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The Leader.

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

Contents.

NEWS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE	State of Trade, Labour, and the Poor	298	The Purchase System	302	Mr. Silk Buckingham	306
Imperial Parliament	290	The Case of Lord Clanricarde ..	298	Louis Kossuth in Defence of Hungarian Reform	303	Psychological Inquiries	306
The Sebastopol Committee	293	Our Civilisation	298	The Safety of Newspapers under the New Bill	303	The Life and Times of Salvator Rosa	307
The War	294	Health of London	299	"The Stranger" in Parliament ..	304		
The Vienna Conference	295	Miscellaneous	299				
The Policy of Russia	296	Postscript	300	OPEN COUNCIL—		Births, Marriages, and Deaths ...	308
Alexander and the Russian Nobles	296			Thanks of Parliament	304	COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—	
The last of the Emperor Nicholas	296	PUBLIC AFFAIRS—		LITERATURE—		City Intelligence, Markets, Ad-	
Continental Notes	296	Vienna in London	301	Summary	305	vertisements, &c.	308-312
Belgium	297	Louis Napoleon in England	301				
The late Riots in Australia	297	The Peelites	302				

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News of the Week.

SUSPENSE and expectation are the two words that express the position of affairs at all the great posts of the Continent. As the Congress at Vienna comes to a stand-still at the third point, the interest begins to be turned from the Austrian to the British capital, where the EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH is expected to arrive on a visit to Queen VICTORIA—a NAPOLEON being now one of the allied Sovereigns, and ALEXANDER the Arch-enemy of the day! And all the while from the Crimea they continue to report to us that "the bombardment is going to begin." The British army has reversed its relative position, and become the envy of the French—the men are so healthy, the effective numbers are so considerable, their food is so good, their transport so transcendent, and their coats so red. They have everything that they can want, from canvas to washerwomen. The French still insist that CANROBERT is not up to the mark; FOREY resigns, because he hates PELISSIER; and Sebastopol, stronger than ever, is now reinforced with new recruits and new supplies.

Recent circumstances, however, have helped to tell us that there is an official distinction between Sebastopol and Vienna. The taking of Sebastopol and its ultimate disposal are questions that depend upon the gambling of war. The diplomatists are going for other objects of a more abstract kind. Their specific purpose is to exclude Russia from Constantinople; and if they can do that by reducing her fleet in the Black Sea, and strengthening the Principalities with some kind of local independence, it will suffice. These are the objects at which they aim in the Vienna Congress, and these are the objects which, in making concession on the subject of the Treaties of 1841, the passage of the Dardanelles, and even the departmental arrangements of the Principalities, Russia is still desirous of meeting with a practical frustration. She will concede something, but not the thing wanted; and when the Plenipotentiaries come to the third point, they find that they cannot reconcile their instructions; so they refer to their respective Governments, and will have to wait some days before new instructions shall enable them to go on again.

Nothing has really altered in the position of the Allies: not one appears to have changed his attitude towards the rest. While the EMPEROR OF

RUSSIA is professing at Berlin that he is desirous of concluding peace, and is prepared to make any honourable concessions for that purpose, he is telling his own nobles in St. Petersburg that he will defend the territory and honour of Russia at the cost of life; and there is every probability that the Russian nobles, the Holy Synod, and the excited, fanatical populace of Russia driving to resistance, he will be unable to stop just at the point which the Allies consider indispensable. Prussia sending circulars to Foreign Ministers, and denying the right of Austria to make statements on the subject of what passes in the Diet, or of France to inquire about them, is in fact standing upon the rights of treachery, and carrying on her old game of assisting Russia. The language of Baron PROKESCH-OSTREX, challenged by Prussia proves, that Austria is entirely opposed to the Court of Berlin, and is firm equally in her opposition to Russia and her co-operation with the Allies. The question of peace or war, therefore, is still undetermined; while the hopes of peace decline with the increasing difficulties of reconciling the instructions of the Plenipotentiaries.

The Sardinian alliance is confirmed by the two Houses of the British Parliament. The House of Lords has received the Queen's Message, and has acquiesced in a motion recognising that Message without a dissentient voice. In the House of Commons the proposal to give the Treasury authority for issuing 2,000,000*l.* sterling to the Sardinian Government by instalments of 500,000*l.* in each half year, passed without a division, but not without a debate. There were several persons found to inflict upon the vote, as it passed, some kind of censure. Mr. BRIGHT objected to all such votes, and to war in general. Mr. BOWYER, an Ultramontane convert, condemned the financial credit of Sardinia, although that State possesses a higher credit than many of more political importance; and Mr. DISRAELI labelled the vote as a subsidy in disguise, although it is no such thing, but a genuine advance of English money upon English credit, to an ally whom our Ministers know to be faithful in her engagements, and who will pay the annual interest; while her rising trade, particularly with this country, is giving her a constantly increasing resource. In fact, however, the debate was not a contest upon the vote, but only a display of party, or anti-war feelings.

Polish stock is rising in the political market. It is true that Mr. PAINN's motion for recommending the Crown to reconstitute the kingdom of Poland

as a barrier against Russian encroachments, was not pressed to a division; but Lord PALMERSTON confesses that the question might arise, and he only asked Mr. PAINN to withdraw the motion because it would embarrass the Executive, and so forth. The Polish question, therefore, stands over, and if Russia is obstinate in refusing the necessary concessions, we shall talk about something more than Sebastopol and the Principalities, for we shall have a word to say about Poland.

The Sebastopol Committee continues to bring forth real disclosures—that is, such a completeness of exposure as to remove the idea that the causes of complaint were isolated instances, and to prove that the worst evils belong to the entire system. There have, no doubt, been serious cases of personal misconduct. Supplies have been promised upon contract, and probably not forwarded; commandants have literally obeyed orders, and by their stupid attention to forms have obstructed work essential to support life in man and beast; medical men have neglected duties that they undertook, and have seen the victims of neglect perishing under their care. But it is evident that every person was overworked, partly from the simple fact that too much was given to him to do, and partly that the general disorder prevented him from doing his work in a proper manner. Mr. ROEBUCK has stated that probably the inquiry would close soon after Easter: but evidently, if it is to be at all complete, we must have witnesses yet more important than any that have been before the Committee.

Once more Lord LUCAN's case has been brought before Parliament. We trust it is at an end. Everybody seemed disposed to soothe the wounded feelings of the late General of Cavalry—it was polite to do so. But the facts remain—the lost brigade cannot be recalled. The House of Commons declined to step beyond its province and dictate to the Queen on the treatment of officers; and it acted rightly. Discipline would be impossible, if the Crown were called upon to give reasons every time a man is recalled, and order court-martials upon a soldier because he is a Peer. Into the merits of the case we shall not again enter. Lord LUCAN brought all that he has suffered upon himself by his persistency in disputing with Lord RAGLAN, and his unsoldierlike and hasty appeal to the House of Lords. Had he been a modest man, he would have accepted the quiet censure conveyed in Lord RAGLAN's first despatch, and there the matter would

have ended. But he seems to have behaved throughout the business with a haughty self-sufficiency far from the character of a true soldier.

Major REED has reintroduced the subject of promotion, moving a resolution "for a select committee to inquire into the present mode of conferring appointments in the army (by purchase or otherwise), to report on the same, and recommend a more efficient system for securing promotion to merit and long services." This was followed up by a host of speeches for and against, ending in a division throwing out the motion by 104 to 70. The sum and substance of the argument for the motion was, that purchase is the grand corrective to the extreme slowness of promotion by mere seniority; and it is evident that persons practically acquainted with the service can hardly conceive any rule except that of letting aged officers live up to the next step in rank, until all the upper ranks become crowded with superannuated veterans. The only idea apart from this is promotion by "merit;" but as the average run of officers behave well, "justice" already seems to be done to merit. To pick out the best men for rapid promotion, to set the ablest men of the kind to work for which they are most suited, to reward extraordinary bravery or sagacity by extraordinary advancement, seem to be ideas alien to our present managers.

An excellent blow has been given at Church-rates. Sir WILLIAM CLAY introduced his bill (amended in form) with a vote of 155 to 76 in favour of the first reading, and with Lord PALMERSTON'S permission to go at the impost, if he can strike hard enough to overcome the "difficulties."

The House of Commons threw out Mr. DEEDS'S motion to postpone the Ministerial Bill for altering the Newspaper Stamp Law by a net majority of 54. The measure was made a regular Ministerial question, and Ministers, of course, could do anything if they resolved to it. It is only a pity that they limit their determination to matters like the newspaper stamp.

Among the incidents of the week the Liverpool election is interesting. There, in that stronghold of Toryism, a Liberal has been elected by a majority over his Tory opponent of 1560: and all the circumstances emphasise the triumph. There was no "question" before the constituency to agitate either side into extremes: the Tory was certainly a foolish and non-oratorical old gentleman; but the Whig was a plain merchant of the town, eminent in no sense, and recommended simply in his representative aspect as a Liberal; and we thus regard the election as evidencing that if you appeal to any crowded community—even a rather Tory community, and are free from passionate agitations, having neither the cry of measures nor the cry of men—the chances are that, on the broad question—Do you prefer a reactionary Derbyite, or a practical progressive Liberal?—the answer will be dead against Toryism. There is a world of meaning in this quiet election: and though the Tories have lost, and explain their loss by the fact that they did not take much trouble, nor spend much money, yet we may compliment them on the business as highly creditable to them:—to have taken trouble to return a BONHAM, would indeed have been disgraceful.

OFFICIOUS, NOT OFFICIAL.—A fortnight ago the semi-official weekly organ of the young Tories announced with *fracas* that the "Emperor Louis" was all for war, and that he would invade the Crimea at the head of a large army in the spring. Last week the same authority announced with equal *fracas* that the Emperor of the French was disposed to peace. The probability is that, of these two announcements, one at least is more or less correct. What an advantage it must be to have special sources of information!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE TREATY WITH SARDINIA.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON moved on Monday that the House should take into consideration the message of her Majesty respecting the convention lately concluded with Sardinia. He stated that the adherence of Sardinia to the Alliance was perfectly voluntary, and that she had adhered to that article of the treaty by which England and France bind themselves not to derive any advantages from the war.—The Earl of HARDWICKE expressed his admiration of the way in which the Sardinian army had behaved at a very critical period of its history. He seconded the motion.—The Earl of SHAFTESBURY believed that the evils of the present war would be compensated by the establishment of Sardinia in her proper position among the nations of Europe. The motion was carried *nemine contradicente*.

The same subject was introduced into the House of Commons, when the House having gone into committee to consider the Queen's message, Lord PALMERSTON stated the terms of the agreement between this country and Sardinia, namely, that Sardinia should furnish a corps of 15,000 men, and that England should advance a sum of 2,000,000*l.* towards the expenses, Sardinia paying four per cent. interest, of which one per cent. is to be a sinking fund. Lord Palmerston spoke highly of the courage and efficiency of the Sardinian army, and trusted that the alliance between Austria and Sardinia would obliterate old feelings of animosity, and lead to an improvement in the general condition of Italy. He concluded by moving, as a resolution, that the Commissioners of the Treasury be empowered to advance 1,000,000*l.* by way of loan to the Sardinian Government; and a like sum at the expiration of twelve months, if the war be not concluded by that time.

Mr. DISRAELI said, the circumstances connected with the resolution should not be passed unnoticed by the House. The loan which they were asked to make in favour of a foreign power would probably not be very speedily repaid; and he greatly feared that in the end it would prove to be a subsidy in disguise. Subsidies, he said, were generally condemned, and were indeed so pernicious in principle, that nothing but extreme necessity could justify them. Did that extreme necessity exist in the present case? If it did, it was in consequence of the late Government; and more especially Lord Palmerston, having neglected the development of our military means while hostilities were imminent. On this point he said:—

"We did not enter into this war hastily. It was not on a sudden that England found herself involved in a struggle with a great military power. The whole country, long before the message of her Majesty came down to the Houses of Parliament, was prepared for more than the possibility of such a great contingency. The Ministry, who for more than a year had been carrying on negotiations, were they during that period making no preparations for the war which they must have considered inevitable? or, if they did not, it was at least a proof of their want of becoming prescience. Her Majesty's Ministers, we now know, were in possession of secret information a year before war was declared—they were apprised of the most confidential intentions of the late Emperor of Russia. I say, then, that after having been placed in possession of those intentions, her Majesty's Ministers must, or ought to, have felt it their duty to prepare for the great struggle which was more than possibly impending."

Mr. Disraeli then strongly censured the late Government for not having embodied on a much greater scale the English militia, and called out the Scotch and Irish militia. He concluded by saying that he would not oppose the measure then brought forward, but thought it right to proclaim that, "at the commencement of the second year of war, we are beginning a system of subsidies, because her Majesty's Ministers have from the first neglected those national means which would have prevented a recurrence to so odious a measure." (*Cheers*.)

Lord PALMERSTON denied that there was the remotest analogy between a loan, for which interest was to be paid; together with a sinking fund, and a subsidy. In answer to Mr. Disraeli's charge against the late Government, in respect to not having embodied the militia earlier, he said that the blame really lay with the Derby Government, whose Militia Bill only gave power to the Crown to embody the militia in the case of actual invasion, or danger of invasion. The late Government, therefore, had to bring in a special act to enable them to embody the militia in time of war, without reference to invasion; and as soon as they obtained the power, they proceeded to embody several regiments.

Mr. BRIGHT said they had been told by the Government that this is not a subsidy because Sardinia is to pay interest upon the loan; but they had not been told anything about the security. He believed that debts of this kind, from one State to another, are generally shuffled off under some pretence or

other, not very long after the money is advanced. He sympathised greatly with the progress of Sardinia, but held that she had no interest in the war, and added:—

"I wish also to express my entire dissatisfaction with the plan of subsidies, whether in their original form or in the shape of a loan. I wish further to express my deep regret that the kingdom of Sardinia should have left the peaceful and honourable pursuit in which she was engaged; of settling her own internal freedom on a firm and satisfactory foundation, and should have thrown herself into a struggle from which greater countries than Sardinia cannot retire without loss and disaster, and probably dishonour, and from which I believe that Sardinia, especially if her forces are placed under your generals and under your management, will retire with the same dishonour as ourselves."

Mr. BOWYER made a few remarks reflecting upon the credit of the Sardinian Government. He said there was an annual and increasing deficit in the revenue of Sardinia, which amounted to several millions of francs; the taxes were heavy; commerce had been stimulated to the utmost; and there was considerable over-speculation, and an unsound state of credit in the trade of the country. An increase of expenditure arose every year from the manufacture of places, which were disposed of for the purpose of enabling the Government to manage the House of Commons and obtain that influence which was necessary to carry their measures; and there was a great standing army, out of all proportion to the resources of the country or to its necessities. The trade of Genoa was carried on principally with Russian ports; and a great injury must therefore ensue from war with Russia. The recent seizure of ecclesiastical property by the Sardinian Government evinced the necessitous condition of the State—a condition which shows how uncertain is the security we possess.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that, to the best of his belief, all the financial obligations of Sardinia, notwithstanding the great and peculiar difficulties she has had to confront, have on every occasion been met and discharged with fidelity. He denied Mr. Disraeli's allegation that the present loan is, in fact, a subsidy, and held that the treaty with the Sardinian Government is wise and beneficial.—Mr. ADDERLEY thought that a single regiment of Canadian volunteers would be of greater worth than 15,000 foreign auxiliaries.—Mr. WALPOLE contended that the late Government had been guilty of delay in the embodiment of the militia.—Mr. J. BALL said that the embarrassments of the Sardinian Government were merely temporary, and Mr. COBDEN regretted that Sardinian freedom should be forced into an alliance with Austrian despotism, and asserted that it was very ill-judged to enter into this loan at the very time when there was a probability of peace.—In answer to a question from Mr. MILNES, Lord PALMERSTON stated that, if the war came to a premature close, only a part of the loan would be advanced, in proportion to the expenses already incurred by Sardinia.—The resolutions were then unanimously agreed to; and a Bill founded upon them was brought into the House of Commons on Tuesday night, read a second time on Wednesday, and discussed in committee on Thursday.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.

The Earl of HARDWICKE, in the House of Lords, called attention to the fact that, since the war, the steam-vessels used for intercommunication between this country and Australia have been used for transports, thus throwing the colonies back upon the sailing vessels, in consequence of which they have to wait four or five months instead of six weeks. He presented a petition with reference to this question.—Viscount CANNING admitted the importance of the subject, but said that the war called for every resource which the country could command. He affirmed that Australia was not the only one of our colonies which had to suffer, but promised that Government would as soon as possible remedy the inconvenience.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

Lord LYNDBURST moved that the Court of Chancery Bill be referred to a select committee. The bill ultimately passed through committee after a discussion between the LORD CHANCELLOR, Lord St. LEONARD'S, and Lord LYNDBURST, which disclosed the note-worthy fact that the remuneration of solicitors in Chancery proceedings is so insufficient as often to oblige them to put their clients to unnecessary expenses in order to obtain some sort of compensation for their services.

BLOCKADE OF RUSSIAN PORTS.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. SANDARS, Sir CHARLES WOOD stated that the Government proposed to establish an effective blockade of the Russian ports in the Baltic and White Sea as soon as those ports are open.

THE EARL OF DUNDONALD'S PROPOSAL.

In answer to Mr. BELLEW, Sir C. WOOD said a proposition was submitted to the late Board of Admiralty by the Earl of Dundonald. Some inquiries had been made into it, but the hon. gentle-

man would see it was not a discreet thing to make any statements respecting it.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

On the order for the second reading of the Newspaper Stamp Duties Bill, Mr. DEEDES moved that the second reading be postponed until the 30th of April. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, he said, had himself supplied a sufficient argument against the bill by admitting that it would create a deficiency in the revenue of 200,000*l.*, which must be supplied by additional taxation. He (Mr. Deedes) was convinced that this is not the fitting time for the introduction of such a measure. He objected to restrictions upon the size of newspapers, and believed that the measure would lower the character of the press. Glancing at the connexion of the measure with the question of national education, he expressed a fear lest the cheapening of newspapers should corrupt the morals of the young, and he objected to the omission from the bill of all protection to newspaper copyright. However, instead of moving the rejection of the bill (which he did not do because he had no desire to throw out the present Government), he proposed to defer the measure until after the financial statement.

Sir E. BULWER LYTTON agreed that there were details in the bill which required alteration, and that it was but just to give to newspapers an effective law of copyright, and to select, for the standard of weight or size, the newspaper which has the largest circulation. He bore high testimony to the ability and integrity of the newspaper press, and said that the most striking example of English civilisation was to be found, not in our docks, our railways, or our public buildings, but in our newspapers. The character of the press was determined by the character of the people; and, if the American press (as had been alleged) was inferior to our own (though he must remind the House that there is scarcely an author or statesman of eminence who has not contributed to it), the difference must arise from the inferiority of the people. He objected to the principle of the penny stamp, as implying a tax on the expression of thought, and as rendering the establishment of newspapers almost impossible, except to capitalists, and thus throwing the press into the hands of a few cliques. If the stamp were removed, he believed that a good penny Conservative journal would be set up, conducted by avowed writers and men of established name, and would penetrate to the lower classes, where he believed Conservative journals had not yet penetrated. (This candid admission was received with ironical cheers.) With respect to the question of the impetus which would be given to immoral and blasphemous publications, he observed that profligate literature had always corrupted the higher classes before the lower. There was no class of the whole community which showed so little inclination for libellous or gossiping publications as the working classes. When those Sunday papers to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer referred were accustomed to profane the Sabbath-day by hebdomadal ribaldry and slander, it was the clubs and drawing-rooms—certainly not the working classes—who supported them. But those papers were now extinguished by one or two threepenny journals of superior character. He called the attention of the House to the fact that the *Spectator* of Addison and Steele was a penny paper; and that it was extinguished by the tax that was laid upon it; and concluded a very capital speech by again enforcing the necessity for a cheap, unstamped Conservative press.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out the perplexed and embarrassing state of the law, which was such that it was impossible to enforce it, as the indulgences granted to some publications had been claimed by others. As to the loss to the revenue, the extent was known beforehand; and if the House was not prepared to meet it, it might reject the bill at once. But a consideration of 200,000*l.* should not stand in the way of a good principle. He doubted whether the great newspapers would be more exposed to piracy than now; but if they were, it would be the duty of Parliament to make the law more stringent.

Sir FRANCIS BARING agreed with Mr. Deedes in thinking, that such a question should not be brought on before the introduction of the Budget, and denied that the penny was a tax at all, it being in fact an equivalent for postal facilities.—Mr. PACE supported the proposition for postponing the second reading of the bill.—Mr. MALL and Mr. DUFFY spoke in favour of the measure; and Mr. DRUMMOND indulged in some of his usual eccentric remarks, pouring forth much contempt against the press in general, and the *Times* in particular. He said that the press, instead of being the greatest glory, was one of the greatest curses of the country. A newspaper was a mere commercial speculation—a gossip-shop. Messrs. Walters (of the *Times*) set up a manufactory of gossip; and hired for their chief man some barrister of seven years' standing. He could recollect several editors of the *Times*—Mr. Tucker, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Alsager, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Delane, Mr. Morris, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Dament. These persons were what they called on board ship "handy billies," always ready when wanted. They might be honest in-

vidually, but they were corrupt collectively. The press, in fact, was libellous and inconsistent; and people worshipped it only because they were afraid of it.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER did not deny that the loss of 200,000*l.* a year was a material circumstance for the consideration of the House. Nevertheless, in his financial statement, allowance would be made for the loss, and the Government would on their responsibility propose such a scheme of finance as would provide amply for the expenditure of the year, including this sacrifice. 200,000*l.* was the estimate made by the Post-office authorities, not on very certain data, and it did not include a contingent increase of the paper duty. With respect to a cheap book post, having conferred with the Postmaster-General, he was prepared to state that the Government would, if this bill passed, reduce the book postage to a lower rate, which would give greater facilities for the transport of printed matter and considerably augment the revenue. He hoped the House would not adopt the dilatory motion of Mr. Deedes.

Mr. DISRAELI contended that the House should not repeal the tax until the substitute was known; in answer to which, Lord PALMERSTON said that the law must at once be either repealed or strengthened, for that it was a scandal for a law to exist which could not be enforced. As to the latter alternative, he was sure the House would not consent to it.—Upon a division, the numbers were—For the second reading, 215; against, 161; majority, 54. The bill was accordingly read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday, the 23rd of April.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and agreed to several Civil Service Estimates.

The Criminal Justice Bill, which had been brought down from the Lords, was read a second time.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Militia (Ireland) Bill was read a second time; and, some other routine business having been transacted, the House adjourned.

In the House of Commons, in reply to a question from Mr. FRENCH, Mr. ROEBUCK said he hoped the Sebastopol Committee would be able to conclude its labours very shortly after Easter.

MILITIA REGULATIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Viscount CHILSEA, stated that, in consequence of an expectation held out by the Duke of Newcastle—that militiamen would not be required to serve longer than fifty-six days in the year—it was intended to issue a circular giving to those men who enlisted previous to the act of last session, the option to re-enlist, or to go home after they have served the fifty-six days.

RECONSTITUTION OF POLAND.

Mr. PHINN moved, "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to command that, in the event of negotiations being commenced with a view to peace, her Majesty's envoys should use their best exertions for the reconstitution of the kingdom of Poland within its ancient limits, as a measure just and necessary in itself, in accordance with the ancient policy of this country, and as absolutely essential to the due maintenance of the balance of power in Europe." In answer to the objection that the object in view was purely Quixotic and Utopian, he appealed to the numerous petitions which have been presented upon the subject, and to the declaration recently made by the First Minister of the Crown, that he considered Poland in the hands of Russia, a standing menace to Germany. The question, therefore, was one of great practical utility. He denied, also, that the question was too delicate for discussion in that House. The object of the present war should be something more than the defeat of mere temporary aggression; it ought to afford guarantees for the future independence of Europe. The policy of Russia had always been to aggrandise itself at the expense of Poland; to form alliances with the smaller states of Germany, and, by acquiring a footing in that country, to destroy the unity of action among the various States composing that great aggregate which might be called the centre of gravity of Europe. Mr. Phinn asserted that the policy of Austria had always been opposed to the partition of Poland.

"Maria Theresa, the Empress Queen, had stated to M. de Breteuil, the French Ambassador at the Court of Vienna—'I have brought a great stain on my reign by all that has come of this affair with Poland; but I assure you that I should be pardoned were the extent of my repugnance to it known, and how much circumstances have united to force my principles as well as my resolutions against all extreme views of the unjust ambition of Russia and Prussia. Finding no other means of opposing myself alone to the plan of these two Powers, I believed that, in exercising on my part exorbitant demands and pretensions, they would refuse me and break off the negotiation; but my surprise and grief were extreme on receiving, in reply to these demands, the entire consent of the King of Prussia and the Czar. Never have I been so distressed; and I must do justice

to M. de Kannitz for his great trouble at this time. He had always strongly opposed this cruel arrangement. It thus appeared, that, within a short time of the partition of Poland, Austria perceived the mistake which she had made. At the second partition she received no territory at all, and at the third a comparatively small portion. During the Vienna Congress in 1814, Prince Metternich wrote:—'Of all the questions to be discussed at this Congress, the king would undoubtedly consider the affair of Poland as incomparably the most important to the interests of Europe, if there be any chance that this nation, so worthy of regard by its antiquity, its valour, its misfortunes, and the services it has formerly rendered to Europe, might be restored to complete independence. The partition, which destroyed its existence as a nation, was the prelude to—in some sense the cause of—the subsequent commotions to which Europe was exposed.' Now, when he was told that his endangered the Austrian alliance by bringing this subject before the House, he would call upon them to remember the declarations made by the Government of that country. The Austrian plenipotentiaries, speaking in the name of the Emperor, after Russia had determined to keep her hold upon the Duchy of Warsaw, said:—'The conduct of the Austrian Emperor can have left no doubt in the mind of the allied Powers, that the re-establishment of Poland as an independent State, with a national administration of its own, would have fully accomplished the wishes of his Imperial Majesty; and that he would ever have been willing to make the greatest sacrifice to promote the restoration of that ancient and beneficial arrangement. This fact must be sufficient to show that the Emperor is very far from entertaining any jealousy or anxiety as to the interference of the Polish nation with this empire. Austria has never considered free and independent Poland as an inimical or rival Power; and the principles on which his illustrious predecessors acted, and which guided his Imperial Majesty himself until the partition in 1773 and 1797, were abandoned only under the pressure of circumstances which the Sovereigns of Austria had it not in their power to control.'"

Mr. Phinn also mentioned a circular, addressed, after the revolt of 1831, to the agents of the Austrian Government at the various courts of Europe, expressing, though somewhat ambiguously, a desire for securing to Poland a complete independence. That was the policy of Austria. England, on the other hand, had always followed a policy extremely unworthy of so great a nation. George III., even in answer to the pathetic supplications of the King of Poland, had refused to interfere; but it was not generally known that Lord Castlereagh, in a confidential correspondence with the former Emperor Alexander, had insisted on the justice of restoring the whole kingdom of Poland. Napoleon the First was desirous of the same event; so was the Vienna Congress of 1814; and so was Louis Philippe, who stated to the Chamber that he had endeavoured, by the offer of his mediation, to assure to Poland "that nationality which resisted all times and changes," to which the Chamber replied that they rejoiced to hear the assurance "that the nationality of Poland shall not perish." Louis Philippe had sent Count Walewski, himself of Polish origin, to this country, to appeal to Lord Palmerston, then at the head of the Foreign Office; but his lordship had refused to interfere, on the ground that Russia was then a friendly power. As to Prussia, though she had always been distinguished by a slavish submission to the will of Russia, he thought even she would find it to her interest to aid in the reconstruction of Poland. The present position of Russia with regard to Poland was a menace to England and France, just as much as her maintenance of Sebastopol and her ascendancy over the Black Sea was a menace to the rest of Europe. Mr. Phinn likewise expressed himself in favour of assisting the Circassians as well as the Poles, and concluded by stating that he thought Lord Palmerston the fittest man for effecting these objects.—The motion was seconded by Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, supported by Mr. MILNES, and opposed by Lord R. CECIL, who did not think the reconstitution of Poland necessary, and observed that England herself oppressed many nationalities, and was now at war on behalf of a power which was a great sinner in the same way.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to the last speaker, denied that there was any real comparison between our conquests and the partition of Poland. With regard to the motion, although he admitted the right of the House to discuss such questions, he thought it was not advisable that it should dictate to the Executive Government the course it should pursue with reference to the negotiations for peace. Those negotiations are on the basis of the "Four Points," and Poland is not one of the Points. The House should be very cautious in adopting such a motion as that before it; for, if the address were carried to the Throne, the Government would be forced to enter into war to effect the object contemplated. He even deprecated the taking of a division on the motion, since the meaning might be misconstrued; for, if the House should negative the motion, on the grounds he had stated, that negative might be understood as implying differences of opinion on



the abstract question of justice, which differences, he was sure, would not be found in the minds of the members of that House.

Mr. PHINN accordingly withdrew his motion.

PROMOTION BY PURCHASE.

