crimea, and had no confidence in Lord Palmerston; but would give his humble support to any Government who would see us bravely and honourably through this war. (*Cheers.*)

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting is of opinion that our national honour and safety, and the lives of our countrymen in the East—far dearer to us than any administration or distinction of party—imperatively require a full and searching inquiry into the causes of the disasters in the Crimea; and this meeting strongly urges on the Legislature the necessity of such inquiry.

"That in the opinion of this meeting the system of purchasing commissions and promotions is calculated to check the advancement of military genius; that it is an injustice to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, and destructive to the best service and interests of the nation."

A petition founded on these resolutions was adopted, and was presented on Monday night to the House of Commons by Mr. Muntz.

A meeting took place at the Corn Exchange of Wakefield on Wednesday week, at which Mr. George Thompson made a long address to prove that England ought not to have declared war against Russia. Mr. Thompson did not deny that Russia is an aggrandising Power; but as, he argued, the Greek Church is the national religion of Russia, as there are 45,000,000 of that communion in the empire, and the Emperor of Russia is the acknowledged head of that Church, the Greeks in European Turkey naturally look up to the Czar as their protector against the oppressions of their Turkish masters. Mr. Thompson defended the course adopted by Russia to defend her claim as protector of the Greek Church in Russia, and argued that it was a fatal mistake not to leave Turkey to defend herself after she had rejected the Vienna note. Mr. Serle denounced the attempts of the Peace Society to make the war unpopular, and moved a resolution—

"That this meeting is of opinion that the war with Russia ought to be carried on with vigour, until an honourable peace can be obtained, and that no terms ought to be agreed to which do not recognise the destruction of Sebastopol and the free navigation of the Danube and Black Sea."

In spite of the efforts of Mr. G. Thompson and his friends, this resolution was carried by about 20 to 1.

Petitions to both Houses in favour of the objects of the war, and praying for a vigorous prosecution of hostilities, together with a searching inquiry into the causes of the late disasters, have been unanimously signed at Chesterfield.

At a meeting in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where resolutions were passed denouncing the present military system, and in favour of the abolition of the lash, the following letter was read: it was addressed to the chairman, the Mayor of Newcastle:—

"Sir,—I have this moment seen the announcement of a meeting to be held in Newcastle on Thursday next, to consider the subject of promotion in the British army.

"I deeply regret that the same cause which at present removes me from the House of Commons prevents my attending to take a personal share in your proceedings.

"I know no question which at this disastrous and disgraceful conjuncture more imperatively demands the attention of all thinking Englishmen than that of our arrangements for military promotion. Our present system of purchasing commissions is precisely calculated to close every prospect of distinction to the private soldier, to paralyse the legitimate ambition of meritorious officers, and to commit the ultimate direction of a campaign to the feeble hands of such leaders as those whose guilty incompetence has lately sacrificed the finest army that ever left the shores of England.

"I see that this question has been taken up by Lord Goderich. I am sure that it could not be entrusted to an honest, or I will add, a more prudent public man. It is to his efforts, added to those of my gifted friend, Mr. Layard, that we in a great measure shall owe any response on the part of Parliament to the cry of indignation at recent mismanagement, which was so powerfully originated by the press, and has been so generally echoed throughout the country.

"Let me take this, the first opportunity, of thanking my kind friends for the sympathy which I have received, under my late severe attack, from all classes and parties in Newcastle; and also for the unexampled forbearance with which they have acquiesced in my temporary withdrawal from the House of Commons. I trust, with God's blessing, that I may be shortly enabled to resume the active discharge of my duties as one of your representatives.

"Let me remain, dear Sir, your faithful servant,

"J. B. BLACKETT.

"Cockayne Hatley, St. Neots, February 21, 1855."

A public meeting of the working classes of Nottingham was held on Tuesday evening, the 27th ult., in the Assembly Rooms, Nottingham. Resolutions, urging the Government to pursue an inquiry into the cause of the disastrous state of the army, &c., were adopted.

A crowded meeting was held at Preston, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of "denouncing the gross mismanagement which has been displayed in connexion with the war, and demanding a searching revision of our military system, and an inquiry into the causes of the decimation of one of the finest armies that ever left England." The chair was taken by Mr. W. Livesey. The speeches and resolutions were of a vigorous character, and a petition to Parliament was adopted praying for an effective prosecution of the war, and a complete reform in our military system.

#### STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.

The state of trade is generally depressed. In Manchester this depression continues unabated in the cloth and yarn market; the demand from the home trade is on a limited scale, while the advices from nearly all the foreign markets are of a cheerless and unsatisfactory character,

and the past week's business has been unimportant in amount, with drooping prices. The houses engaged in the print trade are not generally well employed, but some of the leading firms are busy, and the productions embrace some patterns of great novelty and taste for the coming season. The iron trade of South Staffordshire has been reported to be, in some districts, in consequence of the frozen state of the canals, almost entirely suspended. Some furnaces have been put on half-blast and some entirely blown out; and it is a long labour to restore a blown-out furnace. Many of the mills are standing for coals, but it is stated that the stocks of pigs will not increase, inasmuch as the furnaces are nearly as ill off. Orders are not improving, and the reduction of prices has not at all increased the American trade, as some had expected. Some branches are still rather active, as in heavy ironfoundry, or hardware, or cutlery for export. The lace and hosiery manufactures of Nottingham are far from prosperous; and trade has been greatly checked by the recent frost. In Leicester, some of the worsted mills have been working short hours. The business of the port of Gloucester has been quite stopped for ten days or a fortnight by the frost; many of the working classes have been thrown out of employ; the timber trade is almost entirely at a stand-still; and trade in general suffers greatly. At Leeds, the tone pervading almost all mercantile and commercial transactions is of a very gloomy character. The woollen manufacture is undergoing a downward tendency, and large numbers of artisans are out of work.

The state of the poor in Birmingham and the surrounding districts continues most lamentable. Several members of the clergy, both of the Dissenters and of the Church of England, as well as other charitable individuals, have visited the habitations of the poor, and report that great distress prevails among the industrious classes in consequence of the short time adopted in several manufactories and the almost entire suspension of work in others. The rectors of three of the largest parishes in Birmingham represent the privations of these classes as great in the extreme. During the last week there have been from 3000 to 4000 individual applications for relief at the workhouse, and these may be said to represent at least 12,000 persons. These numbers do not include at least all those who have received extra-parochial relief contributed by public subscription and private charity. Although on one or two occasions there have been symptoms of approaching disturbances, yet with the exception of a slight *émeute*, which occurred on Wednesday the 21st, the starving population of the town have exhibited great patience under their privations, gratitude to their benefactors, and regard for the law. At Stafford, Coventry, Kidderminster, and Redditch, where the staple manufactures of the districts are much depressed, and in Stafford, where the shoe trade has not been worse for the last twenty years, the work-people suffer terribly. At Redditch, more particularly, great distress exists in consequence of the bad state of the needle manufacture. One of the largest works closed for the week on the 14th inst., and the operatives and their wives are in a most distressed condition. Add to this the inclemency of the season and the entire suspension of outdoor work, and the picture of misery will be complete.

Immense numbers of destitute poor sought relief on Monday at the Thames Police-court, or waited at the doors of the workhouse in the hope of obtaining assistance. At the police-office, upwards of 1500 persons, the greater number of whom were Irish, were relieved with bread, and small sums of money from the poor-box fund, during the last week. On Monday, Mr. Yardley, the sitting magistrate, awarded 10s. each to 53 families, 5s. each to 50 other married couples, together with other sums, and loaves of bread to various claimants. The almost total suspension of work on the river and in the docks, owing to the frost, had caused a fearful amount of destitution; but this is now diminishing. The ministers of various denominations have each received a sum of money from the poor-box fund of the above office, for the relief of distressed persons belonging to their flocks, and whom they believed to be worthy of consideration.

The east end of London has again become perfectly quiet; the thaw having removed all fear of future rioting by unemployed labourers. The bakers and other provision shops are no longer in a state of siege, although a few extra policemen may still be seen in the principal thoroughfares. Had the frost continued another week, the peace of the City might have been seriously endangered, as the numbers and the desperation of the starving workmen increased day by day. Business has been resumed in the docks and shipping; and the money voted by the corporation and collected from various sources has been all distributed.

A large number of labourers and mechanics have been out of employ in Exeter and other parts of Devonshire, and great distress has been experienced. To mitigate this in Exeter, a soup kitchen, on a scale of considerable magnitude, has been in active operation for the last five weeks.

Business in Dublin continues wretchedly dull; and large numbers of workmen have been thrown out of their occupations by the recent severity of the weather. The accounts from the north of Ireland continue gloomy; the weavers are suffering great distress. The funds, however, have experienced but little fluctuation.



## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

News was received in Berlin on Thursday night that the Emperor of Russia was dangerously ill; and subsequent accounts mention his death.

The Sardinian Chamber of Deputies has continued the debate on the Convent Bill, and on the 17th Count Cavour made a vigorous speech on the financial, economical and political bearing of the measure, and as to its opportuneness. Financially he showed that this bill would benefit the Treasury in three ways—in the first place, by relieving the budget of a sum amounting to nearly 1,000,000 francs; secondly, by freeing the Treasury from rent for places that might be required for different objects; and, thirdly, by procuring extraordinary means with which to supply the deficiencies of the budget. Finally, he contended that the introduction of the bill was not inopportune, as had been asserted; and he pointed out the danger of withdrawing the measure, by precedents from English history.

Count Nesselrode has addressed a circular to the Russian agents in foreign states, notifying that Russia is at war with Sardinia. The document asserts that the King of Sardinia has placed 15,000 men at the disposal of England, for the invasion of the Crimea, "without any ostensible motive, without any legitimate cause of complaint;" and complains that the Sardinian Government has left it to the public journals to warn the Court of St. Petersburg of the aggression, instead of openly declaring war. Sardinia is reminded of former occasions on which Russia has taken up arms to assert the interests of the House of Savoy; and a covert sneer is thrown out as to the name which ought to be given to the auxiliary Sardinian troops. Sardinia, it is said, cannot pretend to serve the cause of Christianity by unfolding its banner by the side of the Crescent; "nor can it be affirmed that she seeks to defend the weak against the strong, when she joins her arms to those of France and England." The Emperor of Russia, however, still undertakes to afford protection to the private interests of Sardinian subjects entertaining commercial relations with Russia, who are permitted to remain in the empire. The Russian agents at Genoa and Nice will receive orders to suspend their functions.

The diplomatic relations between Austria and Prussia are extremely cold, and so they are likely to remain as long as the Berlin Cabinet continues to give its secret support to Russia. It is not one of the least significant signs of the times that permission has been granted by the Emperor to Count Buol, Baron Werner, Baron Hübnér, Baron Meysenburg, Baron Ottenfels, Prince Schönburg, Prince Richard Metternich, and Count Traun, to wear the orders they have received from "His Majesty the Emperor of the French." The official *Wiener Zeitung* contains the Imperial rescript on the subject, and it has excited considerable attention, as no Austrian subject was allowed to wear orders given by the younger branch of the Bourbons.

The Austrian correspondent of the *Times* asserts that the Imperial Government at Vienna is not likely to consent that the destruction of the Sebastopol fortifications shall be made one of the conditions of peace at the approaching Congress, on account of the improbability of Russia's consenting to any such step.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on Monday evening, says: "I believe I may safely announce that all doubts about the Emperor's journey to the Crimea are at an end. It is certain that he will go, and that very soon, unless some very unexpected event should occur to prevent him."

M. Amédée de Cesena has written a very remarkable article in the *Constitutionnel*—an article which is regarded as a semi-official announcement of the Imperial intentions. In the event of the failure of the negotiations, the writer anticipates the presence, not only of the allied fleet, but of an army also, on the Baltic; and avers that "Austria and France will be found combating side by side on the upper part of the Vistula, in a common struggle which may prolong itself to the frontiers of Poland, as well as to the banks of the Danube. . . . We can no more confirm than we can deny," continues the writer, "the rumours which attribute equally to the two sovereigns of France and Austria the intention of taking the command respectively of their armies. But already, in anticipation of this great event, the people, whose instincts are rarely at fault, has characterised, in its own picturesque language, the ensuing spring campaign as the War of the Three Emperors." M. de Cesena prophesies that the war will lead to a solid and durable peace, and conduce to European progress and civilisation; and he adds: "France shall be seen everywhere with her fleets and her armies. She shall be seen in the Baltic, in the Crimea, on the Vistula. What an immense ascendant does not this glorious rôle which she has taken in the Eastern question guarantee to her future position in the world!"

Hamburg letters mention further purchases of sugar of better qualities for transmission to Russia, encouraged by the facilities for conveyance presented by the sledge roads. Coffee, tea, and cotton had also been taken for the same quarter; and the trade *via* Poland was brisk. It is important to notice that sales of the Rus-

sian Five per Cent Loan of 1854 are reported as being continued at Hamburg, Berlin, and Amsterdam. As low as 81½, 81¼, and even 80¾ per cent. was stated to have been accepted by the Czar's agents, and it was whispered that at the last mentioned reduction purchasers might still be accommodated to a considerable amount. Although these operations are apparently conducted with great secrecy, it is difficult to imagine that they can escape the attention of the authorities. It may be as well for the English Government to keep an eye on these proceedings, which, reasonably viewed, are equivalent to a breach of neutrality on the part of the states in which they take place. The proceeds of the sales, it was understood, were not going to St. Petersburg, but it was surmised were intended to meet the dividends on the old Russian stock in the markets of Western Europe. Holders of Russian securities who have hitherto shown such faith in the Czar's fidelity to his financial engagements will do well to bear in mind the precarious nature of the resources by which their claims from half-year to half-year are shown to be met. The anxiety evinced by the Russian Government in propping up the market for its old stock is also explained; for any serious fall in the latter would render further sales of newly created stock almost impossible, unless at a still more serious sacrifice. In consequence of these operations bills on Russia were quite without demand, and offered at 31¼. Money was less abundant. A postscript states that further sales of the Russian loan had just been effected at 80½ per cent., being a further reduction.—*Daily News*, Feb. 28, City Article.

It was said in well-informed money circles that Messrs. Rothschild had withdrawn their agent from St. Petersburg—a fact of much significance at a time like the present.—*Morning Post*, City article, Wednesday.

About five or six weeks ago, the Milanese police arrested some men of whom they had suspicion, and were thus put on the track of what the *Trieste Gazette* calls "a vast Mazzinian conspiracy," of which proofs were soon discovered. Forty persons, some of whom belonged to the upper classes, were, in consequence, arrested.

According to Madrid journals of the 21st ult., General Pascual Real had been arrested, and placed in secret confinement, on suspicion of having been concerned in one of the recently-discovered Carlist plots.

The treaty for the settlement of the disputed frontier line between Switzerland and Baden—a dispute which originated as far back as 1623—has been ratified.

The correspondent of the *Times* says:—"Of the Emperor's departure for the theatre of war, no reasonable doubt seems now to be entertained by any one. It is known that his Majesty has devoted much time to the study of a plan of operations drawn up by himself and submitted to a very few eminent military authorities; and that the plan has been communicated to the Austrian military commissioner in Paris, who in turn transmitted it to Vienna, where it is now under the consideration of the Emperor of Austria."

It appears that the Emperor's journey is objected to by the English and Austrian Cabinets. A special correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing from Paris, on Tuesday, says that "His Majesty will decidedly leave. Even the day is fixed for the departure—Saturday next, the 3rd, or, at latest, Monday, the 5th. The Emperor has nominated the personages who are to attend him." The latest probable news is told by the Paris correspondent of the *Times*:

"Not long since some of the Generals of the army in active service had an audience with the Emperor on business connected with the Piedmontese contingent. Those officers recommended very strongly that there should be one General who should have the supreme command of the operations before Sebastopol, in order to secure unity of plan and operations. They took occasion at the same time to allude to the subject of the Emperor's departure, with the object of ascertaining whether the intention was persevered in. The Emperor listened, as is his wont, to all they had to allege for or against it, but said nothing of his final resolution. It appears that in the reports addressed by General Niel, on the works before Sebastopol and the position of the allied armies, it was stated that while the General approved thoroughly what had been done, it was nevertheless his decided opinion that the point of attack had been badly selected, and that it should be much more to the right, in the direction of the English camp. General Niel is admitted to be a very skilful officer, and the changes he suggested were, it appears, unobjectionable. On conversing with a certain personage on those points, the Emperor took from a cabinet a plan of Sebastopol very carefully and elaborately drawn, with pins, the heads covered with wax of different colours, stuck here and there to mark the positions and movements of the camp. He pointed out that the point shown by General Niel as the best for attacking the city was the one which he had himself selected long before the General's reports had reached him; and he very naturally felt pleased at the coincidence, which proved his genius for war. I have been informed that the Emperor has received letters from General Niel from before Sebastopol. These letters appeared to give his Majesty much satisfaction. The family of General Niel, residing in Paris, have also received letters from him. The General is ordered to remain in the Crimea."

We find the following in the *Morning Post*:

"The Grand Council of the Canton of Geneva having adopted the maxim that the Church should be separated from the State, the majority of the committee intrusted with the framing of a bill for that purpose, has made the following propositions:—1. The State makes no difference between citizens of different creeds; 2. No person shall be prevented from the exercise of the religion which he has chosen, so long as he does not disturb the public peace, or act against the laws; 3. No one is obliged to contribute towards the support of any worship; nor shall salaries be paid either by the State or the communes for that purpose. The ecclesiastical property belonging to the Protestant Church is to be distributed among the Protestant communes, except that which has been applied to the establishment of the Bank of Geneva and the Mortgage Bank." Geneva is in advance of England in this respect.

The *Journal de Frankfort* gives the following in a letter from Genoa, 15th ult.:—"His Majesty Victor Emmanuel, who has been severely afflicted in his family relations by losing three members of it in less than a month, entertained an idea of abdicating in favour of the Prince of Piedmont, his eldest son, aged ten, under the regency, during his minority, of his cousin Prince Eugene de Savoie Carignan. Victor Emmanuel, who is a gallant soldier, would then go and seek in the perils of war in the Crimea a diversion for his grief. It required the supplications of his Ministers and of Prince Eugene, and a representation of the convulsions which might take place in Europe, in the course of the approaching summer, to make him comprehend that he ought not to quit his elevated post."

A letter from Rome of the 20th ult., quoted in the *Morning Post*, says:—"The Eternal City has been just menaced with an inundation. The continued rains had swelled the Tiber, and forced it to issue from its channel. All the low quarters of the city, the Ghetto, the Orso, the Ripetta, and the open space of the Pantheon were under water."

Baron Prokesch von Osten has been appointed second Austrian Plenipotentiary to the Vienna Conference.

The American papers bring accounts from Buenos Ayres to Dec. 27 (Mendoza). There were strong hopes of an amicable arrangement between the province of Buenos Ayres and the rest of the Argentine Confederation.

A letter from Bucharest, of the 5th, in the *Pays*, says:—"A curious affair has occurred here, and has created some sensation. Four persons wearing masks, but whose appearance indicated that they belonged to the higher classes, waited two days ago on Mr. Colquhoun, the English consul. On being introduced to his office, they carefully closed the door. He at first thought they were carnival maskers; but they produced a number of papers and presented them to him. Amongst them there was a complaint, drawn up in strong terms, against the administration of Prince Stirbey. Mr. Colquhoun begged of them to take off their masks, but they refused. When they left he examined the papers, and found that they contained some very curious details."

M. THIERS has met with a rather serious accident. As he was leaving his own door, he slipped on some frozen ice, fell, and broke his wrist. The pain was intense at first; but no fever set in. The Emperor sent an aide-de-camp to inquire after M. Thiers' health. M. de Lamartine and all the most eminent political as well as literary personages, without reference to party, also hastened to express their sympathy and their good wishes for his recovery. Fears have been entertained that amputation of the arm will be necessary.

THE *Siccle* was to have been prosecuted for publishing a feuilleton of the well-known Socialist writer, Eugene Sue. The romance of which it forms a part is entitled the *Lorettes*, and some scenes and descriptions in it being of a nature similar to the more objectionable ones in the *Mystères de Paris*, attracted the attention of the Procureur. But the prosecution has since been abandoned.

THE *Siccle* announces that M. Dupont (de l'Eure) is so dangerously ill as to leave scarcely any hope of his recovery.

ADMIRAL NACHIMOFF has just received from the Czar the order of the White Eagle, as a reward for his services at Sebastopol.

A RUMOUR is afloat in Constantinople to the effect that Lord Redcliffe is about to retire. General Rose is talked of as his successor.

The Emperor of the French arrived on Thursday at Boulogne from the camp at St. Omer. He was expected to return to Paris on Sunday.

## RIOTS IN AUSTRALIA.

ADVICES have arrived from Melbourne up to the 2nd of December, inclusive. On the 30th of November, some very serious disturbances took place at Ballarat, and order had not been re-established on the 2nd of December. The cause of the disturbances was a refusal on the part of the diggers to pay the license—a decision adopted at a monster meeting on the previous day. We learn from the *Melbourne Argus* that at 10 A.M., Messrs. Commissioners Rede and Johnson, with a troop of mounted and foot police, armed with drawn swords and fixed bayonets, demanded from the diggers their licenses. This was

refused. Mr. Rede then said he was determined to do his duty; but at the same time assured them that their grievances would be inquired into. The diggers kept exclaiming, "We will not have drawn swords or fixed bayonets." "Where is the Governor?" "Send up Sir Charles Hotham." "We want justice, and we will have it." Upon Mr. Rede repeating that he was resolved to have the licenses, the diggers exclaimed, "We haven't got them; we have burnt them." The riot-act was then read; and Mr. Rede said he must arrest all who had not got their licenses. Upon this, the diggers retired, some to the Eureka, and some to the Red Hill, where they hoisted their flag, "The Southern Cross;" the military and police formed into divisions on the Bakery Hill; and the officer in command of the police told Mr. Commissioner Johnson that any man who should raise his hand to strike a blow or throw a stone was to be shot on the spot. The police and military subsequently retired to their camp, which was barricaded with sandbags, trusses of hay, &c.; and the rioters, who were armed with revolvers, amused themselves with a few random shots. At 5, P.M., of the same day, the diggers enrolled themselves as members of the Reform League; and an old soldier gave several parties instructions in the manual exercise. It is said that seven prisoners were taken during the day, and that the diggers occupied the road to Melbourne, for the purpose of rescuing them. Several persons were wounded on both sides.

