

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, FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

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Review of the Week.

THE pressure out of doors, aided by the ready adoption of the Opposition in the House of Commons, has extorted from Ministers a large concession of the Income-tax, and considerable reductions of the military and naval estimates. The whole week has been one of bustle. To make a better disposition of the ministerial forces, Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS has waived his objection to bringing forward the financial statements at this early day; and estimates are produced with considerably diminished totals. The naval estimates will be only 8,109,000*l.* instead of 15,812,000*l.*, charged last year. The military estimates, army and ordnance together, 8,993,000*l.* instead of 18,008,000*l.*; a total of 19,000,000*l.* in lieu of the 25,000,000*l.* which Mr. GLADSTONE calculated. The reduction, as compared with the reduced peace estimates of last year, is 17,000,000*l.* This result has been brought about unquestionably by the demand of the public, with the assistance of the Opposition and independent leaders.

Another of Mr. DISRAELI's blows at Ministers has not been so happy: it has twice recoiled upon himself. The story of a "secret treaty" between France and Austria, sanctioned by Lord PALMERSTON, still demands further explanation. Mr. DISRAELI professed to give a very elaborate account on Tuesday last, but it amounted to no more than a repetition of what he said last week, except that he supplied the date of the treaty—the 22nd December, 1854. Lord PALMERSTON instantly replied, that there was a *Convention* about that date, and he appealed to those who were in the Cabinet then, though no longer in the Ministry now. The *Convention* simply stipulated that if Austria should join the active operations against Russia in Turkey, and should be attacked in her rear by Italian insurrectionists in Russian interests, France would assist to protect her Italian provinces; a very proper provision during the progress of the actual war. Is this the Treaty that Mr. DISRAELI exposes?—or is there another Treaty? Lord PALMERSTON tells us that "that limited *Convention*" expired with the close of the war. He added that it was never signed; but he has since corrected that mistake: it was signed. And Mr. DISRAELI insists that it has not expired.

A new ground has been provided for him by the *Moniteur*. That Napoleonic journal has put forth a pleading in favour of uniting the Danubian Princi-

palities, chiefly on the ground that they would thus be strengthened as a barrier to future invasion. This is a common plea; and it has been supported by the patriot party in the Principalities, who are anxious for union, in the belief that it would ultimately result in the formation of an independent state. Russia has always found it so easy to absorb conterminous 'independent' states of a minor size, that she, too, favours the union; while France, in joining with Russia and the Moldo-Wallachian patriots, derives the advantage, first of setting up an opinion by which she may balance the East of Europe against the West, and ultimately, it is supposed, she designs to place upon the Moldo-Wallachian throne a prince of the BONAPARTE family; realizing the dream of CHARLEMAGNE in the germ of an Oriental Empire. The *Constitutionnel* boasts that France has with her, in the renewed Paris Conference, Prussia, Russia, and Sardinia, against Austria, Great Britain, and Turkey—four to three; but adds, that there are hopes of winning over Turkey to the same majority. If so, it can only be by intrigue. Lord CLARENDON, however, admitted that the British Government had been taken by "surprise," and practically confessed that they had been outwitted.

The progress of business in the two Houses of Parliament has been of rather an important character. In the Upper House, indeed, the measures brought forward are rather acknowledgments of work that ought to be done than performances.

They consist principally of bills introduced by the LORD CHANCELLOR—reintroduced we may say, for they are only editions of last year's bills—to amend the laws relating to wills, marriage and divorce, and ecclesiastical discipline. But there is no prospect that the measures will be carried. The work is still left open for Sir ERSKINE PERRY and any other gentlemen that take it up independently.

Government has reluctantly accepted Mr. NAPIER's motion for establishing a separate department of Justice—the grand way to legal reform, and to a good supervision of law, law administration, and law making.