Major REED moved for a select committee to inquire into the present mode of conferring appointments in the army (by purchase or otherwise), and recommend a more efficient system for procuring promotion to merit and long services. He asserted that the regulation price was not adhered to in the purchase of commissions, but that the rule was systematically broken, and that the Horse Guards knew it. The whole system was most unjust to the private soldier and the poor officer, and very injurious to the service. As instances of the working of the present mode he mentioned the case of a soldier who had enlisted as a private thirty years ago, and who was now only an ensign, while men who had been but a short time in the service were placed over his head; and of Lieutenant Magnay, an officer in the 60th regiment, who had been served in the same way. He also alluded to an officer who had retired from the service in disgust, and who stated that two-thirds of the officers in the army are crushed beneath the weight of interest and money. This officer was willing to pay the regulation price for advancement; but more was required of him. When, in June, 1854, a general army promotion took place, 96 out of 130 officers then promoted were his juniors in point of service. This system did not exist in the French army; and Mr. Alison, the historian, had pointed out the difference, and the excellent effects which the French plan produced. Major Reed, however, would not make all promotions from the ranks, but would establish a system of promotion by merit, also.—Captain SCOBELL seconded the motion, and urged upon the house arguments to the same general effect as the preceding.—Mr. W. WILLIAMS advocated inquiry, either by a committee or a commission; and Colonel KNOX commented upon the promotions after the battle of Inkerman, when the staff officers promoted (some of whom had not been under fire) were fifty-four in number to only twenty-five regimental officers.—Mr. LAING regarded the system of promotion by purchase as opposed to every principle of common sense, and as limiting the higher posts in the army, in a great degree, to the wealthy part of the community. Our officers, though their bravery is unquestionable, partake, he said, rather of the amateur than of the professional character; and he therefore thought that Government should make a comprehensive investigation of the whole of our military administration.—Mr. LOWE thought the committee ought to be granted. The system of purchase had its merits; but its fault is that it substitutes for a criterion of merit a system in which merit is a mere accident. He saw no objection to promotion by seniority as far as the rank of captain, but he suggested that all promotions above that rank should be considered as staff appointments in the patronage of the head of the army, on the condition that they should only be given to officers who had been promoted for gallant conduct in the field, or who had passed a proper examination.—Mr. RICH and Mr. P. O'BRIEN briefly spoke in favour of a committee.

Colonel HAROURT defended the system of purchase upon the ground that we should have ensigns forty years old if we went upon the plan of promotion by merit; and he denied that there was any hardship in non-commissioned officers not being made commissioned officers, since their social position would render elevation to the higher class undesirable. The present system could not be called bad after the results it had produced. He opposed the appointment of a committee, and recommended a commission.—Colonel LINDSAY took a similar view. He contended that the present system was beneficial to the poor, by clearing the way for the private to arrive quickly at the top of the list, after which he can receive the first vacancy that occurs, be promoted without purchase, and, having served twenty years, be able to sell a commission which has cost him nothing. Instead of non-purchase scarcely ever taking place, it was of constant occurrence.—Colonel NORTH, in opposing the motion, said that very few officers in the French army rose from the lower classes, those who rise from the ranks being mainly young men of good family, who, having got into scrapes at the military college of St. Cyr, enlist in the army.—Lord LOVAIN maintained that, our army having beaten every other, no case was made out against the present system; and Lord SEYMOUR did not see how promotion could go by merit, for who was to be the judge of merit?—Colonel DUNNE also spoke against any change in the existing state of things, not because he approved of purchase in the abstract, but because a large grant must be proposed to purchase out the officers who have bought their commissions, and he believed no one was prepared to do that.

Lord PALMERSTON, in opposing the motion, went over much the same ground which he had traversed in replying, some weeks ago, to Lord Goderich's motion. If, he said, we were now for the first time

fashioning our army, it would be madness to introduce the system of purchase; but that system is now established, and those who denounce it shrink from suggesting a remedy. Practically, it has its advantages, though theoretically it may be false. Merit is a mere opinion; so that the idea of adopting that as the criterion is perfectly Utopian. There are no such practical evils in the present system as to require the country to make a very great sacrifice to get rid of it; but arrangements should be made for the more general instruction of regimental officers in staff duties. The motion, moreover, was founded in the grave error of supposing the command of the army to be vested in the House of Commons, whereas it was in fact vested in the Crown; and any inquiry should therefore be conducted by a commission emanating from the Crown.

After a brief reply from Major REED, who proposed to leave out the latter part of the motion, the House divided, and there appeared—For the motion, 104; against, 70; majority, 34.

THE CHINA TRADE.

Mr. HORSFALL moved an address for copies of instructions to the British Superintendent of Trade in China, and of correspondence between her Majesty's Government and the Superintendent, having reference to the British trade in China, accompanying his motion by a statement of facts relating to certain securities for imperial duties taken by the British consul at Shanghai.—Lord PALMERSTON said that the question was one of a very complicated nature; that the correspondence was still going on; and that there would be no advantage in producing it in an imperfect state. The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL.

On the second reading of this bill, which originated in the House of Lords, being moved by Sir ERSKINE PERRY, on Wednesday, Mr. VANCE opposed the measure, arguing that it conferred an unjust and injurious precedence to the holders of the bills of exchange over all other creditors. The effect of the bill, he said, would be oppressive towards the debtor, and injurious towards the mercantile public generally, by limiting the employment of what is now a favourite species of commercial currency. He moved that the bill be read a second day that day six months; an amendment which was seconded by Mr. MUNTZ.—Mr. GURNEY also denounced the measure, which he said would overwhelm small and straggling dealers, by offering a premium upon harshness among creditors.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY said the principle of the bill was the same as that of a measure which had worked well in Scotland; but he was willing to refer it to a select committee.—Mr. NAPIER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. BAINES, the LORD ADVOCATE, Mr. T. HANKEY, Mr. KEOGH, and Mr. W. BROWN, supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. SPOONER, Mr. MURROUGH, and Mr. W. WILLIAMS.—A proposal by Mr. BAINES, that the bill should be referred to a select committee, was supported by Mr. CARR GLYNN, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, Mr. KEATING, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr. M'MAHON, and Mr. SANDARS.—On the House dividing, the second reading was carried by 114 to 58.

UNION OF BENEFICES BILL.

Mr. FREWEN, in moving for the second reading of this bill, stated that its object was to prevent the consolidation of benefices for the advantage of the relatives and friends of nominees, and also to enforce residence more completely. The bill was opposed by Mr. COWPER, who said it was undesirable to make changes unless a case of absolute necessity were made out. In the absence of any such necessity, he moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months.—On a division the bill was defeated by a majority of 112 to 30.

The Bill for the Vacating of Seats in Parliament was thrown out by 73 to 69.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Intra-mural Burials (Ireland) Bill was read a second time, Earl GRANVILLE, who had charge of it, consenting to postpone the committee till after Easter, in order to meet the objection of the Bishop of Exeter, that no new places of burial were provided in place of those which were to be shut up.—On the third reading of the Militia (Ireland) Bill being moved by Lord PANMURE, Lord WICKLOW objected to the haste with which the measure had been pressed forward, and the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH questioned various details, and enlarged on the desirability of regarding the Militia as a nursery for the Line. After some discussion the third reading of the bill was postponed.—The Despatch of Business (Court of Chancery) Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE BERNAL COLLECTION.

In the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. MACARTNEY, Mr. WILSON said, that it had been suggested to the Government that they should purchase the whole of this collection. Upon consideration, however, they had determined that 12,000*l.* should be given to the Department of Art and Science for the purchase of such portions of it as might be necessary to complete their collection; and that 4000*l.*

should be given to the British Museum for the same purpose. That was done upon authority vested in the Treasury and the Government by the House, who placed annually at their disposal 100,000*l.* for such objects.

ADMIRAL DUNDAS AND ODESSA.

Mr. FRANCIS SCOTT moved an "address for copies of the instructions relative to the attack on Odessa given to the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and Black Seas; and copies of, or extracts from, all correspondence relating thereto." Mr. SCOTT was of opinion that Odessa should have been seized and occupied; a course which would have rendered effective assistance to the Turks during the winter, and essential service to the Allies in the spring. The attack which had been made on the harbour and forts showed that the town might have been captured by assault, and without the destruction of the town itself. Yet the Russians were left to repair the damage that had been inflicted; and Mr. SCOTT therefore thought that, for the sake of Admiral Dundas himself, the country ought to be informed as to what were his instructions, and whether or not he had ample discretion. A grievous fault had been committed by somebody; and the truth ought to be known.—Sir CHARLES WOOD resisted the motion on the ground that the production of the papers would be dangerous, as disclosing the intentions of the Allies to the enemy.—Admiral PECELL said, that if the papers could be produced, they would show that the conduct of Admiral Dundas merited approval from all sides.—Mr. STAFFORD stated, from personal knowledge, that the Admiral courts and desires inquiry; but that he is willing, if necessary, to submit in silence to any obloquy: conduct which contrasts strongly with the behaviour of another naval commander.—Lord PALMERSTON spoke highly of the talents of Admiral Dundas, and Mr. SCOTT consented to withdraw his motion.

THE CAVALRY CHARGE AT BALAKLAVA.

The case of Lord Lucan was brought forward for another airing by Mr. HENRY BERKELEY moving "that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to order that an inquiry by court-martial be held on Lieutenant-General the Earl of Lucan, for ordering a charge of the light cavalry at the battle of Balaklava." Mr. Berkeley said he entertained no unfriendly feeling towards Lord Lucan; but he demanded inquiry into his conduct, and he thought, having had no experience in war, he should not have been placed in such a command. Lord Lucan's aristocratic position had outweighed the well-fought fields of veterans over whose heads he was placed.—Lord ELCHO, in seconding the motion, contended that Lord Lucan had no alternative but to obey the order which he received. He thought he was a grossly ill-used man; and remarked that he had heard much about what Lord Raglan's order did not mean, and should now like to be informed what it did mean.—The JUDGE-ADVOCATE (Mr. VILLIERS) went over the same arguments urged by Lord Panmure, contending that the offence (if any) had been condoned by subsequent employment, and that Lord Lucan could, if he chose, have his remedy by preferring charges against Lord Raglan.—Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE, Mr. DISRAELI, Captain BELLEW, Mr. EVELYN DENISON, and Lord PALMERSTON, spoke against the motion; and Mr. FRENCH and Colonel DUNNE in favour of Lord Lucan; while Colonel SINTHROP threw the House into roars of laughter by a perfectly irrelevant speech touching the "Royal South Lincolnshire Militia," of which he has the command, and of which "he ventured to say, that a finer body of men did not exist in the world." He also begged to assure the Government and the Crown that he would go any lengths to keep the Royal South Lincolnshire Militia in the most efficient state; and that nothing should be wanted in his purse or person to make them in every way worthy of the country. Being interrupted by cries of "Question!" the Colonel observed that this was a military question, and one that interested him more than any other.—Mr. BERKELEY ultimately withdrew his motion.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir WILLIAM CLAY asked leave to introduce his bill for the abolition of church rates. In consequence of certain difficulties pointed out last year, he had added to his bill provisions to remove the difficulties now existing in the way of voluntary contributions on the part of the members of the Church of England for maintaining their church fabrics. He also proposed to give subscribers control over the application of the voluntary fund, and to provide for the allotment of free seats.—Mr. MIALL seconded the motion, which was opposed by Mr. WIGRAM on the ground that it is unnecessary, as the House of Lords has decided that no rate can be levied without a majority of the rate-payers agreeing.—Mr. LLOYD DAVIES, Mr. BENTINCK, Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. PACKE, Colonel SINTHROP (who said England had been nearly ruined by Radicalism, and who affirmed he had but one desire, namely, "to sacrifice his life, if need be, in the service of his country"), Mr. FLOYER, Mr. MOWBRAY, Mr. HENLEY, and

Mr. SPOONER, also spoke against the motion, which was supported by Mr. R. PHILLIMORE, LORD STANLEY, Mr. EDWARD BALL, and Mr. MUNTZ.—Lord PALMERSTON adverted to the difficulties which beset the question; but, conceiving that some alteration of the law should take place, even for the sake of the Church itself, and thinking that the proposed measure merited consideration, he would not oppose the motion, which was accordingly carried by 155 to 76.

EDUCATION.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON obtained leave to bring in a bill for the establishment of free schools in England on the secular plan; and Sir GEORGE GREY stated that it was not intended to proceed with Lord John Russell's bill on the 16th of April, but that it would be proceeded with after the return of his lordship from Vienna.—Mr. GIBSON's bill was subsequently introduced, and read a first time.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

THE Hon. and Rev. Sidney Godolphin Osborne was examined on Friday week, and stated that he went out to Scutari on his own account, and acted as assistant-chaplain. Nothing could be worse than the state of the general hospital at Scutari. There was no system, and there was a lack of the commonest necessaries. As an instance of this, he mentioned that one of the chaplains having been seized with cholera, it was found impossible to administer to him an ordinary draught for want of the proper drugs. A Russian prisoner had a shattered leg, and required the stimulus of spirits; but none was to be had. Miss Nightingale often complained to witness of wanting necessary articles. From the absence of operating tables in the hospital, he and the surgeon had to hold the patients in their arms during operations, which were always performed in the ward; but at length two crazy tables, which shook very much, were used for the purpose. He thought a larger staff and an efficient responsible head were needed, and that, under the circumstances, no one individual could be blamed. Dr. Menzies had said nothing was wanted, but the fact was, everything was wanted. There was no responsible head to the hospitals, for Dr. Menzies, though nominal head, did not seem to be virtually so. With regard to the allegation of raw meat, the witness asserted that he had frequently seen it served out to the men. He had also seen men, who were not fit to walk ten yards, obliged to walk the whole distance from the transport ships to the hospital. In his opinion, Dr. Hall should have made provision for the accommodation of the sick and wounded: he believed stores could have been got from Lord Redcliffe if the purveyor had applied. Dr. Menzies, in answer to repeated inquiries from Lady Redcliffe, had said nothing was wanted, but at length he admitted that some bedsteads were required, and that that was all. The force of public opinion had certainly led to improvements in the hospitals, but the witness doubted whether even now all the stores had been sent out from England. The mystery, however, would not be cleared up until the matter was put in the hands of very different inquirers—namely, those of the police. (Laughter.)

MONDAY.

Dr. Andrew Smith was again examined; but his evidence was for the most part only an amplification of what has been already given. He stated that in November and December last there was a liberal supply of medical comforts at Scutari. There was plenty of linen for all the purposes of the hospital. If the soldiers had no sheets, it was the fault of the purveyor: large quantities of sheets had been sent out. It is the duty of the purveyor, according to the regulations, to look to the entire economy of the cleanliness of the hospital. He had power under the regulations to enter into contracts for all the washing, and the hiring of persons to wash and to keep the hospital duly cleaned; and if this were not done, it would be his fault. If the purveyor found the ordinary force for this insufficient, he could apply to the inspector-general and hire more.

Mr. Layard.—I have received a letter from the Crimea, dated the 1st of January, from a general officer in charge of the First Division, stating that the regimental surgeons do nothing, that the men are without shelter, without medicine, without warm clothing, without medical comforts, without the means of transporting men who are dying from dysentery from the wet ground on which they are covered only by a wet blanket, and chained down, as it were, by the sea, to be overwhelmed by the first advancing tide.—Is that, Dr. Smith, a correct or proper state of things?

Dr. Smith.—It does not agree with the reports I have received.

Dr. Menzies was called, and said he was deputy inspector-general of hospitals. He looked upon the barrack hospital at Scutari as a mere make-shift. The general hospital was superior, but still it was defective in many respects. He reported on the accommodation in the hospitals, in triplicate, to Major Sillery (the commandant), Dr. Andrew Smith, and Dr. Hall. He reported that the two hospitals might be able to accommodate two thousand patients. He also reported that some of the rooms in the hospitals were in a filthy state, and that he had applied in August or early in Sep-

tember to the commandant, before the arrival of the sick, to have them cleansed and whitewashed, which was done. He (witness) took the whole charge of the two hospitals from the 26th of June until the 1st of January of this year. He also stated in his report, that he had represented to the commandant that repairs and alterations were necessary in the drains and privies connected with the hospital, which alterations and repairs, to a certain extent, were made. When he returned to this country he was asked by Dr. Andrew Smith to make a statement of the difficulties he had experienced in the hospitals at Scutari, and he did so. He had previously stated those difficulties in the weekly reports he sent home to Dr. Smith. The report which he made to Dr. Smith was dated the 14th February last, and he complained in it of the occasional want of medical assistance in the hospitals; of the advanced age of the purveyor, Mr. Ward, and of the inexperience of the clerks in Mr. Ward's department; the want of bedding for the sick and wounded in the barrack hospital, which he attributed to the purveyor; the delay in the return to Scutari of the bedding and other stores which had been taken to Varna, when the armies removed there, from deficiencies in the transport service; the bad conduct of certain corporals who acted as ward masters; and the want of orderlies. He often called the attention of the purveyor to the necessity of keeping the hospitals clean; he (witness), at least, made every effort to keep them clean, but he was never satisfied with the condition in which they were. Mr. Wreford arrived at Scutari on the 16th of September, and became purveyor from that time; but witness could not say the hospitals were in a much cleaner state after that. The barrack hospital was filthy no doubt, but its state had been much overdrawn. He must say he never saw the floors covered over with faces of the patients. He could not help observing the filthy state of the men as he went round the wards, and he told the purveyor to supply everything that was necessary. He believed there were several occasions when the purveyor could not, even with money in his pocket, obtain in Constantinople what was wanted in the hospitals. It was possible for a man to have died in the hospital from the want of the common necessaries of life without his (witness's) knowledge; but he had never heard of it. He admitted having made a report to Lord Stratford that nothing was wanted in the hospitals. That report would most likely be sent to England to Dr. Smith; and it was probable that upon that report Dr. Smith grounded the opinion which he expressed to the *Times*' commissioner, when that gentleman visited Scutari, that there was then nothing wanted in the hospitals; but he (witness) never wrote home to Dr. Smith directly to that effect. He was informed that the washing in the hospital was performed by contract. No official complaint was made to him that washing was wanted, though he had noticed that the clothes of the sick and wounded were filthy.

TUESDAY.

Mr. William Henry Flower, assistant surgeon to the 63rd Regiment, stated that on the regiment landing at Varna, a small bell-tent was furnished for the sick; but the rest of the regiment was about six weeks without tents. The dew was very heavy, and the men suffered in health from exposure.—The bedding was not brought out till ten weeks after they landed. There were no means provided for the transport of the sick. The first day they got a waggon to carry them. They left a great many men to die on the road, having no ambulance waggons. Some were on the beach, but they were shipped again. If they had had litters or mules, they could have brought these sick men on. The witness then repeated and confirmed the evidence of previous witnesses as to the insufficiency of ambulances, the defective nature of the arabas, the want of knapsacks, which were left behind, the inconvenience of the packs which the men had to carry, and other arrangements. Speaking of the hospitals, he said: The English had no operative table, and all the French operations were finished the day after the battle, and the sick removed. The sick of the English were about three weeks without tents or marquees. The tents used for the sick at first did well, but after rain became wretched. They were not waterproof, and were made worse from the ground being covered with mud. The men were wet through nearly always, and there were no means of drying their mud-covered garments. The smell was very offensive. There was no boarding to be had, but merely the bare ground for the sick. The men lay in their clothes, which dried on them. He attributed much of the mortality that took place to the hospitals being in that state. They had very few orderlies who knew their entries. Some of the best died on their way from England. There was a deficiency chiefly of opium, one of the most important medical agents, as the men were suffering chiefly from cholera and diarrhoea, in which cases it was a most useful drug. The knapsacks were landed two months after the men landed; they were brought up and piled in the middle of the camp, and were not issued to the men until a few days before he left. He heard that this was in consequence of an order from the colonel of the regiment.

Mr. Layard.—Then, even although the men were perishing for want of clothing, their knapsacks were not given to them?

Witness.—No.

Mr. Layard.—What were the men doing?

Witness.—Digging some large holes or pits fourteen feet in diameter, for placing the tents in to prevent them being blown away; but the tents were not placed in them, because the holes became filled with water. (This shocking statement was very strangely received with laughter.) Witness attributed much of the illness of the men to the want of clothing. Up to the time he came away, some of the men had not changed their clothes at all for nearly three months, but lay in them day and night. The covering of the men in the trenches was only that of their usual clothes, with the blanket, for twenty-four hours together, exposed to all weather. He heard the men say they had generally been two nights out of three at work in the trenches. They had tea twice a week. The coffee was always green, and had to be broken up by cannon-balls, or pounded with a stone, and roasted or charred on the tops of the camp kettles. It tasted very much like charcoal and water. (Laughter.) The witness also referred to the occasional stoppage of rations, and to the want of all provision for the sick on board the invalid ships, where they lay on the bare deck, and where the only "conveniences" they had were large tubs, emptied during the day.

Dr. Menzies was re-examined, and said he had a direct charge over the general hospitals, but not over the barrack hospitals. He entered into a variety of professional details, and in the course of these admitted that at Scutari great delay occurred in the patients getting their meals, and that the sick suffered very much in consequence; but he was not aware that they ever went the greater part of the day without food. He had complained to the purveyor; but that officer did not always conform to his orders. The purveyor seemed to think he was only responsible to the Secretary-at-War, and disputed the point with witness. He (witness) really did not know what his duties were; and many others were in the same predicament. He did not know whether he went round the wards of the hospital or not; but he was quite satisfied that none of the wounded on whom operations had been performed died from the bad sanitary state of the hospital. In June, and again in the latter end of October, he applied to the purveyor and apothecary of the hospital at Varna to have the medical stores which had been left there when the army moved on to the Crimea sent to Scutari, but they did not arrive at Scutari until the latter end of November. The delay was owing to the want of transports. Several other points were touched upon by Dr. Menzies, the general tendency of whose evidence was to throw the blame on the purveyors.

WEDNESDAY.

Dr. Menzies's examination was resumed; but his testimony merely enlarged upon the general details which we have already given.

Dr. David Dumbreck, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, was next examined, and testified to the filthy state of the hospital at Varna, and to the want of proper arrangements. He stated, however, that there was no lack of surgical appliances in the Crimea; and he thought Dr. Menzies was a fitting man for his post. He said they had great difficulties to meet. They had no purveyors' department, no hospital corps, no nurses, no trained orderlies. Dr. Menzies was completely overworked. He was put in a position which no one man could have coped with. Witness had made a report containing certain suggestions; but he did not know that they had been attended to. The hospitals at Balaklava were not properly organised; but he had never seen them in anything like the state described by Mr. Stafford. The hospital tents were in a filthy state.

Do you think there is a fear of incurring responsibility on the part of the medical men in our general hospitals?—Decidedly; they are liable to be referred to and questioned if they have ordered anything for a patient that appears extravagant.

Do you think having to keep so many accounts, and fill up so many forms, interferes with the medical duties of the surgeons?—Most distinctly; that is decidedly the evil of our whole medical system; we have far too much writing to do.

In answer to questions from Lord Seymour, witness stated that he had been in the medical service of the army since 1825. He thought the ordinary duties of regimental hospitals in time of peace had not created an experience that fitted the medical officers at once to perform all the service of a general hospital.

THURSDAY.

Dr. Forrest, who went out to the East originally as a staff-surgeon to the Third Division, but who was subsequently appointed, *pro tem.*, deputy-inspector of the hospital at Scutari, was the first witness examined on Thursday. His evidence was to the effect that the condition of the hospital was not so bad as has been represented by other witnesses; but he admitted that the dead house at Scutari was in a room in the corridor immediately under one of the wards of the hospital. It was very offensive, he added, and prejudicial to the health of the patients; and he subsequently caused it to be moved to a little distance. There was a want of medicines after November in the Third Division; and the tents for the sick and wounded being overcrowded, the smell was very offensive.

Captain Bamford, of the 63rd Regiment, denied certain statements made by a previous witness, Sergeant Flower, as to the men's hammocks being piled up in the middle of the camp. He testified to the awful state of the transport ships, and attributed the sickness of his men to overwork. The men, he said, had, sometimes, from want of fuel, to eat their meat raw.

Captain Main, commander of the Andes, gave evidence with respect to the disorderly state of the harbour of Balaklava previous to December, after which time he said it was in very good condition. He took a quantity of planking to Balaklava; but they refused to receive it, on the plea that it was not wanted, and he carried it to and from once or twice before it was landed.

Captain Stewart, Commander first of the Golden Fleece and then of the Mauritius, spoke of having carried about in his ship a quantity of regimental baggage from place to place for a period of three or four months, because he was unable to find any one to take it off his hands. Also, when in the Golden Fleece, he conveyed in his hold a number of empty beef and flour casks, along with other cargoes which he was taking backward and forward between Constantinople and Varna, in consequence of being obliged to return those casks into store when the ship came to England, or to pay a sum equivalent to their value. These empty casks were a great encumbrance in the hold of the vessel, and they would have made good fire-wood at Balaklava at a time when it was much wanted there.

Captains Freeman, Darke, and Ellison, gave instances of similar mismanagement.

FRIDAY.

After a short re-examination of Dr. Andrew Smith, touching some documents and accounts connected with the hospitals, and which appeared to be very confused and incorrect.

Mr. Maxwell, one of the Government commissioners sent out to inquire into the state of the hospitals at Scutari, was examined. His evidence went to show that the medical officers did not make proper returns with respect to their stock of drugs; that the surgeries were badly supplied with medicines; that he could not get the returns he wanted from Mr. Ward, the purveyor; that the barrack hospital at Scutari was not in a very bad state when he was there in November (he admitted, however, that he was there only once); that the supply of food was irregular; and that the shirts of the men were in a filthy state.

The Committee then adjourned until after the Easter vacation.

THE WAR.

The news from the seat of war again comes to us "hot and bleeding." The *Times* of Tuesday published a telegraphic despatch from their Marseilles correspondent, stating that on the 13th inst., the Russians opened the fire of their batteries on the heights of Balaklava; that the English, with the assistance of General Vinoy's, routed them; and that on the 17th the Russians attacked the whole line of the Allies, but were repulsed with great slaughter. We have as yet no details of these actions; but the letter would seem a repetition of the affair of Inkerman (the probability of which we pointed out last week)—another frantic attempt to "drive the infidels into the sea," but as unsuccessful as the former.

The Russians have also made, according to the *Moniteur*, a sortie on the extreme left of the French lines, which was likewise repulsed. "The enemy," says the French official journal, "had fifty men disabled, and retired in disorder." From the same source we learn that, at the same time, namely, on the night of the 15th, the French troops carried a line of ambuscade occupied by the Russian sharpshooters. Nevertheless, the Russians seem to be in no measure disheartened, but continue their defensive works, and their approaches towards our approaches, with amazing obstinacy and skill. Their advanced batteries, we are told, pour their fire upon the besiegers; and all attempts to dislodge them from the position which they have taken up on the right bank of Careening Bay have failed. These, to be sure, are Russian accounts; but an opinion is now gaining ground that Sebastopol cannot be taken by assault, nor in any way by the force now before it, and that the only chance for its reduction is by investing it, and thus starving out the garrison. Unpleasant rumours, moreover, are afloat that, at the Vienna Conference, the destruction of this formidable fortress is no longer insisted on as a *sine qua non*. Meanwhile, Lord Dunderdall presses his secret agent of destruction upon our rulers, and talks of proposing it to the French Emperor; but it appears that the English Government have already "taken it into consideration"—of course with a view to its rejection. It may be worthy of note, however, that Lord Dunderdall, as we have reason to know, said from the very first that Sebastopol could not be taken by the ordinary modes of procedure.

From Eupatoria we hear of nothing of importance. Skirmishes between the Russians and the Turks, however, are of frequent occurrence; and in one of

these, on March the 5th, Skender-Beg, one of the best of the Turkish cavalry officers, was severely wounded on the forehead, breast, and right hand; but no fears are entertained for his life. The Russians have, of course, done their best to magnify this affair into something of importance; but it was, in fact, a reconnaissance, which failed, owing to the backwardness of the Tartars, and the direct cowardice of the Rediffs.

The situation of the Allies in the Crimea is thus represented in the official *Journal de St. Petersbourg*; but it must be recollected that the sources, of course, Russian.—

"The position of the Allies is now completely shut in by an enclosure of formidable entrenchments, extending from the great infantry camp near the citadel by the heights of Lakesman, along the Tchernaya, as far as to the approaches of Balaklava. New divisions have joined the army. Great events are expected."

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

We append the following from Lord Raglan's despatch dated the 13th March:—

"The enemy commenced working upon the mamelon in front of the tower of Malakhoff in the night of Friday; but the nature of the work, from the thickness of the atmosphere, could not be distinguished.

"Great progress, however, had been perceived on Sunday, and that night a strong working party of the British troops was occupied in commencing a parallel from the advanced point of our right attack, with a view to form a junction with the corresponding parallel to be made on their side by the French, who began it on the following evening; and much was done to forward the operation before daylight this morning, and it is hoped that the object will be completed to-night."

In a later despatch, dated the 17th instant, his Lordship writes:—

"The progress of the parallel which I reported in my despatch of the 13th instant, has not been as rapid as was anticipated, the ground being extremely rocky, and the difficulty of procuring cover consequently excessive, and rendering it almost impossible to carry on the operation during the day.

"Both the English and the French have now, however, succeeded in establishing the communication between them. Her Majesty's troops have not been assailed; but our allies have been kept constantly in action, and they have succeeded in driving the enemy from the rifle pits, in which they had established themselves in their immediate front, with distinguished gallantry and great perseverance. They, however, have sustained some loss, though not equal to that which they have inflicted upon their opponents.

