

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1855.

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News of the Week.

COULD we publish an *Itinéraire de Gotha*, with a supplement for the movements of persons unrecognised by that distinguished record, we might have a summary of the events this week, in relating the adventures of the knights-errant of the world, crowned and uncrowned. The Emperor ALEXANDER has a route laid down for him to the Crimea, whither, it is said, he intends to repair, either to learn the incredible fact with his own eyes that his troops have been defeated, to animate them with his presence, or to superintend their retraction.

The actual state of the Russian army in the Crimea can, perhaps, be better estimated by a calculation of what it *must* be, than by our reports. The rumours are perfectly contradictory: it is said that GORTSCHAKOFF intends to maintain his position, and that he intends to retreat; that he counts upon wasting the Allies in a Parthian warfare, and that he has positively asked leave to retire "with the honours of war." The choice does not remain with himself. His position is actually untenable: he has not the means of extending his defence, as he had while he had the south of Sebastopol in his possession; he is more separated from LIPRANDI than he was then. It would be so easy to cut him off, that on the first signs of such an attempt, he must effect a junction with LIPRANDI, and must retreat from his present position; and as soon as he retreats, he leaves the whole of Sebastopol at the mercy of the Allies. He can then only expect to maintain a retiring fight through the Crimea. The public signs—from Lord PALMERSTON visiting the arsenal at Woolwich to the vast preparation of the French Government for sending out reinforcements—indicate that the Allies intend to pursue him. In the meanwhile, we have the earliest despatches giving the details of the bombardment at its commencement, and we are able to estimate in some degree of magnitude, the awful intensity, and the continuance of that which GORTSCHAKOFF calls a "*feu d'enfer*," although he was "safe within Sebastopol," it slew his men in one day at the rate of more than a hundred an hour. A hundred an hour, night and day, was a loss sufficient to teach GORTSCHAKOFF that he must retreat; retreat he did, and retreat he will.

The Czar's friend and cousin, the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH, has at present been doing his

travelling by proxy—that is, he has remained still, but he has summoned Count BUOL to a special conference at Ischl; while the Secretary of the French Legation at Naples has been summoned to Vienna, no doubt specially to enlighten his chiefs on the actual state of affairs at Naples. The report of the Secretary must have been bad enough. Austria has managed, with more or less tact, to maintain a quiet neutral position, one technically in alliance with the Western Powers, but practically securing for herself an inactive attitude and the forbearance of Russia. The Emperor intends to defend his position with force, as we learn by the movements of his armies; and that he means to resist any pressure in Northern Italy we learn by the fortifications with which he has strengthened Verona, Pola, and other great stations. How exasperated then must he be to learn, through his secretary, that the KING OF NAPLES has drawn upon himself the positive intervention of the Western Powers, by irritating and ill-treating even their official representatives. Travellers from France have been annoyed by police persecutions of the most insulting and inconvenient kind. English travellers from Paris are warned that they may have difficulties if they enter the Neapolitan States. In short, King BOMBA perseveres in maintaining a great scandal, risking the peace which Austria desires to preserve in Italy, and provoking England to threaten force. He attempts an apology, and it is insufficient; and he has the double humiliation of being compelled, after shuffling, to dismiss the police director who insulted the British *attaché*. It is, however, far from likely that his troubles have yet ceased. He cannot prevent his police from showing the malignant qualities of the vermin they are, and it is probable that he would have persevered in his mad burlesque of magnanimous defiance, after the Russian fashion, if the example of the reverse sustained by Russia in the field of Sebastopol had not been proclaimed in Italy.

Proclaimed and received by the people everywhere—in Naples, Florence, Rome, Milan, we need not say in the Sardinian States—with a delight more or less disguised, but everywhere unmistakable.

In the meanwhile, Prince LUCIEN MURAT, who has been designated King of Naples, has wandered, not to his future capital, but to Glasgow; where he has been promoting the advancement of science as a member of the British Association.

It seems that he is more in his duty there than in Naples; for NAPOLEON gives him no license to be King of Southern Italy; SALICETI cannot speak for Naples, and eminent Italians decidedly disclaim MURAT. The most remarkable disclaimer comes from MANIN, who proclaims himself "faithful to the idea of independence and unity for Italy," and avows that if Italy be to have a King, the only possible monarch is VICTOR EMMANUEL of Sardinia!

That VICTOR EMMANUEL is about to arrive in Paris as a guest and fellow-councillor, and is coming on to receive in England the popular proofs of the universal esteem in which he is held. There is movement and change enough indicated for Italy, even in the few words that we have just penned!

Another visitor in Paris is a sovereign, SAYD PACHA of Egypt; who comes surrounded by a staff, the greater number of whom are French officers with Mussulman names and Cairo employments. The descendant of the old Macedonian who rose to be Pacha of Egypt, and tried to cut the connexion with the master that promoted him, meant to make a market of his journey; resolved, like other crowned heads, to get what he can on the resettlement of Europe—if there is to be a resettlement. SAYD sets out on his journey in a hurry—rushes to sea before all his officers can pursue him, arrives at Marseilles, and then—takes his passage home again. Was he not welcome? Had he orders from Napoleon to return? Who can say? It is as impossible to divine the motives of an Eastern potentate as to calculate his path.

Two other foreign princes are on their travels in this country. Prince NAPOLEON of France is journeying about from seaport to arsenal, from arsenal to harbour, seeing the lions and collecting information. As yet, however, the Prince has not presented himself at Court.

Another Prince has done so—FREDERICK WILLIAM, nephew to King FREDERICK WILLIAM IV. of Prussia, and son to the PRINCE OF PRUSSIA. Popular report says that the Prussian Prince comes to ask the hand of our PRINCESS ROYAL, a girl not yet fifteen years of age; and it is fully expected that the eldest daughter of Queen VICTORIA will be devoted to effect an alliance of our throne with that of Prussia. A "dear daughter" is to marry into the family of our nearest ally.

Very different from the objects and hopes which

move the illustrious travellers which we have mentioned—different even from the necessities that call out the CZAR—are the reasons that have again sent SANTA ANNA on his travels. Mexico will not have him; and probably she is right. Yet Mexico, not long since, led SANTA ANNA to believe that he was the very man whom she desired. He had retired from the Republic before, getting away, under some difficulty, with his property and his wife. He was followed by the importunities of the Mexicans, who seduced him from his retired ease, persuaded him to resume possession of power, and manifestly encouraged him to render that power dictatorial. Of course there are always "three courses" to be pursued, even in the most subversive of countries; and in Mexico there were three. A President of strong will and virtue might induce the Republicans to assemble the Congress; might put down any faction or fanaticism which should lead that Congress from its purpose; and might assist the whole nation in declaring its will. A despot of Napoleonic power might have prepared a great intrigue—might have accomplished a *coup d'état*—and, by a sufficiently clever treatment of the army, might have rendered his power absolute, dictatorial, and imperial. SANTA ANNA wanted either the honesty or the strength for either course, and he attempted a compromise. He corrupted the army; he crowded the civil service with his own nominees; but somehow he did not manage to appropriate the civil service nor the army. He still left room for the malcontents. His own *employés* were perhaps unfaithful, as soon as they got out of him what he could give; and not having strength enough to appropriate a majority to himself, he had yet sufficient strength to irritate a majority into existence against him. The curse of Mexico is its division into parties so little competent for real business, so self-seeking that they can only unite against any one, and cannot combine for any purpose of positive good. They can expel SANTA ANNA; they constitute a really effective Government. He never yet has succeeded in rendering his power firm and paramount; he is most successful in escaping again with property as well as life.

In Bengal, SINDU comes before his countrymen with higher testimonials than SANTA ANNA, for he has a divine mission. It seems that the hill tribe in Bengal, whose eruption we have already noticed, has been partly moved to this revolutionary attempt at redressing its wrongs by the enlightenment of Christianity. The gospel of St. John has been circulated amongst the people. It has suggested new ideas, or rather it has furnished them with an authoritative form for reviving some of their old ideas, adapted to the new dispensation, and they profess that SINDU is at once a missionary and an incarnation of divine power destined to be victorious. He is to make war on "the Sahibs," or Lords, that is, the rulers of India; and is to establish a monarchy of the Santals in their own territory. We have had examples of similar outbreaks in countries not so distant as China, and SINDU is not very different from an Indian THOM or COMENAR. The Santals appear to have insurrectionary predominance within a district comprising, it is said, about a hundred square miles; they have attacked villages, and killed thousands of people, besides destroying factories. They are strong enough to occasion some cost in putting them down.

At home, the great companies are at the bar of public opinion. A true bill has been found against STRAHAN, PAUL, and Co.; but they traverse to next session of the Central Criminal Court. CROSSLEY, the engine-driver who dashed into a train near Reading, slaying several people, and committing suicide, has been pronounced by a coroner's jury to bear the blame of that crime.

It was shown at the inquest that the most culpable laxity prevailed: the switchman, who ought to have turned the switches, was at tea; the station-master, who ought to have given instructions to CROSSLEY, was at tea; and the usage appears to have sanctioned a pervading neglect of rules and regulations. The administration that has such bloody results is the true culprit, and the Company is held by the public to be really answerable.

The Worcester magistrates have been enforcing Christianity. We know that the simple words will look like a joke; for when we talk of county magistrates and Christianity, it almost follows that there must be something absurd in the story. And so there is. NATHANIEL WILLIAMS is a poor man living near Worcester; he has a small plot of ground, which he cultivates in his leisure hours, like the negroes in the West Indies. On the 26th of August, the day being Sunday, he saw that if he did not cut his grain the weather or the birds would do it for him; and he cut it. This is a breach of the Sunday Trading Law, and for it he is brought before the Worcester magistrates, who find thus his crime must be quoted at 5s. fine and 12s. 6d. costs. Thus 17s. 6d. worth of offensiveness had he committed before God and man in saving so much of corn. If, indeed, he had been cleaning boots for a magistrate all day, or driving horses for ditto in the intervals between church, or drawing corks out of bottles for four hours after dinner, he would have been performing "a work of necessity;" but if he cuts corn on the seventh day, to the extent of two and a half perches, it is estimated that he must pay damages to an offended Creator to the extent of 17s. 6d.! That is the Worcester view of Christianity; and certainly it is of a kind which makes us blush, if we have sneered at the Santals.

THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT READING.—The inquest on the bodies of the sufferers by this calamity was concluded on Monday, when the jury returned a verdict, finding Joseph Crossley guilty of manslaughter in regard to the deaths of the persons named in the inquest, and that said Joseph Crossley did kill and slay himself. To this verdict, the jury added a suggestion that a switchman should be regularly appointed to attend to the signals and points connected with the railway station.—The evidence fully corroborated the accounts originally given of the singular carelessness of Crossley. "All the danger signals," said a witness, one of the porters, "were up; but Crossley did not stop, or pay any regard to them. Even had a switchman been at his post to arrange the points, it would have been impossible to direct the engine on to another line, it was coming on so fast." There were no regular switchmen previous to the accident, but the porters acted as such. It was the duty of Crossley, when he saw the danger signals, which he must have passed, to stop and communicate with the station-master; but he did not do so. He likewise violated the rules in not announcing his departure to the station-master, who would thereupon have telegraphed the fact to the next station; and in omitting to light the lamps. Mr. Thew, the station-master, expressed his opinion to the jury, that, by the present arrangement, the safety of the public is sufficiently protected; but he could not say that a switchman, with no other duties to perform, would not add to the security. An appointment of this nature has been made since the accident. Mr. Thew was at tea at the time of Crossley's departure, and he has been blamed for sending him a telegraphic message to get out the engine; but he appears to have relied on Crossley reporting himself before his departure, while the latter seems to have taken the message for an order to start immediately. A correspondent of the *Times* says the danger-post is six hundred yards from the Reading station, and that there were but two or three porters to attend to the whole of this line.—Since our last publication, another of the injured passengers has died, making in all five deaths. The other cases are going on favourably.

CONSECRATION OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP.—The Right Rev. W. Vaughan, D.D., was elevated to the titular see of Plymouth on Monday morning, at the Church of the Holy Apostles, Clifton. Cardinal Wiseman officiated as the consecrator, assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, Roman Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, and the Right Rev. Dr. Brown, Roman Catholic Bishop of Newport. The ceremony was very elaborate, and the church was thronged, both with Roman Catholics and Protestants. In the evening, a sermon was preached by the Rev. H. E. Manning, late an archdeacon of the English Church.

THE WAR.

THE flood of important news which poured in upon us last week has been succeeded by an ebb—by an almost total cessation of telegraphic despatches from the confederated armies; so that we are left in the dark as to what will be the next step, either of the Allies or of the enemy. As usual during these lulls, there has been no want of guessing; the most noticeable of the rumours being that the Russians are retiring upon Perekop. The story comes through Vienna, and goes so far as to say that "the Russian Embassy received intelligence that the Russian troops were retreating from Baktchi-Serai and Simpheropol to Perekop," and that "Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, was greatly affected at the news." This intelligence, however, if received by the Embassy at all, was received on Monday; and nothing more has transpired on the subject. On the other hand, it is said that the Russians have no intention of abandoning the southern half of Sebastopol, but that they are moving up reinforcements and constructing new forts. Other rumours again state that the north fort has been abandoned by the Russians; that the whole of the forts have been evacuated, and that Pelissier's plans are of such a nature that 20,000 Russians will be made prisoners by the Allies. It is probable, however, that, up to the present moment, the situation remains pretty much the same as that which immediately supervened upon the reduction of the town. That some hot work has yet to come seems likely; and the French are providing against all contingencies by sending off large reinforcements. Preparations are being made at Marseilles for the embarkation of 10,000 horses; the gendarmes of the Guard have left Maslek; and Admiral Bruat has caused Taman and Fanagoria, in front of Yeni-Kaleh, to be occupied by 1200 Allied seamen.

That the Allies did not find in the abandoned town "nothing but blood-stained ruins," is manifest from the annexed despatch from Marshal Pelissier, dated "Sebastopol, Sept. 17th."—

"In their work of destruction, the enemy respected the docks (which are magnificent constructions), the establishments in the vicinity, the barracks of Fort Nicholas, and the Quarantine Fort.

"The Anglo-French Commission appointed to draw up a return of the *matériel* left by the Russians at Sebastopol has commenced its labours. The result may be summarily stated as follows:—

"We have found in the town about 4000 cannon, 50,000 cannon balls, a few hollow projectiles, a large quantity of grape, a great amount of gunpowder (despite the explosions), 500 anchors (half of which are excellent), 25,000 kilogrammes of copper, two steam engines of 30-horse power, and a considerable number of masts sawn in two for defensive purposes (blind-ages)."

A communication, dated the following day, states that the French Generals and superior officers wounded are doing as well as can be expected.

Gortschakoff, writing on the evening of September 11th, says:—

"We have blown up a great part of the fortifications of the southern part of Sebastopol. The enemy begins to appear in (not very numerous) groups amidst the ruins of the town. We have transported to the north part of the place all the wounded who remained in the southern part after its evacuation.

These wounded were probably the five hundred who, according to a previous account, were left behind. The French General, it would seem, had given permission for their removal.

Some idea of the tragical nature of the Russian losses during the bombardment may be gathered from a despatch sent by General Gortschakoff on the 8th, and published in the *Journal de St. Petersburg*:—

"The enemy receives nearly every day new reinforcements. The bombardment continues with unexampled violence. Our loss has been more than 2500 men in the last twenty-four hours."

It is indeed evident that the Russians have suffered frightfully, notwithstanding the confident denial of Count Nesselrode and others. The *Cologne Gazette* publishes a letter from St. Petersburg, which gives a very gloomy account of the condition of the enemy in the Crimea. The writer says:—

"The stores of the Government of Kherson are completely exhausted since commercial vessels have ceased to bring, by the Sea of Azof, corn from the fertile countries of the Don. It is now necessary to bring from Perekop the forage for the animals employed in transports, and even the water which they require; for there is no forage in the Crimea, and the springs are dried up. The Salghir has become quite a little rivulet. The crop of potatoes has also failed, and the price has risen more than threefold. Vegetation is everywhere withered, and the price of corn is constantly on the rise at Simpheropol."

The testimony of a writer from Kamiesch may be added to the foregoing:—

"Since the battle of the Tchernaya, the Russians have received a reinforcement of 30,000 militiamen; but these troops, which are weak, uninstructed, and not inured to war, are decimated by disease, privations, and fatigue. The old regiments of the garrison of Sebastopol are so reduced that there are scarcely fifty of each left. In the town 27,000 sailors have dwindled down to 3000, despairing and worn out."

Kars is still invested by a corps of cavalry, numbering eight thousand men. General Mouravieff occupies the defile of Soghanli-Dagh. The supplies of food in the town are not yet nearly exhausted, and a telegraphic despatch says that fresh provisions have been thrown in; but, unless the place be relieved, it is clear that they must in time come to an end. The Russians, some time about the middle of August, made a reconnaissance, and inadvertently exposed themselves to fire. It is said that in this affair they lost a General (Koukoleffski), a colonel (Talgrane), five captains, and two hundred men. The Russians are thought not to contemplate an attack, but to be bent upon reducing the place by famine. For the relief of the town, it is proposed to draw 20,000 men from the Crimea (to be replaced by the Turkish Contingent), and 5000 from the Danube, so as to make up an Asiatic army of 70,000 men, including those already there. Omar Pacha is expected to land at Redout-Kaleh. Cholera is raging at Erzeroum.

Russian accounts from Tiflis state that new troops have arrived there "from Orenburg," and the army of the Caucasus is asserted to be at this moment in so high a state of efficiency that an expedition to Batoum is talked of, and it is said that Prince Bebutoff has reinforced the corps at Achaltzik and ordered it to march thither.

The Vienna *Fremden Blatt* asserts that the Russians have concluded another armistice with Schamyl for the term of six months.

Whether the war is to continue on a still more extended field, or whether the partial reduction of Sebastopol will precipitate a peace, is of course doubtful for the present. But already rumours are flying up and down that Austria has signified her willingness to undertake once more the work of mediation, and has proposed fresh Conferences at Vienna. France, it is added, has consented to negotiate, but only at Paris. The demands of the Allies, we are assured, are still very moderate, and the original programme has been retained, with the addition of an indemnity for war expenses. Should Russia refuse these terms, Austria will immediately, &c. There is also talk of a fresh treaty between France and England, on the one part, and Turkey on the other, the object of which is to invest the Western Powers with the right of keeping garrisons at Constantinople, Varna, Adrianople, and Gallipoli; Varna and Sinope to be used as maritime stations by the Allies. So much for rumours: in a few days, we shall have solid facts.

THE FRENCH BATTERIES OPENING FIRE (SEPT. 5TH).

Suddenly, along the earthen curtain between Nos. 7 and 8 Bastions, three jets of flame spring up into the air and hurl up as many pillars of earth and dust, which are warmed into ruddy hues by the horizontal rays of the sun. The French have exploded three fougasses to blow in the counterscarp, and to serve as a signal to their men. Instantly from the sea to the Dockyard-creek, there seems to run a stream of fire, and fleecy, curling, rich white smoke, as though the earth had suddenly been rent in the throes of an earthquake, and was vomiting forth the material of her volcanoes. The lines of the French trenches were at once covered as though the very clouds of Heaven had settled down upon them and were whirled about in spiral jets, in festoons, in clustering bunches, in columns and in sheets, all mingled, involved together by the vehement flames beneath. The crash of such a tremendous fire must have been appalling; but the wind and the peculiar condition of the atmosphere did not permit the sound to produce any great effect on our camp: in the city, for the same reason, the noise must have been terrific and horrible. The iron storm tore over the Russian lines, tossing up, as if in sport, jets of earth and dust, rending asunder gabions, and "squelching" the parapets, or bounding over among the houses and ruins in their rear. The terrible files of iron, about four miles in front, rushed across the plain, carrying death and ruin with it, swept with its heavy and irresistible wings the Russian flanks, and searched their centre to the core. A volley so startling, simultaneous, and tremendously powerful, was probably never yet uttered since the cannon found its voice. The Russians seemed for a while utterly paralysed; their batteries were not manned with strength enough to enable them to reply to such an overlapping and crushing fire; but the French, leaping to their guns with astounding energy, rapidity, and strength, kept on filling the very air with the hurtling storm, and sent it in unbroken fury against their enemies. More than two hundred pieces of artillery of large calibre, admirably served and well directed, played incessantly on the hostile lines. In a few moments, a great veil of smoke—"a war-cloud rolling dun"—spread from the guns over on the left of Sebastopol; but the roar of the shot did not cease, and the cannonade now pealed forth

in great irregular bursts, now died away into hoarse murmurs, again swelled up into tumult, or rattled from end to end of the line like the file-fire of infantry. Stone walls went down before the guns at once, but the earthworks yawned to receive shot and shell alike. However, so swift and incessant was the passage of these missiles through the embrasures and along the tops of the parapets that the enemy had to lie close, and could scarcely show themselves in the front line of defences. For a few minutes, then, the French had it all their own way, and appeared to be on the point of sweeping away the place without resistance; but, after they had fired a few rounds from each of their numerous guns, the Russian artillerymen got to work, and began to return our allies' fire. They made good practice, but fired slowly and with precision, as if they could not afford to throw away an ounce of powder. The French were stimulated rather than impeded by such a reply to their astonishing volleys, and their shot flew with increased rapidity along the line of the defences, and bounded in among the houses of the town. But what were we doing all this time? What was our admirable Naval Brigade and our gallant siege train doing? They were just working their guns as usual, and had received no orders to open general fire.

Our Quarry Battery, armed with two mortars and eight cohorns, just four hundred yards below the Redan, plies the suburb in the rear of the Malakhoff vigorously, and keeps the top of the Redan clear. Redan and Malakhoff are alike silent, ragged, and torn. At most, the Redan fires three guns, and the adjoining batteries are equally parsimonious. The parapets are all pitted with shot and shell, and the sides of the embrasures are greatly injured, so that the gabions are sticking out, and are tumbled down in all directions. After two hours and a half of furious fire, the artillerymen of our allies suddenly ceased, in order to let their guns cool, and to rest themselves. The Russians crept out to repair damages to their works, and shook sandbags full of earth from the parquette over the outside of their parapets. Their gunners also took advantage of this sudden cessation to open on our sailors' batteries in the left attack, and caused us some little annoyance from the "crow's nest." At ten o'clock, however, having previously exploded some fougasses, as before, the French reopened a fire, if possible, more rapid and tremendous than their first, and continued to keep it up with the utmost vigour till twelve o'clock at noon, by which time the Russians had only a few guns in the Flag-staff-road and Garden Batteries in a position to reply. We could see them in great agitation sending men and carts to and fro across the bridge, and at nine o'clock a powerful column of infantry crossed over to resist our assault, while a movement towards Inkerman was made by the army of the Belbek. From twelve till five o'clock P.M. the firing was slack; the French then resumed their cannonade with the same astounding vigour as at dawn and at ten o'clock, and never ceased their volleys of shot and shell against the place till half-past seven, when darkness set in, and all the mortars and heavy guns, English as well as French, opened with shell against the whole line of defences. A description of this scene is now impossible. There was not one instant in which the shells did not whistle through the air—not a moment in which the sky was not seamed by their fiery curves or illuminated by their explosion. Our practice was beyond all praise. Every shell burst as it ought, and the lines of the Russian earthworks of the Redan, Malakhoff, and of all their batteries were rendered plainly visible by the constant light of the bursting shells. The Russians scarcely attempted a reply. At five o'clock, it was observed that a frigate in the second line near the north side was smoking, and, as it grew darker, flames were seen to issue from her sides. Men and officers rushed to the front in the greatest delight and excitement; and, as night came on, the whole vessel broke out into one grand blaze from stem to stern. The delight of the crowd on Cathcart's hill was intense. "Well, this is indeed a sight!—to see one of those confounded ships touched at last!"—In spite of the efforts of the Russians, the flames spread, and soon issued from the ports and quarter-gallery. At eight o'clock, the light was so great that the houses of the city and the forts on the other side could be discerned without difficulty. The masts stood long, and towered aloft like great pillars of fire; but, one after the other, they yielded; the decks fell in about ten o'clock, and at midnight the frigate was burnt to the water's edge.—*Times Correspondent.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

GENERAL CANROBERT, it is confidently stated, has declined to be made a Field-Marshal, because his acceptance of that dignity would diminish the lustre of General Pelissier's honour.

THE RESULTS OF THE WAR.—A year has not yet elapsed since the Allied armies set foot in the Crimea. Within that time, they have won three pitched battles, and twice assaulted a fortress of extraordinary magnitude. They have encompassed the works of the enemy with trenches extending over more than thirty miles of ground; they have armed these trenches with the heaviest ordnance, and kept up so incessant a fire that not only an incalculable amount of projectiles has been consumed, but five or six siege trains have been worn

out. They have created at Kamiesch, Eupatoria, and Yeni-Kaleh, three military stations which the Russians have not dared to assail, and Balaklava has become a populous mart. A railroad connects the harbour and the camp; an electric chain binds the Crimea to Europe, and conveys to us in a few hours the tidings of these triumphant successes. Upwards of 200,000 men encamped within the lines of the Tchernaya have been conveyed thither and daily fed, clothed, and housed from the resources of Western Europe. All this has been effected in spite of the rigour of winter, the heat of summer, and the distance of 3000 miles from our shores; and within one little year from the sailing of the expedition the leading objects of the campaign are accomplished, and Sebastopol is in our power.—*Times.*

FRENCH GENERALS KILLED AND WOUNDED ON THE 8TH.—General Bosquet was wounded on the 8th by a fragment of a shell while encouraging the troops by his example. Four French Generals are stated to have fallen, viz., Generals Saint-Pol, Breton, Marolles, and Rivet, the latter chief of the staff of the 1st corps. The Generals wounded are, besides General Bosquet, Generals Mellinet, of the Imperial Guard, La Motterouge, Couston, Bisson, Trochu, and Pondeves. The latter has since died of his wounds. General de Failly is not among the wounded, as had been rumoured.

THE FLEET IN THE NORTH.—The Driver has arrived at Dantzic, having quitted Nargen on the evening of the 11th. The Allied fleet still remains anchored at Sesar and Nargen. No rumour was in circulation as to the movements which the fleets might have in contemplation.

VICE-ADMIRAL BRUAT has been promoted to the rank of full Admiral, for the part he has taken in the reduction of Sebastopol.

FRENCH MUSKETS FOR THE ENGLISH ARMY.—An order for 20,000 muskets for the English army has just been given at St. Etienne.

"LE NORD" ON "THE SITUATION."—The new organ of Russia, *Le Nord*, again impresses on its readers the high strategical importance of the abandonment of South Sebastopol. Admitting that the Russians have been to a certain extent beaten, that "the maritime and other establishments have been successfully destroyed," and that "the fleet has disappeared beneath the waves," *Le Nord* contends that the honour of Russia has been vindicated beyond cavil by the gallantry of her resistance, and that her object is to defend "a principle," not "a point of honour." The writer adds:—"The defence of this principle ought not to remain concentrated round a heap of stones; it could only be continued by a rational disposal of resistance." Prince Gortschakoff has therefore moved his army to a position in which its strength is "doubled." With respect to the political results of the recent operations, *Le Nord* asks:—"Are we to be allowed to believe that, from a sentiment of humanity, the one side will be satisfied with laurels, the other with the respect imposed by the strength of the new position, and that both will shake hands as enemies who respect each other? These are questions which it is not for us to decide. It would appear to us that, if by the events of the 8th and 9th of September Russia has got out of a bad military dilemma, the Western Powers have cut a political Gordian knot which impeded them. It is a crisis for both parties. We trust that it may prove to be for the advantage of the friends of peace."

CAPTAIN WARD.—This officer, who, practically, had the chief command of the English battery of 32-pounder howitzers at the Tchernaya, has received a very flattering letter of thanks from General La Marmora. We subjoin a translation, as the Captain does not appear to have received his fair amount of notice:—"Kadikol, August 18. Monsieur le Commandant,—It affords me great pleasure to thank you, and to say how much I appreciate your co-operation in the affair of the 16th, in uniting your artillery to mine for the defence of our position when vigorously attacked by the enemy. In congratulating you, Monsieur, on the excellent preservation of your men, I hope that, on the first opportunity, we shall again have the satisfaction of fighting together.—Accept, Monsieur le Commandant, &c., ALPHONSE LA MARMORA."

THE FRENCH EMPEROR'S THANKS TO THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH ARMIES.—The following message was transmitted from the French Emperor to Marshal Pelissier:—"Honour to you! Honour to our brave army! Congratulate all in my name." He also directed the Minister of War to send the following to the Marshal:—"The Emperor charges you to congratulate the English army, in his name, on the constant valour and the moral force which it has displayed during this long and trying campaign."

THE RUSSIAN EMPEROR'S COMMISERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—A despatch from St. Petersburg, of Sept. 11th, says:—"The Emperor has issued an order of the day to the army, communicating the fall of Sebastopol. His Majesty thanks the garrison of Sebastopol for the bravery they have displayed in defending that stronghold to the very last, and declares that he is convinced all the troops of the Empire are ready to follow their example in sacrificing life, and everything, for the sake of protecting the religion, the honour, and the independence of Russia. The Emperor adds that he still depends on the confidence upon the firmness and courage of his faithful and attached soldiers to repel every future hostile attempt to violate the sanctity of the Russian

territory, while he excuses the recent failure at Sebastopol by saying there is a line which is impassable even to heroes."