Sir GEORGE GREY's bill to reconstruct the law of penal servitude has the merit of being compact, applicable to the present moment, and certain to be carried. It ought to provoke more jealousy than it will excite, for it runs less against the theories of the reactionaries than against the permanent interests of the British Constitution. It is really a large measure in a small shape—inoffensive on the surface though dangerous in its tendency. In brief,

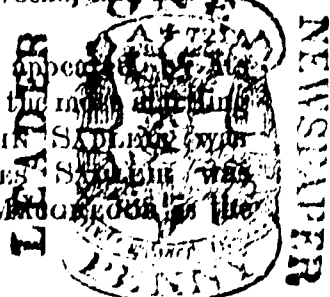
it abolishes the distinction between transportation and penal servitude, authorizing one kind of sentence, and leaving the Executive to carry out the sentence, under certain limits, according to its discretion. In the meanwhile, however, Sir GEORGE promises that there shall be improvements in the disposal of prisoners, in the selection of convicts for Western Australia, and in the more effectual detention of incorrigibles. In a separate measure he provides for the establishment of county and borough reformatories for juvenile offenders. At present this Act is not to be compulsory, but should it work well it will eventually be extended to the whole country.

The Select Committee on the Bank Charter Act has been nominated. It comprises all the monetary notables in the House of Commons; except Mr. WEGUELIN, who had not been returned for Southampton when the Committee was appointed. For, after all, Mr. RICHARD ANDREWS failed at the poll; though there was sufficient rioting on both sides to leave the return still under some obscurity.

One important commercial reform is suspended. The complaint of the City men against the law which leaves the ownership of dock warrants, &c., in a state of doubt, has been already explained: they desire that such documents should be placed on the same footing as bills of exchange, since they are practically to goods what bills of exchange are to money. But there has been some difference of opinion, from an idea that the present law is a check upon fraud; and taking advantage of these diversities of opinion, Ministers abstain from interfering until commercial men can agree.

Rather an important constituency has at last preferred a bill of indictment against its representative. Certain electors of Glasgow, the friends of Mr. JOHN MACGREGOR, have called upon him to explain his share in the formation of the British Bank. We told the story of that bank a few weeks since, though we did not bring out all the facts which Mr. MENZIES related. It is difficult to understand how Mr. MACGREGOR could construct such an explanation as would be acceptable to a commercial constituency; and this difficulty perhaps accounts for the fact that the claim has been under his consideration for three weeks, and has produced no fruits.

The House of Commons has appeared at the Members, conspicuously amongst the many stirring events in commerce. Mr. JOHN STURGEON was Member for Sligo, Mr. JAMES STURGEON was elected by Tipperary, Mr. JOHN MACKENZIE was



Member for Glasgow, and Mr. HUMPHREY BROWN sat for Salisbury, to say nothing of the Honourable FRANCIS LAWLEY or Lord MAIDSTONE. It is difficult to know how an 'infusion of new blood,' by half a dozen elections, can retrieve the character of the House. Although Newport has chosen a Conservative, Mr. KENNARD is reputed to be a most estimable gentleman; Mr. JAMES CLAY speaks in a bold and popular tone as the new Member for Hull; General CODRINGTON will make a respectable professional representative of Greenwich; but we should be sanguine indeed to assume that these gentlemen will counterbalance the effect of the damaging disclosures in the Bankruptcy and Criminal Courts.

Another bankruptcy is calculated to deepen the feelings of mistrust. Messrs. FOX, HENDERSON, and Co. have been compelled to surrender, by the refusal of a large creditor to sign the deed for carrying on their business under inspection. It is said that the criminal proceedings actually instituted against the Brothers LEGENDRE and their colleagues in Paris, for malversation in the management of the Napoleon Docks Company, has had nothing to do with precipitating the bankruptcy of FOX, HENDERSON, and Co., although that firm had had some relations with the Napoleon Docks.