"A steady fire has been maintained upon the mamelon in the occupation of the enemy, from the guns in our right attack; and the practice of both the navy and the artillery has been conspicuously good, and reflects the highest credit on those branches of her Majesty's service."

It will be seen that this last despatch is dated on the very day when the Russians are said to have attacked our lines; but of course the attack may have taken place after the communication was sent off. Lord Raglan adds that he regrets to announce the death of Captain Craigie, of the Royal Engineers, from the splinter of a shell which burst close to him.

DESPATCHES FROM SIR EDMUND LYONS.

Despatches from the naval Commander-in-Chief, of the 17th of March, mention the destruction, by Lieutenant Armatyge, in the *Viper*, of "the martello tower and barracks of Djimiteia, which had recently been erected for the defence of the direct communication between Anapa and Kerch;" and also an attack by Captain Giffard on Soujak. In the former affair, the fort, barracks, and granaries, were destroyed, two guns were spiked, and the ammunition was destroyed; and all without any damage to the *Viper*. Of the attack on Soujak, Captain Giffard writes:—

"On the evening of the 11th instant, when the High-flyer joined me, I proceeded to Soujak Bay, where we anchored on the morning of the 12th; but a fresh gale, with heavy swell, prevented our closing the batteries. I therefore threw some shells into the place; and the Circassians, who soon appeared in numbers, at the same time attacked the small fort at the head of the bay opposite the town, drove out the garrison, and burnt it at eight a.m. This morning the Circassians informed me that they had a sufficient force, and would attack Soujak-Kalé by land, if I would do so by sea, and wishing to encourage them and embarrass the enemy, I immediately moved the squadron to within 1000 yards of the South Face, and opened fire on it. From this point the enemy had ten guns to bear on the ships; but the light wind and damp weather made the smoke hang over, and conceal them from our fire, while our masts above were conspicuous to them.

"We soon drove all the inhabitants and troops out of the place, except those in the earthen batteries; but I was much disappointed to find that the Circassians did not advance to attack them when out of the town, as they had promised. I therefore, moved out again, as,

with our small force of men, it would have been too great a risk to land, the main body of the garrison being close at hand.

"The arsenal and public buildings are much injured, and several of the guns were silenced and dismantled. Our loss, I am happy to say, has been small; and some injury has been done to the masts and hulls of the ships."

The writer adds that the Russians will now have great difficulty in communicating with the Anapa, as they are surrounded by the Circassians.

THE ADVENT OF SPRING IN THE CAMP.

We are blessed at last with all the genial influences of a glorious spring. Vegetation is struggling for existence beneath the tramp of armed men and the hoofs of the war horse, and faint patches of green herbage dot the brown expanse in which the allied camps have now rested so long. The few fruit trees which have been left standing near Balaklava are in blossom. The stumps on the hill-sides are throwing out green shoots as outlets for the swelling sap; the sun shines brightly and warmly from blue skies streaked with clouds, which are borne rapidly along by the breeze, that never ceases to blow from the high lands. Of course, the beneficial effects of this permanent fine weather on the health and spirits of the army are very great, and becomes more striking day after day. One great sign of returning comfort and good spirits cannot be overlooked. The "voice of song" is heard once more in the tents, and the men have commenced tuning up their pipes, and chanting their old familiar choruses once more. Every token of improvement and change that I noticed about the camp and the army has been developed. The railway pushes its iron feelers up the hill-side to the camp. The wire ropes and rollers for the trains have been partially laid down. Every day the plains and hill-side are streaked with columns of smoke, which mark the spots where fire is destroying heaps of filth and corrupt animal and vegetable matter as sacrifices on the altar of Health. The sanatorium is working in the most satisfactory manner, and has produced the best results. Watercourses are dammed in, and the waters of little streamlets are caught up in reservoirs to provide against drought. —*Times Correspondent.*

IMPREGNABILITY OF SEBASTOPOL.

The following is from the same source as the preceding:—

"The impression which has long existed in the minds of many, that Sebastopol cannot now be taken by assault, considering the position of the north forts, the fleet, and the army outside, gains ground. But coupled with this impression is the far stronger conviction that, had our army marched upon the place on the 25th of September, it would have fallen almost without resistance. A Russian officer, who was taken prisoner some time ago, and who knew the state of the city well, declared very recently that he could not account for our 'infatuation' in allowing the Russians to throw up works and regain heart; when we could have walked into the place, unless under the supposition that the hand of the Almighty was in it, and that He had blinded the vision and perverted the judgment of our Generals. 'And now,' said he, 'He has saved Sebastopol, and we, with His help, will maintain it inviolate.'"

CAMP GOSSIP.

Sir John McNeil and General Simpson, who are to superintend the working of the staff and commissariat departments, arrived to-day (March 12). But for the positive obstacles thrown in his way, Mr. Filder would have kept the troops on ample rations. Yesterday evening Omar Pacha arrived at Kamiesch, and accompanied by Admirals Lyons, Bruat, and Stewart, immediately proceeded to Lord Raglan's headquarters. Shortly afterwards Generals Canrobert, Bosquet, and Sir George Brown arrived, and a long council of war was held. It is generally believed that the Turkish Commander-in-Chief came to ask for reinforcements, and also to represent the impossibility of defending Eupatoria against a regular siege. The council lasted nearly four hours, and Omar Pacha returned to Eupatoria this morning. Neither English nor French troops can be spared at present for the defence of that place.

During the whole of to-day the church bells in Sebastopol have been tolling heavily, it is presumed for some religious service for the departed Emperor.

For the first time our tramway was used to-day for the conveyance of shot and shell to the general dépôt, in course of formation about a mile and a half from headquarters. For some time past the line has been used for the conveyance of rations of all kinds; but hitherto no very heavy traffic has been attempted. About 6000 shot and shell were to-day sent up to the heights over Karani, and thence forwarded in our own and the French waggons to the trenches. None of the stationary engines are yet at work. —*Morning Herald Correspondent.*

THE HOSPITALS AT BALAKLAVA.

The *Times* Balaklava correspondent has the following:—

"Balaklava is no longer what it was—by comparison it is even pure—yet noxious smells float around the

very walls of the hospital, and exhalations only too prophetic greet you at every turn. Cloacina and Orcus have sworn a solemn compact. Here is some spot which the living Turk has made abominable; there another, where a host of dead Mussulmans lie, but lightly buried. The harbour is still a stinking lake, where boats put to shore through carrion and vegetable refuse, at which even the grim sailor, as he lands, gives token of his grim disgust, and predicts, with a force of language hardly to be blamed, the day of retribution. Something, yet I fear too little, may be expected in alleviation of this mischief from the mission of the Sanitary Board. An army of scavengers following in their train would alone deal with it as its extent and character demand."

The writer adds several instances of mismanagement.

THE HOSPITALS AT SCUTARI.

The following is from the letter of a lady now at Scutari:—

"Here, in one room, not very large, forty-five women, about thirty husbands, fifteen or eighteen children, born, and being born, are together side by side, partitioned by nothing. There are about two hundred women altogether here, all living in the same way, and in a state of uncleanness not to be described—every Crimean abomination abounding. Many are ill with fever, diarrhoea, &c., and, though they have a medical man nominally to attend them, it is only nominal; sometimes for days together he never sees them, and, having applied personally, and by letter, over and over again in vain for assistance, I have been obliged myself to prescribe from my own chest, and administer medicine with my own hands. Now, I am given to understand that the mode of living I have described above is the way in which a soldier's wife always lives in barracks at home. Is not this a disgrace to a Christian country?"

BURNING OF THE FRENCH HOSPITAL AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

It seems as if it were the lot of one writing from this place to chronicle nothing but calamities. On March 11, the large French hospital above the Grand Champ des Morts was totally destroyed by fire. About midnight the light which is the note of a conflagration was hung out on Galata Tower. On reaching the spot, which is at a distance of two miles from the centre of the town, we found the whole of one wing in flames, which rapidly spread until they enveloped the entire face of the building. The hospital, which was formerly a Turkish medical school, is a fine and spacious edifice, which extends its long, low, stone front along the road, and fortunately stands alone, with the nearest houses at a distance of more than 100 yards. It was a moving sight to see the unhappy patients driven from their beds in the dead of a damp and chilly night, some of them scarcely able to walk, others perfectly exhausted, and carried in the arms of their comrades, or of the Turkish soldiers, all in scanty attire, wrapped in their blankets, hastening to seek for shelter in the neighbouring barracks or in private houses. Whole trains of them might be seen trudging through the deep mud, slipping into holes in the wretched road, or sitting down on stones, to await some one who might help them onward. Happily, the hospital was by no means crowded, or some loss of life must have taken place. As it was, all the sick were safely transported to adjoining buildings, and no accident worth mentioning appears to have happened.—*Times Constantinople Correspondent.*

ESCAPE OF AN ENGLISHMAN FROM SEBASTOPOL.

During some firing on the night of March 14th an Englishman managed to make his escape from Sebastopol. His name is William Henderson, of Dundee, and he has been in the Crimea two years and a half as servant to a farmer named Thompson, whose property lies close to the banks of the Alma. When the Allies landed at Korlof, Henderson, with his master and three sons, were hurried away into Sebastopol, where they have been ever since hard at work constructing the defences of the place. The poor fellow describes the rations as something disgusting; every morning he received a pound of black bread, and sometimes a little fish, which, with two glasses of very bad raki, and a pint and a half of water, constituted his support under the severest work. As the Russians keep the closest watch over their own soldiers, we can quite understand that they were not less attentive to the Englishmen employed. No conversation can be carried on for any length of time, and every precaution is taken, so that no one shall have a thorough knowledge of the place. A man is kept at one work and its immediate neighbourhood. Henderson says that the water drunk in Sebastopol is nearly all artificially made, and is exceedingly unpleasant to the taste. He states that at first sickness carried off thousands of the enemy, cholera having raged among them; but that since the fine weather set in the men have picked up wonderfully, and are now healthy. The loss of horses he describes as something incredible; they have starved from want of forage.—*Morning Post Correspondent.*

STORMING OF SEBASTOPOL.

We find the following in the *Morning Post* Paris correspondence of Friday. The assertion, we think, is not worthy of much credit:—

"The latest official intelligence from the Crimea informs us, that General Canrobert would bombard and

storm a portion of the town of Sebastopol as soon as the English army was ready to do so, which it would be within a week at the latest. We may, therefore, hope that the telegraph will soon tell us of a new victory—that the allied troops have made a successful lodgment, and that the enemy is driven to the north of the town, where a second conflict must ensue before we can hope to possess the fortress. Public expectation will, I fear, be disappointed, if it is believed that Sebastopol, under the most successful attack, will fall in a day or two—or a week. Probably a month of most painful anxiety will be imposed on Europe before the operations of the Allies will have completed the destruction of a fortress such as no besieging army ever yet had to contend with."

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE NAVAL BRIGADE AT SEBASTOPOL.—Captain Lushington, commander of the Naval Brigade in the Crimea, writes as follows to the officers of that corps:—

"It is with feelings of pride and pleasure that I communicate copies of letters from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons, Commander-in-Chief, which announce the numerous promotions the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have conferred on the officers of the Naval Brigade. I take this opportunity of thanking those officers for their gallantry and untiring energy in the execution of their duty. Her Majesty has conferred a medal on every sailor landed in the Crimea, and a clasp for such as were present on the 5th of November, 1854, whose conduct shall have been good, and has, in like manner, conferred a medal and clasps upon the nearest relative or representative of such as may have fallen. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have granted extra pay to all petty officers and seamen of the brigade, as well as a liberal supply of warm clothing (gratis), as already communicated to them; and the Commander-in-Chief has further notified that the services of the petty officers and seamen are duly appreciated by the Admiralty, and will meet with further reward."

ST. DAVID'S DAY IN THE CAMP.—In the camp before Sebastopol, the Welsh Fusiliers gave a large dinner party to celebrate St. David's Day.

GENERAL FOREY.—The *Moniteur* announces that General Forey leaves the command he held in the army of the East, and proceeds to take the command of the Oran division in Algeria. Hurt in his military honour by unworthy calumnies, the general had tendered his resignation to the Emperor, who did not accept it. His Majesty did not wish to deprive himself of the services of an officer whose long and brilliant military career is a reply to those calumnious reports. The general insists upon his resignation being accepted, and the Emperor replies thereto by giving him the command of the important division of Oran.

EIGHT HUNDRED MULES have been purchased in Sardinia for our transport service in the Crimea.

TORTURE FOR THE ENGLISH SOLDIER.—Sir George Brown has issued orders for the resumption of the regimental stock, which had been laid aside.

THE SUNKEN RUSSIAN SHIPS.—According to a letter from Kamiesch, of the 10th inst., the Russian ships then afloat in the port of Sebastopol were two three-deckers, three two-deckers, and another liner, which the Russian engineers were converting into a screw ship when the war broke out. All the others had been sunk at the mouth of the harbour. Six of them, sunk shortly after the battle of the Alma, constitute the first line of obstruction. Behind these is the stockade, forming the second line. It is parallel with the first, and constructed of masts and rafts, which support the chain drawn across the channel to intercept its passage. Further on to the rear, and to the west of the Bay of the Arsenal, or military port, properly speaking, extends a third line, parallel with the two others, and composed of a frigate, a two-decker, and a three-decker lately sunk. The water there is eight fathoms deep, and the breadth of the channel is only four cables' length. The masts rise considerably above the water.

THE FLYING SQUADRON.—The English consular agent at Kiql has been officially informed of the approaching arrival at that port of the Flying Squadron. Preparations are being made for the provisioning of the entire fleet.

THE RUSSIAN FORCES IN THE CRIMEA are said to be distributed as follows:—At Perekop is encamped the corps of dragoons, a division of light cavalry, and various other detachments, amounting in all to 20,000 men, under the command of General Pawloff I. At Simpheropol there are about 45,000 men, commanded by General Read. Near the Belbeek, General Osten-Sacken's headquarters have been placed with 50,000 men, including the garrison of Sebastopol. On the Tchernaya is encamped General Liprandi, with 18,000 men; and in the valley of Baidar is General Wagner, with 9000 men.—*Ost Deutsche Post.*

FLOATING FLOUR MILLS AND BAKERY FOR THE BLACK SEA.—The firm of W. Fairburn and Sons has converted her Majesty's ship *Brulser* into a complete flour-mill, capable of grinding from 700 to 800 bushels of wheat *per diem*, taking the raw material in at one end of the vessel in the form of wheat, and turning it out at the other in well-manufactured flour, without the intervention of manual labour. The machinery is both in-

genious and compact, and in moderate weather may be worked without suspending the progress of the vessel, notwithstanding it is all driven by the marine engine. The *Abundance*, a companion vessel, has in like manner been fitted up as a large bakery by Messrs. Swaine and Bovill, of Millwall, and is capable of turning out 20,000lb. of bread *per diem*, with the aid of some very simple machinery. The bakehouse in this vessel possesses the great advantage of thorough ventilation, the hot air being withdrawn at pleasure by mechanical means, and as often replaced by fresh, which, in a warm climate, is an important consideration. These vessels will be despatched to the Black Sea with all haste; and it is but just to add that the service will owe this undertaking to Mr. Julyan, an officer of the Commissariat, who originated the scheme, and has now carried it out to completion.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE DANUBE.—We learn from Trieste that the Russians have again permitted Austrian vessels to run up to Galatz, where considerable quantities of corn are lying ready for exportation. The ships of no other nation enjoy the same privilege. It is also related here (Vienna) that a note has been received from Count Nesselrode, in which that statesman states that it is not the intention of the Russian Government to prevent the navigation of the Lower Danube. The Russian Minister, however, requires that the Austrian Minister of Commerce shall exercise a proper control over the commanders of the merchantmen, so that they shall not supply provisions to the Powers at war with Russia. It need not be said that the thing is not feasible.—*Times Vienna Correspondent.*

THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN SARDINIA AND THE PORTE was signed on the 15th inst.

EUPATORIA.—Apprehensions are entertained that the Russians mean to besiege Eupatoria.

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONERS IN THE EAST.—A writer in the *Daily News* says that the Sanitary Commission has already effected considerable good at Scutari and Kulali.

THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF NICHOLAS was communicated by Lord Raglan to the authorities at Sebastopol; a flag of truce being sent by Lord Burghersh for the purpose. The people at first would not believe the assertion.

THE "NAVVIERS" AT BALAKLAVA.—A little insubordination has appeared among the "navvies," who, thinking that no more control would be exercised over them than in London or in England, have given way to drunkenness and riotous conduct, and at one time were rolling about the streets of Balaklava at all hours of the night. This threw great difficulties in the way of Mr. Beatty, their conductor, who had no efficient control over them; so he placed them under the hands of the Provost-Marshal, whose lash soon brought them to a state of submission. This manner of proceeding has had a peculiar effect on the "navvies," one of whom remarked to me, with an oath, that the military ought not to have any control over them. They are paid well; but I am afraid their savings will be but little. Drink is very dear; but they will have it at any price.—*Morning Post Correspondent.*

AUGMENTATION OF THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—Before the month of April is a week old, another 10,000 of the *élite* of the French army will have left for the seat of war. They will be followed in a brief space of time by a similar force, which again will be augmented as the demands of the allied generals shall require fresh troops. It is proposed to establish at Constantinople a grand depot, or reserve, of the French army, where preparations have been made for any event which might demand the presence of a large permanent army in the Crimea. Colonel Béville, the aide-de-camp of the Emperor, it is said, reports that his plans are completed, and if the transports are at hand, a few days will give Lord Raglan and General Canrobert a fresh disposable force within forty hours of Sebastopol.—*Morning Post.*

THE *Military Gazette* of Vienna, on the authority of a letter from Odessa dated the 6th inst., says that Bessarabia is being strongly defended. "All the passages over the frontier are being destroyed, and the whole country between the Pruth and the Dniester is being devastated. Entrenchments have been thrown up in the most important positions. The distribution of arms to the inhabitants in the interior of Russia has commenced."

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

FROM the immense amount of writing and speculation which has been poured forth during the past week on the subject of the Peace Congress we can only collect one or two facts and rumours. These consist in the alleged agreement of all the Powers on the First and Second Points, relating to the united protectorate of the Principalities and the free navigation of the Danube; in the assertion, which we have every warrant for believing, that, as all people anticipated, the difficulty has begun in the consideration of the Third Point, which provides for the diminution of the Russian power in the Black Sea; and in the rumour that, after all our expenditure of blood and treasure, after the painful excitement of the public mind, after our weary efforts before the

walls of the enemy's fortress, and after our prodigious exhibitions of national brag and Reform Club after-dinner speech-making, we are required by Austria to waive the destruction of Sebastopol, and to accept a compromise instead. The alleged terms are these: that the Russian fleet in the Black Sea shall be limited, and that a fortress, in the occupation of England and France, shall be erected on the southern shores of the Black Sea, as a counter-balance to Sebastopol. It is said—for nothing is as yet known—that we are disposed to accept these terms, and that even the French Emperor, who held out for some time against any compromise, is now giving way. As a consequence of this rumour, the continental pro-Russian journals now speak with admiration of "the conciliating disposition" of the Allies. Nevertheless, it appears that, even granting this rumour, we are not sufficiently "conciliating" for Russia, and that she demurs to our very concessions. In this state of things it has been found necessary for the Plenipotentiaries to communicate with their respective governments for further instructions.

The *Daily News* says:

"When Prince Gortschakoff withdrew his troops from Silistria last June, after a forty days' siege, the *Journal de St. Petersburg* began to speak of 'the sham siege of Silistria.' The French Government journals have already begun to affirm that the Western Powers are not seeking to destroy Sebastopol. The *Constitutionnel* writes:—'The destruction of Sebastopol no longer figures in the number of the stipulations of the Allies relative to the Black Sea, for the reason that the siege of which this place has been the object has never been considered otherwise than a means, and not as an end, by the Western Powers. What they pursue in common in the Black Sea with their fleet and army is, not the ruin nor the capture of a military port, it is the reduction of the forces which Russia has maintained in these parts—it is the species of domination which she exercised, and the privilege she enjoyed there, to the detriment of all Europe, and, above all, of Turkey.'"

The *Morning Post*, which has given much attention to this subject, affirms that even the First and Second Points have not been accepted, "but merely acknowledged as to their general bearing. They have yet to be canvassed in all their difficult details; and this, if ever it be come to, will be a work of many weeks." The *Globe* takes a similar view. Other accounts, however, state that the first two Points have in fact been settled.

A letter from Berlin in the *Borsenhalle* (quoted in the *Débats* of Friday) states that there still exist some differences between Russia and the Western Powers as to the Second Point. The Allies insist that there should be no fortifications whatever on the left bank of the Danube from Reni to Sulina, and that all the Russian military posts should be beyond cannon-range distance from the river. It is also stipulated that the towing-path should be perfectly free—it being difficult to ascend the river without towage.

A despatch from Vienna on Thursday says:—"The Conference took the Fourth Point into consideration to-day. The Third Point is left aside for the present. On Monday Prince Gortschakoff moved for the admission of Prussia."

THE POLICY OF RUSSIA.

COUNT NESSELRODE has issued a circular to the Russian diplomatic agents abroad, touching the new line of policy in connexion with the war. The substance of this document is contained in the ensuing paragraphs:—

"With filial piety the Emperor welcomes (*accueille*) in his succession two obligations, which are equally sacred to him. The first exacts from his Majesty the development of all the power which it has pleased God to place in his hands for the defence of the integrity and of the honour of Russia; the second imposes upon his Majesty the duty of consecrating with perseverance his care for the accomplishment of the work of peace, the bases of which were sanctioned by the Emperor Nicholas. Faithful to the idea which manifested itself in the last dispositions of his august father, the Emperor has renewed the powers and confirmed the instructions with which the Russian Plenipotentiaries were provided since the month of December, at the period when the negotiations at Vienna were to be opened. In this manner the intentions of the Emperor Nicholas will be conscientiously fulfilled. There object was:—

"To restore to Russia and to Europe the blessings of peace; to consolidate the freedom of worship and the welfare of the Christian populations of the East without distinction of rites; to place the immunities of the Principalities under a collective guarantee; to assure the free navigation of the Danube, to the advantage of the commerce of all nations; to put an end to the rivalries of the great Powers in the East, so as to prevent the return of new complications; finally, to come to an understanding with them on the revision of the treaty by which they recognised the principle of the closing of the

Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus, and thereby to arrive at an honourable arrangement for all parties.

"The general instructions with which you are provided trace out to you the line you are to continue to follow relative to the direct relations you have to entertain with the Government to which you are accredited. The Emperor, in confirming you to-day in the post you obtained from the good-will of his august father, confidently counts upon your fidelity and zeal. It is his desire, that by your conduct and by your language you should render testimony, on every occasion, to the loyalty with which Russia fulfils the obligations which rest upon the faith of treaties, to her constant desire to live in good harmony with all the Powers her allies or friends; finally, to the respect she entertains for the inviolability of the rights of all States, and her firm resolution to maintain and cause to be respected the rights which Divine Providence has entrusted to the Emperor, by making him the guardian and protector of the national honour of his country."

A document has been issued by the Synod of the Russian Church, calling the mass of the population to arms in defence of the orthodox faith. The following extracts will show the spirit in which it is conceived:—

"You are aware that the enemies of the cross of Christ have, to the astonishment of the world, found assistance from two Powers of the West, who, though assuming the name of Christians, and though not having been in any way wronged by Russia, have in their madness carried fire and sword on her territory. Their legions, in imitation of the infidels, have insulted the holy things of our religion. . . . But, by the will of the Lord, the crimes of our enemies have not proved profitable to them; and their frequent defeats, the terrible tempests of the Black Sea, which swallowed up their vessels, the sickness which decimated their armies, proved the action of the powerful hand of God fighting on our side. Notwithstanding all this, our enemies, maddened by the loss of their armies, are now congregating other forces of even a more formidable character; they are also endeavouring to extend their unjust alliances, and are preparing for fresh hostilities against the Russian territory. . . . Pastors of souls, spiritual fathers of the defenders of the Church and of the Throne, by all kinds of prayers and supplications at all times, watch over our flocks; strengthen them by the power of the divine word; inspire them with the idea that the present war is a war of the Prince of Darkness, who resists the kingdom of Christ, and who now puts forth his power in the persons of these wicked children, who rebel against God."

ALEXANDER AND THE RUSSIAN NOBLES.

The *Constitutionnel* publishes a letter from St. Petersburg, dated the 15th inst., from which it appears that the late Emperor confided to the nobility the defence of the country by means of militia. The nobles, accordingly, voted an address to the Emperor, in which they protested their fidelity, their patriotic sentiments, &c. This address reached him on his death-bed. On the 4th inst., the nobles presented another address to the new Emperor, which ran in the following terms:—"Sire,—It has pleased God to summon the late Emperor to eternal life, at the very moment at which all Russia was arming at his order, to defend the faith, the Czar, the country, and its fellow-believers in the East—that is to say, all that constitutes our life. In this great moment, the hopes of the country are centred in you, Sire. The faithful nobility of St. Petersburg, having already expressed their sentiments at the first appeal of the deceased Emperor, repeat them now, and respectfully hasten to deposit at the feet of your Majesty a renewed assurance of the unlimited zeal and devotedness with which they are ready to sacrifice their lives and fortunes to realise the great idea of the deceased monarch, who drew the sword to fulfil a holy mission. The nobility consider this mission as a legacy from the late Emperor to them." The Emperor Alexander replied—"I desired to see you, in order to transmit to you the words of our defunct benefactor, of my father, for ever memorable. He was so weak that he was not able himself to read the expression of your sentiments, and I was charged with that duty. Your zeal, gentlemen, consoled his last moments. After having heard all, he said to me—'Thank them—thank them sincerely, and tell them that I never doubted of their devotion, and that at present I am more than ever persuaded of it.' And accordingly now I thank you, gentlemen; and I am persuaded these words will be deeply engraven in your minds. You are at the head of the nobles; transmit what I say to all of them. Times are difficult. I always said to the deceased Emperor that I firmly believed Divine goodness will protect Russia. I had hoped for days of joy; but it has pleased the Almighty to decide otherwise. I am sure of you, gentlemen; I have full hope in you. I am persuaded that the nobility will prove that they are a noble class in every sense of the word, and advanced in everything that is good. You do not lose courage; I am with you and you are

with me!" Here the Emperor made the sign of the cross, and continued:—"God be with us! We will not dishonour the Russian soil." He then embraced the marshal of the nobility, and said, "In your person I once again thank the nobility! Adieu, gentlemen—may God be with you!"

THE LAST OF THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS.

The grave has closed over the Emperor Nicholas, and he now exclusively belongs to history. He was buried on the morning of the 11th inst. at the Cathedral of Peter and Paul, amid much fuss of cannon, typical of his blatant and murderous career. It is said—by a Russian letter-writer—that the people knelt down while the procession passed, as though they felt themselves in the presence of a deity; and that they wept bitterly, touched the earth with their foreheads, and made the sign of the cross. The same writer says that "Prayers for divine mercy to the soul of the deceased were offered up in every place of worship." Well, they were needed; but it seems a strange admission to make with reference to the head of the "Orthodox Church." However, it appears that, if Nicholas was to be interceded for, he was also to intercede, upon the sailors' principle of "Tie for tie, and d—n all favours." The deceased Emperor was himself prayed to, to make supplication (we will spare the reader the familiar blasphemy of the latter part of the sentence) for the triumph of Russian arms. The people intercede for Nicholas; Nicholas intercedes for the people. And grateful Alexander thanks the people for past favours, and hopes for a continuance, &c.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE annexed particulars of the funeral of Don Carlos are contained in a letter from Trieste, dated the 16th inst.:—"Count de Chambord, wishing to give a last mark of affection for his relative, Don Carlos—an exile like himself—came from Venice to attend the funeral ceremony, and accompanied on foot the procession from the residence of the deceased to the Cathedral of St. Just. As it is the custom in Spain for sons not to appear at the funeral of their father, the three princes, sons of Don Carlos, were not present. The whole population were on foot, and the streets were crowded. Some French and Spanish gentlemen, long attached to the household of the deceased, and a number of Austrian officers in uniform, as well as the principal authorities of the town, formed part of the procession. At the cathedral, the Bishop of Trieste officiated; and, after the religious ceremony had concluded, the body was conveyed to a vault under the altar prepared for its reception by order of the Emperor of Austria."

The *Opinione* of Turin, of the 18th, states that the committee elected by the Sardinian Senate to report on the Convents' Suppression Bill is rather hostile than otherwise to the measure. Three of the members are opposed, if not to the principle, at least to the details, of the measure; one member is disposed to vote for it upon certain conditions; and the fifth and last alone supports the bill as it stands.

The Saxon envoy is said to have stated to the Germanic Diet that the organisation of the Saxon army will permit it to enter on a campaign within the period of a fortnight assigned by the Diet.

Prince Castelcicala, formerly ambassador at London, is appointed Governor of Sicily, Prince Satriano having retired.

The disgrace of Prince Menschikoff is thought to be more complete than was signified in the first accounts from St. Petersburg; and it does not appear certain that it was the act of the late Czar. He has been removed, not only from the command in the Crimea, but from the post of chief of the naval staff, and from the Governor-generalship of Finland; and retains only the titular appointments of aide-de-camp-general and councillor of state.

Telegraphic news from Nyborg states that the navigation of the Great Belt is now open both towards the south and the north. On the 18th the first steamer of this year passed down the Elbe from Gluckstadt to Cuxhaven. There is but little ice now drifting between Elsinore and Helsingborg.