PRUSSIA AIDING RUSSIA.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* states that a chemist—it would seem an English chemist, but that is not explained—has discovered a process by which nitrate of soda may be used in lieu of saltpetre in the manufacture of gunpowder. The said chemist has therefore been to Hamburg, bought up all the nitrate of soda there, and transmitted it through willing Prussia to Russia, where it will be made into gunpowder. In the meanwhile, we are entertaining the Prince of Prussia—the heir to the Prussian throne—at Balmoral.

CRICKET IN THE BALTIC.—The officers in the English fleet in the Baltic amuse themselves by playing cricket on the shore. A match was played the other day by the officers of the Duke against the field. The former won by forty-five.

THE MUSCOVITE FLEET in the Black Sea a year ago consisted of nineteen sail of the line, of 92, 94, 100 guns, and upwards, twelve frigates, ten corvettes and brigs, and thirty steamers.

THE ANGLO-TURKISH CONTINGENT.—The first division of the Turkish Contingent in the service of the English Government, will leave Bujukdéré on the 15th for Balaklava, under the command of General Cunningham.

THREE MONSTER SHELLS have been landed on the Arsenal-wharf, at Woolwich, from the Lowmoor foundries, bearing each the following dimensions:—Diameter, 3 feet nine inches; weight, 1 ton 6 cwt. They are the first of a number of that species which had been ordered for the purpose of being despatched to Sebastopol for the reduction of that fortress. An experimental gun has likewise been founded at Liverpool for projecting these enormous missiles, weighing no less than twenty tons.

AUSTRIA ABOUT TO BECOME "MORE ENERGETIC."—The following remarkable paragraph appears in the *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna, a paper often quoted as semi-official:—"The course to be followed by the Allies in the Crimea after the taking of Sebastopol will depend on the attitude of the states of Central Europe. A more energetic policy on the part of our Cabinet, we are firmly persuaded, is the only step capable of accelerating the conclusion of a peace so ardently desired by all Europe." What does this mean?

LIBERATION OF DR. EASTON AND MR. SULLIVAN.—The Secretary of the Admiralty announces that Dr. Easton, Surgeon, R.N., and Mr. Sullivan, Master's Assistant, who were captured in the Cossack's boat at Hango, were exchanged at Odessa on the 18th inst.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.—In consequence of earnest representations made at Stockholm by the British Embassy respecting the quantities of lead shipped to Finland *via* Haparanda, a royal decree declares lead to be contraband of war.

A DIVERSION AT RIGA.—The Hawke, steam blockship (says a communication from Gottland), has made a diversion against the fortifications of Riga, dismantled a few guns of the enemy, and killed and wounded about fifteen Russians, who showed some opposition by sending out fifteen of their gunboats, which fired on the Hawke, but without causing any further casualty than lodging a few shot in her hull and wounding one of her men in the arm, which has rendered amputation of the limb necessary.

THE ITALIAN NIGHTMARES.

The Bedlamite King who desolates Southern Italy and Sicily is determined to hold out against the demands of France and England, and to risk the utmost. In the meanwhile, he was left almost without a friend. Austria is not likely to support him in his criminal obstinacy; his own army, with the exception of the Swiss regiments, is disaffected; and assuredly his people will not repay their numerous beatings with any great display of devotion in the hour of peril. The *shirri*, though strong enough to bastinado and insult their fellow-countrymen, will not be strong enough to resist the might of France and England; and the eruption pictorially represented by *Punch* seems on the brink of breaking out. The *Trieste Zeitung* mentions a rumour that a French army of 40,000 men is about to be sent to some part of Southern Italy; but this we must be permitted to doubt. There can be no doubt, however, of the excessive outrages committed on the people. The Neapolitan minister at the court of Vienna admits that the bastinado has been used. A Neapolitan of high rank describes the king as "bigoted, cowardly, and hypocritical." The native press is entirely crushed, and the *Revue des Deux Mondes* and *Revue de Paris* have been confiscated.

A letter in the *Paris Presse* contains the following story:—

"Everybody now knows of the death of the unfortunate Lorenzo, who was bastinadoed for having replied with dignity to the insults of the *shirri* Campagna. It should be known that Lorenzo's *dourraux* were ordered to pause four minutes between every blow of the stick, and the number of blows awarded was one hundred! The surgeon in attendance remonstrated after the fiftieth stroke, and declared that, if the punishment was carried

further, death must inevitably ensue. But neither the generous intervention of the surgeon nor the piercing shrieks of the victim could stay the executioners. The hundred blows were scrupulously administered (the four minutes' interval being observed throughout), and, after a torture which had lasted seven hours, the unfortunate man was transported to the prison hospital, where he very speedily expired."

This is the way in which Bomba induces his people to risk their lives in his defence; but a case of yet greater atrocity remains to be recorded. We this time cite from a correspondent of an English paper—the *Daily News*:—

"Arcello, a man suspected of being a Muratist, was thrown into one of the criminal dungeons of Castel-Capriano, where, to extort a confession of facts unknown to him, a kind of wooden stiletto was run into the most sensitive part of the body, and the man is now in great danger, arising from inflammation in the part to which such violence has been done, and from which blood issues. A first-rate inquisitor and inventor of similar tortures is Primitivo Caraffa, Commissary of Police of the Quarter of St. Carlo all' Arena. His industry in the invention of tortures to exact confession, is extraordinary, and his mode of treating a young person, in order to force a disclosure of the hiding-place of a relative, is well known. I may not repeat the physical torment and the moral injury inflicted with this view."

A police agent, named Pierro, being acquainted with the fact that two brothers, rich proprietors in the commune of Regale, unlawfully possessed a gun, demanded from them three hundred ducats for hushing up the matter. They did not comply with this demand, and were therefore taken handcuffed to Naples, and imprisoned. General Viale made interest in their behalf, assuring the police that they possessed the gun by his authority; but no compensation was offered them for their illegal imprisonment.

The most shameless robbery takes its place side by side with the most revolting cruelty. We quote once more from the *Daily News* Naples Correspondent:—

"An upholsterer, called De Martino, executed some work for a friend of the Government, but, being unable to get payment, instituted an action, and obtained a favourable decision. He was called before the Commissary, Campagna, and ordered to bring his documents. No sooner were they in Campagna's possession than the man was ordered to leave, and think no more of his money. The poor fellow complained, spoke of his necessitous condition, of his loyalty to the King, of the decision of the courts in his favour, and was clapped in prison. On his release, he applied to Prince Ischitella, Minister of War, for whom he had worked. The prince shrugged his shoulders; 'could do nothing; he had not been able to do anything for his own nephew; these were evil times, which could not last,' and counselled patience, or it would be the worse for him."

Under such a tyranny as this, it is not to be expected that any class can be favourably disposed towards the present dynasty. The masses look towards democracy for their relief; the nobles, towards Muratism. The latter are, of course, opposed to a republic; and they think that in Murat they would possess a prince who would give them their proper influence, and accord a moderate degree of liberty to the nation at large. While alluding to this subject, we may mention that the pamphlet advocating the claims of Murat continues to excite attention in Paris. The authorship is still a mystery. M. Ricciardi, a Neapolitan refugee, and M. Manin, have addressed letters to the chief journals, disclaiming any participation in it. The latter gentleman declares his opinion that, if "regenerated Italy" is to have a king at all, there is but one possible—the King of Piedmont.

Austria is gathering up her forces in Lombardy in fear of an outbreak; and it is thought that in that quarter the Liberals have little to hope for.

The police of Rome are worthy emulators of their Neapolitan brethren. They are unable, or unwilling, to prevent the depredations of the banditti outside the gates; but they can keep a tight hand over any one suspected of liberal ideas. All such persons are obliged to answer their names at certain hours at the police-office, or at their own houses. Instead of Mr. Bowyer's "twenty political prisoners in the gaols of the Papal States," it is affirmed by the *Times* Correspondent that there are one hundred and thirty in that of Pallano alone, and at least five or six hundred throughout the States. The people are nearly driven to death by the dearth of bread—a dearth produced, in spite of the abundant harvest, by a permission granted in April last to Count Mastai (a nephew of the Pope) and the brothers Antonelli, to export 100,000 quarters of wheat and an equal quantity of Indian corn. It is believed that in fact a much greater amount was exported; in consequence of which a famine was feared, and the Government consented to a loan to certain bakers, to enable them to purchase corn of the monopolists. This loan should have been repaid in August, but has been extended to next February, so as to allow

the monopolists to fatten themselves on the high prices, which are starving the people.

We mentioned last week the exclamations with which the people recently interrupted the Papal benediction: we now publish the conclusion of an address presented to the French Ambassador and the General commanding the troops:—

"The Romans, before seeking the protection of England against such tyrannies as they receive from a Pope who, by reason of his mode of action, has been deemed by all an Atheist, because he tramples on every feeling of charity and humanity, ask the aid of France to liberate them from such injustice."

The French Government, however, is unpopular among the masses, owing to the French soldiers assisting his Atheistical Holiness in his persecutions. Struck with so enormous a disproportion between the moral teaching of Christ and the government of him who claims to be his successor and representative, the people exhibit an increasing distaste for religious observances, stay away from the churches, and, it is said, "run up side streets or into houses as they see the Pope's carriage coming along in order that they may not be obliged to do him reverence." Side by side with these facts are—a great embarrassment in the Papal treasury, to ease which undignified schemes are resorted to, and a complete palsy in trade and commerce. The Pope, moreover, is trembling at the Anglo-Italian Legion, and refuses passports to all persons wishing to take service in it.

The political nightmares are indeed sitting heavily and darkly on the breast of Italy; but the first healthy sign of waking will send them scared and trembling in piteous flight.

Since the above was in type, intelligence has reached this country that the King of Naples has yielded to the demands of France and England, and that Mazza, the infamous director of the Secret Police, has been dismissed. Should this news prove to be true, it will have saved Bomba for a time; but nothing can avert his ultimate fall, except his own reformation.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE "TE DEUM" AT NOTRE-DAME.

We condense from a letter of the *Times* Paris Correspondent a few notes of this ceremony.

At nine o'clock, though the religious observance was not to commence until twelve, the streets were thronged. Troops were seen at all points along the route. The houses were dressed out with the flags of the Allied nations, and the windows were alive with spectators. Shields and banners were displayed over the grand entrance of the cathedral, from the towers of which floated four green banners, embroidered with golden bees. The ground was covered with a fine sand, presenting the appearance of a carpet. The Emperor arrived at twelve o'clock, accompanied by Prince Jerome, both attired in military costume, and attended by the equerries of the Imperial household, and by running footmen, holding the bridles of the eight horses, which were magnificently caparisoned. The Cent Gardes followed close upon the carriage, and the *cortège* was closed by a squadron of cuirassiers of the Imperial Guard. In the midst of Imperial salutes from a hundred guns, the sounding of trumpets, the beating of the drums, and the acclamations of the multitude, the Emperor passed from the palace to the cathedral, which he entered under the resounding peals of the great bell. Within, the pillars were found swathed in the rich folds of crimson velvet and gold; and golden eagles hovered with extended wings from the upper galleries. The altar in the middle of the transept actually appeared like a mass of carved gold, encircled by hundreds of candelabra. Banners waved and glittered in the air above. The ministers and the diplomatic corps were present, and the ladies added grace to the scene.

The Emperor was met at the door by the Archbishop, with whom he conversed for a few moments. He then advanced to the altar alone, bent on his knee, and remained in that position for some minutes at the foot of the steps leading to it. Having drawn back, and bowed right and left, he seated himself in the *fauteuil*, before which a praying desk covered with crimson velvet was placed. The *Te Deum* was then chanted in the midst of the deepest silence; the *Domine salvum fac Imperatorem* was repeated three times by the vocal and instrumental performers. The Archbishop then pronounced in the most solemn manner the pastoral benediction, while all knelt, and none more humbly than Abd-el-Kader and the Arab chiefs by whom he was attended. The Emir appeared quite emaciated, and still in a state of suffering from his late malady. The ceremony was over at ten minutes past one o'clock; the Emperor left the church with the same state as he entered it, and returned to the Tuileries amid the same acclamations.

The Empress was not present at the ceremony; but her ladies of honour attended, and were seated near the Emperor. It appears that the vestments worn by the Archbishop and the clergy on this occasion were the identical robes that were presented by the Emperor Napoleon I. to the clergy of the cathedral at the baptism of the King of Rome. The Belgian minister did not

attend the *Te Deum*, and the ministers of some of the smaller states of Germany, were also absent.

The Frankfort correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* gives what he professes to be a full analysis of the last Russian circular addressed by Count Nesselrode, under date of June 16th, to Prince Gortschakoff, Russian ambassador at Vienna. The document has reference to the failure of the Vienna negotiations, the blame of which is thrown on France and England. The count observes, "The actual attitude of Austria confirms the conviction of the Emperor of Russia. It is a moral certainty that the causes of disagreement and complication are set aside in a manner to assure the maintenance of the pacific relations between the two countries."

The Prussian Government has suspended all duties on the importation of grain, on account of the poorness of the harvest, itself caused by the immense quantity of rain that has fallen. Berlin is becoming, through its railways, a central depot for the corn trade, and it is therefore possible that the prohibition on foreign grain may not be renewed.—The King of Prussia is slowly recovering from his indisposition; but the country generally is very unhealthy. Cholera has been violent at Berlin, and in many of the other towns.

The *Vienna Press* states that a waterspout of a destructive character occurred near Massling, in Germany, on the 5th instant. Bridges, mills, and houses were destroyed. There are from seventy to eighty persons missing, and forty persons have already been found drowned.

Colonel Guinard, a member of the old French Republican party, has been arrested at the funeral of Madame Dorriès, the widow of a representative who was killed in 1848. He was condemned by the High Court of Justice of Versailles for taking part in the *émée* of June, 1849, and was afterwards voluntarily pardoned by the Emperor. Rumour attributes his arrest to his not having discharged the costs of the trial, for which he, together with others, was liable; but that this is the only reason seems doubtful, the more so as it is whispered that several working men who followed the hearse have also been arrested.

There have been some rather serious disturbances in the departments of the Meuse and Vosges, in consequence of the high price of corn. Two battalions of the 34th regiment of the line, which was on its march to Marseilles, were detached to pacify those districts. At Bar-le-Duc particularly, there was considerable excitement. A traveller who has arrived in Paris reports that the soldiers of one of these battalions were observed to have blackened fingers, and from this circumstance, and the disinclination shown by the officers to answer questions, it was thought they had been firing. At St. Malo, complaints being made that the bakers did not bake bread enough to supply the population, the Mayor sent for them, and threatened to apply the law in its utmost severity if they did not bake a sufficient quantity to meet the demand. It is said that this threat had a beneficial effect, and that the shops are now well supplied.—*Daily News*.

Diplomatic "difficulties" seem to be on the increase. Prussia and the Hospodar of Wallachia have been getting up a quarrel; the French agent has managed to fall into a complication with the Ottoman authorities; and a new Eastern disagreement seems to be brewing. Baron de Mensbach, the consul-general of Prussia, obtained, with some difficulty, the dismissal from office of two Wallachians who had committed acts of brutality. The Hospodar, who only yielded from fear, revenged himself by sending a picket of thirty men with a lieutenant instead of a detachment of the militia, to salute the Prussian flag on the reopening of negotiations between the Wallachian Government and Prussia, and by ordering his Secretary of State not to pay the visit of ceremony to the minister. M. de Mensbach, offended at this, commanded the soldiers to be driven away, and abstained from visiting Prince Stirbey, though the latter waited for him at his palace, surrounded by his ministers. The Prussian consul then quitted Bucharest, and wrote to his Government to demand satisfaction. Mr. Colquhoun, the English agent, approved of his proceedings; but the French agent, M. Bulard, said that, had the Prussian flag been saluted with twenty-one guns, as was expected, it would have been an insult to France, as the French flag had not been so saluted—an omission which is explained by the assertion that M. Bulard had not given notice that he had hoisted his flag. Ultimately, the Prussian flag was saluted with twenty-one guns, and the Secretary paid his visit. A good deal of surprise has been felt at the conduct of the French consul.

The birthday of the Emperor of Austria has been celebrated by the Wallachian Government with great splendour and enthusiasm. "An official invitation," says a letter from Bucharest, "was addressed to all the great Wallachian functionaries to assist at the Catholic *Te Deum*; promotions were made in the civil and military professions, gratuities given, prisoners pardoned, distributions of meat, drink, and money to the Austrian soldiers, splendid illuminations, &c.—and all at the expense of the unfortunate Wallachian Treasury, which was already too heavily burdened."

A correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* writes to say

that, after the Allied expedition to the Sea of Azof, Russia made the greatest endeavours to obtain the co-operation of Austria, but that Count Buol replied that, "Austria being, and intending to remain, the ally of France and England, found herself under the impossibility of giving the hand to a *rapprochement* other than that which should extend equally to all the Powers which signed the treaty of the 2nd of December." What clever acting it is!

There is a report in Spain that the Moderate party is about to be reorganised; the only difficulty is, how to bring together the Count de San Luis and his partisans with the rest of the Moderates. Queen Christina is anxious that they should undertake the responsibility of office. The greatest cordiality continues to exist between Espartero and O'Donnell. The financial situation is improving; the voluntary loan amounts to 137,710,620 reals, which is more than half. Tranquillity exists in most of the provinces, and the Carlists are making no progress in the province of Barcelona. The Cabecilla Tuvany has been killed in a rencontre with the Queen's troops, and the band he commanded has dispersed. M. Zayas was officially received by the Mexican Government on the 6th of August.

The insurrection at Tripoli continues. Forty thousand Arabs are said to be under arms, and the Turks, it is thought, will not be able to attack them successfully. The Sultan has resolved to support the Governor against whom the Arabs have risen. The Arabs in the province of Benoli, to the south-east of Tripoli, have revolted; commercial affairs are suspended, and provisions are getting very dear.

Baron Kübeck, the President of the Council of the Austrian Empire, died on the 10th ult. at Vienna, of cholera. This disease is at present committing great havoc in that city, and in other parts of the Austrian Empire. In Carniola, there have been 12,272 cases; only 3402, however, have proved fatal, while in Vienna more than half the persons attacked die in the course of a few hours. The Emperor has gone shooting among the Styrian woods and mountains. Baron Prokesch is about to depart on a mission to Constantinople, in order, it has been said, to "cope with Lord Redcliffe," and, by co-operating with the representative of France, to sow dissension between the Allies.

Prussia, it is rumoured, is very desirous to get rid of the Sound dues; and it is added that M. Lembke, on the part of that power, has proposed to the Danish Government to "capitalize" them, and to pay a certain sum once for all.

The first Danish Chamber has definitively adopted the changes proposed in the constitution of 1849, by a majority of 38 against 10.

The Emperor Alexander's visit to Warsaw is abandoned.

Thessaly and Albania are in a very disorderly state, owing to the influence of Russian agents, who encourage the banditti. A piratical vessel appeared off Khorefto, near Volo; but a large muster of the inhabitants caused it to withdraw.

The King of Sardinia will leave for Paris about the 1st of October. It is reported to be his intention to visit London immediately after.

A measure has just been adopted with regard to the *Crédit Mobilier* (says the *Times Paris Correspondent*) which may in some sort be considered as a financial *coup d'état*. The directors of that association had announced in the public papers that they were about to issue 240,000 obligations, and also that they were prepared to distribute a dividend of 200*f.*, which, though not yet due, would be allowed in the first payments made on account of those obligations. On announcing this emission of paper, the *Crédit Mobilier* counted on the authorisation of the Government, which, as it had not been applied for, was very probably considered by the association as only a mere matter of form. But there were a few among the Ministers who thought they could perceive that a danger existed for the public as well as for the character of the Government; and they determined on checking it before it was too late. They represented the matter to the Emperor, who at once resolved that the emission of obligations should be reduced to half the number—namely, to 120,000, instead of that originally intended by the *Crédit Mobilier*. It is necessary to remark that another motive existed for this determination. It was observed with surprise by the public at large that the fall of Sebastopol, unquestionably one of the most momentous events of the day, and the increased influence necessarily acquired by France thereby, did not produce the effect anticipated on the Government securities, and that the *rente* continued languid and heavy on the market. The reason was to be found in the superior attractions of the *Crédit Mobilier*. The Government paper was abandoned for that of the *Crédit Mobilier*, and the Three and Four-and-a-Half per Cents. were disdained in the eager rush after shares in every enterprise which was known to be under the protection of that association, or with which it had any concern. It was, in point of fact, considered that the *Crédit Mobilier* had assumed proportions dangerous to public credit, of which it ought to be the auxiliary, and menacing to the State, which had called it into existence. It is said that a person will be placed by the Government at the head of the association.

Cholera, which has raged with great intensity at Dantzic, is abating. The quantity of wheat in the granaries is now reduced to 15,000 quarters. There is a great scarcity in the interior.

An analysis has been published of a despatch from Count Nesselrode to the various Russian agents in Europe (written some time before the evacuation of South Sebastopol), in which the Count states that Russia will fight till she is completely exhausted, or till one of the belligerent powers holds forth a hand for negotiation. The assertion that the Russian internal resources are nearly exhausted is strongly denied; and a national rising is said to have provided an immense army as if by enchantment. "The patriotism of the Russian people came to the aid of the Government, as well for the equipment of this new and considerable contingent as for the means of transport of the troops. The loan which Russia contracted last year was completely successful, and is covered. Although the adversaries of Russia prohibited it, not only in their own States, but also on the principal Exchanges of neutral countries, nevertheless the financial credit of Russia—that thermometer of the resources of a country—remained invariably at the same point, even on the Exchanges of those countries who were at war with her." The blockade of the ports, it is added, has only been a proof of the vastness of Russia's internal resources.

The Ottoman Government is honourably distinguishing itself by several scientific projects which will contribute towards identifying Turkey with the general interests of Europe, and civilising her population. M. Larue, a French engineer, has just completed, with immense difficulty, owing to the nature of the country to be traversed, the telegraphic line from Constantinople to Schumla by Adrianople. Lighthouses and signal-fires are to be established on all the coasts of the Ottoman Empire. A railroad from Constantinople to Belgrade, which would connect the Turkish capitals with all Europe, is talked of; and the cutting of a canal between Kostendjé and Rassoava appears to have been agreed on between the Porte, France, Austria, and England.

Constantinople has recently been the scene of very disorderly proceedings at night, in consequence of which the police have determined on arresting any one found in the streets after midnight, unless forced by necessity to be out.

The Bavarian Chambers were opened on the 15th instant. In his speech, the King expressed his satisfaction that Bavaria and the rest of Germany have not been drawn into the war, a reduction of taxation being thereby rendered more easy.

For a brief space, there has been a ministerial crisis in Madrid. General O'Donnell went to the Escorial on the evening of the 12th, for the purpose of requesting the Queen's signature to the decree regulating the royal household, the object of which is to diminish the "back-stair" influences which are found to be too favourable to despotism. The Queen emphatically refused to put her name to the document. Upon this, a Cabinet Council was held, and the ministers resolved to resign in a body. The Queen, however, became frightened, and consented to sign; and the ministers have accordingly resumed office. But it seems doubtful whether perfect peace has been effected, as the King is known to be at the bottom of the Palace intrigues, and even to have entered into a compact with the Carlists, to secure, if possible, the Spanish crown to Count Montemolin.

The victory at Sebastopol was celebrated at the French church in Madrid; and the Spanish flag appeared side by side with those of the Allies. At Stockholm, there have been great rejoicings at the event.

A gentleman, named Coleman, made the ascent of Mont Blanc on the 29th ult.

The Legislative Session of the Dutch Chambers opened on the 7th inst., with a speech from the King, alluding chiefly to matters of local interest. The neutrality is mentioned as having been religiously observed by Holland, and appreciated by the belligerent Powers.

Mr. John Brett has proceeded to Cagliari, to superintend the telegraph which, passing through Sardinia, is to connect France and Algeria.

TWO MURDERS IN LONDON.

DANIEL LORDAN, a Spitalfields weaver, who has been lately working in the Docks, murdered his wife on Tuesday morning, through jealousy. Immediately after stabbing her, he gave himself up to a policeman, who took him back to the scene of the tragedy, Parliament-court, Artillery-lane, Bishopsgate-street, where the woman was found in a sitting posture on the stairs. The constable lifted up her head, which was leaning on her hands, and found a deep wound in the throat and a large quantity of congealed blood in her lap. She was dead. The man and the woman have both been notorious for a long time for their drunken and riotous habits; and that the act was deliberate is manifest from the fact of Lordan having stated that he had long had the knife "in" for her. At the station-house, the murderer wrote the following letter to his sister:—"My dear Mary,—Make yourself happy as you can. If you and I were allowed to speak to each other, I should be very glad; I would tell you something.—DANIEL LORDAN." Upon the arrival of his sister, he made the ensuing statement, which explains the motives of the deed:

"I had an appointment with a man to get some work. We met at a beer-shop near the London Docks. We drank some pints of beer and then left. The man said he had a card for a raffle. I told him my wife would do no good with the raffle. He asked me to go. I said 'No,' and he then said, 'If you will go, I will go with you.' I then promised to go. We went to the Green Dragon beer-shop in Half Moon-street, Bishopsgate, where a row took place. One of my wife's brothers threatened to throw me down stairs. I then came towards home, and saw it was dark in the passage, and I heard a man named Kingston talking to my wife on the stairs. I don't know whether I spoke first or not, but several blows were exchanged between Kingston and me. He aggravated me, and I hit him with a poker. I then left the house—saw a City officer, and told him the people wished to waylay me. He desired me to go away. I went home, laid on the bed, and believe took off my coat. In the morning, my wife called the two boys. I went down stairs and spoke hastily to her, and then went up stairs again and laid down. She came in soon after, and I asked what she did there. No further words ensued, and I put my head under the tick, took out the knife, and inflicted the wound which caused her death. I have no more to say." He has been remanded for a week. A verdict of "Wilful Murder" has been returned against him at the inquest.

On the same morning, George Pemble, a shoemaker, residing in Pepper-street, Union-street, Southwark, had a quarrel in the street with Mary Ann Latimer, a woman with whom he had for some time cohabited. The woman was drunk; the man appears to have been sober. The former was very violent and abusive, and some mention is made of her having flung an iron bar at Pemble's head. This, however, is not known with certainty; but it would seem that, even before any such attack, the woman was bleeding from the nose, and was upbraiding the man with ill-using her. Ultimately, he struck her a fearful blow, and she fell, and expired almost directly. Pemble was then seized with remorse, and said he did not mean it. He was given into custody, and has been remanded.

OUR CIVILISATION.

THROWING A WIFE OUT OF WINDOW.—Outrages by men upon their wives, or upon the unfortunate women with whom they live, are, as the readers of these columns know, so common, that one account may serve for a hundred. A case of more than ordinary savageness, however, has been heard at the Thames police-court. George Rose, a labourer at the London Docks, has been married for fifteen years; and during that period his wife's existence has been one long agony and martyrdom. She has been half-starved and frequently beaten and kicked; and on one occasion a miscarriage was the result of the injuries she sustained. The ruffianly husband has been imprisoned for a month for neglecting to support his family; and the greater part of his earnings is spent in drink. About a week ago, he came home very drunk, and threw his child from one end of the room to the other. The mother interfered, when he threw cold water over the infant, and, seizing his wife by the throat, tried to strangle her. In his drunken frenzy, he said that he was determined to be strung up at the gallows for her, and that her time was come. He dragged her along the floor, trampled on her body, and beat her with his fists. The poor woman, to save her child, threw open the window, and cast it out to the people below; when the husband lifted his wife over the sill, in an almost fainting state, and threw her down into the street. The room was on the first floor, and the woman would probably have been killed had she not been caught by a neighbour. Mr. Ingram, the magistrate, sentenced the ruffian to six months' hard labour, and regretted that the law did not admit of his inflicting a more severe punishment. He also called upon him to enter into his own recognizances in the sum of 100*l.* to keep the peace towards his wife for twelve months after the termination of his imprisonment. The poor woman was sent to the workhouse, with a special charge that she should be well treated.—Why does not the law authorise the transportation for life of such a miscreant as this? Mr. Ingram was sorry that he could not inflict a year's imprisonment; but this would have been nearly as disproportioned to the offence as six months. A man so fiendish in his ruffianism, or so dangerously insane, is clearly unfit to be at large. Temporary imprisonment will but inflame and irritate his savage disposition: on coming out of jail, his first act will be to get frantically drunk; his next to revenge himself upon his wife. His "recognizances" are of course not worth the breath with which the word is uttered; and it will not surprise us if, six months hence, we should have to record another act of ferocity committed by this man upon his victim, and perhaps with a more tragical result.

A KNAVE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.—Stanislaus Szerawinski, a Pole, has been tried at the Middlesex Sessions for stealing a timepiece and case, value 7*l.*, together with other property. The plan pursued by this individual was to enter gentlemen's houses when they were out, pretend to write a note, and, profiting by the absence of the servant (which was generally procured by asking for a

glass of water), to make off with such articles as he could conveniently purloin. At the Sessions, he admitted his guilt, and read a curious piece of self-criminatory biography. He said he had left his native country because he would not enter into the service of the detestable Nicholas. He confessed himself to be deeply involved in knavery and love, the tender passion having been excited in him by a charmer living in Oakley-street, Camden Town. He had been some months in a county prison, was a perfect prince of scoundrels, according to his own showing, and desired nothing so much as to be transported for life. This request, however, was not complied with; but he was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

EXTENSIVE SEIZURE OF ILLICIT SPIRITS.—During the last few days an enormous seizure of smuggled brandy has taken place at the port of Teignmouth. Upwards of one hundred and fifty barrels were discovered by the coastguard and were safely secured. The parties who brought them into the port and secreted them in the place where they were found have not yet been discovered. An extensive seizure of illicit tobacco has also been made off Salcombe, and in this case two men were apprehended, and have been sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

THE ATTEMPTED PARRICIDE AT BATH.—Thomas Tutton has been committed for trial on the charge of attempting to poison his father.