How easy it is to glide from Parliament and commerce into the criminal courts! The genius of SAWARD and his colleagues had elevated forgery into the character of a "business"—so they call it. ATWELL, one of his accomplices, who lies now under sentence by an unfortunate mistake, has given us some further disclosures. ATWELL is "not sure," for his own part, that he has yet taken to dishonesty as a calling; but he is indignant at the crimes of SAWARD, who has caused eleven men to be transported, including MARKHAM, whose innocence SAWARD knew, though he refused to prove it, lest he himself should be dragged in. However, the gentlemen in "business" did something in subscribing money to assist MARKHAM's wife.

A case in the Court of Exchequer discloses a class of trading not altogether unknown. WOLFE, a tailor, sues PROPERT, a student at Haileybury, on a large account for goods—the word "goods" covering money lent to be squandered by the boy. Thus, as the CHIEF BARON remarked, the tailor instigated the son to extract money from the parent in a mode "worse than picking a pocket." The Jury agreed with the Judge, and refused to recognize the debt.

To proceed from bad to worse, Vice-Chancellor KINDERSLEY has judicially kidnapped ALICIA RACE, referring her to "guardians," and ordering her to be brought up "in the Protestant faith," mamma and Chief Justice CAMPBELL notwithstanding! And it is to these "equity" people that Lord Chancellor CRANWORTH would hand over the supreme jurisdiction over our wills and wives.

SELF-REFORM OF THE LONDON CORPORATION.—A special Court of Common Council was held last Saturday, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Corporation Inquiry Committee, on the subject of the future management of the corporation. It contained fifty suggestions, some of which were that the number of wards should be reduced to twenty; that the Parliamentary franchise should be the municipal franchise; that the number of common councilmen should be reduced to one hundred and fifty; that the quorum of the Court should be thirty; that the term of the office of common councilmen should be for one year; that the Lord Mayor should be elected by the members of the livery companies, together with the municipal electors from the aldermen who had served the office of sheriff; that the Sheriff should be elected by the same constituency as the Lord Mayor; that the Lord Mayor and aldermen should be magistrates as at present, and have the administration of justice in the justice-rooms, and continue to be commissioners of the Central Criminal Court; that they should have the control of the city prisons as well as of the prison officers; that they should exercise the same duties in respect to the police as they now possess; that they should still have the appointment of the Recorder and other law officers; that all exclusive rights of trading in the City be abolished, and all street tolls done away with. It was resolved that the report be printed, and that the consideration of it be postponed till the next Court.

PARKER v. SHADWELL.—With reference to this case, an abstract of which we gave last week, Mr. Shadwell writes to the *Times* to say that he was not allowed to state in court that the character he gave of his former butler was not (as several have inferred) a good one, but the contrary.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 9th.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, a bill providing a remedy for frivolous and vexatious law proceedings was introduced by Lord BROUGHAM, and read a first time.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES—CHINA.

Replying to Lord LYNCHURST, the Earl of CLARENDON stated that, under the terms of a recent firman, the Turkish divans were empowered to discuss the union of the Danubian Principalities, or any other question connected with the future administration of those provinces, in conformity with the ascertained wish of the population. He declined to express any opinion himself on that subject at present (though he confessed to some surprise on reading the recent article in the *Moniteur*), or to lay on the table a copy of the firman, which had, he believed, been communicated confidentially to the Government.—In answer to a series of interpellations from Lord LYNCHURST, the Earl of DERBY, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, and other peers, the Earl of CLARENDON promised to produce a variety of returns and correspondence relating to the late proceedings at Canton.

IRISH CONSTABULARY.

The Earl of LEITRIM moved for a copy of the reports made within the last six months by the police in the county of Longford, relative to considerable numbers of men marching at night in that county; also a copy of a letter addressed by the Earl of Leitrim, on the 20th December, 1856, to Sir John Duncan McGregor, the Inspector-General of Police in Ireland, requesting information with respect to the marching of men so reported, and the correspondence in reply to that letter; also certain other papers connected with the same subject.—The motion, as far as the production of some of the papers was concerned, was agreed to.

THE IRISH POSTAL SERVICE.

