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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, MAY 24, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

WE scarcely remember a year in which the Budget has passed off with less sensation. There are various reasons. In the first place, the public had pretty well made up its mind to the general character of the Budget; nobody expected a remission of taxes, everybody expected that the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER would want more money and a further loan. Next, there is no question which particularly agitates men's minds at the present moment, although there is some anxiety to know what is to follow on the present equivocal arrangement of the peace. Men, therefore, are thinking much more of the statesmanship than of the pounds, shillings, and pence; and the industrious classes, who might, perhaps, express decided opinions upon both sections of the subject, at present abstain, strangely if not ominously, from active part in political affairs.

Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS is praised for the clearness with which he has laid our position before us. It is not worse than we expected; rather better. Peace was concluded on the 30th of April; but we had a great army in the Crimea, we had an immense fleet at sea, we have a vast labour to perform in transferring our forces home, and the expenditure for the current year will nearly equal the expenditure of last year. It will be much less than the Government had originally calculated, for, if the war had continued, we should have had to face an increased expenditure. As it is, we shall have to pay nearly 77,500,000*l.* How is this to be met? By the continuance of the war taxes on tea, coffee, sugar, and malt, and by the help of a double income tax, the revenue will amount to 67,157,000*l.*, which brings us so far towards the expenditure, but leaves 10,350,000*l.* unprovided for. Sir GEORGE LEWIS has in hand a balance of the last loan, 1,500,000*l.*, and he has just contracted a new loan on exceedingly favourable terms, 5,000,000*l.* This reduces the deficiency by 6,500,000*l.*, leaving however nearly 4,000,000*l.* of deficiency. Sir GEORGE LEWIS is sure that he shall want half of that sum, but he would set down the other half as a "margin" to cover unforeseen contingencies, and any amount that may be necessary will be met by Exchequer bills. During the current financial year, therefore, the borrowing will amount to nearly 10,000,000*l.*—just the amount of the defi-

ciency. Sir GEORGE LEWIS believes himself to have arrived at an accurate knowledge of the amount which the war will have cost us from first to last, and he reckons it at 77,600,000*l.* We doubt much whether Sir GEORGE, or any other man, can really undertake to give so definite an account of the cost of the war; but undoubtedly the public expected that it would need more money to fit out a complete army and to place upon the waters so magnificent a fleet as that which has been lately reviewed. On the whole, therefore, the public is rather glad to get off so easily. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER tells us that two-thirds of this sum will have been met by the end of the present year, and that the remaining third will be paid off within sixteen years by an annual instalment out of the Consolidated Fund; so that at the end of sixteen years, the debt on account of the present war will be absolutely extinguished.

The Budget gave rise to little remark, and to almost none of a direct or official character. A few words were said in favour of terminable annuities as a better mode of obtaining loans, and unquestionably it is a better mode. Something, also, might have been said in favour of an open loan instead of a loan by contract; yet everyone felt that the business of the present session is to wind up a closing account and not to conclude the finance of war upon any new pattern.

The eloquence of the Exchequer, in fact, is derived from the circumstances of the day. Nothing has been set down in the Budget which we are not clearly and in right called upon to pay; while we have so much outgoing of cash to meet, we are not inclined to make any experiments in financial reforms; and we get over the present difficulties so smoothly, that everybody is in good humour with the ostensible finance minister. The whole proceedings of the new loan were a great encouragement and support. The City accepted the Downing-street terms almost without question. Baron LIONEL DE ROTHSCHILD, who was left in occupation of the post of spokesman, came with deposits of 4,000,000*l.* in his hands, offering to take the loan in Three per Cent. Consols at a price a little above 92½; but as soon as Sir GEORGE LEWIS offered at 93, the offer was accepted.

The payment of the second instalment of the Sardinian Loan, which formed part of the year's expenditure, furnished the peg for what was in fact a distinct debate between two persons, Mr. DISRAELI and Lord PALMERSTON. Mr. DISRAELI

demanding some explanation, how it is that we are at once supporting Austria and Sardinia, entering into a tripartite treaty to share the government of Italy with Austria and France, and in alliance with Sardinia, which is endeavouring to oust Austria from Italy? Mr. DISRAELI's assertions, said Lord PALMERSTON, are not founded on fact, and they have no resemblance to truth. We are not supporting Sardinia in any aggressive policy in other states, and we have done nothing to guarantee the territories of Austria. He thus turned the easy laugh of the House at this insinuation that the right honourable gentleman had told a falsehood; and yet the public understand the facts very nearly as Mr. DISRAELI described them. However diplomatists may view the present situation, the fact is that our Government is supporting Austria, and it is at the same time supporting Sardinia—the Sardinian Government intending to bring together the different provinces of Italy, and to drive back "the Stranger" from exercising any military or other form of tyranny beyond his own frontiers. There is a report in Paris that the Austrian Government has so far fallen in with the tripartite arrangements, as to have proposed reforms for the acceptance of Rome, and the only difficulty, according to this account, consists in the fact, that the Cardinal VIALA PRELA hesitates to accept the conditions proposed by Austria. Now, since General CRENEVILLE still holds Parma under martial law, it is highly improbable that any real reform of the Roman States can have been proposed from Vienna, and the very fact of the alliance between France, England, and Austria, under such circumstances, discredits any explanation of our equivocal position. Although it is muffled, there is a battle going on at this moment between Sardinia and Austria, and our Government is positively in both camps. It is not the first time that we have witnessed that duality of position; but it is the first time, perhaps, that it has come so distinctly before the public; and although Lord PALMERSTON got rid of Mr. DISRAELI for the moment, he has not really satisfied the question.

Another question has been asked, and answered, in the House, but we have yet to learn whether the explanation will be countersigned. Lord PALMERSTON has been asked in the House whether it is that we are furnishing arms to Mexico in the contests of Central America, and whether that we were ready to assist a friendly power, Spain.



Rica, against a lawless invader, WALKER; and that the Government of the United States is prepared to act with us in the same direction; but that no arms have actually been furnished. We do not hesitate to express the utmost doubt as to the accuracy of this statement. It is difficult to say how parties are distributed amongst the factions of Central America; but it is evident that there is war between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The Costa Ricans have been so idiotical as to massacre several American passengers and officials at Panama—a new complication of hostilities which has excited much anger in the American Congress. The general tendency of these events is rather to benefit WALKER's interests in the American Union, and our Government has suffered itself to become involved in the intrigues of Mr. WALLERSTEIN and the combats of a very local faction. What course the present Government at Washington may think fit to take we have no authority for stating; but we doubt whether Mr. CRAMPTON can have reported it correctly, and we have had reason to observe that that gentleman is not exact in his language, or very regular in his official conduct. He delayed a letter from Lord CLARENDON which he was instructed to communicate to the American Government, and he certainly has not shown much aptitude in gathering the sentiments of the American people. We mistrust his account, therefore, of the official feelings at Washington, and regret that our Foreign Minister should have publicly avowed his reliance upon such an authority.

A variety of other subjects have occupied time with little public sympathy as to the result. Ministers, for example, persevere in their bill for imposing duty upon fire insurance for property in this country effected abroad, but it has been proved that their bill will fail to get at the insurer, and they appear to rely upon the honour of man as a check against the evasion of tax. Fancy considering the tax upon fire insurance a debt of honour! Mr. HENRY BERKELEY has done suit and service for his Bristol seat by his annual motion on the ballot, rejected this year by 151 to 111. Mr. PACKE, the "serious" Tory member, has introduced a bill for the abolition of church rates and their reimposition in another form, but he withdrew his bill at the instance of the respectable Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, not to impede the discussion on the bill concocted between Sir WILLIAM CLAY and the Government. Mr. JOHN GEORGE PHILLIMORE has introduced a bill empowering the LORD CHANCELLOR to appoint those Judges and Chancellors in various ecclesiastical courts who are now appointed by the Bishop and other Church dignitaries, but everybody avowed in the debate the belief that the measure was a perfectly useless fragment of a larger measure which has been rejected this year and will have to be introduced in a more complete form. The LORD CHANCELLOR has taken another stage of his Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill, referred at the suggestion of Lord LYNDBURST to a select committee. Lord LYNDBURST thinks that the amendment ought to extend to the law of divorce, and to give the wife a right of release for causes the same as those which now entitle the husband to release, and the poor LORD CHANCELLOR was pleased to consent to the reference of his bill, although he declared that he never would consent to the alteration of the law—his bill only altering the constitution of the tribunal and the manner of proceeding. Lord BROUGHAM, too, is carrying forward his bill to authorize runaway marriages in Scotland, but Lord BROUGHAM's bill has scarcely been debated, and since it is not likely to be carried, we cannot consider that its passing through its stages in the House of Lords amounts to any progress at all.

There were several points at issue in the Lords' debate of Thursday night on the maritime declaration in the Paris Conference. On the memorable 8th of April Count WALEWSKI initiated discussions upon a variety of subjects—Greece, Italy, Belgian newspapers, and maritime law.

The last was professedly the object of Lord COLCHESTER's resolutions. He objected to Lord CLARENDON's having affixed the signature of Great Britain without having referred to Parliament, and he objected to conceding the principle that free ships make free goods, while this country has so frequently maintained the opposite. As to the principle itself, it tends to draw that broad line of distinction between war and commerce which is in accordance with the most obvious interests of this country, and with the most general conviction of the world at the present day, so that Lord COLCHESTER was not likely to obtain a decision in his favour, to contradict the principle being his main object. As to the want of reference to the Houses of Parliament, we believe that the objection is most important; though few men in the Upper House possess the patriotism to make a firm stand. The fact is, that the power, influence, and judgment of this country are used by a comparatively few men, who treat "the people" in as arbitrary a manner as the Tory party used to treat the people, with only this difference, that instead of dragons and criminal prosecutions, they have substituted humbug and liberal professions. Some of the Opposition also objected to the attack upon Belgium; and the defence against this objection was the most extraordinary part of the Government proceedings. Lord CLARENDON avowed that the papers to which Count WALEWSKI referred were no part of the Belgian press at all, but French sheets printed in Belgium without printer's name, and smuggled into France. Why then was Count WALEWSKI permitted to make an attack upon Belgium for not performing its duty, with a hint that she might be made to behave more properly? And why did Lord CLARENDON sign a protocol implying some demand upon Belgium?

The manner in which the people are played with has been shown in nothing more than in the Sunday bands affair. Sir BENJAMIN HALL suspected that the great body of the people would enjoy the perfectly rational recreation of music on the Sunday; he provided it in Kensington Gardens, and he was permitted to do so; he provided it in Victoria Park for the poor of Bethnal Green, and there is a great outcry! This is called "aggressive!" If Sir BENJAMIN had sent a great body of police to dragoon the poor creatures out of the public-houses to which they resort, that would have been called protective or missionary; but to draw them forth from comfortless homes or disorderly public-houses into the open air of the park, and into the influence of the most humanizing of the arts, is "aggressive!" It is true that an immense number of the people, more than a quarter of a million, confirmed Sir BENJAMIN's anticipation of their pleasure and opinion, by attending at the performances in the West, the North, and the East; but the Scotch members hinted hostile votes, the Archbishop of CANTERBURY wrote a didactic letter to Lord PALMERSTON, and the proud, clear-sighted Lord PALMERSTON, who knows so much better, gave way to the bigots of Lambeth and Edinburgh. So that we in London, who agree with Lord PALMERSTON and Sir BENJAMIN HALL, must conform our manners and customs to the rule of Canterbury and cant. There have been some public meetings this week, and the working classes are at least beginning to take up the subject. As we said upon the same matter last week, they will have their freedom when they show that they are prepared to take it.

The case of PALMER has taken its place in the history of monster trials. It has lasted nine days, with only the prospect of closing on the tenth. The mass of evidence has seldom been equalled in extent or interest. It is, however, entirely circumstantial, and is subject to a grand debate amongst medical savans in presence of the court, as to the symptoms caused by the administration of strychnine and the actual symptoms which preceded COOKE's death. The question for the jury, therefore, has narrowed to a question in theapeutics,—that is, if the jurors strictly abide by the letter of the obligations which they have under taken to decide wholly and solely upon the evidence. How often is it, however, that jurors can be found who are prepared to decide a question upon the exact balance of scientific logic? Meanwhile the trial has constituted one of the most interesting inquiries which the world has yet seen; but Lord CAMPBELL, Jove-like, has thundered from the throne of justice against that naughty boy, the Editor of the *Times*, who has already dared to rush into the crime of "comment."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, May 19th.

PARLIAMENT reassembled after the Whitsuntide recess on Monday. The HOUSE OF LORDS met at five o'clock.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS (IRELAND).

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply to a question from the Earl of DONOUGHMORE, said it was intended by the Government measure to leave the Ecclesiastical Courts in Ireland untouched, but ultimately to establish there a court of divorce *à vinculo matrimonii*, similar to that which it was proposed to establish in this country.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Earl of ELGIN, having read the letter recently published in the newspapers, purporting to be an answer from the Foreign Office to a request from the agent of the Government of Costa Rica for a supply of arms, asked the Earl of Clarendon if that letter was genuine; and, if so, whether he had any objection to lay on the table a copy of the application to which the letter appeared to be the answer?

The Earl of CLARENDON said he had no hesitation in declaring that the letter in question was a genuine document. Some time after the attack of Walker on Nicaragua, the agents for the Government of Costa Rica and other Governments of Central America applied to England for assistance. In answer to these applications, it was suggested that England should assume the protectorate of those countries; but the offer was declined, and the English Government then determined to have nothing to do with the affairs of Central America, though it regretted the proceedings of Walker, as having led to the sacrifice of property belonging to English subjects. A naval force, however, was despatched to the coast of Nicaragua, to protect those subjects; but it was not larger than was required for that object. Subsequently to that, the agent of Costa Rica (Mr. Wallerstein) said that the Government of that State meant to oppose Walker, and asked for assistance in the way of arms. The answer of the War Department was contained in the letter which had been published in the papers; but the offer then made was not accepted, and Mr. Wallerstein had since died; so that no interference, even indirectly, had taken place in the affairs of Costa Rica. It was some time since Walker took possession of Nicaragua, and he disposed of a good deal of English property by force alone. Her Majesty's Government had communicated with the Government of the United States in the matter, and he would read an extract from a despatch of Mr. Crampton on the question. There had been no disguise whatever with the United States Government, the object of the British Government avowedly and openly having been to protect English interests. On the 15th of March, Mr. Marcy said he entirely disapproved of the existing state of things in Nicaragua, looked upon it as dangerous, and thought it likely to cast a shade upon the reputation of the Government of the United States. (*Hear, hear.*) He (the Earl of Clarendon) observed that he knew no better plan of proceeding than for the United States Government and the British Government to combine for the protection of the subjects of the United States and of Great Britain. (*Hear, hear.*)

CIRCASSIA—SARDINIA.

The Earl of MALMESBURY asked whether or not it was true that the Circassians had made a representation to the Porte, asking for the interference of the Allies in favour of the independence of that country, and to protect them from Russian invasion; whether there was any foundation for that rumour; whether Lord Clarendon had received any papers on the subject, and whether he would be prepared to lay them on the table of the House? Also, whether Lord Clarendon had any objection to lay on the table the two notes which had been presented to the Governments of England and France by the Sardinian Government, and which were laid before the Sardinian Parliament?—The Earl of CLARENDON said it was quite true that a deputation of Circassians had made such a representation to the Turkish Government, but the English Government had not received any document, except a letter from some Circassian chiefs to the Queen. The spokesman of this deputation was Hafiz Pacha, who is not a Circassian at all, and who during the war showed himself anything but friendly to the Allies. It was he who promised that a great number of Circassians should be ready on a stated day to assist in the field; but the promise was not kept, and Mr. Longworth declared he was one of the greatest enemies the Western Powers had. Under these circumstances, he did not think there was any claim whatever on the British Government. He had no objection to the production of the notes asked for from the Sardinian Government to the Governments of France and England.

INDIA.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE moved the reappointment of the Select Committee on the Government of our Indian territories. The former committee, the labours of which were interrupted in 1853, had left several matters uninquied into, and he thought, therefore, that the investigation should be resumed.—Earl GRANVILLE considered the necessity for reappointing the Committee had not been proved.—The Earl of ELENBOROUGH agreed with that opinion, as he thought the present was not the time

for organic changes; but he hoped it would be understood that the House did not declare against all inquiry, which was needed in many respects, especially with regard to finance.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE also believed that the management of the finances of India need improvement.—The motion was negatived without a division.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Lord BROUGHAM, in moving that the House should go into committee on this bill, said that he intended to withdraw the clauses relating to divorce and legitimacy. The bill would therefore be reduced to one single but most important object. It would not alter the marriage law of Scotland at all, but it would give protection to the marriage law of England by preventing that gross and scandalous evasion of it which the conflict of the laws of the two countries occasions. It was a grievous thing, however, that the laws of the two countries on the important points of divorce and legitimacy should still remain in a state of conflict. After a Scotch divorce, the parties are free again to marry, according to the recognized principles of the Scotch law; but if, after a Scotch divorce, one of the parties marries again in England, he is liable to be prosecuted for felony, and—as Mr. Laurie was—to be convicted and pass twelve months in the hulks because he has been so ill-advised as to contract the second marriage in England, and not in Scotland. In England, the issue of such a marriage are considered bastards. Having himself failed in his endeavours to remove this conflict, he hoped and trusted that the exertions of some one else would be attended with better fortune.

Lord CAMPBELL considered that the bill would only increase existing difficulties, and lead to future complications. Was a marriage by an Episcopalian bishop or clergyman in Scotland a regular marriage? He believed that it was not, and that the persons contracting such a marriage might be liable to be summoned before the kirk sessions for living together as man and wife without being regularly married. The marriage ought to be solemnized by a minister of the Established Church in Scotland after the banns have been duly published. However, he would not oppose the bill.—The Earl of ABERDEEN (who, though approving of the Scotch law, considered that the state of things in England is bad) cordially supported the measure, which subsequently passed through committee, and was reported, with amendments, to the House.

SLIGO ELECTION COMMITTEE.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, a committee was sworn, to report upon a petition against the last election for the borough of Sligo.

THE BANDS IN THE PARKS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. OTWAY, related the reasons which had induced him to put a stop to the Sunday playing of the bands in the parks. In his reply to the Archbishop of Canterbury's note, he had stated that his opinions on the subject remained unchanged; that he still thought the recreation innocent and salutary; but that he was naturally led, under the circumstances, to ask himself this question, whether the advantage which would arise from a continuance of that arrangement would compensate for the evil that must arise of running counter to the feelings of a large portion of the community? (*Hear, hear.*) He therefore said to the Archbishop that there could be but one answer to that question, and that he should take steps to discontinue the playing of the bands, of course applying only to the metropolis.—Mr. OTWAY then gave notice that on the first occasion on which it was moved to go into Committee of Supply, he should move that the correspondence that had taken place between the noble Lord and the Archbishop of Canterbury be laid on the table. (*Hear, hear.*)

Shortly afterwards, Mr. ROEBUCK asked Lord PALMERSTON if there was any truth in the allegation that the Government had been induced to take its present course owing to the threat of opposition on the part of the Scotch members.—Lord PALMERSTON said that there was no truth in the assertion, and that he regretted he had not answered the question by anticipation.

THE ASSAULT ON MISS ARCHER.

Sir GEORGE GREY, replying to Mr. PEACOCKE, said that searching investigations had been made with respect to the alleged police assault on Miss Archer; a great number of witnesses had been examined, including persons in the shops immediately adjoining the place where the assault was committed; but no one had been discovered who had witnessed the assault. An advertisement had been inserted in the papers, calling upon a gentleman, who is said to have seen the assault, to give his evidence. No response had been made to it, and, under these circumstances, the attempt to discover the offender had been unsuccessful.

OFFICER'S HORSES IN THE CRIMEA.

In answer to Captain NOEL, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL stated that the general order recommending the officers in the Crimea to dispose of their horses had not come officially under the attention of the War Department, but he found that it drew a distinction between the two classes of horses—namely, the horses for riding and the baggage animals. The baggage animals were purchased by the Government; and, as regarded them, he did not think that the Government was bound to provide for

their transport home. With regard to the horses for riding, it certainly seemed to him that the case was less clear against the officers. If an officer was placed upon the staff, and was required to purchase horses out of his own resources, he was entitled, upon the discontinuance of the staff appointment, to receive something, either in consideration of the horses, or for the purpose of transporting them home. He was not prepared to give a definite answer upon the subject, but it should receive due consideration.—Sir DE LACY EVANS recommended that a telegraphic order should be sent out to the Crimea; otherwise he should take the liberty of drawing the attention of the House to the situation of the officers.—Mr. PEEL understood that a telegraphic communication had already been made upon the subject.

THE BUDGET.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER made his financial statement. He reminded the committee that in a statement made in February he had said that there was a difference between his estimates of the revenue and expenditure last year and their actual amount; it was not necessary, therefore, to repeat that statement, and he should content himself with saying that the receipts were somewhat less, and the expenditure was somewhat greater, than he had anticipated, and that the result was a deficiency of 3,560,000*l.* To cover that deficiency, he had submitted a resolution for a loan of 5,000,000*l.* in Consols, and also a proposition for funding 3,000,000*l.* of Exchequer-bills, which had taken effect, and had been successful for its object. Since then, the balance-sheet for the financial year 1855-56 had been laid before Parliament, and the House had seen the result. The expenditure in the past year, 1855-56, had been 88,428,000*l.*, the revenue 65,705,000*l.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of 22,723,000*l.*, or, with the addition of certain other items, the Sardinian loan and the redemption of hereditary pensions, a total excess of 23,936,000*l.* To cover this excess, there had been raised, by loan, Exchequer-bonds, and bills, 26,478,000*l.*, exceeding the deficiency by 2,542,000*l.* The balances in the Exchequer on the 31st of March, 1856, exceeded their amount on the 31st of March, 1855, by 2,651,000*l.*, showing a balance in favour of the Exchequer of more than 100,000*l.* The expenditure of the year which had elapsed had been mainly characterized by its connexion with the war, the civil expenditure having been but slightly augmented. The total expenditure in the two years of war, 1854-55 and 1855-56, was 155,120,000*l.*; the total amount in two years of peace, 1852-53 and 1853-54, had been 102,032,000*l.*, being a difference of 53,088,000*l.* The revenue in the two years of war was 125,200,000*l.*, and in the two years of peace 108,018,000*l.*, an increase of revenue from taxation in the two years of war of 17,182,000*l.* The amount raised by an addition to the funded and unfunded debt was 33,604,000*l.*; so that the total receipts in the two years of war amounted to 50,786,000*l.*, as compared with two years of peace. Adding the surplus income in two years of peace, the amount applicable to war expenditure over and above the sum applied to peace expenditure was 56,772,000*l.*; and, adding (for the war expenditure of 1856-57) 24,500,000*l.*, the total excess was 77,588,000*l.* Although peace has been concluded, yet, for practical purposes, the present year must be considered as a year of war, owing to the preparations which have been made. Nevertheless, the Government had been able to effect considerable reductions in the estimates for the army and navy, the original estimates having amounted to 54,874,000*l.*, and the revised estimates being 37,315,000*l.*—a difference of 17,559,000*l.* Besides the expenditure immediately connected with the war, there was a charge arising from the convention with Sardinia; and he proposed to the House to authorise the Government to advance a second million for paying the expenses of the Sardinian army. The estimated total expenditure for the current year, 1856-7, including the loan to Sardinia, was 75,525,000*l.*, which would cover the entire estimated services for the year; but, as it was difficult to make accurate estimates as to various items of expenditure, he proposed, by way of prudent precaution, to take, as a margin, a vote of credit for 2,000,000*l.*, which would make a total of 77,525,000*l.* After entering into detailed explanations respecting the income-tax and the Customs duties upon tea, sugar, coffee, spirits, and malt, he stated the total net amount of the revenue, as estimated, at 67,152,000*l.* Deducting this sum from the amount of estimated expenditure, there appeared an estimated deficiency of 10,373,000*l.*, which the remainder of the produce of the loan of last year, 1,500,000*l.*, would reduce to 8,873,000*l.* Looking to the condition of the country, and to the difficulty, or improbability, of immediately realising this amount by additional taxation, the Government did not feel justified in proposing any additional taxes, nor did they recommend any reductions over and above those which are already going on by virtue of existing arrangements. They proposed to make no change in the existing basis of the taxation, but to resort to borrowing, and they had, in the first instance, invited tenders for a loan of 5,000,000*l.*, and their terms, which had been accepted by the contractors, he should submit in the form of a resolution to the Committee. He

had the authority of Baron Rothschild for stating that the deposits already amounted to 4,000,000*l.* in Bank of England notes and gold, which, at the rate of ten per cent., represented a capital, ready to be advanced, of 40,000,000*l.* The loan would not, however, cover the entire estimated deficiency by 1,873,000*l.*, to provide for which he proposed, at a later period of the session, to ask for power to borrow, in Exchequer-bonds, if it should be advisable, to the extent of 2,000,000*l.* The present state of the Exchequer-bill market did not render it advisable to increase the amount of the unfunded debt. At the same time, he believed the fall in the value of those securities had been occasioned by temporary circumstances. In particularizing the taxes which must undergo reduction at the proper time (though at present it would be impossible), the Chancellor of the Exchequer mentioned the stamp on fire insurances, and the duties on tobacco and wine. He moved in conclusion a series of resolutions sanctioning and giving effect to the loan.

Mr. ALCOCK and Mr. HADFIELD expressed their dissatisfaction that the duty on fire insurances is not to be reduced.—Mr. WILLIAMS objected to the funding of the two last loans in the Three per Cent. Consols, as he believed it would have been far better to have thrown them into the new stocks created by Mr. Gladstone.—Mr. EDWARD BALL thought there should be a reduction of the malt tax; Mr. VANCE was displeased that there was no diminution of the duty on Irish spirits; and Mr. MILNER GIBSON spoke in favour of repealing the duty on paper, in which he was supported by Mr. INGRAM.

Mr. DISRAELI exhorted the Government to turn its attention, now that the war had ceased, to the observance of a wise and rigid economy. It was a mistake to suppose that a large military force should be kept up in times of peace by way of preparation for the contingency of war. To economise our resources, and to extend our commerce, during peace, was the best mode of making ourselves ready for hostilities whenever they might come. An efficient army, however, should be maintained; and this might be done without any very onerous cost by preserving the militia force. Before he sanctioned the advance of an additional million of money to Sardinia, he must have an explanation of the mysterious relations which seemed to exist between England and Sardinia as regarded Italy. He had perused with apprehension the tripartite alliance which had just seen the light. It appeared to him that, while with the one hand we were encouraging Sardinia to undertake a crusade of "Italian liberalism," with the other we were binding ourselves to maintain Austrian dominion over that country.

Lord PALMERSTON said there was no mystery whatever in our alliance with Sardinia. Our relations with that state were those of confidence, friendship, and intimate alliance. The Government of Sardinia has a destiny to fulfil, and that is to hold out a bright example of what wise and constitutional institutions can accomplish. It never entered into the contemplation of England or France, nor, he was sure, of Sardinia, when entering into that treaty, that the last-named Power should be launched into a state of aggression against a neighbouring Power. Mr. Disraeli might or might not agree with what Count Cavour said as to the extent and influence of military occupation, in different parts of Italy, by troops not belonging to the country, and to the effects it has on the happiness, prosperity and good order of those States; but he (Lord Palmerston) had no hesitation in saying that those military occupations are misfortunes, and ought to cease as speedily as possible (*Cheers.*) Those occupations began under circumstances altogether different from the present, and which have long since ceased to exist; and he was quite ready to state to the right hon. gentleman that the time has come when those occupations ought to be put an end to. (*Cheers.*) But, with regard to any engagement for that purpose, there is nothing but what is public to all the world—nothing that was not openly discussed in the Conferences at Paris, and in the presence of the Austrian Minister. Referring to the unsuccessful efforts made in 1847 to reconcile the King of Naples to his Sicilian subjects, Lord Palmerston contended that we had done all we could, and that there was nothing treacherous in our conduct, as Mr. Disraeli had asserted.

Sir FRANCIS BARING, recalling the discussion to the principles and provisions of the Budget (from which, he observed, Mr. Disraeli, after the manner of a conjurer, had lured it), expressed a general approval of the financial scheme.—Mr. GLADSTONE, continuing the discussion on the treaty with respect to Sardinia, eulogised the policy pursued by that country, and invoked the sympathy of the English legislature and public on behalf of its struggles for Italian liberty. At the same time, he hoped that Sardinia would abstain from aggression. With respect to the Budget, he thought that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had left too narrow a margin for accidental expenses; and he believed that some reductions would have been possible, as, for instance, in the estimated charges for the naval and transport services.—Mr. MALINS complained that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should take advantage of the "letter" of the act, and appear resolved to continue the income-tax for two years instead of one.—Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE, Mr. HENLEY, and Mr. VANSTANT, having offered some criticisms on various branches of income and expenditure,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in reference to the remarks of Mr. Malins, explained that, in speaking of the income-tax, he had merely spoken of it as a source of income available for the current year. The future must take care of itself. With regard to the Sardinian loan, upwards of 2,000,000*l.* had been expended by Piedmont in prosecuting the war.