SUICIDE THROUGH DESPONDENCY.—A woman has cut her throat at Liverpool, owing to despondency resulting from the accidental death of her husband about a month previously.

BANK-NOTE FORGERIES.—A prosecution has been instituted at Berkeley against Mr. John Sampson, surgeon, for uttering counterfeit Bank of England notes, with intent to defraud several parties. No fewer than four charges, three of uttering 5*l.* notes, and the other of uttering a 10*l.* note, have been made against the accused. Prolonged examinations were taken before two justices of the peace acting for the Berkeley petty sessional division, on Wednesday and Wednesday se'nnight; but the case has not yet been decided.

IRISH RUFFIANISM.—William Bell, of Gorton, Lancashire, has been killed outside a public-house by Michael and Patrick Heeley, two Irishmen, one of whom had been heard to swear he would stab the first Englishman who came up. The murderers are not in custody.—A quarrel broke out at Leeds between some Irishmen, and resulted in Patrick Reynolds stabbing Patrick Brasil, Patrick Dorsay, and Michael Larkins, a militiaman. Brasil is since dead, and Larkins is not expected to recover.

PLATE AND JEWEL ROBBERIES.—Three large plate and jewel robberies were effected on Monday morning in St. John's Wood, Peckham, and Camden Town. The police are making inquiries.

A VERY "UNGENTLEMANLIKE" ACT.—A clothes-dealer, named Lipman, was charged at the Mansion House with striking a Dutch Jew in the Jew market in Houndsditch. It came out in evidence that the Dutchman had spat in Mr. Lipman's face—"right in my teeth, my Lord," said the unfortunate recipient; "it was well it wasn't in my eyes." Another Jew, who saw the act, said he and his fellow-Israelites thought it "very ungentlemanlike." From the account given by others, it appeared that it was a common habit of this beast; and Mr. Lipman, by way of explanation, said he was a Dutchman, "and liked to do it." The victim of this abominable outrage was ordered to find bail "to be of good behaviour," because he had struck a man old enough to be his father; but the person whose "behaviour" certainly most requires coercion was dismissed with a half-jocular hint to get rid of his nasty habit.

LETTER STEALING.—Several cases of robbery of letters by postmen have recently come before the magistrates. Richard Walker, a sorter in the General Post Office, is under remand at Bow-street, charged with stealing two letters supposed to contain money. Grace, a letter-carrier, and Charles Simpson, the Barnet letter-carrier, have been committed for trial for the same offence.

A RASCALLY POLICEMAN.—John Connolly, a constable in the P division, has been sentenced at the Lambeth police court to pay a penalty of 8*l.*, or be imprisoned for twenty days, for assaulting and unwarrantably taking into custody a respectable married woman and her husband. He had taken them to the station-house on a charge of disorderly conduct, which was entirely disproved; and he had added to this charge an accusation of indecent behaviour on the part of the man and the wife of a friend. These persons brought a counter-charge of drunkenness against the policeman. This was negatived by other policemen; but it is certain that the conduct of Connolly was very infamous. Nothing is said about his dismissal from the force. Surely he will not be allowed to purchase immunity for 8*l.*?

THE CHILD MURDER AT BRISTOL.—The inquest on the body of Melinda Payne has been concluded. The coroner said that, although since the jury had last met the most strenuous exertions had been made by the police and others to discover the murderer, they had been unable to obtain any satisfactory clue. The jury, therefore, returned an open verdict.

A STRANGE NEPHEW.—At the Thames police-office a notorious thief, named James Essex, was charged with

committing, together with an accomplice, the following audacious robbery. He went to a house in Tarring-street, St. George's-in-the-East, inhabited by an infirm old woman, named Alden. On her opening the door, the man, to her great surprise, said, "How d'ye do, aunt?" She replied that she did not know him; upon which he told her that he had married her niece, Jeannet. As Mrs. Alden really had a niece of that name, whom she had not lately seen, she believed Essex's statement, and admitted him into her house, where, after some conversation on the subject of the marriage, which greatly contributed to allay the suspicions of his hostess, the prisoner informed her that her niece was waiting in the street. Mrs. Alden expressed a wish to see her, and Essex then went to the door and opened it; but, instead of the young lady, he admitted an accomplice, who, while the other man engaged Mrs. Alden in conversation, ransacked the parlour of every portable article. A lodger, who had watched the whole proceedings, raised an alarm. Both men immediately fled, and Essex for a time escaped; but Jones was pursued and captured. He has been sentenced to four months' imprisonment and hard labour, under the new act. Essex, who has since been apprehended, stands committed for trial.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A respectable-looking man, named Robert Campbell, described as a commercial traveller, was charged at Guildhall with an attempt at suicide. A policeman stated, that about a fortnight ago he was called into the prisoner's house to see him, and found him lying on the floor, apparently in a very sick and exhausted state. It appeared he had taken laudanum, and it was found necessary to send him to the hospital. He told the policeman that his reason for attempting to kill himself was that he had spent some money of which he had been made trustee, and that he had been called to account; but to the alderman he stated that his health was bad, and his spirits low, on which account alone he had swallowed the drug. He was discharged, on his wife undertaking to place him in the care of some friend.

CONNUBIAL MORALITY AT HALIFAX.—At the Halifax Borough Court, last week, John Thomas, a sawyer, was summoned by the relieving officer for having left his wife and family chargeable to the union. The relief given had been after the rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* per week. The officer pressed for a conviction, on the ground that there were no fewer than five hundred deserted wives within the Bradford union, with 1017 children, involving an annual expenditure in relief of nearly 20,000*l.* The defendant was allowed a week to repay the amount of relief which had been given to his family.

THE MORALITY OF INSURANCE OFFICES.—Some singular revelations touching the easy morality of insurance offices came out at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, when Henry Cog Coape, a person of gentlemanly appearance, surrendered to take his trial upon indictments charging him, jointly with another person, named James Dewsby King, who was not in custody, with obtaining the sum of 8000*l.*, by false pretences, from Henry Porter Smith and Sir John Wilson. It would seem that Coape, who was formerly a person of considerable property, possessing large estates in Essex, had given accommodation acceptances to a very serious amount to King, who was a betting man, and very much involved. In the course of last June, King was in want of money, and he induced Coape to be his security for a sum which he desired to borrow. Upon the faith of offering his estates in Essex as security, Sir John Wilson and Mr. Smith advanced 4000*l.* each, and the money was handed over to Coape and King. The charge of false pretences was based on the allegation that the estates were disposed of at the time they were given as security. A money agent, named Rogers, on the part of the borrowers, and Mr. Kirby, of the Albert Insurance Company, Waterloo-place, on the part of the lenders, negotiated the business. Upon the cross-examination of Kirby (who received 400 guineas for his trouble in the matter), he admitted that he was aware, from Coape's own admission, that the property had been encumbered to the extent of 16,000*l.*, but he took no pains to ascertain anything further. Mr. Rogers also wished that Mr. Teesdale, whom he knew was Mr. Coape's private solicitor, should know nothing of what was going on, and it was solely, he said, on that account that he refrained from making any further inquiries, and allowed the 8000*l.* to be advanced. Perhaps, he added, if he had gone himself, he should have made some inquiries of the tenants; but he was quite satisfied with what his clerk told him upon the subject. If he had made the inquiry he should, no doubt, have found out all they knew at present. It was the restriction put on him by Mr. Rogers which prevented his making inquiries. The Recorder, upon hearing this assertion, remarked, "Why, I should have thought that that very fact would have excited your suspicion." Mr. Kirby, furthermore, had the candour to confess that "he did not tell either Mr. Smith or Sir John Wilson that he received four hundred guineas out of the transaction. He had not returned any of the money since he had discovered what a bad job it was. (A laugh.) It had not occurred to him to do so." In addition to the four hundred guineas, Mr. Kirby received a testimonial and 1000*l.* from the company, "for his services in their behalf." For the defence, it was contended that Mr. Coape's property,

though embarrassed, was sufficient to secure the 8000*l*. advanced; and the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty. King, who appears to have made a victim of his friend, has absconded. The Recorder observed that he was afraid the Albert is not the only office where transactions such as they had heard are carried on.

ACQUITTALS AND CONVICTIONS.—At the Central Criminal Court, Thomas Clarke, recently in the service of the General Post Office, has been acquitted of a charge of stealing a letter containing a sovereign.—Frederick Moule has been declared Not Guilty of forging and uttering a deed purporting to give security for some money advanced to him. The acquittal turned upon a point of law, the paper not being "a deed."—The "navvies" charged with the late riot at Penge have been found Guilty, with the exception of one.—The Hacketts have also been convicted; and, in the case of bank-note robbery at London Bridge, Mary Ann Pollett and William Foley have been Acquitted, and the other prisoners have been found Guilty, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment each.—Henry Watts has been found guilty of the manslaughter of his wife, under circumstances of great cruelty, in the course of last July. The facts appeared in the *Leader* at the time. The man was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.—Patrick and Eliza Hennessey have been convicted of starving their infant child. The circumstances in this case also have appeared in the *Leader*. The man, who was recommended to mercy, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and the woman to two years.

A GERMAN SCOUNDREL.—Baldwin Specht, a German, is under remand at the Mansion House, charged with inducing a young countrywoman of his to come to England, under promise of marriage (though he had a wife at the time), then endeavouring to seduce her, and finally stealing her clothes.

AN ENGLISH SCOUNDREL.—Edmund Keeble, in the employ of a builder in Westminster, has been fined forty shillings for throwing a piece of paper containing words too disgusting for repetition before a little girl, fourteen years of age.

MISS THERESA GREIG, the actress, has been discharged; Edmonds, the man stabbed, having personally appeared, and reiterated his statement that he never made any charge against the prisoner, and that he believed the whole affair was an accident.

A GOOD SAMARITAN.—Mr. John Jacobs, a Spitalfields sponge-manufacturer, found in Whitechapel, a few evenings ago, two young boys, natives of Essex, in a state of the utmost destitution. They had been turned out of doors by their aunt (their parents being dead), and, having in vain applied at the Whitechapel workhouse, had been reduced nearly to starvation. Mr. Jacobs provided them with food, clothes, and lodging, and brought their case before the magistrate, who sent to the workhouse to make inquiries. In consequence of these, the boys were at length admitted. It is impossible to speak too highly of the benevolence of Mr. Jacobs.

ATTEMPTED WIFE-MURDER.—At the Westminster Police Office, Thomas Dodd, a coal-porter, and at Southwark, John Barry, are under remand, charged with such savage assaults upon their wives that the poor women are now lying in hospital.

ANOTHER CASE OF HOMICIDE AT BRISTOL.—A man named Newman is in custody at Bristol, charged with killing John Hale, a seaman in a public-house, on account of some quarrel about liquor. Newman has endeavoured to show that he was first of all struck with a poker by Hale, who then ran away, and struck his head against some iron railings with such force that he received a mortal wound. The inquest is adjourned.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

(From the *Leader*, Oct. 14, 1854.)

THE question of the day has been raised by Lord Aberdeen in his speech in answer to the address of the Lord Provost and Corporate body of his county town.

Our First Minister, speaking, no doubt, in the name of the Crown which views with favour his services, and of the Cabinet which he necessarily controls, has declared that it is a crime to carry on war an hour longer than is absolutely necessary. The question of the day is—What is a necessary war?

Lord Aberdeen very probably meant, in laying down this Ministerial axiom, that if Sebastopol be taken the war ought to finish: that is, that the necessity of the war ceases when, the Russian fleet and fortress in the Black Sea being destroyed, the integrity and independence of the Turkish Empire are not only asserted, but secured. Lord John Russell, no doubt, spoke the views of the Government when, in his last speech of the session, he said that Constantinople could never be considered safe from Russia so long as Sebastopol was in the hands of Russia. But is the public, of whom Lord Aberdeen—not being the Minister of a party—should be the mouthpiece, in agreement with the Premier that the war ought to finish at Sebastopol?

The question of the day would seem to be this: What are we at war for? Lord Palmerston seemed to think it was for the maintenance of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire. Lord Granville seemed to think that it was for the purpose of securing the French alliance. Lord Aberdeen seemed to think

that it was because we could not help it. The English liberal party seemed to think that it was for the purpose of doing a mischief to Austria. The English press generally seemed to think that it was for the purpose of defending civilisation. But no one has as yet attempted an accurate definition; and every one's ideas on the subject become confused by consideration of Lord Aberdeen's reference to the criminality of an unnecessary war. One thing alone seems clear, that there could have been peace if the Czar would have permitted it, that he is, therefore, the author of an unnecessary war, and is, consequently, a great criminal; so that a secondary question of the day is: Should the punishment of so great a criminal be wholly reserved for his Maker?

Lord Aberdeen expects to get at peace now—utterly careless of further punishment of the conscienceless despot. But how does Sebastopol lead to peace? No doubt Turkey is safe as against Russia, if the Crimea be replaced in her possession; and no doubt England and France can hand over to her the Italy of St. Petersburg to become the Isle of Wight of Constantinople. Yet what guarantee has Lord Aberdeen (unless he is continuing confidential communications with the Czar) that Russia is as ready as Turkey and as England to come to peace? Russia, so long as Nicholas represents Russia, will not concede the Crimea; Russia can afford a long war of mere resistance; Russia will not accept of the peace which even Lord Aberdeen would now give her. We are, consequently, it would seem, in for a very long war; and, at this point, cabinet and country should come to some understanding as to what is a necessary war. In other words, as to what we are at war for?

The Liberals will have a political war against Russia—against the Absolutist system in Europe. They are good enough to accept the alliance of Louis Napoleon and to mourn the loss of the Generalissimo St. Arnaud, who, fresh from the 2nd of December, headed the troops of France in defence of civilisation; but they compensate for this stern suppression of principle, in favour of expediency, by repudiating the Austrian alliance. They do not demand that war be declared against Austria, but they rather desire that Austria may be induced to declare war against us. The Government, which has no policy of its own, has to calculate this public opinion, and the more respectfully that the Conservatives are in opposition, and may, in consequence, have a tendency to revolutionary politics. This public opinion will take advantage of the obstinacy of Nicholas to force the Government into following the attack on Sebastopol by an attack on St. Petersburg; while Louis Napoleon, whose interest it is to sustain a war which amuses his nation and secures him the prestige of the British alliance, will have much to say in demonstration to Lord Aberdeen of the continued necessity of hostilities. Now, our Government drifted into this war; and they will go on drifting. Lord John Russell is a clever man at making popular discoveries. He has been in statecraft for half a century, and yet it was only last session that he discovered, "amid cheers," that the independence, which he thinks we should maintain, of Turkey, would be a delusion so long as Sebastopol harbour menacingly floated a Russian fleet. It is not impossible that he may detect some analogous objection to the fortifications at Cronstadt; nay, that he may in another exciting session point a "manly" speech by confessing to a life of blunders, in the admission that for the safety at once of the West, and of the East, Poland must reappear on the map. We, for our own part, are counting on such contingencies, arising out of the competitions of public men for public applause, and hence our doubts whether it is not an advantage that, in a war which develops into a political war, we have been enabled to press two despotisms into our service, while engaged in crushing a third—the greatest of all.

Lord Aberdeen said, in the course of one of his over-cautious speeches of last session, that it would be folly fixing beforehand what should be the conditions of peace—that the conditions would depend on the character of the war. At that time the saying was endorsed as sagacious, and doubtless it was; but at this moment Russia is found out; our war with her is as simple an affair as our war with China; as States, both are impositions—they are Maps, not Powers. It is, then, quite time that our Government, if it is to lead the nation, should say what will be the conditions of peace. By entering on an inquiry of that sort, they would come to a clear definition of what is a necessary war. The political difficulty, as to the conditions of peace would, perhaps, be diminished, if the business-like English people were to instruct their Government that Russia be required to pay for the expenses of the war—though it should last longer than the House of Romanoff.

THE TYRANNY OF PHARISAISM.

WE cannot trust ourselves to express the indignation which we feel at the following case recorded by a correspondent of the *Times*. Happily (as far as that is concerned), the facts are their own damning commentary:—

"On Tuesday, Nathaniel Williams, an elderly labourer, of the parish of Alfrick, in the county of Worcester, was brought before a bench of magistrates,

sitting in petty sessions at Worcester, and fined 5*s*., with 12*s*. 10*d*. costs, for cutting two perches and a half of wheat, belonging to himself, on Sunday, the 26th of August. The poor fellow pleaded that it was a work of necessity—that the wheat would have been spoilt if he had not cut it—that he was employed from morning till night in farm labour; but the magistrates were inexorable. I don't profess to understand the precise definition of law in this regard; but the Prayer-book tells me that works of necessity, piety, and charity may lawfully be done on the Sabbath. I know that, by the law of the realm, Nathaniel Williams might have played cricket in his own parish on a Sunday if he pleased; and I think it would have been more graceful if the magistrates had taken a liberal view of the case, and brought the act of cutting wheat on a Sunday under the former category. I am sure it is a monstrous anomaly that a poor man may play at cricket in his parish on a Sunday for healthful exercise, but that he must not cut a handful of wheat for necessary subsistence. As you are the great righter of wrongs and redresser of grievances, I implore you to bring this before the public, and am your obedient servant,

NO BITTER OBSERVER."

No greater invasion of our liberties than the despotism which the Pharisees seek to erect can be imagined; and if the evil be not checked by the vigorous action of all honest men, we shall have no right to wag a tongue against the tyrannies of Pope or Czar. The records of Scotland during the worst times of her Calvinism will show the monstrous cruelty of that description of practical irreligion which takes the form of ultra devoutness. In no spirit of irreverence (which we condemn as much as any man), but in the bitterness of spirit which proceeds from seeing a noble sentiment debauched, we exclaim to all such Sabbath observers, in the words of Dogberry:—"Thou art full of piety, thou knave, as shall be proved upon thee by good witness!"

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

LOSS OF THE TRANSPORT SHIP CANTERBURY.—This fine vessel, of 750 tons burden, commanded by Captain Carvell, has been totally wrecked. She was on her way from Corfu to England, with sixty-three rank and file invalids, forty-nine women, and fifty-eight children on board, all of whom were saved. On the 4th inst., she ran ashore on a reef of rocks off the coast of Viana, in Portugal, owing to the thick state of the weather. The people on shore aided in getting off those on board; shortly after which, the ship heeled over, and her deck burst from her.

THE WOLVERENE was lost on the night of the 11th of August, S.E. of the Courtown Bank, while proceeding to Grey Town. No lives were lost.

LORD PALMERSTON inspected Woolwich Arsenal on Wednesday.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE THOMAS NAPIER, K.C.B., died suddenly at Geneva on the 8th inst., in the seventy-second year of his age. He served with Sir John Moore, and was present at Corunna at his death; was with Wellington in the Peninsula; and was made Governor of the Cape of Good Hope in 1837.

DR. GILLY, one of the canons of Durham Cathedral and vicar of Norham-on-the-Tweed, died at Durham last week in the sixty-seventh year of his age. This liberal divine was the first person who sought to ameliorate the condition of the agricultural labourers in North Northumberland by calling the attention of landholders and the general public to the then miserable state of the cottage dwellings generally found upon the estates in this district; and his benevolent suggestions have since been carried out by the Duke of Northumberland and other large landholders. As the author of several works on the Waldenses, he was the means of raising a considerable subscription on behalf of that interesting Protestant people, and was the first to draw the attention of Englishmen to their claims upon our consideration.

THE STATE OF THE THAMES.

At the Court of Common Council, on Thursday, the Lord Mayor said he had received a great number of petitions signed by the bankers, merchants, governors of hospitals and other institutions, medical authorities of the very highest character, warehousemen residing on the banks of the river, and, in fact, persons of the greatest influence in the population of London, upon the state of the river, and he thought they were of such importance that he at once determined to submit them to the Court, to be dealt with according to the judgment of that body. It appeared from these documents that further delay as to the application of a remedy of the evil would be dangerous, and it was quite impossible for him to act in such a case without the co-operation of the members. He had entertained an idea of calling a meeting on Thursday next to take into consideration the subject, with a view to a public demonstration; but he was resolved to make no movement without the consent and advice of the Court of Common Council. De-

puty Peacock observed that the public perfectly well understood that the necessary improvement could not take place without an expenditure of four or five millions, and it was well known that Lord Palmerston had expressed his opinion that it would certainly be most advisable to carry the extensive changes suggested into effect, but asked where the money was to be found to accomplish them. The Government could not, in the Minister's belief, proceed to a reform of the river until the war was at an end, and more favourable opportunities presented themselves of raising the necessary amount of money. After some discussion, it was resolved to refer all the papers to the Commissioners of Sewers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VISIT OF PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA TO BALMORAL.—Prince Frederick William of Prussia and the Duke of Cambridge arrived at Aberdeen on Friday. The Prince proceeded by the Dundee Railway on a visit to the Queen at Balmoral. He was received at Banchory by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by General Grey, and proceeded up Deeside for Balmoral at three o'clock.

INDIA.—The insurrection of the Santals continues, and will probably not be suppressed without considerable bloodshed. The whole of the country between the Rajmahal Hills and the Buoduna is in the power of the rebels. Rajmahal has been plundered; indigo factories have been burnt; one hundred and fifty villages have been destroyed, and the mutilated corpses of men, women, and children are found scattered about the open country. It appears, however, that many of the Europeans who were at first reported as dead have escaped unhurt; but flight is at present the only mode of self-preservation. Several engagements have taken place with the troops, in one of which the latter retired, owing, it is said, to the presence of several Santals among them, who, of course, fought with lukewarmness against their own fellows. On all the other occasions the Government soldiers were victorious: about six thousand of them are in the field. The causes of the outbreak are still doubtful. The approach of the railway into the recesses of the forest region, now occupied by the Santals, and certain liberties said to have been taken with their women, are among the alleged motives; but it appears more likely that great oppression has been exercised over the people by Bengalee money-lenders and Government officials. Sindoo Mungee, the leader of the insurrection, pretends to a divine mission, and promises to turn the swords of his enemies into sticks, and their cannon-balls into water. It is feared that it will be necessary to carry on the war in the jungle. Minor insurrections are going forward in other parts of India. The hill tribes in the north-west frontier are giving some trouble; and two hundred Rohillas have crossed the frontier, and advanced on a village called Khurda. Troops have been marched against them. A deficiency of rain at Bombay, together with the decline in the value of cotton and cotton goods in England, has depressed the piece-goods market there.

THE WEST INDIES.—Very little news of interest has been brought by the last West Indian Mails. At Jamaica, business was very dull, and fever prevailed. In British Guiana, the weather was hot, and there was but little rain; but the canes were thriving luxuriantly. A want of labour for the cane cultivation was felt at Grenada, but the people were looking forward with hope to the introduction of Coolie-immigrants, for which purpose a seven thousand pounds loan has been granted by Parliament. Want of labour was also felt at Antigua. Barbadoes and the other northern islands have been visited by a hurricane of unusual severity, and a severe shock of an earthquake was felt in Trinidad. At Barbadoes, the brig New City of Cork, Raynes master, dragged both anchors, went ashore on the pierhead, and was dashed to pieces. The captain and boatswain were washed overboard and drowned. The barque William Large and schooner Koh-i-noor went ashore at the same time; the former was wrecked, but the latter, it was expected, would be got off. At St. Vincent's, two vessels were likewise lost; at Martinique, two; and at Dominica, two. There was no damage done to the town or country beyond the blowing down of a few trees.

AUSTRALIA.—By the last advices from Australia, we learn that serious collisions have taken place between the Irish at the Maryborough diggings and the miners. The "Tigs," as the former are called, attempted to take the law into their own hands relative to "jumping" claims; but the miners, rose en masse to the number of 8000, and obliged them to conform to law and usage. The miners are known as "the Allies," in contradistinction to the "Tigs." Military and police were sent to preserve the peace in the district. A mutual protection society has been formed with the sanction of the Government. At the Ballarat diggings, the Irish also placed themselves in opposition to the English, Scotch, and American miners, and scenes similar to those at Maryborough occurred.

AMERICA.—The "Know-nothing" party, it seems, is wielded almost entirely by a small section within the general body, the number of which section, by acting

with unity, have succeeded in bringing about results that have surprised and vexed many of the general members. This new party is called "the Chicarons," or "the Templars," and can reckon from five to six thousand voters in the City and County of New York. "The entire Know-nothing executive," says the *New York Times*, "is controlled by the 'Templars,' and they have thirteen members in the Grand Council of the State of New York." The precise objects of this sect, as distinguished from the main body, are not stated; but it is clear that the Know-nothing "movement" can no longer be looked on as national. Yellow fever continues to make fearful havoc in Norfolk, the inhabitants of which contemplate moving bodily to Fort Monroe. The disease is abating at Portsmouth. Railway accidents, attended by several deaths, and generally arising out of great carelessness, have been very frequent of late. Rachel has made her debut at the Metropolitan Theatre, and was very well received by a crowded house. Thomas Francis Meagher has been admitted an attorney and counsellor in all the courts in New York. A Boston paper publishes a communication from a German, recently come from Halifax, Canada, denouncing the false pretences under which the English Government induces working men to visit Canada, in order to enlist them in the Foreign Legion. The recruits on reaching Halifax are said to be cheated of half their promised pay, and imprisoned and flogged for grumbling. The state of trade in the United States is extremely favourable, and full of the most cheerful prospects. Santa Anna arrived at Havannah on the 24th of August, and left for Caracas on the 26th.

DROWNED.—A small sailing punt upset off Broadstairs on Thursday week, when the boatman and two gentlemen were drowned.

A GREAT AMERICAN SNAKE.—The *Buffalo Daily Republic* gives an absurd account of a vast water-snake harpooned in a lake near Perry Village, New York. When he was pulled towards the shore ladies fainted, gentlemen wandered, and the monster straightened himself out "with a noise that made the earth tremble." "By this good light, a very shallow monster!" The following is the "latest intelligence" of him:—"The harpoon is still in him. He lies in the water, confined with ropes, which keep his body in a curve, so that he cannot get away. He can use his head and tail, with which he stirs the water all around. When he rears his head (which he generally keeps under water), he presents a fearful aspect. In expanding his mouth, he exhibits a blood-red cavity, horrible to look at; and the air rushes forth with a heavy short puff."

THE SEVEN POOR TRAVELLERS.—The Court of Chancery has approved of a scheme for the regulation of Watts's charity at Rochester, well known to our readers from having been introduced into Mr. Dickens's last Christmas number of "Household Words." At the first meeting of the new trustees, it was agreed, amongst other things, that the supper to be provided for the poor travellers is to consist of half-a-pound of boiled round of beef, one pound of bread, and half-a-pint of porter each.

A NOTORIOUS RAILWAY THIEF, named William Attey, has just been captured. He has distributed his favours with great impartiality over a large portion of England. On one occasion he obtained a box containing clothes from a young woman travelling by the Worcester Railway, by appearing dressed in the uniform of a servant of the company, and offering to put the box in the right van.

FEARFUL ACCIDENT.—A man, named James Dixon, was on Monday painting some stonework at the top of the East India Company's warehouse, Hart-street, Crutched Friars, when he was seized with a fit; the board on which he was sitting broke, and he hung suspended to the framework by one leg, blood pouring from his nose and ears. Bundles of straw and sheeting were placed below to catch him should he fall; and for five-and-twenty minutes he remained in this frightful position, the large crowd which had assembled being unable to assist him. At last, the captain of a vessel ascended with a rope tied to the poor fellow's arm, and pulled him up insensible. He is not expected to recover.

MURDER IN AMERICA.—A crime of more than ordinary savageness has been committed in America by an Irishman. Dennis Toughy, the murderer, together with several of his countrymen, had been out fishing in a canal near the village of Palmyra. Having left their skiff for a time, they missed it on returning; and, seeing a canal boat passing, Toughy accused those on board of having stolen the skiff. This was denied; but Toughy, levelling a musket, swore he would blow out the steersman's brains if the boat were not given up. The steersman protested he had not got it; upon which, Toughy ran up to the driver, and dashed in his skull with the butt-end of the musket. The horse, taking fright, darted off; and the face and body of the victim, who was but a lad, were horribly lacerated and mangled from dragging along the ground. The murderer is in gaol.

BREAD RIOTS IN NOTTINGHAM.—Some disturbances have occurred at Nottingham, where the windows of several bakers' shops have been broken by the mob. The affair, however, was very slight; and the swearing in of special constables has put a stop to any further demonstrations.

VENTILATION OF HOSPITALS.—A patent has been recently granted to Lieutenant Cook, R.N., F.R.S., Professor of Fortifications, at Addiscombe, for improvements in the method of working gigantic fans, called punkas, for agitating the air in hospitals, barracks, churches, and other large buildings, in tropical climates, and, in the height of summer, in more northern latitudes. These punkas may be worked by manual labour or by horse, bullock, or steam-power.

INSULTING RUSSIAN PRISONERS.—We are pleased to find, from a paragraph in a Sussex paper, that the magistrates at Lewes have inflicted a proper punishment on a vagabond who insulted one of the Russian officers placed as prisoners of war in the town. The prosecution was instituted by the authorities of the War Prison in consequence of the officers on parole being frequently subjected to annoyance, insult, and even personal violence from the low characters who loiter in the streets. The offence having been fully proved, the magistrates inflicted a fine which, added to the costs, made up 20s., or in default a fortnight's hard labour; they furthermore declared their intention to protect the foreign prisoners, as several assaults of the kind had occurred. We feel that these outrages have been so evidently the acts of a few depraved characters, the drags of the town, that it is unnecessary to apologise for them to the world. The local authorities will soon put a stop to scenes of the kind by a judicious use of the crank and the treadmill. It would be an insult even to the humblest classes in the town to dissuade them from persecuting the unfortunate men whom war has placed in their power, or to tell them that that is not the way in which Englishmen celebrate a triumph. —*Times*.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A girl, one of the workers in a spinning mill at Kidderminster, was recently drawn into one of the machines, while endeavouring to detach the strap from the drum. In another moment, her head was cut into two parts, and she was a corpse.