The Duke of ARGYLL, in reply to Lord DUNGANNON, explained the modifications which are about to be made in the Irish postal service, in order to remedy the inefficiencies complained of between Dublin and Holyhead. Their Lordships shortly afterwards adjourned.

MR. DISRAELI AND THE SECRET TREATY.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. DISRAELI called attention to the continued absence of Lord Palmerston from the House, and intimated that on the following night, when he understood he would be there, he (Mr. Disraeli) should ask permission to make some observations on a contradiction which he received from the Premier, the first evening of the session, on "a matter of great moment."

GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS.

In answer to Colonel GREVILLE, Mr. HORSMAN said that the Government had been informed of the great inconvenience which resulted from the arrear of business in the Encumbered Estates Court, and that, as the experiment of trying to work the court with two Commissioners had failed—the very existence of the court being imperilled—the Government had determined to appoint a third Commissioner, and, if necessary, to increase the staff of the court in order to have the business conducted with rapidity and efficiency.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL, in answer to Mr. LOCKE, mentioned the position of matters as regards Westminster-bridge. The works remain in abeyance because the Government is waiting for designs (to which foreigners may contribute) for the adjacent improvements, and in order to ascertain the present state of the bed of the Thames.

Mr. VERNON SMITH, in answer to Mr. LAYARD, stated that the Persian Ambassador possesses full powers to arrange the dispute with England. A selection from the correspondence will be published.

Sir GEORGE GREY, in answer to Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, stated that it was not intended to bring in a bill this session on the subject of church rates.

Sir CHARLES WOOD, in answer to Mr. ROEBUCK, stated that the Government had come to no decision as to sending out a new expedition to the Arctic Seas. Should it be resolved to send out such an expedition, the House, in accordance with the recommendation of the select committee, would be asked to vote the money before the expedition was fitted out.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE SYSTEM.

Sir GEORGE GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act 16th and 17th Victoria, cap. 99, entitled "An Act to substitute in certain cases other punishment in lieu of transportation." The changes which he proposed to introduce in the present bill were these:—First, to lengthen the term of sentences of penal servitude to an equal duration with that of the periods of transportation for which they were substituted; secondly, to give judges a discretionary power to pass sentences of intermediate severity between those of ordinary imprisonment and the minimum of transportation; thirdly, to allow prisoners sentenced to penal servitude to be removed to certain colonies—a power which would be exercised with great caution, but which might enable the Government to serve the colonies, and especially Western Australia, and to benefit the convicts who might be selected for removal to another sphere; and fourthly, to continue the practice of mitigating sentences as a reward for good conduct in prison, but to restrict

the range of their remission within much narrower limits than are now observed, while rendering the discharge, generally speaking, unconditional. In the course of his speech, Sir George observed that the hulk system is in process of abandonment; and he stated his belief that the popular alarm with respect to garrotting had been somewhat exaggerated, the number of robberies in 1856 being rather less than in 1855, notwithstanding the discharge of soldiers and militiamen.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which Sir JOHN PAKINGTON reserved his criticisms on the details of the measure till future stages, but in the meanwhile condemned the laxity with which tickets of leave had been granted and even sentences remitted, and objected to the over indulgence shown to criminals; Mr. COLLIER recommended that all prisoners found guilty for a third time should be sentenced to imprisonment for life; Mr. ADDERLEY exhorted the Government to abrogate the ticket-of-leave system utterly and finally, and Mr. BENTINCK made a similar suggestion with respect to transportation; Mr. LABOUCHERE impressed on the House the impossibility of making a penal settlement anywhere but in Western Australia, while even there he believed convicts could only be sent in small numbers, and for a short time; Mr. MONCKTON MILNES and Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE spoke against returning to transportation, and Mr. NEWDEGATE in favour of it.