The resolutions were then agreed to, and the House resumed.

FIRE INSURANCE BILL.

After a long and spirited discussion, several divisions, and a promise on the part of the Law officers to introduce amendments to improve the machinery, the Fire Insurance Bill passed through committee.

The other business was disposed of, and, at a quarter to one o'clock, the House adjourned.

Tuesday, May 20th.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of KENMARE (Irish peer) took the oaths and his seat as a baron of the United Kingdom.

MARITIME LAW.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH laid on the table a series of resolutions relating to the Convention appended to the Treaty of Peace, by which the maritime law of the country is modified. That Convention was now part of the maritime law of England. It contained some expressions that were very vague, and he thought it important these resolutions should be brought before the House previous to Lord Colchester drawing attention to the subject.

DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of this bill, stated that its object was to enable a divorce to be obtained without the parties going through the formalities now required, and which are often of a revolting character, as it is necessary to have an action of *crim. con.* in a civil court, and afterwards a sentence of separation pronounced by an ecclesiastical court. It was proposed to establish a tribunal, called the Court of Divorce, having power to deal with the facts of the case, and pronounce a sentence of dissolution of marriage at once. The Court would consist of the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, or a Judge of the courts of Westminster, appointed by him as his deputy, and the Judge of the Court of Probate and Administration. This tribunal would take *viva voce* evidence of the facts in proof of the allegation of adultery; it might summon a jury in the case, or direct an issue to be tried by a jury, in the same manner as the Court of Chancery; there would be a right of appeal from its decisions to the House of Lords. The Court would only take evidence on an allegation of adultery on the petition of the husband, except in a case of incestuous adultery on the part of the husband, when the suit might be promoted by the wife. —Lord LYNTHURST thought the measure insufficient, and grossly unfair towards women, who were not to be allowed to appear and give evidence in cases affecting their character, and who could not proceed against the husband except in a special case. The laws affecting women are already sufficiently unjust: this bill, so far from improving them, would make them even worse. He moved, therefore, that the bill be referred to a select committee—a motion which was seconded by Lord BROUGHAM, who concurred with the preceding speaker in his denunciation of the injustice sought to be perpetuated.—Lord REDESDALE supported the motion for reference to a select committee, because the happiness of marriage depends on the feeling that the bond is indissoluble.—The Earl of ABERDEEN eulogized the Scotch law of marriage, some of the arguments against which he declared to be absurd.—The LORD CHANCELLOR said he would not resist the general wish of the House; and the bill was therefore referred to a select committee.

THE REPORTED SECRET TREATY.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the Marquis of GRANBY asked whether it was true, as reported, that there existed a secret treaty between France, Austria, and England?—Lord PALMERSTON: "If there were a secret treaty—(laughter)—the noble lord could hardly expect me to make it no secret. (Laughter.) The noble lord's question reminds me of one put by the late member for Montrose, who asked for a return of the expenditure of the secret service money. (Laughter.) I can only say that the only treaty concluded is that which has been laid on the table of the House."

THE BALLOT.

Mr. HENRY BERKELEY renewed his entreaty to the House to permit him to pass a measure to extricate the electors of Great Britain and Ireland from the state of humiliation and degradation into which, he thought, they are plunged by the instrumentality of open voting. Mr. Berkeley repeated the arguments generally employed by him in favour of secret voting, and, in the course of his address, made some sarcastic remarks on Mr. Warren's speech when elected for Midhurst, on which occasion he assured the electors that they were as free as the wind to oppose him if they liked; but none dared to do so in face of the nominee interest; and Mr. Warren then told the electors that he was a proud man in finding himself the choice of persons whose convictions remained unbartered.—Sir DE LACY EVANS seconded the motion, which Mr. PEACOCKE opposed; and, after a few words in reply from Mr. BERKELEY (the call for an

immediate division being general), the House divided, and the motion was negatived by 151 to 111.

JUDGES OF ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

Mr. JOHN PHILLIMORE moved for leave to bring in a bill to take away from all Archbishops, Bishops, and ecclesiastical persons in England and Wales, all power of appointing Judges and Chancellors, and vesting such powers in the Lord Chancellor.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

After a rather desultory discussion, in which the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, Lord PALMERSTON, Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. MALINS, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. WATSON, and Mr. WIGRAM took part, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Mr. COWPER obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT; and Mr. PELLATT to introduce a measure to improve the law of IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Wednesday, May 21st.

SLIGO ELECTION COMMITTEE.

Mr. GEORGE BUTT brought up the report of this committee. The committee reported that the Right Hon. John Wynne was duly elected to serve in the present Parliament as a Burgess for the borough of Sligo. They further reported that the petition of John Patrick Somers was frivolous and vexatious, and that it was their opinion that there were strong grounds for believing that E. Killoran and J. Ward, in giving evidence before the committee, had been guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

ADVOWSONS BILL.

Mr. CHILD, in moving the second reading of this bill, stated that it was merely an enabling, not a compulsory, measure, its objects being to permit patrons to dispose of advowsons held in trust, for certain purposes, and to borrow money from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty and other bodies. The bill was read a second time.

CHURCH RATES BILL.

Mr. PACKE moved the second reading of this measure, the object of which is to abolish church rates for all purposes excepting the maintenance and repair of the fabric of the church, and the supply and renewal of its necessary fittings. The bill, he observed, went farther than that of Sir William Clay, since it absolved every man from compulsory payment for the services of the church. —Sir WILLIAM CLAY observed that two of a trade can never agree, which he supposed accounted for his not approving of the measure then before the House. A principle directly opposed to that of Mr. Packe's bill (which instead of abolishing, would prolong church-rates) had been already recognized by that House; and he should therefore move that the bill be read a second time that day six months.—Mr. HADFIELD severely criticized the bill, which he said was hypocritical, and would impose the rate in many instances where it does not now exist. —Sir GEORGE GREY likewise opposed the bill for the same reasons; and after a few words from Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, who recommended Mr. Packe not to proceed with his measure, the bill was withdrawn.

The House then went into committee upon the JUSTICES OF THE PEACE QUALIFICATION BILL; but, before all the clauses were agreed to, the Chairman, upon a division, was voted out of the chair.

The report of the Committee of WAYS AND MEANS was brought up and agreed to.

Lord DUNCAN, in the absence of the LORD-ADVOCATE, obtained leave to bring in a bill to make provision for the appointment of additional officers under the Board of Supervision in Scotland.

The House then adjourned.

Thursday, May 22nd.

The Duke of NORFOLK, in the HOUSE OF LORDS, took the oaths and his seat.

LORD LYNTHURST'S MOTION.

Lord LYNTHURST postponed, at the suggestion of the Earl of CLARENDON (who said that negotiations were pending which might render discussion prejudicial), his motion on the subject of Italy from Tuesday next till a future day.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW.

Lord COLCHESTER moved a series of resolutions condemning the article of the convention appended to the Treaty of Paris, by which a change has been effected in the maritime law of England without previous reference to the Legislature. He contended that, by surrendering the recognised right to search for and confiscate the goods of an enemy, although sheltered by a neutral flag, we have seriously compromised our naval supremacy.—The Earl of CLARENDON defended the recent modification of the international maritime law, observing that the previous state of things was opposed to the opinion of many eminent jurists, and to the public feeling of nearly all countries, while the assertion of our right of search had involved us in many serious disputes.—The Earl of CARNARVON, the Earl of HARDWICKE, and the Earl of DERBY (the last of whom charged the Government with stretching the royal prerogative, and betraying the confidence of the country, to so great an extent that the transaction will be known in history as "the Clarendon capitulation at Paris"), objected to the change, which was defended by the Earl of HARROWBY, the Earl of ALBEMARLE, Earl GREY, Earl GRANVILLE, and the Duke of ARGYLL. After a few words in reply from

Lord COLCHESTER, their Lordships divided, when there appeared—

For the resolutions (present, 56; proxies, 46)... 102
Against (present, 88; proxies, 68) 156

Majority against 54

Their Lordships then adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS very little business was transacted.

COMMUNICATION WITH INDIA.

Mr. VERNON SMITH (replying to Lord STANLEY) said that the Indian Government took the greatest interest in the schemes proposed for facilitating communication with India. There were at present two or three schemes under consideration, into the details of which it was not possible for the Indian Government at present to enter, as those details were not yet fully before them. With regard to the telegraph, that stood in exactly the same position. There had been one proposal to carry the telegraph to Alexandria, and thence to India by the Red Sea; but the answer of the Indian Government to that proposal was, that they would not give any opinion till the telegraph was completed as far as Alexandria. Another proposal was to carry the telegraph from Seleucia to join the Euphrates, and thence to India. Dr. O'Shaughnessy gave the preference to the latter plan.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. WILSON, in answer to Mr. MACARTNEY, said that, with regard to the tenders for the conveyance of the mails to Australia, there was none which the Government thought satisfactory. He had recently had communications with gentlemen interested in the matter, and he had nearly settled with them a plan which would appear in a few days in the public papers. With regard to the Irish mails, the conditions of the Government were at present under the consideration of the united companies. One of those conditions was the conveyance of the mails in eleven hours to Dublin.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Sir FITZROY KELLY, stated that it was intended to propose the continuance of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act for a limited period.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

In answer to Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, Sir BENJAMIN HALL said that no steps had been taken by the Government for the purpose of purchasing Hampstead-heath. Communications had been made with the Metropolitan Board of Works, which has power, according to its construction of the act, to purchase the heath if it be thought proper.

Factories Bill.

The House went into committee on Colonel WILSON PATTEN's Factories Bill, after a division of 207 to 50 on an amendment by Mr. COBBETT, that the House go into committee that day six months. The clauses, which related chiefly to the fencing off of machinery, were agreed to with slight amendments.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE'S REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL also passed through committee.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD'S FORMATION OF PARISHES BILL was next considered in committee.

The formal business was then disposed of, and the House adjourned.

THE LOAN.

AN interview between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and those commercial gentlemen willing to make tenders for the new Loan of Five Millions, took place on Monday at the Treasury. The Government was represented by Lord Palmerston, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Wilson, secretary to the Treasury, who were accompanied by Sir A. Spearman. After some conversation, Baron Rothschild handed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a paper containing his tender for the Loan. Sir G. C. Lewis asked the Governor of the Bank whether he was prepared to put in a tender. Mr. Weguelin (the Governor) having given only a negative response to the appeal, the Chancellor of the Exchequer opened the paper put in by Baron Rothschild, and read as follows:—

"London, 19th May, 1856.

"To the Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Sir,—We beg to offer for the proposed loan of 5,000,000*l.* sterling, to be paid for at the periods mentioned in the public notice of the 8th instant, at the rate of 108*l.* 3*s.* per cent., Consolidated Annuities, with dividend from January last for every 100*l.* in money, on which we are ready to pay the required deposit."

To this the Chancellor of the Exchequer objected, as being not quite equal to the reserve price. Baron Rothschild admitted that the proposed terms in Consols, were 9*d.* less than 92½. The Chancellor of the Exchequer having requested the Governor of the Bank of England to open the sealed paper, Mr. Weguelin did so, and read:—"107*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* Consols for every 100*l.* in money; or equivalent to 93 for every 100*l.* Consols." Sir G. C. Lewis observed that the difference was about three-eighths. Baron Rothschild then requested permission to withdraw; and, having retired with the other monetary gentlemen for about five minutes, he stated on his return that they had decided on accepting the Government proposals. The contract was then signed, and the interview terminated.

TRIAL OF WILLIAM PALMER.

The first witness examined last Saturday was the celebrated George Bates, whose life Palmer wished to insure. His testimony had reference to Palmer's bribing the coroner, Mr. Ward, first by sending him game, and afterwards (as it would seem from the statements made by the witness) by transmitting to him in a letter a 5l. note.

Mr. Thomas Blizard Curling, surgeon at the London Hospital, was the next witness. He deposed simply to matters of science, and stated that there are two kinds of true tetanus—idiopathic and traumatic; that there are some other diseases producing contraction of the muscles, but not properly called tetanus; that traumatic tetanus may arise from a wound or other disturbing cause; that he had never known tetanus produced by sore throat or syphilis; that the disease, when once commenced, is continuous, and not intermittent, as in the case of Mr. Cooke; that the symptoms described in that case are not those either of idiopathic or traumatic tetanus; and that nuxvomica, prussic acid, and strychnine will produce the disorders in question. He had known spasms to arise from disease of the spinal cord. A case of traumatic tetanus was recently brought into the London Hospital: it came on so suddenly that strychnine was suspected; but, on examination of the body after death, no traces of that poison were found. Several old syphilitic sores, however, were discovered on the body; but the witness did not think that death could have thus resulted in the case of Mr. Cooke, because the sores in question were, with him, in the throat, and therefore protected from friction, which would be necessary to the production of tetanus under such circumstances.—Dr. Todd, of King's College Hospital, agreed with what Mr. Curling had stated, and asserted that syphilis or its consequences could not produce tetanus. Epilepsy might produce tetanic symptoms, but not tetanus; and the same with apoplexy, if there were effusion of blood on the brain. He believed that Mr. Cooke's death was from tetanus caused by strychnine.

The evidence of Sir Benjamin Brodie was singularly emphatic. After giving some scientific details, he observed:—"I do not believe that death in the case of Mr. Cooke arose from what we ordinarily call tetanus—either idiopathic or traumatic. I never knew tetanus result from sore throat, or from a chancre, or from any other form of syphilitic disease. The symptoms were not the result either of apoplexy or of epilepsy. Perhaps I had better say at once that I never saw a case in which the symptoms that I have heard described here arose from any disease. (*Sensation.*) When I say that, of course I refer, not to particular symptoms, but to the general course which the symptoms took." In the course of cross-examination, he said:—"I never knew syphilitic poison produce tetanic convulsions, except in cases where there was disease of the bones of the head."

Dr. Daniels, of Bristol; Mr. Solly, of St. Thomas's Hospital; and Mr. Henry Lees, surgeon to the King's College Hospital and the Lock Hospital, gave testimony to the same effect as the foregoing. Dr. Corbell, Dr. Watson, Dr. Patterson, and Mary Kelly, of Glasgow, detailed the circumstances attending the death of a patient in the Infirmary in that city, who took some strychnine pills in mistake. The symptoms were similar to those in the case of Mr. Cooke. Details of a case of the same nature occurring at Basingstoke were then given by other witnesses. In this case, death resulted from three grains of strychnine. A third case of death from strychnine was brought forward in the evidence of Mrs. Jane Witham, who narrated the circumstances attending the last illness of "a lady," whose name, Lord Campbell observed, need not be stated, but who was obviously Mrs. Dove, of Leeds. It will be recollected that the husband is now awaiting his trial on a charge of having murdered his wife. The symptoms in this case also were like those preceding the decease of Mr. Cooke. Mr. Morley, who made the *post-mortem* examination, obtained strychnine from the body; and he now gave evidence to that effect.

Mr. Moore, a surgeon, then related that he had given, several years ago, a draught containing a grain of strychnine to a patient of his; that in rather less than three quarters of an hour the patient was seized with stiffening of the limbs, and that he screamed violently, and begged his attendants to turn him over and rub him. (This appears always to attend poisoning by strychnine). He recovered in about three hours.

After the reception of this evidence, the court adjourned till Monday.

On Sunday, the jury, who since the commencement of the trial have been almost completely isolated from the rest of their fellow creatures, with the exception of the officers of the court, attended divine service in the chapel of Newgate. It was intended that they should take an excursion in the country (in proper charge) before dinner; but the state of the weather, which was very rainy, prevented this arrangement, and they spent the greater part of the day indoors.

The trial was resumed at ten o'clock on Monday morning. Palmer, when placed at the bar, exhibited a very anxious and careworn appearance. A chair was set for him, but he did not avail himself of the accommodation, and during the whole of the day remained standing and leaning on the front of the dock.

Dr. Alfred Swaine Taylor, fellow of the College of Physicians, was then examined, and entered into very elaborate particulars with respect to the operation of strychnine on animal life. He had made experiments on various quadrupeds, and had always found that the effect of the poison was to throw the animal into convulsions. Generally, it took about five or six minutes to operate. The spasms then come on; the legs are stretched out, and the head and tail drawn back, so as to give the body the appearance of a bow; and the slightest noise or touch brings on the convulsions again, if they should for a time have ceased. There is sometimes a scream or shriek, as if the animal were in severe pain; but it would appear as if there were some remission of pain before death. Immediately after death, the body is generally rigid. In opening the bodies of animals thus destroyed, he had never discovered any injury to the stomach or the intestines. "In one or two cases," added Dr. Taylor, "I have found congestion of the vessels of the membranes of the spinal cord and brain more than would be accounted for by the gravitation of the blood; in others I have not found the spinal cord in any way affected. I ascribe the congestion to the succession of fits the animal has had before death. In a majority of instances, I have failed to discover any abnormal condition of the brain and spinal cord. All that I have observed about the heart in such cases is, that it has been congested, and the right side especially. I have not had much experience of cases of tetanus in the human subject. I saw one on Thursday the 8th inst., in St. Thomas's Hospital. The patient recovered. I agree with the other medical gentlemen who have been examined that the symptoms of Mr. Cooke were similar to those in the case of strychnine poisoning, and to those I observed in all the animals to whom I have administered that poison." Strychnine could be extracted from the stomach by chemical analysis; but he thought this could only be done when there is an excess of what is required to destroy life. If a minimum dose for that purpose were administered, the whole would be absorbed and have its effect, and none would be discovered in the body. There were no processes for ascertaining the existence of strychnine in the tissues of the body. Half a grain of strychnine has destroyed life. "After the *post-mortem* examination of the deceased," proceeded Dr. Taylor, "a portion of the contents of the stomach was delivered to me in a brown stone jar by Mr. Boycott. It was fastened down, covered with a bladder, and tied and sealed. The jar contained the stomach and intestines of John Parsons Cooke. I experimented upon the contents of the jar to discover if they contained any poison. We sought for various poisons—prussic acid, oxalic acid, morphia, strychnine, venetia, oil of tobacco, arsenic, mercury, and other mineral poisons. We only found small traces of antimony. The circumstances under which the tests for the discovery of poison were made were the most unfavourable that could possibly be. The stomach had been cut from end to end; all the contents were gone, and the fine mucous surface, on which any poison, if present, would be found, was lying in contact with the outside of the intestines, and all thrown together. There was also feculent matter on the surface of the mucous membrane. This was owing to the fault or misfortune of the person who had made the dissection. If any poison existed, I should have expected to find it in the contents of the stomach and in the mucous membrane. At my request other portions of the body were sent up to me—the liver, the spleen, and the two kidneys, and a small bottle of blood to be taken indiscriminately from any part of the body. We analyzed all these portions of the body. We searched the liver and kidney for mineral poison, and discovered antimony in one-eighth part of the liver, also in the kidney and in the spleen. They all yielded antimony, but there was less in proportion in the spleen. The blood also yielded antimony. I cannot form an opinion how shortly before death the antimony had been administered. Antimony is usually given in the form of an emetic. It acts as an irritant to the stomach, and produces vomiting; and, if given in excess, it would find its way from the stomach to the system. If its administration were continued until it produced certain symptoms, it would undoubtedly destroy life. I heard the account given by the female servant of the frequent vomitings of the deceased, and also of his vomiting at Shrewsbury, and the account given of his symptoms by Dr. Jones. Vomiting of such a description would be very likely to produce the symptoms I have alluded to."

In cross-examination, Dr. Taylor said, "After the *post-mortem* examination, I wrote a letter to Mr. Stevens (father-in-law to Mr. Cooke), in which I stated that we could not discover any trace of strychnine or any other poison, but that we had discovered antimony, and we inferred from all the circumstances that it might have been the cause of death. Although there was not sufficient antimony found to destroy life, it did not follow that this was all Mr. Cooke had taken. Some of the antimony might have been lost by vomiting, another

portion might pass from the stomach, and some might have been absorbed in the system. I think I was quite justified in coming to the conclusion that antimony was the cause of death."

Dr. Taylor was rather sharply cross-examined with reference to certain communications he had made to some newspapers. He said, with respect to a letter he had written to the *Lancet*, that his evidence before the coroner had been misrepresented by the prisoner's solicitor, and that he felt compelled to contradict the statements that had been made. He swore positively that he did not sanction the publication of his portrait in an illustrated newspaper. He considered it was a caricature. (Mr. Serjeant Shee observed that he thought it very like—a remark which caused some laughter.) Mr. Henry Mayhew, of the *Illustrated Times*, called upon him with a letter of introduction from Professor Faraday, and obtained from him certain particulars with reference to the analyses he had made, which were published in the journal in question under the head of "Our Interview with Dr. Taylor." When he gave those particulars, he did not know they were for publication; indeed, he was told Mr. Mayhew had called simply with reference to a Life Insurance Office; but he called again on a subsequent day with the proof of the article which was to appear in the paper, and everything relating to the Rugeley cases was struck out by him (Dr. Taylor). Some things, however, appeared which he did not authorize, and he wrote to the proprietor of the journal, complaining of what had been done. He was of opinion that a very gross deception and cheat had been practised on him, and that it was most dishonourable and disgraceful. He would not swear that, to the best of his judgment and belief, he did not see the proof slip headed "Our Interview with Dr. Taylor;" but he thought he did not. Those portions not relating to the Rugeley case he allowed to pass, though he remarked, "I do not like this mode of putting the matter. I cannot, however, interfere with what you put into your journal." The reason that he suggested questions at the coroner's inquest, was, that the coroner did not put any questions that would enable him to form an opinion. He thought that this was owing, not to unwillingness, but to ignorance of the points that were necessary to be inquired into. The coroner did not take down a good many of the answers that were given, but he (Dr. Taylor) did not complain, as he had obtained the information he required to enable him to form an opinion. Some laughter was caused in the cross-examination of Dr. Taylor by his saying that he thought a rabbit a very fair animal to experiment on, and that he was not inclined to try poison on dogs and cats, because they are dangerous. From what he had seen of them, he was "not disposed to go on."

Dr. Rees, lecturer on materia medica at Guy's Hospital, who assisted Dr. Taylor in making the analyses and experiments, supported the testimony of the preceding witness. Professor Brande, of the Royal Institution, who also assisted at the investigations, and Professor Christison, of the University of Edinburgh, gave evidence with respect to several matters of medical science bearing on the question. The court then adjourned.

Further medical testimony to the same effect was given, on the reassembling of the court on Tuesday, by Mr. John Jackson, of the College of Physicians. Dr. Bamford afterwards deposed to the circumstances connected with his attendance on Mr. Cooke; but his statements were merely confirmatory of the opening narrative of the Attorney-General. Mr. Burgin, chief Superintendent of Police at Stafford; Mr. Henry Augustus Deane, solicitor, who attended the inquest on Mrs. Ann Palmer on the part of the Crown and the Insurance Companies; Mr. Espin, solicitor to Mr. Padwick; Mr. Thomas Pratt, Palmer's ordinary solicitor; Mr. Stevens, Cooke's father-in-law; Mr. Strawbridge, of the Rugeley bank; William Cheshire, clerk at the National Provincial Bank, Rugeley; John Armshaw, attorney at Rugeley; John Wallby, butcher at the same place (from whom Palmer borrowed some money, which he afterwards repaid); John Spillbury, farmer, near Stafford (who had had dealings with Palmer); and Herbert Wright, solicitor at Birmingham, gave evidence with respect to Palmer's money liabilities and the various bills which were out against him. The facts have already been detailed in the speech for the prosecution. The bills which Pratt discounted for Palmer bore (with only two exceptions) the enormous interest of sixty per cent. At the close of this evidence, the court adjourned. Palmer was on this day observed to look fatigued and dispirited. One or two artists were in court, sketching the prisoner's portrait, and taking views of the place.

On Wednesday (the seventh day), the court was even more crowded than on the preceding occasions, owing to the Attorney-General having intimated, on the previous evening, that he had very nearly closed the case for the prosecution, and to the consequent anticipation of the speech for the defence. A fierce rush was made for places, and before ten o'clock hundreds of persons were sent away for whom no accommodation could be found. Several noblemen and members of Parliament were present. Palmer did not seem so fatigued as on the previous day. The remainder of the evidence for the prosecution was then taken. Mr. Charles Wetherby,

acing agent of Old Burlington-street, deposed to receiving the cheque for 350*l.* signed by Cooke, and transmitted to him by Palmer (for which he was to send the money), the body of which cheque was not in the same handwriting as the signature. This cheque, which was sent on the 20th of November, was not returned to Palmer, as Mr. Wetherby had not sufficient funds in his hands to pay it. Mr. Butler and Mr. Stevens gave some particulars with respect to Palmer's betting on the Shrewsbury races; and the case for the prosecution was closed.

THE DEFENCE.

Mr. Serjeant Shee then rose to open the case for the defence. He spoke at first in a very low tone of voice, and was only distinctly audible in the immediate vicinity of where he stood. He observed that he rose with an overwhelming sense of the responsibility which rested on him: only once before had he defended a prisoner whose life was at stake; and the jury might conceive the anxiety of his mind now that he had had to stand for six days under the shade of the scaffold, conscious that the least error of judgment might have the effect of consigning his client to an ignominious death and to public execration. That was a position well calculated to try the clearest judgment; but his task had been lightened by the great fairness with which the prosecution had been conducted, and he must tell his unhappy client that everything which could possibly be done to insure an honest trial had been effected. If, unhappily, an injustice should be committed on either side, the whole responsibility would rest on the judges and the jury. For himself, he must say that he believed truer words were never pronounced than those the prisoner uttered when he said "Not Guilty" to the charge. If he (Mr. Serjeant Shee) should fail in establishing his innocence, he should have very great misgivings that his failure was attributable to his own inability to do justice to the case, and not to any weakness in the case itself. He would grapple with the facts alleged by the prosecution, foot by foot, and inch by inch; and not a point would he leave untouched. In the first instance, he would endeavour to restore to its proper place in the discussion the fact that strychnine was not found in the body of Cooke. If Cooke died of strychnine, he died in two hours after the administering of a strong dose. He must have died within a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes after the effects of the dose became visible in strong convulsions of the body. The *post-mortem* examination took place within six days of his death; and there was no reason to suppose that within that time there was any detection of it in the body. Never, therefore, were circumstances more favourable, or a case in which strychnine was more likely to have been found, if it was there. The fact was established beyond all question that it was not found. Dr. Taylor contended that the poison of strychnine was of that nature that, when once it had done its fatal work, and became absorbed in the system, it ceased to be the thing which it was when it was taken into the system—became decomposed—its elements separated, and therefore no longer capable of responding to the tests which would detect the poison of undecomposed strychnine. The opinion of Dr. Taylor was not supported by the opinions of any eminent toxicologist but himself. It was due to Dr. Taylor to say that he had propounded this theory in his book, but it was a theory of his own; and when it was remembered that his knowledge of the subject—humane man that he was—was confined to his having poisoned five rabbits twenty-five years ago, his opinion, unsupported by the opinion of others, was not of much weight. He would call before the jury many gentlemen of the highest eminence in their profession, analytical chemists and others, who would state their utter renunciation of this theory. But he would now refer to a question even yet more important, with respect to which he felt no distrust; namely, the question whether, in the second week of November in last year, the prisoner at the bar had a motive for the commission of the murder, and some strong reason for desiring that Cooke should die? It seemed to him (the learned counsel) that it was not only not the interest of Palmer that Cooke should die, but that his death was the very worst calamity which could befall him, and that he must have known that it would be followed by his own ruin. That it was followed by his ruin they all knew. They all knew that, when it was alleged that the prisoner commenced to plot the death of Cooke, he was in extreme embarrassment. Cooke and Palmer had been intimate and steady friends; they were jointly interested in at least one racehorse; they stayed together at the same hotels; they went to the same race-courses, and they were known to be connected in betting transactions upon the same horses, at the same races. This was proved by the witness Mr. Jones, who said that he heard Cooke say in his presence, "Palmer, we have lost a good deal of money on races this year." It was shown by abundant evidence that they were closely connected; and in the month of August, 1854, money was wanted by Cooke, which was raised through the instrumentality of Palmer. Palmer applied to Pratt for it, and offered the security of Cooke, whom he represented to be a gentleman of some fortune. Cooke, with 13,000*l.* in ready money, might have gone on for a few years, and with his stud of horses made a show of much greater wealth. He wished the jury to

remember that he was not defending Palmer against the charge of forgery, if he were guilty of that crime—neither was he disposed to defend the reckless imprudence of obtaining money at enormous rates of interest. The question now was, whether he was guilty of murder? Let them look at the position of Palmer and Cooke in the second week of November, as proved by Pratt, and by the correspondence put in evidence. In addition to the 12,500*l.* worth of bills, there were two acceptances for 2000*l.*, each purporting to be drawn on the prisoner's mother, and due the last week in October. There were in addition two other bills, amounting to 1500*l.*, which were to be held over from month to month, Palmer paying interest at the rate of 60 per cent. These latter bills were pressing upon him; but it was pretty clear that Pratt or his clients would have taken the interest, and that, so long as there was a vestige of good security, Pratt desired nothing better than to hold them over. In this state of things, on the 22nd of October, Palmer came up to town, and Pratt pressed Palmer for payment of these bills. With regard to one of them, for 2000*l.*, which had just become due, and had not been paid, Pratt insisted on payment by instalments in addition to the interest, and it was agreed that Palmer should pay 250*l.* on the 27th, a like sum on the 31st, and that, as soon afterwards as possible, a further sum of 300*l.* should also be paid, making in the whole 800*l.* This was to quiet Pratt, or, as Pratt said, to quiet his clients, and induce them to let the bill stand over. On the 9th of November, the 300*l.* were paid; and on the 13th, the day that Polestar won the race, Pratt wrote to Palmer, speaking of the Prince of Wales Insurance Office, and their refusal to pay the insurance on Palmer's brother's life, and then adding,—"I must positively insist on seeing you on Saturday; and, for both our sakes, try to make up the amount of the 2000*l.*; for, without it, I shall be unable to renew the 1500*l.*." This letter reached Palmer at Rugeley on the evening of his arrival from the Shrewsbury race-course. The learned Serjeant mentioned other letters of Pratt, asking for payment of 200*l.*; he then proceeded to describe some of the doings at Rugeley, and next spoke of Cooke writing to Fisher in these terms:—"It is of very great importance, both to Mr. Palmer and myself, that a sum of 500*l.* should be paid to a Mr. Pratt, of 5, William-street, May-fair, tomorrow without fail. 300*l.* has been sent up to-night; and if you will be kind enough to pay the other 200*l.* to-morrow, you will greatly oblige me; and I will give it to you on Monday at Tattersall's." There was a postscript consisting of four words only, but which would form the subject of comment by-and-by. The postscript was—"I am much better." Surely, the inference from this correspondence was that Cooke was making himself useful to Palmer, by writing to his agent to get paid to Pratt the 200*l.* for which Pratt was pressing Palmer. It was clear either that Cooke had an interest in Palmer's transactions, or that this letter contained falsehoods inserted for the purpose of "putting a good face on it." Whatever way these facts were taken, they proved to demonstration that Palmer and Cooke were playing into each other's hands in respect of the heavy incumbrances upon Palmer, and that Palmer could rely on Cooke's aiding him in any difficulty. So that here, on the 16th of November, when it was said that Palmer was poisoning Cooke, Cooke was behaving towards him in the most friendly way, was acquainted with his circumstances, and willing to assist in relieving him from his embarrassments, by devoting to his use a portion of his earnings on the race-course. This and another portion of the evidence completely negated the theory advanced on the other side. Cooke was, in fact, a most convenient friend to Palmer, and Palmer, instead of its being his interest to get rid of him, could hardly do without him. During the last illness of Cooke, Palmer watched the bedside of his friend; he was with him night and day; he attended him as a brother; he called his friends around him; he did all that the most affectionate solicitude could suggest for a friend who was ill—unless he was cognizant of his death. In Palmer's letter to Pratt, the day after the death, these passages occur:—"I am sorry to say that, after all, he died in his bed; so you had better write to Saunders; but mind, I must have Polestar, if it can be so arranged; and if any one questions you about Cooke, don't answer till you have seen me. I sat up two whole nights with Cooke." And did he not? Was not this true? Now, let them mark the answer of Pratt to this letter. That answer concluded with a reminder that Palmer, by the death of Cooke, would be compelled to make arrangements for a 500*l.* bill becoming payable on the 2nd of December: so that the very first effect of Cooke's death was to saddle Palmer with a loan of 500*l.* The bill was for Cooke's, not Palmer's accommodation. Palmer had lent his name to Cooke, and on Cooke's death Palmer became primarily and alone responsible. The jury would judge whether it suited Palmer to stand before the holder of that 500*l.* bill as the only man liable upon it; yet this was a result to Palmer of Cooke's death. All the facts connected with the advance of the 500*l.* on the assignment by Cooke of his two racehorses, Polestar and Sirius, showed that Cooke had received the money, not Palmer; and consequently, the hypothesis of the Attorney-General in this case, including the suggested forgery of Cooke's endorsement to a bill, and the fear of detection acting as a mo-

tive for putting Cooke out of the way, was entirely gratuitous and groundless. The Attorney-General had asserted that Cooke never received the money. This was improbable in the highest degree. Did the jury believe that, after executing the bill of sale for the two horses he so much valued, he remained for three months without reminding Pratt that he had not handed him the money? It was perfectly incredible.