The Melbourne Argus says:—

"The state of things at the diggings has indeed become most critical, and any hour may bring us intelligence of the most serious nature. The Government is thoroughly aroused, and is concentrating the whole military and police force of the colony of Ballarat. All the available men of the 40th and 12th Regiments have left town for that locality. A body of 300 rank and file of the former regiment, with their band, were marched out yesterday afternoon under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Valliant and the whole of the officers of the regiment. They took with them four field-pieces, two 6 and two 12-pounders. All the officers and men of the 12th regiment, with the exception of Captain Vereker, and the necessary guard, have left for the same place. They number about 300. 24 men-of-war's-men and about 20 marines from her Majesty's ship Electra have also been sent off. Fifty horse and about the same number of foot police were to be despatched yesterday afternoon. A large number of baggage and ammunition waggons were sent with the military. We also hear that Sir Robert Nickle, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, and Colonel McCarney, Adjutant-General, intended to start for Ballarat at three o'clock this morning. The amount of force, military and police, to be assembled at these diggings will be little short of 1000 men."

The Geelong Advertiser asserts that a soldier of the 12th has died of a gunshot wound, and that the life of Captain Young is in imminent danger.

Despatches from Ceylon of the 1st of February, which reached Trieste on the 28th, state that some troops sent to put down the insurrectionists "had fought some sanguinary engagements," and that "Melbourne was in a state of siege."

#### MEETING OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN DEMOCRATS.

On Tuesday evening a large meeting of English and foreign democrats was held in the music-rooms in St. Martin's Hall, to commemorate the revolutionary movement of 1848. Mr. Ernest Jones occupied the chair, and was the chief speaker. Addressing his hearers as "men of Europe," he said that the universal fraternity of mankind had been set at naught by tyrants, who engaged different nations in wars with each other, and that the only true basis of peace was to be found in an alliance of the various peoples among themselves, as distinguished from an alliance between sovereigns. A union of interests with despots was particularly to be shunned, and Mr. Jones contrasted the conduct of Queen Elizabeth, who withdrew her ambassador from France after the massacre of St. Bartholomew, with that of the present Government, which maintains friendly relations with the Emperor Louis Napoleon after the coup d'état. While on this subject, he went so far as to say that the British army in the Crimea had been deliberately destroyed by the machinations of our ally, and that all the difficulties in the way of transmitting provisions and clothing might be traced to his malevolence. With respect to nationalities, he said there was an oppressed nationality in every country where labour was not the master of capital. Subsequently, Mr. Jones read resolutions to the effect that alliances with despots ought to be repudiated; that an alliance of peoples should be formed; and that an international committee should be established.

M. Herzen, a Russian gentleman, who seconded the resolutions, and who, it was stated, had been five years in a Russian prison, stated that the na-

tural tendency of the Russian people was towards democracy.

Other speakers addressed the meeting, which consisted in the greater degree of foreigners, and the assembly separated.

#### PUBLIC WORKS IN EGYPT.

THE railway between Alexandria and Cairo, a distance of 130 miles, is now complete, with the exception of the three bridges on the two branches of the Nile and the Delta Canal. The communication between the two towns may be kept up by the line of railroad by crossing the river in boats, but it will not be available for traffic and passengers until after the bridges are completed—five or six months hence. The most important bridge is the tubular one which crosses the Damietta branch of the Nile at Benha, and which is well advanced towards completion. At Benha is to be seen the large new palace, the favourite residence of the late Abbas Pacha, where he breathed his last. The day after the death of Abbas a general pilfering of the furniture took place, and this went on until not a single article was left in the whole building; tapestry was torn out of the walls, chandeliers and candelabra wrenched from their fixings, and not one fixture has been left, so that, although the palace is new, it presents an air of striking desolation. The gardens, laid out at an immense cost, are quite neglected, and the large collections of birds and dogs of every imaginable species, collected from all parts of the world at immense prices, were allowed to die from neglect and starvation, and now there is but one doorkeeper to be seen where formerly thousands kept the place in great animation. An agent of Abbas Pacha's son shows strangers over the palace, and points out the place in a large saloon where the late Viceroy died, as he says, by the visitation of God. But an old officer of the town shows another room, with some marks of blood on the wall, and he says it is there that Abbas Pacha met his death by the hands of two Mamelukes. Notwithstanding that at the death of Abbas Pacha an investigation was made, and it was generally rumoured that he died of apoplexy, there are still some reports extant, corroborated by statements made by persons in a position to know, that he was stifled on his divan, and stabbed in the side.

#### LAW REFORM.

THE annual meeting of the Society for Promoting the Amendment of the Law was held last Saturday afternoon; Lord Brougham, President, in the chair. He said that the annual meeting had been held this year at the beginning of the Parliamentary Session, in the hope of introducing, or at least discussing, a number of measures.

The Solicitor-General moved, and Sir John Pakington seconded, the following resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable that the friends of law reform should, at the present time, direct their special attention to the following measures:—1. The consolidation of the law. 2. An amendment of the Common Law Procedure Act of last session, so as more effectually to secure the attainment of its object. 3. An amendment in the law of bankruptcy. 4. An alteration in the law of partnership, with a view to affording greater facilities for the formation of partnerships with limited liability. 5. An amendment of the laws relating to women, including the law of divorce. 6. The appointment of a public prosecutor. 7. The more speedy trial of offenders, especially those charged with petty offences, and a general improvement in the administration of the criminal law. 8. The amendment of the acts of last session relating to juvenile reformatories."

With respect to the consolidation of the law, the Solicitor-General said he was not only a friend to it, but a believer in its entire practicability. The English Common Law was the adoption of great principles of moral action; and the illustrations of these principles, to be found in reports of cases, might be consolidated in short rules, and arranged under great general principles. The Lord Chancellor had said that it would take twenty years to reduce to order the chaos of the statute law; but the Solicitor-General would undertake to do it in three. Jurisconsults and jurists had yet failed in laying down anything like a philosophical analysis of the subjects of law. He would here call attention to two subjects not mentioned in his resolution. He had long been anxious to make the land of this country as saleable, as marketable, as certain of being realised or converted into money, as horses and furniture. At present it was impossible to tell when the sale of an estate would be completed. Only the other day he was engaged as counsel in a case in which an estate was sold in 1802; but the contract was not completed until 1852; and not long ago he was in another case where the estate was sold in 1818, but the sale was not completed until 1832. The system of transfer at the Bank of England, and the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland, afforded examples for the solution of this difficulty.

Lord Brougham here remarked that, although he

had originally contended against the establishment of the last Encumbered Estates Court, he had been quite converted by its successful working—an announcement which was received with applause.

The Solicitor-General resumed. The plan now in contemplation, and which he hoped would be carried into effect, was that you should not only give, but continue, a Parliamentary title; that estates should be transferred by entries in a register; and that in another register, in the same office, should be kept a record of the beneficial owners, at whose instance the head of the department should give his fiat for the sale, but into which any person dealing with the estate as purchaser or mortgagee should be under no obligation to inquire. Regarding education, he wished to see established in London a university specially designed for the instruction of the citizens of this country in a knowledge of the law and of political science, since every man, in some capacity or other, requires this. He also spoke in favour of limited liability in partnership; of the abolition of Ecclesiastical Courts; and of an alteration of the laws of divorce, so as to relieve women from the injustice and cruelty under which they have long laboured.

Sir John Pakington, Mr. G. Hadfield, Mr. White-side, Mr. M. D. Hill, Mr. Napier, and Mr. Anderton spoke briefly in favour of law reform; and Mr. Raymond urged upon the Society the great difficulties attending the transfer of land.

The Chairman thought that the subject of the Bankruptcy law of England, Ireland, and Scotland, was now ripe for a commission with a view to its assimilation. If we had had a Minister of Justice, our progress would have been more rapid than it has been. Lord Brougham referred to the bills now before the House of Lords for giving summary jurisdiction at petty sessions in cases of larceny, and of which an account will be found in our Parliamentary columns. A Minister of Justice, he resumed, should be answerable for the mode in which laws were drawn, and spare the judges the impracticable task of construing what is often not to be understood. Many other necessities indicate the want of such a Minister.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

#### HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE FROST.

THE recent severe frost, according to the Registrar-General's report, has caused in London an excess of 1968 deaths over the average in the six weeks of cold weather just terminated; the number being 9408. The temperature of the six weeks was 28.4 deg. on an average, and the deaths were nearly 100 weekly to every degree of depression below the freezing point. From 20 to 40, the cold did not destroy 2 in 10,000; from 60 to 80 it was fatal to 38 in 10,000. The deaths by cold, irrespective of other causes, are set down by the Registrar at 367 children and youths under 20; 159 young men and women of 20-40; 290 middle-aged persons of 40-60; 561 of 60-80; and 173 of 80 and upwards. The heat that is lost by the lungs and the skin, says the report, is so great, that it is not easily supplied with sufficient rapidity in the young and the old; who, to use a common expression, do not "stand the cold" so well as men in the prime of early manhood. The danger of dying of cold is doubled every nine years after 30.

Exercise, ample supplies of food and clothing, and artificial external warmth, mitigate the effects of cold in London, and by sustaining the temperature of their sleeping rooms, the danger of the aged is much diminished.

Cold is less fatal than dirt in the air and water in London, through which the cholera, dysentery, and other matters that induce zymotic diseases are diffused; thus, while intense cold killed 1604 persons in the five weeks preceding the last, cholera destroyed 7222 in five weeks of last year; and while cold killed 159 men and women of the age 20-40, cholera killed 1909 at the corresponding age.

The intense cold showed slight signs of mitigation until the end of last week, and the deaths were 1604. Zymotic diseases were fatal to 294 persons; namely, 81 who died of small-pox, 30 of measles (chiefly in the east and south districts), 47 of scarlatina, and which, as well as hooping-cough (82), prevails chiefly in the north districts. Typhus was fatal in 36 cases, childbirth in 10, consumption in 204; bronchitis, pneumonia, and asthma, in 404 cases, which exceed the corrected average of corresponding weeks by 156.

The mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.779 in. The mean temperature of the air was 26.7 deg., which is 12.7 deg. below the average. The highest point (41.2 deg.) was attained on Saturday; the lowest (11.1 deg.) on Monday morning, when the moon was in the equator. In the sun a thermometer rose to 58 deg. The dryness was 4.8 deg.; the dew-point was 21.9 deg. The wind was calm, and travelled at the rate of 330 miles over Greenwich. Electricity was positive and active.

Last week the births of 916 boys, and 874 girls, in all 1790 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54 the average number was 1509.



## THE THAW.

THE great frost with which we have been recently visited, began to break up on Friday last week, and the thaw steadily continued. The thermometer at the Royal Humane Society's receiving-house in Hyde-park during Saturday night stood at 34 deg., being 2 deg. above freezing point. At nine o'clock on Sunday morning it rose to 43 deg., and at noon it indexed 47 deg. At six o'clock on Sunday evening the mercury stood at 45 deg., being a considerable rise from the preceding day.

The wind in the morning being in the south-west, rain set in, and the sheets of water in the parks began to melt rapidly. Crowds of people, however, ventured on the ice, and two nearly lost their lives by falling in.

On Saturday night another grand display of fireworks, fire-balloon ascents, and torchlight skating and sliding matches took place on the Serpentine.

Another life has been sacrificed in St. James's-park, making a total of five persons who have perished in that place during the present season.

The River Thames, which on Saturday was completely blocked up by immense fields of floating ice, is now comparatively free.

## THE LATE MR. CHARLES DOD.

THE *Parliamentary Companion* is known to most politicians; its author, as the Father of "the Gallery," was known to a smaller number, but wherever known, he was respected and liked. We copy a biographical sketch from the paper he so well served—the *Times* :—

"Mr. Dod was the only son of the Rev. Roger Dod, who was vicar of Drumlease, in the county of Leitrim. Inheriting a small patrimony, of which actual possession was only acquired after a Chancery suit, Mr. Dod turned his early attention to the bar as a profession, and with that view entered at King's-inns, Dublin. But the rewards of journalism detached him from legal studies, and before long he devoted to literature an undivided attention. After having been part proprietor and editor of a provincial journal, he eventually settled in London, where for thirty-seven years his pen has been unceasingly employed; for a considerable portion of that period—namely, twenty-three years—this journal has had the benefit of his services. To the members of both Houses of Parliament he is best known in the position which he last occupied before his fatal illness developed itself. Under his guidance the debates in Parliament were presented for public perusal in the shape which the exigencies of a newspaper require; and, as manager or superintendent of the corps of gentlemen who report these debates, he had a delicate and anxious duty to perform towards them, towards the public, and towards speakers in Parliament. He had long previously secured the willing attention of the public by merits of a different and a superior class. For very many years, and until disabled by illness, his pen had contributed to these columns many of the memoirs of distinguished persons who have died within the period. To sharp powers of observing character, and long opportunities of studying politics and public men, he added talents for literary composition which can only be estimated by those who know how rapidly these memoirs were produced. Rarely was it necessary to allow public curiosity to flag before all that a statesman had done to earn fame and honours was pictured to the world. In another capacity many thousands of the public know Mr. Dod's name, on the title-pages of the '*Parliamentary Companion*' and the '*Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage*,' which publications wholly owe their origin to him. For many years, however, his increasing duties in connexion with this journal prevented his actual execution of any portion of their contents. They have for more than twelve years been in the hands of his son, with whom of course they still remain. In closing this brief account of one who, in various ways, has been a faithful servant of the public, we cannot omit to record that in every private relation of life he was an example to all around him. He passed a life crowded with domestic virtues, and leaves a name of unspotted integrity."

## MELANCHOLY DEATH OF AN OFFICER FROM THE CRIMEA.

MAJOR CHARLES COLVILLE YOUNG, an officer of the Royal Artillery, who had recently returned from before Sebastopol, where he received a flesh-wound in the leg, met with his death at Portsmouth, on Saturday last, under lamentable circumstances, as stated at the inquest held on the body :—

"Major Young arrived on the previous day at the Fountain Hotel, on his way to Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, where his wife and family reside. Shortly after his arrival, he sent a rather incoherent letter to a friend, Captain Savage, stating that he had been travelling almost incessantly since he left the trenches, 'to command a troop of horse artillery.' He expressed a wish to see Captain Savage; 'but,' he added, 'do not come till I send word—rather let me find you out, for I want to see the dentist somewhere in this street.' Major Young directed the waiter at the hotel to be very parti-

cular in calling him, at seven the next morning; and the waiter states that 'he was sharp spoken and rather excitable,' but not apparently from the influence of wine. At about 2 o'clock in the morning, the policeman on duty saw the deceased leaning out of his bedroom window (which was in the top story), with his hat on, and dressed, and he asked the policeman what time he could go to the Isle of Wight. The constable told him that he would call a waterman if he wished it, but that it was a dark night, and would not be a pleasant journey. Major Young said 'he was not afraid, as he had Colt's revolvers with him.' The policeman went away, but returned in a few minutes, and found a light burning in the room. Major Young then asked him to call up the chemist opposite, as he did not feel well; and remarked, 'I want to get out of the house quietly, without disturbing any one.' The policeman went to consult the inspector, but immediately after heard a loud cry of 'Help!' On returning with another constable, he found Major Young stretched on the pavement, bleeding. A police-inspector, who had directed the constable to look after Major Young, stated that he could see the whole of his body to the waist as he stretched himself out of the window; and the probability seems to be that he overbalanced himself, or was seized with vertigo, and fell. The police aroused the inmates of the hotel, and Major Young was conveyed to his room, where he died at a quarter to 4 o'clock in the morning. The bed had previously been lain in by the unfortunate gentleman, and he had apparently lighted some wax-tapers. Death, according to the testimony of the medical attendant, appeared to arise from excessive hemorrhage, caused by the injuries sustained in the fall. The jury found a verdict of death by accident."

## TOBACCO SMUGGLING BY MEANS OF FOREIGN WOMEN.

MAHTILDE VANDERPLAAS, a Belgian woman, aged 35, Catherine Mohler, 40, a German, and Janet Moulton, 24, also a German, were charged at the Thames Police-office with smuggling 120 pounds of foreign manufactured tobacco, by which they had incurred penalties of 100*l.* each. The prisoners arrived at Blackwall from Ostend on Saturday morning, and, as they presented a very bulky appearance, a tide-surveyor asked them if they had any goods liable to duty about them. They replied they had not; but the officer handed them over to a female searcher, who found under the gown of each woman a large petticoat, very ingeniously made, and containing upwards of 40 pounds weight of tobacco. The petticoats were divided into compartments, and were partially supported on the shoulders by means of a kind of stays, and partly by straps fastened round the loins. The women stated that they had been met in the streets of Ostend by a man who promised to pay their passage to London and back, and to give them five francs (4*s.* 2*d.*) each, if they would carry the petticoats containing the tobacco. The same man also said he would meet them in London. Mr. Yardley observed, that similar cases of heartless entrapping had come before his notice; and that there appeared to exist a regularly organised system of smuggling by means of miserable dupes. He advised the prisoners to confess everything; in which case, although he was obliged to fine each 100*l.*, or, in default, to sentence them to six months' imprisonment, the punishment would no doubt be partially or wholly remitted. In the mean while the gaoler was directed to take every care of them. The eldest of the women said that if she could find the person who had deceived them, she would kill him.

## A MURDER BY A BOY.

THOMAS MUNROE, a minor, aged eighteen, and presenting a very boyish appearance, was tried at Carlisle, before Mr. Baron Parke, for the murder of Isaac Turner, of Lampleigh, on the 4th of November last. The trial occupied two whole days, and a large mass of evidence was produced. From this it appeared that Turner, who was about fifty-eight years of age, was in the employ of some large iron ore merchants, and that he was in the habit of paying the wages of the men, for which purpose it was necessary for him to proceed some way across country. On the morning of the 4th of November, he set out on this business with the sum of 10*l.* in his pocket; and at about a quarter past 11 o'clock was seen going in the direction of a field called Hall's Acre. A quarter of an hour later, his lifeless body was found at the entrance of the field by the man who had seen him walking in that direction. The windpipe was severed from ear to ear, and the head and face were much gashed. The deceased's pockets were turned out and rifled, and near the place a few shillings and a half-sovereign were found. Very soon after the murder had been committed, a man was seen proceeding from the spot where the body was found, apparently fearful of pursuit, as he constantly glanced over his shoulder, and stooped his head under his hedge. He was shortly afterwards seen wiping his face with a handkerchief, as if in a great heat, and still creeping stealthily along the hedge. The pri-

soner was absent, both from his work and from his home, at the time the murder must have been committed; his clothes were found spotted with human blood; certain footprints near the scene of the tragedy corresponded with the shape and size of his shoes; and other circumstantial evidence tended to fix suspicion upon him. No witnesses were called by the counsel for the defence, who confined himself to commenting on the above facts; and the jury found a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy on account of the prisoner's youth. The Judge, however, implored Munroe not to place too much reliance on the recommendation.

Speaking of the passing of the sentence of death, the *Times* reporter observes:—"There was something singularly affecting in this solemnity—the very long and protracted trial that had taken place, a densely crowded court—all heightened by the glare of lights upon wearied and anxious countenances—and the circumstance of the Court-house clock striking the midnight hour of twelve just at the instant the learned judge pronounced the last words of the awful sentence of the law."

## THE COLD SHADE.

SEVASTOPOL! Sevastopol!

So vast a pall those fields hath shrouded—

The trench, the tent, the hospital,

With victims of supineness crowded—

Lordly misdeeds so vast appal

The soul. The Cold Shade withers all!

B.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

THE KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS, Kamehameha III., died on the 15th of December, aged 42. He is succeeded by his nephew, Prince Liholiho, who has taken the name of Kamehameha IV.

ACCIDENT ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.—On Sunday morning last a second-class carriage belonging to a mail train in the above line ran off the rails, and proceeded for three or four miles in that way. The passengers were not hurt. The wheels of the carriage had collapsed, owing, probably, to the sudden change of weather, which has acted considerably on the metals of the line.

ASSISTANT-SURGEON DR. EDMUND SIDNEY WASON died at Scutari on February 8, of typhoid fever.

WE are requested by the Royal Commission of the Patriotic Fund to state that, although the circular of the honorary secretaries to the local committees of the Patriotic Fund pointed out national schools for the orphans, this was only as an example, and the orphans of Roman Catholics and Dissenters may, of course, be placed in their own schools, and will be paid for by the committee upon the same scale as the other children are to be paid for.—*Times*.

ARMY BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—The committee nominated by the House of Commons met for the first time on Monday, to choose a chairman and consider the course of their proceedings. Mr. Roebuck was unanimously chosen chairman, the other members being Mr. Drummond, Sir J. Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir George Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr. J. Ball.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR GAUSS.—Letters from Göttingen announce that Professor Gauss, of that University, died on Friday last, the 23rd ult.

JACK FROST SALMON-FISHING.—On Sunday last, while several persons were standing on the ice in the vicinity of the Cutts, a large salmon leaped out of the Bann and fell, very much to their astonishment, and at the same time their no small delight, close at their feet. We need scarcely say that he was at once secured, and prevented from again getting back to his native element. He was a fine plump fish, and weighed about 30*lbs.*—*Coleraine Chronicle*.