A LUCKY MAN.—The Queen has sent a check of 50*l.* to Mr. Middleton, stationmaster, at Banchory, of the Deeside Railway, as a reward for his exertions in "expressing" the news of the fall of Sebastopol to Balmoral.

CLOSE OF THE HERRING FISHERY.—The herring fishery is now over for the season. On the Caithness coast it has been most successful. At Wick, the take is much above the average. On the south side and east coast, the take is under an average; but, on the whole, the catch exceeds that of any year for the last ten years.

THE ROEBUCK TESTIMONIAL progresses satisfactorily. Lord Palmerston and Sir John Pakington have voluntarily added their names to the list of subscribers. Both express their high admiration of the integrity of Mr. Roebuck's character, though often differing from him on public questions. Sir John Pakington more especially grounds his admiration on Mr. Roebuck's conduct with respect to the Sebastopol Committee, and his mode of conducting that inquiry.

A FIRE at some naphtha and creosote oil works, at Wolverhampton, has been attended by the death of three persons, and serious injury to seven or eight others.

RIVER FILTRATION.—An experiment is being made at Manchester to filtrate the river Midlock, which, from receiving into itself the contents of many sewers, is in a very foul condition. A tank is filled with lime and water, and a pipe is conducted from this reservoir across the river, small holes in the pipe allowing the lime-water to fall into the river at different points. This operation is conducted within a space enclosed by weirs; and, as the water passes off, it is found to be much the cleaner for the operation. The mud and filth precipitated by the action of the lime-water would be of great service if used as manure.

NEW FLAX WORKS IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—The prospect of being without the usual supply of flax from Russia has led to an extensive breadth of land being planted with it in Scotland, and there is now the prospect of a good deal being done in the north to make up for the deficiency which may be otherwise felt. These experiments have been attended with great success; and it is thought that in a few years sufficient flax will be grown here to render our manufacturers very independent of supplies from abroad.

STATE OF TRADE.—The trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday confirm the views already expressed of the general soundness of all departments of business; the rapid rise in the Bank rate of discount, and what is termed in many quarters the unaccountable advance in the grain market, not having produced any feeling of anxiety or distrust. The fall of Sebastopol has fully counteracted the effect of the altered state of the money-market; and at Birmingham the break-up of reckless speculators has palpably benefited business. The Circular of Mr. R. Burn, exhibiting the shipments of cotton and other manufactured goods from Great Britain during the past month, presents as its most remarkable feature a continuance of excessive exports to Calcutta, Singapore, Shanghai, Brazil, the republics on the west coast of the Pacific, Egypt, and Turkey, show a considerable increase; the Mauritius, Australia, British America, and the United States, a decrease. —*Times*.

SEVERAL FIRES occurred in the eastern parts of the metropolis on Saturday night and Monday morning. They were promptly subdued, and no lives were lost.

THE OFFERTORY SERVICE AT HEMEL-HEMPSTEAD.—The Bishop of Rochester, in answer to a memorial from the inhabitants of Hemel-Hempstead in Hertfordshire, has informed Mr. Mountain, the incumbent, that he does not approve the introduction of the offertory and the prayer for the church militant in the ordinary service of the church, nor unless the Holy Communion is to be administered; for although, he adds, the practice is sanctioned by a strict adherence to the rubrics in the Prayer-book, it has for a length of time been discontinued in most of the churches throughout the kingdom, and he is of opinion that it has been unnecessarily revived in the parish of Hemel-Hempstead, and against the wishes of the congregation. At the same time, he says, he must observe that he has no power to issue any order on the subject-matter in dispute, and can only express his hope that Mr. Mountain may see fit to retrace the step he has taken, and thus restore peace among the people committed to his charge. It is stated that Mr. Mountain refuses to comply.—A strange picture of the chaotic condition of our National Church is here presented. Mr. Mountain fulfils the injunctions of the rubric; the inhabitants desire him to depart from those injunctions; the Bishop has no power to force the clergyman either way, but “hopes” he will violate the Prayer-book! And both the Bishop and the parishioners would be equally shocked at any proposal to reform that service from the strict rules of which they consider themselves justified in departing when they please.

MURDER IN IRELAND.—A very savage murder has been committed near Cavan on the body of an old man named James Smyth, whose head was found literally split open from top to bottom. As the victim was extremely indigent, the motive for the crime is not apparent. The perpetrator is as yet unknown.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The mortality of London, as shown by the returns for last week, differs little from the average of the second week of September, or from the mortality that has prevailed in the previous three weeks. The number of persons who died in the week that ended on Saturday is 1033, of whom 523 are males, and 510 females. About a half of the entire number died under 20 years of age; 40 had lived 80 years, or had attained a greater age; and one person, a female, born in Amsterdam, is reported to have reached the age of 101. She died of “diarrhoea senectus.” Diarrhoea, or summer cholera, continues to show a decrease, a circumstance which is probably due to the coldness of the season. The fatal cases of diarrhoea have been, in the last five weeks, 154, 127, 134, 107, and 96. Only 4 deaths are returned as caused by cholera, 2 of which are those of infants. Besides 38 deaths from scarlatina, 60 occurred last week from typhus and other fever; and in Bailey’s-court, Liberty of the Rolls, a house is reported where three cases of typhus occurred lately, one of which proved fatal. The house is defective in drainage, and in other respects is said to be in bad sanitary condition.—Last week, the births of 816 boys and 734 girls, in all 1550 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1679.—From the Registrar-General’s Weekly Return.

BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY.—The question with respect to the fluvial relations and the delimitation of boundaries between Brazil and Paraguay is not yet settled; but a rupture between the two states is not apprehended. Until the frontier lines are laid down, it is expected that Brazil will give execution to the third article of the treaty of 1850, by which free right of fluvial and commercial navigation on their respective waters was interchanged by the two countries.

THE GREEK MERCHANTS AT LIVERPOOL.—On behalf of this body, Messrs. S. Franghiadi, J. P. Schilizzi, and G. M. Papayanni, have written to the *Times*, to deny that any of their countrymen were concerned in influencing the barometer in the Exchange Room at Liverpool.

THE EAST INDIA COAL COMPANY.—A company under this title has been established for working coals in the valley of the Damoodah, in the province of Bengal. Extensive collieries are in the possession of the directors, and, owing to the low rate of wages in India, a ton of coal can be raised at the pit’s mouth for a sum equal to 1s. 2d. The present charge for conveyance by rail to Calcutta is 12s. 8d. The company anticipate raising three hundred tons a day, and that these will yield a diurnal profit of 105l. Considering the increasing demand for coal in India, this company may be regarded as a hopeful result of Limited Liability, in accordance with which it is formed. Sir H. T. Maddock, M.P., late Governor of Bengal, Captain L. Vernon, R.E., M.P., and several City gentlemen, are among the directors.

LORD PALMERSTON AT MELBOURNE.—The inhabitants of Melbourne, last week, presented a complimentary address to Lord and Lady Palmerston, who were passing through their town. The chief point in this document consisted in the assertion that, since Lord Palmerston had succeeded to power, the war had been conducted with vigour, and success had attended our arms. The premier, in his reply, made especial allusion to Sardinia. He observed:—“And now, one word with regard to the future. Final success must attend our arms. (Cheering.) Our security for that arises in the undaunted valour of

our troops and those of our allies. We have a security also in the good faith of the Emperor of the French, who is with us heart and soul in this contest. (Loud cheers.) We have an additional security in the alliance of the kingdom of Sardinia, which is not so great, territorially, as either France or England, yet history reminds us that small states have played an important stake in the world, and have exercised no inconsiderable influence on its destinies. We remember the important part played by Holland, by Venice, by Genoa—smaller states, territorially, than the kingdom of Sardinia; and, therefore, not despising the lessons of history, but, on the other hand, taking courage from the fact of this Sardinian alliance, we say that, while the compact is highly honourable to Sardinia, it is of this additional importance, that it has formed itself into a league against tyranny. (Hear, and cheers.) Well, then, with this prospect before us—with the valour of our troops in unison with the troops of the Emperor of France—nations that have laid aside ancient antagonisms, and who are now actuated by no other feelings than an honourable rivalry, as brothers in arms fighting for a common cause, bound together by the indissoluble ties of friendship, and acting in the truest spirit of good faith—and above and before all relying upon the justice of our cause, it is impossible to believe that the war can be brought to any other conclusion than that which will secure to Europe safety against the future aggressions of Russia.”

CURIOUS POST TRANSIT.—A live lizard, measuring nineteen inches in length, was posted in Somersetshire, directed to Dr. Pettigrew, in London, and actually arrived safe and lively after having undergone no less than eight processes of post-office stampings. Four postage stamps covered the weight. A live bluebottle, which was placed as food for the lizard, was dead at the journey’s end.

MUSCOVITE WIT.—The *Augsburg Gazette* has the following from St. Petersburg, under date of August 28:—“The fine weather is coming to a close, and all the efforts of musicians and pyrotechnists can scarcely induce the frosty public of this city to visit Vauxhall and the Villa Borghese. Instead of these out-door amusements, the autumn has produced a plant in the field of political journalism, from which we will pluck a few buds as specimens of Muscovite humour. It is a satire, having for its title ‘Extracts from Journals published in the year 1851, in the Aleutian Islands, composed by Tatarinoff.’ In it, the English and French are made sport of. Thus we find, under the head of ‘Trade Notices,’ the following:—‘To be sold, 15,000 Sardinians, dressed up in French taste, with English spice, after the Turkish mode.’ In the toy-shop of Charley Napier are to be disposed of ‘real English floating batteries—good for use on dry land.’ An experienced gravedigger, of whom no complaint had been made in the course of a thirty years’ practice, ‘offers his services to the Allied armies on the most reasonable terms.’ The other extracts are in a similar strain. The novelty of such a treatment of political matters here affords great merriment to the public.”

THE TESTIMONIAL TO MR. COURTAULD, for his eminent anti-Church-rate services, is to be presented at Braintree, next Tuesday, when Sir W. Clay, M.P., is to preside, and Mr. W. J. Fox, M.P., and other public men will take part in the proceedings. We learn that the Eastern Counties Railway Company will issue return tickets at all their stations for one fare; but London passengers must produce their presentation-ticket at the Shoreditch station.

THE CASE OF THE BANKERS.—Strahan, Paul, and Bates, made their appearance at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, when, on account of Mr. Ballantine not having received the indictment in time to study it sufficiently, the trial was postponed till next session.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH.—A young woman was taken out of the Thames on Wednesday morning, close to Waterloo Bridge, and was found to be in a state of insensibility, owing to several large wounds in her body, some of them presenting the appearance of having been caused by impalement. Some time previous to her death, she was questioned, but refused to give any particulars. There are no spikes on the bridge to cause the incisions observed in her person.

POISON IN CHEESE.—A correspondent of the *Times* has been warning the London public against having their cheese coloured; the colouring matter being turmeric and other poisonous substances.

DESECRATION OF THE DEAD.—Considerable indignation has been excited in Camden Town at the desecration of a burial ground which is being broken into for building purposes. Human remains have been carted away, and the stench has been horrible. A public meeting on the subject terminated in several resolutions expressing the indignation of the inhabitants. The vestry of St. Pancras has determined on taking up the matter.

THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—Immediately after the termination of the rainy season, it is proposed to march a force of four hundred marines and sailors, assisted by soldiers from the West India regiments, and by two hundred men whom the French have promised to lend, against the strongholds of the rebels who recently gave us so much trouble. Without the destruction of Burfort and Cumjo, it is thought there will be no security.

MUTINY.—An American ship, the *Wandering Jew*, was towed into Cork harbour by the screw-boat *Falcon*,

which had been hailed by the captain to help in suppressing a mutiny. Some of the seamen had refused to do their work, and, pulling out knives, had wounded the chief mate. The Cork police went on board fully armed, and arrested thirteen mutineers. Only two, however, have been detained.

TESTIMONIAL TO SIR CHARLES NAPIER.—Some friends and admirers of Sir Charles are endeavouring to get up a testimonial in his behalf.

CLOSE OF SALMON FISHING.—The salmon fishing in the rivers north of the Tweed closed on Friday week. The yield for the most part has been good.

ANOTHER RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Thomas Perry, a plate-layer on the North London line, was knocked down a few days ago by the buffer plank of an engine while at work on the rail. He is not expected to recover.

STRIKE OF COLLIERS.—The men of the Penyarden and Rhymney works, Merthyr, have struck for an advance in their wages, which they conceive to be justified by the improved state of trade. An advance of ten per cent. had been promised them, but it was not to take effect until the next pay day. This postponement is the cause of grievance.

LORD CARLISLE has turned the first sod of the Kil-larney and Tralee Railway.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, September 22.

THE FRENCH IN SEBASTOPOL.

ACCOUNTS from the Crimea to the 14th have been received by way of Varna. On the 11th, some small detachments of French troops entered Sebastopol; they found the streets full of ruins, and barricades erected in different parts. On the 12th the rest of the troops began to enter. Barricades and entrenchments extended almost up to the cathedral and the great square, but became less numerous beyond the latter point.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* (Second Edition, Friday) says:—

“You have already learned that the news of the brilliant success of the Allies was most joyfully received by the middle and lower classes in this empire, and a leader in the *Frankfort Post Zeitung* of to-day shows that it has produced a deep impression in Central Germany. The paper in question, which always stoutly denied the assertion of some of the Prussian papers that Russia enjoyed the sympathy of a great part of the German nation, now says that the German press, ‘from the Eider to Luxemburg, and from Tilsit to Trieste, looks on the victory of the Western Powers as the triumph of a principle and as an evident and visible sign of Divine justice.’ The *Frankfort* paper then states that the great news of the 8th and 9th was the cause of a regular ‘jubilee’ in the ancient city of the Cæsars.”

The correspondent of a morning paper affirms that on the occasion of the Russian sally on the night of the 31st ult., several men, fresh drafts belonging to the 97th and (the writer believes) the 17th regiments, turned and fled. The regiments were severely rebuked in a general order.

The *Globe* says that, when operations commence in the field, the public must not expect Lord Panmure to transmit despatches to the papers, as a communication of our designs to the enemy might be fatal.

Mazzini has addressed a proclamation to the Italian people, calling on them to rise.

Sir Benjamin Hall, in answer to Sir John Shelley, says that the road through St. James’s Park will not be proceeded with till Parliament shall have had an opportunity to consider the project.

A porter in Newgate Market, named George Mulley, made an attempt yesterday morning to murder the woman with whom he cohabited, by cutting her throat, and afterwards sought to destroy himself by swallowing laudanum. The woman is in a precarious state, and the man has been remanded for a week.

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The Leader.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1855.

Public Affairs.

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

THE PAUSE IN DIPLOMACY.

THE successes of the Allies in the Crimea are, as yet, incomplete. The positive crisis, therefore, is military, not political. Its issue may be decided by Prince GORTSCHAKOFF at his next Council of War, or it may depend on long battles of cannon between fort and fort, or on new collisions in the field. While the results, in a military sense, are undetermined, diplomacy cannot move. For beyond all question our chief interest, at present, is to know how the belligerent forces will stand at the setting-in of winter. Nevertheless, Sebastopol being the key of the peninsula, the Allies have made a great advance towards a decisive victory. In no circles of Europe, probably, is the opinion held that Russia can permanently sustain by force of arms her position in the Crimea. Signs of this conviction are apparent not in Vienna only. The report is—and particles of truth invariably float in the public rumour—that ALEXANDER II. accepts the late event as a defeat. In Sweden, which has cause to remember the vengeance of the Czars, no considerations have availed to forbid a parade of national joy. In Italy, perhaps, the pliancy of King FERDINAND has resulted, in some degree, from his knowledge that the guardian spirit of despotism had been exorcised from the Malakhoff Tower. From this point of view it is reasonable that liberals throughout Europe should regard with satisfaction the first real achievement of the war.

Unfortunately, in the discussions which take place on the subject of the Russian contest, a spirit of absolutism is displayed on both sides. The extreme of the peace party would stifle, by violence, the advocates of war—the advocates of war, by ungenerous sar-

casms, and by virulent innuendoes, disparage the friends of peace. If we were to read a lesson to these intolerant disputers, we would ask them not to claim that credit for sincerity which they will never concede to others; ought they not to refrain from insulting an honest opinion, lest it should be sounder than their own? Among the exaggerations provoked by this irrational repartee, it has been said frequently, that to capture Sebastopol would not be to injure Russia. Fourteen divisions of the Russian army, however—or more than two-thirds of the CZAR's regular forces—have been sent to defend that fortress, and sent in vain. Three sanguinary engagements, and eleven months of unremitted losses, have reduced that host to a fragment which may be annihilated within a limited period of time. Undoubtedly, should it be dispersed or expelled from the Crimea, Russia will have suffered a diminution of military power, for it is a poor empire, and its treasures, now enormously reduced, have been painfully extorted, during forty years, from every source of contribution. The effect must be the more powerful, inasmuch as the Russian Government is encamped in the midst of a dangerous population. Travellers of high competence deny, indeed, that the fanaticism of the true serfs has been aroused against the Turks and their allies to the extent that has been represented; at any rate, hating the French as they do, their feelings towards the English have been generally friendly. Still the Emperor NICHOLAS, when he addressed to the servile nation his inflammatory manifestoes, probably understood their temper. But, when all this is granted, it remains a fact that half the Russian army is absorbed in duties of police—not in original Russia, perhaps, but in the conquered realms not yet incorporated by civil relations with the mass of that iron dominion. We have heard Poland—with its network of fortresses—described as a vast and complex Borodino, with a citadel menacing every centre of population. To garrison that volcanic territory, immense levies are required, as well as to maintain the presence of terror along every frontier. Thus, to draw out, at any point, a large proportion of the forces available to Russia for purposes of aggression, and to destroy them there, is to disable her for years to come, though to injure her vitally can only be effected by decomposing the foundations of her power.

We hear the English nation asking for right things in right places. Will they now learn to insist on the right act, at the right time? The proper time for assailing Russia was, when our aristocracy approved her usurpation, when our middle classes were apathetic, and when to the majority it was proved that they were powerless—perhaps because they were unorganised. That opportunity arrived and passed when Hungary was invaded—when there was no fear of Austria, which stood on the defensive against a revolted viceroyalty, when the natural enemies of Russia were in the field, when the German courts were innocuous, when an alliance with the French nation was possible, when Denmark would have rejoiced to be set free from fatal treaties. The violated law of Europe would have vindicated such a protest, and to humanity the consequences would have been far more glorious—glory meaning advantage—than any that can arise from a drifting war, in which the declared object of statesmen is to separate their policy from the genuine interests of nations. The irruption into Hungary was a piratical enterprise, which imbued Europe with an unprecedented fear of Russia. If civilisation or liberty had anything to do

with the policy of the governing class in England, that was the time to assert them. It was then that despotism presented an open front, and it was then that civilisation and liberty were in arms. Now, while military absolutism is abased in Russia, it is exalted in France, where it is more dangerous to liberal institutions throughout Europe, and where already it threatens the Italian nation. From that source no aid can be derived towards the establishment of a free Europe—the only positive and durable safeguard against the expansive action of Russia. From Rome the influences of tyranny spread; at Vienna, and at Paris, they are collected in the receptacles of physical power. But in no part of the world do the Allies encourage counteraction. They ask for none but mercenary allies—Italians, to expend on distant fields the blood that is sacred to Italy; Poles to fight in aid of a speedy settlement, which would render immutable—if diplomacy could do it—the existing system of Europe.

We are in the condition of a nation that has stored up a certain amount of enthusiasm and must discharge it. What will be the effect? The active Liberals, who are few, sacrifice time and attention to crazy spouters incoherently bewailing the nullity of the crown, and of the Privy Council; the rest contemptuously stand aloof, disappointed, and without the courage of their opinions. The only visible energy is that of the Cabinet, which urges on its generals, and that of the "public," which, with an intoxicated indifference to responsibility, trusts that something may happen to put down Russia, and restore the rights of nations. But the policy of the war is left at the disposal of the Allied Governments, which disclaim all views of hostility to the rule of the sabre in Christendom.

But a state of war existing between great powers in any part of Europe, is a practical contradiction of this idea. The artificial settlements of the Holy Alliance were framed with a reference to peace, and the safeguard of peace, during forty years, has lain in the fears of that pernicious conclave. The political shock in Denmark—about to result in the impeachment of a ministry—was caused, almost entirely, by the passage of the Baltic fleet, which was, prematurely, welcomed as a signal of resistance to despotic power. In other countries the expectant populations await, with intense solicitude, the turn of fortune which shall bring their affairs to the surface. And it is to be noted that, at this juncture, the British Cabinet is supposed to be pressing hard on the governments of Germany, and throwing out allusions to the perils of the future. Those organs which profess to deal in popularity point to the contingency of a German war. In every direction the omens multiply of an extended conflict, unless the subjugation of the Crimea leads to a compromise. The question for serious politicians to consider is, whether a general war would not end by extinguishing weak despotisms, and replacing them by overwhelming military powers; and whether the chances of liberty are worth the risk of the conflagration.

SURVEY OF THE WAR.

PROSPECTIVE.

THERE seems to be a veritable pause this week in the progress of the war, but it is no doubt more apparent than real. No army can rapidly turn from carrying on a siege, which terminated rather abruptly, to field operations, which require some little time for preparation. We shall, therefore, be doing our readers the best service we can in the interval by attempting to present a compre-

hensive survey of the state of things in the Crimea.

It is admitted on all hands that the Russian army, although not reduced to extremities, is placed in a very difficult and dangerous situation. The position they occupy on the north side is, indeed, truly formidable. It consists, on its right, of an elevated tableland, where the troops have the support of the casemated fortress known as Fort Constantine, the North Fort occupying the centre of the plateau, and a series of earthworks which command the great military road running up the valley of the Belbek. The centre, facing Balaklava, is still stronger. It consists of the round, bastion-like elevation, having the ruins of Inkerman on its south-western face; steep and cliffy on three sides, but being connected in the rear, by tolerably even ground, with the valley of the Belbek. The steep slopes to the east look down on the road leading up to the Mackenzie heights; they are garnished with batteries, and afford an admirable position for field artillery, which would pour a flank fire into any column moving up the defile to the Mackenzie plateau. Then the crown of the narrow pass could be amply defended both by troops and guns in position; while the prolongation of the chalk cliffs, known as the Mackenzie ridge, extending as far eastward as Aitodor and Mangup-Kaleh, covers the left. In the rear there are the valleys of the Belbek and the Katcha, affording forage and water for the cavalry; and good communications with Baktchi-Serai and Simpheropol.

The Allied position is pretty well known. It stretches from Kamiesch to the recesses of the Baidar valley. The extreme right is secured from serious attack by the nature of the ground, which prevents the manœuvring of any considerable force. The real right of the army rests on the heights of Kamara, defended by Sardinians and Turks, forming the right of the position on the Tchernaya. This line is now far stronger than it was on the 16th August. The outposts beyond the river are more securely fortified; the bridge has been secured; while a mass of artillery frowns from the low hills and sweeps the river front and hollow ways; and ten thousand cavalry are always in readiness in case of disaster. Balaklava itself is an impregnable citadel, covered by and supporting the line of the Tchernaya. The other point where an attack might be made is the head of the harbour—the old Inkerman ground. But this has been so strongly fortified, that the enemy, should he think of assailing it, would meet with a more severe defeat than that of Inkerman.

We have described the advantage of the Russian position—its impregnability of front. What then are its disadvantages? In the first place it is a position at the extremity of an empire. Between the army, there posted, and its resources, intervene long tracts of country almost destitute of dwellings, and in places wholly destitute of water. From that position there are only two roads leading to the main land: one by Perekop, and one by the bridge constructed over the Putrid Sea, at a point where the Crimea approaches the small peninsula of Tchongar, a tongue of land which juts out for some miles into the Putrid Sea. As the Crimea affords little sustenance for an army, nearly everything in the way of food, munitions of war, and clothing, must be brought into the Crimea by the employment of endless convoys of waggons, chiefly drawn by oxen. These two roads also constitute the only lines of retreat for the enemy.

What are the further disadvantages inherent in this position? The Crimea, being nearly an island, and the Allies being in

possession of the sea, in order to operate against the enemy they are not compelled to strike at their front but may take them in flank. As all our supplies arrive by sea, we are in no sort of anxiety for them. Therefore our only care, in moving against the enemy, will be to secure Balaklava, Sebastopol, and Kamiesch; and then, embarking a goodly number of troops, establish a strong base of operations on another part of the coast, and threaten the Russian line of retreat. Everybody admits that a strong force advancing either upon the eastern or the western side of the Simpheropol road must compel the enemy to retire upon that town, if not upon Perekop. Now the choice of a base lies between Kaffa and Eupatoria. But if made from Eupatoria the advancing column would have Perekop in its left rear, and would be exposed to the assaults of any reinforcements that might be hurried on to the scene of action. Kaffa, on the contrary, affords a base perfectly secure, a bay of debarkation and refuge superior to all in the Crimea. We have already secured Kertch. The appearance of an army before Kaffa would be the signal not only for its evacuation, but for the evacuation of Arabat. Strongly based on the peninsula of Kertch, the Allied expeditionary army might move along the northern slopes of the southern range of hills by Staroi-Krim and Karasu-Bazar. It would advance with its flanks and rear perfectly secured, through a country not difficult of access, and having water, if not in abundance, at least in sufficient quantity. From Karasu-Bazar a communication might be established with Alushta, thus opening another road to the sea, and securing the whole southern coast. At Karasu-Bazar the Allies would be virtually in the rear of the enemy, and it is impossible to conceive that he would maintain his position. He would therefore have one alternative, either to retreat, or by a rapid advance attempt to outnumber and crush the flanking army. But as the Allies are strong in numbers and flushed with victory, it is not probable that this effort would succeed. In most cases, judging by history, a general in Prince GORTSCHAKOFF's position would retire as fast as he could, the moment he heard that a strong army would in a few days block up his sole lines of communication. Another advantage of moving from Kaffa would be that it would practically bar the road to the Tchongar bridge, and thus compel the enemy to fly by one road across the waterless steppe.

The advantages, then, seem to be all on the side of the Allies: free communications, endless supplies, at least equal numbers, a roll of victories, and a great triumph; while the enemy dare not attack them on the Tchernaya, has a restricted and imperilled line of communications, is doubtful about his supplies, and has been uniformly beaten.

ADULTERATION OF CREDIT.

A DEFENCE could be put in for STRAHAN, PAUL, and Co., which might have a powerful moral effect. Their counsel might plead that they have only followed the real usages of English trade and English society, and that an exact observance of laws is impossible, and is pronounced to be impossible by the general practice and the solemn decision of the Legislature. What did they do? They professed to have money which they had not got; they risked other people's property, and lost it; they did not fulfil their commercial obligations; they kept up an appearance of respectability and wealth, and left others to pay the debts which they had incurred, perhaps consigning some of those others to beggary. Well, in trade they *all* do it. PAUL may have gone further in degree; but

there are others that stand in the same list, as having modified the strict application of commercial principles upon which all profess to act. Where could you find better names than those of LAWFORD, GORDON, or VILLIERS? And the annals of our police courts have become familiar with various kinds of commercial establishments of the highest class—commission agents, insurance companies, and railway companies, as well as banks. It is unjust to represent the case of STRAHAN, PAUL, and Co. as so *very* exceptional. The steps by which the students on bankruptcy can arrive at their sublimely-dark position can be distinctly traced, without departing from the plainest statement of known facts.

Before we proceed, let us, for the sake of clearness, lay down what we understand to be the fundamental principles of British commerce. It is supposed that two parties, possessing each a superabundance of some different commodity, the two can effect a mutual exchange with mutual benefit; but then it is understood that the things which each says he exchanges shall be *the* things. Sometimes it is very convenient to make the exchange on one or both sides prospective, and the payment is given promissory; but then it is understood that the promise is to be kept. The passing of an article at a profit is called buying, and the privilege or obtaining it on purchase with a promise to pay hereafter is called credit. A butcher sells me a sound quarter of lamb, and I promise to pay him three months hence: his belief is my credit. So far all is sound.

But, under pressure of obligations that have become very complicated, I find it difficult to pay; which is bad, and the law steps in to compel me. Trusting to the compulsion, butcher still accepts my promise, and calls his action "credit"—though it is more like taking a pledge in pawn, with a penal security against me. Here penal compulsion is substituted for credit or belief, and the living moral principle of real credit is so far diminished. Profits get lower under competition and bad debts, and the tradesman tries to compensate himself out of the substances of the thing sold: pickles are greened with copper; tomatas are reddened with the same enough to case a nail soaked in their liquor; grease is supplied to railway companies which is no better than chalk; and the purchaser, who gave his money for green cucumbers, red tomatas, and lubricating grease, which he wanted, has in return for his genuine sovereigns poison or friction in lieu of food and lubrication. The money is wasted, and death is purchased in lieu of life. Sharp practice has so far rendered commerce vain,—a delusion, a mockery, and a snare.