Referring to the entry by Palmer on the title-page of a medical work, "Strychnine kills by causing the mechanical fixing of the respiratory muscles," Mr. Serjeant Shee contended that this was merely a note taken by the accused, when a young medical student, for his own information. There were several other entries in the same book.—Lord Campbell here reminded Mr. Serjeant Shee that the point had not been pressed by the Attorney-General; but the learned counsel replied that, as it had been brought forward, he desired to reply to it.—He then adverted to the death of Walter Palmer in August last; and remarked that William Palmer's only hope of a release from his difficulties, unless his mother should be reconciled to him, was in getting the money from the Prince of Wales Insurance Office for the insurance on the life of his brother. For some time previous to the month of November, the company, who were annoyed at being called on to pay so large a sum as 13,000*l.*, were determined to do all in their power to resist payment; and, accordingly, they sent down Inspector Field to Rugeley to make inquiries. They talked and whispered insinuations, and raised a cloud of doubt and conjecture; and this had been going on for some time. So that, just before the death of Cooke, Palmer was aware that he was the object of what he knew to be a most unfounded and unwarrantable suspicion; yet he put the policy of insurance into the hands of an attorney to enforce payment, the office meeting the claim by insinuations of a nature to destroy his character, and bring about him the suspicion of another murder. The pressure for the 2000*l.* bills never took place at all till the office disputed the policy; all went smoothly till the company disputed the policy on Walter Palmer's life; and then Pratt wrote to Palmer, and told him the situation was changed, that he could manage the bills while the policy remained undisputed, but that now Palmer must make arrangements to meet the bills. And even now, that 13,000*l.* was sure to be paid, unless the prisoner was convicted of murder: as sure as he was saved, and saved he believed he would be, that 13,000*l.* would be paid. As to the cause of Cooke's death, the *post-mortem* examinations showed that he was suffering from "a very ugly sore throat," with diseased tonsils, one of which was reduced in size, while the other had almost vanished. He also exhibited traces of another disease; and he (Mr. Serjeant Shee) would produce medical witnesses to show that that disease was of a virulent character. At the medical inquiry after death, the spine was not examined much below the junction of the head, and its symptoms were not investigated. The assertion of Dr. Taylor at the inquest, when he swore that death resulted from strychnine (although he could not find any trace of that poison, although he had never seen its influence on the human body, and although he only knew the condition of Cooke from the accounts given by Elizabeth Mills, the chambermaid, and Mr. Jones, the medical man)—such an assertion was most reprehensible. Man's constitution is a mystery to us all. We suppose that the soft or medullary substance which is within the cavity of the head is the seat of thought and sensation; and while we know that that soft medullary substance is continued down the back, in the middle of the back-bone, protected by a bony duct or canal, embedded in two tissues, one of which is the arachnoid, the other the dura mater, we know that from the sides of this bony duct, this medullary substance, an infinite variety of nerves, the conduits of sensation from all parts of the frame, and of muscles dependent upon them, the instruments of voluntary motion there rise. This we know; and we know that by that wonderful process all the ordinary actions of our lives and our will are carried on. Sometimes, however, these nerves and muscles depart from their normal character; and instead of being the mere exponents of the will, of the soul, are convulsive, tumultuary, vindicating to themselves a sort of independent vitality, totally regardless of the attributes to which they are ordinarily submissive; and when they are thrown into this state of excitement, they are known by the general term convulsions. The ancients, thousands of years ago, knew as we do the distinction between spasmodic and tetanic effects. Tetanus is divided into idiopathic and traumatic; and we have had much description of these two sorts of tetanus in this inquiry. Some of the questions were answered satisfactorily; but, when the English of the word "idiopathic" was asked for, the reply was "constitutional." This, however, was not right. The term meant "sub-generative."

Lord Campbell: The answer was, "Constitutional, without external injury."

Mr. Serjeant Shee said he thought the word meant "unaccountable," not that the convulsions were "unaccountable," not that it followed that they could never be traceable to a cause, but that they constantly occurred under circumstances in which we only suspect the cause, and call it "idiopathic," because we cannot

say it is traumatic, that is, arising from external injury. It had been attempted to show that the disease of which Cooke was said to have died was not traumatic tetanus, and therefore that it was strychnine tetanus. He (Mr. Serjeant Shee) thought it was not clear that it was tetanus at all. That Cooke died from convulsions he believed; but what pretence was there for saying that they were tetanic at all?

The Court here adjourned for a short time, in order to get some refreshment; and, on its return, Mr. Serjeant Shee argued that the state of Mr. Cooke's health at the time in question, his constitutional derangements, and the excitement into which he was thrown by the success of his horse at the Shrewsbury races—an excitement which was so great as to render him speechless for three minutes, and which was natural, considering that, but for his success, he was a ruined man—may, very possibly, have brought on convulsions. Detailing the circumstances attending and preceding the death of Cooke, the learned counsel contended that there was a great deal which was presumptive of Palmer's innocence. The accused sent for Mr. Jones (an intimate friend and medical attendant of Mr. Cooke); the patient did not mention to Mr. Jones the serious attack he had had after the races, and the suspicions he felt; Palmer gave Cooke two pills in the presence of Mr. Jones, of the same nature as those which he had before administered, though, had they contained strychnine, the patient would have died in convulsions in a quarter of an hour, with Mr. Jones for a witness; the deceased himself, in the course of his last attack, asked for Palmer to be sent for; and Mr. Jones, after death, seemed very uncertain as to how to characterize the complaint. Hospital surgeons were not the most qualified for pronouncing on such cases; and he should call the most eminent private physicians to show that the symptoms attending Cooke's death were not those resulting from strychnine. A person poisoned by strychnine objects to be touched; but Cooke asked to have his neck rubbed. The heart, in these cases, was always found full; but in Cooke's case it was found empty—a fact which the prosecution attempted to account for by saying that the *post-mortem* examination was clumsily performed, and that the blood had thus escaped. In the testimony of Elizabeth Mills there was a discrepancy. She said before the coroner that the broth she had taken, and which was originally intended for Cooke, had not had any ill effects on her; but on the trial she said it had. She also stated in that court, in opposition to her former account, that Palmer, on a specified morning, had given Cooke the coffee he afterwards vomited. That was not all. The case for the Crown was that Cooke was reluctant to take the pills, and that Palmer overruled him. According to her statement before the coroner, Cooke said it was the pills that Palmer made him take at half-past eleven o'clock that made him ill; when she came here, she said the time was half-past ten o'clock, thereby fixing the fact that Palmer gave the pills. Persons in that condition of life sometimes make mistakes not intending to deceive; and it is the misfortune attending all falsehoods, that it is almost impossible to retract without disgrace. She had, he believed, told a falsehood, and then had not the moral courage to set it right. It was said that the prisoner pushed the parties who were making the *post-mortem* examination; but it was admitted that nothing was lost, and he was sure that they would attach no importance to that small circumstance. Then it was said that the jar was removed to a corner of the room. That a man knowing himself to be innocent should be anxious to have the jar placed in the hands of persons in whom he could rely, was natural. There were some persons, recollect, who did not want to pay the 13,000*l*. There were some persons who had been undermining the prisoner's character for a considerable time, imputing to him improper conduct towards a near relative, and propagating suspicion. He knew there were persons so prejudiced against him; and his removing the jar was only to prevent persons having the opportunity of tampering with it. His whole conduct was consistent with that theory. His objection to the jars going to Mr. Frere was to be accounted for in the same way. He would now call attention to the statement of Myatt, the post-boy. It should be recollected that Mr. Stevens had come down from London; that his conduct had been harsh towards the prisoner; that he had almost insulted, and had very much irritated, him; and he (Mr. Serjeant Shee) thought that the prisoner's offer to Myatt to give him 10*l*. to upset the vehicle in which the jar was to be conveyed along with Mr. Stevens to Stafford, was an offer dictated by the irritation which he felt at Stevens's conduct towards him. From the answers given in cross-examination by Myatt, it appeared that all Palmer said was—"I should not mind giving 10*l*. to upset Mr. Stevens"—not "to break the jar." The evidence of Charles Newton, the assistant at Mr. Salt's surgery, was of no worth. He suppressed it at the inquest; and it was most improbable that Palmer should go to the house of a man with whom he had quarrelled, to inquire about the effects of strychnine, and to buy that drug; or that he, a medical man educated in London, would seek for information from such a person as the witness Newton. Besides, he was in London on Monday, where a medical man would have no difficulty in buying strychnine; and, in addition to this, it

could be proved that the prisoner could not have been at Rugeley at nine o'clock on Monday night. Suspicion was attached to the circumstance of Palmer having ordered the coffin; he could not see why, inasmuch as it was requisite that some one should order it. The learned counsel then referred to Stevens's evidence in detail, and contended that the non-finding of the betting-book was not a circumstance to warrant suspicion against the prisoner. An entry in a medical book had been alluded to, to show that the prisoner had a knowledge of strychnine. Why, it was a book that he had used, as a student, at the lectures, and when he loved that young woman, his wife, in a way that was sanctioned by God's ordinance that young men should love their wives. "For," said the learned Serjeant, "his was a marriage of affection. He loved her as he now loves her first-born, who is waiting with trembling anxiety for your verdict. A man who so loves his wife is not likely to commit atrocious crimes. His being the loving husband of a virtuous woman is the best protection against crime. There is positive evidence that such a man was William Palmer, when he was only seven years younger than he is now. Here is a letter which he then sent to her who was afterwards his wife:—'My dear Annie,—I snatch a moment from my studies to write to your dear, dear little self. I need scarcely say that the principal inducement I have to work is the desire of getting my studies finished, so as to be able to press your dear little form in my arms. With best, best love, believe me, dearest Annie, your own WILLIAM.' This is not one of the kind of letters that are generally read in courts of justice. It was no part of my instructions to read it, but an attempt has been made to show that this man was a heartless desperado, and I have read this letter to show you what that man was seven years ago. Upon the evidence before you I cannot believe him to be guilty. Do not suppose that he is not supported by some of his family in this his hour of trial; he is supported by an aged mother, who cannot approve of some part of his conduct, but who still waits with dreadful anxiety for your verdict. A dear sister also can scarcely repress herself in her desire to serve him, and a brave and gallant brother stands by to give him his aid. I call upon you to raise your minds to a capacity to estimate the high duty you have to perform. You have to stand the brunt of prejudice; you have to vindicate the honour and the character of your country; you have, no doubt, with fearless courage, to do your duty, and to find a verdict for the Crown if you believe that guilt is proved; but if, you have a doubt upon that point, you will rejoice to find him innocent; and depend upon it that the time will come when the innocence of this man will be made apparent, and when you will deeply regret any want of due and calm consideration of the case which it has been my duty to lay before you."

At the conclusion of Serjeant Shee's address, which lasted nearly eight hours, the court adjourned at twenty minutes past six o'clock till Thursday morning.

The court was again densely crowded on Thursday, and, among the distinguished persons accommodated with seats on the bench, was the Duke of Cambridge.

Mr. Thomas Nunneley, Fellow of the College of Surgeons, and Professor of Surgery at the Leeds School of Medicine, was examined as to the opinion he had formed of Cooke's death. He said that, judging from the symptoms he had heard described, he was of opinion that death was caused by some convulsive disease. He thought that Cooke must have been a man of delicate constitution; that he had suffered from certain diseases; that he had led an irregular life; and that he was subject to mental excitement and depression. His father and mother died young. It is stated that there are forms of epilepsy in which the patient retains consciousness. In answer to Lord Campbell, the witness said, "I cannot mention a case in which consciousness has been retained during the fit. No such case has come under my notice." He had read, however, that such is sometimes the case. Granules between the dura mater and the arachnoid are not common at any age. He could not draw any particular inference from their appearance. They might or might not lead to a conjecture as to their cause and effect. He did not form any opinion upon these points. They might produce an effect upon the spinal cord. There are three preparations in museums where granules are exhibited in the spinal cord, in which the patients are said to have died from tetanus. Those are at St. Thomas's Hospital. The spinal cord in such cases ought to be examined immediately after death. Not the most remote opinion could be formed from an examination made two months after death, more especially if the brain had been previously opened. The witness described a great number of cases of death from strychnine which he had seen, including animals he had poisoned; and he found that in all these cases, without an exception, the muscles became quite soft, powerless, and flaccid in the interval before death. The rigidity which before prevailed ceases at that time. He had also observed that the paroxysms of convulsion are intermittent, and that, after death, the heart is found full of blood. Cooke's symptoms did not, in his opinion, resemble those of a person poisoned by strychnine. He had more power of voluntary motion than he (Mr. Nunneley) had observed in animals under the influence of the poison in question.

Other reasons for believing that the convulsions were not produced by strychnine were, their sudden accession without the usual premonitory symptoms, the length of time which had elapsed between their commencement and the taking of the pills which are supposed to have contained poison, and the screaming and vomiting. He never knew an animal which had been poisoned with strychnine to vomit or scream voluntarily. He apprehended that where there is so much spasm of the heart, there must be inability to vomit. If the strychnine be pure, it will almost be detected by a *post-mortem* examination, even though the body be putrid. The position of the stomach in the jar, and its removal to London, would give a little more trouble, but would not otherwise affect the result. If the deceased had died from strychnine poison, it ought to have been found in the liver, spleen, and kidneys.

The witness was then cross-examined by the Attorney-General. With reference to the contraction of a body after death from strychnine, he said:—"When I spoke of the feet being arched by muscular contraction in my report upon the case at Leeds, I only referred to the ordinary rigidity after death, the ordinary *rigor mortis*. I do not agree with Mr. Morley that the rigidity after death in the case of poisoning by strychnine is much greater than in ordinary cases. I have never observed it. The fact of the emptiness of the heart, among other things, convinces me that the deceased did not die of poison by strychnine. I have heard the evidence in the cases at Basingstoke and Glasgow, and that it was stated that in both cases the heart was perfectly empty. I cannot account for the emptiness of the heart in Cooke's case. The lungs of the deceased were congested. The state of the heart, the lungs, and the brain were the points upon which I form my opinion that Cooke did not die from the administration of strychnine. I do not ascribe the convulsions of which the deceased died to any particular symptom of delicate health. I admit that he died of convulsions, and I consider those convulsions were caused by the delicate state of his health and the circumstances in which he was at the time. The excitement occasioned by winning the race might have operated with other causes to create the convulsions of which the deceased died. I infer from Dr. Bamford's evidence that the brain was not healthy."

The Attorney-General: "Then you set up the opinion of this old gentleman, who certified that the deceased died of apoplexy, against the evidence of Dr. Harland and Dr. Jones?"—Having read the evidence of the latter gentleman as to the symptoms exhibited by Cooke, the Attorney-General asked Mr. Nunneley to point out any one distinction between those symptoms and the symptoms of tetanus, either traumatic or idiopathic. The witness said he could not do so. He founded his opinion that Cooke's death was not a case of strychnine on the fact of the deceased being able to speak up to the last moment, which went quite against his experience.

The Attorney-General: "Did you not hear it proved in the melancholy case of Mrs. Smythe that she asked for water to be thrown over her, and to be turned on her side just before she died?"—"I did not hear that. But, if it be true, and you say so, it would shake my opinion." Mr. Nunneley proceeded to say that Cooke asked to be rubbed, and that, as far as his experience went with regard to animals—The Attorney-General here interrupted him, and caused some laughter by observing, "They can't ask to have their ears rubbed, of course." The witness went on to state that in no single instance could the animals bear to be touched. In the Leeds case, certainly, the lady asked to be rubbed before the convulsions came on, but afterwards she could not bear it, and begged that she might not be touched. Part of the experiments that he had made on animals for the present case were conducted conjointly with Mr. Morley, who was called for the prosecution.

Mr. William Herapath, Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology at the Bristol Medical School, was next examined. His evidence was similar to that of Mr. Nunneley. He believed that strychnine would have been found on the examination of Mr. Cooke's body, even if a very small quantity had been administered. The 50,000th part of a grain, he thought, could be discovered if the strychnine were pure. He had placed two grains in a gallon of water, which is one in 70,000 parts, and from one-tenth part of a drop of the water the presence of the strychnine was ascertained.

"Have you not said," asked the Attorney-General, "that you had no doubt strychnine had been taken, but that Dr. Taylor had not gone the right way to find it?"—"I may have said so. I had a strong opinion from reading various newspaper reports—among others the *Illustrated Times*—that strychnine had been given. I have expressed that opinion, no doubt, freely."

Mr. Rogers, Professor of Chemistry at St. George's School of Medicine at London, then gave evidence, and was of opinion that strychnine should have been discovered in the body of Cooke, if it had been administered to him, even though the body was partly decomposed when the examination was made. The shaking up the contents of the stomach would give a little more trouble, but would not affect the result.

The next witness was Dr. Henry Letheby, Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the London Hospital of

Medicine, and Medical Officer of Health to the City of London. Cooke's symptoms, he said, were not those resulting from poisoning by strychnine; the reasons he gave for this opinion were the same as those put forward by the preceding witnesses. He had no hesitation in asserting that strychnine is of all poisons the most easy to detect. In cross-examination, he said:—"I am not a member of the College of Physicians or of Surgeons. I am not now in practice. I have been in general practice for two or three years. I gave evidence in the last case of this sort, tried in this court in 1851. I gave evidence of the presence of arsenic. The woman was convicted. I stated that it had been administered within four hours of death. I was the cause of her being respited, and the sentence was not carried into effect, in consequence of a letter I wrote to the Home-office. Other scientific gentlemen interfered, and challenged the soundness of my conclusions before I wrote that letter. I have not since been employed by the Crown." The Attorney-General having asked what he attributed Cooke's death to, Dr. Letheby replied, "It is irreconcilable with everything with which I am acquainted." To the further question, "Is it reconcilable with any known disease you have ever seen or heard of?" Dr. Letheby answered, "No."

Mr. R. E. Gay, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, gave the particulars of the death of a patient of his (an omnibus driver) from idiopathic tetanus, produced by sore-throat and catarrh, and not resulting from wounds. The symptoms were similar to those attending the death of Cooke. He had never had such another case.

After this evidence had been received, the court adjourned to the following day.

Mr. Henry Mayhew has written to the daily papers to contradict the assertions of Dr. Taylor in connexion with himself. He says that, at the close of his first interview with that gentleman, he asked for, and obtained, permission to publish the results of the conversation; that not a line of the matter struck out by Dr. Taylor from the proof was published; and that, by a letter from that gentleman, dated January 30th, 1856, further authority for the publication of the substance of the conversation is given. A letter confirming these statements, and written by Mr. Sutherland Edwards, who was present at the interview, is appended by Mr. Mayhew. Mr. Edwards asserts that Dr. Taylor not merely sanctioned the publication of the details in question, but even requested that they should be put forth, for the sake of correcting some mis-statements which had been made.

METROPOLITAN PROTESTS AGAINST PURITANISM.

LONDON is beginning to stir against the tyrannical suppression of the Sunday bands in the parks. A meeting of the inhabitants of St. Pancras was held on Monday in the Vestry Hall, when Mr. W. D. Cooper having been voted to the chair, a letter from Mr. Dickens, declining to attend, was read. It ran thus:—

"Gentlemen,—I have received a letter signed by you (which I assume to be written mainly on behalf of what are called working men and their families) inviting me to attend a meeting in our parish Vestry Hall this evening, on the stoppage of the Sunday bands in the parks. I thoroughly agree with you that those bands have afforded an innocent and healthful enjoyment on the Sunday afternoon to which the people have a right. But I think it essential that the working people should of themselves, and by themselves, assert that right. They have been informed on the high authority of their first minister (lately rather in want of House of Commons votes, I am told) that they are almost indifferent to it. The correction of that mistake—if official omniscience can be mistaken—lies with themselves. In case it should be considered by the meeting (which I prefer for this reason not to attend) expedient to unite with other metropolitan parishes in forming a fund for the payment of such expenses as may be incurred in peaceably and numerously representing to the governing powers that the harmless recreation they have taken away is very much wanted, I beg you to put my name down as a subscriber of ten pounds, and I am your faithful servant,"

CHARLES DICKENS.

Sir Benjamin Hall, having entered the room, was received with loud cheers. Addressing the meeting at some length, he said he was informed that the decision which had been come to was in consequence of memorials addressed to the House of Commons, and petitions to the Crown. He did not wish to find fault with the manner in which petitions were got up, but he did feel justified in stating what some of these petitions and memorials contained. (*Hear, hear.*) The prayer of the memorialists was not only that museums and other such places should remain closed, but they desired also that all steam-boats should cease to ply on the Sunday. ("No," and *Hear, hear.*) He would say and prove that such was the fact; and not only this, but all trains were to cease to issue from the stations—nay, more, the gates of the parks were to be closed on the Sunday. ("Shame!" and *No.*) Some persons might say no, because they did not like to hear such things; but in a few days, by an order of the House, these petitions would be printed. (*Hear, hear.*) But would the dissentients be-

lieve that some went so far as to pray that instructions should be sent to all foreign ministers to use their exertions to get the Sabbath, in the countries where they resided, similarly observed. The only conclusion that he (Sir Benjamin Hall) could come to was, that the petitioners were not aware of the absurdities they were signing. Some time ago, a deputation had waited upon him, and stated that no carriages should enter the parks. More, one gentleman, a City Missionary, considered skating in the parks as most improper. ("Hear," and *laughter.*) The whole number of persons whose labour was required for the amusement of the vast multitude in the parks on Sunday week was only twenty-five. Why did not Mr. Baines write down the Sunday trains which issued from Leeds? Simply because he dare not. (*Cheers.*) As we were told what we should not do, he should like some one to issue a pamphlet written by Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Blandford, and Arthur Kinnaid, and entitled, "How to keep the Sabbath." (*Cheers.*) But what would the people say when he told them that a compromise was proposed—that he had been actually told that, had he been contented with Kensington Gardens, he would not have been interfered with? What would his constituents have said had he been so hypocritical as to affirm that that was right in Kensington Gardens which was wrong in Victoria and Regent's Parks? (*Hear, hear.*) Those who went to Kensington Gardens had music in their own homes. (*Hear, hear.*) It was his duty, as a representative of the people, and as a minister of the Crown, to see that all classes were equally dealt with.

Resolutions expressing accordance with the objects of the meeting, appointing a deputation to wait on Lord Palmerston, and thanking Sir Benjamin Hall for his "enlightened and straightforward conduct," were unanimously agreed to, and the meeting separated.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster took place on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Sir J. V. Shelley, M.P., in the Great Hall, Broadway, when, after some feeble opposition from a small minority, resolutions, condemnatory of the late suppression, and in favour of organization to assert the people's rights, were carried.

Another very successful meeting took place in Marylebone on Wednesday evening. Sir Benjamin Hall was present, and addressed the auditory. He was loudly cheered.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

SERIOUS reports are in circulation in Paris, to the effect that the Empress is in very bad health, and has by no means recovered from her confinement. It is also said that the Prince Imperial shows signs of blindness; but this is doubtful.

Prince Oscar of Sweden arrived at Paris on Monday evening.

Baron de Brunow has presented to the Emperor a letter from the Emperor of Russia, which accredits him on an extraordinary mission to his Imperial Majesty.

Great inundations have occurred in France, owing to an unusual rise of the waters of the Seine, the Rhône, and the Saône. It is feared that the young crops will be greatly injured.

A proposition, originating with M. Charles Dupin, is before the French Senate, providing for the erection in Paris of an immense column, surmounted by a statue of the Emperor, as a memorial to the army of the East.

Excursion trips to St. Petersburg, at 125 francs per head, are being organized at Paris.

A suggestion has been made for uniting the forests of Versailles and St. Germain, with a view to making one enormous wood for hunting.

A new political editor has lately been appointed to the *Constitutionnel*, the foreign policy of which, with respect to Italy, has become more in accordance with that of the Government.

AUSTRIA.

The promotion of Baron de Hübner to the rank of Austrian Ambassador at Paris, and the bestowal of the same honour upon Baron de Bourqueney, the French representative at Vienna, is looked upon as a sign of extraordinary good-will between the respective courts. An Ambassador is supposed to represent the person of the sovereign himself, rather than of his government, and may therefore communicate immediately with the monarch to whom he is accredited, instead of with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as in the case of inferior diplomatic representatives. Since 1848, Austria has resolved to send no more Ambassadors in full to any court; but she has made an exception in favour of France.

The Ecclesiastical Courts of the Austrian Empire have just issued various instructions with respect to the matrimonial law, by which it is made still more apparent that the Church is fully privileged to override the temporal power whenever it pleases. These are some of the rules:—

"Paragraph 22.—If non-Catholic Christians are of opinion that the matrimonial tie can be severed, the Church may pity them, but she cannot permit their erroneous belief to contaminate the sanctity of her law

(*ut error legis sue sanotitatem contaminet*). No matrimonial tie can be formed between a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian whose husband or wife is alive, even though the Court which has to decide in matters connected with the marriages of non-Catholics shall have pronounced the dissolution of the matrimonial tie.

"Paragraph 66.—The Church abhors (*Ecclesia detestatur*) marriages between Christians and those who have renounced Christianity, and she disapproves (*improbat*) of marriages between Catholic and non-Catholic Christians, and dissuades (*dehortatur*) her children from entering into them.