THE vacancy in the House of Lords, caused by the death of the late Viscount Lorton, has been filled up by the election of the Earl of Portarlington to be the new Representative Peer for Ireland.

MONS. SOYER left London on Tuesday morning for Scutari, at the desire of Government, for the purpose of superintending the dietary at the hospital there.

An alteration of the City police duty took place on Monday morning. In future the men will be placed on day duty for four hours, be relieved for four hours, and then commence their second four hours; thus affording them more relief than by the old system, that of having every other day a long duty of nine hours. The night officers will be placed on duty for eight, and not nine hours, as heretofore.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BEAMISH, the well-known historiographer of the Hanoverian German Legion, is now engaged in compiling a new work on the same subject.

On the 28th January, railway carriages passed over the road that connects the Atlantic and the Pacific, at the Isthmus, thus marking the year 1855 as the beginning of a new era in the history of the American Continent.

A USEFUL PRECEDENT.—A correspondent of the *Times* quotes the subjoined circular addressed by the Government of the English Commonwealth in 1658, to

the corporations of certain maritime towns: it has a present moral:—

"Gentlemen,—The Council are informed that since the late Fight at Sea diverse of ye sick and wounded men have bene sent from ye Fleete to ye Towne of — to be there disposed, in order to their present reliefe and recoverye. Wee hope your sence of their present Condition and of their adventure in ye Service of their Countrye, whereby they have lost their Health and Limbs, will sufficiently excite you to see due a Care of them that nothing shall be wanting to them which may be fitt and necessary for Men in their Condition. Wee have appointed a Phisitian and Chirurgeons to be upon the place to administer such Remedyes unto them as they shall find fitt, and to attend their Cures, in which they may possiblye (for ye procuring of some accommodations for them) stand sometymes in need of your assistance. Wee desire you, therefore, upon any occasion when they may stand in need of yo'r helpe, and shall desire it, that you will give them yo'r best furtherance, and if upon occasion of this Service you shall be putt to the disbursing of any Sum of Money you are to draw a Bill of Exchange upon Mr. Richard Hutchinson, Treasurer for ye Navye, who will accept it, and paye ye money to such Persons as you shall appointe to receive ye same.

"Signed in ye name and by order of ye Councell of State,  
"MATH. THOMLINSON, President.  
"Whitehall, the 18th of June, 1653."

**THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS FROM THE CRIMEA.**—The recent inspections of the invalided soldiers who have returned from the Crimea have afforded most interesting, yet melancholy proofs of the desperate nature of the late campaign. Nearly all these men bear too plainly the marks of the fearful struggle in which they were engaged, and are unfortunately disabled from further service in the army. Several of them having been but a short time in the army will be entitled to only a very small amount of pension, and the bare idea that men who have performed such feats of valour in the service of their country should be left to struggle with penury and destitution cannot be for a moment tolerated. Many of these men, although unfit for military service, are quite capable of duties where steady habits of discipline, truthworthiness, and obedience are required, and would rejoice in any employment that would enable them to maintain their independence. They are well suited to act as private watchmen, gatekeepers, porters, or warehousekeepers, and as porters in attendance upon passengers at railways would be highly useful. It is to be hoped that the generous feelings manifested in innumerable instances by the public during the present war will not fail to find employment for these noble fellows. We believe we may add that every opportunity of employing them in the royal parks will not be forgotten. —*Times*.

**LORD JOHN RUSSELL** had an audience of the King of the Belgians on Sunday. On Wednesday he arrived at Berlin, and had an audience of the King on Thursday.

**DR. BARTH.**—At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, Dr. Shaw, the secretary, said that Dr. Vogel had written that the report of the death of Dr. Barth had not been confirmed, as he had been assured by many people that the doctor was in Timbuctoo as late as the month of July last, and could not, therefore, have started to meet the Niga Chadda Expedition, which during that month proceeded up those rivers.

**LONDON BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.**—In all the religions of antiquity, before science had demonstrated the truth that dirt is the cause of innumerable diseases, men had been taught by their great lawgivers to regard personal uncleanness as something defiling and unholy; yet it is only recently that the artisans, and even the middle class of London, have in part been supplied with baths, and with the means of washing linen easily and at little cost. The last return of "the committee for promoting the establishment of baths and washhouses for the labouring classes" shows that there are thirteen baths and washhouses in London; at which 1,220,789 baths were administered for 17,062L, and 421,101 washings of the linen of about 1,684,404 persons were performed for 6096L. Kensington, Chelsea, Hampstead, Islington, Hackney, the Strand, Holborn, Clerkenwell, St. Luke, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, St. Saviour, St. Olave, and St. George, Southwark, Newington, Wandsworth, Camberwell, Rotherhithe, and Lewisham are still without public baths and washhouses. The City of London, which spreads its hospitable tables to the rich, has hitherto left its poor citizens unprovided with baths and washhouses. —*Registrar-General's Report*.

**SOUTH-SEA HOUSE.**—The sale by auction of this important property took place at the Mart on Tuesday, and attracted an extremely crowded attendance. The biddings commenced at 25,000L, and after a spirited competition the hammer fell at 55,750L. The purchaser was Mr. Marsh Nelson, the architect, but whether on his own behalf, or for a society, did not transpire.

It is announced that the King of Portugal, Don Pedro V., has determined to pay a visit to Paris this year, to see the Great Exhibition.

**LORD KENYON** expired at his seat, Gredington Hall, in Flintshire, on Sunday last, at the venerable age of seventy-eight. The deceased Lord was son of the first Baron, who was a distinguished judge, and filled the office of Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1788. He

succeeded his father in 1802, and is succeeded by his son, the Honourable Lloyd Kenyon, now third Baron Kenyon.

**THE NEWLY-APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,** Mr. Richard McDonald, has been knighted by the Queen. He has been Governor of the British possessions on the western coast of Africa, of St. Lucia, and of St. Vincent. He is the son of the Provost of the Dublin University.

**MR. JOHN BENBOW,** M.P. for Dudley, died at Hastings on Saturday last, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. Mr. Benbow was formerly a solicitor in extensive practice, and was first returned for Dudley in 1844. He was a director of the North Western and the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railways.

**GENERAL SIR JAMES MACLEAN** and Captain Laffan, R.E., have been in Paris for some days. It is said they are inspecting the plans and documents of the French War-office, with a view to preparing a general plan of organisation for the English army on the basis of the French.

**GOLD-MINES** of extraordinary richness have been discovered in the province of Maranhão in Brazil. The richest fields in California and Australia are said to bear no comparison with these new beds of wealth.

**MR. BARKLEY,** one of the directors of the coal-mines near Heraclea, has taken out with him a staff of workmen and a quantity of material for the use of the mines. Since the transference of these works to the British Government a large quantity of coal has been extracted for the use of the allied forces.

**A DAY OF FASTING, Humiliation, and Prayer,** for the success of our armies in the present contest, has been appointed for Wednesday the 21st inst.

**INUNDATIONS IN ITALY.**—The Florence, Pisa, and Leghorn Railroad received considerable damage in two places on the 16th, by the inundation caused by the Arno; in consequence of which the trains have ceased to run. A letter from Florence, of the 20th, says that the inundation has caused the greatest desolation in the environs of Pisa; that the crops are ruined, large numbers of cattle drowned, and several houses washed away. At Rome the inundations have caused great alarm.

**THE BALAKLAVA RAILWAY.**—Advices from Balaklava of the 10th state that the railway had wound its way up the greater part of the main street of the town. The railroad is simply constructed: the wooden sleepers are laid down longitudinally over a bed of stones on the road, and the rails are fastened down on them. It nearly fills up the breadth of the main street. About fifty yards of rail have been laid down in the street, but the road is in many places in a state of forwardness, and will soon be ready to receive the rails.

**THE TELEGRAPHIC ADVICES FROM CHINA,** to-day, which reach to the 15th of January, contain the extraordinary announcement of the city of Shanghai having been declared in a state of siege by the French officers stationed at that port, but give no explanation or further particulars. The fall of Canton was expected to occur before the departure of the next mail. —*Times, City Article, Thursday*.

**FROST IN ILLINOIS.**—Almost incredible accounts have been received of the effects of snow upon the railroads crossing the great prairie of Illinois—that singular formation of solid sea. The winds howl over it with even less broken force than over the ocean, for there are no crests of waves to be gathered in their hands and carried with them to retard their progress. The snow, which has this winter fallen in most unusual quantities, has been piled in solid masses along the railroad lines, sometimes 15 or 20 feet in height. The deadly cold has frozen the water in the tanks, so that the exhausted engines, left in the middle of these prairies without water, found themselves unable to drag the trains through the snow; and thus in several detached places passengers were shipwrecked, far from human habitation or possibility of human aid. In one case we are told that three cars were split to pieces and burnt to keep warmth in the body, and dogs killed and eaten for food before aid was rendered. —*Times*.

**THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AND THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.**—On Wednesday afternoon the Duke of Cambridge visited the hospital dépôts of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards, in Rochester-row, Westminster, and was received by the men with great enthusiasm. His Royal Highness asked them several questions, and promised that if any of them wished to go to friends in the country he would provide the means. The Duke had visited the Fusiliers on the previous Friday.

**MONEY IN AMERICA** continues easy and abundant, and stocks and securities generally have advanced.

**NEW YORK,** says the *Times'* American correspondent, is now enjoying its Carnival. A heavy fall of snow having taken place, sledges capable of holding fifty or sixty persons, have taken the place of omnibuses. Some of these sledges are very elegant, and splendidly ornamented, and the horses are covered with bells.

**ILLINOIS** has just returned to the Senate at Washington an anti-slavery senator, making now eleven senators of that party.

**INDIA AND CHINA.**—By the last advices from India and China we learn that nothing of importance is taking place. The native officer who conveyed to Dost Mahomed the expression of the Governor-General's pacific

dispositions, was received by the Ameer with great honour, but no business was transacted. The Chinese rebels were threatening Canton, and that city was in a state of siege. The insurrectionists have been warned by the authorities of England and America that any injury to the property of either nation would provoke retaliations from the naval force.

**THE REMAINS OF THE LATE MR. HUME** were removed on Thursday morning to the Kensal Green Cemetery.

**THE TURKS AND THE ENGLISH.**—Some of the old Turks are supposed not at all to fancy the allied occupation: one asked the other day why the English flag was not displayed on the barrack we occupy at Scutari: "Because it is not our property, but the Sultan's." "Oh! it is very kind in you to say so." They were much surprised to see the arrival of the soldiers' wives, of whom a limited number is allowed to each regiment. "We thought the English had come here to fight, but they have brought their harems." Others were heard to say of the troops: "Why these are all boys and girls—they have no beards!" —*Diary in Turkish and Greek Waters*.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 3.  
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### BARNSTAPLE ELECTION.

The report of the committee on this election was brought up, declaring Mr. Guinness duly elected, and Mr. Laurie unseated.

### DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

Mr. F. FRENCH inquired of Lord Palmerston whether the Government had received any intelligence with regard to a report of the death of the Emperor of Russia.

Lord PALMERSTON said the Government has received two telegraphic despatches, one from Berlin and the other from the Hague, which state that the Emperor of Russia died in the course of this forenoon.

### THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

The proceeding with this bill was postponed until Monday next.

### THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

Mr. ROEBUCK moved that the Committee for Inquiring into the Condition of the Army before Sebastopol, be a Secret Committee. He declared that in doing so, he was performing a very disagreeable duty, as he feared such a course would lead to much misconception. He declared, however, that the committee was unanimous that it must be secret; but the only difference among them was, whether it should be entirely secret, or, while closed to the public, yet open to members of the House, but the majority were of opinion that it should be entirely secret. He said that the difficulties in conducting this delicate investigation were very great, and he would only shadow the greatest difficulty of all—namely, that this country being in alliance with France, there was danger in an open committee, and also that when individuals, whose character was implicated, make defences, they might disclose matters that it would be better for the public service to keep secret. The committee having come to the decision that the proceedings should be secret, could any appeal to the House to give them its confidence?

Lord SEYMOUR, while objecting generally to secrecy, yet was in favour of the exclusion of the public and the admission of members of the House to the sittings. He pointed out very forcibly the difficulties which had arisen from the appointment of the Committee at all; and urged that it was almost impossible, under any circumstances, to obtain absolute secrecy.

Mr. WILSON PATTERSON took a still stronger view of the difficult position in which he urged the House had placed itself, and which he said he foresaw, and therefore voted against the motion for a Committee.

Sir J. PAKINGTON argued very decidedly in favour of a secret Committee, and pointed out that it was almost impossible for the members of it to perform their duties satisfactorily unless they had the protection of secrecy.

Sir J. GRAHAM declared in very forcible language his opinion that nothing but an open Committee would satisfy the public. He maintained that the preservation of secrecy was practically impossible, and that it was certain that there "could be a whispering gallery between Committee Room No 17, and Printing-house-square." He warned the House against entering into a contest with the press, and emphatically stated his belief that if they did, they would in the end have to give way.

Mr. LAYARD pointed out that the two members of the committee who had voted against secrecy, had voted against the committee itself. He pointed out that the simplest inquiries might trench upon dangerous ground, and insisted that secrecy alone afforded a safeguard from the consequences. In an episode of his speech the honourable gentleman took occasion to allude to his differences with Admiral Dundas, and stated that he had never meant to reflect on that officer's courage, whatever opinion he might have of his judgment, and that he had not intended his letter on the subject to be made public.

Mr. S. HERRERT opposed the proposition for making the inquiry secret, as did



Sir B. HALL, who urged that the advocates of the committee had insisted upon its appointment for the sake of satisfying the public anxiety, and now proposed to turn the public out of doors during their inquiries. Mr. G. BUTT thought that the inquiry could not be satisfactory unless it were public.

Lord PALMERSTON had stated his opinion concerning the danger that attended the inquiry; but as the House had resolved upon undertaking it, he thought that it should be conducted with full publicity. It was impossible to secure absolute secrecy. Portions of evidence would transpire through various channels, or from the witnesses themselves, and it was better to let the public know everything rather than allow them to be misled by garbled and imperfect information.

Mr. DISRAELI expressed his dislike to secrecy, and declared that he did not share the apprehensions entertained in other quarters respecting the alleged perils attending the inquiries of the Committee.

The relative advantages of an open or secret investigation were briefly discussed by Mr. Drummond, Mr. Ellice, Mr. Roche, Mr. J. Ball, Mr. T. Duncombe, Mr. Napier, Sir H. Willoughby, and Mr. Bowyer. Ultimately, Mr. Roebuck yielded to the evident wish of the House, and withdrew his motion for a secret investigation, recapitulating at the same time the reasons which led him to believe that a close committee would have been the best.

The house then went into committee of supply, and were principally occupied with the Army Estimates, which were gone through.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

##### DEATH OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

The Earl of CLANRICARDE, soon after the meeting of the House, rose and said:—

"My lords, I think it my duty to inform your lordships of the contents of a telegraphic despatch which I received half-an-hour ago from her Majesty's Minister at the Hague:

"The Emperor of Russia died this morning between twelve and one o'clock, of apoplexy, after an attack of influenza."

"I have also, my lords, received a despatch from Berlin, also informing me of the death of the Emperor of Russia. An hour before this despatch arrived, I received an account from Lord John Russell, who is at Berlin, stating that the Emperor of Russia was at the point of death, and that he had already taken leave of his family. I apprehend, said his lordship, although this event occurred at so late a time as between twelve and one this morning, there can be no doubt of the authenticity of the information."

He then appealed to Lord Lyndhurst to postpone his motion on the subject of our relations with Prussia, to which the noble and learned lord assented.

##### THE CAVALRY CHARGE AT BALAKLAVA.

The Earl of LUCAN (who appeared for the first time in the House), stated that immediately on his arrival in this country from the Crimea, he had taken steps to demand that his conduct with reference to the cavalry charge at Balaklava, should be investigated by a Court Martial. He should not now, do more than read the correspondence which had taken place between himself, the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Hardinge, and Lord Raglan. The principal letter was that which has appeared in the papers, and in which he defends himself against Lord Raglan's charge of a misconception of the orders given him. The other letters merely showed that he had declined to withdraw that letter, and that consequently he had been removed from his command. No discussion took place on the subject.

(By Continental Telegraph.)

Berlin, Thursday Night.

Lord John Russell is to remain here only two days.

As the opening of the Vienna Conference is so nearly approaching it is doubtful if Prussia will be represented at the beginning.

Baron Usedom or Count Alvensleben are, however, designated as probable Prussian Plenipotentiaries.

It is rumoured that the negotiations between Prussia and France have been interrupted by unexpected difficulties.

Boulogne, Thursday Evening.

The Emperor arrived here at five o'clock, after having visited the camp at Helfaut.

Madrid, Thursday.

The religious basis of the Constitution has been voted by a majority of 148.

Vienna, Thursday.

The greater part of the troops in Bohemia have received orders to move to Galicia. They are to be replaced by several regiments coming from Italy.

The troops in the Principalities will be augmented to 75,000 men.

The French Military Envoy, General Létang, had an interview with the Emperor, and assisted at a Council of War.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. 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. 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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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## The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1855.

### 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

#### THE CZAR IS DEAD.

THE Emperor of all the Russias is dead. The hazardous game at deadly bowls that he had opened in Europe, against the field, is not played out; the score was running against him; and he is removed before he could tell whether the will of PETER the GREAT was a dream or a forethought, the charter or the doom of the Imperial house. The war which Russia has provoked has been full of surprises; but it was reserved for "pulmonary apoplexy" to give us the greatest surprise of all. The event suggests a crowd of questions, but some will press hard for a prompt solution.

Is "pulmonary consumption" the real judgment of the physicians, or is it a euphemism for the hereditary malady of the Czars? A Czar has been described as walking with his father's murderers before him, his brother's behind him, and his own on each side of him; have those public functionaries of Russia been at their work? Probabilities are in favour of a departure from the understood rule. NICHOLAS, some few years back, startled visitors by his altered aspect—aged and haggard. His health had suffered fearfully from a cause at once shocking and ludicrous—from the effect of displacement under excessive tight-lacing; but he could not abandon his belting any more than an ominous erysipelas in the legs could make him surrender his jack-boots: and pulmonary apoplexy is the probable end of a frame physically over-strained and exasperated by imperial angers.

What effect will this sudden event have upon the Russian succession? The last demise of a sovereign was the occasion for mysterious intrigues and military demonstrations; and it was understood that the late Emperor contemplated a course not unusual in his house—the setting aside of the mild Cesarovich and the crowning of the younger but fiercer CONSTANTINE. Will that be the result? Heirs apparent, however mild, do not always surrender their pretensions without question; will St. Petersburg, then, be the scene of a civil contest, while Russia stands at bay against the legions of Europe?

On the contingency of the succession depends the third pressing question—What will be the effect of this sudden fate upon the war? Will Russia persevere, or yield? Her official enemies at Vienna would probably aid her to yield: a milder Czar

might bring a sudden peace. But would not a CONSTANTINE excel his father in bitterness and presumption? The fact is, that the elements of the calculation are too many, too potent, too little known, even for a conjectural solution. The events of the few years commencing the second half of the century have thrown the European powers into new combinations. We have a desperate adventurer placed upon the neck of France; a young soldier succeeds the imbecile Emperor of Austria; and now we have a feeble and sickly young Czar, inheriting the most presumptuous hopes, and the bitterest, because the most recent, disappointments. These be not elements of peace! But each of these Imperial Princes has stalking behind him a domestic fiend: NAPOLEON has a cousin, who denounces his policy in pamphlets; FRANCIS JOSEPH is dogged by the ghost of the wrongs which his House has committed on the peoples that chafe under his bayonets; behind the young Czar, be it MICHAEL or CONSTANTINE, stalks a Pretender to the throne mined already by disaffection and conspiracy. Prussia will abet any intrigues to shilly-shally into quiescence; our own puny and paltering statesmen, who never tell us what they do until it be done, would snatch at any presentable peace, if it were only to stop debates in Parliament on the estimates, to save the remnants of aristocratic privilege, and to gag Manchester. Peace, therefore, will it be, if possible; and if not possible, then war, bloody, vast, and uncertain; for there are more questions to settle than this one, and on that fatal ridge of the Chersonese the honour of England has yet to be affirmed. What is that clod of dust and ashes called a Czar, that it should vex the world with its giant puerilities, and not be laid to rest for ever?

#### THE "MONITEUR" ON THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

"It is the British Constitution that is under trial. It is on trial not before the British people alone, but before the whole world. Everywhere is it spoken against. It is the jest alike of our enemies and our allies." Thus spake the *Times* on Friday, the 16th of February, in a fit of sincerity, which has since passed off under the cheerful influence of a second Ministerial crisis.

But these words have been amply verified by an article in the *Moniteur*, which is nothing more nor less than an elaborate attack upon British institutions as contrasted with the stability and dignity of the Napoleonic régime. To those who have sounded the abysses of that mystification under which France now lies seemingly acquiescent, to those who have penetrated the realities of that *mise en scène*, it may seem superfluous to examine in some detail this latest production of the Imperial pen. In Paris the article is very generally attributed to Louis NAPOLEON himself; and remembering that his style has deteriorated since his accession to power, we see no intrinsic improbability in the authorship.

Is it that the freedom of our institutions disturbs the slumbers of the Tuileries? No doubt liberty is a contagious example; but the Emperor of the French may be reminded that even independent English journals have, out of respect to an alliance which all England desires to make eternal, dealt tenderly, and even respectfully, with the existing institutions of France so uncongenial to our own, and out of respect and sympathy for the French nation have abstained from recalling the antecedents of the Chief of the State. Perhaps the Imperial Government might decently have observed equal circumspection and the same reserve. We would rather not believe it possible that a man in

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the position of LOUIS NAPOLEON should so easily have forgotten the most elementary considerations of feeling and discretion as to attack a country with which he is in close alliance by injurious comments upon its most cherished institutions, which deserve at least the respect due to age.