The next step is to trade in adulterated credit, and that is as general as it is easy. A. promises to pay to his butcher, B., if he can: he puts the promise on paper, which ostensibly the law will enforce. B. wants the cash now, though he pretends to postpone his claim, and he adds his signature to the promise, and asks C., a third party, to lend him the money. C. agrees, less on the faith in B., whose power to pay rests on A., than in faith on the law; and he "discounts" the bill. Established the principle that you may raise the wind on adulterated credit, which derives a factitious and fictitious guarantee from the supposed compulsion of the law. Nor is that principle left to abstract and theoretical recognition. Mr. LAWFORD, a lawyer's clerk, nephew to a gentleman who was solicitor to the East India Company, thinks that he may succeed in growing grapes down in Carmarthenshire, in hatching eggs by patent, in following the professions of

solicitor, land-agent, and farmer; and to reap those imaginary profits he rushes into various trades, which prove failures. He was 12,000% in debt; but what matters that? He can "borrow," and he does so for five years, apparently at the rate of 10,000% a-year. We say apparently, for even the reckless borrowing is in itself doubly a delusion. He "fails" for 60,000%, but of that he owes 25,000% as the price of borrowing the rest. The profitable speculation was a figment; the debt itself was 46 per cent. of it a delusion; and the whole proves to be a sham.

For here the law steps in, and says that if Mr. LAWSON, or any like him, really have promised to pay more than they can, they shall be called bankrupt or insolvent, and not pay. The privilege of annulling promises is carried to a vast extent—millions sterling are annually wiped out. Having begun by declaring that the promises shall be performed, the law ends by declaring that it is intolerable, and oppressive to enforce them; so that if they prove to be without any substantial basis or means of realising, they shall be cancelled. And having established the principle of enforcement—a "protection" under which genuine credit is extended indefinitely by a false credit—the law establishes a wide and complicated machinery throughout the country, called bankruptcy and insolvency courts, to extinguish the debts which it has called into being, and to cancel its own creation! And that is deemed economy!

The power of dealing in false credit being established, the traffic flourishes. For, observe, if lenders contribute to that enormous bankrupt waste every year, if borrowers "fail," the agents of the loans can make both parties pay—the borrower for the "accommodation," the lender for the opportunity to make the usance.

A Mr. KING wants to borrow some money, and Mr. HENRY COE COAPE, a gentleman with property in land, but greatly encumbered, is his security. Two lenders are found to lend the money; KING takes it, and then disappears. The loan not being returned, the lenders then come upon the securities; and it is then discovered that the landed property of Mr. COAPE is so encumbered, that in fact it is guaranteed for a very small portion of the debt. Mr. COAPE is brought before the Criminal Court, prosecuted for the false pretext on which he gave his security, but unanimously acquitted by the jury, with the remark that the prosecution was unjustifiable. His land is taken, and something remained over the mortgages towards repayment of the loan; but there were other parties to the transaction. In some way, which is not perfectly clear, an insurance company had stood between the borrower and the lenders, and out of the loan an advance by the company was repaid. Nay, the managing director of the company was the lawyer employed to make inquiries into the sufficiency of the securities, and he admitted before the judges that inquiry might easily have ascertained the condition of Mr. COAPE's property; yet he had 400 guineas for his trouble and expenses.

The solicitor who made these fruitless inquiries had just received a testimonial in the shape of 1,000% given to the solicitor for his zeal and ability; a gift equally to the credit of himself, and of the insurance office which has a solicitor worthy of such a testimonial. Indeed, the moral effect of these testimonials is so obvious and considerable, that they are quite the fashion just now, and they probably bring into existence a degree of credit very advantageous to insurance companies and other trading bodies. It would be interesting to know how many hundreds of thousands are annually transferred in loans that

are not to be repaid—sums thrown into the overflowing cauldron of bankruptcy every year; and what sums, not lost by the recipients, are paid for inquiries in such cases.

But in this plain recital of facts, it appears to us we have established the gradation between the first adulteration of trade and credit and the last results. LUCREZIA BORGIA and Co., who supply copper in lieu of tomato colouring matter, do not better but worse than DAVIDSON and GORDON, who give spelter warrants that represent no spelter; while A., who buys of a butcher without means of paying, does exactly the same in principle as KING, whose security is as visionary as GORDON's metal. STRAHAN, PAUL, and Co. really lodged securities with lenders—only they were other persons' securities; but that was not a more direct mode of taking people's property without leave than if money was taken in the name of spelter where there is no spelter, in the name of grease where there is chalk, in the name of inquiries when there is no effective inquiry, in the name of tomato when there is copper, in the name of an estate at Maldon when the estate has passed to another. If I get a man to advance money on a bill representing a debt which a third party is supposed to owe, and I have no reason to believe that third party will or can pay, I only apply the same principle. And when the law promises to enforce debts, and then releases them in the name of bankruptcy or insolvency, the law itself does but act on the PAUL principle. The pretended principle is one thing, the practice another. The system is so much worse than STRAHAN and Co. that it involves honest and dishonest alike, leaves "paper" in the hands of an unconscious accomplice to pass it on, drags friends and connexions through common humanity into the vortex, and coerces tradesman and customer to fall in with tyrant usage. Whatever the pedantry of statutes and morality may say—orthodox morality winks at any irregularity that can manage to escape detection in the "fast" life of our day, and the Statute Law deliberately provides plans for its own breach! Such is the result when Legislation professes to substitute protection for Free-trade in credit, tells the lender that he may lay vigilance aside, and teaches all to consider probity and improbity on a level of equality before the Law Merchant.

RUSSIA IN THE PACIFIC.

THERE has been a growing danger in the North Pacific. The Russians, established at Behring's Straits, at Petropaulovski, and upon the Amoor, have been long engaged in preparing for a great development of power in Eastern Asia. If their actual possessions in that quarter of the globe be examined, it will be found that, in themselves, they are not of much value. It has been the traditional policy of the Czars, however, to acquire in the first place territories which other Governments would not care to dispute, and these serve as avenues to richer dominions. Upon this principle the blood of armies, and large draughts from the Exchequer, have been lavished to secure the wastes and solitudes of Tartary, the prolific breeding-ground of martial nations. A treble object is thus gained. The bones and sinews of the desert race, the cheap levies of conquerors, are brought into the Russian armies. The forces once wielded by GENGIS and TIMOOR were partially incorporated with the forces of the Emperor NICHOLAS, who knew what potent terror these wild battalions exercised in the East of Europe, often desolated by the whirlwind of their horse. Again, by seizing upon the neutral ground, and advancing their posts across the wilderness, the

Russians have approached the frontiers of China, and by their naval and military station on the Amoor already threaten the borders of Korea. Moreover, from the Channel of Tartary, a fleet might soon arrive off the coasts of Japan; and, in fact, the Americans are now rivalled by the Russians in their pertinacious efforts among the islands of Eastern Asia, and along the shores of the Yellow Sea.

Petropaulovski, embedded in the ice of Kamschatka, was long the only settlement of importance held by the Russians in proximity to the North Pacific. Their Arctic establishments, rarely visited by Europeans, could not be regarded as of political importance. To the fisher and fur-trader alone was New Siberia or the region of the Samoyede tribes interesting, unless the geographical isolation of Sweden, secured by the sway of those territories, enhanced their value. But Petropaulovski itself was not favourably situated for the ultimate objects of Russian policy. It stood in relation to her American rather than to her Eastern progress. Consequently, when the insurrection in China had thrown that empire off its balance, the Czar NICHOLAS, adopting at Peking the MENSCHIKOFF tactics, succeeded in overawing the Emperor. The mouth of the splendid river Amoor was conceded to him. And now his actions proved that, with whatever contempt we may review the plan of a march across Central Asia, the bleak plains and iron ranges of Siberia offer means of transit, and avenues of military and commercial intercourse. Large stores of ammunition and trains of artillery were brought across this inhospitable area, floated upon the Amoor, embarked at its embouchure in vessels of war, and transported to the fortresses of Russian America. Several steamboats of considerable capacity ply upon the stream, and a large arsenal is in course of erection within the bar. It may appear that such an impracticable harbour is not destined to assume naval importance; but the tactics of the Russians consist in building mighty strongholds, furnishing them with prodigious accumulations of arms and munitions, closing the approaches in front, and keeping open communications in the rear.

It should be remembered that upon the western shores of the Pacific the climate admits of navigation throughout the year. Siberia contains immense cannon foundries and manufactories of warlike stores, supplied from the mines of the Ural, but only lately opened by this new outlet, to aid in the defence of the Russian colonies in America, and in the fulfilment of the Russian aims in the Eastern Ocean. A line of connexion is thus established between the point at which Russia touches the coasts of Sweden and that at which she touches the coasts of China. Long ago, by a series of advances, not unresisted by the Tartar race, she passed Lake Baikal, and at Maimachen set a guard upon the Chinese Empire. The Chinese sentry there salutes the Russian. Negotiations are in suspense to extend this encroaching frontier, in the interior as well as along the sea, and the movement will become more rapid as the fortifications of the Amoor increase in magnitude and shelter a rising naval influence.

The question suggested is, how far are these concessions by China, and acquisitions by Russia, to continue? The war, while it lasts, offers a proper opportunity for interrupting on one of the highways of Asia this insidious series of advances. At Sitka and on the Aleutian Isles the Russians possess trading and fishing establishments, which, it is reported, the Allies have resolved not to molest. There is even an elaborate story in

circulation concerning a treaty between the Cabinets of St. Petersburg and London which guarantees from attack the American settlements of Russia. We have not the smallest faith in the existence of such a convention, which would seem to justify the worst insinuations of the party of suspicion. Certainly we are no advocates of violence against fishing villages. But Sitka is fortified to a considerable extent, and on the island of Kodiak the Russian citadel mounts upwards of a hundred cannon. If such places, therefore, are not reduced, magnanimity has little to do with the neglect. It may be that the Allied admirals have sufficient motives for their reserve; but it is impossible to disprove the necessity of watching those stations, and of dismantling, if practicable, the works at Amoor.

In Canada a strong party has risen, which advocates the conquest of the Russian possessions in America. The exponents of this idea propose to raise a colonial force to act as an auxiliary of the fleet, and to annex the territory from New Archangel to the country of the Esquimaux, to the Government of Canada. In addition to the pure colonists there are numbers of half-breeds, of adventurous character—the Red River hunters among them—who would enlist, without reckoning the Indians, though in Brazil an Indian corps of 6000 men has been regularly trained and armed. We suspect that the Americans would regard with great jealousy any such project. They also have their ulterior views upon Russian America; but the first difficulty in the path of these ambitious Canadians is the policy of the Allied Powers. From the first it has been declared by Great Britain and France that for no purposes of aggrandisement have they undertaken the Russian war. Their course of action has been determined by the resolution to uphold European rights and laws, and not by schemes of territorial acquisition. Moreover, were it even clear that, to extort from Russia an equivalent for the sacrifices imposed on England by this struggle, her North American colonies were forfeited, what would be the share of France? Remote as these considerations are, they arise whenever we look distinctly to the issue of the present conflict. It is another thing to insist that, while the conflict lasts, every effort of violence that involves no disproportionate loss should be applied to the coercion of Russia. It will, therefore, be a disappointment and a blunder if the naval campaign in the Pacific be adjourned without establishing the Allied fleets at the mouth of the Amoor.

There is a strict propriety in thus connecting the circumstances of the Chinese and Turkish Empires. Both are decaying. In both the military ruling class, separated by a thousand differences from the mass of the population, have excited its hatred. From both has Russia, acting upon their fears in the midst of their dissensions, obtained grants of territory and political privileges; for, though the fact be not widely known, it is certain that the border races of Tartary live under the mixed influence of the Russian protectorate and of the Mantchu rule—the Russian protectorate signifying, of course, an alternate process of oppression and cajolery. The indefinite extension of this process must lead, by the logic of events, to the subjection of Northern China.

The acquisitions of Russia in Tartary are already equal in extent to the whole of Turkey in Europe, added to Italy and Spain. They stretch in a broad curvilinear belt, from the Northern end of the Caspian Sea, to the borders of China, and comprise a prodigious variety of soils and populations. No sooner

does this shifting frontier touch the confines of a petty independent state, than it passes onwards, blotting out of the desert sovereignty as easily as M. Coq, when he desired to impose on the KING OF MOROCCO, blotted out France and Spain on the map, and added them to the territories of Belgium. But these vast spaces are of little value unless with outlets to the several oceans. Russia has advanced in actual possessions a thousand miles towards Teheran, but the land-locked Caspian is of little value compared with her ulterior objects in that direction—Bassora on the Persian Gulf. A course exactly identical has been pursued at the north-eastern angle of the Chinese Empire, where the Amoor was envied as the parallel of the Euphrates. If it be doubted that these mighty schemes exist, the proof is given in the undertakings already attempted. TIMKOVSKI years ago, and LEVCHINE more recently, have described the incessant war kept up along the Tartar and Russian frontiers. Siberia having but one water-way to the East—the Amoor—Russia pushed along the borders of that stream, through the territories of insignificant tribes, until she reached the boundary—formerly impassable—of the Chinese Empire. If events have any meaning, her further purpose is to secure a local influence on that coast, which will radiate over those neighbouring regions where, while the soil is prolific and the position favourable, the governments are falling to decay. Russia, like Austria, is composed of fragments, torn from weak hands—such hands as rule in all quarters of the East, except those under the British or Dutch dominion.

It will suffice, however, if our plain-sailing admirals—while the war continues—will visit the Russian settlements on the Amoor, on the Aleutian Isles, and at Sitka, and take possession of all armed places belonging to Russia in the North Pacific.

THE ADMISSION TO THE BATH.

It has been discovered that when a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath is admitted, he pays 164*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* in fees to the officers of the Order—to the Dean, for his benediction; to the gentleman usher, for his introduction; to the messenger, for his assistance; to the Bath King of Arms, for being Bath King of Arms, and also a separate sum for furnishing "the book of the statutes;" and to the Secretary, for being Secretary, and for furnishing "notice of election." When an officer has performed some great achievements for the service of his country, the country, through the Sovereign, expresses its gratitude by conferring upon him a new title; and the grateful but commercial country at the same time sends in its "little bill" for the expenses of the gratitude. The little bill is conceived with all the art of the innkeeper, only the waiters of the hotel will envy the vails taken by the waiters of the country. It has been known that individuals have declined the Order because they could not pay the fines. In other words, they could not afford to accept the acknowledgments of their grateful country. We have heard, indeed, of individuals receiving the honour, and declining to pay the bill, on Paul Pry's principle, that vails are "optional;" and the story is, that the refusal was held to be good. Sometimes the fees are voluntarily remitted by royal command. Of course you will suppose in the case of persons who are poor, though heroes: not at all. The remission is made in favour of foreign Sovereigns. Our contemporary, the *Times*, who "takes up" this important subject, supposes that the remission is made for the purpose of saving the dig-

nity of the country, in order that foreign potentates may not know our custom of presenting a little bill of charges for the state gratitude; but we doubt the reason. We suspect that it lies in the strong sympathy which prevails in high quarters for Sovereigns; a class who never have enough money in their pockets; and they will resort to any shifts to get or save cash. We only remember to have heard of one who was ashamed to ask his people for money, and that was the scapegrace CHARLES THE SECOND. But, scapegrace as he was, he had something human about him, and he had not only state feelings. More respectable Sovereigns never evince that kind of bashfulness; but an Emperor, who will persecute the poorest of his subjects for his dues, will thankfully accept remission of the fees which are paid by mere nobles.

The *Times* justly thinks this price put upon gratitude disgraceful, and seeing the necessity of some such institution as these orders of chivalry profess to be, it calls for "a fourth class of the Bath, or a new order which should date from the era of a great achievement and the reign of a respected Sovereign." That is, the instituted Order of Chivalry being quite converted into antiquated lumber, and retained only as a humbug, the *Times* proposes to annex to the old ruin a new order of genuine chivalry—of real distinction. This is placing "the right man in the right place"—the true beneath the spurious! But has not something of the kind been attempted? There was a civil class of the Bath, which was to be an "order of merit," and there were extensions of it. The difficulty, however, appears to have consisted, first, in breaking through routine so as to confer the distinction upon people whom the country regards as actually distinguished; and secondly, in giving any real value to the title. The plan has been rather to let this supplemental honorarium fall on the heads of those who were the hangers-on of grandes; and some pushing SMITH or BROWN, that could get himself into the managing body of some favoured humanitarian or scientific "dodge," enjoyed the privilege of letting other people put "C.B." after his name. Where is the substantial enjoyment? One "JOHN SMITH" receives letters with "Esq." after his name, and another "JOHN SMITH, Esq.," receives letters with the further initials "C.B." annexed, and there the distinction ends. Nobody calls him C.B.; nobody says "Companion JOHN," or "Bath SMITH." He is not even a common "Sir," and, really, he scarcely attaches more value to the literary augmentation, than he would to the "riband" for which he sees great lords contend.

It is strange that so inventive a country as the British cannot hit upon any well-designed plan of marking the national approbation of distinguished services. We have no provision in the case of women, except giving them money. There was a proposal lately to prove that the country is not unworthy of FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, by making her a Peeress. Now, a Peeress is no such "great shakes" after all; and the gift of the title to Miss NIGHTINGALE would rather tend to redeem the character of a tarnished institution, than to elevate her. But it was thought too much. The gift of a title to a woman not more wealthy than FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, or not more immediately connected with high families, would be a precedent for giving up privileges which Ministers and those connected with the Government are inclined to refuse; and they did refuse. There was then a proposal to admit the lady into the Order of the Bath; but we have no Sisters of Chivalry in title, though we have them in fact; and, although a witty

willingness is said to have been expressed to concur in a project of that kind, the idea, we suspect, expires with the joke. It is quite as difficult to compass any proper recognition of meritorious men as of women; and it would seem as if the country were itself not equal to the work of recognising merit when merit shows itself.

And there, we believe, is the substantial truth of the matter. The grand standard in this country is "the higgling of the market." It has taken ever since ADAM SMITH's time to establish a maxim which the Professor of Moral Philosophy certainly never intended to use, as it has been used since his day. Before that maxim became our leading moral standard, the high truth was "possession is nine points of the law," and the most substantial form of possession lay with the land-owners. To be wealthy was better than to be high born. CURTIS, the great biscuit contractor, who was the butt of the populace for his narrowness, was, after all, regarded, as he passed by, with awe, for his success and his wealth. Moreover, he became "Sir WILLIAM CURTIS," for the state can recognise the merit of wholesale biscuit-making. But to be the owner of land—that was the great thing, and if a man could obtain a real Lordship of that sort, no matter what his birth, the Heralds would always *presume* his birth, and could establish their presumption *ex post facto*. Wealth, wealth—that is the most we recognise. Birth itself has "gone to the dogs;" and although a man must be noble to be a G.C.B., any man can be noble who is rich enough. The nation has shown its capacity for estimating wealth, and titles have thus become nothing more than quotations to test "the higgling of the market."

As to founding "a fourth class," or "a new Order," of what use would it be? Fill it with those who attain to Court favour, and you would only add another to the Orders which exist, different in nothing, except in its being inferior. If the nation had a real value for chivalry, the want would be supplied *ex facto*; but quite independently of titles, orders, or other formality. Do we not see that the want of the day is the existence of men animated by the qualities that constitute chivalrous men, and enable them to unite in chivalrous Orders? The chivalrous communities were originally realities, not forms. To enter them, a man must be courageous, true to his word, and ready to fulfil his vow of aiding a brother knight; that is, a man must be brave, loyal, independent, fit to be trusted by others, and capable of trusting others himself. The last quality, we believe, is that which has most disappeared amongst us; in great part, no doubt, because our devotion to pure commercial tests has made even merchants sharp traders, and has withdrawn the very grounds of trust. The consequence is, that except through recognised and instituted official connexions, men cannot act together, either socially or politically. There is no bond of brotherhood; no loyal determination to stand by each other; no such influence as did exist in ruder times through the orders of chivalry. What is the good of *calling* a man a knight, when he is not a knight, nor anything at all like it? Call a biscuit-baker, "Sir," as if he were a man of chivalry, and the title of chivalry is reduced to the level of a City biscuit-baker. So it happens; and no statutes can call an Order into existence if the people cannot supply the materials for it. Whereas, if they supplied an order of men actuated by chivalrous ideas, like a ROEBUCK, a GODERICH, a NEWCASTLE, a DE LACY EVANS, and capable of acting together—a chivalrous order would exist in fact, a chivalrous distinction would arise out of the fact,

and the title would matter little. It is peoples that manufacture chivalrous orders—kings only baptise them—and sometimes kill them in the ceremony of throwing the cold water on them.

HISTORY'S TELESCOPE.

DID you ever try to describe a colour to a blind man? Of course not. Eloquently as FRANCES BROWN speaks of sublime aspects of nature, elaborately as BLACKLOCK rushes into the adjectives of picture, we attempt not to make the blind see, knowing how impossible it is. But to see is to understand; to be blind is to be shut out from many traits which explain things otherwise unintelligible. How many a word is uttered in kindness that sounds like reproof if we see not the countenance with which it is uttered! How many phrases might be taken as flattering unctious to the soul, if the glance of the eye did not point the sarcasm! The blind man, it is true, may eke out the fault of one sense by the nicety of another, and may see meaning in the tones of the voice. Or he may draw the association connected even with the objects of sight through another channel, as the blind man said that the colour of red he took to be like the sound of the trumpet, and green "like a pleasing friendship." But those who are at a distance, whether of space or time, hear as little as they can see; and who has not longed for the magic mirror of CAGLIOSTRO to conjure up the great departed, or for Prince ALI's perspective glass, to bring the beloved Princess to sight, and tell us at the moment how she is. Now what Count CAGLIOSTRO promised to do, and what fiction ascribed to the Peri BANOU, has been performed for us by NIEPCE and DAGUERRE, TALBOT and CLAUDET. Since the improvement of the process, the use of the highly-sensitive collodion, and the adaptation of printing to photography, we have the means of possessing the impress of things which we desire to see, and of conveying the impress to distant places; while engraving promises to perpetuate the photograph, and thus we hand down the fac-simile to posterity. Do you desire things as they are in the Crimea? Then by going to Pall Mall East, and paying your shilling, you may see the plateau of Sebastopol, the quay of Balaklava; you may see the officers, from Lord RAGLAN or General SIMPSON to the postmaster, from PELISSIER to the *vivandière*; you may see the mode in which the officers have lived, the huts in which they have "pigged," and the easy manner in which they take their hardships; and you may see—precious to the eyes of anxious affection—exactly how they looked.

Nor is it only affection that has an interest in these elucidations. You can never understand a man's conduct, or calculate his future actions half so well, unless you have that key to his character which is furnished in his countenance and aspect. Show me a man's face, and I understand his letter more clearly. Let me see the expression of his countenance, and I have further evidence on which to trust him or to distrust him—to know whether he will be frank or finessing, firm or faltering. We were severe upon Lord RAGLAN; let us see the features of that amiable, placid old gentleman, with a white cloth over his broad-brimmed hat—as if it were a village clergyman pleasing his grandchildren by pretending to wear his wife's bonnet—and we understand how the once-dashing and soldierly FITZROY SOMERSET had declined into the vale of years. We judge the man, then, not by his failures, but by the firmness which still keeps him placid amidst so many troubles, and preserves the pure kindness of his countenance amidst

so many cares. There is no spectacle more affecting than the countenance of Lord RAGLAN, unchanged in its goodness through all the changing scenes in which we see it. It not only reconciles us to the man, but to our own past estimation; teaching us that after all there was no mistake in the respect paid to the character of RAGLAN. The mistake lay in permitting a noble ambition to indulge itself, where a gentle force ought to have been used in making the aged man accept the repose which his patriotism spurned.

We have not yet been astonished by JAMES SIMPSON, excellent as the testimonials were when he received his appointment; and here we have before us an historical elucidation of the unastonishing character of his command, in the shape of his own portrait. A most regular, conscientious, and meritorious officer has he been; and here he is—a respectable middle-aged Englishman of features so near the average, that you can scarcely tell to what class in life he belongs. A slender man, with somewhat compressed jaws and a compressed coat, lank equally in hair and flank, he looks as if he were the meritorious head of all the Chelsea pensioners; fully deserving of that dignity, and something more. If you want to know why the "JAMES SIMPSON" of the *Gazette* cannot write better grammar, or perform more dashing exploits, look at his portrait, and you understand it all.

So with PELISSIER—a bustling, dashing man, not unmindful of his friends, but harsh and overbearing upon necessity; and there he is, a thick-waisted Frenchman with something of the bull-headedness of the English sailor, and the inexorable expression of a British tax-collector. He is just the man to distract a fortress, and has active mind enough to know how to do it.

How much light could we throw on history if we had this real illustration? Portrait painting we may doubt; the mirror is faithful if we could but fix it; and here it is, fixed. HOLBEIN, that genius who was a photographic machine by anticipation, gave us in EDWARD VI. the countenance of HENRY VIII., only tenderer with youth and sickness—an illustration refuting the amiable fancy portrait of HUME; and then, some time after, out came the recent disclosures of his arbitrary character; but all portrait-painters were not photographers like HOLBEIN; whereas all photography is HOLBEIN—and something more. The illustrations which we desire of the past in vain, we can give posterity. There is not an eminent person in Europe who has not been photographed. The cheapening of printing processes multiplies the fac-similes; and books themselves will convey the illustrations of history to future ages.

As a relic indeed, or as a gift, photography has an interest far beyond the painted portrait. The original himself takes a part in the effigy made from the impress of his identity. You can trace every lineament and every hair, but the picture has been produced by those lineaments and that hair. The art has to a certain extent been rendered independent of the painter's craft. Taste and tact can render it a family occupation, and we may hand down to posterity a family painted by themselves in these perpetuated mirrorings. We have an example here in the highest family in the land, whose members are practised and skilful photographers. Prince ALBERT executing photographs of his wife and children, tells posterity how the husband-father in that remarkable family was pleased to see them look; and in the portrait of the PRINCE, which the QUEEN, *en revanche*, executed with her own fair hands, posterity will see where

the evasive locks have been seduced over parts of the Prince's head which time has bared. The most familiar expression may not only be preserved by affection, but actually imprints itself indelibly visible to the eye. "What were you thinking of?" asks the lover, looking into the miniature given to him by his best beloved, and tracing one of the numberless expressions which are so familiar though so changeable—"What were you thinking of?" "Of you." And there is the thought self-printed for his keeping.

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.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—It seemed probable that we should hear no more of the famous Suez Canal. The only reasonable ground for its construction would have been its utility to commerce. A short and cheap road for merchant vessels to the East Indies would certainly have been a great boon. It seems the peculiar task, moreover, of this age to annihilate distance. But in trade cheapness is equivalent to shortness. Except in the case of perishable articles, no loss is incurred if a voyage lasts five instead of two months, provided freight remains precisely the same; or, rather, to be more particular, provided all expenses, including interest of money, be equally balanced.

Now it happens that if a canal existed across the Isthmus of Suez, the road thus created would be neither shorter nor cheaper. A short road is that which keeps the voyager little time on his journey; and it is sometimes more expeditious to go round a hill than over its top. Those who invented this scheme merely looked at the map of our hemisphere, and measured distance by the compass. They forgot all they must have learned at school about the trade winds, the influences of current, &c., and would not even notice the great ocean routes which are generally marked on maps in bright lines to attract attention. On the great waters it happens to be a rule that a straight line is never the shortest. Every long voyage is a curve. It is rare that even the most powerful steamers when leaving port put their head on to the point of destination.

A few facts were laid before the promoters of the canal, the significance of which they could not or would not understand. First, with especial reference to English interests, for many partisans were created in our own country, whence, indeed, the greatest part of the capital necessary was to be drawn. An East Indiaman generally performs her voyage home from Calcutta to Liverpool in less than four months, sometimes in less than three. A vessel fitted for the navigation of the Mediterranean takes from seventy to ninety days to come from Alexandria to the same destination; and nothing is more common than for whole fleets of merchantmen to be detained a fortnight or three weeks by adverse winds within the Gut of Gibraltar. I remember that in 1847 more than a hundred vessels laden with corn and beans were in this predicament for a long time, and that the English Government—not always alert to assist commercial operations—gave orders to its war-steamers on neighbouring stations to become tugs for the occasion. As there is no probability that the cutting of the isthmus will change the weather in the Mediterranean, it seems evident, at least until screws can be adapted to all vessels engaged in this trade, that England, at any rate, has nothing to gain in point of time by the opening of this new route. In any case it will remain doubtful until experience has settled the question whether the kind of ships alone adapted for carrying on exportation from India under proper condition of cheapness could safely navigate the Mediterranean. I must add that of course the causes of delay I have mentioned do not all influence ports within the Straits; but even their vessels make wonderfully tedious voyages. However, if the chief difficulties lay on this side of the Isthmus of Suez, Marseilles and Trieste would gain in importance by the creation of the canal, and the countries to which they form the inlets might derive some advantage. The scheme would then be reduced comparatively to one of local importance.

But on the other side of the isthmus there exist impediments to navigation called the Monsoons, of which the promoters of the canal seem never to have heard. During many months of the year it is absolutely impossible for any sailing vessel to come up the Red Sea; the coalers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company have often been detained ninety or a hundred days on the way, even when the worst of the season has passed. In fine weather, the average length of a sailing voyage even from Bombay to Suez is at least seventy days. Under present circumstances, accordingly, it takes nearly as long to traverse the distance between any Indian port and Marseilles *via* Suez as *via* the Cape; and much longer to reach any ocean port by the same route. Of course by improvements in navigation and the application of steam these difficulties may, to a certain extent, be overcome; but the Cape route is also becoming shorter and shorter every day, and we question whether screw-ships of equal burden will not always perform the voyage by the ocean more cheaply, more rapidly, and more safely than by the narrow seas. However, if France sees that any commercial advantage can be derived to herself—for, after all, this is an eminently French question—by the opening of the Isthmus of Suez, there is no reasonable ground for interfering with her, except one, which I shall presently point out. But she must provide the capital herself.