"Paragraph 67.—If there be reason to suspect that there is any impediment in the way of persons wishing to marry, or if there be reason to fear that their marriage would lead to great disputes or give public offence (*nuptias magnis litibus vel scandalis*), or be the cause of mischief to others, the Bishops have the right, and are even under the obligation, to prohibit the celebration of the marriage. Until the prohibition has been removed, the celebration of the marriage is illegal (*illicitum*)."

Persons within the fourth, or a still nearer, degree of relationship, "whether in a direct or in a side line," are to be debarred from intermarriage; but it seems the Pope has power to set aside this rule when it suits his Infallibility, for he has just given his consent to the marriage of an uncle with his niece.

A new police ordinance against swearing is about to make its appearance. The tariff is fixed at fifty scudi for swearing by the Virgin, and twenty-five scudi for irreverently using the name of "any other saint." The promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception has had its natural and legitimate result in a great increase—not of graces, but—of blasphemous and revolting conversation among the lower orders of Vienna.

The statement that the Archduke Ferdinand Max has received instructions from the Emperor, his brother, to inform Louis Napoleon that he consents to the removal of the remains of the Duke de Reichstadt to Paris, is denied.

ITALY.

It is stated that a Congress of Italian Princes is to assemble at Rome to concert on the measures most suitable to be adopted in order to permit in the States of the peninsula a freer political development, while at the same time repressing all revolutionary elements. The Government of Naples, according to a report from Berlin, has sent a protest to the Great Powers against the initiative taken by Count Cavour in mooted the Italian question in the Congress of Paris.

The health of the Pope is very bad. Symptoms of dropsy become every day more and more apparent.

The smouldering anarchy which military despotism but partially stifles through the greater part of the Italian peninsula, shows no sign of extinction, but seems rather to burn with the greater fierceness, for lack of opportunity to burst forth. Assassination is rife in Parma, being in no degree checked by the state of siege, or by the presence of "orderly" Austrian bayonets; and Lombardy has been thrown into a state of ferment by the brave and energetic words of the Sardinian Plenipotentiaries in their protest presented to the Paris Congress. Nevertheless, it is said that Marshal Radetzky and his Generals do not apprehend any disturbances in the Austro-Italian provinces. Time will show. The *Times* correspondent at Parma says that the Austrians have complete command in the capital of that little duchy. The Austrian General, Count de Crenneville, has allowed the Duchess to institute a Council of War, composed of Parmesan officers, for the trial of the "offenders;" but the auditor of the Council is an Austrian, who alone is entrusted with the prosecution, the visiting of the prisons, and the questioning of the prisoners. "The persons arrested belong chiefly to the working classes. When one of them is arrested, the shop in which he works is also immediately shut up, and thus whole families are punished on a simple ground of suspicion against an individual member, and should any kind-hearted friend offer relief, he is immediately arrested and thrown into prison for having shown sympathy for a suspected person. The arrest of fifty young men who have been sent off under an escort to Mantua has aroused public indignation to an extraordinary pitch. The Austrian authorities themselves own that the only cause of their arrest was that they were known to entertain political principles not fully conformable to those entertained by the Government of Parma. The Austrian General said that they would not be brought to trial, but simply be locked up in the fortress of Mantua until they had given evident proofs of a return to better sentiments towards their legitimate Government. Some of these unfortunate young men were arrested by mistake, and, on a representation to this effect being made, the Austrian General replied that he was sorry for it, but he could not release them, as it would be dangerous to admit that the authorities could commit an error."

Side by side with these malignant tyrannies, we hear of Austria in the new character of a reformer—and an Italian reformer. "It is credibly stated," says the *Times* Vienna correspondent, "that the French and Austrian Governments have agreed to prolong the occupation of the Papal dominions, but it is an undeniable fact that the two great Catholic Powers have frankly

stated to the Papal Government that things cannot be allowed to remain in their present state. Count Colloredo, the newly-appointed Austrian Ambassador, will strongly insist on reforms being made, and the French Minister has been ordered to give him his full support." The same writer, on the authority of the *Augsburg Gazette*, states that Prince Felix Schwarzenberg, some time before his death, remonstrated strongly with the Papal Government, and advised it to make internal reforms. Yet, in conjunction with these assertions, it is stated that, in Modena, where the people have always enjoyed the privilege of electing their own burgo-masters, new municipal laws have been published, and in future the civic dignitaries will be appointed by the Sovereign.

Turin has been in an uproarious condition of revelry owing to the eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the Constitution.

The small church of Desserega, on the coast of Genoa, has fallen down, burying beneath its ruins the old canon attached to it, eighty years of age, and his servant.

The Sardinian Government has sequestered the *Armonia*, a High Church paper, for speaking disrespectfully of the *fêtes* in honour of the Constitution, and saying that "the flags, the military, the deputies, the emblems, and the protectors of liberty, were all dirt (*fango*)." The paper, being remonstrated with by the students of the University, made an ironical retraction.

General Count Stackelberg has left Turin on his return to Russia. He is said to have been much gratified at his reception, and to have been very unreserved in his strictures on the Austrian Government.

The Bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Turin have issued a protest against the new bill, already voted by the senate of Piedmont, for the reorganization of public instruction in Piedmont. They ground their opposition on the assertion that the measure is too secular.

RUSSIA.

According to a notice recently put forth from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Consuls resident in Marseilles, Toulon, and Havre will undertake the functions of Russian Consuls until the Government is able to complete its appointments of Russian Consuls at those places. Orders have been already published that all papers issued by the above shall be regarded in all Russian custom-houses and other offices as though issued or signed by Russian officials.

Another scientific expedition is about to be sent off from Helsingfors to Lappmarken—that is to say, to that part of Lapland the possession of which is claimed alike by Sweden and Russia. The expedition is to be conducted by Councillor Nordmann, accompanied by several young naturalists. There is also talk of an antiquarian expedition to the same regions.

Cholera is again violent at St. Petersburg. The daily mortality has risen of late to as many as twenty-one.

General Williams has arrived at St. Petersburg. He is shortly to return to England. The works on the fortifications of Revel still continue.

CIRCASSIA.

A report from Sefer Pacha confirms the statement of the capture of the Circassian village of Sunnech by the Russians, who obtained possession of 6,000 head of cattle. The Circassian Chiefs, assembled at Anapa, claim the assistance of Turkey in re-establishing their communications with the Caucasus.

THE CRIMEA.

Means have been found (says the *Paris Pays*) to enter the harbour of Sebastopol, after a canal had been opened across the three lines of sunken Russian vessels. The transports of the allied squadrons have already begun to ship the artillery. The points chosen for the embarkation are, for the English, the Admiralty, and for the French the Quai Nicolas, situated at the extremity of the Rue Sainte Catherine.

TURKEY.

By a treaty concluded between the Sultan and the Western Powers, the period within which the evacuation of the Turkish territory was to have been completed, has been prolonged. The prolongation is said to be six months from the present time.

The ceremony of distributing the "sacred fire" which always takes place annually in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, has this year given rise to a deplorable conflict between the Greeks and the Armenians. No one was killed on the spot, but several were severely, and even dangerously, wounded.

A rather strange anecdote is told in a letter from Galatz, published in the *Corriere Italiano*, which says:—"On the 27th of April, which is Easter Sunday according to the Greek calendar, the Russians at Sulina hoisted their national flag, with two Greek crosses attached to it, on a small tower near the temporary church which they have constructed; and the commander of the Austrian war steamer stationed there sent to say that, if the flag was displayed for the holiday, those of Turkey, Austria, and their Allies, ought to be added to it. The Russians refused to hoist the flags in question, and the commander, thinking this refusal a demonstration which he ought not to tolerate, sent a detachment of soldiers to display the flags of all the Allies. This they did, without meeting with any resistance, though the population had been

assembled with the evident intention of not allowing it."

THE GERMAN DIET.

In the declaration which accompanied the presentation of the Treaty of Peace, by the representatives of Austria and Prussia, to the Diet of Frankfort, the ensuing passages occur:—"Universal peace has been restored to the world, and one of the most dangerous political complications has received, through the moderation and disinterestedness of the Powers, a solution which will give satisfaction to the general desire, and will furnish to history a memorable example of the magnanimous union of the Sovereigns in their solicitude for the common interests of humanity. . . . The enlightened activity of all Governments, just delivered by the mercy of Providence from the burdens of war, which directly or indirectly weighed on all Europe, will now turn, in rivalry of zeal, towards the development of the internal prosperity and the moral and material welfare of their respective States."

SPAIN.

An audacious robbery has been committed in Spain. A picture of the Assumption, generally ascribed to Murillo, or at least to one of his best pupils, was taken from the high altar of the church of Mendiguren, near Vittoria.

GREECE.

Lord Palmerston has been burnt in effigy in the neighbourhood of the city of Nauplia in Argolia. He had given great offence by his recent comments on the state of Greece.

The depredations of the brigands continue. In some parts of the country there is a perfect panic.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. de Halik, of the staff, has arrived at Bucharest, and is to leave for Moldavia by Count Wimpfen, to draw out the plan of the new frontier between Russia and Moldavia, in concert with the engineers of Russia and of the Western Powers.

AMERICA.

WALKER almost engrosses the news of interest from the other side of the Atlantic. The Filibustering chief has sent to New Orleans for recruits for his army, and great excitement prevails among the population, who for the most part are disposed to assist him. It is said by a writer from the spot that, should an attempt be made to resist the departure of the recruits, "serious consequences may follow, as opposing force will certainly be used. Southern members of Congress are singularly united in favour of Walker. The Panama massacre excites strong indignation, and the Executive is pressed on all sides to take prompt action in the matter. Many members of Congress charge that the blood of every American slain in Nicaragua should fall upon the heads of the Administration. The rejection of the Nicaraguan Minister has led to the invasion, and President Pierce is held responsible." The Washington Cabinet has discussed the propriety of at once recognizing General Walker's Government, and receiving as Minister Madro Kegilly, who, at the last advices, was at Washington. Messrs. Marcy and Cushing opposed the recognition for the present, while Pierce, Davis, and others were in favour of immediate recognition. It is thought by some that the latter will prevail. Walker has retired to Granada, and is fortifying the city. The ports of Greytown and San Juan del Norte are blockaded by a fleet of French, English, and American men-of-war.

A resolution submitted to the Washington House of Representatives, authorizing the President to employ the land and naval force for the protection of Americans on the thoroughfares between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and for insuring the observance of the rights of those citizens, led to a discussion, but to no practical result.

Bolivia has been on the eve of another revolution, the object of which was to proclaim Santa Cruz President, and upset the Government of General Cordova. The plot having been discovered, seven of the principal conspirators were arrested, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

The New York commercial advices report an active demand for money in the market at seven per cent. on call, and eight to nine per cent. for short first-class paper.

IRELAND.

TIPPERARY BANK: JUDGMENT.—Master Murphy gave judgment on Monday on the applications made by Mr. Wilson Kennedy and Mr. Vincent Scully, Q.C., M.P., to be removed from the list of persons liable to the liquidation of the liabilities of this concern. The Master stated at considerable length Mr. Wilson Kennedy's position in respect to the bank, his directorship, for which he was entitled to a salary of 500*l.* a year, and the importance and responsibility of the duties attached to that office, which he held down to the date of the transfer, and, after recapitulating the law of equity as argued at the bar, said that the case must be determined by the deed of co-partnership. His clear opinion was that what was done by Mr. Kennedy was not what he ought to have done, was not what he was justified in doing, and he should therefore stand upon the list as a contributory. Mr. Vincent

Scully was differently circumstanced. He was placed on the list in the same position as Mr. Kennedy, but with a much larger amount of liability—namely, as a holder of seven hundred shares. Although he (the Master) had said there were features which distinguished the two cases, yet really Mr. Scully and Mr. Kennedy stood in the same position. It appeared to him that Mr. Scully was held out constructively to the public as a director of the bank, yet getting no court of directors to meet and doing everything to give validity to the transfer of his shares, he must have had knowledge of the informality connected with that transfer, and he was possessed of the knowledge which prompted him to sell out. He (the Master) apprehended, then, that Mr. Scully's application could not be sustained in a court of justice. He was the honest *bona fide* holder of the shares, and his name must therefore remain on the list without qualification.—It is understood that this judgment will be appealed against to the Master of the Rolls.

JOHN SADLEIR'S ASSETS.—The Dublin *Freeman* has a statement to the effect that the Crown, on the memorial of creditors to the extent of 250,000*l.*, has agreed to appoint Mr. Anthony Norris, of Bedford-row, London, and one of the creditors, to be administrator for collecting the assets of the late John Sadleir. Mr. Norris has consented to act under the authority of the Crown, and will lose no time in realizing for the benefit of the unhappy creditors large sums stated to have been invested by the suicide in various securities both at home and abroad. This step will, perhaps, afford a solution to the prevailing mystery with respect to the disposal by the deceased of the gigantic funds realised in the course of his successful career of fraud.—*Times*.

THE MURDERERS OF MISS HINDS (Dunne and Murphy) were executed on Friday week.

BURSTING OF A BOILER.—The boiler of the Nimrod steamer, from Liverpool, has exploded off Cork. Six men have been killed.

SMITH O'BRIEN.—A strong desire (says the *Munster News*) prevails in Clare to return Mr. William Smith O'Brien as one of the representatives at the next election.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

CLOSE OF THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY.—The Board of General Officers reassembled on Monday (the 23rd day), to hear the reply of Captain Heath to the statements of Colonel Gordon, with regard to the inconvenience which was occasioned by his remaining outside Cossack Bay, and his complaints that the returns furnished of the transport of sick and wounded were signed by Lieutenant Hutchinson, instead of the responsible officer, Captain Heath. Captain Heath denied that any inconvenience was felt from his anchoring outside the bay, and read letters from Lieutenants Goss and Scott to show that the sick and wounded were never kept on the shore waiting to be placed on board the transports. After some desultory and unimportant conversation, the President stated that, as he had received no other applications from persons complaining of the Report of the Commissioners, the Board would adjourn. This is supposed to be tantamount to the close of the inquiry altogether.—Sir Charles Trevelyan has forwarded to the Board a long statement vindicating the conduct of the Treasury during that period of the war when the Commissariat was under the control of his department.

HOSEFALL'S MONSTER WROUGHT IRON GUN.—Experiments have been made with this gun on two successive days; and the results are highly satisfactory.

DROWNED.—Two men have been drowned in coming ashore in a boat from a vessel in Sunderland Roads. A cross sea struck the boat and capsized with all on board. Every one, however, was rescued, with but two exceptions.

SANITARY REPORTS.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—In the week that ended last Saturday, the deaths of 1094 persons—namely, 538 males and 556 females—were registered in London. In the corresponding weeks of ten years, 1846-55, the average number of deaths was 1020, which, if raised by a tenth part for comparison with the deaths of last week, which occurred in an increased population, becomes 1122. It appears that the rate of mortality last week was slightly below the average. The deaths referred to diseases of the zymotic or epidemic character were last week 242—a number which differs little from the corrected average of corresponding weeks. But typhus, under which head cases of common fever are included, is at present more fatal than any other disease in the same class, and shows a disposition to increase. The deaths caused by it, having been in recent weeks generally less than 60, rose last week to 76, of which those that occurred in the eastern division, embracing Bethnal-green, Stepney, and other districts, exhibit a decided preponderance in number. A boy at 7, Frying-pan-alley, Clerkenwell, who had not been vaccinated, died of small-pox. He was six years old, and the son of a labourer; and Mr. Goddard, the medical attendant, observes that a stable could hardly be found so deficient in all the elements necessary to health as the room in which his patient had lived and died. Fatal cases of diarrhoea were 15, which is the same as the average. Hernia was the cause of death in eight cases;

diabetes in one; one person died of intemperance; and two men—a house painter and a labourer at leadworks—of colica pictorum, after two and five days' illness. Last week, the births of 853 boys and 801 girls—in all 1654 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1497. — *From the Registrar-General's Weekly Returns.*

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN OF Marriages, Births, and Deaths for England is generally favourable. More than the average number of children were born, and the deaths were much below the average number in the winter quarter that ended on March 31, 1856; the marriages returned for the last quarter of the year 1855 were below the average number. 303,548 persons were married in the year 1855, so that the rate of marriage was as 1616 persons to every 100,000 of the population living, whereas the average in the ten years 1846-55 was 1682. The births of 169,252 children were registered in the winter quarter that ended on March 31. This number is absolutely the highest that has ever been returned in a winter quarter; and the rate of birth is 3585 in 100,000, or much above the average, 3499, of the season.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

FORGERIES BY A SHIPBROKER.

Jacob Christiansen, shipbroker of Leith, has been tried at the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on a charge of forging and uttering seven bills of exchange, amounting in all to about 3770*l*. These bills were all accepted in the names of several eminent firms in England and Scotland, and were either drawn by the prisoner, or were forgeries of foreign merchants on the Continent, purporting to be in his favour. They had been discounted at the Leith branch of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, and, on one of them, for 473*l*. 12*s*., being presented there, the managers of the bank, before making payment, wrote to their agent at Hull (the bill being forged in the names of some merchants of that town), and shortly afterwards a telegraphic message was received in Leith from the alleged acceptors of the bill, to the effect that it was a complete forgery. Subsequently, it was discovered that all the bills were forgeries, and Christiansen was therefore apprehended. Besides committing the forgeries, the prisoner had contrived to have fifty blank bills lithographed, forty-four of which were found in his possession when he was given into custody. The counsel for the defence endeavoured to prove that Christiansen was the innocent dupe of two men named Wilson and Peterson, by whom the forgeries were in reality committed. The former of these men, who had had business transactions with the prisoner, and had given him several accommodation bills, had been outlawed by that court but the day before, for forgery. Peterson had been obliged to leave the country. The Lord Justice General said that the defence was not supported by any evidence, and not even countenanced by the prisoner in his declarations. The jury, therefore, unanimously returned a verdict of Guilty against Christiansen, who was then sentenced to transportation for life. The Lord Justice General, in passing sentence, declared that it was altogether the most extensive case of forgery that had ever come within his experience.

ASSAULT ON WIVES.—Dennis Cavanagh, an iron bolt-plater, residing in Limehouse, was sentenced at the Thames police-office to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for stabbing his wife with a pocket-knife in several places. The witnesses against the man were his wife and daughter; but they endeavoured to screen him, and the magistrate, seeing that it would be useless to commit the prisoner for trial, dealt with the case summarily.—George Gerrard, a carpenter, at Stepney, has also been sentenced by the Thames magistrate to hard labour for six months, for a savage assault on the woman who lived with him as his wife.—A third and fourth case of a similar nature have been brought forward at the same office. Joseph Doyle, an Irishman, and William Rayson, a coffee-house keeper, have been sentenced in the same way as the preceding offenders for atrocious outrages on their wives.

DURING "DETECTIVES."—Even the race that boasts of Mr. Bucket as its patron saint can be cheated. Caleb Smith, a painter out of work, was indicted at the Middlesex Sessions on four charges of fraud. The victims in all the cases were detective officers, and he obtained money from them under pretence of giving information with respect to the robbery of the Queen's plate and other recent depredations. All his assertions, however, were false; and he pleaded Guilty on his trial, and said, in palliation, that he was starving. He was sentenced to hard labour for ten months.

CHURCH ROBBERY.—A man has been charged at the Mansion House with stealing a quantity of horsehair from the cushions of the seats in the church of St. Mary Woolnoth. He was committed for trial.

STEALING.—A master butcher of St. George's Market, Southwark, named George Mean, has been charged at the Southwark police-office with having stolen, together with others not in custody, forty-six sheep, some of which belonged to a butcher in White-chapel, and some to the lessee of Victoria Park. Mr. Seales, of High-street, Aldgate, stated that on a certain

day he had three hundred sheep grazing in the park, fifteen of which he missed the following morning, as well as thirty-two of those belonging to the keeper of the park. He afterwards saw thirty of their skins in the Borough Market, which he at once identified as having been taken off the missing sheep. He called on Mean at his house, and asked him if he had lately received any sheep. Mean told him that a friend of his, named Johnson, who was a farmer living at East Grinstead, had just sent him up forty-six from the country, to be killed, which he had done and afterwards sold the skins. The sheep themselves he had also sold to different salesmen, and he handed Mr. Seales 43*l*. of the proceeds. A police sergeant who was with Mr. Seales when he called on Mean, went down by rail to East Grinstead, accompanied by the prisoner, but, not being able to learn anything there confirmatory of Mean's statement, they returned to London. After this, Mean was given into custody. Mr. A'Beckett remanded him, but accepted bail.

DIVORCE.—The Consistory Court has pronounced in favour of a divorce in the case of Mr. and Mrs. Davidson, on the ground of adultery on the part of the latter.—Judgment has at length been given in the case of Mrs. Talbot. The Lord Chancellor summed up on Thursday morning in the House of Lords, and pronounced in favour of the divorce. Lord Brougham and Lord St. Leonards agreed in believing Mrs. Talbot guilty of adultery with Mullan, the groom, and the bill for the divorce was then read a second time.

CHEATING THE POOR.—Alderman Copeland on Tuesday handed in to the Court of Aldermen the report of the Inspectors of Weights and Measures, and spoke in strong terms of their activity, at the same time regretting that that activity had brought to light a vast amount of plunder committed by tradesmen amongst the poorer classes. He moved that it be referred to the General Purposes Committee to consider the propriety of advertising upon the second conviction, the names of the fraudulent tradesmen. The motion was carried unanimously.

STARVING A HORSE.—A wealthy farmer of Beverstone, Mr. Robert Kelmister, has been summoned at the Petty Sessions held in the Town Hall, Tetbury, on a charge of starving a horse to death. Mr. Kelmister had found the horse on a field of his, and ordered it to be confined in a hovel. It was there neglected for ten or eleven days, and was at length found dead in a shocking state of emaciation. From the evidence, it would seem that Mr. Kelmister had not neglected the horse from wilful cruelty, but from forgetfulness. He was sentenced to pay a fine of 3*l*., and costs, in addition to 2*l*. compensation to the owner. The case was brought forward by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

OBITUARY.

LORD ADOLPHUS FITZCLARENCE—the third son of William IV., by Mrs. Jordan—died on Saturday night, at Newburgh Park, Yorkshire, the seat of Sir George Wombwell. He had had a paralytic stroke on the preceding Thursday, from which he never rallied. He was born in 1802; served in the navy; and, until 1853, was the commander of the Queen's yacht.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. H. SLEEMAN, K.C.B.—This distinguished Indian General, who for many years was the English Resident at Lucknow, who in some degree led the way to the annexation of Oude to the British dominions, and who more especially deserves honour for the large part he took in the suppression of the infamous system of "Thuggee," died on his homeward passage from Calcutta on the 10th of last February, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. He entered the military service of the East India Company as far back as 1808, and was only made a General and a K.C.B. within the last few months. He was the author of a work entitled "Rambles and Recollections of an Indian Official," published about eight or ten years ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen laid the first stone of the Royal Military Hospital at Southampton on Monday. A shocking accident occurred as the gunboats in the Solent saluted at the moment of the ceremony. A gun belonging to the Hardy prematurely went off, by which two seamen were blown to pieces, and several others were injured.—Prince Frederick William of Prussia arrived at Dover from Ostend at midnight on Tuesday.—The Queen on Tuesday reviewed the militia at Portsmouth.

SIR EDMUND LYONS was presented with the freedom of the City of London at a General Court of Common Council held on Monday.

EXPLOSION AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Another accident, with deplorable results, has happened at Woolwich. An explosion took place, about half-past three in the afternoon of last Saturday, in a temporary shed, some ten feet square, in which was being conducted the process of mealing the detonating composition with which the percussion caps are charged, and which is much more ignitable than ordinary powder. A man and a boy were in the shed at the time, and were killed instantaneously. Two other persons (a carpenter and a labourer), who were at work near the spot, were also

struck dead at once. The right leg of one of the men was blown off at the hip, and was discovered afterwards on the roof of some of the departmental offices, about one hundred feet distant; and the windows of these offices were dashed in with the violence of the shock. A part of the roof of the mealing shed was cast into the air, and fell into the Thames, two hundred and fifty yards distant. Seven other workmen were injured, some of them very seriously. An inquest has been held, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death," accompanied by the following remarks:—"And this jury cannot disperse without expressing pleasure at the assurance given by the Government officers that the buildings where all dangerous operations are now carried on will be as speedily as possible removed to the marshes, where the danger will not be so great."

GENERAL HOLIDAY FOR THE 29TH.—The Lord Mayor has been in communication with some of the principal public companies and the representatives of the mercantile and manufacturing interests, and there is every reason to believe that a general holiday will be arranged for the 29th instant, so far as it is possible to effect that object without the aid of the Government. It is also hoped and believed that there will be no suspension of wages.

A DISGRACEFUL IMPOSITION in connexion with shipments of brandy to the colonies and elsewhere is stated to be largely practised. The system is to buy up empty brandy casks bearing the brands of the most noted Cognac houses, and send them to Hamburg, Antwerp, and other places, to be filled with inferior spirit and re-shipped to this country in transit, whence they are trans-shipped on board vessels bound to Australia, the Cape of Good Hope, &c., where the brands of these Cognac houses are in good estimation. It therefore behoves merchants trading with the various colonies to be careful to get their supplies from respectable sources, and to caution their correspondents against the receipt of any consignments on which they may be unable to place absolute reliance.—*Times.*

ANCIENT RELICS.—Some portions of a human skeleton, and of the skeleton of a horse, have been discovered beneath the surface of the grounds of Woolwich Arsenal, where excavations are now being made. A large part of an earthen jar, supposed to belong to the fifth century, was also dug up. It is thought that some ancient warrior and his horse were here buried.

THE BISHOP OF BANGOR AGAIN.—A correspondence has taken place between the Bishop of Bangor and the Rev. Bulkeley Jones, warden of Ruthin, Denbighshire, in connexion with the movement for multiplying services in Wales. The Bishop, having ascertained that the warden had invited several of the clergy of the deanery of Dyffryn Clwyd to join the movement, wrote to the reverend gentleman on the 26th of February, and threatened him with prosecution if he did not retrace his steps. The warden replied, when the Bishop returned a second answer:—"You have sent me a sheet of foolscap paper full of nonsensical and impertinent trash, as might be expected from a young man of your calibre. It is to be regretted that this sheet of foolscap cannot be applied to its original use—that you cannot be sent, with a foolscap on your head, and a fool's rod at your breech, to be whipped through the precincts of Christ's Hospital, and the main street of the town of Ruthin." After a further correspondence, the Bishop closes the subject with a notice that at the expiration of three months he shall revoke the reverend gentleman's license.

THE AMATEUR PANTOMIME.—Monday, the 2nd of June, has been fixed on for the representation of the new amateur pantomime. The Queen, it is said, has retained her box, and a very brilliant audience is anticipated. The burlesque prologue, the opening, and the epilogue, have been constructed by Messrs. Albert Smith, Tom Taylor, Shirley Brooks, Talfourd, and Hale, and the "comic business" by the gentlemen whose efforts last year were so singularly successful. The prologue, which is called "The Library of Time," gives an opportunity for the appearance of the representatives of all the great epochs from the year 1 to 1856 to be reviewed by Time. The opera, entitled "William Tell, or the Strike of the Cantons," embraces all the historical doings of the Swiss patriot; and the epilogue lies between Shakespeare and the Spirit of Pantomime (Miss Oliver) of last year. Miss Rosina Wright makes her first appearance as a speaking actress on the occasion.

MR. JUSTICE WILLES was married last Saturday at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, to the daughter of the late T. Jennings, Esq., of Cork.

LIEUTENANT COWELL, a young and very intelligent officer of Engineers, has received the appointment of what is called "Governor" at continental courts to Prince Alfred, but for the duties of which we have no corresponding name at our own. Prince Alfred is too young to have an equerry; but whenever he stirs abroad on public occasions, he will be attended by Lieutenant Cowell.

FIRE.—A mill at West Deeping has been destroyed by fire, and two men who were sleeping in the building have lost their lives.

DISMISSAL OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE CONVICT SHIP STIRLING CASTLE.—Complaints having been made by the invalid convicts on board the Stirling Castle at Portsmouth, in which Mr. Hope, the ship's surgeon, was murdered a few months ago, three prison inspectors,

under the Home-office, instituted inquiries, which resulted in the dismissal of Major Shaw, the governor of the ship. It is said that he had appropriated to his own use Government money to the amount of 600*l.*, which was entrusted to him for the payment of warders' wages and other expenses. A few days before his dismissal he had borrowed 5*l.* of one of the warders, who could ill spare the money. Mr. Shaw had formerly been a colour-sergeant in the English army, and had obtained the title of major in the Spanish service in the contest against the claims of Don Carlos. His salary in his late capacity amounted to 350*l.* per annum, with perquisites, and he was provided with the most ample accommodation on board. The complaints of the convicts as to his treatment of them appear for the most part to be unfounded. Captain Warren, deputy-governor of Millbank prison, will succeed Major Shaw in the governorship of the Stirling Castle.