M. de Sacy, the principal editor of the *Débats*, was sent for by the Minister of the Interior last week, and privately admonished on the subject of an article which lately appeared in that paper, relative to the hostile demonstrations of the students against the new professor M. de Sainte Beuve. M. de Sacy pleaded the general moderation of his journal, and the scrupulous care taken in every department of the editing to avoid giving offence. As an instance of the habitual caution exercised, he stated that the editor had erased from the article complained of a statement to the effect that the feeling among the young men in the University was so strong against the former editor of the *National*, that, but for the intervention of the public force, it would be impossible for him to continue his course of lectures. M. Billault commended the exercise of discretion, and added that had the above statement (which, by the way, is strictly true) been printed, the *Débats*

would have been suspended.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

A letter from Madrid of the 20th says:—"The Spanish government, and Lord Howden, the British Ambassador, had some rather sharp conferences lately on the subject of the application of the religious question to English subjects residing in Spain. It is known that the police at Seville a few days ago surprised eight who were engaged in divine worship at the house of a Protestant minister, and the house was invaded without exhibiting any warrant for that purpose, being a flagrant violation of domicile. Lord Howden remonstrated on the subject, founding his application, first on the violation of liberty guaranteed by treaties, and next on the fact that the Spanish Penal Code only authorises proceedings where the act is done openly, and is insulting to the national worship. He added that at Malaga, Madrid, and other places, Protestants performed their religious rites in private without being interfered with. The Spanish government replied that it had not received any official account of the affair, and it is probable that the matter will be settled by the act of the police at Seville being disavowed by the government."

A letter from Athens of the 16th, in the *Novelliste* of Marseilles, says:—"M. Spiro Milios, ex-Minister of War, has, at the demand of the Minister, been impeached before the Chamber of Deputies. In reply to a question the President of the Council of Ministers has declared that it was quite true that the difference with the Porte was approaching its termination. The news of the death of the Emperor of Russia caused the greatest consternation in this city. The Russian party at first endeavoured to throw discredit on the account, by affirming that it was not the Emperor but the Empress that was dead; but the truth was soon ascertained. Brigandage, although for a moment checked, appears to be once more gaining ground in Greece. On the very night that the news of the Czar's death reached this city, a band of about forty, under a noted chief named Passayottis, placed themselves in ambush at about half an hour's distance from the capital, at a place where three roads from adjoining villages meet, and by which the country people bring their produce to market. Every one that passed was stopped and robbed. The men were beaten and the women taken into an old church by the roadside, and most shamefully treated. The number stopped and robbed by these ruffians before they dispersed was upwards of 200. While this was going on, some other brigands made a demonstration on another point, to draw off the attention of the armed force."

The three years' dispute between Switzerland and Austria is as good as settled. As to the refugees, Austria abandons her exorbitant pretensions. The expelled friars are not to return to Ticino, the canton paying them 115,000 francs to stay away. The expelled Ticinese, who have not died or emigrated during the long interval, may return to Lombardy. The affair of the school of Poggio Austria leaves the Archbishop of Milan to fight out with the temporal power as well as he can.

A circular despatch, dated the 16th instant, signed by M. Manteuffel, and addressed to the Prussian ministers at German Courts, contains a statement respecting the special missions of Herr von Usedom and General von Wedell to London and Paris. It is therein laid down that, "according to the express command of the King of Prussia, a regular understanding with the cabinets of London and Paris cannot be attained, until Prussia has, by participation in the Peace Conferences, acquired a thorough knowledge of the full import of the bases of peace, for the attainment of which she would have to enter into obligations." It is added, "As yet nothing has taken place between us and the Western Powers beyond a confidential interchange of ideas, from which we, for our part, have not departed, and which character, if it had been observed on all sides, would, perhaps, have prevented many misunderstandings. This interchange of views, however, cannot, with all our sincere desire of arriving at an understanding, impose on us any obligations by anticipation." The same document says that it is "a decided mis-statement that Herr von Bismarck Schonhausen, either officially or non-officially, has declared that Prussia would move for the entire *Kriegsbesetzung* of the Federal fortresses."

A letter from St. Petersburg, in the *Danube* of Vienna, says: "Dr. Mandt, homœopathic physician to the late Emperor, has left Russia in great haste and secretly. He is reproached with having too long concealed from the august deceased that his lung was attacked; also with having himself prepared the medicines destined for the Emperor, instead of having had them prepared by a druggist. Great irritation was manifested against him at St. Petersburg, and the Emperor Alexander himself advised him, it is said, to leave Russia."

The *Times Paris Correspondent* says, with reference to the Thiers and Véron affair, that "while M. Thiers was in office, M. Véron asked to be named Member of the Council of State, or Prefect of a department, and, when this application received a rather unceremonious refusal, he demanded the Sous-Prefecture of Sceaux, but with as little success."

M. Drouyn de Lhuys arrived in London on Thursday night. It is said that his object is to confer with Count Walewski, and to consult our Government on the Eastern question. His stay will be very short; and he is expected afterwards to depart for Vienna, to be pre-

sent at the Conferences, and assist in smoothing the difficulties arising out of the Third Point.

A despatch from Madrid of the 29th inst., announces that Espartero has resisted the demand for a modification of the Ministry in a democratic sense, made by different leaders of the Militia, who assembled in the night. These attempts at disorder have failed. Madrid is tranquil.

The Spanish Cortes has decided that the commission charged with inquiry into the acts of the ministries which preceded the late revolution should send in its report in the form of an indictment against the Sartorius cabinet, with a summary of evidence in support thereof.

The treaty between Greece and Turkey is now settled; and it has been agreed upon that those only are to be considered Greeks who have been born in Greece, or who become Hellenes before the year 1835. This, it will be seen, excludes all those subjects of the Porte who desire to consider themselves Greek subjects upon the strength of their having been naturalised in Greece. The Hellenes, however, have gained the privilege of trying their own countrymen for offences committed in Turkey, and of deciding civil disputes by means of their own consuls.

The journey of the French Emperor to the Crimea seems to be adjourned *sine die*; but it appears probable that he will visit the Sultan at Constantinople, and shortly. It is also announced by the *Moniteur* that he will visit the Queen about the middle of April.

BELGIUM.

(From an occasional Correspondent)

OUR Ministerial crisis is not yet over; it has now lasted twenty-seven days, and we have been obliged to have a meeting of the Chambers without a Ministry, to pass a few urgent measures; such as the renewal of the differential duties, the military and other estimates. This session lasted three days, and opened with a diverting mystification. Among the personages to whom the king addressed himself to form a Ministry, was a certain M. Dedecker, a Catholic representative, inventor of a sort of hermaprodite political system, half reactionary, half radical. M. Dedecker was invited to take this opportunity to translate his theories from paper into power. He set to work, and succeeded in forming a Ministry, which was announced as complete. It was composed of M. Dedecker, Interior; M. Smits, Governor of Luxembourg, Finances; M. Ch. Vilain XIIII., Foreign Affairs; General Greindl, War; Dumon, Public Works; and Nothomb, Justice. The last-named is a brother of our Minister at Berlin, and a man of great ability. About the end of last week this Cabinet was to have appeared in the *Moniteur*; everything was arranged; all the future Ministers were agreed, and the usual audience had been demanded for taking the oaths and the signing of the royal decrees. M. Dedecker summoned his future colleagues, and proceeded to the royal château at Laeken, but instead of taking the oaths of office, he resigned the powers with which he was invested, and abandoned his ministerial combination. The effect upon the country of this strange proceeding may be imagined. Everybody began to ask, "*De qui se moque-t-on ici?*" And the journals insisted on M. Dedecker's explaining these capricious transformations. The *Emancipation* and the *Journal de Bruxelles*, the two organs of the party represented by M. Dedecker, declared that full explanations would be given to the Chambers as soon as they met.

On Thursday week the Chambers met. All the galleries were crowded in expectation. Never was deception more complete. M. Dedecker did not open his mouth. Only M. de Brouckère, the ex-Minister, declared—that he should declare nothing. So the country was reduced to sing, as in *La Dame Blanche*,

Quel est donc ce mystère infernal?
Je n'y puis rien comprendre. . . .

The French Government, which had announced with more noise than prudence that it intended to proceed before the Belgian tribunals against the publisher of the brochure of a *General Officer*, just as if Belgium were a French department, and the King Leopold Prefect of Brussels, has up to this time confined its proceedings to its own *Moniteur*. But this brochure is, it seems, destined to come before the lawyers, not at Brussels, but in London. The Brussels publisher talks of bringing an action against Mr. Jeffs, for infringement of the copyright law, as determined by the literary convention of January 26th between Belgium and Great Britain.

A publication that may excite some notice in England is advertised here; it is called *Les hommes d'état de l'Angleterre. Portraits à la plume*. The "governing classes" of your country are not spared. Yesterday the reconstruction of our Grand Theatre, so unfortunately destroyed by fire last January, was commenced. According to the designs of the new building, the fire will not have been the worst mis-

fortune to our theatre; its restoration will be still more unfortunate. The design adopted is destitute of all grandeur, and belongs to some hitherto undisturbed disorder of architecture.

One of our assize courts recently sentenced a man to death for shooting his father with a pistol while they were engaged in conversation, and afterwards despatching him with an axe. When the prisoner was asked what led him to commit the crime, he could only reply, "*Il embêtait ma mère.*" ("*He bothered my mother.*") And on the strength of this excuse two jurymen were found to vote not guilty. This reminds one of what Alphonse Karr says of juries. He maintains that a jury is never affected by the crime of parricide, and for this rather plausible reason:—"Cet homme a tué son père, c'était un besoin pour lui . . . ce besoin est satisfait; ce serait bien le diable que je fusse moi aussi son père, et qu'il éprouvât le besoin de me tuer aussi." And so the prisoner is acquitted.

In the present case, if there had been but four more of the jurymen of the same opinion as the two, the prisoner would have returned to society, with the reproach, perhaps, of entertaining some rather disagreeable prejudices on the subject of the filial relation, but nothing more!

The same tenderness of juries acquitted Mademoiselle Doudet at Paris. The jury said, "Bah! I shall not trust her with my children—let others do what they will with their own." Sad, but true. F.

THE LATE RIOTS IN AUSTRALIA.

THE following original letter, from a private correspondent at Ballarat, will be found to contain some interesting particulars of the recent commotions at the diggings, and of the state of public opinion in Victoria:—

"Ballarat, December 24th, 1854.

"DEAR —,—After a very fine and rather rapid voyage, I reached Melbourne in a splendid state of health and wretched state of wealth. Trade of every description was very depressed at Melbourne. Mechanics hardly able to get employment of any kind, and labourers' wages growing less by degrees. It is the opinion of many that business will not mend till nearly a third of the Melbourne tradesmen are bankrupt. Rents, which have been enormous, are already rapidly declining. A tradesman who has just arrived here informs me that he is now only paying 14*l.* per week in the place of 22*l.* 10*s.* per week (all rents are paid by the week). There have been meetings of the unemployed to express their grievances, in which the political element is plainly discernible. At all such meetings the *land question* turns up in some shape or other; and from what I have observed of the working classes here, I think they will never let that question rest till the lands are unlocked. If England desire the prosperity of Australia—if she wishes to retain Australia as a dependency—the sooner the lands are open to all who wish to purchase and settle on them, the better. Among the diggers I found a unanimous opinion upon the most important questions affecting this country—namely, independence, opening of the lands, political enfranchisement, and abolition of the gold-license and its attendant grievances. They and the actual diggers do not object to pay a tax, but object to the present one. One objection made to the license (stated by an able representative of the diggers, Mr. Humphrey) is, that it taxes *labour instead of labour's products*; that is, it taxes as heavily the man who gets no gold as it does the man who gets a fortune; the difference between success and non-success at gold-digging being almost entirely a matter of luck. The mode of collection also renders the license-fee excessively unpopular. The mode is this at Ballarat (which I am told will serve as a sample for nearly all other diggings): A convenient plot of ground is fixed upon contiguous to the diggings, upon which a camp is formed, consisting of two or more commissioners and a number of armed troopers. At first, once a month, a search after unlicensed diggers used to take place; but within the last two years the "digger-hunts," as they are called, have been more frequent and unexpected. About eighteen months ago, it was an ordinary practice for the troopers to tie the captured digger to a tree while they continued to hunt after others. Imagine the exasperation to the licensed digger, sweating under a broiling sun, of having in one day to fish out of its place amid his reeking clothes, the saturated and dilapidated license-paper some half-dozen times. No man could be on the diggings, whether digger or not, without a license; and every man is bound to have his license always with him, and to show it on demand, or he is liable to be taken to the camp, and thrust into a beastly apartment, where he quickly becomes infected with lice and other vermin, unless he is in possession of five pounds to deposit as a surety that he will appear before the commissioner.

"Before receiving this I dare say you will have received news of the excited state of the digger population—of the arming of a portion, and of the murderous result. Henry and I reached Ballarat just as open hostilities had commenced between the officials and the diggers. Cannon, and troops, and sailors to act as artillerymen, were sent as quickly as possible from Melbourne. The procrastination of the diggers gave time for them to arrive, and for the camp to be fortified with trusses of hay and

other materials. We had hardly taken up our position, when a visit was paid us by a small party of diggers, requesting arms, powder, and ball. This request on the next day became a demand; and those who had not given willingly had to give unwillingly. Bodies of armed men, from fifty to a hundred strong, were constantly passing; some watching the camp, others watching the roads, to cut off reinforcements, and to prevent the prisoners taken by the officials being carried to Melbourne. The date of our arrival here I think was the 29th November. The immediate cause of the premature outbreak of the diggers was an ostentatious attempt to search for unlicensed diggers at a time when the commissioners knew the population to be in a terrible state of excitement. You will have already received the news of the burning of Bentley's Hotel—a sort of Lynch law justice upon Bentley, after a magistrate had dismissed the charge against him. Since the burning of his hotel, he has been tried and found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to three years on the roads. Some men, supposed ringleaders at the burning of Bentley's Hotel, were captured a day or so after. These men were in prison at Melbourne. The diggers sent a deputation to the Lieutenant-Governor, demanding the release of the prisoners. Sir C. Hotham replied, that the demand prevented him from entertaining the matter at all. This was an approximate cause of the arming and marshalling of the diggers; but the raid of Mr. Commissioner Rede was the immediate and exasperating cause. On the troopers coming out, the diggers faced them with arms in their hands. Shots were exchanged, and a digger or two was wounded, and, I believe, a trooper shot. One or two prisoners were taken by the troopers, who then retired to the camp. From this moment the diggers began to arm. It was on a Wednesday the collision took place that led to the arming. On the Thursday, Henry and I went to Bakery-hill (near the camp), where we saw a tall, intelligent-looking man standing on a stump with a rifle in his hand, arranging them into different brigades, and furnishing them with arms. The men chose their captain, who then drilled them after his own fashion. This sort of thing went on all Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On Friday, it became necessary for us to appear to join the movement, or to give up our arms. We therefore determined to attend a meeting called for Friday evening on the Eureka-hill. This visit gave us no confidence in the movement. The fighting-men were there, but the head was not. On attending on Saturday evening, we found the number of men less, and indecision at head-quarters, whilst troops of the 40th and 12th Regiments of the Line had arrived to strengthen the forces at the camp. The diggers had formed a palisade round their camp. No one who entered was allowed to pass out unless he could give the countersign. Having ascertained this, as early as convenient we left the camp at the Eureka. Many of the men who were there were well armed, especially the Rifle Brigade and the Rangers, as they were called. Most of these men went home, being told nothing would be done that night. The men grumbled very much. They had not, they said, come out to play at soldiers, but to fight, and if it was to be done, it had better be done at once. Very few effective men could have been left on the Eureka. No one seemed to imagine the likelihood of an attack by the Government forces. It appears that about four o'clock on the Sunday morning an attack was made which proved successful, having taken the diggers quite by surprise. The particulars you will receive from the papers. The troopers acted like infuriated demons, cutting down those they met, whether inside or outside the palisade, and women, and unarmed men, and men who surrendered within it. They burnt down all the tents within the palisade, and would not allow the owners to save their property. Martial law was proclaimed; but a notice from Sir C. Hotham annulled it by twelve o'clock on the following Saturday. The authorities seem desirous to make it appear that foreigners were the principal movers in this armed attempt to redress great grievances and insults. There were a few foreigners, no doubt, and many more would have joined had they been called upon to act. The Irish element, I believe, predominated, though the English numbered nearly the same. Anything like success would have made the movement universal at the diggings, and popular in the towns. As it is, the men shot are regarded as misguided martyrs in a good cause, and a strong constitutional agitation will be the result. Hardly any one makes any other objection to the arming than this—that it was mistimed, that all constitutional and moral means ought to have first been tried. The diggers have grumbled, but they have not organised or brought the moral force of organised public opinion to bear upon the Government. The people of Melbourne, who, until lately, were as ignorant of the true state of the diggers' grievances as the people of London, now sympathise fully with the diggers. Public opinion was so strongly expressed there, that the Lieutenant-Governor has sent a Commission to inquire into the political grievances of the diggers, the management of the gold-fields, and the causes of the late armed resistance to the authorities. Henry and I have been appointed by the diggers as members of a Diggers' Committee, to select evidence to put before the Commissioners. Three of the committee sit with the Commission, to watch the evidence. The Commissioner left here

at six a.m. for Crosswick's Creek. They did not seem to desire to have many of the atrocities of the troopers put upon record. Men were cut down and bayoneted after surrendering. Others, 800 and 900 yards from the insurgents' stockade, were shot down; and, amid oaths and language the most beastly and brutal that can be conceived, their bodies were slashed with the troopers' sabres. Some were taken prisoners, stripped of their clothes and such property as they had about them, detained in a beastly place infested with vermin, and then let out. On inquiring of the captain in command for their clothes and property, they were told to go to the turnkey. This official told one that if he did not be off, he would shove a bayonet into him; another was told that it was the fortune of war. A few yards from the insurgent stockade a boy of fourteen was shot and sabred in attempting to leave his mother's tent for a safer abode. A Scotch girl, after the affray, entered the stockade to help a woman and save some property from her burning tent. A trooper thrust at her with his sword, and she was only saved from butchery through the interference of two other troopers, who carried off their comrade and a bottle of brandy to pacify him. These things are facts, not hearsays. They are selected from evidence taken down by me at Bath's Hotel, on Tuesday the 26th, for the Commissioners.

"Believe me, ever yours truly, "C. F. N."

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.

SPEAKING generally, a decided improvement is discernible in the condition of trade and manufactures; but, side by side with this, we behold in some districts a reduction of wages, and the melancholy accompaniments of strikes and riots.

Manchester reports a continuance in the advance of prices recently obtained for cotton yarns: the cloth-market also is firm. At Liverpool there is a rise in the price of cotton, owing to advices from the United States to the effect that there will probably be some delay in the arrival of supplies, as the American rivers are at present too low for traffic. The print-market is tolerably active, and other manufactured stuffs meet with an accelerated sale.

From Birmingham we hear that the home trade is improving, but that the American trade is dull. The coal trade is at the present time in a state of great commotion. The thick coal colliers have received notice of a reduction of 1s. per day, and other coal and stone getters 6d. per day. Engineers and labourers are to be reduced 10 per cent., and coal will be reduced 1s. per ton. The late embarrassments of one or two large houses in the iron trade have acted as a check upon business; but the panic has now nearly subsided.

At Kidderminster the state of the carpet weavers is extremely distressing. Great numbers of men, women, and children are out of employ, and have petitioned the corporation of the borough to supply a portion of them with the means of emigrating. Lord Ward has already generously given them assistance for this purpose, and a public meeting of the inhabitants has been held for promoting the same object. The operatives attribute their distress to the introduction of steam-power in weaving.

The fancy-lace trade of Nottingham is improving; but in hosiery there is a slight falling off. The cheapness of the latter is now surprising: the hose which previous to 1850 could not be sold for less than 6s. 6d. a dozen are now sold for 3s. a dozen. The worsted and woollen goods of Leicester have not been recently in demand: the yarn-market continues depressed, and some of the mills are working short hours; but for some descriptions of wool there is an advance. The leather trade of Bristol is tolerably active. The woollen cloth trade of Leeds is more alert; and the same may be said of the worsted trade of Bradford. The demand for linen and flax in the markets of the North of Ireland is improving.

There have been some riots among the colliers in Staffordshire, owing to reduced wages. At Bilston, five hundred of the colliers who refused to accede to a reduction of their wages from 3s. 6d. to 3s. a day, assembled in Cald Lower early on the morning of Friday week, and marched thence in procession through Portobello, Willenhall, Darlaston, and Merley, visiting the various pits in the neighbourhood, and compelling those who were at work in them to come up and join the strike. On re-entering the town at 11 o'clock by Oxford-street, from Moxley, their numbers had reached near 8000, most of them armed with the handles of their pikes, and some with large hedge stakes. They had been followed throughout unmolested by about 80 of the county constabulary, armed with cutlasses, whom they surrounded in Oxford-street, and the police had to make use of the back of their weapons to escape—one of their number having been knocked senseless to the ground by a blow from a stone. Some shops were rifled, tradesmen were ill used, and a policeman was forced to fly for his life. Five of the rioters were ultimately taken into custody, and committed for trial. The yeomanry were called out, the Stafford militia sent for, and special constables sworn in; but nothing serious occurred. At Walsall, and in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton, similar scenes have taken place. Shop windows were broken

and provisions abstracted; but, after a sharp contest with the police, several of the rioters (who were chiefly Irish) were taken into custody. The mob, upon arriving at pits where the workmen manifest a disinclination to join them, either turn water into the pits or disable the machinery, and force the workpeople, old and young, male and female, to join their company, under pain of a ducking in the waste waterpools. As a whole, the colliers of Wolverhampton, Bilston, and Walsall, while they think that the proposed reduction is too heavy, have a decided objection to the course which some of their fellow-workmen from other parts of the district are pursuing. They add that if the proposed reduction had been confined to 3d. a day, the terms would have been accepted throughout the whole of the districts.

THE CASE OF LORD CLANRICARDE.

We find the subjoined letter in the *Times* of Monday in answer to certain statements made by Lord Clanricarde in his affidavit:—

"A short time before Mr. Hancock's death, while residing in furnished lodgings at Islington, finding himself seriously ill, he sent for me, and, on my arrival, I found him in bed, and very dejected. He entered at once on the subject of his affairs, and entreated of me to allow him to appoint me his executor, while he named his wife guardian of his daughters. I at first declined the responsibility, but after consulting some of my friends, I accepted it.

"I wrote to his wife, then in Paris, to inform her and her daughters of his danger. In a few days afterwards she arrived with her eldest daughter in London, and took lodgings in St. James's-street, and there I frequently met Lord Clanricarde and other gentlemen.

"On the recommendation of Lord Clanricarde I called on Dr. Paris, and requested of him to call and see Mr. Hancock at Islington. On the doctor's suggestion he was removed to Brompton. At Lord Clanricarde's request I accompanied him in a cab to Brompton, where I with great difficulty induced Mr. Hancock to see him for a short time.

"On calling to see Mr. Hancock the day before his death, Dr. Paris informed me that he found him very much better—so much so that he had great hopes of his recovery. Poor Mr. Hancock seemed in very good spirits; but on the following day, when I chanced to call again, I was greatly surprised to find Lord Clanricarde, Mrs. Hancock, and Miss Hancock, with Dr. Paris, in the sick man's apartments. Dr. Paris was hastily writing a paper, with which he went into the bedroom; in a few minutes he called Lord Clanricarde, who, on going in, closed the door. As soon as I could gain access Mr. Hancock reproached me for not calling earlier in the day, and complained bitterly of Lord Clanricarde's intrusion. In about a quarter of an hour afterwards the poor man died. The widow refused to bury him unless the will was given up to her. This I did not do; but at a considerable expense, I had it proved, and established its validity. I also defrayed the funeral expenses, and of those disbursements I have not received more than one-tenth.

"Of the existence of Mrs. Hancock's reputed son, Mr. Hancock was not in any measure aware; and, had I been cognisant of it, I should not have written to her, nor should I have allowed either her or the marquis to approach that injured death-bed.

"Poor Mr. Hancock had scarcely breathed his last when the widow carried off his watch from under the pillow, and the ring from off his finger!

"In conclusion, I have to express my regret that compassion for a hapless gentleman, who placed implicit confidence in me, has mixed up my name with transactions in which figure the most noble marquis and the late Mrs. Hancock.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
"F. LANGAN."

With reference to Mr. Langan's statement about Dr. Paris writing a paper in Mr. Hancock's bedroom, Dr. Paris writes as follows to the *Times*:—

"After the lapse of so many years, is it extraordinary that I should not retain the slightest recollection of any such written paper? It might have been a prescription, or, more probably, a summons to call the Rev. Mr. Irons, the Rector of Brompton, as Mr. Hancock had expressed a wish to see a clergyman; but, whatever it might have been, I do most solemnly declare it had no reference to any testamentary arrangement, or to anything regarding his worldly affairs."

OUR CIVILISATION.

A STRANGE CASE.—Philip Herring, a "respectable" man, was charged at the Marylebone Police-court, last Saturday, with having wounded a woman named Mitchell, with whom he cohabited, by cutting her throat with a razor. The prisoner's throat was also wounded, and bound up. It appeared that a policeman had been called to the house, and had found the woman lying on the second-floor landing, having her throat dressed. The prisoner was present, and the two accused each other of using the razor with intent to murder. They were both taken to the station-house, where a large quantity of gold was found on the man, which the woman eagerly desired to obtain, saying it was hers. She

refused, however, to prefer any charge against the prisoner; but he was detained, nevertheless, and brought before the magistrate. The prisoner's answer to the charge was, that the woman with whom he had been living had long been affected in her mind, and that in a state of excitement she got out of bed and possessed herself of his case of razors. He was in the act of rising from his bed when she drew a razor across his throat, and then ran to a corner of the room, where she drew the razor across her own throat. Some other particulars were gone into, and the prisoner called a witness to show that on the previous day, the woman, being required to sign some documents with respect to property, exhibited a derangement of intellect. She walked to and fro in the room for above two hours, and was evidently labouring under a temporary aberration of mind. At the police-court, she again refused to prefer any complaint; and the magistrate having discharged the prisoner, she left the court in company with him.

WOMAN BEATING.—A case of savage assault was brought before the magistrate at the Thames Police-office on Tuesday. Mary Oldfield, the injured woman, had lived with the accused, a dustman, for nine years, and during the whole of that period had been subjected to perpetual ill-usage. She supported the prisoner by her own earnings as a sack-maker; and these amounted on an average to 2s. a day. On Monday night, the man picked a quarrel with her on purely imaginary grounds, stunned her with a blow from his fist, kicked her about the head and body while on the ground, and finally threw her from the top of the stairs to the bottom. Here she was found by a policeman, who was brought to the spot by her cries. She was then insensible, and covered with blood; and the prisoner was foaming at the mouth, and raging like a madman. The poor woman stated that her person was covered with bruises, and that she had lost a large quantity of blood. Mr. Yardley sentenced the ruffian to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

A GAME-LAW CASE.—On the Oxford Circuit, — Miller and Pritchard, labourers, were charged with shooting at David Holt, a gamekeeper, with intent to murder him. It appeared that at about ten o'clock on the night of the 24th of August last, Holt was passing along a lane, when he heard some sheep running in a field belonging to his master, but in the occupation of another person. He got over into the field, and there saw Miller, whom he knew. He collared him, and asked what he was doing there. The prisoner thereupon raised a stick, and cried, "Stand off!" The gamekeeper said he would not, and that the prisoner should go along with him. Miller refused to do this, and tried to get away. A scuffle then ensued, and the prisoner called out, "Come on, mate." Upon this, another man came up, supposed to be the other prisoner, Pritchard, and struck the gamekeeper a blow on the head with a stick. Both the men struck him several blows; but the latter kept hold of Miller's collar with one hand. The gamekeeper had a double-barrelled gun in his left hand all this time, which the men were endeavouring to get away from him; and at length he was knocked down, and Miller took the gun from his hand, and, according to the gamekeeper's statement, pointed it at his body, and fired it. Fortunately, he had still hold of the barrel of the gun, and was able to turn it aside, and thus escaped injury. The gun was then thrown aside, and the parties made off, but not before they had inflicted several additional and severe blows on the gamekeeper with sticks. Miller was the same night taken into custody at his own house, when his shirt-sleeves and other parts of his clothes were found to be stained with fresh blood; and the next morning his hat was found near the scene of the struggle. A net, and some sticks for spreading it, were found near the spot, and also a bag containing six dead rabbits; so that there was little doubt as to the purpose for which the parties were there. There was no evidence to identify Pritchard, who was, therefore, acquitted; but Miller was found guilty of unlawfully wounding.

A LADY CHARGED WITH THEFT.—Mrs. Mary Ramsbotham, wife of the well-known physician of Portman-square, appeared on Tuesday at the Marylebone police-court, charged with stealing four cambric handkerchiefs from the shop of Mr. Moule in Baker-street. She was allowed to sit in the dock during the investigation. Dr. Ramsbotham was in court, and sat close to the witness-box. From the evidence of the shopman it appeared that Mrs. Ramsbotham took the handkerchiefs while there were no other customers in the shop, and shortly after left; that, on being followed, she first denied having been at Mr. Moule's, and then admitted it, and said she had the handkerchiefs in her pocket; that she afterwards stated she took the handkerchiefs to show to her sister, meaning to return them if not approved; and that she was given into custody, notwithstanding her entreaties to be forgiven. She was remanded until Monday; and Mr. Broughton refused to accept bail.