Austria, whom the promoters of the scheme formerly endeavoured to draw in, no longer believes either in its utility or feasibility. In 1847 it sent out a commission to survey the Isthmus of Suez, and by the report of that commission was convinced that the canal, instead of costing two hundred thousand pounds sterling, as its enthusiastic advocates believed, or pretended to believe, would cost at least five millions. Some of its members were even persuaded that the work was physically impossible. On surveying the Bay of Tineh they found that in most parts the water was so shallow that they were obliged to anchor out of sight of the land. At one point, however, they could approach within four miles. They saw that it would be necessary to cut and keep open a channel through a vast bank of mud, the surplus mud of the Nile carried out to sea and washed round in that direction by the currents. The idea of the wild promoters was that the water of the Red Sea running rapidly through the canal would be sufficient to keep the Mediterranean mouth open; but close at hand were the two embouchures of the Nile completely stopped up by a bar under the very conditions which they esteemed so favourable. The Austrian engineers, however—and I believe their opinion has since been confirmed—declared that the enormous difference of level between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean did not exist—that the idea was the result of a gross blunder. At the same time the majority of them, I think, admitted that, considering the progress made by the science of engineering, it was not absolutely impossible to cut and keep open the canal. The question was merely one of time and money. They left it to their Government to say whether the results promised would justify the prodigious efforts necessary; and their Government, agreeing with all English statesmen, and Lord Redcliffe in particular, most positively declined to give any pecuniary assistance. Their decision, much influenced by the elaborate controversy carried on in the press, which, on the other hand, was purposely supplied with materials of discussion by them, proved fatal to the idea of a grand confederation of European nations for the purpose of bringing the far East and the far West together by means of a channel cut across an uninhabitable desert.

I do not know what were the terms of the firman granted by Said Pacha to M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, but I have no doubt that if Lord Redcliffe really did oppose its confirmation, it was on two very reasonable grounds: one having reference to Turkish imperial policy, the other being merely one of humanity. The Porte has always maintained that, although Suez and Tineh are within the viceroyalty of Egypt, the question of a canal across the isthmus is eminently a Turkish, not an Egyptian, question. From the very outset it resolved that the initiative should not come from any Pacha, but from itself, in case the work were proved to be a useful one. Lord Redcliffe approved of this view; and certainly now is not the time for weakening and opposing the central authority in the Ottoman Empire. M. de Lesseps should have applied at Constantinople, not at Alexandria or Mehemetopolis (the new city near the Barrage), for a firman; and if he could have obtained it, and France had really desired the canal, we should, as we have said, have entertained only one objection. The navigators to be employed in this vast undertaking would, as in the case of the Mahmoudiyeh canal, have been *fellahs* forcibly taken from their villages, compelled to abandon the labour by which they live, only nominally paid, and placed under the care of a commissariat even worse than one composed of English gentlemen. They would be driven out, half clad, in troops into the arid desert, and compelled to claw up the earth and sand with

their fingers. When the Mahmoudiyeh was dug, even within reach of water and exhaustless store-houses, some thirty thousand human beings perished from the neglect and brutality common in Egyptian administration. Their bones are often exposed to view by the crumbling of the ill-made bank in which they were buried. Can we wish to see similar scenes repeated. Can we wish to hear of thousands and tens of thousands of Egyptian serfs perishing of hunger and thirst in the Desert of Suez in order that M. Ferdinand de Lesseps may make a good thing of his firman; and that Marseilles may receive in its stinking port a few dozen ships more *per annum*. We are promised nothing to induce us to wish such a price to be paid.

Yours, &c.,

CAVIO.

EXTRAORDINARY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Three persons met their death, on Tuesday, on the Manchester and Sheffield Railway, after a very singular manner. John Healey, Thomas Priestnall, and Jane Hadfield, young persons connected with cotton and weaving factories, had been with a party of Sunday School teachers to spend the day at Bellevue Gardens, Manchester. On returning, the train stopped for a few minutes on the viaduct across Dinting Vale, near a station. Healey immediately got out of the carriage, thinking they had arrived at their journey's end, and held out his hand for Jane Hadfield, who also got out, and stepped on the parapet of the viaduct, which was a little below the floor of the carriages. Conceiving they were on the platform, they literally stepped over the parapet, and disappeared. Another young woman then got out, but, having some suspicion, tried the width of the ground with one foot while she stood on the other. By this time the accident had been discovered by the people in the carriage, who pulled her back. Immediately afterwards, however, Priestnall leaped out of the next carriage, and he too went over the viaduct. The occurrence took place at about twelve minutes to ten o'clock at night. Healey and Hadfield were killed at once; Priestnall lingered forty minutes. The train had been stopped on the viaduct while a Liverpool train was shunted on the Glossop branch. An inquest has been opened, but is not yet concluded.

BYRON.—The character of one of the greatest poets the world ever saw, in a very few years, will be discerned in the clear light of truth. How quickly all misrepresentations die away! One hates calumny, because it is ugly and odious in its own insignificant and impotent stinking self. But it is almost always extremely harmless. I believe, at this moment, that Byron is thought of, as a man, with an almost universal feeling of pity, forgiveness, admiration, and love. I do not think it would be safe in the most popular preacher to abuse Byron now—and that not merely because he is now dead, but because England knows the loss she has sustained in the extinction of her most glorious luminary.—*Noctes Ambrosianae*.

FALMOUTH.—It was Raleigh who first called attention to Falmouth's magnificent harbour, and gave the impulse which brought it into importance. When he put in here, returning from his expedition to Guiana in search of Eldorado, he found, as is recorded, but a single house, the nucleus of a village which afterwards went by the name of *Penny-come-Quick*. The site of some of the earliest houses is yet to be seen near the centre of the town, and a story is told to explain the curious name; but it sounds like one of those which never were true. And out of this grew Falmouth, one day to become the chief station of the government mail-packets. Some thirty years ago the arrival of a packet was an incident to be eagerly announced to the whole kingdom by the newspapers. First started in 1688 to ply to Spain and Portugal, the number was increased until a regular service was established with the colonies and some principal foreign ports. They sailed to Lisbon once a week, to other places once a month, and brought us news from Brazil, New York, the West Indies, and Madeira, whenever they could, at the pleasure of wind and weather. All are now superseded by steam-vessels; and not till Falmouth is linked to London by a railway and electric telegraph will she regain her prominence in the postal service.—*A Londoner's Walk to the Land's End*.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY.—Russia has taxed her military resources almost to the utmost; and, after two years' campaigning, during which time she has lost no decisive battle, she cannot muster more than 600,000 to 650,000 regular troops, with 100,000 militia, and perhaps 50,000 irregular cavalry. We do not mean to say that she is exhausted; but, there is no doubt, that now, after two years' war, she could not do what France did after twenty years' war, and after the total loss of her finest army in 1812: pour forth a fresh body of 80,000 men and arrest, for a time at least, the onslaught of the enemy. So enormous is the difference, in military strength, between a densely and a thinly populated country. If France bordered on Russia, the 66,000,000 inhabitants of Russia would be weaker than the 38,000,000 French. That the 44,000,000 Germans are more than a match for the 66,000,000 subjects of the orthodox Czar, there is not the slightest doubt.—*Putman's Monthly*.

Literature.

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

WHILE in England we are but slowly beginning to appreciate the importance of American Literature and its remarkable leaders, the Americans are better acquainted with our Literature than we are ourselves. They attend to every new appearance, and ferret out the names hidden behind signatures, so that we in England may really learn something of what passes here by reading the American journals. In *Putnam's Monthly* there is a paper on "New English Poets"—that is on OWEN MEREDITH, MATTHEW ARNOLD, and GERALD MASSEY. The critic scarcely mentions the name of MEREDITH, he at once withdraws the mask, and speaks of ROBERT LYTTON BULWER, as he nowhere speaks of SYDNEY YENDYS, but simply of DOBELL; and in this latter instance there is the tacit assumption that all America is perfectly familiar with the name of DOBELL, which is certainly not the case in England, where the majority only know SYDNEY YENDYS. What a prospect is held out for English authors when once an International Copyright is arranged! To popular writers such a change would bring wealth; to serious writers, who can now scarcely secure a public large enough to pay expenses of printing, it would bring a public large enough to reward as well as to protect from loss.

A few weeks ago we announced the somewhat startling fact that a discovery which had carried the name of CLAUDE BERNARD over Europe, and which indeed was one of the most striking physiological discoveries of the age, namely that the liver is not only a gland secreting bile, but a manufactory of sugar—this discovery had been contested in the *Académie des Sciences*, after a reputation of six years, during which it had been tested by most experimental physiologists. The antagonist is M. LOUIS FIGUIER, whom our readers may know as the author of a popular work on the *Principal Modern Scientific Discoveries*. His experiments and arguments were striking enough to cause no little sensation; and the Academy appointed a Commission of Inquiry. Meanwhile the *Annales des Sciences* has published the two *Mémoires* which M. FIGUIER addressed to the Academy; and CLAUDE BERNARD has published his lectures, delivered at the Collège de France during 1854-55, in a volume called *Leçons de Physiologie Expérimentale*, which we very strongly recommend to those of our readers whose studies lie at all in that direction. Without awaiting the decision of the Commission of Inquiry, we may at once declare our conviction that M. BERNARD'S lectures establish the truth of his discovery, and that his reply to M. FIGUIER is triumphant.

To give the reader a general idea of this discussion, it may be premised that BERNARD'S experiments prove that however you deprive the food of an animal of saccharine matters, the animal does nevertheless form sugar out of the albuminous substances; and the organ in which this sugar is formed is the Liver, and the Liver only. The vessels which convey the albuminous substances to the Liver are found destitute of sugar; the vessels which convey the blood from the Liver are found rich in sugar; and the tissue of the Liver itself is found filled with sugar. The conclusion is inevitable if the facts are certain. Well, these facts have been tested by many of the first experimentalists, and declared to be correct. M. FIGUIER, however, denies their correctness. He denies that the blood carried by the portal veins to the Liver is destitute of sugar. He says the sugar is present, but masked by the presence of albuminose. He brings forward experiments to prove his assertion. Hereupon BERNARD plainly denies FIGUIER'S experiments to have any value, because they have not been conducted under proper physiological conditions. This is very probable, seeing that FIGUIER is not a physiologist, but a chemist; and chemists are apt to make sad blunders when they enter the more delicate domain of physiology. And that M. FIGUIER is not profound in his physiological knowledge may be seen in the fact that in one of his experiments the raw meat with which he fed a dog is said to be digested, and its saccharine elements to have passed into the portal vein two hours after the animal was fed. Here are two errors—1. the assumed presence of sugar in raw meat; 2. the assumption that raw meat is digested in two hours; digestion is not half completed in the stomach, much less has the food passed into the intestines, in that time. The question of fact, however, must soon be decided. Whether the portal system does or does not contain sugar cannot long remain dubious. Meanwhile MOLESCHOTT has brought forward some striking observations which give great weight to BERNARD'S views. He cut out the Liver from several frogs, which he managed to keep alive for three weeks after the operation. He then examined the blood, muscles, and secretions of the frogs, but found in them no trace of bile or sugar. The conclusion is plain; for as we know the extirpation of the kidneys causes urea to be accumulated in the blood, so the extirpation of the Liver ought to cause an accumulation of bile and sugar in the blood if the Liver were a mere filter for these substances, and not the organ which makes them.

Should M. FIGUIER turn out to be correct he will have thrown a doubt upon all the best established facts of physiology; he will have thereby done great service, for doubt is the mother of wisdom; but he will have created

terrible confusion among the savants; and we shall have our sceptical anatomists parodying the sceptical philosopher, and bequeathing their bodies (if they have bodies) to the hospital (if there be a hospital) for the advancement of science (if there be a science).

SIR G. C. LEWIS ON THE CREDIBILITY OF EARLY ROMAN HISTORY. *An Inquiry into the Credibility of the Early Roman History.* By the Right Hon. Sir George Cornewall Lewis. John W. Parker and Son.

WE have too long delayed our notice of this excellent book, which it is the duty of a literary journal to recommend to the notice of scholars. Its importance will not be confined to the special investigation with which it is concerned, and to which it gives a new, and, we believe, a decisive turn. It will, we apprehend, be regarded as a most valuable example of sound historical criticism, conducted on just principles, and a most useful and invigorating lesson to the student in that department.

Niebuhr's reconstruction of the history of Rome, and especially of the constitutional history, during the first four and a half centuries of the Republic, has been successfully impeached in some important points by Ihne and others, who have exhibited his want of sound exegesis, and his arbitrary mode of dealing with passages in Livy, Dionysius, and the other authorities, from a reconstruction of which he undertook, guided by the power of divination which he professed to have acquired, to restore the lost lineaments of the constitutional history of Rome. But these critics did not think of rigorously examining the basis of his whole theory. They showed that in some important instances he had not used his data fairly; but they did not think of inquiring exactly what data he or any one else had to use. The consequence was, that for his unauthorised speculations they substituted speculations almost as unauthorised of their own. Ihne has given us a new theory of the proprietary relations between patricians and plebeians, which led to the agitation for agrarian laws. Mr. F. Newman has shown what, considering his ordinary habits of mind, is an almost wayward credulity in treating of the political history of the later kings.

Schwegler begins at the right end by giving a conspectus of all the evidence for the early history, both documentary and monumental. But Sir G. C. Lewis has first brought fully and decisively home to our minds the utter want of trustworthy evidence, and the consequent inanity of all speculations, for the long period in question. His principle is the perfectly sound one, that no historical fact is to be relied on the evidence for which is not traceable to contemporary testimony. Now, if we include the Greek historians who wrote upon the war with Pyrrhus, the evidence for the facts of Roman history is traceable to contemporary testimony as far back as the landing of Pyrrhus in Italy, 281 B.C., though the contemporary historians for the earlier and larger portion of that period are not now extant. But at that point contemporary testimony totally fails. Fabius Pictor and Cincius Alimentus, who first reduced the early history to writing in the time of the second Punic war, had no materials for that history but oral tradition; a few isolated and often apocryphal documents and monuments (of which the most important was the Code of the Twelve Tables), and from the Gallic conflagration downwards an imperfect register of the annual magistrates, and a few other matters, principally prodigies and their procurations, which formed objects of high importance in the eyes of the pontifical registrars, by whom the state registers of Rome were kept. Livy tells us himself (without apparently suspecting the bearing of the statement on the character of his own history) that almost all the archives, private as well as public, perished in the Gallic conflagration. There is no trace of any prose historian at Rome before Fabius Pictor, or of any poetical chronicler before Nævius, who wrote a poetical chronicle of the first Punic war, with which he was contemporary. On the contrary, there is strong evidence of the absence of literature of any kind at Rome before that period, in the fact that Fabius and Cincius wrote in Greek, implying thereby that Latin was not a literary language. The first historian who wrote in the native language was the elder Cato.

Now, on the most liberal computation, and allowing the political memory of the Romans, as a nation much governed by political precedents, to have been strong, oral tradition can hardly be trusted for more than one of the five centuries before Fabius. The history of the rest, as it has come to us through Livy, Dionysius, Cicero, and Plutarch, who followed the chroniclers from Fabius to Valerius Antias, must be regarded by sound criticism as legendary, and, like other legends, as lying beyond the province of history, and affording no sound data for historical speculation. We must take it as it is; enjoy its legendary beauty, appreciate it as a characteristic offspring of the national imagination, turn it into "Lays of Ancient Rome," but not treat it as a fund for the manufacture of endless antiquarian hypotheses and conjectural restorations, which are all alike incapable of proof and of confutation, and may be multiplied without end. Throw it into the crucible as often as we will, it will yield no historical truth, because it does not contain the stuff out of which historical truth is made. Curiosity must acquiesce, however unwillingly, in the fact that the first four centuries of Rome, the origin and formation of the Roman character, and the early development of the Roman institutions, is involved in almost total darkness. And it is almost worthy of a Cagliostro to pretend that by shutting yourself up for a long time in that darkness, and gazing intently on it, you acquire a right to pronounce, without positive proof, that real objects are discernible in it, and to determine what those real objects are.

But Niebuhr has discovered, as he thinks, that there are other materials for the early history than oral tradition, in the shape of national lays or ballads and funeral orations. The "ballad" theory, it is well known, has formed the nominal ground for Mr. Macaulay's *Lays of Rome*, which are good enough of themselves, and do not need a bad theory to justify their production. Sir G. C. Lewis examines the evidence for this theory, and it crumbles to nothing under his hands. It consists of a statement of Cato that the Romans, many centuries before his time, used to sing the praises of illustrious men at banquets, and an allusion of Ennius to bards who had written before him in the verse of Fauns and prophets. The statement of Cato, whatever his evidence may be worth for so distant a period, certainly does

not point to anything so important as the existence of a mass of national ballad poetry, still less to its existence in the age of Fabius Pictor and Cincius Alimentus, a little before his own time. On the contrary, it negatives such a supposition. The verse of Fauns and prophets, mentioned by Ennius, is clearly enough proved by Sir G. C. Lewis to be nothing more or less than the Saturnian metre, in which Nævius wrote; and Nævius is the subject, and apparently the sole subject, of the allusion. Thus the external proof collapses, and the internal indications of "Lays" incorporated in the history of Livy and Dionysius come equally to nothing. In endeavouring to distinguish these lays, Niebuhr hovers between two different tests—the test of matter and the test of form. The test of poetical matter is wholly inadmissible in support of his special theory. Nobody doubts that the character of the legends is poetical, but it does not follow that they ever existed in the metrical form of ballads, any more than the oral mythology of Greece, part of which was first reduced to writing by prose mythologists. It is essential to ballads that they should be in verse, and it is essential to the ballad theory that this verse, or the traces of it, should be clearly discerned. Niebuhr felt this, and therefore, while he really rests the weight of his theory on the poetical character of the narrative of Livy, he also undertakes to point out one or two vestiges of actual metre. And the chief of these—the grand instance—is found, not in the golden reign of Numa, or the battle of the Horatii and Curiatii, or the destruction of Alba, or the history of Lucretia or Virginia, but in the dry legal fragment of the law of treason which is incorporated in the story of the trial of Horatius. This Niebuhr breaks up with his pen into short lines, with mysterious accents, and calls it Saturnian verse. Sir G. C. Lewis justly says that at this rate you might find ballads in the Institutes. The fact is that Niebuhr was attracted to the passage, and induced to choose it for his experiment, on account of its archaic language, and for no better reason.

Besides his Lays, Niebuhr conceives funeral orations to have been preserved in writing at a very early period, and to have been one of the sources of the early history. He even undertakes to criticise and compare the quality of these orations, and to pronounce that the stories derived from those of the Fabii are of undeniable authenticity, while those of the Valerii are, he regrets to say, less worthy of credit. Not a vestige of these orations exists. The earliest oration mentioned as having been preserved in writing, is that of Appius the Blind against peace with Pyrrhus. In later times funeral panegyrics were preserved, and the achievements attributed in them to the ancestors of the deceased, had, by Livy's time, coloured history. Neither is there any historical trace of family memoirs preserved by the great houses in the early period of Rome, though there were doubtless inscriptions under the ancestral images which constituted a Roman pedigree. To these inscriptions and pedigrees Livy probably refers in speaking of the private records lost in the Gallic conflagration. The *dirges*, Sir G. C. Lewis seems justified in saying, probably did not survive the day of the funeral.

Readers of Niebuhr must be cautioned against his constant insinuation of the existence of family and other histories prior to the war with Pyrrhus, and against his ambiguous use of the word *Annals*, which in one sense denoted chronicles, such as those of Fabius Pictor and his successors, but in another sense (the only sense in which it is applicable to any documents composed before the war with Pyrrhus) denotes the *Annals of the Pontiffs*, which were only dry and meagre annual registers.

After disposing of the external testimony, Sir G. C. Lewis proceeds to analyse the internal character of the history, as we have it in Livy and Dionysius; and he finds that it corresponds to the want of external evidence. The regal period has all the character of fable. The subsequent period is marked by discrepancy between the authorities, inconsistency, incoherency, and improbability, not only in its general texture, but even in the accounts of the most leading events, down at least to the period of the Samnite wars.

In his chapter on the ancient nations of Italy, Niebuhr has laid down for himself the convenient rule that in an obscure question like the origin and migrations of the ancient Italian races, where there is no trustworthy evidence to be had you may decide without trustworthy evidence; and that your decisions will be a valuable addition to history. That is to say, you may dispense with the rules of evidence when there is a temptation to dispense with them; otherwise they may remain in force. Sir G. C. Lewis takes a better course, and examining the legends from which Niebuhr has framed his ethnological chart of ancient Italy, finds them a heap of contradictory and fluctuating fable, from which no facts of any kind can be drawn. He justly repudiates Niebuhr's mode of reducing myths, by treating them as ethnological symbols, as being merely a variety of the old mode of rationalising fable, and equally without justification.

The legend of Æneas, from which Niebuhr deduces a connexion between the Pelasgians of Asia Minor and Italy, Sir G. C. Lewis shows to be merely one of the legends of the Homeric cycle, from which it has been improperly separated. It is an evidence of the influence of the Homeric poems in Italy as well as Greece, and nothing more. The relics by which it was supposed to be attested were just like those of Homeric heroes, which were shown in different cities of Greece. The history of Alba, about which and its connexion with Lavinium Niebuhr supposes that he can educe facts, is also a pure fable, invented to fill the gap between the flight of Æneas from Troy and the foundation of Rome. The very existence of the city of Alba, as distinguished from the temples on the Alban Hill, rests on the frail foundation of an oral tradition of 450 years.

We may be more unwilling to admit that nothing be known about the foundation of Rome. Such, however, is the fact. Romulus and Remus are purely mythical personages, and their history is purely mythical, and a sequel to the myths of Alba and Æneas. And there is no other account more credible in itself or supported by better testimony. The origin of the city, and of those institutions which are attributed to its mythical founder and his equally mythical successor, Numa, are things about which imagination may, and probably will, speculate, but about which history is dumb. Hypotheses concerning them, such as the union of a Latin and a Sabine city, and

the successive formation of the three patrician tribes, and the *plebs*, propounded by Niebuhr, are excursions into what Germans call the "Pre-historic Foretime," wholly unedifying, except as monuments of learned ingenuity, to the inquirer after positive truth.

The legends of the Kings are made up, for the most part, of fabulous origins of institutions, rites, customs, monuments, and local names, which all nations are alike prone to invent, stuck together so as to form a continuous narrative, the cement being often very ill concealed. There seems to be no reason whatever for allowing, with Niebuhr, that the narrative assumes a more historical character with Tullus Hostilius, whose reign is just as obviously made up of ætiological legends as those of his predecessors. The institutions of the King of the Sacrifices and the Interrex, the Valerian law against aspiring to royal power, and the hatred of the name of King, which was fatal to Cæsar, are sufficient proof that the Roman constitution was at one time a monarchy; and the Interrex shows that this monarchy was elective. But as to the names and history of the individual kings, and the political progress of the nation under them, we must be content to remain ignorant. The constitution of Servius Tullius, the exact and prosaic form of which contrasts so curiously with the poetical legends by which it is surrounded, is considered both by Schwegler and Sir G. C. Lewis on good grounds to be unauthentic. The treaty with Carthage in the first year of the republic, seen by Polybius, and the cloacæ and other great works attributed to the regal period, seem, however, to attest the prosperity of Rome under the kings.

The possession of the conquered territories was a substantial record of the progress of Roman conquest before the war with Pyrrhus. The existence of the great political institutions of Rome was in like manner a proof that those institutions had been developed, and, it would be unreasonable to doubt, by conflict between the orders. Particular events, such as the Decemviral legislation, the Gallic conflagration, the Caudine convention, were preserved in authentic monuments, or indelibly written in the national heart. Subsequent to the Gallic conflagration, there were registers of the annual magistracies, however imperfect, and there is some appearance of registration of other events. But all the details even of such events as the Secession of the Plebs, the Institution of the Tribunate, the Decemvirate, and the Gallic war, prove on examination as utterly untrustworthy in their internal texture, as they are destitute of external evidence. Such at least is the conviction that Sir G. C. Lewis's analysis leaves on our minds.

After illustrating his principles by applying them to the early history of Greece, and showing that there also internal untrustworthiness coincides with the want of external evidence traceable to contemporary testimony, Sir G. C. Lewis ends by saying:—

All the historical labour bestowed upon the early centuries of Rome, will in general be wasted. The history of this period, viewed as a series of picturesque narratives, will be read to the greatest advantage in the original writers, and will be deteriorated by reproduction in a modern dress. If we regard a historical painting merely as a work of art, the accounts of the ancients can only suffer from being retouched by the pencil of the modern restorer. On the other hand, all attempts to reduce them to a purely historical form by conjectural omissions, additions, alterations, and transpositions, must be nugatory. The workers on the historical treadmill may continue to grind the air, but they will never produce any valuable result.

This is a true verdict, and all scholars, and all teachers of Roman history ought to make themselves acquainted with the evidence by which it is supported. If Sir G. C. Lewis had written before Niebuhr, and his blind though able and vigorous follower, Arnold, we should have lost something, but we should have been spared more. We should have lost a good deal of learning and ingenuity, and some fine moral writing; we should have been spared the trouble and the intellectual evil of attempting to follow and learning to credit volumes of unauthorised and dreamy speculation. The true disciples of Niebuhr will, of course, still love to dwell with him in the Pre-historic Foretime; but less mystical scholars will devote their own attention, and direct the attention of their pupils, to the period of Roman history subsequent to the war with Pyrrhus, according to Sir G. C. Lewis's sound advice.

This, in our opinion, is the best of Sir G. C. Lewis's books, though it exhibits his usual heaviness and pointlessness of style. It shows throughout wonderful erudition; and is marked throughout by strong sense, clear reasoning, and independence of mind. We apprehend it will, if not close, at least decide the controversy; and we earnestly commend it to the student (we cannot commend it to the light reader) as one from the attentive perusal of which he will derive health and vigour of understanding, as well as the true view of the question to which it immediately relates.

GERMAN MYTHOLOGY AND LEGEND.

- I. *Odin*. Von Wolfgang Menzel. London: D. Nutt.
II. *Bayerische Sagen und Bräuche* (Bavarian Legends and Customs). Von Friedrich Panzer. Zweiter Band. London: D. Nutt.

When Tacitus said of the Germans: "They think it unfitting the majesty of the gods to confine them within walls, or to represent them under any human form"—"Ceterum nec cohibere parietibus deos, neque in ullam humani oris speciem assimilare, ex magnitudine celestium arbitrantur,"—he probably committed a mistake something like our anthropomorphic interpretations of the actions of animals, and attributed to a lofty positive principle what was simply the result of circumstances chiefly negative. At the period when history first caught sight of the Northern tribes, they were already in the tumult of their great migrations, in which all the conditions necessary to the enshrining of a Religion in Art were wanting; and when the rush of nations southward began to subside, Christianity was already baptising German men and German ideas with new names. Thus it was that one of the grandest and most purely indigenous mythologies in the world had only an ideal, and ultimately a written existence, and was never solidified into intelligible monuments such as the giant structures and statues of Egypt, the marble temples and divinities of Greece, or the myriad pictures and churches of Christianity. It was for want of being thus perpetuated in

plastic symbols that the Northern Mythology was so long neglected, and it is probably for the same reason that now, when ample materials for studying it are presented in a popular form, it fails to arrest attention except in minds of comprehensive culture. And yet the Odin religion has a strong attraction beyond its philosophic interest as a phase in the development of the human race: it has the poetic elements of power, terror, wildly capricious imagination, some tinges of pathos, and even a vein of humour. What is more grandly savage than the notion that the feast of the Walhalla and the tendance of the Valkyrien were for those alone who died in battle, while the feeble beings who allowed peaceful death to overtake them must go down to dim Helheim? What more pathetic than the story of Sigune's devotion to her husband the malignant Loki—how she perpetually holds a vessel to catch the viper's venom which would else drop on his face? What more fantastic extravagance than the rope that binds the terrible wolf Fenris, made, amongst other materials, of a maiden's beard and the sound of a cat's tread?

To the many excellent works through which the student may make himself acquainted with the Northern Mythology, Menzel, the well-known historian, added, just before his recent death, an admirable monograph on Odin, in which he has not only assembled all the myths relating directly or indirectly to Odin, but has treated the subject in that widely philosophic and historical spirit which makes it far more than a study of Mythology. One of the points which he brings into due clearness and prominence, is the unmoral character of the German as of the Greek Mythology. The highest god, Odin, was by no means the highest because he was good: the German was as far from holding any distinct Dualism as the Greek. The world was to him a battle-field where the law was death to the weak; Odin was chiefly the personification of warlike force, and to be "filled with the god" was to have that rage of the warrior which the appalled Romans named the *furor teutonicus*. Menzel also traces the reminiscences of Odin which still survive among the people—travestied in their course through twenty centuries; and this is not the least interesting part of his interesting book.