A MAGISTRATE'S TESTIMONY TO SUNDAY MUSIC.—Sir Benjamin Hall having written to Mr. Broughton, the Marylebone magistrate, to inquire if any cases of misbehaviour were brought before him in consequence of the Sunday music in Regent's Park, Mr. Broughton has replied, "I sat in court on Monday, the 12th, the whole day, until a late hour at night, and not one case for disorderly or improper conduct in the parks was brought before me. . . . There were a few idle boys, who made some trifling disturbance, but no one was taken into custody."

LONGEVITY.—The chairman of the North Dublin board of guardians stated at a meeting of that body that a poor woman, more than ninety years of age, had just been transmitted to Dublin as a pauper from England, where she had resided for the last sixty-eight years.

CRIMEAN GOSSIP.—The French speak confidently of a great campaign in Africa, and even in another quarter of the globe, and they predict that peace will not last two years. The Russians are equally hopeful that they will have a chance of war in a short time, and they do not disguise their earnest, burning lust to phlebotomize Austria—"Autriche lâche et ingrate." The Tartars bring in terrible stories of the revenge taken by the Russians on those unfortunate brethren of theirs who have given aid to the Allies, or have been engaged in their service. Although the greatest cordiality exists between the bulk of the men of both the Allied armies, there have been some awkward rencontres between the French and the English on two or three occasions, of which I have hitherto made no mention, as the subject is one of extreme delicacy. It appears quite clear that the French are very ready to resort to the use of firearms on such occasions. The evacuation of the Crimea is taking place with rapidity.—*Times Correspondent.*

SNOW IN IRELAND.—The tops of several mountains in the Dublin and Wicklow range have, within the last few days, been covered with snow.

A CRIMEAN MONUMENT IN PARIS.—It is in the contemplation of the French Senate to erect a monument in honour of the Emperor and the army of the East.

MR. JAMES WILSON, of Woodville, younger brother of the late Professor Wilson, died on Sunday morning. Mr. Wilson was a distinguished naturalist; he was the author of two well-known works ("The Rod and the Gun," and "A Tour Round the North of Scotland"), and of numerous articles in the "North British" and other Reviews.

THE ALLEYNE CHARITY.—A deputation of gentlemen interested in theatrical matters waited upon Sir George Grey, on Thursday, and laid before him the resolutions which were adopted at the Adelphi Theatre, with reference to the propriety of assigning to actors and their families some small portion of the benefits bequeathed by Edward Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College. Among the gentlemen present were Messrs. Charles Dickens, Benjamin Webster, Wigan, Creswick, &c. No final decision was arrived at, but Sir George Grey is understood to have expressed views favourable to the object of the memorialists.

THE RESTORATION OF PEACE will be celebrated in the fleet and garrison at Portsmouth on the 29th in a very spirited manner. A promenade, decorated with flags of all nations and other appropriate devices, will be formed between a line of booths on Southsea-common, having a triumphal column erected as a trophy at the east end, on which the flags of the allies, surmounted by the royal standard, will be displayed. The esplanade will be dressed in flags. Major General Breton will parade the troops of the garrison on Southsea-common at noon, where they will fire the *feu de joie*. At one o'clock, the fleet at Spithead and in Portsmouth harbour will fire a grand general salute, with ships dressed. The bands of the various regiments in garrison and the Royal Marines will be stationed at various points on the common and esplanade, and play during the afternoon and evening. Athletic games for the troops and populace will be arranged. The promenade and triumphal column will be brilliantly illuminated. At nine o'clock in the evening, the fleet at Spithead will be illuminated, as on the occasion of the late review by the Queen. A grand display of fireworks on the common, with bonfires, &c., will conclude the festivities of the day.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 24.
THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS AND PUBLIC-STATUES.

Lord RAVENSWORTH urged that advantage should be taken of the formation of the proposed road from Pall Mall to St. James's Park, to effect an improvement in the east front of St. James's Palace. He also urged that attention should be paid to the state of the statues of the metropolis, and complained that no place had been found for the pictures left to the nation by Turner.

The MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE said that he hoped the new National Gallery would ere long be established, when a proper place would be found for Turner's pictures.

Some further discussion took place, in which the necessity for a general block of buildings for the Government offices was urged by several Noble Lords.

TRANSPORTATION.

Earl STANHOPE moved for, and obtained, a select committee to inquire into the system of punishment adopted in lieu of transportation.

One or two bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at seven o'clock.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW WRIT.

A new writ was issued for the Borough of Lichfield, in the room of Lord Waterpark, who vacates his seat.

CRIMEAN DECORATIONS.

In answer to Colonel DUNNE, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said the Crimean medals were given to regiments who were in that country on the day after the fall of Sebastopol, and some of the officers and men who arrived after that date, and received medals, had returned them.

ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

In answer to Mr. DUNCOMBE, Sir CHARLES WOOD said that there had been delay in designing a medal for the officers and men of the Arctic Expedition, and he could not say when it would be distributed.

CADETS AT SANDHURST.

Colonel NORTH brought under consideration the question of the orphan class of cadets at Sandhurst, and complained that the recommendation of a committee on the subject had not been complied with, no such class having been formed at the College.—Colonel DUNNE said that the same committee recommended an improved system of education for the army, which also had not been attended to, and he asked whether any steps would be taken with that view.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said it was intended to adopt the plan of the committee for the gratuitous education of a certain number of sons of officers who had lost their lives in the service of their country. As to the education of staff officers, it was a question receiving the consideration of the Government.

SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD inquired whether, as so many Bishops were disabled by age and ill health from performing the duties of their dioceses, it was intended by Government to sanction the appointment of Suffragan Bishops.—Mr. HADFIELD sympathized with Lord Blandford in his being deprived of the services of the Bishops, and suggested that those prelates should be relieved from attendance in the House of Lords.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON expressed his hope that the Government would take into serious consideration the subject raised by his noble friend; and suggested that the precedent of the retirement of Colonial Bishops should be followed in the case of those in this country.—Mr. W. O. STANLEY observed that the appointment of Suffragan Bishops under the Act of Henry VIII. would not meet his case with the Bishop of Bangor, as, under that act, Suffragan Bishops could only be appointed at the request of disabled Bishops themselves.—Mr. WIGRAM reminded the House that the appointment of Suffragan Bishops had been recommended by the Chapter Commission.—Lord PALMERSTON said the subject was of great importance, and the matter was under the consideration of the Government; but it was a difficult one, and one on which no hasty decision should be come to. It was hoped, however, that some remedy would be devised. There was no intention on the part of Government to relieve the Bishops from their duties in the House of Lords, as suggested by Mr. Hadfield.

CRIME AND OUTRAGE—IRELAND.

In answer to Mr. ISAAC BUTT, Mr. HORSMAN said that a measure was prepared with reference to Crime and Outrage in Ireland, which was different in some respects to that which had hitherto existed.

THE ILLUMINATIONS.

In answer to Mr. DUNCOMBE, Sir GEORGE GREY said, that the Government had given no orders for a general illumination; and it was not intended that private houses should be lighted up. Every means would be taken to protect private property.

FURNISHING ARMS TO COSTA RICA.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice of his intention on

Monday to ask a question of the Government with regard to a report of their having furnished arms to the Costa Ricans.

OATH OF ABJURATION.

The House then went into Committee on this Bill, the object of which is to abrogate the oath of abjuration and assurance. A discussion followed, and several amendments were proposed. The Bill passed through committee, with amendments.

The other orders were disposed of, but no business of importance was transacted during the remainder of the sitting.

OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.

WE are authorized to give an emphatic contradiction to a report assiduously circulated by the avowed opponents of the Honourable Court of Directors, to the effect that orders have been sent out from home for the immediate absorption of Baroda, Cashmere, and Hyderabad. This rumour appears to have been grounded upon certain articles in the last Overland Summary of the *Bombay Times*, but which are utterly devoid of foundation. It is to be regretted that a paper, usually conducted with so much ability, should not have exercised greater caution before publishing erroneous statements calculated to unsettle and irritate whatever native states still enjoy a certain degree of independence. In the fulness of time the consolidation of our Indian empire may be as inevitable as it is desirable for the sake of the people themselves; but assuredly, it is neither the interest nor the intention of the British Government to force the onward march of events.

SUNDAY BANDS QUESTION.

A SERIES of meetings having been held during the week, protesting against the discontinuance of the music in the parks on Sundays, we understand it is proposed still further to express the wishes of the people for the re-establishment of the Sunday bands, by an aggregate metropolitan demonstration at Primrose-hill, on Sunday next, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE "SECRET" YACHT, R.T.Y.C.

THIS yacht, reported yesterday to have been lost, with all hands on board, off the North Foreland, has arrived safe and sound in Portsmouth harbour, "without so much," says a private despatch we received last evening, "as a spun-yarn carried away."

THE TIPPERARY BANK—MISS HINDS—MRS. KELLY.

Master Murphy, on Thursday, gave his decision in the case of the English shareholders, which was that they should remain on the list, and be held accountable.

A man has been arrested in Drogheda, as answering most minutely the description given in the *Due and Cry* of the notorious "Red Pat Banon," one of the murderers of Miss Hinds.

An investigation has been held at Moate, relative to the murder of Mrs. Sarah Kelly. It resulted in the discharge of Campbell and Maguire, the two tenants who have been in custody for some time. Another man, named Kelly, also arrested on suspicion, was discharged; and the only person now remaining in custody is the man Banner, who was committed with Mr. Stevens.

RUSSIA.

The Czar was to make his entry into Warsaw on the 22nd instant, and to alight at the Summer Palace of Suzienski.

FRANCE.

M. de Hubner, on Thursday, presented his letters of credence in his new dignity of Austrian Ambassador to the French Emperor. He was received with great cordiality.

The *Paris Presse* announces the death of the well-known historian, Augustin Thierry, which took place on Thursday morning. He had just entered his sixty-second year. We may add that, like Heine, and our own author, Sir William Hamilton, he had been paralysed for several years; and that in this state, aggravated by blindness, he wrote some of his later works.

LOSS OF AN ENGLISH STEAMER.

The first English steamer bound to Cronstadt, a new one called the *Tyne*, has been lost, with all its cargo, off the Island of Oesel, in the Gulf of Finland.

THE TRIAL OF PALMER (YESTERDAY).

Further witnesses for the defence were examined yesterday, the first being Mr. Thomas Ross, of the London Hospital, who described the death of a man from tetanus produced by old sores. It was thought at first that he had been poisoned with strychnine, but no trace of that drug was found in the body on the *post-mortem* examination. This testimony was supported by Mr. R. Mantell. —Dr. Wrightson, analytical chemist and teacher of chemistry in the School at Birmingham, said he had been a pupil of Liebig, and he gave it as his opinion that strychnine could be detected. He had detected it in various solids and fluids of the animal body. He had heard the theory of Dr. Taylor as to the decomposition of strychnine in the act of poisoning, and was of opinion that it did not undergo that decomposition. Assuming that a man was poisoned by strychnine, and the contents of his stomach were sent within eight or ten days for analytical examination, he should certainly expect to discover it. Being asked by the Attorney-General whether, if the *whole* of the poison were absorbed, he would expect to find it in the stomach, Dr. Wrightson replied "No." In answer to Serjeant Shee, he said he did not think that strychnine, administered in the shape of pills an hour and a half before the death of the patient, would be so absorbed after death as to have passed out of the stomach; but, even if it had, he could find it in the liver and kidneys. He could not say whether he should be likely to find it in the coats of the stomach; but he thought it probable he might.

Mr. Partridge, Professor of Anatomy at King's College, said that no conclusion as to Cooke's death could be drawn from the rigidity of the body. He could not form any opinion as to the deceased's death, though the arching of the feet was greater than is usual. Having alluded to the alleged inflammation in the case of Cooke, arising from the granules on the spine, the Attorney-General said:—"Now, Mr. Partridge, we have heard the symptoms in Cooke's case, that he enjoyed complete repose for twenty-four hours—from Monday night to Tuesday night: do you mean to say in the face of this Court, that Cooke died from the inflammation you have described?" "I do not."

The Attorney-General: "Have you ever known a case in which the hands were clenched in such a manner as that described in Cooke's case to have arisen from such inflammation?"—"No."

In reply to further questions from the Attorney-General, the witness stated that he had never in such cases of inflammation known the feet to be so bent as to assume the form of a club-foot. The bowing of the body, so that when placed on its back it rested on its head and feet, was consistent with death by tetanus; and the symptoms in Cooke's case were quite consistent with all that he knew of death by strychnine. (This admission produced a profound sensation in Court, in consequence of Mr. Partridge being one of the principal witnesses for the defence.) He never knew a case of tetanus run its course in less than three or four days. If death resulted in two or three days he should expect that there had been premonitory symptoms.

The Attorney-General: "Before I sit down, I will ask you whether you have ever known such a disease as that described in Cooke's case to have proceeded from natural causes?"—"Never."

Mr. John Gay, of the Royal College of Surgeons, gave some scientific details of a case of tetanus he had attended, but which did not much affect the evidence either way.

—Dr. McDonald, of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, said he believed that tetanic convulsions might be produced by causes as yet altogether undiscoverable by human science. He first heard in that Court the theory propounded, that strychnine, when taken into the body, could be decomposed or absorbed and entirely lost. There was no well grounded reason for that theory. He believed the cause of death in Cooke's case was epileptic convulsions with tetanic complications. This witness's statements were not materially shaken by cross-examination.

Mr. Austin Steady, of the Royal College of Surgeons, having given some scientific evidence, Mr. George Robinson, physician, said he believed the cause of death in Cooke's case was epilepsy; but, in cross-examination, he admitted that the symptoms were those which would occur from strychnine. —Mr. Benjamin Ward Richardson, physician, thought that Cooke's death might be attributed to angina pectoris. —The last witness called was Catherine Watson, the girl in Scotland whose case was referred to as being one of tetanus, from which she recovered. Her evidence was that she had not taken anything to bring on the attack.

The defence was not concluded when the Court adjourned till the next day.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending May 23rd., 1856: number admitted, including season ticket holders, 21,268.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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

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

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1856.

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 PENALTIES OF INDIFFERENCE.

LORD PALMERSTON last week told the working classes why they are without power. He told them they were apathetic. He knows, and all know, that if the masses of the nation, unrepresented in Parliament, had either spirit or purpose, the state of political insignificance and social tutelage in which they live could not long continue. There are some who mistake this torpor for content; others attribute it to exhaustion, resulting from a former excess of demagoguism; others, again, plead for the working classes, that they have been justified in their indifference and in their despair by the failure of many efforts, by the deceptions of their leaders, by the evasions of the Whigs, and the selfishness of the middle orders. There appears a mixture of truth and exaggeration in all these statements. But, to whatever cause it may be traced, apathy, or something like apathy, exists, and we can tell the working classes that, while they remain in this respect unchanged, no change will take place in their relations to the rest of society. Their power will not be increased; their interests will not be considered; their feelings will be misrepresented; their political indolence will be made the justification of encroachments from all quarters; they will be taunted, as Lord PALMERSTON taunts them, with a laxity of public spirit, injurious to any class, and especially to a class which once asserted high political claims.

We have seen within a short time more than one illustration of popular apathy, followed by an illustration of popular power. When Mr. PATTEN's Sunday Beer Act was passed, the working classes, whose convenience it restricted, and whose independence it curtailed, stood listlessly aloof, and encouraged a second attempt against Sunday trade—a necessity among the poor. Then, from whatever cause an agitation sprang up, a proof of vital opinion among the working orders was given; the projected bill disappeared, and its predecessor was so modified as to be, though not less arbitrary, far less obnoxious.

Next, the motion for opening the public galleries and museums on Sunday excited a general crusade of the Sabbatic party. In every city and province of the United Kingdom they worked to obtain resolutions and petitions against the measure. What were the working classes—or those of them that would have appreciated a Sunday stroll in a gallery of art or in a museum of science and antiquities—what were they doing mean-

while? Their petitions dropped in as one to a hundred, and yet it is certain that, had the measure passed, they would have crowded in myriads to enjoy the sight of pictures, ancient relics, and natural curiosities. But the London population was indolent, and the country people—excepting the village flocks driven by the clergy—took no interest in the amusements of the London population, and so the agitation flowed in one stream *against* the popular proposal. Again, with respect to the bands in the park. Hundreds of thousands enjoyed the privilege, but hundreds of thousands did not petition to have it guarded for them, did not meet to protest against the interference of the Sabbatists with their manner of passing the Sunday. Of course not. The working classes have ceased to take their own part. A morbid sickness has fallen on their minds, as if Cæsarism in France, the disappointment of liberty throughout Europe, the abasement of England by her aristocracy, the hollowness of parliamentary discussion, "the abandonment by prudent men of unprofitable virtues," the reign of irony among men of scholarship and feeling, had smitten the strong English nature, and left it, without aim or intelligence, drifting.

It is not on these subjects alone that the working classes display apathy. Before the Eastern Question had assumed a European significance, they were invited, by the Parliamentary initiative of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, to consider the principles of a new Reform Bill. Would that bill have disappeared, like a puff of smoke, had a strong and cordial popular opinion existed? It vanished, and was regretted by none, except the Finality statesman. Then came the war. The people refused to have any share in directing the policy of England. They left the formation of alliances, the establishment of new dynastic relations, the conduct and scope of the struggle, the negotiations of peace, without jealousy and without vigilance, to ministers acting in secret; and they were not permitted to know what terms had been purchased with the blood and treasure of the nation, until Russia, Austria, France, and Great Britain were again united in "lasting friendship." Either they have no faith or no courage, no object or no discernment, no heart or no sense. We think it is the faith, the purpose, the heart, that is wanting. Never has the English people evinced, when its energies have been roused, a deficiency of sense, discernment, or courage.

What, then, is the secret of this sceptical languor? Why has every great object of popular policy dwindled into the topic of an annual motion, the ridicule of the country, the toy of Parliament, the technical evidence of some liberal member that he has acted up to his principles? Why are the old Whigs less content with Finality than the working classes?

The working classes are bewildered. They have taken the initiative twice, since the enactment of the Reform Bill. Twice they have trusted to contemptible leaders, who have dragged them into desperate mistakes. This, we conceive, is the reason why the working classes have lost confidence in themselves. The Chartist movement, which led to the Monmouthshire risings and the burlesque of 1848, impaired the sympathies of the middle orders, which had derived enormous aid in 1831 and 1832, from bodies of men unenfranchised by the bill. Again, in 1846, the nation came out of an exhaustive struggle on the Corn-laws, in which the working classes had largely participated. But is the political life and independent action of a majority of the people to cease because twenty-five years of alternate activity and indolence

have disgusted and discouraged them? Let us counsel our working friends not to believe themselves powerless, but to confide in their own intelligence and character; to use in their future movements the strength which is inherent in moderation; to form distinct and rational objects, and to pursue them calmly, resolutely, and in concert. At this moment not one man in the British Empire is suffering punishment for a political offence. All classes enjoy a considerable amount of freedom, and facilities for enlarging and securing it. The Premier himself tells the people that he cannot defend them against the sectional dogmatists who interrupt their enjoyments and limit their free action, because they are "apathetic," and will not aid in defending themselves. Certainly, his position is disgraceful to a responsible minister; but that of the working classes is not satisfactory. Our Government is the inheritance of a few families; our Parliament is the representative of sectional interests; our foreign policy is exclusive and illiberal, and all because the English nation does not care.

LORD PALMERSTON'S DARK HINTS.

ARE we to believe Lord PALMERSTON or Lord MINTO? Lord PALMERSTON declared on Monday evening, that the British Government in 1848 abandoned the Sicilian cause because the Sicilians refused to live under the Crown of Naples. But Lord MINTO stated in the House of Lords, upon his return from Italy, that he had offered to recognize, on the part of England, a separate Sicilian monarchy, and had indicated the Duke of GENOA as a proper king for Sicily. Remembering that this negotiation was discussed at large by the Peers, it is impossible to doubt that the MINTO version is the correct one, our own Envoy admitting, that it would be difficult to justify "our stopping where we did." That amounts to a confession of a pusillanimous or treacherous abandonment by the British Cabinet of a people to whom "every encouragement"—to use Lord MINTO's words—had been given. The King of NAPLES had declined to treat with England on the subject. England, therefore, recognizing the virtual independence of Sicily, treated with the Sicilians alone. Then why did she permit them to be massacred? Why did she permit their violated constitution to be superseded by a despotism so fanatic and so cruel as that of Naples?

Lord PALMERSTON, by a direct falsification of the circumstances, recriminates upon Sicily. He upbraids the Sicilian people for their refusal to live under the Neapolitan crown—a refusal that released England, he says, from her obligations to Sicily—whereas, the agent of his own Government not only encouraged them to repudiate the NEAPOLITAN King, but proposed another king in his place. Instead of disavowing Lord MINTO's act, the British Cabinet assumed the entire responsibility, and obtained a vote in the House of Lords in opposition to the resolutions of censure moved by Lord BROUGHAM.

Some members of the House of Commons ought to obtain, if possible, a clue to this mystification. What does it mean? Why did Lord PALMERSTON make that statement on Monday? To impose on the public mind, or to justify some double-dealing plot in contemplation? He denies that the British Government has entered into any engagements with Austria or Sardinia on the Italian question; but, in the face of so much insincerity, we have a right to be jealous, and to ask, on what principle is the foreign policy of this country to be conducted? There seems to be an understanding with France, an under-

standing with Austria, an understanding with Sardinia. France and Austria, meanwhile, transmit their suggestions to the Holy See, and publish menaces against the Revolution. We, on the other hand, have parliamentary avowals in favour of the release of Italy from foreign armaments; we have an admission of the political claims of Sardinia; yet, though Austria is extending her line of aggressive positions in Italy, though the national ferment is increasing, and though the Piedmontese constitutionalists are labouring with earnestness, and with apparent sincerity, to unite all the forces of Italian patriotism in support of moderate objects, our Premier utters in the House of Commons a declaration that must excite and disquiet the nation, and drive the Sicilians, in particular, to despair. A despair that will induce them to cast off all hope of aid and sympathy from England.

What then? They will not, therefore, abandon their national desires, or be reconciled to the criminal usurpations of the Neapolitan King. They will take their own opportunity, and will use their own methods to subvert the illegal absolutism under which they live.

By the same illegal process an Austrian invasion is creeping over Italy. The question is, when does this invasion become a breach of the public law of Europe? Sardinia has not the power to resist it. The French Government, systematically violent and perfidious in its dealings with Italy, pays the POPE for his Golden Rose by guarding his palace, while he imitates the policy of GREGORY THE GREAT. The last invasion of Italy by France was accomplished with Austrian duplicity, under the Italian tricolor; and they who remember the prevarications of OUDINOT, of DE LESSEPS, of DE CORCELLES, and even of DE TOCQUEVILLE, in connexion with that event, will know how to value the sympathy of Cæsarism in France with Liberalism in Italy. Legitimately, the Italians can expect sympathy from England alone. But the sympathy we offer is worse than hostility. It is a pretence and a deception. It has been so whenever we have intervened; some scheme of delusion and sacrifice may be working even now between our Cabinet and that of Austria. The Piedmontese senator MAMIANI said, with truth, that, whatever might be the character of Russian or French institutions, the Austrian Government was now the permanent representative of the despotic principle, the most crafty, the most dangerous in Europe. She has combined the powers of the Church and State to effect her sole object—that of smothering the human conscience in every province within her sway or influence. The work of three reigns—of MARIA THERESA, JOSEPH, and FRANCIS—has been abolished for the sake of this consecrated bond, negotiated by an Austrian with a Roman Priest, which unites the head of Catholic Germany with the Popedom in radical and unrelenting opposition to Sardinia. It was not only to complete the abrogation of the fundamental laws of Hungary, the suppression of free opinion in Transylvania, and the subordination of the laity to the priesthood in all parts of the Empire that the Concordat was established. It was to destroy the Constitutionalism of Italy, the counteracting influence of Piedmont and of Western sympathy, that Austria placed her agents, her spies, her police, her troops, at the disposal of the Church. She knows that the power of Great Britain is not likely to be displayed in defence of the people or the laws, flattered and encouraged by British journalists and statesmen. Sicily and Sardinia are her examples. For we have quoted Lord PALMERSTON's mysterious

allusions to Sicily for the purpose of showing that, as he abandoned the Sicilians out of deference to Austria, so, out of deference to Austria, he at the same time abandoned the Piedmontese. The proofs are contained in his despatches addressed in 1849 to Vienna on the one hand, and to Turin on the other. Since that epoch, Sardinia has recovered and improved her position, and is now in an attitude of defiance, provoked by the violence of her great enemy. It has been said that Count CAVOUR is responsible for raising the Italian question at the Conferences, and thus creating a European difficulty by alarming the Conservative governments; but it was Austria that raised the question, by unmasking her designs, by menacing the Sardinian frontier, and by advancing her military outposts in Italy. Sardinia replies by protests to the movements of Austrian armies.

The state of English feeling on the subject of Italy is most anomalous. If a young lady goes from house to house in Tuscany, seeking to protestantize the people, and comes to grief in consequence, there is a vast fervour, and the Alliance, and the Hall, and Lord SHAFTESBURY, and Doctor CUMMING, are at work. The Foreign Minister is compelled to hold high language, and Miss Margaret or Lucy becomes a public interest. But when an overpowering despotism violates the laws of Europe, allies itself with the Popedom to suppress every form of religious liberty, and makes a nation its victim, England is not only content to refrain from interference, but permits her diplomatists to intrigue, haggle and palter, to prey upon the Italian nationality, to utter distortions of diplomatic history in the House of Commons, and to go on, week after week, involving us, it may be, in French or Austrian plots, perhaps corrupting Sardinia; at all events, dealing with the Italians without justice or candour.

The Piedmontese Government will not, we suppose, flinch at the approach of the inevitable crisis. But the British Government is teaching the Italian nation, in general, to rely upon revolutions alone, at the same time that it acts in complicity with powers that may be able to quench the revolution in blood, to exasperate the sufferings of Italy, and to postpone her deliverance until the period of a universal insurrectionary war.

BILL DISCOUNTING IN PARLIAMENT.

THE House of Commons is trifling with the English people, and Government is trifling with the House of Commons. We do not make this statement on our own authority; we take the highest authorities in the House itself. We refer to the short but highly instructive debate on Mr. JOHN GEORGE PHILLIMORE's motion for leave to bring in a bill to take away from all archbishops, bishops, and ecclesiastical persons, in England and Wales, the power of appointing judges and chancellors, and vesting such power in the LORD CHANCELLOR. A debate arose, and two broad facts appear to have been indisputably established. In the first place, this bill is a paltry fractional measure, which it was a waste of time to discuss. The ecclesiastical courts are sinks of corruption, antiquated relics of fantastical jurisdiction, with a Roman law, a mediæval organization, practice and modes of procedure entirely discredited and fruitful in evil. There is not an eminent lawyer in either House that has not, in part or entirely, sanctioned the proposal for abolishing these courts. The LORD CHANCELLOR had a bill this year for beginning the entire abolition of the system, and substituting a new plan for managing the discipline of the clergy, which is ostensibly the primary object of the

ecclesiastical courts. The courts, therefore, stand utterly condemned; but what is that Mr. PHILLIMORE proposes? Only to transfer the appointment of certain judges in those courts from the Bishops to the LORD CHANCELLOR. "He proposes to thrust temporal judges into ecclesiastical courts," says Mr. GLADSTONE, "making confusion worse confounded." The only reason why Government has not succeeded in correcting the evil, said Mr. WIGGAM, is, that Government has thrown over the excellent report that the Commissioners made who were appointed to inquire into the matter. "The courts," says Mr. WATSON, "are not courts of justice, but of injustice." "The root of the evil," says Mr. JOHN GEORGE PHILLIMORE, "is the nepotism of the Bishops," and he did not believe that Mr. GLADSTONE was hostile to that system of nepotism. So Mr. PHILLIMORE introduces an excessively small measure to correct an enormous evil, and keeps the House debating upon a bill which will never be carried; and all the members admit the wrong, while they charge each other and the Government with obstructing the remedy. Now these ecclesiastical courts are continually inflicting great injury, inconvenience, domestic wretchedness, and money loss upon the public, and *this* is the way that the Government and the members of the popular House set about the work of correcting the evil!

It is only an example of misconduct which appears in every branch of Parliamentary business. Mr. GLADSTONE calls for "something to be done to prevent this incessant introduction of bills without any adequate sense of their importance," a laxity which "has the effect of deluding the country and of raising hopes which are doomed to be disappointed." The SOLICITOR-GENERAL says that the useful measures are delayed because "the House does not devote itself to the proper charge of its functions, instead of spending so much of its time in what he would venture to designate unprofitable talk." Why, then, asked Mr. GLADSTONE, do you encourage the form of bills which lead to no result, and still accuse the House of wasting its time in "idle talk?" He did not say "idle talk," interposed Lord PALMERSTON, he said "unprofitable talk," "in which opinion I certainly beg to concur. But," continues the Viscount, "there is nothing offensive to the House or unduly severe in the statement that a great deal of time is passed unprofitably in the discussions of the House." We shall never get on, says Lord JOHN RUSSELL, until we adopt some such measure as that introduced by Lord DERBY, allowing a bill to be taken up in a subsequent session at a stage which it has reached in a previous session. But members cannot be brought to agree even upon that; for Lord JOHN says that he was almost the only person who supported Lord DERBY in the measure, which was generally unpopular. Members waste the time which they ought to employ in the business of the public who sent them there, in unprofitable talk; they introduce bills which prevent the reforms they profess to carry out; they leave "Augean stables," like the ecclesiastical courts, unpurified, because they consume the time in misleading each other, or in deceiving each other in sophistries; and they do all this to prevent attacks upon nepotism. *That* is the portrait of the House of Commons painted by its own members!