A YOUNG MAN THREATENING HIS FATHER.—A young man was on Thursday convicted at Worship-street of having threatened his father's life, and menaced him with a drawn sword. He was intoxicated at the time, but it would appear that his violence is habitual, as his father, according to the statement of one of the witnesses, is obliged to carry loaded pistols for his pro-

tection. The prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, in default of finding sureties for his good behaviour.

ASSAULT BY A FATHER ON HIS DAUGHTER.—A dissipated old man was convicted, at Clerkenwell Police-court, of a savage assault on his daughter.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—Joseph Johnson, Uxbridge carrier, has been fined 5l. and costs for having ill-used his horses.

THE CASE OF FELONIOUS ASSAULT upon a servant girl at the Rev. Mr. Sugden's, near Dorking, by a lad of fifteen, the assault being assisted by the groom and cook, has been tried at the Crown Court on the home circuit, and broke down, owing to a probability appearing that the girl was a consenting party.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Report.)

THIRTEEN hundred and eighty-three persons, namely 701 males and 682 females, died in London in the week that ended last Saturday. The public health is improving, though the rate of mortality is still high even for March; for there died last week 123 persons more than the number obtained by calculation from corresponding weeks in previous years (1845-54). It does not happen usually till April that more genial weather produces a marked effect in the reduction of the mortality.

Diseases of the respiratory organs have been more fatal than the zymotic, or any class in which the causes of death are arranged. Their decrease in the last five weeks, from the point at which their mortality was greatest, is shown in the following numbers:—434, 433, 313, 339, and (last week) 285 deaths. The last number is higher than usual, which is owing specially to bronchitis, the deaths from which were 146, while the estimated number is 108. The mean temperature (38.2) degs., about the same as in the previous week, was 4 degs. below the average, and the latter part of the week was remarkably cold. Hooping-cough is prevalent, and 75 children died of it. The total number of deaths from measles did not exceed 20; but about a third of these occurred in the workhouse at Bethnal-green, and 4 on the same day. Scarletina has become less prevalent than it was in the earlier part of the year; the greatest number of fatal cases last week occurred in the North districts, chiefly in Somers Town and Kentish Town. Typhus and common fever do not prevail more than usual; 17 of the 49 deaths occurred in the South districts. Cancer was fatal in 16 cases; hernia in no fewer than 10 cases; in the first eleven weeks of this year this complaint has averaged 5. Three persons died of intemperance.

Last week the births of 800 boys, and 759 girls, in all 1558 children, were registered in London. In the nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1535.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE AUSTRALIAN ROBBERY.—APPREHENSION OF ONE OF THE CULPRITS.—Henry Beresford Garrett, one of the principals in the robbery at the Victoria Bank in October last, has been apprehended in London. He and his wife arrived in England on the 12th inst., and sold to a bullion-dealer in Cornhill 499 oz. of gold-dust for 1975l. He was shortly, however, traced by the detective police-officers, and arrested in Oxford-street with such suddenness that he was unable to use the weapons which he carried about with him—two loaded revolvers and a dagger. On Friday week he was examined at Marlborough-street, and remanded until the following Friday.

FALLING IN OF A TUNNEL ON THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.—A portion of the Long Landstone tunnel, on the Derby side of Ambergate-station, has recently fallen in. About half-past two o'clock p.m. nearly fifty tons of stone (solid limestone rock) fell upon the up-line, and completely blocked up the road. A man who was working upon the rail had the presence of mind to stop an advancing train by motioning with his arms; the engine was reversed, and, although it was thrown off the line, the concussion with the debris was so far lessened that no one was hurt.

LORD DUNDONALD AND HIS PLAN.—Lord Dundonald has written to the daily papers to say, that as his offer to destroy Sebastopol, Cronstadt, &c., by means known only to himself, has not been accepted, he shall make the same proposal to our "wise and energetic ally."

EXPLOSION OF GAS AND LOSS OF LIFE.—An explosion of gas took place in Portsmouth dockyard about ten o'clock last Saturday night. The constables belonging to the dockyard police-station had for some days perceived a smell of gas, and, though they complained of the matter, no attempt was made to remedy it. On Saturday night the smell was stronger than usual, and one of the policemen foolishly applied a light to the crevices of the boards to ascertain the source of the escape. A loud report followed; the flooring was torn up, the roof blown into the air, and the men (about ten in number) were buried under the ruins. On being extricated, it was found that the legs and arms of some were broken, and that all were seriously injured. One of the men has since died, and the inspector will have to undergo amputation of both legs.

AMERICA.—Late advices from Honduras mention the prevalence of rumours of filibuster expeditions from the United States for the invasion of the Mosquito country, and of the design of General Carrera to subdue and annex the state of Honduras to Guatemala. It was also expected that another bombardment and destruction of Greytown would take place. These reports had created an unusual excitement among the inhabitants. Advices from Mexico to February 19 represent Santa Anna as daily losing and Alvarez gaining ground. It was said that Santa Anna held several steamers ready to receive him on the approach of the Revolutionists. Santa Anna had sent what he could of the 7,000,000 dols. received from the United States out of the country, together with all his valuables, and had sold the 3,000,000 dols. yet to be paid to Mexico by the United States.

HAVANNAH.—According to advices from Havannah of the 4th, matters were all quiet throughout the island, and business appeared to be recovering. The United States steam-frigates San Jacinto and Princeton were at Havannah. The markets had undergone but little change, the blockade of the ports preventing free supplies of sugar.

THE BARQUE MADONNA (St. John's built vessel, 569 tons register) was destroyed by fire on the night of Thursday week at Belfast.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.—From the evidence printed for the use of the Committee, it appears that they have put upwards of 5000 questions to the witnesses and have received 5000 answers since the inquiry commenced, or at the rate of between 400 and 500 postulates and replies per day.

DEATH OF MR. W. B. GURNEY.—Mr. William B. Gurney, the short-hand writer to the Houses of Lords and Commons, died on Monday morning, at his residence, Denmark-hill, Camberwell, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. His death was somewhat unexpected, as the state of his health was such as to encourage the hope that he would be able, on the first Thursday in May, to lay the foundation stone of the Jubilee Building of the Sunday School Union, of which, in 1803, he was the founder, and of which he held the office of President up to the time of his death.

THE CHINESE IN CALIFORNIA.—The *Tung-Ngai San-Luk*, a weekly Chinese newspaper, published in California, in the Chinese language, and edited by Lee Kau, appears to have been chiefly established to reply to the aspersions cast upon the Chinese in California by the United States governor of that state. According to the *Tung-Ngai*, there are five Chinese clubs flourishing in San Francisco. These clubs furnish beds, fuel, and water to Chinese guests who remain for a short time; also lodging places and medicines for the aged and sick. The Americans say that the members of these clubs are slaves, but this is denied. According to Lee Kau's journal, the Chinese in California do not number more than 40,000; the governor has stated that the number is much greater. The Chinese are charged with not bringing their wives with them. They acknowledge that there are only 2000 Chinese women in California, but they say their wives have compressed feet, and are unfit to encounter the winds and waves during an ocean voyage. They complain of the violence and extortion to which they are subjected in California. The Americans have at length decided that the Chinese shall be treated like Indians and negroes, and not allowed to give evidence in a court of justice. At this Lee Kau is indignant, and remarks in an editorial—"When we reflect upon the honourable position that China has maintained for many thousands of years, upon the wisdom transmitted by her philosophers, upon her array of civil and military powers, upon the fame of her civilisation, upon the wealth and populousness of her possessions, and then behold the people of other nations heap ridicule upon us as if we were the same as Indians, who wear neither clothes nor shoes, and who live in wild places and in caves, we ask—is it possible that this can be in accordance with the will of Heaven?"—*Daily News*.

SUPERIORITY OF AN EXPANDING IRON SHOT OVER THE PRESENT SERVICE FOR LARGE CANNON.—On Thursday, the 22nd March, an experiment was made at Shoeburyness, with a new cannon shot, the invention of Mr. Worsam, Oakley-crescent, City-road. The charge used for the government round shot of 9 lbs. against which it was tried, was 3 lbs. powder, while Mr. Worsam's, weighing 16 lbs. (nearly double the weight, but for the same bore) was tried with 2½ and 2¾ lbs. only. Mr. Worsam's shot, with the former of these charges, ranged 273, and with the latter 744 feet beyond that of the service! It is, therefore, a natural inference that, if Mr. Worsam's shot were fired from a gun whose weight of metal would allow of the full charge of powder, it would obtain a range of at least from 1200 to 1500 feet beyond the shot in present use.

THE "MANUFACTURERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION."—A meeting of cotton manufacturers was held at Manchester this week, at which the report of the deputation to the Home Secretary was read. It was stated that Sir George Grey had deferred his answer for a few days, and it was determined meantime to go on organising a National Defence Association, and that a fund of 5000l. be raised (in addition to the subscription of 1s. per horse power from each member) with a view of ensuring funds for resisting, should Government be determined to persevere in subjecting factory owners to the present prosecutions for not fencing machinery sufficiently, and

in the provisions announced to be applied to them under the Board of Health. A great aggregate meeting of manufacturers is to be held on the 10th of April.

ORIENTAL NEWS.—From Hong Kong we have intelligence to the 15th of February, reporting that the insurgent Chinese besieging Canton had taken the Tiger Fort, and plundered the surrounding villages. We learn from Bagdad, to the 19th of February, that the rebel Kurds, 20,000 or 30,000 strong, were continuing an energetic resistance in the north of Mesopotamia.

DEATH FROM FIRE.—An old woman, seventy-four years of age, was discovered a day or two ago with her clothes on fire in her room in East-street, Manchester-square. The flames were extinguished, but she died from the injuries. There was no fire in the grate at the time; and the woman, who remained sensible up to her death, was unable to say how the flames originated.

AMERICA.—The latest news from America contains the programme of the new political party calling themselves the "Pacific American Party," and whose supposed object is the formation of a great Western Republic. The measures, which are at present kept in abeyance until certain objects are attained which it is hoped will prepare the public mind of the State for the consummation of the scheme proposed to be carried out, are—a larger delegation from the Pacific States in Congress; Oregon and California to be organised into States at once; California to be divided and two States made out of her territory; the Sandwich Islands and Sonora to be annexed, and as much more of the territory of Mexico as can be conquered or purchased; and, finally, out of the whole of the territories of the United States on the Pacific coast in possession and to be thus acquired, six States are to be created instead of one.—*Times.*

ESCAPE AND RECAPTURE OF RUSSIAN PRISONERS.—Between nine and ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, Lieutenant Mann, the Governor of the Lewes war-prison, took a party of prisoners out on the Downs for an airing; and, while they were gone, three prisoners made their escape from the prison dressed in plain clothes. They were first seen in the streets about a quarter to eleven, but were supposed to be either Frenchmen or German musicians. They took the shortest route for the railway station, and arrived there just after the departure of the up-train; so that it would appear they contemplated starting by train. They then turned up a lane towards High-street, and then found the prison guard were pursuing them, upon which they ran off up High-street as fast as they could, followed by a large mob and a butcher on horseback. They then turned up Fisher-street, and ran into the backyard of the White Hart Hotel, in a stable attached to which one of them was captured, and another in the kitchen. The third managed to elude his pursuers, but he was shortly afterwards discovered under some trees in the Castle-gardens, and in a few minutes he was in the grip of a couple of pensioners, who marched him back to prison. They are said to have scaled the wall, which is very high, by means of ropes.

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE MILITIA has been for some time past conducting itself in a very riotous manner; and the spirit of insubordination is not yet quelled. One hundred and fifty demand to be discharged.

THE CURIOUS LEGITIMACY CASE which has occupied the court at the Cork Assizes during three days this week, resulted yesterday in a verdict for the plaintiff, which establishes the fact that the late Rev. Mr. Beamish, the plaintiff's father, had performed the ceremony of marriage between himself and the plaintiff's mother; but leaves it to the Court of Chancery, from which the issue had been sent for trial, to decide the question of law—namely, whether the ceremony was a valid marriage or not.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Ewart was on Wednesday returned for Liverpool, by an immense majority; the numbers being—Ewart, 5690; Bonham, 4221.—On the same day, Mr. Edmund Antrobus was elected for Wilton without opposition.

SUICIDE OF A CLERGYMAN AT CANTERBURY.—The Rev. John Peachey Francis has committed suicide by shooting himself in his study.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUITIES AT EUPATORIA.—In one of the new works on our left, near some roofless barracks, the soldiers, in cutting down an irregularly-shaped mound, have discovered the entrance of a tomb, or of a cistern. It forms a parallelogram of eight feet by four, and is composed of four stones. The fortifications are just at present of too much importance to allow us to follow up this discovery, and so it remains covered with rubbish and stones. There is no inscription to be seen on it, but according to all probability it is a shaft leading to some tombs, for all around in the neighbourhood of the mound great quantities of human skeletons have been found collected in heaps. To whomsoever these skeletons may have belonged, they certainly belonged to no Tartars. There is no trace of high cheek-bones or pointed heads. All the skulls I have seen were unmistakably of Caucasian, and not of Mongol shape.—*Times Correspondent.*

ALLEGED FRAUDS IN THE HOP TRADE.—It is stated that frauds of a character similar to those recently detected in the wine business in the docks have transpired in the hop trade. They have consisted in the refilling of empty packages stamped with the names of

well-known planters, whose growths are of choice character, with inferior, and, indeed, almost worthless hops, chiefly the lowest description of American. The discovery of the practice, which is supposed to have been carried on to a considerable extent, occurred at a recent sale by auction, and the attention of the Excise has been called to it. Meanwhile consumers cannot be too cautious in their purchases.—*Times City Article, Wednesday.*

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS, the Younger, has achieved a triumph, memorable even in French theatrical annals, with his new five-act comedy, at the Gymnase, *Le Demi-Monde*. It may be said to complete his trilogy of uneasy virtues—*La Dame aux Camélias*, *Diane de Lys*, and *Le Demi-Monde*. The success of the new comedy was a tumultuous ovation, and we hear the author has been offered 60,000 francs (or a house valued at that sum) for his *droits d'auteur*. How this should make our dramatic writers' mouths water! Alexandre Dumas fils, by his choice of subjects, defies "original adaptations" in England.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 31.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ADJOURNMENT—THE WAR.

AFTER some Law Bills had been advanced a stage, and especially one to abolish the Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in cases of Defamation, Earl GRANVILLE moved the adjournment of the House until the 16th of April.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH took the opportunity of reviewing the conduct of the war. He compared the condition of our army now with what it was last year, and urgently pressed the necessity of facilitating recruiting for the army and militia. Referring to the Baltic fleet, he urged that, in order to make it really and fully effective, it ought to consist of twenty-five sail of the line; and that there ought to be a reserve of ten sail of the line at home. Considering the policy of the war, he maintained that, by our army leaving Varna for Sebastopol, we had paralysed Austria, while there was no chance of taking that fortress. That step had complicated the question of peace, by introducing the new element of the national honour of Russia into the matter. Even if we took Sebastopol and destroyed it, the danger to Turkey from Russia was not removed; and the only true mode of securing Turkey against aggression, was by creating another Sebastopol on the Bosphorus, and giving Turkey such an army as would enable her to defend herself in case of attack, until the powers of Europe could come to her aid.

Earl GRANVILLE, on the part of the Government, refused to discuss the neglect of the war at the present crisis.

A short debate followed, which did not produce anything remarkable, and the House adjourned at half-past seven.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRITS.

New writs were ordered to issue for the borough of Kilmarnock, in the place of Mr. Bouverie, who has accepted the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade; for the borough of Lewes, in the room of the honourable Henry Bouverie Brand, who has accepted the office of a Lord of the Treasury; and for the county of Cork, in the room of Mr. E. B. Roche, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

A number of questions were asked of the Government.

VENTILATION OF HOSPITAL SHIPS.

In answer to Mr. PERCY, Mr. F. PEEL stated that in some new ships that were being fitted out for the conveyance of troops between this country and Scutari, proper mechanical means for ventilation were to be used.

BISHOPRICS IN CANADA.

In answer to Mr. DUNLOP, Sir G. GREY stated that no decision had been come to by the Government with regard to altering the practice of appointing bishops in Canada, in consequence of the provision in the Canada Reserves Bill for dissolving all connexion between Church and State.

ROUTINE AT BALAKLAVA.

Mr. G. DUNDAS having stated a case in which some sick soldiers on board a transport at Balaklava could not obtain some provisions for twenty-four hours, in consequence of the official formalities that were required to be gone through,

Mr. F. PEEL said that instructions had been sent out to dispense with all unnecessary forms in such matters.

THE BUDGET—PUBLIC BUSINESS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he should bring forward his financial statement on

Friday the 20th April. On Monday the 16th, the bill of Sir B. Hall, for the Better Local Management of the Metropolis, would be brought on for a second reading.

THE ADJOURNMENT.

Sir G. GREY moved the adjournment of the House to the 16th of April.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sir J. PAKINGTON again commented on the unsatisfactory condition of the Colonial-office, and intimated that if Lord J. Russell was not in his office after Easter, he should make a motion on the subject.

THE WAR.

Sir DE LACY EVANS took occasion to advert to the state of things in connexion with the war. He urged the increase of bounty to recruits, that more gun-boats should be sent to the Baltic, and some of the steamers going there be sent to the Black Sea; and that every effort should be made to concentrate our efforts on one point of the Euxine. He referred to the prevailing notion that Odessa had been the port from which Russian reinforcements had reached Sebastopol. This he denied, and said it would have been impossible to do anything effectual with regard to Odessa, except by occupying it with an army of 200,000 men.

The subject of the camp at Aldershot, the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Howard to the Commissionership of Woods and Forests, the vacancy in the Chairmanship of Ways and Means, and the probable person to fill that office, the mode of payment of the Irish constabulary, were shortly brought before the House in a desultory manner, on the motion for adjournment.

Mr. SPOONER promised his annual motion on Maynooth on the 1st of May; and notice of a motion for leave to bring in a bill, establishing Vote by Ballot, was given on behalf of Mr. H. Berkeley.

TESTAMENTARY JURISDICTION OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL then brought forward a bill to abolish the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in matters Testamentary. The bill proposes to take all testamentary matters from the control of the Ecclesiastical Courts, whether metropolitan or provincial, and refer them to a single court of civil constitution attached to the Court of Chancery, to be located in London. That is the main principle of the bill. The details, of course, relate to technical and subsidiary arrangements, all tending to simplify procedure and diminish expense.

A discussion followed, in which the bill met with general approval; the only objections that were urged being that the Government had not at once dealt with the whole question of the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts, including the matrimonial jurisdiction and that relating to Church discipline. It was, however, intimated on the part of Ministers that measures on both these points were prepared, and would be brought in.

The bill was then introduced.

The House was counted out at twenty minutes past twelve.

Report says that the Duke of Newcastle intends to go to the Crimea. For what purpose? To emulate Mr. Stafford? To encounter and exasperate the resentment of the army? To leave his character in the hands of his enemies? We can scarcely imagine a more unwise proceeding.

The French Government is actively engaged expediting troops from Paris to Toulon and Marseilles. They will be immediately put on board, and will sail as speedily as possible for the Crimea.

A new Belgian Ministry has been formed, as follows:—

Viscount Vilain XIII., Foreign Affairs.

M. Dedecker, Interior.

M. de Nothomb, Justice.

General Greindl, War.

M. Dumon, Public Works.

M. Mercier, Finances.

THE OLD AND NEW TORIES.—Edifying is the unanimity of the "Great Conservative Party" just now. What the young Tory organ announces the old Tory organ denies—what the *Press* invites the *Herald* rejects—what the weekly Disraelite oracularly sings, the daily Derbyite indignantly growls down with a sturdy contempt for new-fangled combinations. We hear that the amendment—of course in a Conservative sense—on Sir John Pakington's Education Bill is to be moved by Mr. Henley, and seconded by Mr. Walpole.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Delta."—The subject of your letter is already out of date.
B.—Is mistaken in supposing that stamped newspapers will not be transmissible under the new act as before.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 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.

VIENNA IN LONDON.

WE do not say that our Ministers are prepared to betray their country to Russia, but we beseech the public to note how the case now stands, and to watch the sequel.

All went smoothly at Vienna until they came to the Third Point—then they find they cannot "reconcile their instructions," and the Plenipotentiaries refer to their respective Governments. The Western Powers do not insist on the dismantling of Sebastopol; they never have done so diplomatically, and they do not now; but they demand something—perhaps the reduction of the Russian fleet, with other modifications. Russia is prepared to concede admission for other fleets, formation of other fortified stations, as "counterpoise" to her power. But she is not prepared to concede what the Western Powers demand; and hence the reference home. Will our country abate its demand?

To hamstring Russia in the Crimea is the least that could be done to make her a safe neighbour for Austria, if Austria is to be independent of Russia, and the Russian boundary is not to lie on this side of Vienna and Pesh. Lord PALMERSTON has talked of Poland—the true key of Russian power in Central Europe: but even if that be not now wrested from the great burglar, surely the key of the South is not to be given back?

That is the question to be discussed by PALMERSTON, CLARENDON, COLLOREDO, and DROUYN DE LHUYS, in London: the record of their conclusion will be jealously read hereafter.

While the resolve is concealed from us at the hour, we see that our Ministers do *not* adopt the measures needed for a further war. We have not had the reconstruction necessary to make the public departments work—not even commenced; the system of purchase in the army is still defended; no facility, no permission even, is afforded for arming the British people. As if our hereditary governing class were more jealous of the British people than of the Russian Czar!

The Vienna Congress in London must bear in mind that there *will* be an account to render, soon or late.

LOUIS NAPOLEON IN ENGLAND.

THE French Emperor is to visit England, and there is no difficulty in foreseeing the nature of his reception. The usages of the Court, and the policy of the Government, allow of nothing but cordial greetings in high quarters; etiquette and a propensity to Emperor-worship will prescribe the adulation of drawing-rooms; curiosity will suffice to throng the streets. In all this there will be enough for some observers, unfamiliar with English manners and character, to mistake for a national ovation. Certain eager Radicals are thus offended,

and promise themselves the satisfaction of at least one demonstration against the author of the *coup d'état*. On every ground, of good feeling and good policy, we protest against any such demonstration. The majority of men, who love freedom too much not to hate its destroyer, will take no part in it. It would be vain, absurd, and injurious.

In the first place, it would infallibly be overwhelmed. There is always, in the composition of an English crowd, a large element of servility, ready to interpose its officious yells in favour of power, whatever form it takes. This sentiment will be invoked the more strongly by LOUIS NAPOLEON, on account of his terribly dramatic passage from obscure adventurism to the throne of an Emperor! There is poetry for some minds in the idea, that this Chief of the French State was once, at Count D'ORSAY'S door, suspected to be a sheriff's officer. Moreover, he is at present the guest of the English Court; and this appeals to the loyal energies of the middle-class mob, who conceive, also, that by "putting down" any outcry against the imperial Majesty, they exhibit the sincerity of their attachment to France. Folly, in London, is free, and has a loud voice, nor is it an iota the less perverse because it explodes in patriotic shouts, with equal vehemence, on all occasions—whether a Russian emperor be reviewing the Guards in Hyde Park, or a French emperor entering to a festal welcome in Buckingham Palace. Most men, absorbed in their personal interest, regard public affairs as they regard spectacles at theatres, as excitement to amuse their leisure. Conviction has nothing to do with their political feelings; they take the opinions with the patterns of the season, and never reproach themselves with inconsistency. Nor are they inconsistent; they desert no principles, because they never adopt any.

Such individuals are numerous in this country, and, with their indifferent respectability, will swell the followers of every Napoleonic cavalcade in London. The mere gapers also—who rush with ardour to see a Lord Mayor's Show, and bring their babies to be stifled in the throng at an execution—will not be absent from these coach-and-horse displays. Amid such elements, amid natural flunkies, amid people of no conviction, who, like weather-cocks, never cease turning until they grow rusty; amid devout readers of the *Times*, amid the enormous ground-swell of popular excitement, what would a demonstration against St. ARNAUD'S master be but an undignified, unnecessary, and useless spasm, sure of being repressed, satirised, and turned to account as a vain effort to interrupt the "national ovation"?

In two ways it might be misconstrued in France;—it might be taken as a mark of irreverence to the French people, or it might be supposed to represent, with its small voice, the whole amount of indignation remaining in this country against the men of the *coup d'état*. To prove that such indignation exists is surely unnecessary. The French Chief of the State knows that he has not converted public opinion in England, since his organs are incessantly engaged in impeaching our liberty of speech, and in assailing our institutions. Great Britain is, for the time, his ally, and yet the most piercing thorn in his side. This is as plain to him as it is to us, and there is no fear that the intelligent classes in France will mistake the formal courtesies of our Court, or the ebullitions of our populace, for expressions of political sympathy.

The same classes in England, no doubt, desire to distinguish themselves from the excitable crowd. But, if they *must* appear in the streets, their course will be to remain silent,—and honour be to all whose sentiments force them so to refrain from utterance of applause

—though, as multitudes constitute party-triumph, the most considerate will avoid contributing to them. In no other way can a decent respect for the public guest be reconciled with a spirited maintenance of that principle which animates all independent minds, and inspires, we dare hope, even some of our statesmen. And here, if we might appeal to something higher than the fluctuating exigencies of policy, we would put it to leaders of the younger school, who profess to bring their consciences to the discussion of state affairs, who take office from "a sense of duty," and quit it from "scruple," whether they are bound to join in any flatteries of lawless empire, and whether they must offer more than a formal reception to the titular of a throne, so founded and so maintained. This is a time for political honesty, and for high-spirited honour not to be ashamed of itself; it is an opportunity for testing the sincerity of men who profess a creed more noble than that of Sir ROBERT WALPOLE. For ourselves, we do confide in the existence of some political virtue, and shall rejoice to see it tried and proved. There are, indeed, some men in our governing class, who must act on these principles, or repudiate the character of which they are supposed to be proud. Neither they, nor any others, can or ought to deny that, practically, LOUIS NAPOLEON, who governs France, also represents it, in an official sense. He represents it as the member for London, if London had no electors, would represent that city. But in no other sense does he come in a representative character. He does not represent the intelligence of France, or its friendship towards England. Thinking people there, as here, regard him as the successful conspirator of December, and they cannot overlook the circumstances which render an Anglo-French alliance, based on his will, a brittle bond. They remark, with painful solicitude, the development of these international relations, sprung from necessities which, on one side, arose with the whole country, and on the other, depend on the fortunes or caprices of a man. No one here exults over the present humiliation of the French; still less does any man, who ever had convictions of his own, believe that architectural demolitions and restorations can atone to a people for the loss of all that proved them civilised. A British alliance has long been desired by a party in France; that party was not the Bonapartists. The Bonapartists are they who inspired the faith of the peasants in a day when Waterloo should be avenged; but the *coup d'état* showed them other necessities. As nations do not live by bread or by stone alone, so usurpations must not altogether depend on armies—only alliances can knit them to the frame of Europe. The new Emperor, therefore, repulsed in his advances to the Court of St. Petersburg, sought, as a *pis aller*, the Court of St. James; and the mob in England, well-dressed and ill-dressed, have generously endowed him with generous motives.

Even now, the illusion is not past. The Napoleonic alliance is still prized, though hitherto it has been fraught with disaster. A secret and sinister council, in which the diseased impatience of a desperate and remorse-smitten castaway presided, dragged a British army, unprepared, half-armed, and unwilling, into the forlorn Crimean expedition. Our own generals, overruled by the least competent of their allies, yielded opinions which it was criminal not to maintain at the instigation of a man who would not reck how many thousands of English soldiers rotted, froze, or died in arms before Sebastopol. It results that our *prestige* is all but gone; that our *déchéance* is pronounced in the salons of the Continent; that we are

admired for our courage and despised for our stupidity; and that the Emperor who is to be our guest, collects arguments for a satire on the British constitution.

Not that his sentiments prevail in France. Even the classes which were willing to approve feel the disappointment of war without glory. The Empire promised to be peace; it is war, and this without victory. Of course, while the public journals are kept down to the dead level of a Napoleonic decree, such feelings have no vent, and are exasperated by repression. But the moral defection goes on, while no new powers are gained by the Chief of the State. In England, also, every reflecting politician begins to estimate the value of a French alliance on its present basis. Misfortunes, such as have no parallel in our history, have befallen us, since our generals submitted to the fatal influence of ST. ARNAUD'S advice, and adopted a plan, dictated by one who, *in articulo mortis*, refused to die without, at least, a theatrical expiation. Circumstances of this nature must have their weight in determining our future relations with France. Above all, we must renew this inestimable alliance on a broader foundation. At present it depends on an individual will, which has made a virtue of necessity. To conciliate that will, the Court will exercise all its amenities, and, let us repeat, popular gatherings may suggest the idea of an ovation. But there will be no real ovation—at least none from men who have opinions and respect them. It is unnecessary to add that such would be the last to join in any vulgar violence against LOUIS NAPOLEON.

THE PEELITES.