It must be confessed that the Emperor of the French has in this instance abused his own exclusive liberty of unlicensed printing. Not a line in this famous tirade of Imperial glorification would bear a moment's discussion, and it is an essential condition of the boasted stability of the existing institutions in France that they shall not be discussed. A celebrated *tragédienne*, whose relations with authority are said to be peculiar, declined to undertake a new part because she would not consent to be discussed. *Je ne veux plus être discuté* is the motto of the great comedians who now fret their hour upon the stage of France. Since the coup d'état it has been the practice of the journals independent of the Government, to reproduce textually and without comment, in their columns, all official acts, reports, and manifestoes. The sole form of opposition has been this silence of all discussion. It is therefore to be noted that on this occasion the independent press has abstained altogether from reproducing the text of the *Moniteur*. The official journal, in spite of M. FOULD's attempt to enter the ranks of journalism, in spite of its almost nominal price, in spite of its compulsory circulation among the chief functionaries, has never been able to reach a public of more than 15,000 readers. The three semi-official journals (*Le Pays*, *Le Constitutionnel*, *La Patrie*) languish so precariously that it was decided some time since to terminate amicably the existence of one of them at least, and this resolution has only been deferred until after the approaching Exposition. The article in the *Moniteur*, therefore, deprived of the publicity of the 43,000 readers of *La Presse* and the 36,000 of the *Sidèle*, will not have affected the public mind very widely, unless the Government should have resorted to the Imperial method of placarding its lucubrations over France at the expense of the nation.

It becomes our duty to analyse with some curiosity the "public spirit," the "dignity," and the "manly patriotism," which, according to the *Moniteur*, have been exhibited in favour of the Imperial throne in the course of the present war. In old-fashioned England we are accustomed to embody what is called "public spirit" in three forms of manifestation—Parliamentary debates, the Press, public meetings. Nothing of the kind exists in France. The press depends for its daily life on the caprice of a Minister: the right of public meeting is unknown: as to the Parliament, it is composed of a Senate of mutes, whose duty it is to register, without remark, the acts of Government, and to receive an allowance of 1200*l.* per annum, for their patriotic service to the State; and of a "Corps Législatif," whose members, selected by the Government, imposed upon the constituencies without even the show of an alternative, vote in silence and incognito the measures of their master. Every now and then, indeed, they indulge in acclamations: a distinguished deputy of the corps itself once informed us that they were the "acclaiming corps." Just now they are supposed to be "sitting." Who knows?—who can say what they are doing? The journals are permitted to publish only the summary signed by the President; and for the last month a single summary has appeared. Of two things, one: either they do nothing at all, or they do what is unpublishable. How, then, can it be said that they express and represent the public spirit of the nation?

The *Moniteur* talks of the patriotism of France. No doubt there is patriotism in France; but in what sense, and why is it forbidden to declare itself? Whoever has visited France of late has been struck with the utter absence of that enthusiasm, of which the *Moniteur* relates such marvels. Not only is there no enthusiasm for the war, there is almost an absence of public curiosity; the prevailing indifference is only broken by exclamations of impatience and disgust. For example: at the very time when the national loan was so triumphantly successful, and for the reasons we have stated on a former occasion, a Patriotic Fund had not attained in three months the sum of 4000*l.*, after every functionary of the Government and every public body had contributed their "donation." Surely in France, the classic land of war and glory, this is "a new situation in her history." The *Moniteur* is right. The *Moniteur* asserts that NAPOLEON I. "founded upon the ruins of the ancient society the unity of New France." This is the very parody of history. The "unity of France" was decreed by the Constitutional Assembly in 1789, ratified by the Constitution in 1791, and organised by the Convention. NAPOLEON I., in this as in all other respects, did but carry out the bequests of the two great Assemblies of the Revolution and the Republic. He is known to have confessed as much in his confidential moments. He inherited the labours of the men upon whose sacrifice he rose to absolute power. The entire political and administrative organization of France is the work of the Constituent and the Convention.

The *Moniteur* adds that the First Empire "conciliated a strong authority with a system of civil liberty the most extensive." We believe the First Emperor would not have permitted so insolent and derisory a falsification of history to appear in his official journal. Except its victories, the First Empire was the prototype of the Second—a régime of oppression and servility. Then, as now, every free spirit, every independent mind, every susceptible conscience, all honour, probity, worth, was dumb, in prison, or in exile.

The *Moniteur* describes the existing Constitution of France as one adapted to her manners and her wants. This Constitution is a pure and simple plagiarism of the Constitution of the year VIII. Has France not changed since 1802, and after thirty-six years of constitutional government? The Constitution of the year VIII. was re-established after the coup d'état of 1851. It has never been discussed, not even by the Corps Législatif. How are we to be sure that it is well adapted to the manners and wants of France? That it "leaves plenty of room for improvement" we will not pretend to deny.

The *Moniteur* commends the "responsibility" of the existing Government. We cannot discover this responsibility. The existing power in France is as absolute as that of the Czar, but we have yet to learn that France is Russia; the *Moniteur* adds, it is true, "to the public conscience and to history." We can easily imagine how deeply the sense of responsibility must weigh upon the authors, the abettors, the accomplices of the coup d'état.

There is a responsibility of which the *Moniteur* says nothing; we mean responsibility to the Revolution, always suspended over a country that has been robbed by violence of its political rights.

The *Moniteur*, with delightful naïveté informs us, in poor distracted England, that "the great bodies of the State give their support without a dissentient voice." It would be strange, indeed, to find a dissen-

tient voice among men selected by the Government itself. We are only surprised that where the unanimity is so wonderful the press should not be permitted to join its chorus of praise to the acclamations of the "great bodies of the State."

Let us see how the *Moniteur* arranges our English history. It was the genius, we are told, and the dictatorship of PITT that alone enabled England to sustain the war against France. The *Moniteur* would have done well to look to dates. PITT died in January, 1806, and yet England sustained the colossal struggle for nine years after, not only with equal energy, but with more success.

The eternal refrain of the *Moniteur* is that enormous mystification of the 8,000,000 votes which are believed to have sanctioned the present Empire. Nothing has imposed upon public opinion in England like the bare numbers of this double vote. The English public is unable to conceive an election conducted at the point of the bayonet without a single guarantee of fairness or of freedom: with all the opposition in prison, or in exile, or under instant threat of Lambessa or Cayenne; with no possibility of choice of candidates, no right of discussion, no publicity. We forget that these 8,000,000 votes are made up of some 37,000 communes, each of which is as completely in the hands of an unscrupulous Government as a rotten borough in our own good old times was in the hands of the landlord. With the mayor, the *curé*, and the *garde-champêtre*, the organization of unanimity is complete. It is not our fault that the *Moniteur* has provoked reprisals. We would have gladly abstained from these investigations—yet a little while.

#### THE PAPAL MONITORY IN PIEDMONT.

We have not forgotten the protest of the Jesuit Fathers, who recently assured his Neapolitan Majesty that the Order was the natural ally of despotism. True, this incautious *confiteor* was extorted by a threat of banishment from pliant lips accustomed to lend a religious sanction to prevarication, and to decorate falsehood with the gentler title of "reserve." True that, on the disappearance of the apprehended danger, the protested obligation was explained away by no less an authority than the General of the Order himself, who lost no time in disavowing the tutelage of any form of human government, while promising a loyal and disinterested allegiance to all. We know enough of the elasticity of a certain political and moral catechism to be ready to put equal faith in the one and in the other of these contradictory and characteristic avowals. The conduct of the Roman Church in Piedmont (we may take the Order of the Jesuits as the most perfect expression of the Papal policy at the present date) is a sufficient example of the disinterested loyalty of the Church to all forms of human government, of her compatibility with other than despotic institutions.

The beloved and lamented MARIE ADELAIDE, Queen-consort of VICTOR EMMANUEL, died on the 20th of January. The news of her decease reached Rome on the 21st, and on the 22nd His HOLINESS assembled the College of Cardinals for the express purpose of threatening eternal damnation to all who should attack the ecclesiastical abuses in the Sardinian States. Nor have the priestly prints omitted to improve, with all their wonted meekness of expression and charity of thought, the occasion of those profound domestic afflictions which have burst like a torrent upon the royal house of Piedmont, and to which the vulgarest humanity, we do not speak of decency and good taste, might well have accorded the respect of silence, if not of sympathy. But it is the peculiarity of these



privileged possessors of salvation, who do all *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, to ignore the profaner sensibilities of our common nature except for the darker purposes of enlisting a passion in the service of intrigue.

A letter from the amiable and accomplished MASSIMO D'AZEGLIO has been published, in which the minister who led the policy of Piedmont with so much sagacity and moderation through a perilous crisis, and retired from power with so much dignity and feeling, says, that as the authorities of the Church persist in narrowing the question to the Constitution or the Concordat, he cannot hesitate to pronounce unequivocally for the Constitution, though he might at one time have been content with the Concordat. It would have been impossible to put the case with more circumspection. But we who are bound to no such precautions of opinion can have no hesitation in declaring our conviction that the measures now under the consideration of the Piedmontese Legislature, the suppression of monastic houses, and the secularisation of ecclesiastical property in Piedmont, were absolutely necessary to ensure the safety, not to say the harmonious working, of the new institutions. The advantages to be derived from these changes will be financial as well as moral. In a small State like Piedmont twenty millions of francs are of importance at a time when public works, especially railways, absorb more and more of capital; six hundred large and commodious edifices, appropriated to benevolent or educational purposes, are not to be despised. The Sardinian Government, by taking twenty millions of francs from the hands of ten thousand monks and nuns, whose sole occupation was to perpetuate ignorance, corruption, and superstition among the people, confers upon the State a national and a lasting benefit. The only obstacle to be feared was, that public opinion might not be sufficiently enlightened for the change; hence, it was wise to proceed cautiously, until the growing intelligence of the population could more fully appreciate the advantages of a liberalising administration. The SICCARDI act, which in 1850 abolished the Ecclesiastical Court, was the first step in the new policy; the RATAZZI act for the suppression of convents is the second. If this minister has erred it has certainly not been in the direction of temerity. He has proposed a partial, not a total suppression. This concession, regarded as a sign of weakness, has only encouraged the proverbial insolence of Rome, whose device is ever "tyranny to the weak." The Sardinian Minister has already found that half measures with Rome are the most dangerous of faults.

The contest at Vienna between Pope PIUS VI. and JOSEPH II. in 1781 and 1782, is an historical proof of this assertion. The circumstances are a complete parallel. The EMPEROR, without consulting the POPE, decreed the suppression of certain monasteries and religious houses; the Papal Nuncio at Vienna remonstrated in the name of the Holy See, maintaining that the law was injurious to religion, to the Church, and to the salvation of souls; that it was a violation of the rights of the POPE, which, if carried out *might make his subjects forget their allegiance to their sovereign*. To this the Austrian Minister promptly and resolutely replied: That the abuses introduced by the monastic institutions had nothing to do with Christianity as preached by the Apostles, and, therefore, could be reformed without interfering either with religion or with the salvation of souls; that the POPE had no right to meddle with the affairs of the States; that the jurisdiction of the Holy See, in foreign States, could only extend to dogmas and to purely spiritual matters; and in these, his sovereign gave full liberty of con-

science to his subjects, well knowing, in case of disobedience, how to make his own will respected. PIUS VI., dissatisfied with this answer, went to Vienna, in 1782, expressly to settle the question. Not only did he finally obtain nothing in favour of the suppressed convents, he was compelled to concede matters of even greater importance. Nevertheless, he proclaimed, in full Consistory, that the Emperor JOSEPH II. was *the most devout man, and the most religious Sovereign in all the Catholic dominions*.

In 1850, at the very time when the Sardinian Government was banishing the Archbishop FRANZONI to Fenestrelle, for having disobeyed the law which had abolished the Ecclesiastical Court, the Austrian Government condemned two Hungarian bishops—the one to be hanged, and the other to twenty years imprisonment in chains. PIUS IX., so arrogant, overbearing, and subversive in his resistance to the constitutional independence of Piedmont, had not the courage to intercede with Austria even for a mitigation of the sentences passed on these two bishops. Such is the judicious audacity of Rome.

Can we wonder that when the Sardinian Minister *asked the Papal leave*, before he ventured to propose the new laws, the POPE refused, and, through his organs in the press, stirred up a diplomatic and parliamentary opposition?

While we cannot refuse our sympathy and our praise to a Government that, under peculiar emergencies, has dared to lay hands on venerable abuses which have corrupted equally religion and society, and has given to Italy an example of freedom and independence, we are unable to conceal our regret at unseasonable hesitations and causeless fears. In Italy, at Venice, even as early as 1606, the Council of Ten banished the Jesuits, and the Pope PAUL V. sent forth a Monitory. The Government declared it null, and expelled, not only the Jesuits, but also the Capucines. The people looked on with derision. Priests and monks preached against the Pope, who finally had recourse to entreaties; but in vain. The Venetian Government not only rejected the Jesuits, but obliged PAUL V. to humiliate himself by withdrawing the Monitory. We cannot suppose that the Piedmontese, after a lapse of two centuries and a half, will act with less firmness.

On the contrary, we know on the best authority that the King is more determined than ever to carry out, not these reforms only, but others also, restrictive of the encroachments of the Church; among these may be mentioned, the law of marriage by civil contract; the total, instead of the partial, suppression of convents; the limitation of the number of bishops and of their large revenues; and the amelioration of the condition of the parish priests and the poorer clergy. But as the Church of Rome will certainly prevent, as far as possible, the fulfilment of these intentions, we may expect to see ere long an interesting Reformation spring up in Italy, of which the King VICTOR EMMANUEL will, we trust, deserve to be the historical leader.

#### A SHAKE OF "THE SYSTEM."

A PRECEDENT is a great thing in England, and it appears to us that in the appointment of what is called the sanitary commission, which has recently left London for the Crimea, may be found precisely the precedent to justify a complete revolution in "the system." We cannot lay much stress upon the selection of General SIMPSON as dry-nurse to General RAGLAN: that is an innovation upon our military arrangements; it is merely an

adoption of the military arrangement of other nations; the idea proceeds from the upholders of the system, who thus seek to sustain, by a small reform, the aristocratic predominance in the "Staff." But the appointment of the Commission, consisting of Dr. SUTHERLAND, Dr. GAVIN, and Mr. ROBERT RAWLINSON, is a very different matter. They are civilians: they are men without a uniform; without the mysterious authority of epaulettes: and yet they are to be the real Generals—the real organizers, in everything but pure tactics on the day of battle,—of the British army. We say this advisedly; for we understand that the Commission signed by Lord PANMURE, and which they will have to present to Lord RAGLAN, is so comprehensive, in its delegation from the Crown, of power and authority, that, virtually, it supersedes Lord RAGLAN himself, the Staff, the Commissariat, and the Medical Department. "Do anything—do everything," that is Lord PALMERSTON'S "general orders" to these three gentlemen; and they have gone—without one inch of red-tape in their outfits—unfettered by the least fear of routine, resolved to face all the facts, and to remedy every evil in the mal-organization of the army—if the "authorities" resist, to put down the authorities! Now, this is precisely what was wanted—what the public has been demanding. What was needed was HEAD—was MEN: Lord PALMERSTON has picked the best men he could get, and he has made them Dictators. Lord PALMERSTON has in this appointment proved himself aware of the emergencies, and in a desperate position has perpetrated what the official mind, when awakened to the actual circumstances, will certainly regard as a very desperate innovation. The character of Mr. RAWLINSON, well known in his profession, augurs very serious results; and though we are not underrating the courage or capacity of his colleagues—very eminent men—yet it would appear to be the understanding that while to their science, experience, and discernment, Lord PALMERSTON looks for the suggestion of the remedies, the work of the organization is left to the practical manager of multitudes and material, Mr. RAWLINSON. He is one of those remarkable men created by the circumstances of the half century—he is of the PETO, DARGAN, STEPHENSON, and LOCKE class. Commencing life as a railway employé, he has risen, by the development of superior intellect, energy, and thoroughly reliable character, in acquiring fame and fortune, as an engineer of practical science, and, specially, as a sanitary organizer of crowded towns. He is, in short, a man precisely of the genius required at this moment to turn to account the labour of the army in making that army healthy and comfortable: and we may rest assured that neither fear nor favours will be permitted to intercept him in the discharge of an allotted duty. We called for a *man* to save the army, and there he is.

But that is an awful disturbance of the system! We give Lord PALMERSTON the highest credit for doing this wise thing. But how does he reconcile the resort to these plebeian civilian commissioners—men of mere brains—with his late vindication of the aristocracy at the expense of the public departments which are not aristocratic? And if we are to have men of this stamp at Balaklava, why not in those still more perplexing scenes of confusion in Downing-street? Why, in Parliament, depend upon coteries, and connexions, and families, when, at the seat of war, we are obliged, in the last resort, to appeal to veritable intellect, vigour, and virility? Surely we are not to apply common sense to the effects, while the great original cause remains sacred to the traditions of an effete governing class?

## GOING! GOING!

*Il sortira—il ne sortira pas!* the gamins of Paris are wont to shout when they observe a stout gentleman struggling out of a crowded pit in the *entr'acte*. The present cry of the French nation, according to those carefully incorrect chroniclers, the correspondents of the morning journals, is, *il partira, il ne partira pas*. "He will go," "He won't go to the Crimea," as fear or hope suggests. Do not the two most civilised nations upon earth present a strange spectacle of moral infirmity just now? In England, we are unable even to conceive the materials of a Government beyond the circle of three or four reigning families; we cannot believe in men under sixty or seventy to lead in council or in the field. In France, when poor old Louis PHILIPPE was alive and flourishing, the ULYSSES of modern times, it was commonly believed that when LOUIS PHILIPPE died France would cease to exist. For the present, indeed, there is a temporary suspension of her moral and intellectual existence; but as a physical force, we find her more than usually vigorous and demonstrative. Who would have thought, ten years ago, that the departure of the tame Eagle from France would one day be a question of life and death at the Bourse? Will he go? We should at any time, speaking *à priori*, consider such a "move" on the part of the French Emperor probable enough. The Imperial Government is, from first to last, a *mise en scène*, the conditions of its being are excitement and adventure. The coup d'état was a game played by desperate gamblers; it was easy to foresee that the winners would be forced to live on stimulants, and to play ever higher and higher stakes. LOUIS NAPOLEON, it is well known, has for some time been anxious and impatient at the unexpected difficulties in the Crimea: he was the first to announce "Sebastopol is taken," and we believe he gave the order for a salute of 101 guns at the Invalides, fortunately not executed. He is known to be a thorough fatalist: the unflinching personal coolness and courage he has always displayed amidst a public either hostile or indifferent proves this: destitute of the military genius of the First NAPOLEON, he feels the obligations of the name. Decisive operations, we hear, are almost immediately expected: perhaps to essay the practical results of his own theories in gunnery. LOUIS NAPOLEON may have decided to share the honours of a victory so long deferred. From Sebastopol he may decree a reconstitution of the Ambigu-Comique, after the manner of his uncle decreeing from Moscow the constitution of the Théâtre-Français. He may return to France the conqueror of Russia and the idol of his army, and enter Paris through triumphal arches. But if there should be a reverse? His *rentrée* into France would be difficult. There remains the field of Europe, and then would begin the second Empire, which was declared to be peace. But he leaves difficulties behind. There must be a council of Regency for the Empire during his absence: the council must be headed by those members of the BONAPARTE family who are obnoxious to himself, detested by his advisers, ignored by the nation. We do not for a moment anticipate any MALLET conspiracies. But if he take Sebastopol, and smell powder in the field, the second Emperor's career as a soldier will only have begun, and the bourgeoisie (who elected him to keep down the peasants and the workmen, as the peasants elected him to tax the middle-class) are already beginning to feel the pressure of a war without glory and without result. If he fail in the Crimea—but we decline to imagine an alternative of which British soldiers must bear half the cost.

## THE "LEADER" AND LORD STANLEY.

At the present time, when it is not unnaturally a matter of remark, that the newspaper press is either opposed or generally silent upon the great changes proposed by the Government in the laws of the press, we may be pardoned if we recur to the course of the *Leader* upon this question. We have noticed with satisfaction the able and generous aid rendered toward the solution of this question of the postal law of newspapers by Lord Stanley. A letter, argued with considerable ability, and expressed with felicity, bearing the name of the noble lord, appeared in the course of last month as a supplement to our contemporary the *Press*. Striking passages in his lordship's letter bear a marked coincidence with ideas advanced in the *Leader* (Nos. 158, 159) two years ago. From the *Leader* of 1853, and the *Press* of 1855, we quote a few parallel passages; not all we might select, but sufficient to show that the same subject, which has now the conspicuous advantage of Lord Stanley's advocacy, was urged upon the attention of the Government in these pages at a time when the Society for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge had fewer friends than now, and its success was more remote:—

The *Leader*, April, 1853.

This cheap and humble press will be a universal lion's provider for the dearer and abler press, which is now comparatively unread by the mass of the people. What is the common complaint? Is it not that a philosophic and high-toned paper is too good to succeed—that the public do not appreciate it. The abler a weekly paper in England, the fewer readers it has apart from class connexions.

No penny journal can command the highest sources of news, nor will the excise duty and cost of paper and necessary salaries of editors, writers, and reporters, ever permit any penny proprietary in this country to compete with the regular newspaper. The nature of things is against it. The events of the week can never be recorded for one penny, and the usual newspaper buyers want all the news, and that early, and they will have it. Take off the taxes on knowledge tomorrow, and we shall have cheap papers for the poor, and better papers for the rich; but the same class distinctions founded on price will exist. The penny paper will be a penny paper still, and the higher priced paper will be better in proportion to its price, and will, as now, be sought after by all who want a perfect journal, and the regular newspapers will have this advantage, that more readers will be created for them by the Penny Pioneer Press.