But of all the delusions that are put forward in the shape of bills, those which are most discreditable are the "annual motions." The Ballot is a measure upon which there may be a variety of opinions. As a temporary protection against intimidation of a limited constituency, it may be useful. We do not propose to discuss it now; but the public is

perfectly informed on the amount of support which such a measure will get in the House of Commons. We have no doubt that the division of Tuesday night could have been counted within a very small fraction; and Mr. BERKELEY could have as distinctly told us that he should have 111 votes, besides the tellers, on the Monday, as he could on the Wednesday. The arguments which he brought forward respecting the degree of intimidation in Massachusetts, where the voters sometimes go to the ballot with banners flying to show their party, is as familiar to us as the battle of Bunker's Hill or the transactions of Peterloo. The question of the ballot has not been in the slightest degree advanced by what passed in the debate; but the time of the House was consumed; and a process of demoralizing the political feeling of this country was carried forward by this manufacture of cant out of settled opinions. If the ballot is necessary, it is because the English people are not allowed to elect members of Parliament, but one-seventh of the people is by statute made the privileged class to elect the members for representing themselves. Some of that privileged class are so timid, or so pliant, that they will not select members according to their own choice, because they stand in fear of their landlords, their customers, or their creditors. There is no sufficient number of that class desiring the ballot to render the carrying it in the House of Commons probable: but to "bring it forward" is supposed to be a test of "Liberal opinions." The member who can take to himself half an evening for the discussion, stamps himself for that year a "Liberal member," and secures to himself a return for a Liberal constituency. Now, if he really desired to prevent the misrepresentation of the public, he would at once demand for the whole body of the English people the right of voting for their own members. Then the ballot would not be quite so necessary as it is now; but it would be carried, we all know; and we should have no more "annual motions" on the subject.

There is one excuse for members in thus trifling with public interests. It is, that the people are just now not disposed to take up their own interests seriously. If they were, is it possible that we should have great constitutional questions left as a kind of joke or plaything for private members like Mr. BERKELEY? Is it possible, if the English people really resolve to settle these questions, that the representatives of the English people would be able to give each other such a character as they did on Tuesday night, and still remain members of "the People's House?" The People's House, in fact, is itself a dull joke, an established waste of time; and it will continue to be so until the people think fit to take up the matter in earnest. When that day comes, the members of the House of Commons, to say nothing of some other houses, may, perhaps, be glad enough if they are permitted to pass Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY'S Suffrage Bill, the Household Suffrage Bill, or any other bill; but then it will be to *pass* the bill, for the day of bill discounting will have gone by.

THE CARLTON PARTY.

TORYISM is henceforth to have its creed, oath, and articles. There is to be orthodoxy at the Carlton. But how to secure it? Lord RANELAGH, once a Carlist sympathizer, has become an analytical politician, and has detected poisonous opinions in the body of the Tory party. His test is—the government of Lord PALMERSTON. Every member of the Carlton who has at any time joined Lord PALMERSTON is to be expelled. Considering that the leaders of the Carlton, in 1855, invited Lord PALMERSTON to join *them*, it

seems hardly logical that all this fuss should be made about bad company.

The Carlton was established, says the Chairman of Assurance and Land Societies, for the furtherance of particular views. What views? The views of Mr. DISRAELI, or Lord STANLEY? Mr. SPOONER, or Sir JOHN PAKINGTON? Mr. WHITESIDE, or the Earl of DERBY? We have asked, Where is the Conservative party? We are now forced to look for the Conservative creed. If Mr. SPOONER be a true Tory, Mr. DISRAELI is not. Let Lord RANELAGH draw up an Act of Conservative Uniformity, specifying what may be believed, and what must be abjured by a sound Tory. It would be torn to shreds at the Carlton.

Observe, that not only the Peelites who associated themselves with Lord PALMERSTON when he formed his Cabinet—Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, and Sir JAMES GRAHAM, with the Duke of ARGYLL, the Duke of WELLINGTON, the Marquis of ABERCORN, Lord MONCK, Lord ERNEST BRUCE, and Sir ROBERT PEEL, are to be disqualified for ever from being members of the Carlton; but the proscription is to extend to those "who, either by writing, voting, or stronger adhesion," adhere to "the party to which the Club is opposed."

We have long seen Toryism withering into cant; but this foolish notion, which puzzles the leaders of the party, is a sign of weakness and irritability that proves, with extraordinary emphasis, what is the real state of things behind that new façade in Pall-mall. The King of NAPLES, in 1850, said that the Lazzaronis were so disreputable in appearance that they should be walled-in in their particular quarter. Lord RANELAGH, for the same reason, proposes to wall-in the Tories, who possess a sort of pride that hurts them in the presence of liberal men. Lord STANLEY they *must* endure, for he is Lord DERBY'S son; but for half his sins they would turn a political commoner into the desert. The ridiculous aspect of their position is, that, without a known set of principles or opinions, without party cohesion, or defined political objects, they are beginning, at the loose end of their career, to insist upon uniformity. What will be the success of the RANELAGH move, it is difficult to foresee. On that topic, as on most others, the party is divided. All we can say is, that unless the Carlton is become the home of a sect, with distinct dogmas, to expel the Peelite members will be to exhibit the Tory party in an attitude of ludicrous spite. If there is to be a creed, let it be published, and let us see whether DISRAELI, STANLEY, PAKINGTON, NEWDEGATE, SPOONER, WHITESIDE, THESIGER, and St. LEONARDS, can sign the same articles, and swear by the Shibboleth of the Carlton. Who does not remember Lord DERBY talking sedition on a mantelpiece, and who expects the third Sir Robert PEEL to upset the Constitution?

PRATT ON PALMER.

ONE of the witnesses in the monster case at the Central Criminal Court describes how a gentleman in difficulties can be "accommodated" into the most frightful position to which a man can ever be driven by money troubles. The story is so distinct from the great question before the jury, that it may be considered quite apart; and even if these sentences should be published before the jury should have decided upon their verdict, our notice could scarcely affect them one way or the other, so that we do not fly in the face of Lord CAMPBELL. The evidence is available for us as well as for the prosecution. Whether or not it establishes the charge, in either case it has established another kind of charge; and

furthermore, it establishes our assertion, that the worst ills which beset society are the direct creation of the laws sustained by our Parliament.

PALMER, as everybody knows, was a surgeon living at Bugeley and dabbling in horse races. THOMAS PRATT is a solicitor practising in Queen-street. The neighbourhood is a polite one, and it is suited to the position of gentlemen who "practise" in a class of society that can command its thousands. The first acquaintance between the two men commenced at the end of November, 1853, not three years ago. It may be said to have continued before the final catastrophe for very little more than two years. It began with a loan of 1,000*l.* which PRATT obtained for PALMER. That was repaid. In October, 1854, PRATT received for PALMER a claim for two policies upon the life of ANN PALMER—8000*l.* in all—which was applied in payment of three bills and certain recent loans, leaving 1500*l.* not so applied. In April, 1855, PALMER again applied for a loan. From the context, we may suppose that before this period he was clear; but he now began again with a loan of 2000*l.* on a bill drawn by himself and purporting to be accepted by SARAH PALMER; on the 28th of that month, says PRATT, "there were eight bills held by clients of nine or by myself for 12,500*l.* With two exceptions, these bills were discounted at the rate of 60 per cent. On September 24th PRATT only speaks of three bills of 2000*l.* each, but there were claims for interest, and a sum is mentioned, apparently on this score, of "1500*l.* more than your mother has given acceptances for." Several sums are mentioned as having been paid in by PALMER for monthly interest. The acquaintance, we have said, lasted two years; the chief part of the transactions took place between October, 1854, and November, 1855. PALMER appears to have been liable in November, 1855, for 12,500*l.*; he is liable in November, 1856, for 7500*l.* He must have given bills for a total sum ranging between 12,500*l.* and 20,000*l.* He had the greater part of that at the rate of 60 per cent. discount. It would appear, therefore, that in one way or other PALMER must have repaid as much cash, or nearly as much cash, as he really had; and that when he was driven into this desperate condition, he was liable for some amount which was more or less than the discount taken alone. In other words, apart from the technicalities of such money markets, he had borrowed several thousands, he had returned those thousands, and at that date the liability which remained upon him was not more, or not much more, than the amount of discount for which he had that year rendered himself liable. Still speaking on the vulgar interpretation of such transactions, he had paid the original sums, but was in debt for the discount or a part of it; and whether he is innocent or not, that is the position into which he is driven, and thence to the Central Criminal Court, by the maddening harassment of transactions like these.

We say no more. These are the plain facts. In the neighbourhood of Mayfair gentlemen who desire accommodation, may obtain thousands of money in this wise. The interest it appears is, in some cases—and we believe they are not a few—payable monthly. Borrow 4000*l.*, and you may have the pleasure of continually to be liable for the debt so long as you will consent to pay 200*l.* a month. The interest may accumulate, and then interest will be chargeable upon the interest. It is easy to enter upon that course—*facile descensus!* We have pointed out this view of society before. It is not limited to Mayfair; we could lead you into many squares of London, and into streets, where you can obtain

accommodation upon similar principles, and where you will be able to study a very broad phase of society. The principles of this commerce exist by favour of these laws which are maintained for "the protection of credit"—real credit being amply able to protect itself. But this kind of credit undoubtedly requires many shields to protect it against the indignation of the healthy part of society and the reaction of its own victims.

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 BANDS IN THE PARKS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—One of the greatest mistakes made by good and honest men is, that, secure in the rectitude of their own conduct, and satisfied in the strength of their own convictions, they move onwards in their course of right regardless of the clamour and misrepresentations of the evil natures around them. Now, sir, if heaven were brought nearer to the earth, there can be no question that this course would be as discreet as it is dignified. But so long as our path of duty lies in a world constituted like this world, we have *no right* so to act. We owe it to ourselves—we owe it, ten thousand fold, to those who look to us for example—that our own conduct should not be left unexplained, unjustified; nor that of persons whom we consider to be acting wrongly, or even erroneously, suffered to pass uncensured and uncondemned. This too common mistake has been suffered to prevail to a most culpable extent amongst the thousands of good and earnest Christians who have looked with approbation and pleasure at the late endeavour to raise the masses of the metropolis from the debasing haunts in which, alas! their hours of Sunday rest have been hitherto—as an almost necessity—spent. Calm and rational amusement has been provided for them during the intervals of Divine service on Sundays, and in places where the means of intoxication were absolutely denied to them. A small party of men, holding peculiar and distorted views of religion, looked with a disapprobation which would seem to have its principal origin in that gloomy or ferocious temperament (perhaps one of the greatest curses to which human nature is subject) which appears desirous to unite the frightful mysteries of a Juggernaut, with the mercy and holiness of the Christian religion. The true Christian, meanwhile, takes a widely different view of the question, and exults in the good which is being silently effected. But he does no more, and the consequence is, that he finds he has suffered men to believe that that *which was spoken* must necessarily be the unanimous opinion of the country. This handful of men, parading the name of the clergy as their watchword (though we have reason to know that but a very very small section of that body were in reality represented by them), inveigled the archbishop into becoming their mouthpiece; and, in fine, the bands in the parks are stopped, and the overworked and underpaid populace is once more consigned to the public-houses, from which the Chief Commissioner of Works had, for a brief moment, snatched them. It may be that the clergy—as a body—having let pass the proper moment in which to speak, may now find some difficulty in raising their voices in opposition to the expressed opinion of their suffragan. Yet we believe that there will not be wanting—even in their ranks—good and true men who will "speak truth and fear not." While it is incumbent on *us all* to remember that happily Christianity is not a peculiar gift of that sacred body—that Christians as sincere, and certainly as humble, are found amongst the laity, and, be they where they may, *now and boldly* they must speak, else the tyranny and bigotry of a handful of men will assuredly prevail, and intoxication and vice of every description will once more—and probably for a very long term—lay its hand off those whom more timely exertion on our parts might, humanly speaking, have saved from destruction of soul and body. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

May 16th.

THOMAS D. H. STEWART.

MISS ARCHER.—With respect to Sir George Grey's statements in the House on Monday evening regarding the inquiries that have been made into the assault on Miss Archer, Mr. Henry Davies, solicitor to the young lady, writes to the *Times*:—"I am rather surprised that Sir George Grey should have taken upon himself to state to the House that 'no information could be obtained.' I can, on the contrary, state that I have received important information, but which, of course, I should not deem it in the interest of my client to impart to either Sir George Grey or to the Commissioners of Police. With regard to Sir George Grey's remark, that 'the facts of the case have been disposed of by the decision of Mr. Jardine,' I can only say that I do not share Sir George Grey's satisfaction with that decision."

SUNDAY IN THE PARKS.—Last Sunday passed off in the various parks and public gardens with greater quietness than was anticipated. The "roughs" assembled in some force, and were disposed to be disorderly; but the constant and heavy falls of rain had the effect of causing them to adjourn with greater precipitation than, perhaps, was contemplated.

THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.—The two hundred and second festival of the "Sons of the Clergy"—a society for assisting indigent clergymen, their widows and children, established in the year 1655—took place on Wednesday in St. Paul's Cathedral. After a choral service at the cathedral (which was not very full, though it is said that the attendance was considered to be better than ordinary), the members and friends of the corporation, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, dined together in the evening at Merchant Tailors' Hall, Threadneedle-street, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor.

THE PEACE SOCIETY.—The fortieth anniversary of this society took place on Tuesday at the Finsbury Chapel; Mr. Hindley, M.P., in the chair. Resolutions approving of the peace and of the Peace Society, and deprecating hostilities with America, were unanimously carried. The peaceful tone of the proceedings was constantly interrupted by a man in the body of the meeting, who, while he declared himself to be a "peace man," declared it to be quite lawful, and indeed necessary, to go to war on behalf of suffering and oppressed nations.

MANCHESTER ART EXHIBITION, 1857.—A meeting has been held at Manchester with a view to settling the preliminaries of the contemplated exhibition in 1857. Resolutions appointing a committee and a general council, &c., were carried, and the meeting separated.

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, near Jerusalem, has been purchased by a Madame Polack, the widow of a wealthy Hebrew banker, of Königsberg, in Prussia. This lady intends to beautify the place at her sole expense. The first thing she has done was to plant the whole area with a grove of olive-trees, and thus to restore it to the original state from which it derives its name.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.—The General Domestic Servants Benevolent Institution (chairman, Colonel Wilson Patten, M.P.), and the News-vendors Benevolent and Provident Institution (with Mr. Ingram, M.P., of the *Illustrated London News*, for the chairman), held their annual meetings on Tuesday evening. At the former, several domestic servants spoke.

THE HALF-HOLIDAY MOVEMENT.—A deputation from the Early Closing Association, headed by the Earl of Shaftesbury, waited on Tuesday on Sir George Grey to request that Government would introduce the Saturday half-holiday into the public offices, arsenals, dockyards, &c. Sir George, however, was of opinion that the suggestion is impracticable.

AN INFURIATED OX, on Wednesday, tossed an old man in Cockspur-street, injured another man at the corner of Waterloo-place, and then, charging the entrance of the United Service Club-house, severely hurt one of the servants who attempted to oppose the beast's further progress. The animal was lamed at starting from the neighbourhood of Croydon, and was no doubt irritated by great pain. While in the entrance of the club, a butcher contrived to slip a rope over the ox's horns, and, dexterously turning it round one of the pillars supporting the portico, the animal was held in this position until a poleaxe was procured, when it was killed upon the spot.

PERSIA.—The Hon. Mr. Murray has left Tabriz with all his diplomatic suite for Bagdad. The Anglo-Persian difficulty is not yet arranged.

GENERAL CODRINGTON is expected in Constantinople.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL GENERAL SOCIETY of England held its half-yearly general meeting on Thursday, at the house in Hanover-square. Lord Portman, the president, was in the chair. The report was adopted.

FORGERY.—Charles Möller, a German, and William Foster, are now under remand at Lambeth, charged with causing some Swedish bank-notes to be forged.

BURGLARY.—A burglary of a very audacious character has been committed in the neighbourhood of Worcester by four men, who were at last put to flight by a lady ringing an alarm-bell. As she was doing so, the ruffians discharged a pistol at her, which narrowly missed.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.—A vacancy which occurred among the clerks of the Colonial-office had just been competed for. Six candidates were selected, and it has been won by Mr. Richard Hall, of Jesus College, Cambridge, where Mr. Hall took a Wrangler's degree.—*Globe*.

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*.

SCHAMYL has lost much of his prestige in England by his inactivity during the late war; but he is still the Prophet of the Caucasus, the nineteenth century MAHOMET, about whom curiosity is eager, as about one of the most remarkable of living men. In the *Revue des Deux Mondes* for May 1, there is a narrative of the captivity of two Russian Princesses, made prisoners during the attack on Kakhetia in 1854, in which we get a glimpse of SCHAMYL as father, husband, and prince. The story is one of breathless interest, quite apart from the rank of the actors. Two Russian Princesses, one nursing her infant, which perishes before her eyes, both surrounded by their children and female servants, are swept away by the soldiers of a rough horde, who treat them with reckless barbarity. The details of the journey, as they are hurried to SCHAMYL's seraglio, read like those of a romance. In the seraglio we make acquaintance with SCHAMYL's three wives, and see something of the Prophet himself, who shows a very marked talent for making advantageous bargains in the matter of ransom, and who shows also a regard for the welfare of his prisoners. But the story depends for its interest on the accumulation of details, and must be consulted in the *Revue*.

In the same *Revue* there is one of M. BABINET's pleasant papers on Science, in which he accomplishes the *tour de force* of writing about transcendental Mathematics, so as to amuse and instruct the reader wholly innocent of Mathematics. At the outset there is a passage characteristically French. Mr. HAYWARD, in the notes to his translation of *Faust*, tells a story of some French orator, who, in the full tide of his eloquence, stopped to particularize the form and extent of the work which inspired him ("en parlant de votre grand ouvrage en deux volumes"); and Mr. HAYWARD adds that he never found the Frenchman who laughed; or the Englishman who did not laugh, at this bathos. Almost as ludicrous is the passage in M. BABINET's article, where, after citing the illustre savant M. BIOT, he adds, "Nous ne partageons pas tout à fait la manière de voir de l'éminent physicien, membre de l'Académie des Sciences et de l'Académie française," &c. Is not this the very method of DOMINIE SAMPSON, who, when speaking of the great astronomer, calls him "Sir Isaac Newton, umqwhile Master of her Majesty's Mint?" But M. BABINET soon chases away the smile and causes us to follow him with unmixed admiration as he explains what *Instruments*, more powerful than any physical tools, are the mathematical methods. The hammer, chisel, anvil, screw, pulley, what are they compared with the more impalpable but more potent logarithms, cosines, tangents, &c. Both are instruments; both shorten labour and multiply human skill; but the mathematical instruments, by enabling us to calculate in a morning what would require three months to calculate in the ordinary way, and often to calculate what can in no other way be calculated—the distance of the stars for example, which is better known, more accurately fixed, than the distance between two great towns—these, and the endless applications of mathematical formula to scientific and practical purposes, may truly be said to have multiplied human force thousand-fold. What steam is to coaches, what the electric telegraph is to the speaking trumpet, that are mathematical instruments to our physical tools.

Logarithm is an uncouth word, yet M. BABINET throws a sudden interest over it, by pointing out a few unsuspected illustrations. What is a logarithm? If a series of equal causes produces a series of effects always preserving the same proportion—as for example in the game of chess, when a grain of wheat is given for the first square, two grains for the second, four grains for the third, eight for the fourth, and so on always doubling—the relation of effect to the cause is that of the number to its logarithm. The cause which produces this doubling of the number of grains is the successive number of squares, and this number is the logarithm, that of the grains being the corresponding number. Now, if you cover a plant with a glass bell, then over that place another, over that a third, and over the third a fourth, the effect of the sun's rays will be doubled at each bell, and with the fourth the plant will be cooked, the water underneath begin logarithmically to boil! Again, if, as we know, a ray of light in passing through a certain layer of air or water loses some of its force, that which traverses will lose an equal portion when it again passes through an equal layer: the number of layers traversed determining the amount of loss—a logarithmic law. Whence we see the sun's rays almost powerless at the bottom of the sea, and light logarithmically reduced to a feeble influence in our noble London fogs. It will perhaps brighten up those fogs, in the reader's mind, if the next time he has occasion to use the ready services of a link-boy, he reflects that the darkness is logarithmic! Some people feel consoled when they know the name of their disease; and the way in which horrid words in *itis* are slung about by ailing old ladies gives this suspicion force.

A correspondent writes to assure us that the "smart retort mentioned with circumstantial particulars" in a recent article on MOORE (he refers to the *C'est Rubini, qui m'empêche d'entendre monsieur*) may be found in JOHNSON'S life of PRIOR, attributed to that poet. "Whether he has the patent

right of originality," adds our correspondent, "I know not. Nothing is so difficult as to trace the paternity of a witty saying. One often meets with a *bon mot* related as of recent birth which writers long since departed have recorded as uttered by the Seven Sages, and perhaps were traditional in their days." Very true: the primæval JOE MILLER has not yet been detected in the most ancient of Mythologies; and yet there he must one day be found, parent of jokes, procreative of puns, the Original Wag, whose avatar is always "hard by." As we have not JOHNSON'S *Lives* at hand we content ourselves with what our correspondent states, and refer the reader to his authority.

Readers of *Fraser* for May will have been struck with a 'slashing' review of the translation of Count MONTALEMBERT'S book, which was very damaging to the translator in its accusations of 'suppressions' made by him. Mr. MURRAY has addressed the following letter to the *Athenæum*, which, in the spirit of literary fairness, we extract: the perusal may perhaps help towards that very desirable object of suspending judgment in cases of attack:—

"50, Albemarle-street, May 10.

"In an article of the May number of *Fraser's Magazine* upon the translation of Montalembert's work on England (for which I, as publisher, am to a certain extent responsible), the writer makes a series of charges of 'fraud,' 'perfidy,' 'falsehood,' &c., upon the ground of certain wilful omissions and suppressions, which he asserts to have been made in the English translation. I feel called upon to state that these charges are utterly false—for this good reason, that the passages alleged to have been suppressed, including 'one whole chapter,' did not exist in M. Montalembert's work before the third edition, which was not published in Paris until April, whereas the English translation was published by me in London on the 20th of March last. The English translation was made from the first and second editions of the French as long ago as February last, consequently all the scurrilous insinuations of *Fraser's* as to the political and other motives for the omissions fall to the ground. I have carefully collated the third edition with that used in the translation, and I assert that there is no omission but one, and that accidental, of an unimportant note at page 178. It may be supposed that the writer of the article in *Fraser* may have erred through ignorance; but what will you say when I tell you that he was aware of the existence of variations in the different editions, as he states in a note at page 582 of one chapter on Hereditary Peerage, 'It is but fair to say it only appeared in the third edition!' May I not justly apply to him one of his own sentences, which I have proved to have no application, as he wrote it, 'anything more dishonest than this is not to be found in literary history?'

"JOHN MURRAY."

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S MEMOIRS.

Memoirs of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel. Published by the Trustees of his Papers: Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope), and the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P. Part I.—*Roman Catholic Emancipation.* Murray.

TWENTY years after his initiation in parliamentary life, Sir Robert Peel prepared the draft of a measure for removing the disabilities of the Roman Catholics. During those twenty years he had invariably and vigorously opposed the idea of concession. This Memoir is a plea in justification of his change of policy. Its effect is, to raise and brighten the fame of the statesman, and to disparage the motives no less than the intellect of his party. Sir Robert Peel, though a Conservative, was not long a Tory. There was none of the plethoric obstinacy of Toryism in his character. Trained in the school of Pitt, taught to consider Perceval rather than Canning, the model of a political leader, habituated to a jealous suspicion of popular power, imbued by academic culture and by hereditary inspiration with a superstitious reverence of ancient forms, he was, nevertheless, too clear-sighted to ignore the progress of knowledge or the reform of manners, too liberal to deny the weight of well-supported opinions, too wise, as well as too humane, to challenge a civil war for the sake of a Tory tradition. The influences of school, college, family, friendship, parliamentary habits, cabinet connexions, official allegiances, long bound him to the Tory idea; but, while Eldon, like an ancestral voice, was prophesying ruin in the House of Peers, while the Bishop of Limerick was offering to lay down his life for the Protestant ascendancy, while Oxford fumed, and the King vowed his consistency,—Peel saw that "consistency" was impossible, and that, in spite of Eldon, the Bishop of Limerick, Oxford, and the King, Emancipation must be conceded. The only question was, should the Catholic claims be conceded after a miserable civil contest, or should they be yielded in time to save the peace and dignity of the realm? He chose the policy of conciliation; and became from that moment a statesman, instead of a Tory. It was obvious to him that Great Britain, divided irregularly among classes, sects, and interests, growing and varying under influences not calculable two centuries ago, could not be governed upon the principle, maintained unaltered, of a legislative system two centuries old. This was the key of his political conduct, not in the case of Emancipation only, but in the case of the Reform Bill and of the Corn Laws.

When the Duke of Wellington was called upon, in January, 1838, to form an administration, he applied to Peel for advice and co-operation. Peel's attitude had, even then, been modified by the events that had occurred in Parliament and in Ireland. It was hopeless to form a Cabinet on the principle of united existence to the Catholic claims. The Catholic claims had the assent of the leading minds in the legislature, and of the largest constituencies. Ultra-Tories, of course, were dissatisfied; but Peel wrote, "I do not care," and satirized the notion of a government of full-blooded Toryism, backed "by very warm friends, no doubt, but those very warm friends being prosperous county gentlemen, fox-hunters, &c., most excellent men, who will attend one night, but who will not leave their favourite pursuits to sit up till two or three o'clock fighting questions of detail." This, however, was a *raison de plus*. He had "other grounds" for refusing to identify himself any longer with a decided opposition to the Catholic claims. In fact, he foresaw that it would be impossible to protract, indefinitely, the resistance of Parliament to an agitation which kept the great Irish viceroyalty almost in a state of siege. When it had been decided that to repress the agitation was impracticable, it seemed to follow that to yield to it was necessary. The death of George III., the conversion of Canning and Castlereagh, the union

of Aberdeen, Wellesley, Ripon, Palmerston, Huskisson, and Lamb, with other conspicuous statesmen in behalf of Emancipation, the poverty of the Tory party in intellect and oratory, had shaken what was called the Protestant interest in England, while the rise of O'Connell had strengthened the Catholic interest in Ireland. Lord John Russell, testing the temper of the House of Commons by his motion for the Repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, had obtained its assent to the broad principles of religious tolerance, equality, and freedom. Peel himself, in suggesting arguments against this innovation, implied his contempt of the mass of men deputed to represent the great British nation in Parliament. "House of Commons' arguments," he said, "are arguments for people who know very little of the matter, care not much about it, half of whom have dined, or are going to dine, and are only forcibly struck by that which they instantly understand without trouble." Add to this the rapid approximation of parties, the increase of kindly feelings in the community, the abatement of religious jealousies, and it becomes apparent that the prerogatives of intolerance in 1828 stood on a feeble basis.

The debates on the Test Act acted as an experiment on the mind of the watchful statesman. He reconciled himself to Repeal, by the arguments which he used afterwards to reconcile himself to Emancipation. "The Commons will pass Repeal. Is it advisable for the Church, that Repeal should be rejected by the Lords?" A natural circumstance to be considered was "the prospect of being victorious or beaten." "A high line and a good line" is "the best possible, if it succeeds, and is supported by a large majority. But if it fails?"

"I do not say there ought to be equality of civil privileges, all I say is, that I should be sorry to rest the question of our Establishment upon that issue."

We see here the change that was working in his mind. Reporting progress to the Bishop of Oxford, he expressed a doubt whether the "private sentiments" of Lord John Russell and Lord Brougham were not inimical to the very principle of a State Church. Next, referring to the hesitation of the Bishop of Durham, he said, "Let him trust to his own judgment, and not to that of Lord Redesdale, Lord Winchelsea, and the Duke of Newcastle."

Following rapidly upon these debates was that on Sir Francis Burdett's motion for the consideration of Catholic claims, carried by a small majority—the first that had been obtained. No member who spoke attempted to conceal the great progress made by the question in Parliament or the House of Lords. With the exception of Peel himself, not one man of distinguished capacity opposed the resolutions, and Peel was too judicious and practical not to take into the calculation the danger of forcing into the Whig lobby, and thus identifying with the Whig party so many men whose talent must "influence the future decisions of the House of Commons."

O'Connell's election for Clare, the validity of which the Government did not venture formally to dispute, opened "a tremendous prospect." Peel then began to balance between the obstinate Tory party and the party inclined to liberal concessions. Of the former he wrote:—

Their answer to all such appeals is the short, in their opinion the conclusive, declaration, "The Protestant Constitution in Church and State must be maintained at all hazards and by any means: the maintenance of it is a question of principle, and every concession or compromise is the sacrifice of principle to a low and vulgar expediency."