WE have always looked with hope and interest to the course of the Peelites. The Liberal cause needs them. We want their high culture to take care of our intellectual objects, while Manchester takes care of the suffrage and cheap bread. We want their breadth of social sympathy, which, from the fact of their having broken loose from their class, is greater than that of most sections of Liberals. We want that habit of conscientious labour which was so well learned in the school of PEEL. Moreover, we owe them gratitude. We have not forgotten such acts of justice and such pledges to Liberalism as marked the financial administration of Mr. GLADSTONE, and the colonial administration of the Duke of NEWCASTLE. We have not forgotten the gallant resistance of the Peelites to the spirit of religious tyranny embodied in the Aggression Bill. Above all, we have not forgotten the Naples Letter. We have not forgotten these things, and the Tories and Protectionists have not forgotten them either. High-minded, conscientious Liberalism is not so plentiful in this world of PALMERSTONS and Irish members that Liberals can afford to cast away any man of mark who has once shown that his heart is with the people. Away with the Shibboleths of Manchester and Marylebone. To follow reason and to do justice is the only test that Liberals ought to know. The test will not be found too latitudinarian, nor the sect too wide.

The Peelites are waverers; true, but they are not trimmers. They have carried their oscillation between Conservatism and Liberalism to the verge, or beyond the verge, of weakness; but their scruples, however inopportune, are conscientious and not unnatural. They feel a lingering attachment, which we must admit to be generous, to the party, to which they once belonged, and their complete severance from which, in point of principle, they have not realised, though the party does its best to impress them with the fact. We should thank Mr. GLADSTONE a much greater man if he could resolve to make a decided choice,

at this advanced period of his political life, even though he had to choose the least of two evils. But, as Liberals, we had rather see him forbear to make that choice, than override his conscience and do despite to truth. Decision is very easy for a SIBTHORPE or a DISRAELI. The first is embarrassed by no doubts, the second by no scruples. It would have been very easy for the Peelites, if they had been rogues, to stick by the Protectionists at first, or to throw themselves into the arms of the Radicals afterwards. It is not difficult to anything but conscience to put an end to "ambiguity of language and conduct" by being "absorbed" into a party, while the great men of the Times look down from the heights of philosophy and independence on the absorption.

Then, again some of the Peelites are Puseyites. We are sorry for it; for we regard Puseyism, in its present state, as little better than a clerical intrigue. But at the time when the Peelites took it up it was a genuine movement, set on foot by earnest and courageous men, against the torpor and servility of the Establishment. The squires hate it, not because it tends to spiritual tyranny and the extinction of the truth, but because they hate all spiritual activity, and fear that an independent priest may become a tribune of the people. It is true that many of those who cling to the skirts of the Peelites, in hopes of making them their own, are thorough Jesuits,—men who abhor the liberties to which they cringe, and who are ready to worship any tyranny that would crush free inquiry and put down the truth. But these men do not write Naples Letters. They mistrust the writers of Naples Letters, though they cannot afford to disown them. Between these men and the writers of Naples Letters there is a great, perhaps an impassable, gulf. Besides, let us remember that if the Peelites were rogues, they would have thrown off their Puseyism long ago. They must have the sense to see that it is an incumbrance in political life. They have before them the striking example of Lord JOHN MANNERS. They have before them the still more striking example of Mr. DISRAELI, who makes political capital by abusing Puseyism, and pecuniary capital by selling his own Puseyite novels in cheap railway editions, both at the same time. Those are not the worst of men who, in despite of all worldly motives, cling to an unpopular creed.

It may be improvident to say all this when some at least of the Peelites, according to all appearances, are about to join the Tories. But it is a good thing to tell the truth. We hate that vulgar fanaticism, mis-called Liberal, which can view with indifference, or even with exultation, the departure of a man of genius from our ranks, because he will not become a blind and bigoted partisan. We shall be sorry to lose the Peelites; and they will be sorry, before long, that they have left us. Heaven knows, there are scandals enough in the Liberal party. There are many things in it which may disgust a refined and fastidious mind. But still Liberalism is the cause of political justice, and from the cause of political justice a true disciple of PEEL cannot long remain separated. The question of the Corn Laws was not a mere commercial question; it was a question of principle, between class interests and justice. And many similar questions are yet to come: we will not say how many or how great. Is Mr. GLADSTONE prepared to fight side by side with DISRAELI in defence of Game Laws and Rotten Counties? Is he prepared to lead an opposition to his own Reform Bill? Has he ascertained that Lord STANLEY is the real exponent of the party, and that the Tories are ready absolutely to sacrifice everything to place? If not, he will soon find himself in a

position in which it will not be satisfactory to stay, and from which it will not be easy to recede.

THE PURCHASE SYSTEM.

ATTENTION has again been called to the system of promotion in the army by the motion of Major REED for a select committee to inquire into, and report upon, that matter. The debate was very unsatisfactory. Colonel after colonel rose to defend the present system, and two heirs to dukedoms followed their example. But they were met in the most effectual manner by Mr. ROBERT LOWE, who showed pretty clearly that the whole system is bad. Lord PALMERSTON told the House of Commons that, not having command of the army, they had no right to inquire into these matters, it is the prerogative of the Crown; and theoretically he is correct, no doubt. But seventy men to one hundred and four thought differently: a rather forcible hint that the House of Commons is beginning to think of reforming the army.

"If we were about to establish the military system for the first time it would be madness to dream even of establishing promotion by purchase." Such were the words of Lord PALMERSTON in the debate on the motion of Lord GODERICH; such again were his words in the debate on the motion of Major REED. When a man or a Minister talks in that strain you may be sure he intends to take all the benefit he can get from his admissions, and to give you little or none. It is a sort of cheap liberalism, the soft sawder of debate, for it sounds well, and does not entail action. "Even Lord PALMERSTON admits that the sale and purchase of commissions is so bad a thing that every one would avoid it if we had to begin again," exclaims some innocent enthusiast. But Lord PALMERSTON, or any other clever Minister, might, and perhaps would, say the same of the monarchy, or the State Church, the national sewerage, or any other cherished institution. The candid statesman gets credit for his popular "views," but views they still remain!

Now we are not disposed to give Lord PALMERSTON, or indeed any probable Minister, credit for even desiring to abolish promotion by purchase. They dare not do it. Like many other things now in full bloom, promotion by purchase is one of the pets of the House of Commons, for it is one of the things which uphold the present system, and make provision for younger sons. More or less honourable members and their constituents benefit by keeping a commission-preserve, where no one can trespass without a license. Agitate the subject we may, and, as a result, probably half a score of non-commissioned officers will gain a step upward, but nothing will be done towards the destruction of the system.

And what a system it is! It sprouted forth in that hotbed of despotism and corruption, the reign of CHARLES II., into the light of official sanction, and assumed somewhat of the shape it now wears. That unprincipled monarch could not reward his officers, so he allowed them to sell their commissions; the man who bought was allowed to sell again, and thus this king's evil of our military system was perpetuated.* And it works in a manner worthy of its origin. At common law it is illegal to give money for the appointment to a public office; by ancient statutes also the sale of places was prohibited; so it became necessary to show that these statutes and maxims did not extend to military offices, and the Lord-Keeper WRIGHT, in 1702, was the man

* See Promotion by Purchase: By an Officer. Right way.

who did that piece of work. So far so bad; commissions were made legally saleable, and, by-and-by, towards the close of the reign of GEORGE III., Government undertook to regulate the tariff of prices for commissions, instead of allowing their value to be determined by "the higgling of the market." You would say, that was a reasonable and good regulation. But reasonable regulations for bad things never seem to thrive. The reasonable regulation in this case was a decided violation of the principles of free trade, for when a public commission became a marketable commodity, and the honour of serving the QUEEN one of the public "stocks," its price was subject to the laws of supply and demand. What has been the result of attempting to withdraw it from the operation of those laws? Notwithstanding the fact, that to give or take a higher than the regulation price renders the buyer liable to be cashiered, and the seller to conviction for a misdemeanour, it is a regular thing to exact and receive a much higher price than the regulation price. If an officer is poor or conscientious, and insists on paying only the regulation price, his life is made intolerable to him in his regiment—and naturally, for he has sought to diminish the value of the property common to all his comrades of the mess. So that even this boasted regimental system of our so-called army is good only for the privates and non-commissioned officers. And why? Because they are neither promoted by seniority nor purchase, but by merit. And if good sergeants can be got under this system, why not good captains, good majors, good lieutenant-colonels?

The whole question is begged by those who oppose the abolition of the system of purchase, when they say that the sergeants are not fit for promotion, that good officers cannot be got from the ranks, that labourers are destined to be privates, and gentlemen destined to be officers. One would think there was really some broad line of demarcation between BROWN, the ploughman, and the Honourable BROWN, of Brown Hall. One would think that all the Honourable BROWNS in the army are well-educated men, having decidedly military talents, and that the other BROWNS only have talents for fighting and the goose step. The real question is, would not the ranks furnish a fair proportion of military talent if promotion went by merit instead of by gold? Would not the army, as a profession, be swept clear of the ephemera that now don its gay garniture for a few years, and be filled with men who make soldiering a business? We are told that the army would be made "mercenary" if men were promoted by merit; and this by the very men who make a traffic of her Majesty's commission, and who invest in sabres and epaulettes, as other men invest in shares and trade.

We are told that this system of purchase saves the country a heap of money. It does nothing of the kind. Under the delusion, that the pay of an officer is only interest on capital invested, and that other delusion, that it is cheaper to let a man realise an annuity by selling his commission, what do we get? Why, we get an inefficient, ill-instructed army, which totally breaks down when put to the rough test of continuous war. Efficiency is the true measure of cost. That is expensive which does not do its work when wanted; that is cheap which easily and completely accomplishes the purpose for which it is designed. The millions spent on the British army are the price we pay for the continuance of that system of which promotion by purchase is a glaring illustration.

The truth is that this practice, legal but corrupt, is one of the things that prevent the British army from being a truly national force. It is the most Tory of all our institutions,

except, perhaps, the Church, where a similar principle prevails—admission by purchase. The commission preserve is one of the last relics of those privileges, so odious and so unjust, that revolutions almost are required to sweep away. The Duke of WELLINGTON never minced the matter:—

"It is the promotion by purchase," said the Duke, "which brings into the service men of fortune and education (?), men who have some connexion with the interests and fortunes of the country, besides the commissions which they hold from her Majesty. It is this circumstance which exempts the British army from the character of being a 'mercenary army,' and has rendered its employment for nearly a century, and a half, not only not inconsistent with the constitutional privileges of the country, but safe and beneficial."

On this we need not say one word of comment. The Duke of WELLINGTON did not always escape from the influence of party political prejudices. Had he been less of a Tory, it is possible that the British army in the Crimea would have been more efficient, and the campaign of 1854 less an opprobrium on our military fame.

LOUIS KOSSUTH IN DEFENCE OF HUNGARIAN REFORM.

WE have received the following letter, and give it all the prominence we can:—

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

8, South Bank, Regent's Park, March 29, 1855:

SIR,—I have been taken aghast, by seeing in the last week's number of the *Leader*, the astounding statement that "it is Austria who abolished the class distinctions and odious privileges of the nobles in Hungary—Austria who has rendered all equal before the law, has introduced railways, and placed Hungary in a position to develop her material and political resources."

I cannot think—judging from the general character of your estimable paper—that you could have had the intention deliberately to insult the honour of my nation. I must therefore attribute that misstatement to an utter unacquaintance with the past and contemporary history of Hungary.

But I beg leave to express my supreme astonishment at this unacquaintance, after having seen the cause of my native country stand for years so prominently before the eyes of the civilised world, that so much knowledge of its history has become a household tale almost in every cottage on both sides of the Atlantic, as should have protected the honour of the Hungarian nation from such an insulting outrage.

That statement, Sir, is so astoundingly false, as if the writer of that article would undertake to advance that it is Satan who died for the redemption of mankind upon the Cross on Golgotha.

The honour of my nation, which has a right to be held sacred in her great misfortune, commands me to declare, that before God, before the world, and history, I give a denial to that statement the most flat, the most peremptory, and the most unconditional, of which the human tongue is capable.

I declare the statement to be the reverse of truth and of history.

I invite you to look to the declaration of the Independence of Hungary, to our laws of 1848; and to the history of my nation's long and consistent first strife and exertion; their sacrifices, and at last struggle for freedom to all, without distinction of race or creed, and equality of duties and of rights.

I claim from you to respect her national honour; if you do not pity her unmerited misfortune.

I beg from your equanimity that this tribute to truth, and this reparation of a mistake so strange, that it baffles imagination, be placed conspicuously before your readers in the next number of your paper; and have the honour to be, with particular consideration,

Sir, your obedient and humble servant,

L. KOSSUTH.

It is not for us to enter into any controversy with the Governor of Hungary; a man who has occupied so conspicuous a position in advancing its reforms, in making a stand against the unconstitutional proceedings of the Government at Vienna in 1848, and in expounding the claims of Hungary, during her worst days, throughout the world. As a journalist, as a conductor of affairs, as a statesman, M. KOSSUTH has an acquaintance with Hungary which would preclude us from entering into any statement counter to his. We should not

fight with equal weapons; and we have no desire to be on opposite sides. It is quite true that the reforms of Hungary began a quarter of a century before the revolution; and that the Hungarians themselves had taken the lead and made very great progress in the direction intimated by our distinguished correspondent.

We should be quite unable to refer to the bills proposed by the temporary Government of 1848; but we believe the fact that the particular measures to which we alluded were passed under the authority of the Austrian Government after that of the revolution had ceased to exist. There is no denial in the foregoing letter of the statement that the Austrian Government has passed measures extremely useful to the body of the Hungarian people, or that it has carried out Imperial improvements of the most important kind, political as well as economical. Indeed, we have to regret that in the contradiction which M. KOSSUTH has thought it necessary to make, there are not stated any of those facts which would have supplied the deficiency that he observes in our own reference to the subject.

THE SAFETY OF NEWSPAPERS UNDER THE NEW BILL.

THE debate on Monday night can hardly fail to elevate the Commons of England in the eyes of the nation. For more than a month past the power of the press, in very influential quarters, has been put forward to induce honourable members to view with distrust the Government Stamp and Postal Bill. Yet, nevertheless and notwithstanding, an independent and powerful majority voted for the wider freedom of the press of England—at a time when the nations around are dreading the public criticism, which English politicians are willing to dare. The result will do no less honour to their spirit than to their judgment.

A hundred years have elapsed since WALPOLE imposed Parliamentary fetters on the periodical press of this country. The eminence to which British Journalism has attained under these disabilities, foreshadows, we believe, the progress it will make in moderation, purity, and strength, under the reign of freedom—that universal condition of growth and development.

Practically, Sir GEORGE CORSEWALL LEWIS'S bill bids fair to work well. It will secure the right of posting and re-posting to all existing newspapers, and to all that may be registered as such. Whoever, therefore, requires the postal privileges will enjoy it as now; and whoever does not want it need not pay for it. All who wish to post and re-post papers to their friends, can still do so; and all who require papers posted to them can have them posted at the same cost as now; and all who can get papers at their own doors without the intervention of the Post-office, will no longer be taxed for the convenience of those who cannot. This arrangement will greatly benefit the existing newspapers. Where one remote resident is now content to receive a journal by the charitable forethought of some metropolitan relative or friend, ten will be inclined, and five will be able, to buy copies for themselves. Human nature everywhere shows that a penny compulsory tax acts as a greater impediment to expenditure than twopenny which is optional.

Since the newspaper stamp was reduced from fourpence to one penny, thousands of newspapers have been added to the public circulation. So it will be again. The thirst for knowledge—democratic at the commencement—always ends by being aristocratic, in becoming the thirst for the best. Cheap and common journals will arise, but only to pave the way for dearer and better. It was so when Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON'S bill was passed;

and educational nature is the same in 1855 as in 1835.

Stamped newspapers will still reign—for the value of News is its *promptness*—and promptness can only be secured by the post. Unstamped newspapers, in the true sense of the term *news*, cannot exist without the post. There is *no machinery for their transmission*. We appeal to all unstamped papers in proof. New machinery of transit needs to be created before the unstamped can compete with the stamped journals; and no machinery can be made to rival the post. Newspaper proprietaries need not be uneasy—the Parliament need not hesitate to pass the bill. The alarm about it is vain. The bruited danger can be proved to be *impossible*. We speak from examination and knowledge of the practical details of the news-vending trade. Within a month of the bill becoming law the facts will appear as we have suggested.

"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.]

It appears that there is a split in the Tory party. When that thin end of the Liberal wedge, Mr. Disraeli, got into the party, its wooden consistency was endangered: and now Sir Edward Lytton turns up a still sharper instrument of political dissection. But the man who has done the real mischief is Lord Stanley. Just as Fox and Sheridan were harmless Whigs till they got hold of the Heir Apparent, so Disraeli and Lytton would spout and spout and spout away their finessed and epigrammatic impracticalities, but that the son of the Tory King has got into the habit of thinking that it is not absolutely necessary for a Tory chief always to be stupid, and always in the wrong.

Lord Stanley is creating the real Young England party—the nobles to become leaders, and to lead—not back, but forward. Well, in this beplushed nation, that is an arrangement which philosophic but still lord-loving Radicals will naturally be desirous to promote; and let us thank Providence, so to speak, that the young noble who is to lead us is a clever young noble—with an intellect, robust, practical, keen, and conscientious. By all means let liberals develop the split; for if we get two parties out of the Tory party, one must cross over to us. And, with such an arrangement, would disappear all our liberal anxieties as to what is to become of the Peelites. If Lord Stanley, with a hundred or so of "historic Tories"—that is what these modern Liberals are to call themselves—take an honest stand against Lord Derby and his Hudibrastic cohort of Henleys—fellows whose following he could enjoy as Falstaff enjoyed *his* queer company—why, then, Mr. Gladstone of course will join Lord Stanley; and where Mr. Gladstone goes, go the Peelites; and after the Peelites will proceed, inevitably, the Radicals. There's a strong Liberal party at once—ready for the next crisis, which will be when the Russian agents have succeeded in bribing the valet to intercept Lord Palmerston's morning Parr's pill.

Lord Stanley is spoken of, just now, as eccentric. But he has only been bringing out the peculiarity of his family. Of course, it looks odd in him, when the compacted Derbyites were quite ready to walk easily into power, on the approaching dissolution, to destroy the organisation by his logical liberalisms. But this is exactly what the Stanleys always do. They hate success: they like change, this "*sans changer*" patrician house. When the last Lord Stanley saw that the Reform Bill had made the Whigs happy and strong, away he went from their ranks, with a clatter that astonished and terrified. When he found that Sir Robert Peel, in 1846, was going to have an absolute *coup* with the repeal of the Corn Laws, off he went from Sir Robert, and so created the Protectionist party. Lord Derby is too fond a father, doubtless, to quarrel with the identity of character now being displayed by *filius dilectissimus meus*.

The great surprise, however, in connexion with

this subject, appears to be in this—that Mr. Disraeli splits with the Henleys and against the historic Tories. Lord Stanley is likely to be Mr. Disraeli's Frankenstein, and, consequently, rather avoids the society of his liberal-minded monster. Why, Mr. Disraeli is a practical man. He has found out his faculties,—what he can do and what he cannot do in Parliament. He would be not much as a Liberal: he is a great personage as a Tory; and he naturally prefers, when the crisis of a choice is forced by the maturing of the young Tories he has educated, to stay, as the only clever fellow among the boobies, and to decline going on in a direction where he would be only one clever fellow among many—and, alongside a Gladstone or a Bright, not the foremost. Mr. Disraeli's tactique on the Newspaper Stamps Bill was in perfect keeping with all the traits of his career. It was a gross disappointment of the hopes he had assiduously excited among the promoters of the Reform: it was not even politically honourable. But it was by far the best thing for Mr. Disraeli. It might disgust a country: but Mr. Disraeli's country is the Conservative benches—bounded north, south, east, and west, by an impressionable person with arborial faith in "the land, Sir:"—as Cornelia's jewels were in her sons, Mr. Disraeli's treasures are in his Henleys. Had he voted with the Stanleys and Lyttons, he would have disgusted the Spooners and the Newdegates—and he means to ride into power upon the shoulders of these bigoted and organised, but not elocutionary individuals—gentlemen who regard Mr. Disraeli as they regard a French cook—as a clever artiste, to be employed for their purposes and pleasures. As an intellectual man and an historical student, he, of course, is rather pleased to see the young Tories trotting out as Liberals. But that is merely intellectual pleasure.—As a politician, he is safest in sticking among the old Tories; and among other reasons, because these young Liberals will be all old Tories too, when they come into their property. Sir Edward Lytton was poetical, on Monday, in his definition of the "true Conservative party;" it was a definition which must have convinced Ernest Jones next morning that that gentleman ought to increase his stock of linen and get elected to the Carlton. But Sir Edward's poetical analysis of the genuine Conservative article was great nonsense.

It spoiled an otherwise fine, and even logical, speech: it was so absurd in tone and treatment, that the House would have caught the ridiculous and roared—if the House had been there. But it happened that the too eager Sir Edward got up when everybody was at dinner, except the Manchester school, which has roast mutton and potatoes at one P.M.; and the Manchester school, very hearty and hopeful about cheap newspapers, were delighted with Sir Edward, and cheered him vigorously from beginning to end—which was, the only thing that saved Sir Edward from a collapse for his own side were sulky, and the Ministers merely stared. The speech was a chapter of "England and the English," modified into House of Commons style, laboriously eloquent, and happily philosophical;—it has charmed all England in print; it was very pleasant to listen to. Sir Edward is a man who can do anything tolerably well, for he is a persevering man of considerable talent, of unbounded ambition; and a persevering man of considerable talent, of unbounded ambition, only requires time: and Sir Edward is becoming a fair Parliamentary speaker. On a question, half a literary one, like that of the press, he is naturally effective; and on Monday he made a better speech on the question than any other man in Parliament could make. It is evident that, by degrees, he will be the Parliamentary success now and then attained by the literary members: he will not be so great a success as Macaulay, because he has a bow-wow voice, and cannot keep his body still—he is always swaying with the sentence and throwing himself into a note of exclamation after the period; but he will be more successful than Sir James Mackintosh:—this Parliamentary success merely meaning, however, that his phrases will always be applauded, and that his opinions will never weigh. Governing assemblies want men with the governing faculty, not brilliant men: when you

want a dinner you kill your goose, not your peacock.

But let us be grateful that Sir Edward is assisting in destroying the party which adopted him. The respective position is rather hilarious; they thought they were Tories; and he is proving to them that they are not. They ought soon to settle the question between them; for points occur day after day of difficult decision when party organisation is gone. Last week there was the observance of the Sunday question. This week there have been the questions of a cheap press, of the independence of Poland, of promotion of unconscious democrats in the army, and of church-rates. Granted that there is a good deal of sham about half these Liberalisms: but a sham is sometimes to statesmen as serious as a reality. Mr. Phinn might not have been placable about Poland, a country for which he has that long-range patriotism felt by some Englishmen for countries they never saw: Mr. Phinn might have considered that Bath (renowned for overcharges and ultra-Radical politics) was not safe without some violent Liberalism to balance the excellent 2000*l.* per annum place which he got, and deserved to get, from the late Government: and, then, how would the Tories have voted? Who would have led? Which would have been the party? It would not have done to say, this is a sham, and we will not countenance it. Poland is to British Liberalism what Rome is to Roman Catholicism: mystic reverence to it is expected. That fine spring afternoon on which Mr. Phinn had got possession of Parliament, I was making my way to the House of Commons through one of the "rookeries" of Westminster; the bright new sun was lifting the hideous filth, and mindless poverty, and seething crime of a London low neighbourhood into ghastly relief—artificial, not poorhousey; and I went into the gallery with an impression that all was not so perfectly straight with Great Britain, though Bath is a well-built city, as to require the clever Mr. Phinn to insist on the wrongs of snub-nosed Slavonians. But had I been a member—a Liberal member, of course, and if a Tory, the more desirous to appear liberal—I should have had to hear-hear Mr. Phinn, and if he had gone to the vote, which, awed by the possibly patronising Palmerston, he took care not to do, I should have had to record my opinion that it was desirable for the House of Commons to pass a resolution, the effect of which might plunge us in a war so long and costly, that fifty years hence the sun might still be lighting up a Westminster rookery of pestilential inhumanity. Then, there's this Church Rates Bill: the Tories must act on that; and they must at least select among the Education Bills—the probability being that Pakington's will not be found the best. So that the Tory party had better devote the Easter recess to the solution of the question—What is the Tory party—what are Conservative principles?

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.]

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

THANKS OF PARLIAMENT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—A noble lord having expressed his regret that a vote of thanks by the Upper House could not be personally presented to the Earl of Cardigan because there was no precedent for such an act, you will pardon me if I refer his Lordship, and his brother Peers, to the following extract from the 32nd chapter of Archdeacon Cox's "Memoirs of the Duke of Marlborough:"—

"He (the Duke) landed on the 14th of December, 1704, and the same morning experienced a cordial reception from the Queen, to whom he paid his respects at the palace of St. James. On the following day he took his seat in the House of Peers, and was welcomed by the Lord-Keeper with an address of congratulation, and the same day a Committee of the Commons attended him to express their thanks or his great and glorious services." T. H.

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 Ancients sang of Wonders; we realise them. Song has given place to Science. Almost every month brings some new discovery to light, some fresh conquest over the wide domain of Ignorance. The discovery we have on the present occasion to announce will delight the scientific mind as much as it will "aggravate" the teetotal mind, for it is nothing less than the discovery of how to make Alcohol. Observe, how to make it; not how to distil it, not how to produce it by the decomposition of an organic substance, but how to create it by the recomposition of inorganic substances. There lies the interest of the thing. It is another step nearer the great impossibility which has so long perplexed and defied philosophers—the impossibility of making complex organic substances.

Chemists have long known how, by acting on organic substances, we can produce a series of substances proceeding one from the other, the composition of which becomes simpler and simpler until we arrive at some substance familiar in the inorganic world. And Physiologists have long known how the Plant, acting upon these inorganic substances by a Chemistry of its own, reconverts them into organic substances. What we have *unnmade*, but cannot remake, the Plant recomposes with unerring certainty—because, as VOLTAIRE said of the stars, "it has nothing else to do." Man's ambition was to rival the Plant in this respect, as he surpasses it in so many other respects. Hitherto his success has been but mediocre. A very few organic substances he can make, but those of only a low degree. One reason is that while he knows what are the elements which compose an organic substance, he is ignorant of the way in which these elements are united; he knows the *what* but not the *how*. Another reason—and this is perhaps the reason which of all others frustrates his efforts—is, that he cannot produce the necessary conditions of the experiment. In the laboratory he can determine the conditions with precision. He performs his experiments with instruments which are *instruments* and not *participants*, in glass retorts which are *passive*, and which do not mingle their vitreous qualities with the chemical combinations effected inside them. If he places a carbonate with a gas in a glass vessel, he knows that the glass simply *contains* these substances, and isolates them from all others, it does not interfere with their action on each other. Very different is it with the Laboratory of an Organism: *there* the vessels cannot be passive; there no action takes place which is not complicated by the whole surrounding conditions; there no isolation is possible.

Having stated the difficulty, we have prepared the reader to appreciate every fresh approach to a solution, however small. M. BERTHELOT has made such an approach. Alcohol is decomposed into water and bicarbonate of hydrogen by concentrated sulphuric acid at a temperature of 352 degs. Fahr. No experiment is more familiar. But to recompose water and bicarbonate of hydrogen into alcohol is quite another affair. Every Tory will tell you it is easier to destroy than to rebuild. But the energetic and sanguine Reformer persists in trying to rebuild, and with patience, after many failures, he succeeds. M. BERTHELOT has succeeded. This sulphuric acid, which at 352 degs. separates water from the hydrocarbon, comports itself in a quite different manner at ordinary temperatures. Placed in presence of the gas it slowly absorbs it, and disposes it to enter into combination. M. BERTHELOT dissolved some bicarbonate of hydrogen in some concentrated sulphuric acid at the ordinary temperature. He then added five or six volumes of water. This liquid, after successive distillations, aided by a little carbonate of potash, to retain the water, produced Alcohol. He repeated the experiment with the ordinary gas used for lighting, and with the same success.

Thus we see the chemist *unmaking* and *remaking* an organic substance; and one of the most interesting points in the experiment is that in both cases the same agent is employed—the only difference being a difference of temperature. An analogous operation with sugar would be a prodigious conquest. Sugar is converted into glucose by taking up one equivalent of water. If we could only reconvert glucose into sugar! Glucose is obtained from starch, nay, is obtained even from wood; and who knows but what our children may sweeten their coffee with our walking-sticks!

This same M. BERTHELOT has been actively engaged in creating fats, new and old. For if, as MOLIERE says, *il y a fagot et fagot*, with still greater reason may we say there are fats and fats. The epicure knows this as well as the chemist, when he eats the fat of mutton or the fat of venison, for example, or the fat of a sucking-pig, which CHARLES LAMB, in his immortal essay, calls "the adhesive oleaginous—O call it not fat!—but an *indefinable sweetness growing up to it—the tender blossoming of fat.*" A phrase which may be placed beside the unctuous lines of HOMER, where PATROCLUS heaps on the fire the backs of sheep and fat goats, and the chine of a fat pig, *bloom-*

εν δ' ἀρα νῶτον ἐθηκ' οἶος καὶ πιονος αἶγος
εν δε στυος σιαλοιο ῥαχιν τεθαλῦναι ἀλοιφήν.