The *Leader*, April, 1853.

Some urge, that the provincial press is in some districts indifferently edited, and that the working man's press might compete with it. The only result in these cases would be, that the gentleman's journal would be quickened and improved—not superseded. The greater resources of the rich Proprietors would always enable them to keep in the first rank. Whatever journal, daily or weekly, is first in power, will retain its readers, and multiply them in the good (unstamped) time which is coming. The repeal of the taxes on knowledge will create a small pioneer news Literature—a second-rate newspaper trade, which does not exist now, and which will carry small portions of light, knowledge, and refinement to thousands who now get none. The penny newspaper compete with the sixpenny or fourpenny or threepenny one! As well argue that the third class on

The *Press*, Feb., 1855.

After all, is there so much danger of our press becoming "parochial?" As matters stand, the existence of local journalism in small communities is the exception rather than the rule. It is only the large town, or the populous district, which can support a high-priced stamped journal.

The apprehension, then, that journals of the most expensive class will not be able to hold their own seems wholly groundless. Each rank of society will find its own organ, the exponent of its opinions and ideas; and this is desirable. But early intelligence—familiarity with the political questions of the day—eloquence and argumentative power—are not to be had without paying for them; and in these, though stripped of the artificial and unfair privilege which they now enjoy, the superiority of the large and long-established journals will continue to consist. Nay, as it seems to me, the power and influence of such journals over the public mind will be not diminished but augmented.

The *Press*, Feb., 1855.

Either (which is most unlikely) the unstamped press will rival the stamped in the value of its information and the merit of its writing—and in that case it matters not whether one or the other is most extensively patronised; or it will not—the high-priced journal will still maintain its superiority—and the cheap local prints will not drive it out of the market, but attract another class of customers, those who at the present moment neither purchase nor read any paper, and thus flourish by its side without doing it injury. Take an illustration of the state of the case. Suppose the same legislative agency which dictates the retention of the stamp duty to have prevented all cheap travelling on railways—to have prohibited the railroad companies from taking second or third class passengers—is it likely that the number of first class travellers would have been increased by the number of

the railway will displace the first and second—that the omnibus interest will destroy the cab interest—that the beer-houses will abolish the hotels—that the sixpenny ordinary will supersede the half-crown and five shilling *table d'hôte*—that the threepenny concert will attract the audience from the Royal Italian Opera. No! all these preferences are part of human nature, and they have their seat in what is nearly as strong as human nature—in human custom, pride, and convenience, which an act of Parliament did not make, and which the repeal of the newspaper stamp act will not change.

The *Leader*, April, 1853.

And here lies close to our hands a clear answer to all who fear that an untaxed press would, in this country, descend to the level of the "rowdy" portion of the American press. Never! unless English nature and English culture should also be changed by the same Act of Parliament which unstamps the press. Can the skilful mechanic endure bad machinery? Will the cultivated architect endure an incongruous building? or a painter endure a daub? or an orator, spouting? or a practical politician loud-mouthed rant? or the scholar illiterateness? or the artist bad taste? And as of art and manners, so of newspapers. The cultivated, thoughtful operative will not tolerate a paper inflated, antagonistic, and superficial. So of other and more educated classes. National culture will govern the taste of the English press, and "rowdy" journals will never sell in Great Britain until we possess a "rowdy" population and Yankee backwoods. In the United States the same law holds good. The first-class journals of that country are supported by the cream of the inhabitants, and the rising tone of the American press generally indicates what it will be on the social consolidation of the great Transatlantic Republic.

those who now travel in the lower-priced carriages? Is it not clear that on the restriction being removed a vast multitude of persons would begin for the first time to use the railways who never used them before? So will it be with the press. Those who now take in the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Herald* or *Advertiser*, are not likely to substitute for these first-class journals, with their early intelligence and superior writing, the cheap penny print which will circulate among mechanics and labourers. I have no doubt that a dinner may be had in various London taverns at a very much lower rate than is charged by the clubs; yet the clubs are not deserted in consequence!

The *Press*, Feb., 1855.

To the vague and angry declamation of those who cry, "You want to pull down English journalism and substitute an American press in its place," I scarcely hold it worth while to reply. The plain answer is—like people like press. The American press (which by the way, does not by any means universally deserve the bad character given to it in this country) reflects, faithfully enough, the prevailing sentiment of American citizens. It is democratic—so are they. It is often vulgar, violent, abusive, addicted to brag-gadocio, and credulous of marvels—these are exactly the faults, a little exaggerated in the copying, of a young and growing nation, in which material prosperity has advanced faster than the arts and refinements of life. If in the English mind there be a corresponding state of feeling, by all means let it be exposed rather than concealed. An evil fully brought to light is half remedied. But, in truth, the English character differs widely from the American; and a popular press, though ultimately it may help in forming, must follow, and be suited to, the bias of the popular mind.

## "THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.]

We are now at the end of three months of incessant revolutionary writing and talking against the governing and administrative system of Great Britain; and really, it is time we should see some results of such an agitation. There's Mr. Layard showing twice a week that the country will sink to a third-rate power unless the little interests of little men are put on one side by a great nation: and there's the *Times* every morning elaborately proving, in considerable type, that our salvation depends upon putting the right men in the right places. Everybody thinks with Mr. Layard, and is delighted to read the *Times*. The "spirit of the country" has clearly reappeared. You can trace it in the energy of provincial meetings—you meet it in the Liberal Club of the City, met to consider the re-election of Lord John. There are half-a-dozen Administrative Reform Associations getting up. But the result? Parliament sits day after day, and votes money. Or, when it doesn't vote money, it discusses the Kennedy case.

Half the Ministers are on the hustings: but who opposes the re-elections—who makes conditions? Lord Palmerston dares and defies opposition. A plundered people, mourning a murdered army, is reative under its old lords: and the Premier scoffs at their vulgar declamation. Europe, watching a continuous Ministerial crisis, was intent on the decline and fall of the "Governing Classes," and in the teeth of the nation, the old lord who had got the



best of all the other old lords in the crisis, constructs a Ministry which is the most exclusively aristocratic of any which England has endured since the days of the Marquis of Rockingham. Mr. Layard rises, before the House goes into committee on the estimates, and gesticulates for half an hour with uncounted but intellectual vigour, that there was once a French revolution: other members, such as Sir Erskine Perry, on Thursday, suggest that the House of Commons is on a volcano. But who says "You shall not have this money till you do the public will. I will divide the House on every vote until you tell us that you will obey us?" Why that would be factious: and Englishmen have lost that art of factiousness wherewith they won respectability among European nations. The first Minister has no measures: he never hints at a policy: when a question is asked, he jauntily evades it: if he have to make a speech, he chants: as a rule, he sleeps snorily on the capacious treasury bench. Granted that he is doing some good and grand things in the war—real vigorous things—but he tells the House nothing of them; and if you were to tell him that he won't stand unless he gets the confidence of the House, he would reply that he can do without the confidence of the House. As to what is now doing with the war—the new supplies, the new organisation, the next campaign,—who knows? The House will go down to Spithead to see the new Baltic Fleet; and will feel national pride in the hundred Screws—and return to town convinced that surely they will do—something. As to the Peace, Lord John is negotiating on the basis of the Four Points; what more would a self-governed country wish to know? Perhaps England will be ashamed of the Peace when it is concluded; but we must consider the royal prerogative. And, then, the House of Commons has its privileges: when the treaty has been signed by all the powers, the House will have the right to move for "papers" and to have a debate—in fact to have an adjourned debate, if it likes.

It is even an accident—and in political affairs there is perhaps on the whole more of accident than science—that the Sebastopol Committee did not become a Secret Committee, that is to say omnipotent in procuring amusement for the mornings of a disengaged quorum, and absolutely resultless for that public benefit which is obtained by private exposure. When Mr. Roebuck entered the House last night with his resolution for secrecy in his breast-pocket, he took for granted, the members who had voted with him took it for granted, that there would be no sort of opposition. The morning papers, aware on Wednesday of the intention of the committee, came out yesterday without any protest; the public were passive, and the Government which consists of Lord Palmerston, were rather pleased at the success of their management, effecting, thus, a more absolute sham than even they could have calculated upon. But it was not to be so. The Peelite ex-Ministers were not afraid of laying their defence before the public; they did not choose to allow eccentricities like Roebuck, and Layard, and Drummond to be their judges; they had resolved to force publicity. Sir James Graham, who delights in opportunities of talking liberalisms which at once sound well and answer his purpose, made a speech which astounded the Radical Mr. Roebuck and the Liberal Mr. Layard:—forcibly and effectually he appealed to the House to permit no Vehmgericht "upstairs." This was a terrible stroke; and the way it told was a triumph to the ex-Ministers. It compelled Lord Palmerston, who cannot afford to be outstripped in liberality by his departed colleagues, to adopt Sir James's idea; it urged Mr. Disraeli, a member of the committee, to renounce in the House an opinion which he seems to have entertained in the Committee—his recantation being none the less humiliating that he found an opportunity for a deadly stab at bad-memoried Sir James Graham for inconsistency about local committees; and, in the end, after a weary conversation of four hours, it induced Mr. Roebuck, who detected the clear conviction of the House, to take Mr. Tom Duncombe's keen advice, and back out of his resolution. So far, something is gained to the country; the Duke of Newcastle, it is understood, means to tell the whole

truth—however that may affect the system of whose failures he, for a month or two, is the victim. And, thus, though an old Czar is dead, and a young Czar who is conscientious reigns, and there may consequently be unexpected facilities provided for Lord John in contriving an immediate peace, we are still sure of a retrospective investigation complete enough to provide a daily agitation for twelve months against the régime of imbecile aristocracy.

Those who were present at the debate on Thursday night, on Lord Goderich's motion, on Promotion in the Army, would not be disposed to deny that the great want of England at this moment is Parliamentary Reform: and judging, by the tests of that remarkable debate, of the spirit in which the existing House of Commons is likely to deal with the growing popular demands, one may safely predict that, whether we are to have peace or war, there must soon be a Reform Bill. Lord Goderich, with a timeliness of statesmanlike perception, which justifies the high opinion expressed of him here when it was the fashion to laugh at him as a feeble young lord affecting sentimental Radicalism, went to the root of the matter when he proposed to begin at the beginning of the system, and annihilate the aristocratic character of the army. What the House of Commons meant to do, in answer to the public entreaty to render our Government arrangements worthy of our national pretensions to intelligence and liberality, was here to be shown: and the tone of the debate was just this—that of a club of aristocrats, rather generous and fair, but still intensely classy, chatting an abstract point of human justice. Considering that that grand army, rotting away under the cold shade of insouciant nobility, would read every word of that debate, and would take the House of Commons as the exponent of England, it would really have been but decent—for even sham, on such an occasion, would be desirable—if there had been a larger attendance than is suggested by the numbers of the division. But even the 150 or 160 who voted that the "low" classes who constitute the ranks had no chance of turning up as many competent captains as would justify a ministerial intimation that, in future, command should, as a rule, be obtained by merit, and not money, condescended merely to vote—they declined to be bored by hearing the case. Lord Goderich delivered his manly, hearty, and occasionally eloquent argument—delivered too fast, and in too high a key, perhaps, but then it takes time to make perfect speakers—to a couple of hundred men, and they listened and applauded—it was before dinner time: and the couple of hundred turned up again at midnight from the gaieties of London, and they relished for the time the felicitous conversation—that is his style—of the accomplished Sidney Herbert. But, when Mr. Herbert sat down, and Sir Erskine Perry got up, they soon intimated that they were not there to hear a debate—they had come to vote and get back to their gaieties, or go to bed—and the scene, the struggle between Sir Erskine and the House, was one of the most degrading to Parliament which I have ever witnessed. The bed-dined young Tories roared, bawled, screeched, howled—resolute to put down a man who is only known as having carved his own way to eminence: and they did put him down. The House of Commons is, of course, right to be severe with the bore when he is *mal à propos*; otherwise the bore would be in a perpetual state of afflicting oratory. But Sir Erskine Perry stands high amongst the most intellectual of the new men of the last general election: his speech was earnestly wise; it dealt with new arguments in answer to previous speakers; it was a fair debating speech, an ornament in the debate. But he had to give way, crushed and annihilated; he had been so unwise as to talk democracy to the army; and his persecutors roared ironical applause as he resumed his seat. And the offensive hurry to get a "stupid question" over was so great, that even Lord Palmerston, following Sir Erskine, barely got a hearing. There was a steady inattentive buzz all through his twenty-minutes' cant. And between the speeches of Lord Goderich and Mr. Herbert there was an audience barely of thirty members; for the most of the time only one Minister, Mr. F. Peel. That ludicrous youth himself spoke to no more distinguished a

House. Granted that he didn't deserve a better; that his matter was silly, his style bizarre, his manners grotesque; the young fellow is undoubtedly an infliction off his tall stool—and of course he sits, in office, on a tall stool; but then this stupid gentleman was the State on the occasion, talking for his Sovereign and her Cabinet, and the majority which carried the division—words, every one of which will be read as oracular before Sebastopol.

Lord Lovaine's speech was very peculiar. He is a loud young lord, who, when he has made up his mind (so to speak) to be oratorical, conveys, by the expression of his face, a distinct idea that he is doubtful in the act of speech what to do with his legs and arms. He stands rather on the middle of the floor, and talks at an imaginary disputant in the right gallery. He never finishes a sentence; but then he never begins one, except in the middle, so that not much harm is done. This orator was assuring the people of England, last night, that there was not sufficient intellect, sufficient education, and sufficient gentlemanly manner in the ranks of the British army to justify the adoption of the address moved by Lord Goderich. He had been in the "service"—a year or two—a crack regiment, of course—he did not explain why he did not go to the Crimea—and he spoke with "authority" and "experience"—pronouncing the British army the best officered army in the world—for did not Wellington beat all the plebeian marshals in Spain? Hearing him and others who spoke to the same effect, one forgot that there was such a thing as a Crimean campaign, and put on one side every recollection of the disasters we have been talking about for a whole year; so grand is the effect of impudent dogmatism. Fortunately the debate included Sir De Lacy Evans; the great soldier, still a Radical, made a speech which the English soldier ought never to forget. He was so bold, so unreserved, so honest to the men he has left behind him, that he staggered even the Lord Lovaines, and obtained an oratorical triumph. While he spoke I don't think more than ten senators remained below in the smoking-room, and every voice cheered him when he sat down. The speech was based on one fact—stated clearly as a fact by Sir De Lacy Evans, after an experience of thirty years—"The system of promotion in the British army is a mockery and a swindle—a man must have great connexions to get on. Yet 154 in favour of—murdering our armies in war-time!"

Saturday Morning.

"A STRANGER."

## Open Council.

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

### GAME LAWS IN A NEW LIGHT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—On the 4th December last a highly respectable farmer, possessing a game certificate, walked out at nine o'clock in the evening to shoot a pheasant which a young lady sent word was then at roost in a tree on his own land. He accomplished the feat, and being summoned for the same before a major and a parson, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and to find sureties afterwards. It seems that the representatives of the Church and the Army had by some extraordinary circumstance acquired a knowledge of one legal maxim: *Cujus solum est ejus est usque ad calum.* Now as the bird's perch overhung another person's property, the bird, say these wise men, was on that person's premises. Of course the mere space is the property of the owner of the land, but the tree, on which was the bird, was on the prisoner's own ground. So that, according to the law of these ecclesiastical and military jurists, all that appears above the soil (stopping just short of the stars) is the peculiar property of the owner of the land—balloons, *in transitu* for instance. In this case the tree of course was subjected to a divided ownership, the root going with the land on one side, and the twigs on the other. So if my dog follows me into Smith's house (by entering which I become the immediate property of Smith) Smith may seize upon and sell or keep the entire animal; but if my dog stands with only his forefeet beyond the threshold, his head and forequarters become vested in Smith, and I only retain a property in his hind legs and tail. At least this is the law in Gloucestershire, and no doubt it answers very well in that uncivilised and remote district.

I look, sir, upon this conviction as a boon to the community. We have imagined the game laws heretofore simply to affect low country ruffians, in heretofore simply to affect low country ruffians, in and out of livery, who occasionally shot each other to the public advantage. But now that a respectable farmer—a land-owner too—has been sentenced to a month's gruel for an offence no greater than that of sneezing in a by-place, we may expect some investigation. The case will act like the coming bull who is to toss the alderman and stop the driving of horned cattle through the city.

I am, Sir, &c.,

E. D.

## 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*.

THE Magazines have not gone out with the coaches, but we no longer look for MAGA and FRASER as we did in the good old times when "Magazine night" was a monthly event on the road. The increasing multiplication of weekly serials deprives the monthlies of their former interest; in many cases we find the Magazine article to be little more than a *réchauffé* of what has already appeared in various forms in the daily and weekly press. Not unfrequently this monthly *réchauffé* appears to be more carelessly and hastily written than the original fragments of which it is made up. We doubt if it would be possible to find more negligent writing, more flippant presumption of tone in any newspaper struck off at red heat than in many pages of these Magazines, which occupy an intermediate position between the journalistic press and the quarterly reviews; supposed to partake of the actuality of the one, and of the grave deliberation of the other. As it is, they are often equally superficial and dull, and nothing can be more intolerable than levity without animation, and weight without strength. We do not direct these remarks particularly against our present list of Magazines, though we have seldom encountered so many pages with so few passages which our readers would thank us for quoting. The article that deserves the first place in our present notice is, we think unquestionably, the first in the March number of the *Dublin University Magazine*—a magazine, we may parenthetically remark, generally readable and pleasant. The title of this excellent paper is *The Soldier-Surgeon; a Tale with a Moral for the War Office*, and a very timely and important moral it is. The subject is the professional career of Baron LARREY, the eminent soldier-surgeon of the armies of the Republic and the Empire, of whom NAPOLEON said to Dr. ARNOT at St. Helena, "If the army ever raises a column to gratitude, they should erect it to LARREY." "These sentiments NAPOLEON vouched in his last will by a bequest of 100,000 francs to LARREY. *L'homme le plus vertueux que j'aie jamais connu.*"

Baron LARREY first entered the public service "as a medical officer of the French royal navy" in 1787. But he became disgusted with a sea life, and having obtained his discharge, "he betook himself to Paris in time to profit by the surgical practice provided for the schools by the first storms of the revolution." On the declaration of war, "he joined the head-quarters of Marshal LUCKNER at Strasburg, on the 1st of April, 1792, and was soon after placed in surgical charge of KELLERMAN's division." At the assault of Spire by General CUSTINE, "LARREY first became sensible of the inconveniences attending the position of the field hospitals, which are fixed by the military regulations at a league from the army."

"Sixty years afterwards," observes the reviewer very pointedly, "nearly from day to day, a similar inconvenience was suffered by the wounded soldiers of the British army at the heights of the Alma."

We are still suffering from the imbecilities of routine which in the French service were swept away by the great Revolution.

"Larrey," continues the reviewer of his memoirs, "does not seem to have found his genius impeded by official routine, nor was he in the least subject to that fear of exciting the vengeance of his departmental superiors by stepping a little beyond the line of their comprehensions, which has worked such woe to the sick and wounded in the hospitals of Balaklava and Scutari."

It was then that LARREY fully organised "a rudimentary field-hospital, or *ambulance volante*," and he tells us it "made a great sensation among the soldiers," who felt that they would not be left wounded on the field to the inclemency of the skies, or the tender mercies of the enemy. But it was in 1797, in the army of Italy, that the *ambulance volante* was brought to some perfection. And here let us allow the reviewer to speak:—

"Each division had a surgeon-major commanding, two assistant-surgeon-majors, twelve sub-assistant surgeon-majors (two of whom acted as apothecaries), a lieutenant-provider of the division, a sub-lieutenant, a *maréchal des logis en chef* (equivalent to serjeant-major of cavalry), two brigadiers (equivalent to corporals of cavalry), a trumpeter (bearer of the surgical instruments), twelve mounted hospital men, including a farrier, bootmaker, and saddler, a serjeant-major, two fourriers, three corporals, a drummer (*gargon d'appareils de chirurgie*), twenty-five infantry hospital men. To each division were attached twelve light and four heavy carriages, manned by a *maréchal des logis en chef*, a *maréchal des logis sous-chef*, two brigadiers (one being a farrier), a trumpeter and twenty drivers. It will be seen that each of these divisions was, in fact, a corps complete within itself. The medical officers were mounted, and all, officers and men, were suitably dressed and armed with light swords. The holsters and portmanteaus of the officers were furnished with the most necessary surgical appliances; and the men, mounted and dismounted, carried knapsacks containing reserve supplies of surgical munitions. The legion was under the orders of the surgeon-in-chief of the army; its administration was conducted by a board composed of the medical and administrative officers of the three divisions; and its discipline and manœuvres were regulated by a special code of instructions. Its duty was to take up the wounded from the field, after having given them immediate surgical assistance, and to carry them to the hospitals of the first line. The sub-lieutenants of the ambulance and the infantry hospital men were also charged with the duty of burying the dead; and the former were authorised to require such levies of the inhabitants as might be necessary for that purpose. The carriages were two-wheeled or four-wheeled, and by their form and weight they were adapted to varieties of country. They could follow the most rapid movements of the advanced guard, and divide when requisite; so that a single medical officer, with an orderly carrying all necessities, and attended by a carriage, could repair to any spot where assistance was required. There can be no doubt that this field-hospital train conferred the most essential benefits upon the army into which it was introduced; but it would be a very grave mistake to attempt the introduction of a servile copy of it into our own service. What gave life and energy

to the French institution was the soldierly spirit, intelligence, and zeal of Larrey: and these qualities are not the products of mere material arrangements. The organisation of the *ambulance volante* became easy when the medical officer, feeling his responsibility, and animated with the military love of distinction, put forth the powers of his will. Nor was he ever content with using a mere machine, even when he had brought it to a state which he considered perfect. When he found himself engaged among mountains of difficult access, *bât-horses* or mules with panniers were substituted for carriages. In the Egyptian campaign the difficulties of the desert were met and overcome by the employment of camels, bearing cradles for the wounded slung across their backs. In an unforeseen emergency, the vitality of the system proved itself in the manner shown in an incident of the battle of Eylau, when, upon the occasion of a panic created by a sudden movement of the enemy in the direction of the ambulance, Larrey, having hastened the amputation of a leg with which he was engaged, "expressed, with force, his resolution not to abandon his post; and all his juniors, rallying around him, swore they would never quit him. In this difficult conjuncture," he continues, "Mr. Pelchet, *officier directeur* of the ambulance, knew how to display the resources of his character, his ardent zeal, and his rare intelligence." The surgeon-in-chief, in truth, knew how to draw out, and to foster those qualities, which, after all, are common enough among men; and his own superiors knew the value of his abilities for such work, and at what price—no very exorbitant one in the end—they could secure the use of them for the public service. The market of intelligence, zeal, and ingenuity, is not worse provided nor dearer in Britain than in France. We, too, should soon find the wants of our army in all departments amply supplied, could we but take heart to cast loose the bonds of official routine, and to set the energy, talents, and love of distinction of our men and officers free to work in their natural channels.