This was easily said; but how was Ireland to be governed? How was the Protestant Constitution in Church and State to be maintained in that part of the empire?

Again I can anticipate the reply:—"By the overwhelming sense of the people of Great Britain—by the application, if necessary, of physical force for the maintenance of authority—by the employment of the organized strength of Government, the police, and the military, to enforce obedience to the law."

But Catholicism in Ireland had become an uncontrollable power. Peel took his part, decided to concede what it was impossible to refuse, without endangering the public peace, and thus deserved the gratitude of his countrymen, while he incurred the bitter reproaches of the Tory faction:—

This is a very delicate matter to discuss; but why have I deferred for twenty years this vindication of my conduct? Why have I consented to submit for that long period to every reproach which malice, or mistake, or blindness to the real state of affairs, could direct against me, except in the hope that the time would come (I cared little whether I were in the grave or not when it should come) when delicate matters might safely be discussed, and when, without prejudice to the public interests, or offence to private feelings, the whole truth might be spoken?

Yet he resolved to retire from the Wellington Cabinet. His reasons were that, while prepared to support a plan of concession, he had been too deeply committed on the question, had expressed too strong opinions in respect to it, had incurred too much jealousy and distrust among the Catholics to come forward with grace, as the originator of the measure. His withdrawal from the Government was seriously opposed. For a time, however, it seemed that not only he, but the entire Cabinet, must resign, the king preserving still the inveterate prejudices of his father. "From these sentiments," said the king, "I never can, and never will deviate." He did deviate from them, however, after a Cabinet consultation with his Ministers, whom he dismissed with a salute on each cheek, accepting their resignations, and next day surrendering to all their proposals.

Peel's last objection was overcome, and he consented to remain in office and introduce the Emancipation Bill. His last obstacle was the Bishop of Limerick, who offered to lay down his life for the rights of persecution. His, however, was not an uncharitable zeal. Like the lay peer who, in 1831, offered to arm his tenantry against the Whigs, this spiritual lord was, nevertheless, a charitable opponent. Others accused Peel of pusillanimous fears, of selfish ambition, of dishonest inconsistency. His reply is, that, had they imputed to him a want of early foresight and sagacity, a too pertinacious adhesion to a hopeless cause, an undue deference to party engagements, and the wishes of the English constituencies, against the force of an irresistible necessity, he might have found it difficult to give the charge a decisive refutation. But his only fear was the fear of public calamity; his only ambition was that of being "a daring pilot in extremity." In such a

spirit he wrote this vindictory memoir. In such a light impartial history will place the record of his character and policy.

The events of 1828 and 1829 cannot be read, in future, without the aid of this monumental volume. When the second, on the Ministry of 1834-35, and the third, on the Corn Laws, are published, they will be no doubt equally interesting, and, as historical materials, equally important. Without attributing, then, to Earl Stanhope or Mr. Cardwell, a morbid exaggeration of reserve—for they only have read the manuscripts, and they only are in a position to judge of them—we must add that we learn with as much surprise as regret that the history of the Cash Payment Act, the Reform Bill, Chartism, and Foreign Affairs, during the last thirty-five years, will receive no illustration from the Peel Papers. This Memoir is so rich in political texts, in historical allusion, in traces of party action and personal character, that ten such volumes would have been more welcome than three.

Twelve days before his death, Sir Robert Peel, in a debate on Tahitian affairs, uttered a generous eulogy on the public character of M. Guizot. And now M. Guizot,* six years after the death of Peel, lays an elaborate tribute on his tomb. It is an interesting passage in the personal history of our times; the Fallen Statesman contemplating the dead, and, in a melancholy cynicism, envying him, that he "perished in his prime." M. Guizot, in the shade of his retirement, recalls studiously, and in broad suggestive chapters, the events of Peel's career, analyzing the influences that accompanied him on his entrance into parliamentary life, his relations with Castlereagh, Canning, the Duke of Wellington, the new party of the Economists, the Crown, the House of Peers, the House of Commons, the public questions of his day. All this is written in M. Guizot's most calm and reflective manner. It is sure of translation into English—the Peel literature would be incomplete without it. What regrets are here avowed:—

"Wise and glorious councillor of a free people!" Thus, on the morrow of his death, his country praised him. I will say *happy* as well as *glorious*—happy in the end, no less than in the varied course of his career, despite the fatal accident that brought it to a violent close. For forty years Sir Robert Peel had been engaged in the political arena, perpetually contending, oftentimes vanquishing. On the eve of his death, though still in the arena, he stood in tranquil dignity, spreading from his place in Parliament the light of a long experience over the politics of his country. There he enjoyed serenely that ascendant influence admitted and accepted by all. And he died, regretted by sovereign and people, respected and admired by the adversaries whom he had overthrown, as well as by the friends who had conquered with him.

God rarely accords to one man so many favours. He had gifted Peel at his birth with highly mental faculties as well as fortune. He had given him a place in such an epoch, that his great qualities could be exercised with success in great affairs. After the final triumph, he recalled him suddenly, without diminution of his power or glory—like a noble workman, who, completing his labours at the close of the day, goes at once to receive his supreme reward from the Master whom he has served so well.

Peel, says M. Guizot, was not a political theorist; his policy was not governed by general ideas, or even by logical principles. His was, on the contrary, an essentially practical mind, consulting facts at every step, as the navigator consults the signs of the weather. But, though he did not regulate his policy by general principles, he respected the principles of other statesmen, and never acted an ungenerous or unpatriotic part.

M. Guizot has introduced some interesting personal reminiscences of Peel. His intercourse with him took place in 1840, when M. Guizot represented France at the Court of St. James. He remarked, he says, that the English statesman, always animated by a love of honour and justice, seemed to have been impressed with a mingled feeling of sympathy and fear, by the history of the French Revolution of 1789, but was in no way identified with "the maxims and passions of the old Tory party." What especially struck him was "the constant and earnest preoccupation of his mind with the interests of the working classes in England." "Through the political reserve of the minister the emotions of the man continually penetrated." "I perceive," Peel said to Guizot, "too much suffering and too many perplexities among them. They are the danger and shame of our civilization. It is absolutely necessary to render the condition of the working man more happy and less precarious. I know we cannot do all that may seem good; but we can do something, and we ought to do what we can." "That," adds M. Guizot, was the idea which appeared to mark for Sir Robert Peel the line of his future policy."

These sentences are valuable to history. Indeed, it is by a rare coincidence that we are presented, simultaneously, with Peel on himself, and Guizot on Peel.

RUSKIN'S MODERN PAINTERS.

Modern Painters. Vol. IV. of *Mountain Beauty.* By John Ruskin, M.A.

Smith, Elder, and Co.

THE third volume of the *Modern Painters* has scarcely quitted the library table for the shelves, ere the fourth volume comes to bring fresh stories of wondrous eloquence, close and patient observation, daring paradox, and subtle disquisition. This volume is more special than its predecessor; that is to say, concerns the painter more entirely, treating of the special subjects of his art, such as the appearances of mountains, hills, banks, stones, &c. But all Art is one, and Mr. Ruskin writes of painting with the everpresent consciousness of Poetry, Sculpture, and Architecture, as equally, or almost equally, implied. This it is which gives the wide and permanent charm to his writings. Interesting as they are to painters they almost equally fascinate the general public, because in them may be read rare criticisms of Natural appearances and of Artistic representations. Let R. A.'s *in esse* and *in posse* squabble over Mr. Ruskin's dicta, and triumph over his contradictions, real or seeming; we, the public, read him, and are both taught and delighted by him. In the merely argumentative parts we may think him sophistical or incomplete; in the individual criticisms, pronouncing absolute judgments on painters past and present, we may think him capricious, wilful, and utterly beside the truth; we may neither accept his dicta respecting Art, nor his verdicts on Artists, but we must all feel subdued by his eloquence, enlightened by his novel views, stimulated by his thoughts, instructed by his

* The first article appears in the current number of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

accurate observations of Nature, and thus close his volumes with a sense of gratitude, and a conviction that he has taught us to look at pictures and at Nature with fresh insight. Such a writer is really a national possession. He adds to our store of knowledge and enjoyment. His influence is germinal, and will extend through many channels. It is quite easy, nothing more easy, to criticize him, and "show him up," as the phrase goes. But a writer makes his way by what he has of positive in him, and all his errors, all his shortcomings, let them be never so reprehensible, serve but as food for critics, they do not obstruct his real progress.

We shall not here enter on any of the argumentative or technical parts of this volume. Our readers will be better pleased, if we leave such to other critics, and select rather some of those incidental topics which serve to vary Mr. Ruskin's discussions of abstract principles, and in which all the world has an interest. On the very first page we meet with one. It is on our delight in Ruins, a purely modern feeling which never appears until the days of the decline of art in the seventeenth century. The love of neatness and precision, as opposed to all disorder, maintains itself down to Raphael's childhood without the slightest interference of any other feeling; and it is not until Claude's time, and owing in a great part to his influence, that the new feeling distinctly establishes itself. Did the reader ever think of this before? Did it ever occur to him that the exquisite delight, the joyful sadness, the strange yearning of half-sorrow which steals over him in the presence of a noble ruin, was a feeling so modern as it has just been shown to be? We confess that until Mr. Ruskin made the remark it had never occurred to us, familiar as we were with the fact of the modernness of our poetical feeling for Nature. A Greek would have been made as uncomfortable by the sight of a ruin, as we should be by the sight of the ruin restored and modernised. So would Dante, so would Shakspeare. Both of these poets would have been amazed to read what Mr. Ruskin's impressions are of the Calais tower, though both would have admired the wonderful power with which he expresses himself. "I cannot find words," he says, "to express the intense pleasure I have always in first finding myself, after some prolonged stay in England, at the foot of the old tower of Calais church. The large neglect, the noble unsightliness of it; the record of its years written so visibly, yet without sign of weakness or decay; its stern wasteness and gloom, eaten away by the Channel winds, and overgrown with the bitter sea-grasses; its slates and tiles all shaken and rent, and yet not falling; its desert of brickwork full of bolts, and holes, and ugly fissures, and yet strong like a bare brown rock; its carelessness of what any one feels or thinks about it, putting forth no claim, having no beauty, nor desirableness, nor pride, nor grace; yet neither asking for pity, nor, as ruins are, useless and piteous, feebly or fondly garrulous of better days; but useful still, going through its own daily work—as some fisherman beaten grey by storm, yet daily drawing his nets: so it stands, with no complaint about its past youth, in blanched and meagre massiveness and serviceableness, gathering human souls together under it; the sound of its bells for prayer still rolling through its rents; and the grey peak of it seen far across the sea, principal of the three that rise above the waste of surfy sand and hillocked shore—the lighthouse for life, and the belfry for labour, and this for patience and praise." No one will see Calais church with the same feelings after reading this passage. Indeed are not all our seeings of Nature due to the suggestions of poets, who, having looked on Nature fondly and in varying moods, have taught us to see in the waving branches, the jutting ledge of rock, the gloom of the valley and the vapoury mists curling above the hill, something of what they saw in them at a given time? Mr. Ruskin is peculiarly rich in such suggestiveness. He is a true poet in his love for scenery, and a true modern in the intensity with which he symbolizes the aspects of nature. Oftentimes this is, as with poets, mere mood and caprice. For instance, speaking of Turner's melancholy windmill, he says, "There is a dim type of all melancholy human labour in it—catching the free winds and setting them to turn grindstones. It is poor work for the winds; better indeed than drowning sailors or tearing down forests, but not their proper work of marshalling the clouds and bearing the wholesome rains to the place where they are ordered to fall, and fanning the flowers and leaves when they are faint with heat. Turning round a couple of stones, for the mere pulverization of human food, is not noble work for the winds." Note how entirely this is the poet's wayward mood and method of interpreting things. In a poem the thought would be acceptable; in prose, where we look for truth, not moods, it is instantly called in question. The mind at once declares that to pulverize food for man is work quite as noble as to bear the wholesome rains to the place where they may assist in the growth of that food, and infinitely nobler than the mere "marshalling of clouds," to vary a landscape or please the poet's eye. Mr. Ruskin has a great horror of the word "subjective," otherwise we should tell him that much of the error of his writing consists in his not sufficiently discriminating between his subjective impressions, and those of others; and especially in his giving way to them too much as if they were absolute and final.

But instead of criticizing, it is pleasanter to listen to him. How eloquently he discourses on mountains and their uses as well as their beauty! Their first use, he tells us, is to give motion to water. "Every fountain and river, from the inch-deep streamlet that crosses the village lane in trembling clearness to the massy and silent march of the everlasting multitude of waters in Amazon or Ganges, owe their play, their purity, and power, to the ordained elevations of the earth. Gentle or steep, extended or abrupt, some determined slope of the earth's surface is of course necessary before any wave can overtake one sedge in its pilgrimage; and how seldom do we enough consider, as we walk beside the margins of our pleasant brooks, how beautiful and wonderful is that ordinance, of which every blade of grass that waves in the clear water is a perpetual sign, that the dew and the rain fallen on the earth shall find no resting-place; shall find, on the contrary, fixed channels traced for them, from the ravines of the central crests down which they roar in sudden ranks of foam to the dark hollows beneath the banks of lowland pasture, round which they must circle slowly among the stems and beneath the leaves of the lilies."

On a future occasion we must borrow from him some valuable remarks on Art generally, a subject on which he is always heard with advantage.

THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES OF RUSSIA.

Commentaries on the Productive Forces of Russia. Vol. II. By M. L. de Tegoborski. London: Longman and Co.

WE have already, in our remarks on M. Tegoborski's first volume, published last year, limited the extent of confidence that ought to be reposed in the statistics of the present work. We showed that his figures depended upon official statements which he himself was obliged to admit were incomplete, and in many instances incorrect; that he confidently arrived at many a grand total which in detail he entirely overthrew; that he added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided his amounts, if not at random, at pleasure; and that he was constantly producing results which were not for a moment tenable. We showed that these guesses at truths, in works affecting to be statistical, were worse than valueless; that while they misled the economist on most important returns, they presented the appearance of work done, and thus delayed the collection of reliable information.

M. Tegoborski in his second volume deals equally lightly with his figures, whilst he presents us with a further description of the textile manufactures of Russia,—of its fabrication of woollen, silk, and cotton goods,—its chemical products, the yield of its iron mines, its paper factories, its tanneries. To these are appended the official returns of the domestic and foreign commerce of the kingdom. With all his statistical errors we must give M. Tegoborski credit for the earnestness with which, as far as a Russian councillor of state can do so, he pleads for the development of industry in all its branches. We feel that he is sincere when he points out the impolicy of the present system of duties levied nominally for the protection of trade, but which really impede its operations; and when he reproves the want of skill and honesty which signally characterises the manufacturers of some of the most important articles of commerce. In the manufacture of woollen cloths we find accusations brought against both the wool-grower and the manufacturer. We are informed that it is a practice amongst the majority of the flock-masters, who only look to the gain of the moment, to mix the fleeces of the living and the dead animal together; that the wool is washed in hot water after it has been shorn from the backs of the sheep, and that the scouring is effected with fuller's earth, which injures the fibre, whilst the assortment consists in the agglomeration of heterogeneous qualities. We further learn, on the authority of M. Hayemeister, that with a view of economising labour and raw material, the manufacturer weaves slightly; that the warp is not sufficiently stretched; that the cloth is not properly fulled; that to soften it, it is so strongly impregnated with steam that it contracts a disagreeable odour; that in spinning the yarn, oil is applied but sparingly; and that in the dyeing, mordant acids are made use of which inevitably deteriorate the wool.

In the city of Moscow and its neighbourhood it appears there are ninety-three factories, working 3,667 looms, and employing 10,783 workmen. In the other districts of Moscow there are thirty-nine factories, with 2778 looms, and 12,133 workmen, making a total of 132 factories, 6445 looms, and 22,916 workmen. Next to the government of Moscow, the government of Tschernigoff possesses the greatest number of cloth-factories, but there are no statistics to indicate either the number of looms or the number of hands employed. Again, we are informed that cloths are woven in the scattered villages of the various districts of which no account is kept, yet we find that the gross value of the woollen goods manufactured in Russia is estimated at 46,000,000 silver roubles, and that 300,000 persons are engaged in this particular branch of industry. An apology, it is true, follows this statement, for M. Tegoborski acknowledges that he has taken these manufactures in their largest acceptance; but it would at least have savoured of a meritorious diffidence if M. Tegoborski had stated upon what grounds the difference between 22,916 and 300,000, or in other words, how 277,084 hands are to be accounted for, seeing that not one-fifteenth of the gross calculation has been statistically verified.

We have heard much of the virtue of an *if*, but we never so thoroughly appreciated its importance until we met with it in M. Tegoborski's work in company with Arabic numerals, which it twists and turns about with all the facility of a magician's rod. M. Tegoborski wishes to build up a total or a particular amount. Nothing is easier. The sum is given; and away flies the magic *if* to work at once, to support the dogmatic "it is estimated," "it is assumed;" "it must be." Take page 152 of this volume: we have, "Of the vintage, which we have valued at 7,700,000, we may assume that half, or, in round numbers, four millions," &c.; "of the crude produce of the meadows we will reckon but a tenth," &c.; "the flax and hemp crop must amount to," &c.; "the product of the forests has been approximately estimated at 135 millions; if we reckon a third," &c.; "the annual return from large cattle we have estimated at 100 millions of roubles, and the portion of this coming into commerce we may safely estimate at two-fifths, &c." It is thus, that upon estimates without any reliable foundation, M. Tegoborski attempts to raise sum-totals to the tune of many millions, and endeavours to convince us of the rapidly growing prosperity of his country. It is not well, however, that his patriotism or enthusiasm, whichever it may be, should carry him away into statements he cannot substantiate. The very object he has in view—the development of the manufactures and the resources of Russia—would be better attained by a more modest table of figures, a juster estimate of facts. In England the Government returns, we may presume, are as reliable as any we may meet with elsewhere, yet every one knows the omissions and the additions that constantly occur, and render statistical registers anything but records of unquestionable certainty. How much more difficult must the collection of truthful accounts be in a vast, thinly-populated, ill-governed empire like Russia, where officials are privileged to look after their own interests first, the good of their country second, and where detection is neither desired nor very practicable.

Having thus done our duty by warning the reader against the figures and the assumptions he will meet with in M. Tegoborski's volumes, we are bound to say they are not without interest, though to a great extent valueless in the eyes of the economist. His descriptions of the processes of spinning and weaving, the preparation of leather, the fabrication of paper, &c., the

metallic resources of his country, the chemical factories, the potteries and glass-houses, the means and facilities of transit for goods, the mode of conducting business,—all illustrate the state of practical science in Russia, and in some degree the manners of the people, and show how backward she still is in all those acquirements which can properly stimulate and develop the infinite branches into which industry and enterprise may be divided and subdivided.

ANCIENT AND MODERN INDIA.

India, Ancient and Modern. By David O. Allen, D.D.

Trübner and Co.

DR. ALLEN has compiled a work of great utility, and one that was much wanted. Though written especially for an American public, it will prove not less acceptable to the public of this country. The worthy divine apologises in some sort for taking up a subject which, he imagines, must be already familiar to English readers, and excuses himself by alluding to the very limited views concerning India and its inhabitants usually entertained in the United States. The apology would have been quite unnecessary had he even contemplated exclusive circulation in England, where such profound ignorance prevails on all Indian matters unconnected with curry and the Bengal tiger. This ignorance will, no doubt, give way now that the attention of the Legislature is so frequently directed to the internal administration of the British empire in the East. But so much prejudice prevails, so much passion has been exhibited with reference to the government of the East India Company, that it has been hitherto impossible to obtain a calm, unbiassed view of the progress of European power in the East, and of the relative position of the conquerors and the conquered. This want is at last supplied. In about six hundred pages of clear type and pleasant reading, Dr. Allen has succeeded in giving a succinct and highly-interesting narrative of the three great periods of Indian history—the Hindoo, the Mahomedan, and the European. His outline of the external aspect of the country, its climate and natural productions, imparts as much information as the general reader usually seeks to obtain. His account of the Government of India is accurate and impartial. He gives praise where praise is due, and pleads many extenuating circumstances to excuse the shortcomings of the Honourable Company. Perhaps, to the majority of readers, the most interesting portion of his work is that which treats of the religion, manners, customs, institutions, and literature of the native population, while not a few will turn with anxious curiosity to his experiences of Christianity in that distant land. In short, it is the most complete compendium of matters relating to India that has yet appeared.

The Arts.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE STORY-TELLING POWER.

If the picture is not a mirror it is a story; and it rises in the scale of art in proportion as it is a story. You judge, then, of a school in proportion as it is able to set before you the story that it professes to unfold; and the question of this week is, What tale doth the Royal Academy unfold—what are the several tales which its contributors have to tell—and how do they do it? In art, as in politics and in social matters, men seem at present not very settled in their purpose; they differ among each other—they have no distinct shape of plan for themselves. The pencil vacillates between the conservatism of the studio, the “good old plan” of doing things, and some subversive “new idea,” which makes the established forms look pale and insipid, unsettles sequacious minds, and yet does not exactly succeed in appointing its own Provisional Government. In the collection of this year, increased numbers are seen to be following MILLAIS or the Naturalist school, which has sprung out of the præ-Raphaelites; but FROST still pursues his cold licentious study of life among supposititious boarding-school nymphs; GRANT still paints dashing portraits *comme il faut*; O’NEILL gives us gentle diagrams of touching incidents, and the balance of power proceeds with as regular a diplomacy as a Royal Academy dinner.

Perhaps the most striking change of the story telling is in the negative direction. WILKIE presented you real life, but with a dash of humour in it. WEBSTER has gradually devoted himself to portraying you real life as it may be caught any moment of the day when nothing particular is going forward. This year his “Hide and Seek” is the simplest scene in a cottage, where one child hides from another outside, while mother and sister at their domestic duties give a passing glance at the sport. It is a pretty scene, but the artist’s share is little more than that of a looking-glass: there is not much to tell. ANSDALL’S “Browsers’ holla” is also a matter-of-fact—the gamekeeper tending the young fauns; but the open scene, the active forms of the youthful deer, the play of character, demand a more animated pencil on a subject less hackneyed: there is more to tell, and the story rouses a greater interest.

For in painting it is not always the eventfulness, but the suggestion of life, and of the capacity for meeting events which makes the subject of the picture interesting. Thus the “Gipsy Water-carrier of Seville,” by PHILIP, succeeds so well in putting before you a creature full of life—handsome, symmetrical, slender, sharp in action, yet graceful—that the form is like the volume of a stirring tale unopened. The spectator has a sense of power both in the painter and in his subject.

Nor is it that the *subject* will supply the eventfulness or animation. LESLIE, who has known how to present the character of real life so vigorously, chooses this year a figure of “Hermione”—an injured lady, whom we are to take for the wronged wife; and a group of Italian wayfarers “near Rome,” who should have life in them: but the Hermione is a pale abstraction, with outline smoothed down to the “fashions of the day” in such characters; and the wayfarers are *only* wayfarers, with none but the most obvious characteristics brought out, so that the picture is not unfairly rated by the question—“What then?”

Sometimes the artist tries to supply the intent and force of his subject by mechanical accessories; but the spectator is not thus to be deluded, and the adulteration will not pass. We have our example, alas! in POOLE, who can do better things. There is a legend that three Swiss conspirators met in a mountain recess to concert the first plans for overthrowing the tyranny of GESSLER—an incident striking historically, but, since it lacks action, needing, to dramatize it for picture, some great force of expression in the men, or some dramatic

allegory in the ominous war of elements, or, perchance, some excessive simplicity which would read its own moral. Mr. POOLE feels the subject; but he “fumbles” at the treatment, like a man not too familiar with glens, conspiracies, or wild passions. The force has to be supplied in another mode, and here it is done by a rough texture. There sit the three conspirators in rocky gloom; the very pigments shaken into broken atoms, which make the picture resemble an irregular mosaic, and impart a certain degree of turbid uncertainty to the painting: but difficulty of deciphering the meaning or the forms of an historical picture is not equivalent to mystery in the story.

The telling of a story does not consist only in introducing human figures, whose particular pursuit may be rendered intelligible. Mr. FRITH must this year be accounted amongst those hitherto rising artists who have decidedly sunk to the prosaic, and who take a matter-of-fact to be a matter worth expositing. We do not say this of a picture numbered 7, “A Dream of the Future,” in which there is a pretty country girl that may be dreaming about anything at a stile in the midst of “landscape by T. CRESWICK.” The picture belongs to the class of decoration, and would be a very pretty ornament in any tasteful dining-room. We speak rather of the picture described, “Many happy returns of the Day,” in which a happy couple is seated at a birthday dinner-table, to celebrate the first or second anniversary of the youngest in the party; while a servant is bringing in toys for his delectation, and grandpapa, who sits a little aloof, is joining in the toast. Now here we have an English couple in good circumstances, with half a dozen extremely pretty children, a very handsome and “aristocratical”-looking grandpapa, and altogether a model family, such as might be found at Mornington Villas or Lansdowne Gardens, in any of the higher-rented houses of the best London suburbs. But what then? There is no very striking incident; there is no very remarkable trait of character in any of the persons. The still life is not faultless, nor is there anything but the most superficial exhibition of the commonest, though not discreditable, feelings which may be found under the roof of any Paterfamilias. Paterfamilias himself can supply quite as good a picture once a year if his income will permit him. Nothing could give value to the picture unless it consisted of portraits, and then the portraits would be valued only in the particular family.

There is not a single human being in HUNT’S painting of “The Scapegoat,” and yet there is human interest, and something more than human. He has taken the custom of the Jews, who adorned a goat, loaded it with the sins of the people, and drove it forth into the wilderness, thinking that they should gain some immunity by that sacrifice. Here, then, is the creature driven forth, stumbling and staggering to the salt desert, where it is brought by weariness to a stand—the melancholy of death in its eyes, helplessness in its limbs, thirst in its anxious mouth, and a wonderful brightness of the setting sun glancing on its hairy hide. It has strayed into a sinking ground on the border of the salt sea; skeletons surround it. It is a perfect type of innocence and helplessness, sent to die for the superstition, the senseless selfishness, the ignorance and cruelty of the people—a sacrifice of any day and any place. The colouring is very powerful. The pigments are so employed that their contrast, or their translucence one through the other, gives the exact points of light reflected from different surfaces with different colours; and this artful use of the pigments results in bringing to eye the exact tints, the very substances, and the light of the sun itself. We except the extreme background, which is harsh and violent. The hues marked upon the rocks and sky by the setting sun are not too positive, but too little uniform and sweeping in their texture. When such prismatic colours are reflected by mountain or cloud in southern climes, they are seen in great sweeps, and the slight breaks of local form or colour are submerged in the deluge of brilliancy. But the picture is one of great power, both in the force of its colours, in the portrayal of animal character, and in the great moral story which the illustration enforces. If HUNT is a student, he is a great painter. If this is what he means to *finish* with, he is but a part of a painter; though a better part than most of the mere limners whose finished failures surround him.

We might use the same words in speaking of MILLAIS, who has, however attained to a far greater degree of finish than HUNT. MILLAIS exhibits five pictures:—“Peace concluded, 1856;” “Portrait of a Gentleman;” “Autumn Leaves;” “L’Enfant du Régiment;” and “The Blind Girl.” Four of these ought properly to be classed as studies; and, accepted as such, they are full of power and beauty. The “Portrait of a Gentleman” is the portrait of a little child—a bold outlook boy, of whom we conceive that we have here the exact facsimile. And when you remember how difficult it is practically to comprehend and to seize that expression of latent faculties and purpose which you see in the straightforward look of a young and resolute boy, you will understand what a mastery of hand and eye the artist must possess. The “Enfant du Régiment” is a very small picture; a child who has been sitting upon a monument, has fallen back asleep, and is covered with a soldier’s coat. You may guess it to be the son, or daughter, of a dead soldier, whose comrades are thus taking care of the orphan. The patch of coloured clothing on the stone monument, with a graceful form almost hidden by the covering, constitutes what painters call a “bit,” perhaps worth preserving, but too small to be prized much. It is to a real picture what an epigram upon some small subject is to a work. “Autumn Leaves” is altogether a higher class of work. It is the portrait of four girls, who are burning up the dead leaves of a garden in the twilight of an autumn evening; serious girls, intent upon their labour, with an expression that harmonizes to the sombre hues of the foliage around them. The whole picture is grave; the tints perhaps too heavy; the colouring of the hair, where, as in some lights a line of brighter tint marks the contour, is one of the accidents of effect which it may be well to remember if a use be found for it, though it is too *strangenot* to suggest its own purpose.