The *τεθαλῦναι ἀλοιφή* is precisely CHARLES LAMB's phrase; and shows in both an unctuous gusto prompting enthusiastic diction.

While we were turning over the pages of HOMER to find that passage, the phrase "people-devouring Ruler—*δημο βροπος βασιλευς*," met our eye, and at once called up the Czar, to whom it is so terribly applicable in these days; and as a little silent moralising went on in our minds (which need not be inflicted on an unoffending reader) an Italian organ-boy sang under our window "with full-throated ease" *Viva la Repubblica! evviva la Liberta!*—a contrast which his own condition, so very unlike that of a patriot, made the more profoundly ironical. Here was a juxta-position—old HOMER, eternal in youth, singing of barbarian wrath and barbarian joys with a clear voice, joyous yet grave; the young Czar, representative of a system more barbarous and fearfully decrepit; and Young Italy at the Organ, singing in melodious voice of the Republic which is so distant, and of Liberty, which it is irony to mention!

Two American periodicals lie on our table, neither of which gives a very exalted idea of American literature. The *New York Quarterly* is to rival our *Quarterly* and *Westminster*, but at present we can only perceive that from the first it has borrowed the animosity against Whigs, and the tone in which that animosity expresses itself; while from the second it has borrowed the idea of a survey of contemporary literature, which it executes in the meagrest manner. The "constant endeavour" of this review is, to "foster a noble nationality in literature and art;" a noble endeavour, but not likely to be furthered by such articles as the one on MACAULAY. The sagacity, no less than the amenity, displayed in this paper, may be gathered from this sentence:—

For history, indeed, he is in no respect qualified. He lacks the most important and essential point. A brilliant essayist—the most brilliant, perhaps, in the language—an able but not an extemporaneous advocate, a vivid though not strikingly original poet, he is utterly destitute of the calmness, the impartiality, and the solidity of history. He exhibits but little philosophy, and is wholly without either fairness or temper. He enters upon history with all the animosity and asperity of a writer of the present day.

In the name of Grammar, so mercilessly treated by this writer, how could MACAULAY enter upon history but as a "writer of the present day?" In the name of candour and courtesy, how has MACAULAY deserved to have an American say of him, "He has prostituted himself to politics, and perverted his talent to faction. He is the sycophant of a vile party, and the slanderer of an unhappy race." A critic who is so intolerant of an historian's temper, and so severe on his want of impartiality, should at least show some tolerance himself, if he can show no sagacity. Perhaps this sort of writing is considered forcible. Of the writing which is considered "eloquent" we have an amusing specimen in *Putnam's Monthly*, where a very juvenile pen is ambitious on the subject of "Sensitive Spirits," *e. g.*—

Poor Jean Jacques, for instance. Here is, in effect, a sensitive spirit. *With a reticulation of nerves the finest and most susceptible possible—thrilling in ecstasy, or writhing in agony—full of a thousand whims, and humours, and inconsequences—vacillating between the poles of endless contradictions, presenting a very Sphinx-riddle for solution—the sublimation of his own happiness and woe.*

That touch of anatomy, "the finest reticulation of nerves," is thrown into the shade by the touch of metaphysical geometry here given:

But even in manhood, there are moments solemn and calm, when, amid our sad satiety, we ask ourselves these same child-questionings over again. Times in which we realise with Dante that

"Tutte l'oro, ch'è sotto la luna,
E che già fu, di queste anime stanche
Non potrebbe farne posar una."

And when the same eternal *whence* and *why* and *whither*, come with awful force over us. But still without a response. . . . Why? . . . *Because the Finite can never make out the theorem of the Infinite.*

The italics are the author's, and make the sentence impressive. If the Finite cannot make out the aforesaid theorem, neither can the Indefinite intersect the Hypothenuse of Space; and what then?

Amid no inconsiderable quantity of rubbish there is nevertheless some good matter in *Putnam's Monthly*; one paper in particular deserves attention: it is called "Nature in Motion," and is curious as an assemblage of the various migrations of plants and animals. Here is a passage worth extracting, on

THE HERRING.

The herring, a small, insignificant fish, yet gives food to millions, and employment to not less than three thousand decked vessels, not to speak of all the open boats employed in the same fishery. Where their home is, man does not know; it is only certain that they are not met with beyond a certain degree of northern latitude, and that the genuine herring never enters the Mediterranean, and hence remained unknown to the ancients. In April and June, all of a sudden, innumerable masses appear in the northern seas, forming vast banks, often thirty miles long and ten miles wide. Their depth has never been satisfactorily ascertained, and their denseness may be judged by the fact, that lances and harpoons thrust in between them, sink not and move not, but remain standing upright! Divided into bands, herrings also move in a certain order. Long before their arrival, already their coming is noticed by the flocks of sea-birds that watch them from on high, whilst sharks are seen to sport around them, and a thick oily or slimy substance is spread over their columns, colouring the sea in daytime, and shining with a mild, mysterious light in a dark, still night. The sea-ape, the "monstrous chimera" of the learned, precedes them, and is, hence, by fishermen called the king of the herrings. Then are first seen single males, often three or four days in advance of the great army; next follow the strongest and largest, and after them enormous shoals, countless like the sand on the sea-shore and the stars in Heaven. They seek places that abound in stones and marine plants, where to spawn, and like other animals they frequent the localities to which they

have been accustomed at a regular time, so that they may be expected as surely as the sun rises and sets.

Our old friend the eel too is thus chronicled:

The eel is the strangest of travelling fishes; he even performs journeys on land. In hot, dry summers, when ponds and pools are exhausted, he boldly leaves his home, and winding through thick grass, makes his way, by night, to the nearest water. He is a great gourmand, moreover, and loves young eelers so dearly that he will leave the river itself, and climb up steep banks to satisfy his desire, and, alas! to fall into the snares of wicked men. Other fishes travel in large crowds all night long, and a perch in Tranquebar not only creeps on shore, but actually climbs up tall fan-palms, in pursuit of certain shell-fish, which form its favourite food. Covered with viscid slime, he glides smoothly over the rough bark; spines, which he may sheathe and unfold at will, serve him like hands to hang by, and with the aid of side fins and a powerful tail he pushes himself upward, thus completing the strange picture of fish and shell-fish dwelling high on lofty trees.

We drew attention last week to a striking paper in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* on the "Zouaves." That article, it appears, has drawn down upon the *Revue* an official censure, although in its rapid and animated picture of the exploits of these strange and brilliant troops, while the names of LAMORICIERE, CAVAIGNAC, and BÉDEAU are necessarily prominent, even the inferior services of CANROBERT and ST. ARNAUD are not slighted. It is understood that the article, signed by M. VICTOR DE MARS, director of the *Revue*, who was also the signer of the articles on the French navy, contributed by the Prince de JOINVILLE, is due to the pen of the Duc d'AUMALE. Hence the susceptibilities of a Government which, albeit founded on "the national will," and sustained by "eight millions of votes," is afraid of an article in a *Review*; an article neither political nor polemical, but simply doing justice to the exiled generals of France, so conspicuously absent from the operations of the allied armies before Sebastopol.

MR. SILK BUCKINGHAM.

Autobiography of James Silk Buckingham. Vols. I. and II.

Longman.

We approached these volumes in a spirit of the most perfect impartiality towards the author and hero of them. We had everything to learn on the subject of Mr. Buckingham, and had no previous enmities or prejudices to get over before we could fairly begin. In his public capacity we knew that he had founded a species of club under the name of the British and Foreign Institute, that he and Mr. *Punch* had quarrelled, that in early life he had been a great traveller, and that he had started a literary newspaper which was a failure in his hands, and which became a great success in the hands of others. There our knowledge of Mr. Buckingham in his public capacity stopped. In his private capacity we had no knowledge of him at all to boast of—we had never had the advantage of exchanging a word with him; and we did not even know what he looked like. Imagine the eagerness with which we opened the two first volumes of his *Autobiography*; the feverish impatience with which we trimmed our midnight lamp, bound a wet towel round our foreheads, and plunged into our reading. "Come!" we exclaimed to ourselves, joyfully, "let us engage in the most meritorious of all occupations—let us enlarge the circle of our knowledge by making ourselves familiarly acquainted with Mr. James Silk Buckingham!"

We began at the wrong end—that is to say, we did not begin with Mr. Buckingham as a baby, but with Mr. Buckingham at mature years, as represented in his portrait, in front of the title-page of Volume I. Judging by this portrait, we figured to ourselves a jolly-looking old gentleman, with brisk eyes, curly white hair and whiskers, and a general expression on his face as if he were anxious to refresh himself by a good sneeze, and had failed to accomplish his purpose at the moment of opening his mouth to begin. "A jocund veteran," we said, "not easily put down by any force of words or circumstances; not likely to lose his way in the paths of this world for want of asking it at the nick of time of the best-informed people; a man who has skipped jauntily through the journey of life; who may have occasionally tired his travelling companions in past years, but who was evidently never tired himself—such as Silk Buckingham generally estimated by the mute testimony of his portrait. Now let us see how he completes the outline of the picture in his *Autobiography*."

Excepting the great Lipsius who, as we are told on the authority of the Reverend Lawrence Sterne, "composed a work the day he was born," we never heard of so remarkable a child as the child Silk Buckingham. He began life on board ship at nine years old, being then as tall (he tells us) as a lad of fifteen in our degenerate days, stronger than young men of eighteen, nimble enough to ascend a hand overboard from the ship's deck to the main-top, and able to swim two miles at a stretch. Before he was nine years old he had arrived at such perfection as a Little Warbler of pious melodies, that he put down a riot of Cornish Methodists by standing on a sack of corn and singing one of Dr. Watts's hymns to the infuriated multitude. At the same tender age he had already led local opinion on the high Tory side on the subject of the French Revolution; and had fallen so violently in love, that when the object of his affections died and was duly buried, he flung himself down upon the grave, and clasped the earth in torpid despair. "The earliest-developed of all my tendencies," he says, in his jaunty way, speaking of himself before he was nine years old, "were the enterprising, the devotional, the sympathising, and the amatory." In reference to this last "tendency," we must confess to having felt a morbid thirst for more knowledge, and to having suffered the most poignant disappointment at finding that our author (and hero) did not go into particulars. This fault ought to be amended in the next edition. We should like to see a new chapter introduced, with the title of *The British Don Juan; or, the Amours of Silk Buckingham before he was Breached*. Until that chapter is written, we object to the *Autobiography* as incomplete, in the most interesting and amazing passage of the whole book.

Postponing any detailed account of our impressions of little Buckingham, until we are more fully instructed on the subject of his infant gallantries, we will merely say that although he strikes us in childhood as being a com-

pound of the characters of Orpheus, Hercules, and Lothario, we are not at all surprised to find that his mother was willing to lose so remarkable a phenomenon for a month or two at a time, by letting her son go to sea at the age of nine years. Your prodigious children are very delightful to read about; but somehow they don't do nicely in the nursery. An enterprising, devotional, sympathising, amorous boy, fifteen years or so in advance of his own age, is, as some coarse-minded people would say, a boy to be got rid of any how. Being too refined to go that length in the way of expressing ourselves; we will only repeat that we think Mr. Buckingham's mother was quite right when she allowed herself to be prevailed on to send him to sea.

Of our hero as a young man we learn much that is wonderful and interesting, but our impression of him, on the whole, is, that he hardly performs in youth what he promised in childhood. He does not appear before us in a sufficiently remarkable light as a man, principally, we are quite willing to believe, because he was so very marvellous as a boy. The superhuman child who crushed a riot with a hymn, and embraced a young lady's grave, tones down into an average nautical man of adventurous temperament. He sails hither and thither, rises to be a merchant-captain, meets with odd characters, and falls into strange situations—but other men do that. He marries at nineteen, and writes uxorious verses of the penny-Valentine sort to his wife—but hundreds of men do that also. He leaves the sea, fails in an attempt to set up in business, and takes to travelling with ambitious objects and new ideas to communicate to the natives in Egypt and India—but other men have run that career before and after him. In short, so far as the first two volumes of the *Autobiography* extend our knowledge of Mr. Silk Buckingham at present, the older he gets the less remarkable he gets. If we might be permitted to use a common phrase, we should say that the first nine years of his life seem to have "taken the shine out of" all the rest of it.

However, we must not be premature: the two first-published volumes of the *Autobiography* only take us to the beginning of Mr. Buckingham's Indian experiences. By far the larger half of his Life and Adventures is yet to come. Who knows what surprises may not be in store for us?—what superhuman traits of character we may not be lucky enough to read about, when we get to Volumes III. and IV.? It will be no joke for Mr. Buckingham to extinguish his own boyhood; but he is an "enterprising" man, and if the thing can be done at all, he is certainly the person to do it.

"So much for Buckingham!" in our capacity as students of human character. In our other capacity of reviewers of books, we have a last word or two of advice to offer to our readers on the best way of getting through the *Autobiography*. If they will carefully abstain from perusing any of the numerous specimens of his poetry which the author inserts, and if they will good-humouredly skip their way through the prose, rather than critically read through it, they may extract plenty of amusement from this book. It contains some curious pictures of manners fifty years since, some good anecdotes told in a lively, hearty way, and some interesting travelling-adventures in the Desert, and on the shores of the Red Sea. These amusing passages must certainly be sought out through much trivial, wearisome, and absurdly vainglorious writing; but we repeat that dexterous skipping, and moderate patience on the reader's part, will do much towards making Mr. Silk Buckingham's *Autobiography* a moderately entertaining book.

PSYCHOLOGICAL INQUIRIES.

Psychological Inquiries: in a Series of Essays Intended to Illustrate the Mutual Relations of the Physical Organisation and the Mental Faculties. By Sir Benjamin Brodie.

Longman and Co

We are somewhat backward in our notice of this work, which has already reached a second edition; a success which seems to imply an increased interest in the public for speculations taking this direction. We do not mean simply the direction of psychology, but of psychology based upon physiology. The conviction is now becoming pretty general that the old methods of studying the philosophy of the mind are somewhat sterile of results, and that the only true basis of such a science is to be found in physiology. For even the thorough-going metaphysicians, who believe that the mind is an abstract "entity" residing in some unexplored corner of the brain, and "playing upon" that brain, as a musician plays upon a musical instrument, are forced to confess that the state of the instrument and the number of its chords determine the music which it is possible for the player to bring forth. In other words, the metaphysician feels that he can take few steps without the aid of the physiologist. Hence the numerous attempts in late years to illustrate the relations between bodily and mental organisation. Sir Benjamin Brodie has brought his quota to the general store; and the rapid sale of the first edition proves that his quota was not unacceptable. Nor, if we measure it by the easy standard of current publications, is its success undeserved. It is agreeably and popularly written, touches on subjects of universal interest, such as Memory, Dreams, Insanity, Instincts, Sleep, Pneumology, the Mind in Old Age, &c., and brings forward facts and illustrations many of which will be new to the general reader. Had the work been signed by an unknown name, this praise might seem ample; but the name of Sir Benjamin Brodie awakens higher demands: reputation obliges. *Psychological Inquiries* is not a work equal to the subject, nor equal to what the author's reputation led us to expect. It does not contain a single new idea; it does not contain a single important modification of an old idea; and it contains some ideas that we cannot help considering utterly erroneous. To give our readers a specimen of Sir Benjamin's mode of philosophising when he is in a difficulty, let the following suffice:—Polypes, it is known, may be divided into several pieces, each piece living as before. Sir Benjamin, referring to this fact, says: "It is true that one of our most celebrated modern physiologists, from observing the multiplication of polypi by the mere division of the animal, and from some other circumstances, has come to the conclusion, that the mental principle which presents itself to our conceptions as being so pre-eminently, above all other things in nature, one and indivisible, is nevertheless itself divisible not less than the corporeal fabric with which it is associated." Now this is the difficulty—a difficulty for one who holds the mind to be an "entity pre-eminently indivisible," but not a difficulty for the physiologist who holds the mind to be simply one

function of the nervous system; and this is the way Sir Benjamin meets it. He replies: "But it is to be observed, that great as is the authority of Müller generally in questions of physiology, in the present instance he is not quite an unprejudiced witness, inclined as he is to the Pantheistic theory, which has descended from the school of Pythagoras to these later times, as it had been before derived by him from the Buddhists of the East." Observe: a physiological fact is to be set aside because Müller is "inclined to Pantheism," which makes him "not an unprejudiced witness!" Does Sir Benjamin doubt the fact that the polype lives as completely in its new fragmentary state as it did in its original state? Or does he merely doubt whether the mind of the polype—such rudimentary mind, at least as that unimpaired individual with so simple a nervous tissue must possess—be really divisible as well as its body? Müller, whether prejudiced or unprejudiced, is not in court, and neither Pantheism nor Pot-theism can sway the answer. Sir Benjamin being a physiologist, and not a scholar, we will not press him too closely on the subject of Pythagoras, so strangely dragged in as the progenitor of Müller's alleged Pantheism. The mere doctrine of metempsychosis should have warned Sir Benjamin that Pythagoras was not exactly in place here.

We have said that Sir Benjamin is a physiologist; he is known, indeed, for some admirable contributions to that science; and our surprise was great in reading this volume to find in it physiological blunders so gross that, if they had occurred in the *Vestiges*, they would have drawn forth the scorn of reviewers, but which, occurring in the pages of so competent a person as Sir Benjamin Brodie, can of course only be set down to that large category of oversight to which fallible authors so plentifully contribute. Worthy of remark it is that professional men may make blunders with impunity, which in the unprofessional meet with the harshest condemnation; just as the professional physician may kill his patients if he kill them "according to the rules of art," while the homoeopathist and hydropathist is for the same thing tried for manslaughter. The word of an anonymous reviewer will not, of course, be taken in the present case without examples. We shall, therefore, select two. At page 109, he draws a distinction between the spinal cord and the brain, in which he says: "We recognise in the brain not a simple and uniform organ, but a congeries of organs, each having a peculiar structure and being evidently intended to answer a peculiar and special purpose." Now if this means anything it means that the spinal cord is a simple, uniform organ; not a congeries of organs; an error so patent that we have only to call Sir Benjamin's attention to it for him at once to be aware of the error. We may state, however, for the reader's benefit—not of course for Sir Benjamin's—that the spinal cord is very far from being a simple organ; that it is composed of a series of ganglia, each ganglion having its separate pair of nerves, and that although in the vertebrate animals the whole series is united by nervous strands into one whole, it has different parts, and the functions of the different parts are different (deglutition, respiration, locomotion, &c.). Indeed, in the lowest of the invertebrate animals, the *amphioxus*, these spinal ganglia are not only separate, but are seen to be separate.

The following example is, perhaps, not so palpable a blunder, owing to the equivocation of language, but yet it is one of those blunders for which the author of the *Vestiges*, had he fallen into it, would have received no quarter. It is at page 116, and runs thus: "There is no doubt that mere animal life may exist without either sensation or volition, or without anything that bears even the most remote relation to the mental principle. For instance, Dr. John Clarke has given an account of an extraordinary product of human generation, in which there was neither brain, spinal marrow, nor nerves, nor heart, nor lungs, but which was nevertheless a living, organised mass, containing several bones tolerably well formed, and vestiges of some other organs." The authority for this is the *Philosophical Transactions* of 1793; but that which in 1793 might pass among the Dr. John Clarks, is somewhat astounding in 1855 to the readers of Sir Benjamin Brodie. If Sir Benjamin simply meant that masses of organised matter could exist without sensation or volition, or any relation to a mental principle, the first butcher's shop would have supplied him with abundant illustrations; for he might as well talk of a leg of mutton being a living organised mass as that extraordinary product of which Dr. John Clarke has given an account. The student has advanced a very little way in the study of organised beings who does not know that in tumours masses of organised matter, such as teeth, hair, bones, &c., are not unfrequently found; but he must be a very young student indeed who takes these masses for "living beings," or who believes that mere animal life may exist without volition and sensation upon no better evidence than this.

At page 91, after a series of facts and observations tending to show that mental derangement depends upon nervous derangement, Sir Benjamin, with a desire to rescue his "indivisible percipient and thinking being," brings in moral causes. "You cannot deny," says Eubulus, one of the interlocutors, "that in many instances mental derangement may be traced just as plainly to the operation of moral causes. The mind may break down all at once under some sudden affliction, or it may yield more gradually when the attention has been long and constantly and anxiously directed to some subject of unusual interest. Such facts as these cannot be questioned, and is not the conclusion from them inevitable?" The conclusion we draw is, that Eubulus is as completely in the dark about "moral causes" as people usually are who adopt that line of argument. Moral causes may produce mental derangement, as they also produce diarrhoea, fainting, sweating, cold shivers, loss of appetite, and twenty other physical derangements; and in a similar way.

Turning from physiology to psychology, we find the same Eubulus making the sort of remark to be expected in sermons, or in an after-dinner oration, but not to be expected in a work of scientific pretensions. "There are epidemics of opinion," he says, "as well as of disease, and they prevail at least as much among the well-educated as among the uneducated classes of society. It is indeed a melancholy fact that a great extension of education and knowledge does not produce any corresponding improvement in this respect. Still, in the end, good sense prevails. Errors and deceptions last only for a time. Those which disgrace one age vanish and are succeeded by those which disgrace the next. But a truth once established remains undis-

puted, and society on the whole advances." But how "good sense" is to prevail when education fails, when a great extension of knowledge fails, and how a truth is to become established, how the errors and deceptions are to vanish if "extension of knowledge" is powerless, and if well-educated people are quite as helpless as uneducated people, we do not understand.

The examples already given will, we suppose, bear out our judgment of this work, when it is tested by anything like the standard which the subject and the author's reputation require. We cannot, however, part from it without again saying that it is an interesting little work, which to the great majority of readers will perhaps be more acceptable than if it were better. Among the points we had noted for extract, but for which we find we have no space, there is a very interesting passage upon drowning, tending to show that it is not, either morally or physically, a painful death. A friend of Sir Benjamin's, who nearly lost his life in this manner, says that the last thing which he remembers is looking at the pebbles and weeds at the bottom of the river, with little or no fear of what was about to happen, and no bodily suffering. The calmness with which people die is illustrated by what Sir Benjamin says, namely, that in his own experience he has known but two instances in which in the act of dying there were manifest indications of a fear of death.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SALVATOR ROSA.

The Life and Times of Salvator Rosa. By Lady Morgan. New Edition. London. David Bryce. 1855.

THE public will accept, no doubt with pleasure, this first instalment of a reprint of works which formed the delight of a very large portion of the public in what must now be called the past age. It will, moreover, give satisfaction to all persons of taste and feeling to reflect that the authoress is living in veteran retirement to enjoy the revival and increase of her reputation. Fortune is not always so favourable to talent. Few writers are allowed to round off and complete a career, much less to become contemporary with posterity, and receive applause from the sons of the critics who first admired them. Lady Morgan is indulged with this enviable distinction; and even those who never entertained the principles to which she has so unswervingly held, or felt their breasts glow with the sympathies from which was derived the warmth of her style, will scarcely grudge or envy the reward denied by time to so many. At any rate, we should feel that we were missing the opportunity to perform a duty if we failed to receive this "new edition" with due honours.

The *Life of Salvator Rosa* was one eminently fit to employ the pen of Lady Morgan. Her style—worked up with great attention to effect, yet not destitute of ease and grace—sharing some of the literary vices popular in her time, and a good many of its sterling virtues—full of point and parallel, quotation and allusion—expanding sometimes into the romantic, and borrowing colours and forms from all foreign tongues—this style, we say, could scarcely have been brought to bear on a more congenial theme. Salvator Rosa was an almost universal genius, born in a country where what may be called the rough material of genius is scattered with profusion, but in which a man is rarely found possessed of that invincible and persevering energy without which the most brilliant qualities may be dribbled away in the lowest regions of endeavour—in the intrigues of a parish priest, or the simpering cunning of a lazarone. Salvator, too, was born at a period in the history of the Arts peculiarly unfavourable to the development of original power. Painting, at least in that part of the world, was producing its last masterpieces, applying rules but not creating them, and appealing to a public which had lost much of the taste and discrimination for which Italy had so long been celebrated. It is true that some of the most popular names of the second order in the history of Art belonged to men who flourished contemporary with Salvator Rosa. He obtained much of his practical knowledge in the school of the ferocious Ribera; and painted at Rome whilst Gaspard Poussin was in his highest glory. At that time lived the sombre and unfortunate Caravaggio, with Guido, Reni, and Domenichino; and the Flemish school (to which, in her exclusive admiration for the grand and beautiful, Lady Morgan, we may mention by the way, is hostile even to injustice and violence) was beginning to be fashionable in the south. But the great man of the age—he who secured the sympathy and bountiful patronage of Popes and princes—was Bernini, whose name is now only remembered as a symbol of successful mediocrity.

Although Salvator Rosa at the culminating point of his career came in contact with many of the artistic celebrities of that period, his life was a life apart from theirs. Almost a beggar at the outset, he became a man of the world, a poet, a satirist, almost a politician towards the close. He was born in the fifteenth year of the seventeenth century, and died in the seventy-third. His father was an artist, who, having been himself unsuccessful in that profession, feared that his son would also be so, and endeavoured to direct talents which early manifested themselves into channels where profit was more surely to be found. But Salvator possessed a genius for painting which may really be styled innate. Nothing could keep him from the exercise of the Art for which he was born; but the opposition he encountered prevented him from being placed regularly and at an early age in any established school, and forced him to go at once to the great school of nature. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that he never learned the rudiments of his art from others. He learned them, but piecemeal, and in a fragmentary manner; and was forced immediately to apply the knowledge he acquired to the representation of natural objects. For a long time he had no models but rocks and trees, or his own face in the glass; and it is traditionally asserted, that even when greater facilities were at his command, he never studied the human figure but from the reflexion of his own person.

We must refer the reader who wishes to refresh his memory on the details of this romantic life to the eloquent pages of Lady Morgan. He will there find them narrated with ornaments and amplifications derived from the writer's own experience of the scenes amidst which they occurred. The history of the famous *Giro* is an admirable instance of the creation of materials without the assistance of positive documents; and the inferences which Lady Morgan derives from it are in a great measure legitimate. In all the

works of this remarkable painter we feel the influence of his intimate association with the animated spectacles of nature. The storms he represents he has struggled with in person—the defiles he has trodden with a bold step—the forests he has explored—the brigands he has met and lived with—the vast horizons he has scanned with curious eye—the caverns he has sought refuge in from human or elemental anger. If this description be just, it is evident that Salvator Rosa created his own theories, and entirely separated himself from the traditional school. No one, indeed, will deny this fact, which may explain at once the disappointments of the early part of a career which became at last so splendid, though it was always disturbed by misfortune, whilst it accounts for much of the admiration of posterity.