LARREY served throughout the campaign on the Rhine; in 1794 he was "invited by the Representatives of the People with the army of Eastern Spain, to take the direction of the surgical service of that army; was present at the assault upon the lines of FIGUERAS, and during the siege of ROSAS—"a sort of prototype of Sebastopol"—in the winter of 1794-95; returned to Paris to conduct a school of surgery; repaired to Italy to "make a tour of inspection throughout the stations of the army, organising general and field-hospitals, and taking all the measures he thought expedient for the improvement of the service; forming "a school of anatomy and military surgery" in every principal town of Italy where there were French troops and hospitals. In 1798 he accompanied General BONAPARTE to Egypt; was at Alexandria, Cairo, the Pyramids, Aboukir; served throughout the disastrous Syrian campaign; and subsequently "with the Imperial Guard in the campaigns of Saxony, of Prussia, and of Poland; in the campaigns of Spain in 1808-9, and in that of Austria;" again in Spain and in Bavaria. "On the 12th of February, 1812, he was appointed surgeon-in-chief of the grand army;" worked through all the horrors of Smolensko, the Moskowa, Borodino, and the retreat from Moscow, served through the campaigns of 1813-14, and was present at the great battles in Saxony and in the retreat from Leipzig;" took part in the operations in France, bade a first farewell to NAPOLEON at Fontainebleau in 1814, and in the following year directed the field hospitals of the guard at Waterloo. After the peace he was deprived of his position and honours by the Bourbons, but he declined high offers of service in the United States, Russia, and Brazil, and at the Revolution of 1830 his patriotism was rewarded, and the remainder of his life was "passed in honour and activity." We have thus presented a brief analysis of this review, which is itself a summary of Baron LARREY's own memoirs. No department of our public service has broken down more signally and deplorably than our medical department; and the writer of this most valuable review has no difficulty in explaining "the reason why," while he points the moral of his chapter in the *Soldier-Surgeon* as follows:—

We venture to hope the moral of our tale will have been apparent throughout its course. Its application extends very much beyond the medical department, as its teaching is very much wider than the particular instance might seem to some to imply. In attempting to derive our lesson from facts in the life of a French soldier-surgeon, we have no intention or desire to advocate the rash substitution of the French, or of any other foreign system for our own, in this or in any other public department. We believe that no more fatal error could be committed than to make any such change. Yet we see too much reason to fear that it is what will be done. Already a few spring waggons have been bought, and called *voitures d'ambulance*, and it was set forth, that an efficient field-hospital train had been called into existence; they proved, as any one might expect, to be worse than useless! What we desire to inculcate is the eternal truth, that in the conduct of war no extent of material development can compensate for the lack of human intelligence, and that this will not work in chains. We should have as good a medical department, as good a commissariat, and as good an army as any in the world, if only we were to set the intelligence they contain free to work, unrestricted by the incapacity, and unchilled by the discouragement of official chiefs. In no army, we sincerely believe, would the true soldier-surgeon be found in greater force than in our own, if only it were shown that the high rewards of the service are attainable by military-medical merit, and that the highest place could not be so filled as to render its eminence a beacon of warning, not of encouragement, to aspirants who may be disposed to base their hopes of advancement upon their self-consciousness of ability and knowledge.

There is a quaint and curious desultory paper in *Blackwood*, on Beggars, reminding us a little ever and again of Sir THOMAS BROWN, of DE QUINCY, and of CHARLES LAMB. The rest of the number is less interesting. The continuation of the *Story of the Campaign* will probably be read first; in a quiet, serious, and saddened manner, Major HAMLEY describes the hospitals on the Bosphorus, in which so many of our brave fellows have languished and in which that devoted ministering angel, Miss NIGHTINGALE, pursues day and night her holy offices of charity and comfort. The account of the burials in the pits of Scutari is most distressing.

A "Peep at Paris" is an agreeable paper. The Census Returns suggest a somewhat vague but not ungenial attack on our modern self-educational machinery, and on the comparative tables of religious denominations in the United Kingdom, which the writer concurs with certain bishops in con-



sidering unfair towards the Established Church. The writer seems to think that national education should be more indirect than the forcing process would have it; and, by way of a temporary panacea, he suggests that there should be a theatre at one end of every village, and a church at the other. There may be more sagacity in this suggestion than at first appears; but it may be doubted whether the rival establishments would be found to flourish together, we do not say to "pay." Of the political contribution on the ministerial changes we shall only say, "Is it not written in the *Morning Herald* and the *Press*?" We must add, however, that the Derbyite advocate fails to extricate his clients from the predicament in which Lord PALMERSTON landed them when he made a "waiting race" of it, and when he inveigled Lord DERBY into an attempt at Coalition with the very men whom the weekly organ of the Tories (originally started under the title of *Anti-Coalition*) had most unscrupulously assailed for the last two years. We may here repeat an inquiry we have heard in many directions without reply: What is the *raison d'être* of a journal created for the express purpose of destroying the Coalition, when the founders of that journal are the very men to "fill an obvious void" in their ranks, by the admission of the most conspicuous of the Peelite Coalitionists? We can only suppose that the present policy of the party which the "Anti-Coalition" journal celebrates, is to steal a Radical programme, as in 1852 they were ready to hold power in the service of Free-trade. As the political article in *Blackwood* is a warmed-up version of the Tory newspapers, so the political article in *Fraser* is an inconclusive grouping of phrases familiar to the readers of the *Times* and of other more consistently Liberal journals of late, on the subject of "The Government, the Aristocracy, and the Country?" The leading paper in *Fraser* is an elaborate eulogistic notice of Dr. MAYO's "Croonian Lectures on Insanity." Dr. MAYO is known in the profession rather as an able theorist on this the most serious of all diseases, than as a physician familiar by constant and intimate practice with all the peculiar difficulties that surround the treatment of insanity. But his lectures have received the fiat of Sir BENJAMIN BRODIE, and they are full of suggestive observation. The theory of "moral insanity" is, we believe, almost universally abandoned; it is impossible, except metaphysically, to separate disease of the mind from disease of the physical organ or instrument of the mind; and whether the disease be merely functional, or structural and organic, it must be dealt with like other diseases of the material frame. This does not exclude, however, the possibility of reaching the disease, in certain stages, through its external symptoms, by an impression upon the moral feelings. The present reviewer of Dr. MAYO's lectures, disposed to theorise with considerable vivacity on his own account, comments upon the evidence given by no less an authority than Dr. FORBES WINSLOW, at the trial of ANN BROUGH for the murder of her children. He calls Dr. WINSLOW's evidence "perilous," and he even hints that it is "subversive of the safety of society." We think this vivacious reviewer would have done well to deal a little more respectfully with the evidence of such a witness as Dr. FORBES WINSLOW. If he had read the *Lettsomian Lectures on Insanity* (which we reviewed some months since), he would have found a most complete refutation of Dr. PRICHARD's theory of Moral Insanity, to which he rashly insinuates the Doctor has lent his influence. And if he had studied the subject itself a little less superficially, he would have known that under certain morbid conditions of the brain homicidal impulses are almost irrepressible; they are commonly directed against the nearest or dearest relations of the insane. It was not until ANN BROUGH's brain was relieved by the discharge of blood from her throat that she was aware of the nature of the horrible murders she had committed. And then, what was her first act? Not to accuse her husband, but with her failing strength, to put out of the window a bloody pillow to call the attention of the passers-by. If ANN BROUGH had killed a dozen children, she would not have deserved to be hanged the more, if there was reason to believe that she committed the murders under the uncontrollable influence of a disease of all others deserving human pity the most. Better that a hundred guilty should be spared than that one innocent should be punished is, we believe, the doctrine of the soundest humanity, whatever the present slashing reviewer, writing like an unscrupulous advocate, may say. On the recent extraordinary trial of a French governess in Paris for unheard-of cruelties towards her pupils, two young English ladies, a case was cited of a young man who committed suicide last November, and who left in writing the following explanation of the act:—"Ever since I came to years of discretion I have been pursued by a mania for assassination; I strove against it, but some day or other I may be overcome, and I would rather die than dishonour my family."

BURTON (it was observed on this occasion) relates that on one occasion an honest and industrious working man, of a kind disposition, and a good father, came to him one day and said that he was possessed with a mania for committing violence; he had a wife whom he adored, and an only child, who was the delight of his life, but he was so absorbed by this idea of killing that he was obliged to keep everything in the shape of a knife out of reach, lest he should put his wife and child to death. BURTON considered this to be a case of mental alienation, and recommended the poor man a certain regimen. The patient, however, lived to assassinate his best friend.

No doubt the whole subject is beset with mystery, but the present reviewer seems to be happily unconscious of any difficulty in pronouncing judgment, even "where angels fear to tread."

*Bentley's Miscellany* has a sympathetic paper on "Thomas de Quincey," and a fragment, declared to be authentic, having been left under a sofa in Jermyn-street, in 1842, of the journal of a French actress, relating a certain sentimental "passage of arms" with the late Czar during a winter in St. Petersburg. To those who have known St. Petersburg and the Czar, this fragment will possess at least the merit of *vraisemblance*. There are four papers suggested by the war—"The Russians at Home," "The Tartars of the Crimea," "The Resources of the Anatolian Shores of the Black Sea," and "The Conduct of the War," of which the second and the third are the best. Mr. AINSWORTH continues his story "The Spendthrift" (which we are glad to think he will have no excuse for not concluding), and Mr. SHIRLEY BROOKS contributes a fifty-first chapter to "Aspen Court," which now occupies the centre of the *Miscellany*. On the whole, *Bentley* seems to be "looking up."

The *National Miscellany* appears to be languishing: the papers are short, the type is large and clear, the matter is healthy enough, but it wants animation and variety. Neither "Circassia," nor "The Crimea," nor "Emigration," nor the "Charitable Associations of Paris," nor "English Grammar," receive much novel illustration in these pages.

We have just received from Brussels a copy of the pamphlet *On the Conduct of the War in the East and the Crimean Expedition. Memoir addressed to the Government of H.M. the Emperor Napoleon III. By a General Officer.* The *Moniteur*, we know, has officially threatened proceedings before the Belgian tribunals against the publisher of this pamphlet, which it attributes to a Russian hand. In spite of the *Moniteur*, we are convinced, after a summary perusal of its contents, that this pamphlet has been directly inspired by his Imperial Highness Prince NAPOLEON JEROME, whose feelings towards his cousin are no secret. We think, too, we can pronounce unmistakably that the redaction of the facts supplied by the Prince is due to the hand of M. EMILE DE GIARDIN, whose intimacy with the Jérôme branch of the Bonaparte family is no secret.

Proceeding from such a source, it is impossible to dismiss this pamphlet as a common polemical brochure. It contains the gravest charges against the highest people, and it clears up the obscurities of many events hitherto unexplained. We have neither time nor space this week to extract from the pamphlet at length; we can only summarise very briefly its contents. We now learn that it was at the Tuileries that the Emperor of the French silently and secretly resolved upon the expedition to the Crimea, without consulting even his Minister of War. He despatched a plan of the campaign, traced entirely by his own hand, to Marshal ST. ARNAUD, who took the credit of the design to himself, and spoke of the Emperor approving it. The Council of War at Varna unanimously rejected the proposal on the first occasion. The discussions were very warm. Lord RAGLAN, Admirals DUNDAS and HAMELIN, Prince NAPOLEON, and the Duke of CAMBRIDGE formally opposed it. Marshal ST. ARNAUD insisted on the necessity of complying with the Emperor's wishes, and promised to take Sebastopol by a *coup de main*. Admiral HAMELIN, more especially, resisted the proposal, as a "reckless adventure." Prince NAPOLEON spoke for three quarters of an hour against the expedition. Nevertheless, Lord RAGLAN yielded his objections, as did General BOSQUET, and the expedition was determined. The pamphlet states that after the battle of Alma, it was, at the instance of Generals EVANS, BROWN, and BOSQUET, and of the Prince NAPOLEON, that the army pushed on to the Belbeck. Lord RAGLAN opposed the idea of attacking Sebastopol on the north side. When ST. ARNAUD was dying he called General CANROBERT to give him his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the army. General CANROBERT took out of his cloak a packet, evidently soiled by wear, bearing the arms of the Emperor. At this ST. ARNAUD opened his eyes but expressed no surprise. He only murmured, as his head fell back on his bed, "*C'est bien.*"

The pamphlet speaks of Lord RAGLAN as a man of perfect taste and manners and decided incapacity, and charges him with the responsibility of Inkerman and Balaklava. The treaty with Austria of June 20 has been, the Prince maintains, the capital fault. The Emperor has sacrificed all to his dynastic ambition, and to his desire to escape from the position which he had himself assumed, of a *Parvenu*, into the good graces of the Sovereigns of Europe. Such is the pith of the pamphlet, so far as we can judge by a single and necessarily hasty perusal; if on a second more attentive reading we perceive that our present analysis has omitted points of interest and importance, we shall give extracts next week.

Doctor VERON contributes some singular chapters to the history of the Coup d'état of the Second of December. Deriving his materials from peculiar sources of information, he lets us into the secret of that consummated burglary. We doubt if the light this grotesque cynic throws upon the personages of the present régime in France will increase the respect with which they are regarded by the intelligent class of the population. It is

impossible for any reader, however prejudiced in favour of success, not to recognise the fact that these successful conspirators were men moved by no other impulse than the desperation of gamblers who had nothing to lose and all to gain by a crime which would have paralysed the arm of any man in whose breast remained a spark of honour or of self-respect.

The account we have received in a private letter of the reception of M. BERRYER by the French Academy, adds little to our remarks of last week. It says that the affluence of the aristocracies of the Faubourg St. Germain and the Chaussée d'Antin was immense; that it was regarded as a political demonstration; and that the ladies more especially were ready to seize the faintest allusion against the Empire; not, of course, on account of any sympathy with free institutions, but "because they want to go back to powder and hoops." "This determination," our correspondent says, "to oppose by means of historical allusion, threatens a total falsification of history for some time to come." M. DE SALVANDY'S reply was laboured and rhetorical, and much too long. "By-the-by, when it was previously submitted to the committee, every one felt its enormous length, but nobody liked to tell him so. At length M. SCRIBE undertook the task. 'My dear sir,' he said, 'that is splendid: your address is like a great city: there are many palaces and many houses; if you knock down some of the houses the palaces will be more visible.' Some were knocked down, but not enough. M. BERRYER, excusing his inexperience in literary composition, is reported to have said, 'I know how to speak, but I can neither read nor write.' His address savoured a little of oratorical diffuseness and effort, but this modest and witty *mot* of the great speaker was not deserved."

In the semi-official *Pays* there has appeared a very angry article against this perversion of the Academy to political demonstrations; and a threat to close the door upon "provocations which are as dangerous in the *salon* as in the street."

We have not yet received the new number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (March 1<sup>st</sup>), but we have heard that it contains a remarkable contribution, extending to some forty pages, by M. GUIZOT, on a subject which to many will appear singular in connexion with the name of that austere Minister—*Sur l'Amour dans le Mariage*.

Pamphlets from Russian sources, on the war, are rife in the neutral city of Brussels. The two latest we hear of are called respectively *Mensonges et Réalités de la guerre d'Orient*, and *Lettres Russes*.

#### A HISTORY OF ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE III.

*A History of England during the Reign of George III.* By William Massey, M.P. Vol. I.—1745-1770. John W. Parker and Son.

SEVERAL of our contemporaries have sagaciously observed of this book that Mr. Massey has but a slight chance of permanently supplying the want recently pointed out by Lord John Russell at the Bedford Mechanics' Institution—the want of a good history of England. But we have not been the less inclined to welcome the volume. While waiting for the history (which will never arrive) the contributions of political students like Mr. Massey are highly desirable, and, when they come, are to be regarded, not as ambitious substitutes of foregoing works, but as fragmentary essays—putting old materials in a new point of view. We take such works as this as they stand, gratefully:—and as Mr. Massey does not appear to us to deserve censure merely because his history is not our ideal history, so we do not quarrel with him because he does not even precisely fulfil his own design. In his preface, in which he announces four volumes as the complement of the plan, he speaks of his aim being to write a "social" rather than a political or military history of the reign of the third George; and we are quite content, this first volume being exclusively of anecdotic politics, to wait for the social sketches.

The spirit in which the work is written is to be inferred from Dod's description, of Mr. Massey, as the M.P.—"a Liberal, in favour of Free Trade, Extension of the Suffrage, and Vote by Ballot;" that is to say, a man of Whig traditions, who modifies his party formula by references to the spirit of the age. So far as we have gone with Mr. Massey, we find his politics so little interfering with his history that he writes of the England of 100 years ago as impartially as he might write of Athens—indicating throughout this volume only one prejudice, and that being a literary one, on the subject of Junius. His style is excellent for an essay—suggestive and rapid.

At the present moment, with our institutions on the strain, and the realities of our constitutional blessings abruptly tested by a generation ruthlessly practical, such a retrospect as Mr. Massey—offers upon our national position in the most blessed days of Whiggery, when the House of Hanover had been made safe, the House of Commons was in half a dozen men's pockets, and our nobles enjoyed the luxury of a war with which "representative institutions" did not in the least interfere—affords points of immediately useful application to our own day. This volume commencing with a description of England entering on a war (with France and Spain) after a long and prosperous peace, is occupied with a narrative of popular restiveness during the progress of the war. Throughout there are materials for curious comment upon the national characteristics, which are equally prominent in 1850-60 as they were in 1750-70.

Considering that we are only about a hundred years distant from the death of Walpole, it is, for us, a humiliation to find an English gentleman vindicating the character of that astute man of the world, on the ground that the public life of the country was then so rotten, that Sir Robert Walpole would have been untrue "to the cause of good government" if he had de-

clined to adopt that system of corruption which is so infamously and so eternally associated with his name. Usually, English historians announce that Walpole degraded the land and disgraced the age: Mr. Massey faces the fact that the glorious revolution on behalf of a reformed religion, had still left our ancestors singular *mauvais sujets*, in more ways than one.

Mr. Massey explains, for the benefit of contemporary innocent young Englishmen, that up to the failure of the '45 our statesmen, doubtful if the Stuarts were down, were perpetually—oaths of allegiance notwithstanding—trimming between the in and out royalties, the result being that M.P.'s, their consciences puzzled, allowed the question of legitimacy against responsible governments to be determined by the previous question—Which paid best? "A fastidious temper," says Mr. Massey, "would have shrunk with disgust from the sordid traffic: a squeamish morality would have suffered the commonwealth to perish rather than save it by such means;" and he eulogises Walpole, accordingly, by arguments which would fully justify Lord Palmerston, in our day, settling annuities on all members of the House of Commons who hesitate to believe that he is the only man to carry on the war or conclude a peace. "Political purists," adds our historian, "may cavil at the means by which the immediate peril was averted, but such politicians I leave to their paper constitutions and their impossible Utopias." Clearly, we thus see, Mr. Massey is a practical man. He further describes the political peculiarities of that day, when what he here and there calls "our noble constitution," "neither valued nor understood by an ignorant people"—who perhaps judged, weak creatures, less by theory than by the facts before them—would seem to have been but imperfectly developed:—

In a population of eight millions there were no more than 160,000 electors. The representation of the people was merely a phrase. The people of England had for the most part no more voice in the election of the House of Commons than the people of Canada. The counties were in the hands of the great landowners, who mostly settled the representation by previous concert. . . . Upwards of fifty villages and hamlets were each entitled to return two members to Parliament. . . . Many of the small towns which could furnish a few electors were entirely under the influence of one or two of their great neighbours, who accordingly named the members without question. . . . In those places where freedom of election was possible, venality in its grossest form, accompanied by brutal debauchery, were for the most part exhibited. It is a remarkable instance of the tenacity of life which belongs to established abuses, however glaring and enormous, that such a system as this should have lasted nearly a century and a half, and have at last only yielded within these few years to a national struggle which, before it could succeed, was pushed close upon the verge of revolutionary violence.