Another field in the history of the German popular imagination is opened up to us in Panzer's diligent work on the Legends and Customs of Bavaria. Catholicism not only absorbs into itself all Pagan legend, but retains the popular mind at that stage in which it is the ever-teeming source of new legends; and Bavaria is of all countries the most prolific in these often pretty weeds of an untilled soil. A significant example of the state of popular culture in Bavaria is the following fact stated by Panzer:—

When in the year 1815 a Bavarian regiment in France was on the march, and it rained incessantly, the superstitious among the soldiers clenched their fists against the heavy clouds, and threatened St. Peter, whom they regarded as causing the heavy rain in order to make their march difficult. "If we had him," said they, "we would make him run the gauntlet!" The regiment marched over a bridge on which stood the image of St. John Nepomuck. A soldier hastily put the image under his cloak. When the regiment halted, several hundred men ran up a hill at a little distance, bound the image to the back of a comrade, made themselves into a wall on each side, and obliged St. John Nepomuck to run the gauntlet instead of Peter. Each soldier gave the image a cut with his sharp sword until it was so hacked away that the bearer began to fear for his own back.

We must find space, too, for a legend which is a very amusing specimen of what we may call the Apocryphal Gospel of Bavaria. Legend, while lavish in incident, is often economical in personages, and loves to father all its marvels on a few principal heroes. Thus we find Christ and Peter engaged in the most unexpected adventures:—

Christ and Peter passed by a smithy where they saw written up, "A Workman above all Workmen." Peter said to the Lord, "Master, I believe there is no greater workman than thou." "Go," answered the Lord, "and ask the smith why he has written this above his door?" The smith answered, "Because I am such!" So the divine wanderers came to the smith, who boasted that he was able to make everything speedily, and ordered him to make an iron lattice round his yard. Straightway the smith set to work with his journeymen, and in a short time there stood a beautiful iron lattice round the whole yard. "Are you also smiths?" asked the smith. "Yes," answered the Lord, "and this," pointing to Peter, "is my journeyman." "Can you also make something?" further asked the smith. "We can make young women out of old ones," replied the Lord. "Well, then, make my old mother young, if you can!" said the smith, thinking to himself, that they certainly cannot do. "Where is she?" asked the Lord. "She is cutting grass out there in the meadow," answered the smith. "Bring her here!" commanded the Lord. They brought a little old, black, hump-backed, withered woman, who readily consented when the Lord asked her whether she would be made young again. The Lord went up to the little woman, blew upon her, and she was dead. Then he and Peter laid her in the smith's furnace, with many coals upon her, and Peter blew the bellows so hard that the furnace was glowing. Hereupon the Lord drew her out of the fire, laid her on the anvil, commanded Peter to take the largest hammer, and both hammered so bravely that fire and shreds flew from her. Then the Lord laid the little woman again in the furnace, Peter blew the bellows, the Lord laid her again on the anvil, and they hammered out the head, body, hands, and feet all new. When that was done, the Lord blew in the woman's mouth, and immediately a beautiful maiden stood there. They took but small payment, and went on their way. And now the women of the neighbourhood ran together and could not enough admire the beauty of the maiden. "I would give a good deal of money," said a rich old dame, "if I could be so restored." Said the smith: "I also can earn the money; I have learned the whole trick from the two travellers." Immediately a beginning was made with the elderly dame. The smith blew upon her, but she remained alive. Said the smith: "If we once put her in the fire she will be dead." They made a good fire, laid the dame living in the furnace with many coals upon her, and the journeyman had to blow the bellows right well, but the dame was terribly burnt. They laid her on the anvil and hammered her, so that she was beaten to pieces, and great pieces flew from her which they could not fasten to again. And they blew into her mouth, but all in vain. And when they saw no end to their trouble and fear, the smith told his journeyman to run after the travellers and beg them to turn back. At first the Lord would give no ear to the journeyman, but at last he gave way to his urgent prayer, and returned with Peter to the smith. Here the "workman above all workmen" was almost in despair, and entreated the Lord in the humblest manner. The Lord said: "Let us see what is to be made of these shattered fragments." They laid the pieces together, put them in the fire, then on the anvil, and began again to hammer. When they had welded together all the bits, the Lord blew into the mouth:—what did the thing now become? A silly ape. "Nothing else," said the Lord, "can ever be made of it."

LEARNING AND WORKING.

Learning and Working. Six Lectures. The Religion of Rome, and its Influence on Modern Civilisation. By F. D. Maurice, M.A. Cambridge: Macmillan.

THE working classes are divided into circles no less than the more fortunate orders of society. They present, separately, or in various degrees of union, the political, the religious, the speculative element, the sceptical and the frivolous, the violent, the moderate, the optimist and cynical. No single person represents them, as a body. You may, indeed, hear men with noisy voices who assume to declare the opinions of "the working classes," but these are only sectional leaders, and often not leaders at all. In America every set of political ideas is labelled with a name, distinctive if not explanatory. Thus, in the State of Maine, there are Fusion Whigs, Anti-Fusion Whigs, Fusion Democrats, Morill Temperance Democrats, Nebraska Wildcat Democrats, Anti-Nebraska Old Line Democrats, Anti-Morill Democrats, Fusion Free Soilers, Hook-and-Ladder Democrats, and the variety is not yet exhausted. We suspect, nevertheless, that London would supply as many shades and tints, from Toryism to the most vivid of the Radical creeds. Consequently, when Mr. Maurice established the Working Men's College, he was careful to construct a polygon which should meet the tendencies of different minds, though even with this extended plan he could only cover a limited range of the industrious classes. The fanatics of suspicion, naturally, stood afar off, decrying the mystery of this middle-class plot. There were other incentives to distrust and jealousy which we will not now examine; but an analysis of the small numbers who immediately responded to the invitation of Mr. Maurice illustrates the diverging tendencies to which we have alluded. During the first and second terms about a hundred and forty pupils entered the different classes. The majority of these attended the lectures on Algebra, on Arithmetic, on English grammar, on Drawing, and on the Bible. A considerable proportion also frequented the class on Geometry. The Political, Geographical, Historical, and Practical Jurisprudence Classes attracted only few persons, and those of a very earnest and zealous cast of mind. French and Latin speedily became popular, as well as the more humble and essential instruction of adults in reading and writing. The system of the college is free from every taint of patronage, and from the dogmatic spirit of conventional philanthropy. Men are treated by the lecturers as men, and not as children—upon the ecclesiastical plan, or as criminals—upon the plan of the model lodging-house.

The working classes, as a body, occupy a false position. They stand between two descriptions of teachers, both equally pernicious—the imitators of parental despotism, who expect canine docility in return for easy benevolence; and the ministers of suspicion, whose ignorance is concealed by a thin layer of reading—the native soil of declamation. Converse with untaught minds allows these agitators to be as superficial as they are violent, and their policy is to promise the industrious classes the millenium of a day when there shall be no legislators, orators, or writers, except working men. We have heard one of this class affirm that no individual had a right to sit in Parliament who had not worn a fustian jacket. Another lately told his readers that "professional authors" should be abolished, in order that "the pen might be driven by the hand of the labourer." We thank Mr. Maurice, or any other gentleman who comes to the rescue of industrious Englishmen, and leads them from this field of thistles to pastures new. Mr. Maurice starts with a proposition which applies even more forcibly to the incidents of our times than to those which he had in view. When Louis Philippe reigned, and when the *entente cordiale* was at its height, the servile journals and the lips of fluent speakers teemed with references to the material prosperity of France. The citizen king had his ovation. Public opinion worshipped him as "the only man," and no one dared, in polite society, to question the virtues of a ruler with whom Queen Victoria maintained—until the Cabinets disagreed—an affectionate correspondence. From this fact Mr. Maurice argues for the superior worth of moral prosperity—the success of reason, the inviolability of public honour. No doubt Mr. Maurice asserts a personal theory which we do not expect, and do not desire, to see established among the majority of men. We have no faith in patriarchal authority—if it implies a supreme representative—however it may contrast with that of the bee-embroidered robe. "Presbyter is but priest writ large," and the "divine fatherhood" to which Mr. Maurice points means only a spiritual control over nations, which no human beings are, or ever have been, fit to exercise, unless, indeed, it means no more than the general sense of religion. Still we commend the teachings to thinkers and students among the working classes. They have the tone of the Norman culture—the tone of Alfred, of Alcuin, in as far as they appeal to the faculties and thoughts of men; and we have little fear that when the working-classes are as cultivated and as free from prejudice as Mr. Maurice desires them to be, they will look for shepherds, or submit their souls to vicarious fatherly authority.

The pivot of Mr. Maurice's system is the truth that Learning and Working are not incompatible. It is the common complaint that activity leads men away from thought, deprives them of the leisure for research, confuses the vision of philosophy. It is said, again, that deep speculations abstract them from the practical duties of social life. The engineer "has no time for poetry," the artist for literature—except he hunt for subjects, as Johnson read *Paradise Lost* for words;—the mechanic must sacrifice his tastes, the printer his opinions. By the experience of men in every class this fallacy is contradicted. Dante was immersed in practical politics, yet he was "a profound schoolman and a divine poet;" Bacon, a laborious lawyer and statesman, composed one philosophic treatise after another—not in his retirement only. The Benedictine monks, whose manual toil was woven into the tissue of their lives, explored the farthest recesses of learning, and Burns received inspiration between the stilts of the plough. But Mr. Maurice adds, with appropriate emphasis, that if a man be a restless bustler, he can neither learn nor work. He may be devoured by his material occupations and not fulfil them well. Every line of pursuit, from that of the agriculturist to that of the silver chaser, or the weaver of delicate fabrics, supposes a number of exact and successive processes, regulated by method, and proportioned to the length of the day. Fortune, in some cases, forbids

all leisure to the seamstress, or the slave of the mill. But aphorisms are just if they apply to the average of workers, who, Mr. Maurice declares, have time to learn. Avarice and indifference, however, have held them back. What man in secret strives, by patient experiments to emulate Arkwright's discoveries, except with the idea of emulating also his wealth? How have Mechanics' Institutes succeeded? In every town the last place to seek for a mechanic is the Institute, which falls to the share of young tradesmen, clerks, and others, better pleased by entertainments than by lectures, and profoundly indifferent, for the most part, to the higher studies of politics and history. The Institute is usually a concert or newspaper-room; though the influence of the Society of Arts is effecting a gradual change. Frivolity, or something worse, is the source of English indifference, wherever avarice is not the controlling passion. We have seen with gladness, that the war, whatever evil it has produced, has evolved some feeling better than that of cupidity; for the English nation, credulously persuaded that it fights for a principle, has offered in the clearest terms to pay (partly by loans) the ransom of liberty. Still, if only to enable him to be magnanimous, the Englishman yearns for money. From the axiom that "learning is the minister of freedom and order," the reader is not to suppose that Mr. Maurice loves "order" in the imperial sense. Probably, there is nowhere so much order as in a prison, except in a lunatic asylum; but the peace desirable in a state is that in which men are self-poised, restrained by conscience or by discretion, and actuated by motives of mutual sympathy. A man gagged and manacled is at rest; but, in this sense, a toad in a stone is the realisation of that calm socialism in which every one comprehends his part in the natural drama, and is contented with it. Stating, therefore, that education is nothing if it do not prepare men for the harmonious order of a free society, Mr. Maurice explains the deficiencies of our actual system.

We have stated the case to ourselves thus:—"These boys will hereafter have to toil in some profession or other, as statesmen, as soldiers, as sailors, as landlords, as cultivators of the land, as lawyers, as physicians, as divines. God forbid that they should not toil! God forbid that they should become idlers in the land! But they may become drudges instead of workers. They will, unless they are men as well as workers. Then their work will be free, brave, intelligent. The practice of their professions will be honourable, the science of them will be expanded. If they are swallowed up in their work,—if they think of themselves only as landlords, as soldiers, as sailors, as physicians,—the profession will sink into a craft; its mercenary ends will be chiefly regarded. It will lose its old dignity, it will conquer no new regions of thought and experience. Therefore, for the sake of Work, let us have an education which has not merely a reference to Work."

We have been so vehement in these assertions, that we have even exaggerated the application of them, and so have weakened their effect. We have so much dreaded to make the Education of our Schools and Universities professional, that we have kept it at a wide, almost hopeless, distance from professional life. So those effects have followed which I spoke of in my first Lecture. The higher adult Education, that which our ancestors described by the word Faculties, that from which our Universities started, and which is their proper characteristic, has been buried under the mere school education. The teaching of boys has given the tone and form to the discipline which should direct the thoughts of men, when they are about to plunge into the business of the world. Hence that business has become, unhappily, divorced from the previous study. It is in danger of becoming a mere absorbing practice. The springs which should have fed it have been choked up or diverted elsewhere. I rejoice to think that we have suffered less from these causes than we might reasonably have expected. There is, I am sure, among the professional men of England a manliness and nobleness that are scarcely to be found anywhere. Every one of us must have had proofs in his intercourse with physicians of their freedom from sordid feelings—proofs to be recollected with silent gratitude and humiliation.

The endeavour to impregnate the working classes with a sympathy for music has been the most successful movement of our time. In Manchester the numerous operatives who have evinced a capacity for science prove that it is not the kind of work, but the condition of the worker, that degrades. Moreover, in the oratory of this class ethics and metaphysics appear through the cloud of language as distinctly as political speculations. Even the mistakes of the industrious classes often arise from their attempts to apply to the solution of their doubts and sufferings higher methods of reasoning than their experience enables them to wield. But the theory here explained supposes that it is essential for working men to receive that sort of instruction which, instead of distinguishing them according to their occupations, addresses their common humanity, and leads them from the ramifications of society to the confluence of human thoughts and feelings. It should be regarded as the great end of their studies to raise their human qualities, and not arbitrarily to separate the useful from the entertaining. It should allow them to select those branches of pursuit which are most in conformity with the original bias of their minds. It should never allure them to devote more time to general study than is compatible with their special occupations; though the truth should never be forgotten, that between all studies there are proper relations, so that hours devoted to the acquisition of knowledge are not lost, even in the most worldly point of view.

The discourses on the Religion of Rome deal as largely with ancient as with modern history. It is here that the idea rises of that fatherly government which Mr. Maurice exalts as the Hope of the world. The state of Rome was composed of a thousand families in one. Children, in relation to their parents, lived as slaves; men, in relation to the state, had no capacity except that of obedience. But by the kingly, as well as by the imperial period, the principle was condemned:—the first impeded the growth of the commonwealth, the second reduced it to corruption. To this simple theory of government, in fact, young nations resort, in their ignorance, and old nations in their degeneracy. Voltaire wrote a theatrical eulogy of China as a country ruled by piety; he has been imitated by others who have descanted on the golden age of Peru; but is there an affinity between those artificial systems which sacrificed the individual life to the life of the state, and the natural union of man with man in the earlier days of Rome? At all events the fatherly principle, wherever it has been established in its pure form, has changed, in the course of time, into an artificial system, with a parental executive, and a people not filial, but servile. We scarcely know what the original patriarchs were, but we know what emperors have been, and that they have chiefly cultivated the equivocal virtue of the Roman and the Russian, which compelled them, in the name of discipline, to kill their sons. We know, also, that a populous state, where individuals have com-

plex relations and interests, cannot long preserve the form of a patriarchal society, but must choose between representative and despotic institutions. The short duration of a system, it is true, does not impugn its excellence; for, by this test, liberty itself is disgraced by the superior permanence of tyranny. The Hebrews had nearly a thousand years of national life, but only three centuries of civil freedom. The historic independence of Greece had vanished in six hundred years; Athens fell under Philip within two centuries and a half from the rule of her first archon. How soon the Dorian and Aetolian colonies withered in the Eastern waste. How soon Cyrene, Syracuse, and Massilia perished in the West. How few ages passed before Rome was contented with bread and games. Not one of the Italian republics survived three hundred years. Not one of the Slavonian states that aspired to be an example of liberty could hold its own against imperial aggression. In Germany, and the Netherlands also, free states have been unsuccessful experiments. But what is to be the practical result of Mr. Maurice's theory? Is all regular government to be superseded by a vague consciousness in men's hearts that a paternal Providence controls the world? Or does he ask for a Theocracy vested in human hands? We scarcely know, for the writer appears at times to argue with himself. We have, at least, no glimpse of the moral which Mr. Congreve and Mr. Tennyson enforce, that "a simple great one" is needed to silence the cabals of faction, and to impel the policy of empires along an unswerving line. "Simple great ones" have, in most instances, ruled by virtue of their contempt for the human species, and always by an unjustifiable assumption of fatherly attributes. An extract will prove that Mr. Maurice invites no Asiatic absolutism to throw its purple shadows over England:—

There probably never was a society so brilliant as that in France before the Revolution; none in which so many schemes of social life were discussed with so much lightness and gracefulness. There probably never was a time in which theorists dwelt so little upon the human relationships, in which the practical indifference to them was greater. Yet when the earthquake came which shook France and all the Latin nations, far more than the Revolution of the sixteenth century had shaken the German, the first word that one hears is the word Brotherhood; all men of all classes are to embrace each other as brothers. How they were to do so, no one could tell them; how brotherhood could be prevented from leading to mutual destruction, was a lesson which statesmen and philosophers had not learnt. The very name seemed to terrify them, as if it was one which they had never heard before, as if all disorder and destruction were involved in it. Still it did burst out of the hearts of the very lowest people. They had been taught other phrases and symbols which they could repeat and use occasionally; this was the one they clung to habitually; this lived on amidst the death of constitutions, lived on through the fires which it seemed itself to have kindled. It terrified us in England and Scotland, often perhaps frightened us out of all propriety and wisdom. But it did not exactly frighten us in the same manner as it did the people on the Continent. For by degrees the impression on our minds became stronger, that fraternity was not a bad thing in itself, that it was bad only because there needed something else to be joined with it. Brotherhood seemed to us a poor and miserable thing if it was separated from Fatherhood. Our old Roman doctors had taught us that; we had found from a higher oracle what their dim and mysterious utterances signified, to what they were pointing. It did not, therefore, cause us any delight to see this belief of fraternity trampled under foot by a military tyrant; that might be necessary, might be beneficial on the whole for the world; at least it implied that there must be a universal society somehow, and that a great Will must rule it. But this kind of universal government, this kind of Will, looked to us very unsightly; this we thought we were bound to struggle with and put down.

That this obligation is still laid upon us, that we ought to encounter the evil principle which substitutes mere sovereignty for fatherly authority, in whatever form it embodies itself, against whatever persons it puts forth its proud and godless pretensions, we are all, I trust, convinced. We feel that we ought to show all the tribes of the earth, that the true fatherly principle, instead of involving abject slavery, is the ground of all morality, of reciprocal rights and duties, of justice, of freedom.

Thence, passing to another question—

It has been difficult, while I have been speaking of the perpetuity of the Roman dominion under its different phases, not to think of prophecy, a prophecy in the more usual and modern sense of the word, which went out from your city, and which has awakened some speculations, possibly also some searchings of heart, on both sides of the Tweed, if not on the banks of the Tiber. You will easily suppose that I allude to an oracle which is stamped with the high authority of your representative. He looks forward to a time when an artist shall be sketching the ruins of St. Paul's from a broken arch of London Bridge. In that time he expects that the Vatican may still be standing in all its glory. There are those who have complained of this sentence, as unpatriotic, and as offering encouragement to those who hate us. I cannot join in that censure. I cannot conceive that a patriot has any higher duty than to remind his countrymen of the instability of their mere material greatness, to tell them that the buildings which bear witness of the extent and mightiness of their commerce may fall along with those in which they and their fathers have worshipped. Would to God that the image of that future painter rose oftener before us, to remind us that every single person in the crowds which are passing every hour and moment over London Bridge,—that every man who has knelt in St. Paul's before or since the fire,—has an immortality which does not belong to ships, or towers, or temples! The objection to Mr. Macaulay's words might have taken and may still take another form. If posterity does not deal more gently with that which our age leaves behind it, than we have dealt with the works of our forefathers, the critic of some distant period may affirm that one of our most illustrious cotemporaries was so misled by his prejudices against the men of another nation and another faith, that he fancied he could persuade them,—with all the memorials of ruin before their eyes, with words that intimate the perishableness of all mortal things continually on their lips,—that the houses which they now inhabit have some special exemption from the general law, and that the palaces of popes will have a duration which has been denied to the palaces of emperors. We may be sure that there was no such uncharitable judgment or purpose in the mind of the eloquent writer when he gave forth these sentiments. We may take it for granted that he only wished to impress us, by a contrast which would strike us as more vivid and startling than any other, with a lesson respecting ourselves which we have all need to lay deeply to heart. You would not feel that he diminished his claims upon your esteem—you would feel that he augmented them—if he told you,—perhaps he has told you already, in words which you cannot forget,—that even your city, notwithstanding its grand associations with the forms of nature and with the records of history, though every old and modern street in it reminds you of warriors with sword and pen who have fought your battles, may suffer that sentence which the greatest cities of the world have suffered.

The Lectures on the Religion of Rome, though vague in purpose, evince the high and masterly intellect of the writer.

A NEW ROUTE TO INDIA.

The Dead Sea, a New Route to India: with other Fragments and Gleanings in the East. By Captain W. Allen, R.N. Author of "The Narrative of the Niger Expedition." Longman and Co.

THREE or four years ago, a railway was projected direct from Calais to Calcutta. The entire route was traced, and a period of fourteen years was fixed, as necessary to the completion of the works. From that date, it was calculated the journey from London to the Indian metropolis would occupy no more than a fortnight. An airy complication of chains and tubes would span the Dardanelles. The authors of the prospectus dilated upon the velocity with which a train, with passengers and luggage, might rush through the valley of the Euphrates, where there is a natural level, several hundred miles in length. The Beluchis, in anticipation, gazed on the engine as it panted with red breath along their coasts. The shifting Indus was easily traversed by an ideal bridge. The projectors of this scheme did not reckon, indeed, upon the assistance of the French engineer who has offered to construct a subaqueous railroad from Dover to Boulogne. They fixed their European terminus at Calais, without explaining how England could use their line during a general war, or how hostile nations were to be prevented from using it.

Similarly bold is Captain Allen's proposal to change the configuration of the earth, by literally drowning the Dead Sea. That body of water, often libelled, is now to be abolished for ever. At one time it has been traduced as the fit receptacle of Sodom and Gomorrah; at another it has been reported to emit vapours so fatal that birds cannot fly over its blasted surface. At last, Captain Allen, of the British navy, asks the English, the Turks, and the Jews, to sink the Dead Sea, that the ships of Europe may sail triumphantly above its obliterated area into the Indian Ocean.

Captain Allen's idea is based on more than one peculiar hypothesis. On the formation and natural qualities of the Dead Sea itself his opinions are at variance with those of many geographers. Moreover, he assumes the existence, at one end of this extraordinary lake, of an old strait, blocked up by the accumulation of ages, while, at the other, "the alluvial plain of Esdraëlon, already deeply furrowed by the brook Kishon," might be "cut through at very little expense, the required length of the cutting being about twenty-five miles only." Between these artificial channels "Nature has, in fact, performed for us the greater part of the work, in a stupendous cutting of some two hundred miles in length." Among mechanical facilities the following is suggested:—

The operation might be very much facilitated by making use of the immense weight and force of back-water of the two oceans; if not as a cutting power, at all events to carry into the abyss or depression, the earth, &c., which could be loosened by the liberal use of gunpowder, saving thereby nearly the whole trouble of digging and carrying away.

Communication being thus established by canals sufficiently broad and deep, the rushing in of the two seas would restore the now Dead Sea to its ancient level, and convert it into the active channel of intercourse between Europe and Asia; the whole bulky commerce of which might then pass through this canal instead of taking the circuitous route of the Cape of Good Hope, shortening the voyage between England and India to the time in which it is performed by the overland route. The canal route is indeed a little longer; but they would be equalised by the time taken by the transit through Egypt.

As an engineering work, we hesitate to regard any sane man's project as impossible. Almost every undertaking is a question of means and objects. The Great Pacific Railway from Vancouver to Montreal was laughed at long after Dr. Lardner renounced his scepticism concerning ocean steamers. The Alpine highways are wonders of our generation, as the Thames Tunnel is, and as the Channel Tunnel may be. Besides, if the Nicaragua Isthmus, with its auxiliary lakes, be not impenetrable by steam dredges, and if the Isthmus of Suez, which is ninety miles wide, be regarded as only a moderate obstacle, there is no reason why the difficulties of the Dead Sea route should be accounted insuperable. We do not mean that there is no limit to human or mechanical powers. But the barrier must be a natural law, before it should be regarded as unassailable. When it was proposed to Burke to unite the representation of the colonies and of the mother country, he exclaimed, "*Opposuit Natura!* Between us and them there is fixed an eternal and impassable gulf"—the dreary voyage of a time when steamers and great circle sailing were unknown. Yet were a man to propose a tunnel through the centre of the earth, from England to the Antipodes, his insanity would be apparent to every temperate mind. In the first place, he would immeasurably exaggerate the capacities of human art and human power; and, next, he would incite myriads of men to labour for ages in an enterprise in which the highest success would bear no proportion to the cost, or to the risk of failure. However, Mr. Adcock has taught us how to fuse volcanic rocks, so that it is dangerous to define the limits of possibility.

We are forced to admire the fluency with which Captain Allen disposes of principalities and powers. There must be some sacrifices, he admits, should his project be consummated; "but these would be trifling." For example, a territory of some two thousand square miles, belonging to the Sultan of Turkey, "will be submerged." Secondly, the ancient city of Tiberias, inhabited by some thousands of innocent Jews and Christians, must go where Sodom and Gomorrah went, down among the waters of the Dead Sea, which is itself, in turn, to be lost in the mingling floods of the Mediterranean and Indian Seas. In addition to this havoc, which the simple people of the province might mistake for a visitation of Divine anger, a number of Arab villages are to be plunged into the depths of Captain Allen's joint-stock deluge. And here his reasoning glides to its ultimate point with such imperial ease that we must borrow it:—

The city of Tiberias is a filthy heap of ruined buildings, hemmed in between the lake and steep, barren mountains, from which a forced removal to a fertile and adjacent neighbourhood would be a blessing to the debased, apathetic, and wretched inhabitants. The villages consist of mud-huts, temporary by their nature, or of tents, which are intentionally so. From all these the occupants derive little advantage, and his Highness less revenue. Their condition, besides, might be immensely improved by the activity and trade which would be stimulated through the navigation of the canal by ships of all nations; and the Sultan would draw great revenues by transit

dues where he now receives nothing; and as remuneration for the loss of this unprofitable territory, some of the finest countries of the world, the early seats of population—namely, those of the Rephaim, the Zuzim, and the Emim, the trans-Jordanic provinces, so judiciously chosen by some tribes of the Jews—would be rendered easy of access by means of the proposed canal. The Jews would possibly object strongly to the loss of Tiberias, which is one of the four holy cities; but they are strangers from Russia, Poland, &c., who have no property in it; and come there in the hope of seeing the Messiah rise out of the lake, which is a general expectation among them, though on what authority it is not known. I sketched one old man, who was anxiously watching on the shore where the spray was dashing up, in the evident hope of seeing Him rise. If such is really the general belief of the Jews, they must consider it as a miracle, and of course it could not be impeded by a few fathoms more or less in the depth of the sea; consequently, they cannot urge any valid objection to this result, though they may not like to see the filthy city, which they hold to be sacred, submerged and lost for ever.

The Deftedar Bey of Egypt, or the protected Prince of Kashmir, could not have settled this matter with more supreme celerity. But would his Highness the Sultan, or the Jews, be convinced so speedily as Captain Allen? Would not the "strangers" from all parts of the Mohammedan world, who reverently come to Meccah, violently resist its destruction, although "they have no property in it?" The political securities suggested by Captain Allen are based on calculations quite as superficial.

At the two extremities of the canal—namely, Kaiffa on the Mediterranean, and at Akabah, where it communicates with the Red Sea—very strong fortifications should be erected, which might be defended by mixed garrisons; that is, French and Turks at one end, English and Turks at the other. I have been informed that there are strong political objections to the construction of a canal which might be considered as another Dardanelles, the custody of which has been a source of so much uneasiness to the Turks, that they are not desirous of having another such charge; nevertheless, it appears by the public prints, both the Pacha of Egypt and the Sultan have granted concessions to French projectors for the long-proposed plan of a canal through the Isthmus of Suez.

In the event of a war between France and England, or in the event of Turkey bringing upon itself the thunderbolts of another Navarino, where would these "mixed garrisons" be? There would probably be a port at each end, but there might also be places of embarkation along the sides of the channel, so that the master of the neighbouring country would share the government of the canal. But, in this point of view, the Dead Sea route is identical with that of Suez, so that we need not here discuss it.

In our opinion, Captain Allen understates all the difficulties of his scheme, overstates the facilities, and has been carried away by his own idea. The "long-proposed plan of a canal through the Isthmus of Suez" has undergone much discussion. Captain Allen, however, though, in his own case, he sweeps away miles of earth and rock with the energy of a hundred-armed Hercules, finds more than one "fatal obstacle" to the accomplishment of the rival scheme. Among fatal circumstances, he reckons one which does not, in reality, exist—namely, he imputes it to M. Linant and M. de Lesseps, that they count upon natural facts in connexion with the Isthmus of Suez which have long been disproved. It is right to state, however, that he hands over the Dead Sea to the surveyors, that they may decide whether gunpowder and pickaxes could admit the Mediterranean on one side, and the waters of the Gulf of Akabah on the other, into a navigable channel between the seas of Europe and India.