Whatever be the estimate we come to, therefore, on the actual amount of his genius, Salvator Rosa is an artist who must always be appreciated apart. His name calls up ideas quite of a particular character, much removed from the common order of considerations which usually occupy us when we study the other artists of his period. In fact, as we have hinted, Salvator is in some sort not an artist of his own time, and must not be appreciated in the same manner. Doubtless we must rank him among the disciples of Il Spagnuolo; and it is easy to distinguish in his manner, in his execution, in his style of drawing, in the boldness of his touch, in the vigour of his effects, the transmission of the principles, the affections—and, we may add, the affectations—of a school which, though already declining in a marked manner, was still illustrated by some of the ablest and most sympathetic masters of Italian art. But he possesses an originality which separates him profoundly from his contemporaries, and brings him into marked communion with our Modern Art. Were it not for the undeniable strength and marked character of his works, it would be scarcely judicious to raise him to the rank of some of his emulators and immediate masters. Salvator has an enormous reputation; and a part of it may be attributed, as it is the fashion to attribute it, to his extraordinary temper, to the brilliant events in which he played a part, to the adventures of his life, to his accomplishments as a musician and a poet. But it is principally owing to the truly modern character of his talent. In his manner of interpreting external spectacles, in his landscapes, his marine pieces, his brigand scenes, and his battle scenes, he is so identified with the tastes and endeavours of those who followed him and have succeeded one another almost without interruption to the present day, that he touches more sensible chords, and becomes more often to his own advantage a type of comparison than he would have been in the absence of the particular character which we point out. By the side of Guercino Spagnuolo, Domenichino, Caravaggio, Calabrese, and even of Lanfranco, Salvator Rosa would not hold his rank as a Master. But it is not with these men that we should associate him. His aims and his impressions were not the same. He appears in all his greatness only if we compare him with succeeding artists whom he so strongly influenced, and who learned how to interpret nature—its spectacles and its dramas—in the way which he opened. Thus Salvator, placed side by side with the moderns who succeeded or recal him, appears as a man of transcendent merit, because in that immense

field of violent, strange, fantastical, savage, and unexpected scenes which he opened, and in which many artists of our days continue to follow him, he was enabled liberally, without costly efforts and without fatiguing and distracting application, to apply a science far superior to that of his modern disciples—a science which he derived from his education and apprenticeship in the old Italian school. He acquired all the practical ability of his contemporaries—was familiar with all their technical mysteries—and leaving the themes they loved to treat, or, rather, which public opinion compelled them, under pain of unpopularity, to treat, boldly determined to choose his own subjects. Of course the events of his chequered life, his romantic wanderings in part, but chiefly his fierce struggles with want, with public neglect, with private enmity, with calumny, with calamities brought about by his own rashness, not to speak of the noble association of his name with that of Masaniello, contributed to keep him in the path which he originally selected. But we may reasonably doubt whether his ability was of that order which would have enabled him to take place in the foremost rank in the great period of Italian Art. At any rate we think we class him truly as the initiator of the school which has been called Romantic, although this term is often suggestive of extravagance, of which he was never guilty. On the Continent his influence has been great, in England still greater. Most of his known pictures are within these realms; and his name is so familiar and so connected popularly with a particular class of representations, that it is almost impossible for a young writer to describe a wild scene without saying that "it was one which Salvator Rosa would have loved to paint." Those who employ the expression little know the bitter offence they are giving to the spirit of the great artist. Nothing disgusted him more than the supposition, however delicately hinted, that he was especially a painter of landscapes of a particular kind. He claimed to be equally powerful in History; and the critic is always ready to acknowledge that he judged himself more largely and correctly than the public. Some of his greatest compositions, which silenced calumny and opposition in his lifetime, were grand and historical. But he painted a group of conspirators, a charge of cavalry, or a sorceress holding communion with a king, on the same principles according to which he painted a tossing forest or an agitated sea. He always equally disregarded conventional types, traditional beauty, and that repose which is spread "like oil upon the waters" over the works of the Great Masters who preceded him, but which he did not displace, for he appealed to a new public, created to a certain extent the wants which he satisfied, and thus may be said to have enlarged the domain of Art. It would be too tedious to trace the course of the influence we have pointed out, but all acquainted with contemporary schools will be able to recognise it. Even in Lady Morgan's pages, the student who keeps this hint in mind, and who can separate loving enthusiasm from true criticism, will find ample justification of what we have advanced. He will be able to discern that Salvator Rosa is not the brilliant and fantastic exception which ardent admirers make him out to be, but simply the first and most remarkable man of a new, less august, but still admirable and not yet dethroned dynasty.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has appointed Messrs. Robert Cocks and Co., of New Burlington-street, London, music publishers to his Imperial Majesty.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS. CUST.—March 25, at 51, Upper Brook-street, the Lady Emma Cust; a son. WORTLEY.—March 21, at 3, Carlton-gardens, the Hon. Mrs. J. Stuart Wortley; a daughter. MARRIAGES. CARRUTHERS—HALES.—March 26, at the parish church, Tottenham, Major George Carruthers, Madras Army, to Harriette Emilie, second daughter of the late Alfred Hales, Esq., of Norton green Hall, Staffordshire. HOTHAM—RICH.—March 13, at the British Embassy, Dresden, Beaumont Williams Hotham, Esq., youngest son of the late Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir Henry Hotham, K.C.B., to Charlotte Amelia, the youngest daughter of Rear-Admiral Rich. DEATHS. DICK.—March 21, at Bedford, Paris Thomas Dick, M.D., son of the late General George Dick, H.E.I.C.S. of Clifton. MOLYNEUX.—March 23, at Croxteth, Lady Kathrine Molyneux, aged forty-seven. PROBY.—March 23, at Elton Hall, Northamptonshire, the Lady Frances Proby, aged sixty-seven.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 27. BANKRUPTS.—CHARLES, HENRY, GEORGE, and JOSEPH JOHN VINER, Brighton and Lewes, plumbers—JAMES CHURCHYARD, Brixton, builder—GEORGE TIDD, Coticote, Hertfordshire, corn dealer—MARK BOYD, New Bank-buildings, share broker—JAMES LORD, Caledonian-road, Islington, oilman—WILLIAM WILKINS, Aylesbury-street, Clerkenwell, licensed victualler—HENRY NATHANIEL BYLES, Gosport, brewer—PHILEMON EDWARDS, Lower-street, Islington, ironmonger—WILLIAM CORNISH, Great Thurlow, Suffolk, grocer—GEORGE BEESFORD, Portsmouth-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, and Wych-street, Strand, carver—GEORGE HOFFMAN, Clapham, brewer—ROBERT BARBOR, Deptford, rosin manufacturer—JAMES JONES, Birmingham, tailor—MORITZ GUMPEL COHN, Great-bridge, Staffordshire, pawnbroker—WILLIAM GIBSON, Alford, Lincolnshire, innkeeper—THOMAS HASTINGS IRWIN, Southport, sharobroker—JAMES HARGREAVES NUTTALL, Liverpool, merchant—JOHN HUGHES, Toxteth-Park, Lancashire, joiner. SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. BRUCE, Paisley, coal merchant—BANNERMAN and MORRIS, Glasgow, commission agents—ADDISON and STABLES, Keith, carriers—J. STRATHBURN, Glasgow, commission merchant—J. DICK, Glasgow, carter—J. JACK, Uddingston, Lanarkshire, grocer—W. W. MANSSELL, Glasgow, commission merchant—SMELLIE, BROTHERS, PATRICK, cartwrights.

Friday, March 30.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—JOHN PRICE, High-street, Newport, Monmouthshire, linen-draper. BANKRUPTS.—JOHN LAKER, son., Maidstone, Kent, builder—CHARLES KING WITT, New Sarum, Wiltshire, grocer—ISAAC HUGH WHITE HUNT, Red-hill, Reigate, builder—EDWARD HALE, Ware, fellmonger—DANIEL CULHANE, Dartford, apothecary—WILLIAM GEDRYEL, Wood-

field House, Llandaff, farmer—SAMUEL HARRIS ARMITAGE, Aldonbury, York, surgeon—ISAAC POCHIN, Leicester, jeweller—RICHARD UNDERWOOD, Leicester, hosier—CHARLES WARWICK, Highbury-place, Islington, warehouseman—EDWARD SPENCER, Coventry, builder—JOSEPH SAMUEL ARWIDSSON, Kingston-upon-Hull, ship-chandler—JAMES BUNNELL THOMPSON, Rotherham, Yorkshire, linen draper. SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ALEXANDER CHISHOLM, Lower Ardnagrask, Fort William, cattle dealer—J. and J. THOMSON, Paisley, bricklayers—JAMES MACDONALD, Banff, cabinet-maker—PETER STODDART, Dundee, boot and shoe maker—JAMES SUTHERLAND, Edinburgh, furniture dealer—JAMES ESSON, Edinburgh, tavern-keeper—AITKEN and DRUMMOND, Glasgow, merchants—WILLIAM RABBURN and Co., Union-street, Glasgow, drapers—BACHE, BALLANTYNE, and Co., Port Dundas, Glasgow, flint glass manufacturers.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, March 30, 1855. We are evidently in for another fortnight or more of doubt and anxiety about the Vienna conferences. The effect here has not been very perceptible. The great numbers of the moneyed world are, doubtless, tired of the war, when they see how it has been carried on, and are at present believing that we shall arrive at peace through the crooked gates of diplomacy—having virtually to confess that in the Crimea we are thoroughly worsted—want of able generals, want of heads everywhere—we had better stick to our money-grubbing, our more natural and genuine employment, than expose ourselves to the ridicule of Europe. We are to have peace, then Sebastopol will not be required to be dismantled, say the electric telegraph quidnuncs; by Midsummer, peace; and in this next month the visit of him whom the French have permitted to rule over them for a space. Consols will doubtless rise upon that gracious event. Without peace, a fresh loan, &c., &c., the funds must see a drop of 5 per cent. However, all the Government people cry peace, and so we are to have it. Turkish Six per Cents. have maintained a very firm position all the week, and much speculation going on. Heavy shares are slightly flatter. Crystal Palaces have experienced a considerable rise in anticipation of fine weather and the visit of Louis Napoleon, perhaps. There has been considerable animation in the foreign mining market. The accounts from Santiago mines in Cuba, and from the agent of United Mexican mines is very flattering; the latter association has received some thirty thousand dollars from the Mexican Government in right of an old debt, and have, moreover, come upon traces of a profitable vein of silver, perhaps the celebrated La Luz lode, lost now for many years. The contango on Turks was very heavy; the settling, on the whole, has gone off quietly. Consols close at four o'clock, 93½, 93½; Turkish, 80½, 81; Russian Fives, 99, 101. Caledonians, 62½, 63 x.d.; Eastern Counties, 11½, 11½; Great Northern, 88, 89; ditto, A stock, 72, 74; ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Western, 65½, 65½; London and Brighton, 97, 99; North Western, 99½, 100½; South-Western, 82, 84; Midlands, 70, 70½; North-Eastern, 71, 72; North Stafford, 44, 44 dis.; Oxford, 29, 30; South-Eastern, 60½, 61½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 84, 85; Eastern of Franco, 34½, 35; East

Indian, -2½, 2½ pm.; ditto Extension, 1½, 1½ pm.; Great Luxembourgs, 24, 23; Canada (West of) 17½, 18; Paris and Lyons, 22, 22½ pm.; Paris and Orleans, 27, 29 pm.; Paris and Rouen, 20, 22; Western of France, 5½, 6½ pm.; Agua Frias, 4, 4; Imperial Brazil 2½, 3½; Coceas, 2½, 3; St. John Del Rey, 29, 31; Linares, 7, 7½ x.d.; ditto, B., 2, 2½ pm.; Pontigibeaud, 15, 16; Santiago de Cuba, 6½, 7; United Mexican, 6½, 7; Peninsulas, 4 par; Australian Agricultural, 30, 31; Peel Rivers, 2½, 3; Canada Government Six per Cent. Bonds, 108½, 109; Crystal Palace, 3½, 3½; North British Australasian, 1, 1; Scottish Australian Investment, 1 pm. ½ pm.; South Australian Land, 36½, 37½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, March 30, 1855. THE arrivals of English Wheat, Barley, and Oats this week are very moderate, and quite trifling of Foreign Wheat. The trade in Wheat has been limited to the supply of immediate wants, buyers continuing to avoid new business as much as possible, while the issue of the pending negotiation continues doubtful. Last week's rates, however, are obtained for Foreign Wheat, and the little left over on Monday was sold on Wednesday, at better prices than could have been obtained on the former day, thus nearly recovering the decline from last week. Norfolk Flour sells slowly at 49s. to 49s. The value of Wheat f. o. b. in the Baltic and other Northern ports remains unaltered. There is also no change in the value of Wheat at New York nor in the French markets. Prices of Barley here have not improved in proportion to the advance which has taken place in the country, Notwithstanding exceedingly short supplies of English and Foreign Oats, and a total absence of Irish, the trade remains inanimate, and without any improvement in prices.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK. (CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	216
3 per Cent. Red. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	93	93	92½	93	93½
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93	93	93½
3½ per Cent. An. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cent. ....	.....	.....	78½	.....	80	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	225½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	.....	10	13	.....	13	.....
Ditto, under £1000	13	13	13	13	.....	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	6	9	9	9	9	6
Ditto, £500.....	6	.....	9	9	9	6
Ditto, Small.....	0	.....	7	9	9	6

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)	
Brazilian Bonds	102½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cnts.	53½
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	104½
Danish 3 per Cents.....	82½
Ecuador Bonds.....	3½
Mexican 3 per Cents.	20½
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. ....	.....
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	39½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. ....	...
Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents., 1862.....	99½
Russian 4½ per Cents. ....	.....
Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def.	16½
Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun.	61
Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	27½
Belgian 4½ per Cents.	64
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	64
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif ..	94

SIR HENRY BISHOP'S MUSIC—EXETER HALL.—In consequence of the great success which attended the Concert on Tuesday, a **SECOND** and **LAST EVENING CONCERT**, on the same extended scale, with complete Chorus of 200 Voices, will take place, under Sir Henry Bishop's personal superintendance, on **MONDAY, April 16.**—Mitchell's Royal Library, March 25.

ADAM and EVE.—This great original Work, by **JOSEPH VAN LEBENS**, IS NOW ON VIEW at 57, **PALL-MALL**, opposite Marlborough House, from Eleven to Six, Daily. Admission, One Shilling.

FITCH & SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON.
"We know of nothing more exquisitely delicious than a rasher of Fitch's Breakfast Bacon."—*Weekly Paper.*

Extracts from Correspondents' Letters.
"I cannot get any Breakfast Bacon like in quality to yours."

"When in London, I purchased at your establishment some very mild Wiltshire Bacon, which has been so highly approved of, that I wish you to send me a side of the same quality."

"Mr. — requests Messrs. Fitch and Son to send him a side of Bacon similar in every respect to the last."

"A good rasher of Breakfast Bacon, such as you supply, is not to be obtained in our district."

"I was so pleased with the Bacon you sent, that I recommended it to every person I knew to be in need of such an article."

"Sir J. L. — has the pleasure to enclose a post-office order.—The goods have arrived safely, and given perfect satisfaction."

This celebrated Bacon is sold by the side and half-side at 8d. per lb.; the middle piece, of 12 lbs., at 9d. per lb.; and other separate pieces.

Bacon, Hams, Tongues, German Sausages, Cheese, Butter, &c., securely packed for travelling, and delivered free of charge at all the London Terminals.

List of Prices free. See also Daily Papers. Prepayment is requested where a reference is not sent with the order for goods.

FITCH AND SON,
Provision Merchants and Importers,
No. 66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.
(Established 1784.)

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 **BEVALENTA ARABICA FOOD**, which saves fifty times its cost in medicine.

A few out of more than 50,000 cures are given. Cure No. 71, of dyspepsia, from the Right Hon. the **LORD STUART DE DECIES**:

"I have derived considerable benefit from Du Barry's Bevalenta Arabica Food, and consider it due to yourselves and the public to authorise the publication of these lines."
"STUART DE DECIES."

From the **DOWAGER-COUNTESS of CASTLE-STUART**:
Cure 52,692.—"Rosstrevor, County of Down, Ireland, 9th December, 1854.—The Dowager-Countess of Castle-Stuart feels induced, in the interest of suffering humanity, to state that Du Barry's excellent Bevalenta Arabica Food has cured her, after all medicines had failed, of indigestion, bile, great nervousness and irritability of many years' standing. This Food deserves the confidence of all sufferers, and may be considered a real blessing. Inquiries will be cheerfully answered."

Cure No. 49,832.—"Fifty years' indescribable agony from dyspepsia, nervousness, asthma, cough, constipation, flatulency, spasms, sickness at the stomach, and vomiting, have been removed by Du Barry's excellent food."

"**MARIA JOLLY**, Worthing, Ling, near Diss, Norfolk."

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; 49, Bishopsgate-street; 4, Cheapside; 330 and 451, Strand; 55, Charing-cross.

DR. DE JONGH'S 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:—
THE LATE JONATHAN PEREIRA, M.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor at the University of London, Author of "The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics," &c. &c.

"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."

Sold in bottles, labelled with Dr. de Jongh's stamp and signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by **ANSAR, HARBORD, and CO., 77, STRAND**, London. Dr. de Jongh's sole accredited Consignees and Agents for the United Kingdom and the British Possessions.

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

Half-pints (10 ounces), 2s. 6d.; Pints (20 ounces), 4s. 9d., Quarts (40 ounces), 9s. **IMPERIAL MEASURE.**

CHUBB'S LOCKS, with all the recent improvements. Strong Fire-proof Safes, Cash and Deed Boxes. Complete lists of sizes and prices may be had on application.

CHUBB and SON, 57, St. Paul's Churchyard, London; 28, Lord-street, Liverpool; 16, Market-street, Manchester; and Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton.

HOBBS' PATENT AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LOCKS.

MESSRS. HOBBS, ASHLEY, and Co. are now manufacturing their celebrated **AMERICAN and ENGLISH LOCKS** on the Premises, 97, CHEAPSIDE, and 33, LAWRENCE-LANE, LONDON; where by the introduction of their Patent Steam Machinery, they are enabled to guarantee **SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP**, combined with greater security, at a moderate price, than in any Locks produced, either in Town or Country.

EVERY LOCK being made and finished at the **MANUFACTORY** is **WARRANTED**, and bears **THEIR OWN STAMP**, without which none are genuine.

These Locks can be procured by order through any respectable Ironmonger in the United Kingdom, or at the **WAREHOUSE**, as above, **WHOLESALE and RETAIL.**

MILNER'S PATENT FIRE & BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES, fitted with **HOBBS' PATENT POWDER-PROOF LOCKS**, form the Strongest Safeguards against Fire and Robbery; they are made of various dimensions, adapted for the security of Money, Plate, and important Documents, Parish Registers, &c. List of prices and dimensions can be had on application to **HOBBS, ASHLEY, and CO.**

Wholesale and Retail Warehouses, 97, Cheapside; and 33, Lawrence-lane, London.

MESSRS. SHOOLBRED AND BRADSHAW, 34, Jernyn-street, PATENTEES, Manufacturers of every description of **ELASTICAL SURGICAL BANDAGES**, as recommended by all the most eminent surgeons, in acknowledging the very extensive support they have received, beg to call attention to the various improvements they are making in patent Elastic Stockings, Knee Caps, Socks, and Ladies and Gentlemen's Spine Supporters. A new description of Belt, invaluable for prevention of Cholera and the cure of Rheumatism, Lumbago, &c. N.B. Every description of India-rubber Bandages vulcanised on the newest principle.

THE 16s. Trousers reduced to 14s.—Trousers and Waistcoat, 22s.—Coat, Waistcoat, and Trousers, 47s., made to order from Scotch Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrunk.

THE TWO GUINEA DRESS or FROCK COAT, the Guinea Dress Trousers, and the Half-Guinea Waistcoat, made to order by **B. BENJAMIN**, Merchant Tailor, 74, Regent-street. For quality, style, and workmanship, cannot be equalled by any house in the kingdom.
N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

ADNAM'S Improved Patent Groats and Barley.

THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT,
And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.—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.

A report having been circulated that preparations of so white a character could not be produced from Groats and Barley alone, the Patentees have had recourse to the highest authority for an analysis to establish the fact, a copy of which is subjoined:—

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.**
"Messrs. J. and J. C. ADNAM and Co."

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 3s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Drug-gists, &c., in Town and Country.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH.

MR. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST, 52, FLEET-STREET, has introduced an **ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH**, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.
52, FLEET-STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

DEAFNESS AND SINGING NOISES.—

Instant relief by **Dr. HOGHTON'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. Houghton**, 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.

Just published, **Self-Cure of Deafness**, for country patients—a stop to empiricism, quackery, and exorbitant fees—sent on receipt of seven stamps, free.

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Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS**, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 3, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of **FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY**, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 2l. 14s. to 5l. 10s.; ditto with ornolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 5l. 10s. to 12l. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 3l.; Steel Fenders from 2l. 15s. to 6l.; ditto, with rich ornolu ornaments, from 2l. 15s. to 7l. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 4l. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges—

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

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	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s.	26s.	32s.
Dessert Forks	30s.	40s.	46s.
Dessert Spoons	30s.	42s.	48s.
Table Forks	40s.	56s.	64s.
Table Spoons	40s.	58s.	66s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto	5s.	11s.	12s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has **TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS** devoted to the show of **GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY** (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japan wares, iron and brass bedsteads and bedding), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

CABINET FURNITURE, CARPETS, CURTAINS, and PURIFIED BEDDING.—The general reduction in price of the above-named articles have induced **MESSRS. HOWITT and CO.** to increase considerably the stock in their various Show-Rooms and Galleries. They respectfully invite public attention to the largest and most varied assemblage of **FURNITURE** in the Kingdom, in **ROSEWOOD, WALNUT, and MAHOGANY**, and all of modern Manufacture. English and Foreign Damasks, Tapestry, Brussels and Kidderminster Carpets, in great variety, and reduced from last year's prices. Bedsteads in Brass, Iron, Walnut, Birch, and Mahogany, with Spring and French mattresses, are fitted up in a room set apart for that purpose. References to all parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies. All goods marked in plain figures throughout the entire range of the *ground floor, show-rooms, and galleries*: any article selected changed if not approved of. Books of Estimates sent free upon application, and all orders in England delivered in their own vans. **HOWITT and Co.**, Albion House, 226, 227, 228, 229, and 230, High Holborn.

BENNETT'S MODEL WATCH.
In gold cases from 10 guineas. In silver cases from 5 guineas.
Every watch is skilfully examined, timed, and its performance guaranteed.
BENNETT, WATCH MANUFACTURER,
65, CHEAPSIDE.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing Warehouses. Established A.D. 1700. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post.
DEANE, DRAY, and CO. (Opening to the Monument), London-bridge.

BUY OF THE MAKERS—BRUSHES, COMBS, and BROOMS, of every description, whether for the dressing-table, household, or stable use, 30 per cent. lower than any other house in the trade, at the manufacturers, **J. and J. WITHERS**, 36, Tottenham-court-road (opposite Bedford-street, Bedford-square).—Warranted tooth brushes, 3d.; superior ditto, 4d.; the best that can be made, 6d. each.—N.B. The lowest price asked and no abatement.

TEETH.—By Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent.—Newly-invented and Patented application of chemically-prepared White and Gum-coloured India-rubber in the construction of **ARTIFICIAL TEETH**, Gums, and Palates.—**Mr. EPHRAIM MOSELY**, Surgeon-Dentist, Sole Inventor and Patentee.—A new, original, and invaluable invention, consisting in the adaptation, with the most absolute perfection and success, of **CHEMICALLY-PREPARED INDIA RUBBER** as a lining to the ordinary gold or bone frame. The extraordinary results of this application may be briefly noted in a few of their most prominent features:—All sharp edges are avoided, no springs, wires, or fastenings are required, a greatly increased freedom of suction is supplied, a natural elasticity hitherto unattainable, and a fit, perfected with the most unerring accuracy, is secured, while from the softness and flexibility of the agent employed, the greatest support is given to the adjoining teeth when loose or rendered tender by the absorption of the gums. To be obtained only at
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14, Gay-street, Bath.
10, Eldon-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SCRIPTURE-READERS TO THE SEAT OF WAR. SOLDIERS' FRIEND and ARMY SCRIPTURE-READERS' SOCIETY.

PATRONS: The Right Hon. the Lord E. GROSVENOR, M.P. The Right Hon. the Earl of CARLISLE, K.G. The Right Hon. the Earl of KINTORE. The Viscount EBBINGTON, M.P.

PRESIDENT.—The Rev. Dr. Marsh. Offices, 14 and 15, Exeter Hall, Strand, London.

The Committee feel it a duty due to themselves and to the Christian public to state, that encouraged by the liberality of the friends of the soldier, they have considerably extended the line of their operations; and from the deeply interesting reports (several of which have been recently printed and widely circulated) which they are constantly receiving from their agents, it is evident that the Lord is working by them and with them, and thus crowning their needful and arduous labours with a large measure of success.

For the spiritual and eternal benefit of the brave and beloved defenders of our country (in humble dependence on the Divine blessing), there are now actively employed under the auspices of this Society, nineteen Scripture-readers. And the Committee would entertain the hope that this number may yet further be augmented if this appeal is liberally responded to, seeing that the supply is far from being still adequate with the wide and yet widening field of labour which is presenting itself on every side.

The following are the several departments of labour occupied in this Christian enterprise. One agent is actively and usefully employed in visiting the Barracks in London, Westminster, and the surrounding Military Depôts. One is engaged among the Militia in London, and its vicinity, who will also visit the wives and families of the Soldiers. It is also the intention of the Committee, as promptly as possible, to mature certain plans for the employment of a Scripture-reader at Aldershot, during the great encampment, which is likely for some months to be located there. There are also one agent in Kent, one in Dorsetshire, occupied among the Militia, one in the West of England, one in Yorkshire, one missionary to the Russian prisoners at Plymouth and elsewhere, one in Scotland, and one in Ireland.

On foreign service—there are eight at Constantinople and Scutari. Two of these are clergymen of the Church of England, one of whom chiefly directs his attention to the spiritual instruction of the Protestants in the French Army. One is at Balaklava. And the Committee have much pleasure in stating that they have also just appointed a Scripture-reader to labour among the thousands of Military at Malta, under the auspices of the Rev. W. Hare, the Garrison Chaplain.

A series of small and interesting publications, especially adapted to the thoughts and habits of the soldiery, have been prepared, and gratuitously and widely circulated by all the agents at their various spheres of labour, at home and abroad. Also, an interesting magazine, entitled "The Sentinel," is published every alternate month, and gratuitously circulated, and cordially accepted by the Soldiers.

Having before them so extensive and inviting a field of labour, the Committee confidently present the religious claims of this Society to continued and increased support before all those who profess to feel the vast value of immortal souls. They therefore most respectfully, yet most earnestly, entreat their friends, and the public at large, in no degree to relax their efforts (for the claims on the Committee are great and urgent), but rather still more effectively than before to aid them in this great and important enterprise, by their Christian sympathies, and, above all, by their united and fervent prayers for a still larger measure of the Divine blessing on their several labours, at home and abroad.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED SINCE LAST ADVERTISEMENT.—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Ed. Pelly, Esq., Green, Esq., Mr. R. D. Wright, Mrs. Baird, Rev. K. A. Digby, A. Thank-offering, Rev. J. Hopkins, W. J. Maxwell, Esq., Rev. W. E. Molesworth, Mrs. Walton, Miss E. R. Gilbert, Friends, per H. Helm, Esq., Friend to Soldiers, Per Rev. J. E. Daniel, Sawston Vicarage, A Friend, Rev. J. Singleton, H. Y. Collier, Esq., Mr. Collier, Rev. W. Bret, Thomas Evans, Esq., Small Sums, Per Miss Marsh, Miss Carr, Miss Walker, A. Few Friends, per Miss Francis, Rev. T. Whalley, Miss Maxwell, O. G., Miss Ibbetson, Miss Munday, Mrs. M. Sutton, J. Heclas, Esq., Miss Chapman, Miss E. Chapman, Friends at Glasgow, per Mr. Hall, Arthur Oakes, Esq.

The thanks of the Committee are presented to the following friends for valuable donations of books and tracts:—Rev. J. E. Dalton, Miss Gent, Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. Bodkin, and the English Monthly Tract Society.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. Burns, Esq., 17, Porteus-road, Paddington; by the Secretary, Mr. William A. Blake, at the Offices, 14 and 15, Exeter Hall; by Rev. Dr. Marsh, Beckenham; by Messrs. Nisbet, Berners-street, Oxford-street; Lieutenant Blackmore, 0, Seymour-place, New-road; by the Bankers, Royal British Bank, 429, Strand; and at the Offices of the "Record" and "Christian Times."

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS: Is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 225, Piccadilly, London.

CLASSIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARI-COSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING of the LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 5s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

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Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847. The Court of Directors grant LETTERS OF CREDIT and BILLS upon the Company's Bank at ADELAIDE at PAR. Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection: Business with the Australian colonies generally conducted through the Bank's Agents. Apply at the Company's Offices, 54, Old Broad-street, London. WILLIAM PURDY, Manager. London, March, 1855.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

39, Throgmorton-street, Bank. Chairman—THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman. Deputy-Chairman—WILLIAM LEAT, Esq. Richard E. Arden, Esq. Edward Bates, Esq. Thomas Campline, Esq. James Clift, Esq. J. Humphrey, Esq., Ald. Rupert Ingleby, Esq. Thomas Kelly, Esq., Ald. Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq. Lewis Pocock, Esq.

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The Premiums are on the lowest scale consistent with security. The assured are protected by an ample subscribed capital—an Assurance Fund of nearly 400,000*l.*, invested on mortgage and in the Government Stocks—and an income of 80,000*l.* a year.

Table with 5 columns: Age, One Year, Seven Years, With Profits, Without Profits. Rows for ages 20, 30, 40, 50, 60.

MUTUAL BRANCH:

Assurers on the Bonus system are entitled at the end of five years, and afterwards annually, to participate in four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the profits. The profit assigned to each policy can be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be received in cash.

At the first division a return of 20 per cent. in cash on the premiums paid was declared; this will allow a reversionary increase varying according to age from 66 to 28 per cent. on the premiums, or from 5 to 15 per cent. on the sum assured.

One-half of the "Whole Term" Premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one-third of the Premium may remain for life as a debt upon the Policy at 5 per cent., or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in one month after proofs have been approved.

- Loans upon approved security. No charge for Policy stamps. Medical attendants paid for their reports. Persons may proceed to or reside in any part of Europe or British North America without extra charge. The medical officers attend every day at Throgmorton-street at a quarter before two o'clock. E. BATES, Resident Director.

CRAUFURD HOUSE CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, AND CHEMICAL SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

MR. PEARCE has pleasure in announcing that the increase of his pupils has led to extensive alterations and enlargement in Craufurd House, combining every arrangement for convenience, comfort, and health. During nine years medical attendance has been required once. The various branches of polite and useful learning are taught in the most approved, expeditious, and effective methods. Discipline is maintained and good habits are formed by careful training and vigilant superintendence. The pupils speak French constantly, many as easily as English. German is spoken. There are Singing and Drawing classes. A band of Music is being formed. Science is taught experimentally. The younger pupils are under special and appropriate management. The vigour, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm, in cricket, gymnastics, swimming, daily rambles, and frequent excursions into the neighbouring country, attest the scope and encouragement afforded to the development of boyish feelings and physical strength. The terms are from 30*l.* to 40*l.*, per annum. References of the highest respectability will be sent on application.

ITALIAN AND FRENCH LANGUAGES.

MR. ARRIVABENE, D.L.L., from the University of Padua, who has been established in London for three years, gives private lessons in Italian and French at his own house, or at the house of his pupils. He also attends Schools both in town and country. Mr. ARRIVABENE teaches on a plan thoroughly practical, and the most mediocre mind cannot fail to thoroughly comprehend his lessons. Apply by letter to Mr. ARRIVABENE, No. 4, St. Michael's-place, Brompton.

AMERICAN SANSAPARILLA.

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