Mr. Massey writes these sentences with perfect composure: he fully believes that the Reform Act put us all right. For he is no visionary. He ridicules, perhaps not very keenly, but with solemn intention, the theory of Pitt and Camden, that the House of Commons could not impose taxes on the unrepresented—viz., the North American colonists: and it is, indeed, singular, as showing that even in those days Englishmen thought they had self-government and were free, and so on, that so comprehensive a mind as Pitt possessed was unequal to the observation that, if his theory were carried out at home, the king would have got a remarkably small revenue. Mr. Massey thinks the right, the definition of which by Camden has made every Radical meeting roar applause, can never be "practically" maintained. "The attempt to square political institutions with exact principles must ever be attended with failure;" and he seems rather to congratulate the country, that nearly all our "statesmen" are now of opinion that only a select class of their enlightened countrymen ought to have the franchise—universal suffrage being "incompatible with our mixed constitution"—and, in Mr. Massey's eyes, the maintenance of the mixture is of the first importance. He does not appear to perceive, that despite his arithmetical showings of the "packed" condition of the then House of Commons, the masses had then, in many respects, a power which they have lost in these days. Those were the days of mobs and pressure from without. There was the Court End and the City End; and the City made the Court go tolerably right.

Wilkes beat the packed House of Commons by mobs, and Chatham, strong from his felt popularity among the mercantile classes, and more especially those of "vulgar" London, was long able to keep the King and the Whig aristocracy down. In our days a Wilkes couldn't get a mob—he would be ungenteel; would be oh-oh'd into extinction in the House of Commons; and we see Palmerston, as strong in popularity as Chatham was, compelled to fight a Whig aristocracy against his reluctant sovereign. England was, in her oligarchical Parliament, very vicious then; but there was abroad among the people a spirit of freemen; they had heard their fathers talk of revolution, and they knew their power. That country was safe, even with such a House of Commons, near such a Cheapside, and with a public which could enjoy and applaud "Junius." In our day—with a hundred years more of a genteel civilisation—Junius writes still, but our crack statesmen snub him as one of a "ribald press." In our day, our oligarchical Parliament is less openly vicious, but can still afford to be oligarchical, and to monopolise government to the aristocracy, because there are now too many people to allow of a practical mob, and because the Beekfords who used to lead the middle class have fallen into the fashion of getting baronetries and peerages and being courtly and civil, and reading, without cheering, "Junius."

Mr. Massey sketches the success of a coalition opposition against Walpole in a manner which suggests a comparison with the fall of Lord Aberdeen: the similitude being in the fact that in both cases aristocratic faction, perhaps with good national results, but still factiously, sacrificed a minister who would serve no class, and who would only think of the country. And, aristocracy triumphant, Mr. Massey shows that danger to the nation immediately commenced; and he attributes the safety of England, then, to the fatuity of the Pretender and his allies rather than to the energy or the intellect of the men who, to use his phrase about the Pelham administration, "jobbed on the Government." Frederick, Prince of Wales, dead—and Mr. Massey unloyally suggests that Queen Victoria's great-grandfather was even the greatest villain of her family—and Mr. Pelham following him, in 1753, the House of Commons was as bewildered as to the man to whom to give its "lead," as it would have been this year if Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone, and Lord Palmerston had been in the same Government. The three



men then were Fox, Murray, and Pitt. Fox, says Mr. Massey, with some such sneer as our cynical politicians now apply to Lord Derby, was principally conspicuous because, in a corrupt age, he showed a pre-eminent contempt for public virtue. But Murray (Mansfield) he worships—with the habitual unreserve of the English constitutional lawyer—for his intellect, without reference to his morals. Pitt, he adores, too: and as his character of that splendid Englishman is the most finished in the volume, we give the portrait at length:

William Pitt was a genius for brilliant achievements, for extraordinary emergencies, for the salvation of a country. As a statesman, Pitt can endure comparison with the greatest names of modern history—with Ximenes or Sully, Richelieu or de Witt. As an orator he is yet unrivalled; and to find his equal, we must ascend to the great masters of antiquity.

Such panegyrics may seem loose and extravagant. I propose to justify the first by a faithful narrative of the political achievements of Chatham; of his unfinished designs; and, lastly, of his opposition to the rash and shallow policy of the inferior men who supplanted or succeeded him. His fame, indeed, as a master of eloquence I can vindicate but imperfectly. I may quote passages, grand, affecting, and sublime; these, perhaps, can be matched in oratorical essays, which fell flat upon their audience; but who shall attempt to do justice to those qualities which constitute the essence of oratory—countenance, voice, gesture—all that the Greek calls *action*? Yet these were carried by Chatham to a transcendent excellence.

Pitt's character had many faults, and one above all, which is hardly consistent with true greatness. A vile affectation pervaded his whole conduct, and marred his real virtues. Contempt of self was one of the traits which distinguished him in a corrupt and venal age. But not content with foregoing official perquisites which would have made his fortune, and appropriating only the salary which was his due, he must go down to the House of Commons and vaunt in tragic style how "those hands were clean." On resigning office after his first great administration, he could not retire with his fame, but must convert a situation full of dignity and interest into a vulgar scene by the ostentatious sale of his state equipages.

Sometimes, to produce an effect, he would seclude himself from public business, giving rare audience to a colleague, or some dignified emissary of the Court. Then, after due attendance, the doors were thrown open, and the visitor was ushered into a chamber, carefully prepared, where the Great Commoner himself sat with the robe of sickness artfully disposed around him. Occasionally, after a long absence, he would go down to the House in an imposing paucity of gout, make a great speech, and withdraw.

At a later period, he affected almost regal state. His colleagues in office, including members of the great nobility, were expected to wait upon him; at one time, he did not even deign to grant them audience, and went so far as to talk of communicating his policy to the House of Commons through a special agent of his own unconnected with the responsible Government. The under-secretaries of his department, men of considerable official position, and sometimes proximate ministers, were expected to remain standing in his presence. When he went abroad he was attended by a great retinue; when he stopped at an inn he required all the servants of the establishment to wear his livery.

Yet all this pride tumbled into the dust before royalty. His reverence for the sovereign was Oriental rather than English. After every allowance for the exaggeration of his style, it is still unpleasant to witness the self-abasement of such a spirit before George the Second and his successor. "The weight of irremovable royal displeasure," said he, "is a load too great to move under; it must crush any man; it has sunk and broke me. I succumb, and wish for nothing but a decent and innocent retreat." At the time when Pitt indicted these shameful words, he was the most considerable man in England, and on the eve of an administration that carried the power and glory of England to a height which it had never approached since the days of the Protector.

If it were just to resolve the character of such a man into detail, it would be easy to collect passages from the life of Chatham which should prove him a time-server, a trimmer, an apostate, a bully, a servile flatterer, an insolent contemner of royalty. All these elements are to be found in the composition, as poisons are to be detected in the finest bodies. But taken as a whole, a candid judgment must pronounce the character of Chatham to be one of striking grandeur, exhibiting many of the noblest qualities of the patriot, the statesman, and the orator.

Newcastle, whom Mr. Massey considers was not both knave and fool, but simply knave—a vindication which must be gratifying to the House of Pelham—had to decide between the three pretensions; and he offered the lead to Fox. But the "negotiations" to induce Fox to "join" were delicate. The duke, who was tenacious of his "management" of members, insisted on retaining his hold on the secret service money. "Fox," says Mr. Massey, "pointed out, with strong sense, the inconvenience of such a reserve." How, asked Fox, not intending the least satire on his country, "how was he to manage the House of Commons, unless he knew who had been bribed and who had not?" In our day no man would undertake to lead the House in such ignorance, or, otherwise, without large powers in council; and doubtless, in the recent refusal of Lord Palmerston to join Lord Derby, and in the retirement of the Peelites from Lord Palmerston, there were some such motives of self-respect operating upon patriotism. Sir Thomas Robinson got the post. As a rule, the House of Commons has not been led by its best men, but Sir Thomas Robinson was the least respectable leader it ever had; he was a silver-stick, and the "wits" laughed at the Duke of Newcastle for appointing such a man, just as the wits would have laughed at Lord Derby had Lord Derby got his House of Commons led by a brace of fashionable novelists. By-and-by Pitt and Fox coalesced; Fox forced his way into the Cabinet; Pitt and Grenville were chicaned out of office; and thus was England governed when war came on—France threatening invasion. There was a shocking series of imbecilities: hesitation, timorousness, and fickleness. England had no navy and no army; the Court was thinking exclusively of Hanover. Hessians were hired, a western squadron was sent off; and a not brilliant year was concluded by hanging an admiral, which was then the fashion, though in our time we merely "cut" a foiled commander-in-chief.

The utter failure of our arms was compensated for by the brilliancy of our diplomacy. England had been for ten years abusing Prussia, just as in the last ten years she has been abusing Austria. But circumstances required inconsistency; we hated the great Frederick, but we became his ally, and carried him through the seven years' war, and the country was congratulated by the Ministers, just as Ministers now congratulate themselves on the adhesion of Austria. But the effort to degrade the nation was too much for a feeble administration: his successful diplo-

macy ruined Newcastle just as successful diplomacy annihilated Lord Aberdeen. Pitt was the Palmerston of the movement; and Pitt came in almost unconditionally strong—it sufficed that he undertook to carry on the war with vigour. His first act was to discharge the Hessians, and to organise a Militia; and he extinguished the cause of the Pretender in Scotland; and, therefore, in Great Britain, by engaging the Highland clans as soldiers—those passionately loyal people, it would appear, only requiring pay to be practical. Pitt also at once recklessly, profusely—but that was vigour—increased the forces, and he grew so popular that all the court and corrupt cabals against him failed; and though Newcastle got in again, alongside him, it was without real power, and the great commoner reigned now with absolute sway. The state of affairs, when he began, was awful. In America and in the Mediterranean we had been beaten by the admirals and generals of our "natural enemy;" in Germany, Frederick had lost the battle of Kolin; and, at home, the people, says Mr. Massey, seeing these sudden vicissitudes in party politics, no change altering the dead-lock of administration, came to the conclusion that all the politicians were self-seekers, and believed that the interests of the country were perpetually sacrificed to the foreign interests of the reigning family. Pitt's first affair was the siege of Rochefort, and that was a failure, for, instead of trying a coup de main, the general, like Lord Raglan, resorted to an investment; and there was a burst of popular indignation at the disaster: the ribald press insisting that Mordaunt and Hawke had had secret orders to fail—which appears to have been a fact. Mr. Massey says:—

The failure of the Rochefort expedition may well be ascribed to the evils of a divided command. But there were other causes, which had long depressed the tone of military intelligence and energy. The system of promotion by seniority, which then obtained in the British service, was not calculated to bring forward merit; and the evasion of responsibility, which characterised the feeble plans and unhesitating orders of the government, had taught the routine leaders of our fleets and armies to consult their own safety, by a cautious adherence to the strict line of duty, rather than the pride of their profession and the glory of their country, by a more daring course. But the fortunes of the empire were now guided by a statesman "who sought for merit wherever it was to be found," and to whose favour or indulgence the only recommendations were zeal and enterprise in the public service.

Yet what was obvious then was an evil of which the ribald press is complaining to a practical public to this hour.

Pitt's vigour was so intense as to be somewhat dangerous. To get back Minorca, then our only Mediterranean port, he offered Spain Gibraltar, but fortunately for our "Indian Empire," then not a consideration, he did not succeed. But on the whole, he did wonders. By subsidising Frederick and reorganising the Hanoverian army, under the Duke of Cumberland, he got into the field a force sufficient to intimidate France out of the idea of invasion; and, by selecting his generals for merit and capacity, he got on well in the frontier war in North America. He conveyed his own mind and will into the whole nation and into the two services; and genius ruled England. But every day his popularity was in danger; the slightest failure, or the least pause, and the public was savage. We have seen, within these few weeks, how a Minister of War had to suffer for the failure of a general; and Pitt was often near a catastrophe. In Wolfe's case he ran the greatest risk. Two sets of despatches arrived from Wolfe, who was besieging Quebec, within three days of one another. In the first set he wrote in a tone of despair, and seemed to prepare his countrymen for the worst; and there was gloom and fury in Cheapside. The next set announced the success of his gallant enterprise; Wolfe was a hero, worthy of Westminster Abbey; Pitt was the select of Great Britain's Providence. Wolfe's coup was followed by Hawkes (Hawkes, who, like Pitt, left his "mark" in the peerage—Wolfe fell too soon—was, like Pitt and like Wolfe, of thorough plebeian origin) at Belleisle, and then Englishmen were proud of their country, and had Pitt chosen, he could then have taken Cromwell's place. But he was loyal, rather mad; and never passed a week without thinking of resigning. When George III. succeeded to the throne, at the death of the careless George II.—George III. with a hate of Whig supremacy, and a crafty Earl of Bute to work out his plans—he did resign, in a "pet," and went into retirement. Peace—"honourable and lasting," of course—was patched up; all the blood and treasure, and all those great victories, which made England the foremost nation in the world, had been lavished and gained in vain.

"But mediocrity and intrigue," says the astute Mr. Massey, "had obtained ascendancy in the British councils." But the Grenvilles were soon glad that peace had been secured. For, having got the House of Bourbon quieted, they had leisure and opportunity to carry on the war with the North American colonies. How our aristocracy contrived in that matter is a matter of peculiarly painful history to those numerous persons who are at once Englishmen and Liberals.

These were two great wars in which the British aristocracy had a fair chance—the country perfectly calm at home—of proving their worthiness of the government of England. They failed lamentably. But then they were consistent. They failed in all the wars subsequently until, after innumerable disasters, bringing us to the verge of ruin, men of genius presented themselves. Supposing that now the man of genius does not turn up? Let us always remember that in the war with the American colonies the man of genius was not on our side.

## TWO NOVELS.

*Antipodes; or the New Existence.* By a Clergyman.  
*Mammon.* By Mrs. Gore.

Hurst and Blackett.  
Hurst and Blackett.

We had some Lord Chamberlainish difficulties as to whether we should give precedence to the lady or the cloth: wishing to part at peace with our fellow-creatures, we reserve Mrs. Gore as a *bonne bouche*, and give the place of honour to our clerical novelist, who stands so sadly in need of it. As far as we can discover *Antipodes*, it is so called because in every respect, as regards conception and execution, in its broadest scope and in its smallest detail, it is the precise opposite of what a novel should be. The *New Existence* it exposes is—*Teetotalism*. There is no greater fault in fiction than inventing characters and facts to preach and enforce a definite dogma. In behalf of the highest cause, and by the most able writer, this is a grievous

error; we can, however, bear with it when the cause is a great one, and the writer gifted. But when the dogma enunciated is our old whole hog, Teetotalism, and the work itself just one long *bawl* in its favour, it deserves no quarter, and we should dismiss *Antipodes* with this remark were it not one of those few books that are so bad as to demand an especial censure. It is only mediocrity that we can dismiss with a word; superlatives of both extremes demand a little more attention. We all know what a teetotal meeting is. The chairman, usually a quaker, proves a little on the Scriptural argument, and then Philip Sober proceeds to prove what a thorough scamp Philip Drunk was; what an angel of light is Philip Sober. This book is Philip Sober's stock speech written out into three volumes. It should have been called "Reminiscences of a Drunken Parson," written by himself the morning after. It has been remarked how complacently a man will admit that at a given time he *was* an ass; how he will encourage his friends to believe in his assdom at that particular period; while no man will suffer any one even to insinuate that he may be one also at this particular present. *Antipodes* is one long rant to prove how drunken a fool the writer was for several years, what a dear, self-conceited, pious gentleman he now is. Now taking our evidence from these volumes, our clergyman appears to have been a much better fellow as a drunkard than when sober. When he drinks, he simply drinks; he doesn't talk, and talking with him implies coarseness and stupidity; he is humble from conscious guilt; and he forgets injuries with an obliviousness intensely Christian in character if not in its origin. When sober he is revengeful, spiteful, coarse, abusive; a compound of the bully, the sneak, and the ignoramus; an habitual eavesdropper; living and speaking under the firm conviction that total abstinence from alcohol justifies the wildest intemperance in words. Let us give our readers an idea of his story.

The author, confessedly teeming with conceit, has gone up to Oxford on an allowance starved out of a pittance by his parents, with the ignorant assurance that he would carry off a double first-class, and win a rich fellowship. He barely escapes plucking, however, and returns to his native village as exasperated and soreheaded a bear as it could be anybody's misfortune to encounter. Of course he wants a title to orders and a curacy; but the vicar, "who would sell the communion wine for money," will only engage him for no salary, so he remains at home, skulking about, a pecuniary burden to his parents, and a nuisance to the entire parish. An old flame of his, whom he never takes any personal notice of, marries another clergyman (a scoundrel according to the assertion of his fellow-minister, our author), and then the measure of his exasperation and unbearableness becomes full. Sick at heart, he is despairing, when one day a friend offers him—a pinch of snuff! He takes it—sneezes—feels his head cleared and his spirits lightened—darts out and buys a box and some Prince's mixture, and forthwith proceeds to devote his whole energies to making his nose a perfect Balaklava of filthy stagnation. But snuff, he finds, affords no enduring solace to a man labouring under wounded vanity, a lost mistress, nothing to do, and less income. Bored to death by him, as he is, his mother suggests a pipe as a soothing influence: forthwith our clergyman lays in a stock of shag and pipes, and thenceforth substitutes tobacco for meat, drink, and sleep, becoming in a few weeks a walking skeleton. Anxious for his existence, his mother (foolishly as we think, for he would manifestly have been no loss) recommends an occasional glass of good ale. He follows her advice, and in a day or two is that beastliest form of drunkard—one who *boozes* in private. He is snuffing, smoking, and drinking on the most colossal scale, when he gets an unexpected curacy, and Volume I. ends. Appointed a curate, he commences as a teetotaler in pipes and alcohol—wins golden opinions from his parishioners—a farmer's daughter deliberately offers him marriage, and the squire flings his daughter at him. His succession to the living at the vicar's death is certain, when, in an evil hour, he is induced to smoke a pipe and drink a glass of whisky, and straightway relapses into a drunkard, walking away with malice prepense some ten to twenty miles to wayside taverns, and getting blind-drunk there in fancied security. In these visits he always encounters a strange man, who speaks exactly the same language as we find in Beaumont and Fletcher's plays, and who generally carries him drunk to bed. With one of these drinking raids ends Volume II. The vicar dies, and, satisfied that he will be the successor, our clergyman calls on Lord Rolle, the patron of the living, finding that eccentric peer to be the identical strange man who so often has seen his private temperance. Of course Lord Rolle, eccentric as he is, does not give him the living, and he returns home once more, snuffing, smoking, and drinking on a more antediluvian scale than ever, until one day he sees a teetotal procession. Nothing could be grander than this spectacle. He admires the banners: he thinks the rosettes lovely: he is struck with the healthy appearance of the people. Always in extremes, a few days see him a pledged teetotaler—pledged in public, and irrevocably. Instantly everything changes. Curacies rain on him—livings turn up—the husband of his early love dies—he marries the widow—gets a snug rectory—all his friends turn teetotalers, and instantaneously become rich and happy—all his enemies continue drinking, and end as wretchedly as the work. Seriously, and with exact veracity, this is the whole story of the *Antipodes*. We think our readers will easily believe that a man who could write and publish such a tale as this is also capable of telling it in the most offensive style conceivable. This we assure them he has done: and in parting with him we recommend him to be a whole hog in one thing more—by total abstinence from novel writing.

It is quite a relief to turn to *Mammon*, a novel which, if it be not of the highest character, is certainly an eminently readable book. There are few of our female authors to whom the reading public that reads for pure entertainment have more reason to be grateful than to Mrs. Gore. Unquestionably she cannot be called a woman of genius. She awakens no strong emotions—she creates no typical characters. But for a steady supply of equitable entertainment, written always with consummate ease, with complete knowledge of her subject, and of the life she delineates—a light but quite distinctive perception of characters, for good, sound, plain sense and absence of conventional prejudices—there are few larger creditors on public gratitude than Mrs. Gore. When you take up one of her novels there is no chance of the deeps of your being stirred—if you want that, you may go

elsewhere—but you are certain of a pleasant pastime, with no chance of offence or ennui. Few of Mrs. Gore's later novels have been equal to her earlier productions, and we do not think *Mammon* as good even as some of her later stories. Nevertheless, it is an entertaining tale, told with her accustomed ease and perfect *unamateurness*. The interest of the tale centres almost entirely in the gradual deterioration of a naturally-fine intellect and character, by the succession to immense wealth. A baronet's son, who marries against his father's consent, for love, supports himself partly at the bar, and enlists our sympathies with his character while giving signs of future eminence in his profession, suddenly is left by a distant maternal relative an immense fortune of over one million of money. Slowly, but surely under the influence of *Mammon*, does this man dwindle down into a purse-proud, unfeeling, parvenu-aristocrat, and his intellect degenerate into the obtusely vulgar capacity of county magistrates. The conception of this character is bold, and its development is worked out in a very masterly manner. No less masterly is the delineation of a companion character in the book; a Chancery barrister, who having at fifty amassed a large fortune, retires from practice, marries a good woman, and step by step, as his pupil, the hero, degenerates, enlarges into a warm-hearted and enlightened sage from a rather selfish and bilious bachelor. These two characters are the *dii majores* of the novel. The lesser satellites are all well drawn; and Mrs. Gore has manifested her usual good sense in sketching, not daguerreotyping, mere accessory personages—no slight merit. Altogether, we can recommend *Mammon* to our readers with perfect confidence.

#### CURIOSITIES OF LONDON.

*Curiosities of London.* By John Timbs, F.S.A.

Bogue.

MR. TIMBS states in his preface that this work is the result of twenty-seven years' labour, and we are bound to welcome, with respect and acclamation, an author who, on the old plan, has put his life into one work; for whatever else Mr. Timbs has done in literature seems but an episode in this main employment.