“The Blind Girl” is a study of a perfectly different class. It is a wandering musician, whose sight is gone; she has seated herself by the roadside, in a country district, while a younger companion who leads her, and is sheltered under her cloak, looks back at the horizon, where the storm is passing away and the arch of hope appears. The power of the painter is here seen in the powerful drawing, and not less powerful colouring, with which he has caught the entire manner of the blind: the limbs unconcentrated in their action by eyesight,—the uplifted countenance, the abstracted, but not desponding look, are contrasted with the animate action, though in repose of the younger girl. The spectator will observe with interest how the painter has copied, in the grassy rising ground behind, every variety of form, the endless breaks on the surface, the truth of the perspective through almost ceaseless changes of outline, the grades of tint, the gentle gradations which in the space almost of a few hairs’ breadth convey the effect of long distance towards the background. Here again, as in the whole of the school once præ-Raphaelite, we find that the tints of the distance are much too harsh, positive, and angular;—an error which will, perhaps, be corrected by the study of their great rival, the photograph.

We have called these four pictures studies, because the artist has to a great

extent contented himself with portraying individual character. He has, except in the last picture, not told much of a story, and he has consented to be in one incident at the mercy of his materials. When the præ-Raphaelites began, they started upon the principle of literal truth; thinking it sufficient to take anything that they found in nature, and thus consenting in a great degree to collect their materials by hap-hazard. They forgot that the painter can never use more than a part of the materials of nature,—that there is no successive action, no voice, no sound, nothing that reaches the sense except through sight, and that only for one fixed instant of time. They forgot that in real life the attention, prepared for the scene of the moment, is concentrated on the incidents that make that scene remarkable, and that the concentration of sense excludes from the frame-work of the view incidents which would disturb the apprehension of the story. The men before Raphael's time, performed labours which constituted one long study, gradually arrived at the perfection which that master marked, though he was not alone; they did not complete the idea of a design as he placed it before the world. Raphael found, rather perhaps by the intuition of a disciplined sense than by any abstract philosophizing, that the incidents necessary for telling a story present that tale with much more force and distinctness when they are themselves grouped in a symmetry of composition which keeps the sense of the spectator always to the central point of narrative, and induces it not to wander beyond the outskirts of the design. Thus the general forms in Raphael's compositions are symmetrical as well as the individual forms, incidents which disturb the expression of the whole being rejected as well as those which disturb the expression of particular figures. In MILLAIS's picture nothing limits the view of the scene in which the blind girl is the centre, save the frame.

In the picture which tells the most complete story, "The Peace Concluded," MILLAIS has, perhaps, unconsciously worked out, not this præ-Raphaelite, but this Raphaelite principle. A wounded soldier, in the undress of home, is lying upon a sofa; he has just read the proclamation of peace in the *Times*, and the paper is in his hand. His wife, for whom he has "made room" on the same sofa, sits beside him, leaning against him, with her right arm clasped round him over his left shoulder, her left hand in his; and, from the action of her right hand, it is plain that she is pressing him to her. A little girl, standing by her mother's knee, is asking, as children will, what is going forward; and the husband, partly stooping down across his wife, though not unconscious of the mute caress, is explaining; while an elder boy, kneeling down on the other side of the group, and looking out of the picture, has already caught the spirit of the intelligence, and is placing, from a toy Noah's Ark, figures emblematical of the war and peace. The lion, the northern bear, the cock, and the turkey are lying together in the mother's lap, and the child is presenting to her the dove of peace. This is only the most superficial part of the story: for its deeper incidents you must look deeper. You must see in the flushed, contented, but not unmoved, countenance of the husband-father, who has been interrupted by his little child, the conflict of many thoughts; while in the countenance of the wife, turned full towards you, there are, in the abstracted look, the vague consciousness, the dappling of red about the cheeks, lips, and eyes, the softened relaxation of the muscles about the mouth, the outward signs of feelings which are partly explained, by that scarcely perceptible action of the right hand, and are perfectly intelligible to those who have seen woman's inmost heart through the quickly changing, but faithful, countenance of love. MILLAIS has dealt chiefly in the exact portrayal of individual characteristics, whether in still life, landscape, vegetation, or human nature,—and he has become a master in his art; but as he still needs to subdue some of the harshness of a student, and he works amid strong emotions in pictures of little action, his compositions at first perplexed; and they need a practised eye, or repeated perusal, to appreciate their real fidelity to nature,—the power that is still to be developed by the most promising Englishman in an art where the master never ceases to be a student.

THE OPERAS.

MADAME ALBONI appeared in *La Sonnambula* on Tuesday, an opera somewhat dimmed by the traditions of vanished *Aminas*, but ever dear to the general London audience. If there was something not entirely *vraisemblable* in the appearance of the present *Amina*, it was forgotten in the delightful *naïveté* and goodnature of her face, and in the luxury of listening to her voice. The supreme charm of listening to ALBONI is the confidence you have in the resources of her voice, but in sincerity we must say that now for the first time we found her singing with a certain effort. Perhaps it is not inexcusable to regret that this transcendent artist, so richly endowed by nature and a pupil of ROSSINI, should have felt ill at ease within the narrow range of parts allotted to the contralto, and should have been tempted to force her extraordinary powers. That she is still the most perfect singer living we think there can be no question, but has her voice not suffered—we do not say it has not succeeded—in the attempt to be—two voices?

STATE OF TRADE.—The trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show a considerable interruption of business from the Whitsuntide holidays, which have been generally kept in all quarters. At Manchester, the transactions have been limited, and the tendency of prices has been towards flatness. The Birmingham iron-market is steadily maintained, since, although the supply of fresh orders has been small, manufacturers are fully engaged on previous contracts. In the general occupations of the place there are symptoms of improvement. At Nottingham, a good inquiry has prevailed both for hosiery and lace. In the woollen districts increased caution is manifested, owing to the high price of the raw material. From the Irish linen-markets the accounts continue very favourable. At Dublin, the provision trade has been influenced by large arrivals from America.—*Times*.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BAYLY.—On the 19th inst., at 20, Woodside-terrace, Glasgow, the wife of Captain Bayly, Royal Engineers: a daughter.
HATCHARD.—On the 19th inst., at the Rectory, Havant, the wife of the Rev. T. Goodwin Hatchard: a son.
TERRERO.—On the 20th inst., at Rockstone House, Southampton, La Señora Dona Manuelita de Rosas de Terrero: a son.

VIVIAN.—On the 18th inst., at Glyn, Cornwall, Lady Vivian: a son.

MARRIAGES.

BOWEN-DIAMANTINA.—On the 28th ult., at Corfu, in the Palace Chapel, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, K.C.M.G., Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, to the Countess Diamantina, daughter of his Highness Count Candiano de Rona, G.C.M.G., President of the Ionian Senate.
FORBES-DAWSON.—On the 15th inst., at Higham, Suffolk, Captain Thomas George Forbes, R.N., son of Lieut.-General Forbes, R.A., of Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, to Elizabeth, widow of the late Lieut. Alexander Clotworthy Dawson, R.N., and youngest daughter of the late R. Gresley, Esq., of 11, Oxford-square, London.
LILLEY-CASSWELL.—On the 17th inst., at St. Mary's Church, Islington, by the Rev. D. F. Wilson, Mr. Edwin J. Lilley, of London, to Maria, youngest daughter of Mr. Henry Casswell, of Postland.

DEATHS.

BOURDOIS.—On the 10th inst., at her residence, 19, Wimpole-street, in the 84th year of her age, Madame Bourdois, relict of Mons. Antoine Bourdois, eldest daughter of the late Charles Rousseau Burney, of Bath, and niece of Madame D'Arbury.
BURRELL.—On the 17th inst., at his seat, Walhampton, Lynton, Hants, the Rev. Sir George Burrell, Bart., brother of the late Admiral Sir Harry Burrell Neale, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty, rector of Burton Coggles, Lincolnshire, and Vicar of Middleton Tyns, Yorkshire, in the 88th year of his age.
CAMPBELL.—On the 8th inst., Major-General James Campbell, late of the 51st Regt. Light Infantry, aged 75.
CASTLE.—On the 20th of April, of typhus fever, in the Crimea, Edward, of the 1st Royal Regiment, 2d battalion,

CALZOLARI is a most agreeable *Elvino*. Signor BENEVENTANO does not improve upon acquaintance as the Count, whom he makes a more terribly stagey courier than ever (we noted the action of the legs particularly), and what is worse, he bellows. The *Lisa*, whose name we regret to have missed, was singularly successful, and was once eagerly encored.

To-night Madlle. PICCOLOMINI, the delight and glory of Italy, whose romantic and consuming passion for the art was superior to the prejudices of high birth and to the remonstrances of aristocratic kindred, and whose young career of triumphs recalls that charming episode of VIOLA PISANI in BULWER's *Zanoni*, appears in her favourite part of *La Traviata*, the Italian and lyrical version of *La Dame aux Camélias*. No doubt on a smaller stage this beautiful and impassioned artist is seen and heard to greater advantage; at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE she will have to contend with extraordinary difficulties, but it is impossible her *début* in England should not be welcomed with all the enthusiasm due to so romantic a heroine.

By a clerical error last week we converted the name of Signor BONETTI, the present *chef d'orchestre* at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, into BOSCHETTI, which happens to be the name of a *danseuse*. We beg Signor BONETTI's pardon for this slip of the pen. Whatever opinion we may have formed of his conductorship or of his orchestra, he enjoys a certain reputation in his musical capacity in some of the chief cities of the Continent, which we are fully disposed to respect.

VERDI's *Rigoletto* was revived at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA on Thursday. It is one of the operas of VERDI, best adapted to a theatre of moderate dimensions; and RONCONI's acting deserves all the advantage of being seen closely by the audience. There are few parts in which MARIO is now heard with more satisfaction than the Duke in *Rigoletto*. The whole performance is very successful. It is sufficiently amusing to observe with what incessant fury the professional critics pursue VERDI, and with what obstinate delight the public accepts, and prefers, his operas.

MR. BENEDICT'S CONCERT.

THE Concert given by this most esteemed composer on Wednesday evening may be pronounced the concert of the season. Not only were selections (too few) from MR. BENEDICT's own operas performed, but Madame GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND and Madame VIARDOT sang a duet (*La Mère Grande*) of MEYERBEER's, as only two of the greatest lyrical artists of this or any age could sing it. Was not this worth a pilgrimage to see and to hear?

MR. MITCHELL announces the farewell Concerts of Madame GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND in this country. On Wednesday evening, June 11, a miscellaneous Concert; on June 25, *The Creation*; and on Monday evening, June 30, another grand miscellaneous Concert, on which occasion we are assured, with all the emphasis of type, that Madame GOLDSCHMIDT "will make her last and farewell appearance in this country." We strongly recommend our readers to believe that this saddening announcement (which we confess takes us by surprise) is likely to prove only too true. Madame GOLDSCHMIDT has not returned to the opera; she will not return to the concert-room. She is one of those who know how to retire with dignity. Her sun will set upon England in unclouded glory.

MADAME RISTORI.

THE Italian *tragédienne* is announced to make her first appearance in England on the 4th of June, at the LYCEUM, in the tragedy of *Medea*, translated from the French of M. LEGOUVÉ. We are aware that fashion knows no language, or to speak less enigmatically, that many will go to hear Madame RISTORI who are sublimely unconscious of the words she is speaking, although ignorance of Italian is happily becoming every day more rare in England. But remembering the conclusive reason alleged by FUSSELL for the British indifference to PETRARCHI, we commend to the attention of our readers an advertisement in our present number, by which we learn that Count ARRIVABENE, the refined and accomplished essayist on the poets of his native land, whom we noticed with sincere commendation in the *Leader* some months ago (Dec. 15, 1855), proposes to lecture on the Italian drama in the course of next month, with readings from the tragedies in which Madame RISTORI will perform.

We observe that the managers of all the theatres, *except* the PRINCESS's, will commence the performances at three o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday next, the day of the "Peace Rejoicings," in order to enable the public to view the fireworks. This is very kind to the public, and very judicious, we think, on the part of the managers. But Mr. CHARLES KEAN? Does he hope to hold his own with the spectacle of *The Winter's Tale*, v. the fireworks. Why not?

youngest son of the late Mr. Samuel Castle, late of Oxford-street, London, aged 25 years.
SLEEMAN.—On the 10th of February, 1856, in his passage, on board the *Monarch*, from Calcutta to England, Major-General Sir William Henry Sleeman, K.C.B., in the 68th year of his age.
STIRLING.—On the 19th inst., at 2, Cambridge Villas, Cheltenham, Mary Georgina, wife of Colonel Stirling Freeman Glover, and daughter of General the Right Hon. Lord Charles Henry Somerset.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, May 20.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—JOHN DAVIES, Shrewsbury, printer and bookseller.
BANKRUPTS.—HENRY STUART and RICHARD KENNETT, 17, Cork-street, Burlington-gardens, Middlesex, tailors.—CHARLES BRISWELL, Saffron Walden, Essex, builder.—ANGEL EMMANUEL GIUDICI, 41, St. Mary-axe, City, merchant.—ROBERT SAMUEL LUNDIE, 101, Long-acre, Middlesex, wood engraver and dealer in boxwood.—BENJAMIN HAWTHORN, 9, Lisle-street, Leicester-square, Middlesex, and 8, St. Paul's-place, Wandsworth-road, Surrey, shoe and Mercer.—JOHN HOWARD BLACKWELL and GEORGE BENNET, Smethwick, Stafford, ironmasters.—JOHN DAVIES, Shrewsbury, printer and bookseller.—JOSEPH JOHNSON, York, furniture broker.—GEORGE BINNS, Popplewell-mill, Scholes, Cleckheaton, Birstal, York, cloth manufacturer.—CHARLES BRADSHAW, the Seven Oaks, Nicholas-street, Mosley-street, Manchester, licensed victualler.
SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.—G. D. CHOMAR, Glasgow, merchant and flour dealer.—A. MELVILLE, Glasgow, commission agent and drysalter.—T. EASTON, Denny, Stirling, inn-keeper and post-horse proprietor.—A. MALCOLM and J.

THE BRILLIANT CANAL-BASIN foundry, Port Dundas, Glasgow; engineers, millwrights, and founders—H. FENWICK, Dundee; Brevet Major in the army, underwriter and dealer in books and paintings.

Friday, May 23.

BANKRUPTS.—EDWARD MORGAN, provision merchant, Hastings—JOHN SQUIRE TWYEN, miller, Ware Westmill, Herts.—JOHN HOPKINSON, grocer, Nottingham—GEORGE WILLYS, clock maker, Northwich.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JAMES KING, merchant, Port Glasgow—JOHN M'LEOD, merchant, Wick—WILLIAM WRIGHT, painter, Glasgow—ROBERT SCOBIE, accountant, Glasgow—DANIEL M'GREGOR and Co., calico printers, Glasgow.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, May 23, 1856.

The Bank of England yesterday equalized the rates of discount on the long and short bills, fixing 6 per cent. for both; this, and the expectation that from the state of the Money Market they will make a further reduction in the rates before long, has tended to support the markets generally, in some degree. Consols which closed yesterday evening at 94½, 94½ opened this morning at a slight improvement, being first quoted buyers at 94½. There has been scarcely any fluctuation in them throughout the day, and they close at the opening price, 94½, 94½, for the June account, and 94½, 94½ for money. There has been a great improvement in the last day or two in Luxembourgs, it having been reported that the Belgian Government would grant them a 4 per cent. guarantee, and they were purchasing the shares in large numbers. In the early part of this week they were quoted 5½, 5½, they are now 6½, 6½. In the foreign market, securities have been well supported during the week; the 6 per cent. Turks have been steady, ranging between 98½, 99. Mexicans have had a further slight rise, they are now 23½, 23½. Buenos Ayres have risen about 10 per cent. in the week. All shares in the heavy markets are good.

The following are the leading prices:

Aberdeen, 26, 27; Bristol and Exeter, 87, 89; Caledonian, 60½, 61½; Chester and Holyhead, 15½, 16½; East Anglian, 16½, 17½; Eastern Counties, 10, 10½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 60, 62; Great Northern, 85, 96; Ditto, A stock, 79, 81; Ditto, B stock, 127, 129; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104, 106; Great Western, 59½, 60; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 75; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 90½, 91; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 102, 103; London and North-Western, 101½, 102½; London and South-Western, 95½, 96; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 29½, 29½; Midland, 77½, 77½; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 13, 15; North British, 35, 36; North Eastern (Berwick), 80, 81; Ditto, Extension, 51, 51½; Ditto, Great North Eastern Purchase, 34, 34½; Ditto, Leeds, 16½, 17; Ditto, York, 57, 58; North Staffordshire, 6, 6½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 27, 28; Scottish Central, 103½, 105; Scottish Midland, 76, 78; South Devon, 14, 15; South Eastern (Dover), 71, 72; South Wales, 71, 73; Vale of Neath, 19, 20; West Cornwall, 6½, 7½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 83, 84; Bombay and Baroda, 14, 15; Dutch Rhenish, 18, 19; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 39½, 40½; East Indian, 23½, 24; Ditto, Extension, 23, 23½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A issue, 9, 8 dis.; Great Central of France, 8½, 9½; Great Indian Peninsula, 22½, 23; Great Luxembourg, 6, 6½; Ditto Obligations, 3½, 3½; Great Western of Canada, 26½, 27; Ditto, New, 31, 31½; Great Western of Canada Bonds, payable 1857, 99, 101; Ditto, ditto, Bonds, payable 1876, with option until 1860, 127, 132; Ditto, ditto, payable 1875, without option, 109½, 110½; Madras 4½ per cent. guar., 20, 20½; Ditto, New, 5 per cent. guar., 13, 24 pm. Namur and Liege, 7½, 7½; Northern of France, 45½, 46½; Royal Danish, 19, 20; Sambre and Meuse, 12, 12½; Seine, guar. 5 per cent., 24, 3 pm.; West Flanders, 44, 44½; Western and North Western of France, 38, 39; Australian Agricultural, 29, 31; Canada Land, 135, 137; Crystal Palace, 24, 3; North British Australasian, 4, 5; Oriental Gas, 11, 11½; Peel River Land, 24, 31; Scottish Australian Investment, 11, 11½; South Australian, 36, 38; Brazil Imperial, 24, 31; St. John del Rey, 24, 26; Cobra Copper, 63, 65; Great Lmarcs, 73, 84; Pontgibaud, 11, 12; Santiago de Cuba, 34, 4; Waller, 4, 4.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, May 23, 1856.

There have been but small supplies of Wheat, Barley, and Oats into London during the week. Some quantity of Wheat here and on the East Coast having been taken for France, prices are well maintained, though the amount of business doing is very limited. Barley has remained unchanged in price since Monday, and Oats sell readily at 6d. advance. Beans and Peas are very firm without alteration in value. There have been scarcely any arrivals off the coast. A cargo of Saidi Wheat has been sold at 44s. cost, freight and insurance to the Continent, and two cargoes of Galatz Maize at 30s. cost, freight and insurance.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	214	214	215	214	215	215
3 per Cent. Red.	92½	92½	93½	92½	93½	93
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Consols for Account	93½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92½	93	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 2½ per Cents.						
India Ans. 1860					31	31-16
India Stock			230	232		235
Ditto Bonds, £1000	4 d				2 d	
Ditto, under £1000				3 d	2 d	
Ex. Bills, £1000	10 d	4 d	5 d	4 d	1 d	1 d
Ditto, £500	8 d	3 d	2 d	1 d	1 d	1 d
Ditto, Small	8 d		2 d	par	1 d	1 d

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	99½	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	78	Russian Bonds, 5 per	
Chilian 6 per Cents.	104	Cents	105½
Chilian 3 per Cents.		Russian 4½ per Cents.	95½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.	64½	Spanish	46
Dutch 4 per Cent. Cert.	95½	Spanish Committee Cer.	
Equador Bonds		of Coup. not fin.	0
Mexican Account	23½	Turkish 6 per Cents.	98½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.	78	Turkish Nov. 4 ditto	103
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	51½	Venezuela, 4½ per Cents.	20½

IMPROVEMENTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—THE EAST TERRACE.—The absence of her Majesty from Windsor Castle causes great activity in the works connected with the various improvements now in progress. The East Terrace of the Castle may be particularly mentioned as one of the works, from the circumstance of its being paved with Sessels Asphalt of Pyramont. The nature of the material not only attracts notice, but the arrangements Claridge's Asphalt Company have made for carrying it out, are worthy of remark. At one end of the Terrace is placed a steam-engine, which drives three large caldrons, containing each about one ton and a half of materials. The principal ingredient put into them is a bituminous limestone, in a state of powder, to which is added mineral tar and grit of a uniform size. These caldrons being over strong fires, the contents are kept unceasingly agitated by the machinery connected with them, and which, after a space of three hours, thoroughly amalgamates the ingredients, and reduces them to a semi-fluid state. In this condition it is run into iron trucks, placed upon a portable railway, and then rapidly despatched to the workmen at the extreme end of the Terrace, where our attention was first arrested to the work in progress. The thickness of the pavement is determined by strips of wood, against which the material is poured, and before it becomes set the workmen bring the surface remarkably uniform, and with a degree of neatness that makes it appear almost without a joint. The channels for water are formed in the same material, which, from its impervious character, would seem much better suited to carry off the drainage than the stone ones. This Asphalt has been used upon the roofs and other portions of the Castle, and is said to answer the purpose admirably. Some years back the Royal Kennels were paved with it, and are now in excellent condition.—*Windsor Express.*

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, LYCEUM.

EXTRA NIGHT NEXT WEDNESDAY.

Mdlle. CERITO.

On Wednesday next, May 23, a Grand Extra Night will take place, on which occasion will be performed Verdi's favourite Opera

RIGOLETTO.

Principal characters by Madame Bosio, Mdlle. Didiée, Signor Ronconi, Signor Tagliafico, Signor Polonini, and Signor Mario.

Conductor, Mr. Costa.

After which, the Divertissement entitled

EVA.

Principal characters by Mons. Desplaces and Mdlle. Cerito.

Commence at Eight.

There will be no performance on Thursday.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week (except Thursday, when a morning performance will be given), THE TRAGEDY QUEEN. Mrs. Bracegirdle (her original character), Mrs. Stirling. After which, the new and original Romantic Drama of Modern Life, called RETRIBUTION. Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, G. Vining, G. Murray, Leslie, Franks; Miss Marston and Miss Herbert (her first appearance). To conclude with STAY AT HOME. Characters by Messrs. G. Vining, Emery, Leslie, F. Vining, G. Murray, White; Miss Bromley, Miss Ternan, and Mrs. Stirling. Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

Farewell Concerts, Exeter Hall.—Mr. MITCHELL respectfully announces the last Concerts which will be given by MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT in this country: Wednesday Evening, June 11, 1856, grand Miscellaneous Concert, with full band and chorus; Wednesday Evening, June 25, 1856, Haydn's Oratorio, "The Creation," and Monday Evening, June 30, 1856, grand Miscellaneous Concert, with full band and chorus, on which occasion MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT will make her last and farewell appearance in this country. Reserved and numbered seats, 1s.; unreserved seats (body of room), 10s. 6d.; area (under west gallery), 7s. No more tickets will be issued than can be conveniently accommodated. Applications for tickets received by Mr. Mitchell; Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

DANTE, ALFIERI, THE ITALIAN DRAMA, AND MADAME RISTORI.

COUNT ARRIVABENE will deliver two lectures at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly (by Lord Ward's kind permission), on Tuesday and Thursday, June 17th and 19th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. The lecture on Alfieri will include readings from the Tragedies in which Madame Ristori is about to appear. Tickets to be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street; and at Rolandi's Library, 20, Berners-street, Oxford-street.

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855, an Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of 1,000l., from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Trieseemar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c., and its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age; and to those persons who are prevented entering the married state from the results of early errors it is invaluable. Trieseemar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capivi and cubeb have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Trieseemar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the saraparilla in the world cannot remove. Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lay on the toilet table without their use being suspected.—Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, 3, are sold in tin cases, price 11s., or four cases in one for 33s., which saves 11s.; and in 52 cases, whereby there is a saving of 12s.; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hanbury and Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sangor, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, druggist, 40, Market-street, Manchester; H. Bradbury, bookseller, Deansgate, Bolton; J. Priestly, chemist, 52, Lord-street, Liverpool; Powell, bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin; Winnall, bookseller, High-street, Birmingham.

CRYSTAL PALACE GRAND OPERA CONCERTS.

The Third Grand Concert by the Artists of the Royal Italian Opera will take place on Friday next, May 34th. The capabilities of the building having now been sufficiently tested, the Directors have determined to issue a limited number of TICKETS of admission for this Concert at 7s. 6d. each. These Tickets may be obtained at 79, Lombard-street; at the Brighton Railway Station, London Bridge; of the various agents of the Company; and at the Crystal Palace, on or before the day of the Concert. Reserved seats in the new galleries may be engaged at 2s. 6d. each.

A strong desire having been expressed by some of the holders of one guinea season tickets to have them exchanged for two guinea personal season tickets, the Directors have determined to allow such exchange, on payment of one guinea additional for each ticket, on application personally or in writing to the Secretary at the Crystal Palace.

By order,
Crystal Palace, May 23, 1856. G. GROVE, Secretary.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.

THE THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PAINTINGS by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL is NOW OPEN, at the GALLERY, 121, Pall Mall. Admittance 1s. Season Tickets 5s. Catalogues 6d. B. TRODSHAM, Secretary.

MR. GEORGE BUCKLAND has the honour to announce that on MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY EVENINGS, and on THURSDAY and SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, in next week, he will open the Lower Room, Regent Gallery, 69, Regent-street with a PICTORIAL and MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT of Songs and Scenes from the Tempest. The Tableaux, 14 in number, will be given by Living Artists. The original music of Ariel will be sung by Miss Clari Fraser, who will introduce a new ballad, by W. S. Rockstro, "The Cradle of Genius." Mr. George Buckland will sing two new songs, "Caliban's Curse," composed by J. W. Hobbs; and "Prospero's Farewell to Ariel." The Scenery and Dresses entirely new. The Entertainment will conclude with a buffo song, illustrated in pantomime, "The Rehearsal of a Melodrama."—Admission, 1s. and 2s.; Dress stalls, 3s. The office is now open, evenings at Eight, afternoons at Three.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton, F.R.C.S.; and a new and highly-interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at Half-past Eight every evening.—Admission 1s.

SISAL CIGARS, SISAL CIGARS, at GOOD-RICH'S Cigar, Tobacco, and Snuff Stores (established 1780), 407, Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square.—Box, containing 14 fine Sisal Cigars, for 1s. 9d.; post free, six stamps extra: 1b. boxes, containing 100, 12s. 6d. None are genuine unless signed "H. N. Goodrich." A large stock of the most approved Brands.

SCHWEPPE'S MALVERN SELTZER WATER. Having leased the Holy Well Spring at Malvern, renowned for its purity, J. S. and Co. can now produce a SELTZER WATER with all the CHEMICAL and MEDICINAL properties, which have rendered the Nassau Spring so celebrated. They continue Manufacturing SODA, MAGNESIA, and POTASS WATERS and LEMONADE, at LONDON, LIVERPOOL, BRISTOL, and DERBY. Every bottle is protected by a Red Label bearing their signature.

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Free of Charge, for the Protection and Instant Relief of the Deaf. A Book of 30 pages.—An extraordinary Discovery.—Just published, sent free by post to any deaf person writing for it, "A STOP to EMPIRICISM and EXORBITANT FEES." Sufferers extremely deaf, by means of this book, permanently cure themselves, in any distant part of the world, without pain or use of any instrument. Thousands have been restored to perfect hearing, and for ever rescued from the snares of the numerous advertising, dangerous, unqualified pretenders of the present day. It contains lists of startling cures, published by Dr. F. R. HOUGHTON, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C. April 30, 1846; Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall Mall, London, where all letters are to be addressed. Personal consultations every day between 11 and 4 o'clock. Sufferers deaf 40 or 50 years have their hearing perfectly restored in half an hour, without a moment's inconvenience. Testimonials and certificates can be seen from all the leading members of the faculty and from patients cured.

BEDSTEADS, BATHS, and LAMPS.—**WILLIAM S. BURTON** has SIX LARGE SHOW ROOMS devoted exclusively to the SEPARATE DISPLAY of LAMPS, BATHS, and METALLIC BEDSTEADS. The stock of each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever submitted to the public, and marked at prices proportionate with those that have tended to make his establishment the most distinguished in this country.

Bedsteads, from ... £0 12 6 to £12 0 0 each
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Lamps (Moderateur), from 0 6 0 to 6 6 0 each
All other kinds at the same rate.

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CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE-CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S**, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales. 3½ inch ivory-handled table-knives, with high shoulders, 11s. per dozen; desserters to match, 10s.; if to balance, 1s. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. per pair; larger sizes, from 19s. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table-knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; desserters, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 2s. 3d. per pair; black horn table-knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; desserters, 6s.; carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table-knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels from 1s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish-carvers.

The alterations and additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe), which occupied the whole of last year, are of such a character that the entire of **EIGHT HOUSES** is devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of **GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY** (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes and Turnery, Lamps and Gaseliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Bedding), so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere.

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ONE HUNDRED SETS OF DINING-ROOM FURNITURE, of superior style and workmanship. Telescope Dining-tables, from 3 guineas to 30. Chairs, in Morocco, Hair-cloth, and Roan, from 12s. 6d. to 2 guineas.
An immense stock of Bedding, Blankets, Sheetings, Counterpanes, Carpets, and Family Drapery just received from the Manufacturers.
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