With Biblical traditions, as we have seen, Captain Allen deals courageously. Elliot Warburton's Arab guides maintained, and their assertion has been repeated by imaginative Europeans, that in certain states of the water of this sea, and of the atmosphere, the cities of the plain may be seen just peering over the water's edge. Upon this theory we might be induced to pause before sending a vessel where it might haul up Lot's house with the bower anchor. But to Captain Allen it appears altogether incredible that four or five cities could have been grouped in a confined swampy plain, 1300 feet below the level of the ocean, shut in on three sides by high mountains or perpendicular cliffs, and on the fourth by "the disagreeable salt lake." M. de Sauley pretends, at all events, to have demonstrated that the condemned cities are not under the Dead Sea, by discovering them elsewhere. M. de Van der Welde satirises this assumption, without proving his own capacity to judge; but Captain Allen goes beyond both, and even surpasses Osborne and Forster in the self-accommodating facility of his deductions. He not only disputes the locality of Sodom and Gomorrah, but denies the current theories of their destruction. One hypothesis is that they were overwhelmed by an inundation; another, that they perished in a volcanic fire. The advocates of both suppositions

Appear to me to be in error; since the express declaration of Holy Writ is, that this destruction was the direct visitation of the wrath of God, who sent fire from heaven to consummate their doom. "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire, from the Lord out of heaven." (Gen. xix. 24.) In this visitation, therefore, we should not look for the ordinary operations of natural causes, which run the course He has appointed for them, and which, possibly, had their commencement in ages long anterior to that awful punishment of the sins of nations; and the appearance of the Dead Sea, which we witness at the present day, may have been familiar to the eyes of the inhabitants of the Pentapolis.

This reasoning resembles the geometrical idea of a surface: it is length and breadth without depth. What did the flying inhabitants of Pompeii, as represented by the younger Pliny, say of the burning storm which desolated their homes? They said that "fire from heaven," sent by the gods, consumed them. Of course, Captain Allen has a perfect right to imitate the bishops, and to smite every adversary as dumb as a dead drummer with a literal, matter-of-fact, prosaic interpretation of a text of Scripture. Only, he must be consistent. He must not be "orthodox" to the full perfection of pulpit and pew, and drop thence to doubts of the received translation. Verbal bigotry in one page does not well prepare us for critical license in another:—

I am aware that against these arguments, which I have ventured to advance, I have a very strong current of popular belief against me, which has its source in the most remote antiquity, and is at the same time the most venerated. The authority for this popular belief is no less than a passage in the Holy Bible, which we are all taught to look upon as unquestionable.

But when, in the historical part of that book, we find a passage not only difficult to

reconcile with facts and probabilities, but involving by its literal acceptance an impossibility, we may imagine some error of transcription or of translation.

And why not, in the former passage, from "the historical part of the Bible," suppose an error of transcription or translation?

The best parts of the book are not theoretical. Captain Allen writes an excellent diary, as readers of the *Niger Expedition* know. He describes pleasantly his voyage among the bright Greek islands, his journey in Lycia, and his investigations of the port of Seleucia. At this place he conceived the notion of restoring the ancient harbour to the uses of commerce. The walls and tunnels connected with that magnificent work of Pagan engineers illustrate the powers of the former race no less vividly than the architecture, the sculpture, and the poetry of Athens indicate the more subtle and delicate genius of the Athenian race.

Captain Allen, we fear, has fallen among controversialists, who have tempted him to spoil some chapters of his animated book.

The Arts.

CLOSE OF MR. ALBERT SMITH'S "SEASON" AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL.

MR. ALBERT SMITH, on Saturday evening, bade his audience a temporary farewell, preparatory to recruiting himself for a few months in his favourite land, and renewing his impressions of that great mountain which he has rendered almost as familiar to the home-staying Londoner as to himself. By this time, he is either up at the top of Mont Blanc, or sunning himself at the foot; no longer bored with the necessity of repeating his story more than the thousand-and-first time at the same hour, or of racking his brain for sparkling verse-chronicles of the events of the day, almost of the moment, wedded to airy tunes, and sung off-hand with exhaustless spirit, life, and humour. He has gone to the scene of his successes; partly to enjoy his own well-earned repose and recreation, partly to look out for fresh materials for our amusement. He will leave behind him, in the minds of his thousand visitors, many pleasant recollections of this the most perennial of exhibitions—a perfect wake of cheerful and kindly thoughts. He has popularised Mont Blanc; has introduced the Monarch of Mountains to the hearths and homes of John Bull and his children; and has rendered it almost a fashion to make the ascent. The enterprises of which we have recently read may very possibly have been suggested at the EGYPTIAN HALL; and thus the vivacious tongue of Mr. ALBERT SMITH and the vivid pencil of Mr. BEVERLY have been the means of raising recruits for the great army of Swiss tourists.

When we say that the performance of Saturday night was the *eleven hundred and fifty-fifth*, we need make no further remark as to the extraordinary success which has been achieved. To this success, the lecturer made a pleasant allusion in his farewell speech, some passages in which we append:—

It is very difficult in an address of this kind to keep quite clear of anything that may be construed into an expression of egotism or conceit—in fact, inflicting that most terrible of all bores upon hearers—talking about yourself. You will, I trust, acquit me of this vanity presently, even after hearing the following extract. I bought, by chance, at a book-stall the other day, a volume of plays, amongst which was the *libretto* of one of the celebrated "Mathews' Entertainments." It was called the *Mail Coach Adventures*, and in a memoir of Mr. Mathews that preceded it, I was amused by this remark:—"That one man should have it in his power to please for forty nights successively is almost incredible. Still, it is no less strange than true!" Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have told you the same story, in the same room, up to this evening, eleven hundred and fifty-five times. I was never so fortunate as to hear Mr. Mathews; but from what I have heard of him, I should imagine I am no more to be compared to him than Mr. Waverley Belleville, the light comedian of the Theatre Royal, Stoke Pogis, is to the Charles Mathews of our own days. I attribute this success to two causes—firstly, to studying your amusement, and secondly, your comfort, in a practical, straightforward manner.

With respect to your amusement, I endeavoured to preserve it from degenerating into bore, by keeping it within moderate limits, and fixing the time of the commencement at an hour possibly better suited to the habits of 1854 than of a century ago. I put a clock before you that you might be your own timekeepers, and the few minutes of interval between the parts have been, I am sure I may say, most punctually observed. I hope you will allow me to say, in addition, so anxious was I for this regularity to be observed, that during four years, under every circumstance of health, and spirits, and business, I have never abridged the lecture of an important sentence, nor been half a minute behind my time; and, above all, I endeavoured to avoid, as much as possible, the cant of "instruction." As Fielding observes in the preface to *Joseph Andrews*:—"Nay, I will appeal to common observation, whether the same companies are not found more full of good humour and benevolence, after they have been sweetened, for two or three hours, with entertainments of this kind, than when soured by a tragedy or a dull lecture."

Having alluded, as in his address last year, to the arrangements for preventing extortion, Mr. ALBERT SMITH concluded with a promise which all his hearers will sincerely desire to be realised:—

I hope to find myself in Chamouni, with my old knapsack, my old blouse, and my old guides, on Thursday morning, to see what new subjects may present themselves for our future evenings together. And I shall return through Paris, staying there as long as I can, that I may have something to tell you about its exhibition on my return. I have heard, I may mention privately, that, with all the splendour of the Palace of Industry, nothing is equal to the exhibition "Brown" is making of himself in that capital; and I shall especially watch him. In the pictorial department I shall, as usual, have the advantage of the co-operation of my friend Mr. William Beverly. And now, anticipating the pleasure of meeting you here again before Christmas, and wishing you during the recess all the health and happiness that you can possibly desire, I very gratefully bid you good-by.

Speaking of the EGYPTIAN HALL reminds us to mention a marvel which is being now exhibited there to all marvel-lovers, though it does not come with great fitness under the heading of "The Arts." We allude to a *lusus nature* far surpassing the celebrated Siamese twins, since the children in question are united, not by a slight ligature, but by a positive incorporation below a certain point. The children are negroes, of about five years of age,

and are separate as far as the lumbar vertebra, below which their persons are continued as one. Their parents are in a state of slavery in America; and it is put forth that the proceeds of the exhibition are to be applied to the liberation of the father and mother. The case must of necessity possess great interest to surgeons; but the advisability or good taste of such displays to an indiscriminate audience is, to our mind, more than questionable.

VAUXHALL, after remaining closed for more than a year, has been at length reopened by Mr. E. T. SMITH, of Drury Lane, though at a very advanced season. The "Royal property," however, has not lacked its gay dancers and sight-seers; but the fact that the proceeds during the past week were to be devoted to the relief of the widows and orphans of those who have fallen at the storming of Sebastopol no doubt contributed to draw the benevolent to the gardens. Mr. SIMPSON, of CREMORNE, has also been devoting his place of entertainment to the same charitable purpose; to which end Sebastopol has been taken in mimic show—and without the too real accompaniment of any disasters to the gallant Grenadiers.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.

THE *Tempest* was produced at this theatre on Thursday last, for the third time, we believe, during the present management. There was, therefore, so little novelty in the revival, that we almost wonder at the temerity of Mr. PHELPS in announcing it in his bills with all the ostentation of a fresh piece. For the last three or four seasons at SADLER'S WELLS, we have noticed a growing *indolence*, if we may so term it, on the part of Mr. PHELPS. Feeling himself, apparently, secure in the position he has fairly won in public estimation, he has done but little during the time we mentioned to deserve a continuance of support. A few years ago, SADLER'S WELLS regularly produced its three or four good revivals every season. Now, one is about as many as Mr. PHELPS will treat his patrons to. *Pericles*, for instance, was the only real *novelty* of the last season. The company, too, has declined in strength year by year, until it is now about as ineffective as it is possible for such a mechanically trained company to be. It requires but a very recent intimacy with dramatic matters to remember the time when Mr. PHELPS could boast of having many sterling performers in his theatre—when a piece well produced by him embraced the talents of Mr. GEORGE BENNETT, Mr. MARSTON, Mr. CRESWICK, Mr. A. YOUNGE, and Mr. SCHAEF. Of these, Mr. MARSTON alone remains. Who fill their places? We mean no disparagement to the performers at present forming the SADLER'S WELLS corps; but we are compelled to state that there is not one of them who can claim comparison with the actors we have named.

That this is matter of general opinion rather than of individual criticism may be gathered from the complaints which, for a long time past, have been uttered by the frequenters of "the Wells" at the ineffective manner in which Mr. PHELPS is so often supported. There is a supineness in the administration of every part of this theatre. The house itself remains as hot and uncomfortable as ever; the box-keepers are just as exacting and extortionate. The band is as utterly reckless of time and harmony as in the good old gory days of the melodrama, and the same ancient and exhausted farces conclude the entertainment. Surely this ought not to be. Filled as the theatre is every night, Mr. PHELPS has no excuse for allowing these things to remain uncorrected. If Mr. PHELPS, reposing upon the laurels he has already won, thinks there is no further need of exertion, he is deceiving himself, and the public will some day tell him so in a manner he will not like. Audiences will decrease little by little, if they find the same old pieces continually served up to them with a few new scenes, dresses, and effects, by way of novelty. Let there be more new pieces produced. Let it no longer be said that SADLER'S WELLS is the mausoleum of living dramatic talent; or if new pieces be thought too hazardous and too costly, let there be at least some good revivals of plays, which the present generation has never seen produced. This continued harping upon the one Shakspearian string is very monotonous and tiring.

We have but little to say of the *Tempest*, as produced on Thursday. The scenery was said to be new, and the brightness of the colouring was in support of the statement. But the artist had either worked very carelessly, or with great haste. Such coarseness of finish as was observable in several of the scenes could only have arisen from one or other of these causes. In particular, we may mention a landscape in the third act, where the edge of the water seemed to have been whitewashed, and the last scene, which was a combination of grotesque colouring and strange design such as we have rarely seen equalled. The acting was far from effective. Mr. PHELPS, as *Prospero*, was unnecessarily solemn and measured in his tones, giving not the slightest variety to his performance, and almost wearying the ear by his monotony. His "make-up," too, was anything but good. Why *Prospero*, who never strikes us as being a very old man, should have his head and face so clothed in white hair, we are at a loss to understand. Mr. PHELPS, not content with wearing a kind of legal wig, must needs have his chin plastered with wool, until he resembled something undecided between a Chancery barrister and an old clothes-man. Mr. BARRETT gave a conventional reading of *Caliban*, and showed that, although he had a fair appreciation of the character, he lacked the power to portray it. He seemed to trust too much to the hideous dress he had assumed, and to avoid all attempt to show the moral hideousness of the savage and deformed slave. *Caliban* is evidently above Mr. BARRETT's mark; Mr. PHELPS is the only actor in the company who should attempt it. Had he done so in this instance it certainly would have invested the production of the *Tempest* with more of novelty than it can now lay claim to, besides being an immense improvement in the cast. Miss EBURNE gave great promise as *Miranda*, and pleased by her innocent, artless manner; but she has a habit of lowering her voice—a sweet and good one—at the end of sentences, thus rendering her words totally inaudible. She must remedy this, and quickly, for we soon grow tired of straining the ear to catch the sense of every speech; and in such a nutshell house as SADLER'S WELLS indistinctness is inexcusable. Miss HUGHES was a good *Ariel*, merry, arch, and light as a zephyr in her movements; and Miss THIRWALL sang the songs of *Juno* with good taste, and looked admirably. The house was crammed to inconvenience.

STREET ORGANS.—Some correspondents of the *Times* during the past week have been calling attention to the nuisance of street organs; and one of the writers goes so far as to call an organ-grinder "a vagabond" *per se*. We have ourselves often suffered from the infliction of street music; but the indignant protestors in the *Times* would do well to recollect one or two facts on the opposite side. The studious, the sick, and the ultra-refined in taste, after all, form but a small minority; while the large majority of Londoners are pleased with the wandering minstrelsy of the streets, which may, indeed, to a certain extent, and for want of better, have a refining and spiritualising effect on them. At any rate, the musicians are human beings, who have to earn their living, and are not necessarily "vagabonds."

BELLOT, THE YOUNG ARCTIC HERO.—Bellet was of the very humblest origin, and rose entirely by his natural gifts and his personal merit. He was of the family of an artisan—a smith and farrier, who, soon after the birth of this son, settled at Rochefort. To Rochefort Bellet owed everything, though it was at Paris that he was born, on the 18th of March, 1826. The teacher of his school at Rochefort made such a favourable report of his capacity that the municipality sent him to the college there. He underwent, at the age of fifteen and a half, his examination for admission into the naval school; and when he left it, in two years more, his name stood fifth on the list. In September, 1843, he joined the flag-ship at Brest. He was several years older than our "youngsters" at entering, and, we fear, much better educated than most of them. By the way, let us not fail to notice here, that Bellet's case is an instance of the good effect of "examinations." To them he owed his chance, his appointment, everything; they again obtained in him an excellent officer for the service of France. Having obtained his aspirant's *aiguillette*, it is pleasant to find Bellet sending, "out of his first pay," money to his sisters. He seems to have throughout played the part of the "good boy" without a trace of cant or wordiness. We must give this feature in him its praise too. "Tom Jones" is better than "Bliss," but the Sydneys and Bayards are of a higher stamp than Tom Jones.—*Memoir of Bellet.*

MYSTERIES.—Bees clustered round the cradle of the sleeping Plato, alighted on his lips, and intimated that the wisdom, of which bees are an emblem, should one day issue from his eloquent lips. Serpents climb up and lock the infant Roscius in their folds; and, in the great pitched battles of the Roman armies, eagles are seen hovering in the sky, as heralds of victory. Mysteries to which men are blind are clearly perspicuous to birds; and this, owing to their elevation over terrestrial things, the great length of their vision, the purity of their aerial element, the innocency of their lives, and their power of ascending into the heavens. The debates in the councils of the gods are audible to birds; indeed, augury takes its name from them, *augur* and *augurium* being, according to Varro, derived from *avium garrulus*, the chattering of the feathered race.—*Dublin University Magazine.*

SUDELEY CASTLE.—The fine old chapel, which contains the remains of Catherine Parr, the last queen of Henry VIII., is now undergoing complete restoration, which, when perfected, will prove a great addition to the other improvements which Mr. John Dent and his late lamented brother (Mr. William Dent) have effected.

RUSSIAN INFANTRY.—The great boast of the Russians is their Infantry. It is of very great solidity, and, used in line or column, or behind breastworks, will always be awkward to deal with. But here its good qualities end.—*Putnam's Monthly.*

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, September 18.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS WALLER, Petersfield, provision merchant—FRANCIS WILLIAM FAWCETT and WILLIAM PARROT, Lisle-street, Leicester-square, wholesale boot manufacturer—WILLIAM HART, Old-street, St. Luke's, licensed victualler—EDWARD SQUIRE, Kingston-upon-Hull, timber merchant—WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, Birkenhead, hop merchant—GATUS AUGUSTINE STONE, Bristol, carpenter.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. MELDRUM, Glasgow hotel keeper—G. ROBERTSON, Glasgow, bolt manufacturer—J. M. KENZIE, Auchtermuchty, cattle dealer.

Friday, September 21.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM JESSE WALLER, Herbert-street, New North-road, printer—WILLIAM JOHNSON, Mountcorrel, Leicester, innkeeper, &c.—THOMAS PORTER, Sheffield, hostler—JOHN WILLIAM BELL, Crowland, Lincolnshire, draper and grocer—SAMUEL WILKINSON, Bradford, machine maker—JOHN BURTON RHODES, Wakefield, boot and shoemaker—EDWARD GIBBS, Keppel Mews, North Russell-square, Middlesex, coach maker—THOMAS MAGNATH, Exeter, tailor and draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ALEXANDER DAVIDSON, Glasgow, brick builder—WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Kinross, manufacturer—JAMES ROBSON, Queen-street, Glasgow, confectioner—GOUREL, M'LELLAND, & Co., Glasgow, bedding manufacturers, &c.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HUGHES.—September 13, at Olley-place, Hertfordshire, the wife of G. E. Hughes, Esq., D.O.L., of Doctors' commons: a son.

JAMIESON.—September 15, at Belmont Hall, Durham, the wife of James Y. Jamieson, Esq., of a son and heir.

RICHARDSON.—September 16, at Sunnyside, Wimbledon, Mrs. T. Richardson: a daughter.

WATSON.—August 19, at Aden, in Arabia, the wife of the Rev. George A. F. Watson, Chaplain H.E.I.C.S.: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BROMLEY-KELLY.—September 19, at St. George's, Hanover-square, Thomas Bromley, Esq., third son of Admiral Sir Robert Howe Bromley, Bart., to Clara Fitz-Roy Paley, only child of Sir Fitz-Roy Kelly, M.P.

MARRIOTT-WALLER.—September 18, at Farmington, Gloucestershire, Edward John Beckett Marriott, Esq., second son of the late Lieut.-General Thomas Marriott, of Avon Bank, Worcestershire, to Georgiana Mary, second daughter of Harry Edmund Waller, Esq., of Farmington Lodge, Gloucestershire, and Kirby, Fleetham Hall, Yorkshire.

WATSON-BROWN.—September 13, at Batcombe Church, Somersetshire, R. Marsh Watson, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, and the Rectory, Great Snoring, Norfolk, to Charlotte Angerton, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Brown, rector of Batcombe cum Upton Noble, Somerset.

DEATHS.

BILTON.—September 13, at Reading, from injuries received on the previous evening, owing to the collision of a railway train with a pilot engine, Christopher, only son of the late Mr. C. Bilton, and grandson of Mr. Christopher Bilton, late of Sackville-street, Dublin.

BROWNE.—September 15, at Lutwyche-hall, in the county of Salop, the house of her son-in-law, M. G. Benson, Esq., Dorothy, widow of Colonel Lyde Browne, late of the 21st Fusiliers, and only sister of the late Captain Riou, R.N., who fell at the battle of Copenhagen in 1801, aged ninety-one.

BUCKLEY.—September 7, killed in the trenches before Sebastopol, Captain Duncombe F. B., Buckley, Scots' Fusilier Guards, second surviving son of Major-General Buckley, M.P., aged twenty-five.

CUTTLER.—August 27, at Balaklava, of fever, Augustus Tonn Staines, Cuttler, First Lieut. Royal Marines, only son of John Cuttler, Esq., of Ramsgate, aged twenty-six.

DEANE.—September 8, at the assault on Sebastopol, Richard Grenville Deane, Esq., H.M.'s 30th Regiment, youngest son of Rev. George Deane, rector of Bighton, Hants, aged eighteen.

HAMMOND.—Killed at the taking of Sebastopol, Maximilian Montagu Hammond, Captain 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade.

OSBORNE.—September 15, at Brighton, General Hugh Stacey Osborne, aged eighty-five. For nearly half a century he was an officer in the Hon. East India Company's Service.

TATHAM.—September 4, Emma Tatham (author of the "Dream of Pythagoras" and other poems), the beloved and only child of George and Ann Tatham, of Addington-square, Margate, aged twenty-five.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, September 21, 1855.

THE feature of the Consol Market since our last, up to Wednesday, has been continued depression from day to day, as the following closing quotations for each day will show:—Saturday, 90½ to 1; Monday, 90½ to 1; Tuesday, 90 to 90½. Wednesday morning they ruled slightly lower, but closed at 90½ to 1. On Thursday a trifling reaction was maintained, owing to money being easier, and the Bank of England not having raised their rate of discount, as was feared and anticipated by some; the closing quotation of Consols on that day being 90 to 90½ for money, and 90½ to 1 for the October account. French Shares were heavy; the Bank of France, it is reported, having raised its rate to 5 per cent. The English Stock Markets yesterday were firmer than earlier in the week, when they, in sympathy with Funds, held a downward tendency, acted upon by tightness of money, which caused great anxiety in the City, and the effect of which was augmented by the plentiful supply of Stock in the market, raising the belief that the Bank was still selling. The pressure on Exchequer Bills, too, was great, and demand for accommodation evident in Lombard-street; the drain of gold as well continued on the Bank. All these causes, with apprehensions of a still tighter money-market, operated in making the early part of the week gloomy, the heavy speculations at the same on the French Bourse were a further element of weakness. The Continental Stock Markets have shown reaction from the rise caused by the success of the Allies in the Crimea.

This day Consols have been 90½ to 1 throughout the day, rather flatter upon receipt of French prices coming worse. Close 90½ to 1. Turks 90½ to 1. Turkish Four per Cents. at last have been dealt in at a discount, from pressure of sales by weak "Bulls," who, by throwing much stock on the market, have caused the more than deterioration of value than would have been the result of money pressure. Turkish Six per Cents. have been weak, but are somewhat better. The Bank of Australasia have declared a dividend of 2½s. per share, and also a bonus of 50s. per share; this would be at the rate of 20 per cent., or 4½ per share, and is payable 16th October. On the 1st of October, 7s. 9d., half-yearly dividend on the Tournay to Juribus and London and Hasselt Railway shares will be payable. Meetings of the Chester and Holyhead and Edinburgh and Glasgow Railways have been held this week, declaring a dividend of 12s. 9d. on the preference shares in the former Railway, payable on Oct. 1st, and a dividend of 2 per cent. on the latter. Messrs. D. Bell, Son, and Co. still report the American market dull, and almost devoid of business. The following closing prices for this day will show the state of the leading markets:—

Caledonians, 61, 61½; Chester and Holyhead, 12, 13; Eastern Counties, 8½, 9½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 40, 51; Great Northern, 80, 87; Ditto, A stock, 70, 72; Ditto, B stock, 123, 125; Great Southern and Western of Ireland, 100, 102; Great Western, 50, 50½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 72, 75; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 77, 77½; London and North

Western, 92, 92½; London and Brighton, 96, 98; London and South-Western, 83, 84; Midland, 65½, 66½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 23½, 24; Berwick, 69½, 70½; Yorks, 46, 47; South Eastern, 58, 59; Oxford and Worcester, 24, 26; North Staffordshire, 71, 72; South Devon, 12, 13; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 81, 91; Bombay and Baroda, 1, 1; Eastern of France, 38, 36½; East Indian, 23, 23½; Ditto, Extension, 1, 1½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 7½, 7½; dis.; Great Western of Canada, 24½, 24½; Great Central of France, 44, 44½; Luxembourg, 34, 34½; Madras, 101, 20; Paris and Lyons, 44½, 45; Paris and Orleans, 46, 48; Sambre and Meuse, 84, 84½; Great Western of France, 101, 112; Agua Frias, 1, 1½; Imperial Brazil, 2½, 3; Cacao, 34, 34½; St. John del Rey, 26, 28; Clarendon Copper, 1, 1½; Cobre, 63, 67; Linares, 73, 84; Liberty, 1, 1½; Santiago, 4, 4½; South Australian, 1, 1½; United Mexican, 3, 3½; Wallers, 1, 1½; Australasian Bank, 91, 93; London and Australian Chartered Bank, 19½, 20; City Bank, 55, 57; London Bank, 2, 4 pm.; Union of Australia, 70, 72; Oriental Corporation, 42, 43; Australian Agricultural, 29½, 30½; Canada Land, 170, 180; Canada 6 per cent. Loan, 112½, 113½; Crystal Palace, 21, 21½; North British Australasian, 1, 1½; Oriental Gas, 1, 1½; Peel Rivers, 2½, 2½; Scottish Australian Investment, 11, 11½; South Australian, 35½, 36½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday Evening, September 21, 1855.

THE Wheat market, this week, is quiet as far as the home trade goes, and prices have declined about 2s. since our last report. About 10,000 or 12,000 quarters of English have been taken for French account, and there are still orders in hand. Foreign Wheat is unaltered in value. Barley is dearer—38s. being the price of new English. Oats are dearer—good 40lb Swedes being worth 30s. ex Ship. In Maize little has been done; one or two cargoes of Ibrahim have been sold at 40s. and 40s. 6d. Several cargoes of Egyptian Wheat taken at 50s. and 51s. for Saidi.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red. ....	.....	90½	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	90½	90½	90	90½	90½	90½
Consols for Account	90½	90½	90	90½	90½	90½
3½ per Cent. An. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cents.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
India Stock.....	230	230	229	.....	228	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	16	20	.....	12	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000 .....	.....	.....	20	18	.....	15
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	10	7	4	4	par	4
Ditto, £500.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
Ditto, Small.....	5	1	5	5	par	4

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	102½	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents, 1822.....	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. ....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....	88
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Spanish 3 p. Ct. Nw Def.	19½
Danish 5 per Cents.....	101½	Spanish Committee Crt. ....	.....
Ecuador Bonds.....	4½	of Coup. not fun.	48
Mexican 3 per Cents.	21½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents.	28
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. Sept. 28.....	21½	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	95½
Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	.....	Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	64½
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. ....	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent Certif.	96

LYCEUM THEATRE.—ALL THE FASHION LEFT IN LONDON is to be found nightly within the Lyceum—the most thronged, most successful, and most popular house in the Metropolis. Professor Anderson, the Great Wizard of the North, Every Evening, in his new *Délassemens Magiques*, or MAGIC and MYSTERY, in Twelve Acts, with change of incidents Every Evening. Magic and Mystery is, in one and the same piece, an Entertainment, a Drama, a Farce, and a Magnificent Spectacle. The Illustrations of Spirit-Rapping are the most exciting and mysterious performances ever given within the walls of a theatre. Doors open each Evening at Half-past Seven; commence at Eight.—Private Boxes, 17. 11s. 6d. and 17. 1s.; to be obtained at the Box-office, or at the principal Libraries. Stalls, 4s.; Dress Circle, 3s.; Upper Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. The Box-office is open daily from 11 till 5, under the direction of Mr. Chatterton, Jun. Grand Fashionable Morning Performance on Saturday, September 20th, at Two o'clock; doors open at Half-past One.

THE LION-SLAYER AT HOME, 232, Piccadilly.—Mr. Gordon Cumming DESCRIBES every night, at 8, what he saw and did in South Africa. Morning Entertainments every Saturday at 3 o'clock.—Admittance, 1s., 2s., and 3s. The Collection on view during the day from 11 to 6. 1s.

DR. KAHN'S GRAND ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, consisting of upwards of 1000 highly-interesting Models representing every part of the Human Frame in Health and Disease, also the various Races of Men, &c., open (for Gentlemen only) daily from 10 till 10. Lectures, varying every day in the week, are delivered by Dr. SEXTON, at 12, 2, 4, and half-past 7. Admission, 1s.—4, COVENTRY-STREET, LANCETER-SQUARE.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS INVALUABLE AND CERTAIN FOR THE CURE OF SCURVY.—William Turney, a factory operative at Ballton, was severely afflicted with an inveterate scurvy or skin disease which seemed impossible to cure, as he tried various remedies without effect. However, he was at last induced to try Holloway's Ointment and Pills, and by the use of these invaluable medicines he has been completely cured, and not the least appearance of the disease remains on any part of his body; his health is also greatly improved.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the World; at PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamp, Constantinople; A. Guldley, Smyrna; and H. Woods, Malta.

FITCH & SON'S CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENTS' LETTERS,
CONTINUED.

"We were much pleased with the quality of No. 9 case. The bacon, &c., we found first-rate."—Melbourne, South Australia.

"I beg to enclose you a Post-office order for 12. 5s. 6d. for bacon; the quality is very excellent, and quite to my taste."

"I like the cheese much, and I have no doubt the bacon will prove as good as in former times."

"The bacon you sent me is excellent; I shall recommend it to friends."

"I never tasted such bacon in my life; it was delicious."

"The Rev. ——— begs to enclose Fitch and Son 12. 1s. 10d. for bacon received this morning, and found very nice indeed."

"I am obliged by your attention to the small order, and for the excellent article supplied. Enclosed are postage stamps for the amount."

Fitch and Son will be gratified by showing the originals of the above, and a multitude of others of the like import, upon application.

This celebrated bacon is sold by the side and half-side at 9d. per lb.; the middle piece of 12 lbs. at 10d. 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 Termini.

List of prices free. See also daily papers. Post-office Orders to be made payable at St. Martin's-le-Grand. Pre-payment 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.

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