The book evidences the labour, and is a result worthy of the ambition. On the whole, it may fairly be pronounced the most complete and comprehensive of the many similar contributions to the illustrative history of London. It comprises half a dozen such "Hand-books" as Cunningham's—an admirable one in itself—and the management of the details indicates qualities superior to any which have been hitherto brought to bear upon mere archæology—the qualities of a first-rate scholarly intellect. We have no doubt whatever that these curiosities will, for years, be the standard work of its species, and will give the name of the author a fame of that sort which would best please him, coeval with that of London itself; so that when the New Zealander *does* arrive, he must have John Timbs, Esq., F.S.A., in his hand.

But no doubt these curiosities are still imperfect: the blunders many, the omissions countless, and the design itself inevitably narrow. This is only to say that the work is the work of one man. When the History of London—of its streets and houses—is properly written, it will be a combination of the labours of half a dozen men—by a "survey," ordered by the Government upon the same system which secures us an accurate "map" of the present metropolis. We have commissioners for everything; why not commissioners to collect London's curiosities? The commissioners selected should be healthy young men of parts, disposed to enter into an agreement for a life's devotion to such well-paid literary labours; and the compliment should be paid to Mr. Timbs of appointing him to preside.

#### FORSTER'S POCKET PEERAGE.

*Forster's Pocket Peerage.* Fifth Year.

Bogue.

THE "Governing Classes" seem, just at present, in some danger of losing their ascendancy in the State. But it is to be apprehended, that so long as we have lords, the nation will continue its national characteristic of loving them; and at any rate, while there are Peers, Peerages will be necessary. Mr. Foster's *Pocket Peerage* is indispensable to the reference library. Compact, careful, comprehensive, it is a miracle of minute information, and it is very cheap.

#### BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- Echoes of the War, and other Poems.* By Henry Sewell Stokes. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
- The Philosophy of Joint-Stock Banking,* By G. M. Bell. (Second Edition.) Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
- Manual of Political Science, for the use of Schools, and more especially of Candidates for the Civil Service; arranged in Chapters, with Questions at the end of each, and preceded by an Introductory Chapter.* By E. R. Humyheys, L.L.D. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
- Queen's College. Introductory lectures delivered at the commencement of the Academic Year 1854—1855.* By Adolphus Bernays, Ph.D., &c. John W. Parker and Son.
- The Royal Gallery of Art, Ancient and Modern: Engravings from the Private Collections of her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and Art Heirlooms of the Crown, at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, and Osborne.* Edited by S. C. Hall, F.S.A., &c. Colnaghi and Co.
- Songs of the Wars by the best Writers.* Edited, with Original Songs, by James Hain Friswell. Ward and Lock.
- The Ladies' Guide to Life Assurance.* By a Lady. Partridge and Oakley.
- Speeches of Eminent British Statesmen during the Thirty-nine Years' Peace, from the Close of the War to the Passing of the Reform Bill.* (First Series.) Richard Griffin and Co.
- Lives of Philosophers of the Time of George the Third.* By Henry Lord Brougham, F.R.S. Richard Griffin and Co.
- Thoughts to Help and to Cheer.* (Second Series.) Crosby, Nicholls, and Co.
- Notes on Duels and Duelling, alphabetically arranged, with a Preliminary Historical Essay.* By Lorenzo Sabine. Crosby, Nicholls, and Co.
- Pictures of Palestine, Asia Minor, Sicily, and Spain; or, the Lands of the Saracen.* By Bayard Taylor. Samson Low, Son, and Co.
- The History and Poetry of Finger-rings.* By Charles Edwards. Trübner and Co.
- The Unspeakable; or, the Life and Adventures of a Stammerer.* Clarke and Beeton.



# The Arts.

## THE SPANISH DANCERS.

MR. BUCKSTONE has discovered the true diggings in Andalusia. The SENORA PEREA NENA has made a most brilliant rentree at the HAYMARKET, attended by a new company, bearing the most unequivocally Iberian names, and, we may add, the most unexceptionably Spanish eyelashes and ankles. To all who are sick of the entrechats and pirouettes of the ordinary ballet, with its sickly smiles and stereotyped contortions, these Spanish dancers, so essentially *realist*, so eloquent of Southern life and passion, are delightfully refreshing. LA PEREA NENA and her companions communicate enjoyment because they appear to feel enjoyment in those capricious, whirling mazes, and those twinkling arabesques. The feeling is infectious, and you are carried away by the intense abandon and the savage coquetry of these children of the Sun. The present troupe is a very decided improvement on the former company of the "PEREA NENA." The women are younger and more attractive. The men are more vigorous and agile, and, technically speaking, they execute the figures with more precision and *aplomb*. We are glad to find that the Spanish dancers have thoroughly taken hold of the English public, and Mr. BUCKSTONE has the happiness of having first made them popular. A visit to the HAYMARKET is now as pleasant a way of passing an hour or two of an evening as can be imagined.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 27.

**BANKRUPTS.**—HENRY BYSHE (otherwise BISH) Brighton, builder—JAMES SPELLER, Wapping High-street, sail-maker—GEORGE CUNNINGHAM STEWART, Hackney-road, draper—THOMAS HENRY REES, Aldine-chambers, Pater-noster-row, printer—JAMES TURNER, Hedge-row, High-street, Islington, draper—JOHN SYKES, Little Tower-hill, clothier—THOMAS BOTHELL LAWFOED and EDWIN MAITLAND, George-yard, Lombard-street, wine-merchants—SAMUEL BARNETT, Wellington-road, Liverpool-road, builder—SIMEON KING, Northampton, bootmaker—HENRY JOHN BETYEMANN, New Oxford-street, chair-manufacturer—WILLIAM JOSHUA FISHER, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, linen-draper—GEORGE SELBY, Ironmonger-lane, City, and Birmingham, iron enameller—WILLIAM PALMER, Aldgate, draper—WILLIAM KEATES, Uttoket, Staffordshire, iron-monger—HAYDON LOUNDS, Bourn, Lincolnshire, coach-builder—THOMAS FRECK, Nottingham, grocer—GEORGE SIMPSON, Church Fenton, Yorkshire, chicory merchant—JOHN WHITTAKER, Oldham, publican—JAMES JOHNSON, Macclesfield, silk dyer.

Friday, March 2.

**BANKRUPTS.**—JOHN WALKER BROWN, Sloane-street, Middlesex, upholsterer—HENRY SHAW GOODMAN, Starch-green, Hammersmith, varnish-maker—THOMAS COOKE, the elder, Frixfield, Hants, cattle salesman—HENRY T. RYDE, Gray's-inn-road, Middlesex, dealer in mining shares—HENRY MILLS, Great Portland-street, Marylebone, tobacconist—JAMES RUMSEY, Coventry, licensed victualler—JAMES HARROP and JOSEPH HARROP, Westbury, Wilts, woollen manufacturers—EVAN EDWARDS, Aberavon, Glamorgan-shire, grocer and leather dealer—BENJAMIN BRAY and WM. BRAY, Okehampton, drapers—RICHARD LEAR MUGFORD, Torquay, tailor and draper—GEORGE ELSTON, Crediton, boot and shoe maker—JOHN CROCKER, Wyke Regis, tallow chandler—JAMES SMITH and JOHN HOLMES, Denholme, Yorkshire, worsted manufacturers—ALEXANDER JACKSON, Manchester, watchmaker—RICHARD POPKISS, ROBERT GRIGGS POPKISS, and GEORGE MELLER, Brentford, timber merchants—CHARLES FOX, Stafford-place, Pimlico, licensed victualler—MATTHEW RICHARD SCOTT, Harley-place, Marylebone, West India merchant—JAMES NORTON WEEKS, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, hotel keeper—WILLIAM EDMUND CHAMPION, Addington-terrace, Limehouse—WILLIAM PICKERSGILL, Beech-street, Barbican, City dealer in earthenware pipes.

## Commercial Affairs.

### MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, March 2, 1855.

BUSINESS has been so dull during the whole of the week that it required something to give a pleasing variety for the moment. This afternoon a report, or rumour, in the Second Edition of the *Times*, viz. Berlin, to say that the Czar was so seriously ill that his life was despaired of, has positively raised the funds 4 per cent. This may turn out, probably will, an enormous piece of *blague*; but it does its turn as a kind of counterpoise to the melancholy anticipations consequent on the projected expedition of Louis Napoleon to the Crimea. To think that not merely property, capital, all that makes life valuable to your money-hunters, but that hundreds of brave men's lives hang upon the life of either or both of these saving their Emperorships, very worthless vagabonds. Consols have absolutely not moved during the week until to-day. With new Chancellors, por-advantage, will come new measures—a loan, perhaps—all of which will make business brisker. Hence one of the great objections to Mr. Gladstone in the City was his horror of all loans—and thereby cutting off the supplies from the traders and dealers in money—considered hypothetically and not really. Railway lines show had returns of traffics everywhere in England. Foreign railways maintain their price; an amalgamation between Paris, Strasbourg, and Great Luxembourg, has been discussed; this would improve the table mightily. In Mines nothing doing. Wallers have been better since their meeting. Chartered Banks are good. Crystal Palace shares still very flat. Consols leave off at 4 o'clock—for account March 8th, 91½, 91½.

Caledonians, 62½, 63½; Eastern Counties, 11½, 11½; Great Northern, 90, 91; ditto, A stock, 71, 73; ditto, B stock, 126, 128; Great-Western, 63½, 64; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 75, 75½; London and Brighton, 97, 99; Birmingham, 97½, 98½; South-Western, 83½, 84½; Midlands, 67½, 67½; North-Eastern (Berwicks), 71½, 72½ x. d.; North York, 43½, 44½; Oxford, 29, 31; South-Eastern, 59½, 60; Antwerp, 61, 62; Eastern of France, 32½, 32½; East Indian, guaranteed, 12, 12½; Central of France, 11, 11½; Luxembourg, 21, 21; Western Canada, 10½, 10½; Northern of France, 33½, 33½; Western of France, 61, 61; Agua Fria, 4, 4; Brazil Imperial, 13, 13; St. John Del Rey, 28, 30; Linares, 74, 74; Pontigibennu, 15, 16; South Australian, 1, 1; Waller, 1, 1; Australasian, 80, 82; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 20, 20½; Oriental, 37, 39; Union of Australia, 63, 65; Australian Agricultural, 29½, 30½; Canada Government 6 per Cent., 107½, 107½; Crystal Palace, 21, 21; General Screw, 15½, 16½; N. B. Australasian, 1, 1; Scottish Australian Investment, 12, 12; South Australian Land, 34½, 35½.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, March 2, 1855.

THE disappearance of the frost, and the consequent re-opening of water communication with the interior, has put an end to the complete stagnation which existed while the frost lasted; still the amount of business done in Wheat during the week has been very limited. The supply of Norfolk Flour has continued liberal, and on Monday there was a free sale at 50s. per sack; it is now held for 1s. to 2s. more. The value of Wheat in the Baltic and Danish ports remains unaltered. In the present uncertain state of affairs there is little or no disposition for Spring business. In New York Wheat and Flour are held firmly, but trade is confined to the home demand. The French markets remain quiet, with very little alteration in prices. Barley has slightly recovered from the extreme depression of the last few weeks. The low price compared with Cake, causes it to be used more freely for feeding purposes, and there has been some little speculative business doing for future delivery. The price is even now below Danish, which is held at 27s. to 28s. f. o. b. in the Spring. With very small supplies, the chief part of which is by rail from the Eastern Counties, prices of oats have rather dropped during the week, buyers having held off as much as possible, in expectation of an arrival from Ireland.

## BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	213½	213½	213½	213½	215	213½
3 per Cent. Red. ....	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
4 per Cent. Con. An. ....	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
Consols for Account .....	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3½ per Cent. An. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cents.....	.....	.....	76½	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	4 5-16	4 3-16	4 3-16	4 3-16	4 7-16
India Stock.....	.....	.....	223	.....	.....	220
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	.....	.....	11	12	14	13
Ditto, under £1000 .....	15	.....	12	.....	11	14
Ex. B's, £1000.....	6	6	6	9	9	5
Ditto, £500.....	9	.....	6	9	6	9
Ditto, Small .....	7	3	6	9	9	9

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds .....	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents., 1822.....	98½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cnts. ....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 17½	.....
Danish 5 per Cents.....	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun. ....	4½
Ecuador Bonds.....	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.....	.....
Mexican 3 per Cents.....	Belgian 4½ per Cents.....	93½
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. ....	Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	61½
Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. ....	93½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. ....		

## ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE,

Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, will be performed the New Comedietta, called

TIT FOR TAT.

In which Messrs. F. Robson, A. Wigan, and Miss Maskell will perform.

After which (first time at this Theatre) the Comic Drama of

A LUCKY FRIDAY.

In which Mr. Alfred Wigan will appear.

To conclude with

THE YELLOW DWARF AND THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Miss E. Ormonde, Miss E. Turner, Miss Bromley, and Mrs. Fitzallan.

On Sunday Morning, 4th of March, at Eleven o'clock, A LECTURE on NATIONAL MISSIONS will be delivered by WILLIAM MACCALL, at 21 B, Savile-row, Regent-street.

## BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, and

MOUSTACHIOS, are invariably produced in 2 or 3 weeks, by COUPELLE'S CELEBRATED CRINUTRIAR, the almost marvellous powers of which in the production and restoration of hair, strengthening weak hair, checking greyness, rendering the hair luxuriant, curly and glossy, must be seen to be believed. Dr. Uro says: "It is the only preparation he can recommend for the nursery, as forming the basis of a good head of hair." 2s. per package, at 68, Cornhill; 14, Edgware-road; 154, Sloane-street; Wimpoll, 78, High-street; Birmingham; Ralms and Co., Leith Walk, Edinburgh; and Micklegate, York; Whitaker, Sheffield; Haigh, 116, Brigatote, Leeds; Jones, 5, Paradise-street, Liverpool; Ferris and Co., Bristol; Westmacott, Manchester; Hensleigh, Plymouth; Evans and Co., Exeter; Campbell, Glasgow; and through all Chemists; or sent post free for 24 penny stamps, by Rosalie Couppelle, 69, Castle-street, Newmarket-street, Oxford-street, London.

## DRURY-LANE.

The production of the *Etoile du Nord*, at DRURY-LANE, under the SMITH dynasty, is a monument of audacity. But we are bound to say it is by no means so discreditable an achievement as might have been feared by those who have seen the opera in Paris. Indeed, to those who see and hear the *Etoile du Nord* for the first time there is much even in the Drury-lane version to make a very passable representation; so victoriously charming is the music and so triumphantly ingenious the libretto. Mr. TULLY's orchestra is really to be commended for its steadiness and good intentions. Mr. HENRY DRAYTON cannot make much of the music, but his acting in the last two acts of the opera is intelligent and not unpleasing. Miss JENNY BAUER, who, for all her German name, speaks English with a thoroughly English accent, is agreeable and vivacious, although she cannot sing in tune. Mrs. HENRY DRAYTON sings nicely, although the music is too much for her. The other tenors are nasal, but painstaking. The choruses work with a certain air of correctness and precision. The scenery is tolerably effective. On the whole, we think, the general impression is just enough to excite interest in the production of the opera at Covent Garden this season, when it will undoubtedly be heard for the first time, in spite of the enterprise of Mr. E. SMITH. Let us take this occasion to remark upon the disreputable state of the approaches to the boxes, and of the boxes themselves in this flourishing national establishment. Mr. SMITH, we know, pays his rent like a man, but to a stranger, unaware of that important and interesting fact, the audience part of the theatre is the very impersonation of insolvency.

## SIR HENRY BISHOP.—GLEES and CON-

S CERTED VOCAL MUSIC.—Hanover-square Rooms.—Mr. MITCHELL respectfully announces that, under the direction and personal superintendence of the eminent English Composer, Sir Henry Bishop, a Short Series of FOUR AFTERNOON VOCAL CONCERTS, by Men Voices, of Glee, Quartettes, and Concerted Music, selected entirely from Sir Henry Bishop's numerous works, will be presented at the above Rooms, on the following days:—TUESDAY AFTERNOON next, March 6; Saturday, March 10; Tuesday, March 13; and Saturday, March 17. To begin at half-past 3 o'clock, and to terminate before 5. For the efficient execution of these well-known and popular compositions, engagements have been made with Masters Sullivan, Cooke, Malsch, and Norman, Messrs. Francis, Benson, Lawler, H. Buckland, and Mr. Land, who will assist at the Pianoforte. Programme of the first Concert:—Part I.—"Now by day's retreating lamp," Concerted Piece; "Come forth, sweet Spirit," (Address to the Moon), Glee; "The Fisherman's good-night," Glee; "Breathe my harp," Quartette; "Though he be now a grey, grey Friar," Concerted Piece. Part II.—"The Savoyard from clime to clime," Quartette, &c.; "Sleep, gentle lady," Quartette; "Where art thou, beam of light?" Quartette; "Hark! Apollo strikes the lyre," Glee; "Stay, prythee, stay," Sextette. Prices of Admission:—Reserved numbered stalls, 5s.; unreserved seats, 3s. Tickets and Books of the Words may be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; of Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co., Cheapside; and at the principal Libraries and Musicsellers.

## KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A

certain remedy for disorders of the Pulmonary Organs. In difficulty of breathing, in redundancy of phlegm, in incipient consumption (of which cough is the most positive indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In asthma, and in winter cough, they have never been known to fail.—Sold in boxes, 1s. 1½d., and tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London, and by all Druggists.

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SIR,—I have much pleasure in recommending your Lozenges to those who may be distressed with hoarseness. They have afforded me relief on several occasions when scarcely able to sing from the effects of catarrh. I think they would be very useful to Clergymen, Barristers, and Public Orators.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS FRANCIS, Vicar Choral.

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direct from Newfoundland, of the finest quality, pale, purified, and nearly tasteless. Imperial Measure half-pints, 2s.; pints, 3s. 6d.; quarts, 6s. 6d.; five-pint bottles, 15s.

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### LIGHT BROWN COD LIVER OIL,

Prepared for MEDICINAL USE in the LOFFODEN ISLES, NORWAY, and put to the test of Chemical Analysis.

Extracts from Medical Testimonials:—

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"I know that no one can be better, and few so well, acquainted with the physical and chemical properties of this medicine as yourself, whom I regard as the highest authority on the subject. The oil which you gave me was of the very finest quality, whether considered with reference to its colour, flavour, or chemical properties; and I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer oil can be procured."

ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.L.S., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Free Hospital, Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the *Lancet*, Author of "Food and its Adulterations," &c. &c. &c.

"I have more than once, at different times, subjected your Light Brown Oil to chemical analysis—and this unknown to yourself—and I have always found it to be free from all impurity, and rich in the constituents of bile. So great is my confidence in the article, that I usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition."

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May be obtained, in the country, from respectable Chemists and Vendors of Medicine. Should any difficulty be experienced in procuring the Oil, Messrs. ANSAR, HARFORD, and Co. will forward four half-pint bottles to any part of England, CARRIAGE PAID, on receipt of a remittance of ten shillings.

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## FITCH AND SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON,

8d. per lb.

Now for 15 Years before the Public, and still retaining its deserved pre-eminence, is CURED and SMOKED at CALNE, in WILTSHIRE, a district abounding in dairy farms, and offering peculiar facilities for the breed and fattening of Hogs.

It is SUPERIOR to all OTHER KINDS for its AGREEABLY STIMULATING FLAVOUR, and its freedom from saltiness; while it is a most excellent stomachic, and adapted for the most delicate constitution.

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WILTSHIRE CHAPS, cured at Calne.

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Fine Rich Cheshire, by single Cheese...	0	7 1/2
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LIES.—The important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTEES, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their Improved Process in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged.

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Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,  
February 19, 1855.

I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of Barley-meal and Groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good Barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation, I believe them to be genuine and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food.

(Signed) A. S. TAYLOR.

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To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maidenlane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

## NO MORE PILLS NOR ANY OTHER MEDICINE.—For Indigestion (Dyspepsia), Constipation, Nervous, Bilious, and Liver Complaints, Cough, Consumption, and Debility. By DU BARRY'S delicious REVALENTA ARABICA FOOD, which saves fifty times its cost in medicine.

A few out of more than 50,000 cures are given.  
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1 lb., 2s. 9d.; 2 lbs., 4s. 6d.; 5 lbs., 11s.; 12 lbs., 22s.; super-refined, 1 lb., 6s.; 2 lbs., 11s.; 5 lbs., 22s.; 10 lbs., 33s. The 10 lb. and 12 lb. carriage free on receipt of a post-office order. Barry, Du Barry, and Co., 77, Regent-street, London; London agents, Fortnum, Mason, and Co., purveyors to her Majesty, 182, Piccadilly; and also at 60, Gracechurch-street; 40, Bishopsgate-street; 4, Cheapside; 380 and 481, Strand; 55, Charing-cross.

## DEAFNESS AND SINGING NOISES.—

Instant relief by Dr. HIGHTON'S new and painless mode of cure. Any extremely deaf sufferer, by one visit, is permanently enabled to hear with ease the usual tone of conversation, without operation, pain, or the use of instruments. Thirty-four patients cured last week; many totally deaf instantaneously restored to perfect hearing. Testimonials from the highest medical authority in London can be seen, and persons referred to.

The above discovery is known and practised only by Dr. Highton, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C., April 30, 1846. Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall-mall.

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Firstly—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

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extensive Premises, which enable them to keep upwards of One Thousand Bedsteads in stock, One Hundred and Fifty of which are fixed for inspection, comprising every variety of Brass, Wood, and Iron, with Chintz and Damask Furnitures, complete. Their new warehouses also contain an assortment of BEDROOM FURNITURE, which comprises every requisite, from the plainest Japanned Deal for Servants' Rooms, to the newest and most tasteful designs in Mahogany and other Woods. The whole warranted of the soundest and best manufacture. HEAL AND SON'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF BEDSTEADS, AND PRICED LIST OF BEDDING, sent free by Post.—HEAL AND SON, 196, Tottenham-court-road.

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I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Name.....

Address.....

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