Mr. LIDDELL inquired whether there would be any objection on the part of the Government to enter into a contract with the planters of British Guiana to supply them with convicts, as many estates in Demerara, adapted to the growth of excellent cotton, are perishing for want of labour.—No reply was given to this question. After a few more remarks from Sir GEORGE GREY, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Sir GEORGE GREY then moved for, and obtained, leave to introduce a bill to facilitate the establishment of reformatory schools in England. It was not, he said, the design of the bill to interfere with voluntary institutions, but to enable counties and boroughs to establish such schools out of the county and borough rates.

Leave having been given to introduce certain other bills, the House adjourned at a little after eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, February 10th.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in laying on the table three bills for the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts, gave an outline of the changes he proposed to effect. The principal of these were—to constitute a new court, to be called the Queen's Court of Probate, which, except in certain cases, is not to have jurisdiction over real estate, and over which a judge will preside who will direct issues on matters of fact, to be tried by a jury; to allot to the proctors in this court (though he should not be sorry to be rid of them altogether, if possible) the common form business, while the contentious business will be thrown open to solicitors and barristers; to prove all uncontested wills, bequeathing property up to 1500*l.*, in a district court, and contested wills in the London Probate Court, the office of Judge being discharged by one of the Vice-Chancellors; to dispose of wills below 200*l.* in the County Courts; and, with respect to divorce, to allow a woman to obtain a decree of separation from her husband if he should desert her for three years, giving her, in some cases, a postnuptial, as well as an antenuptial settlement. In the case of the doctrinal offences of clergymen, it is not intended to allow a suit to be promoted voluntarily by any one person: proceedings are only to be taken after a certificate has been obtained, signed by a certain number of persons of standing in the Church. The bill relating to clergy offences, however, was not then laid on the table by the Lord Chancellor.

Lord LYNCHURST made several objections on technical grounds to the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, and expressed his regret that the Lord Chancellor had not incorporated in the Divorce Bill a clause to abolish the action for criminal conversation, which he regarded as a disgrace to the nation.—The Bishop of Exeter expressed a general approval of the measures.—Lord CAMPBELL indicated dissent from several points; and more especially objected to the proposals with respect to the case with which married persons are to be allowed to obtain a divorce.—Lord BROUGHAM objected largely to many of the provisions of the Testamentary Bill.—Lord WENSLEYDALE approved of the bills on the whole, and thought the discussion of details might be left to a future stage.—The Bishop of OXFORD urged the necessity of confining the decisions of the Privy Council, in the cases of clergymen, to the legal part of the questions at issue, without any reference to the theological.—After some further brief discussion (in the course of which, the LORD CHANCELLOR said he wished to get rid of the Prerogative Court altogether), the bills were read a first time.

IMPROVEMENT OF NEW ACTS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved to refer the second report of the Statute Law Commission to a select committee, in order to consider the propositions in that report for the adoption of means to improve the manner and language of current legislation. The Commissioners expressed their opinion that a great advantage would be derived from a better supervision in the progress of bills through Parliament (*hear, hear*); that in truth a great portion of the evils of our statute book arises from the language of acts being unnecessarily verbose; and that

bills are passed without due consideration of the mode in which the existing law affects them, and in which they affect the existing law. That is the case when they are originally introduced; but the evil is still more aggravated by alterations innumerable being made in them in their progress through Parliament. The introducer of a bill is often troubled with applications from a variety of parties, and, when he finds that he can conciliate opposition by adopting some new clauses, he is apt to do so, and material alterations not contemplated at the time are made. He (the Lord Chancellor) proposed that an officer should be appointed, with a sufficient staff—at least one or two persons under him—whose duty it should be to attend to all bills that are referred to him, and to report exactly what the state of the existing law is, and how the proposed alterations would affect that law. The Lord Chancellor concluded by giving some ludicrous examples of the errors which frequently creep into acts of Parliament for want of the supervision which he now proposed to establish.—Lord CAMPBELL gave his hearty support to the contemplated measure, and the motion was agreed to.—A similar committee, for the same purpose, was granted by the House of Commons on the motion of Lord PALMERSTON.

Their Lordships, on rising, adjourned to Thursday.

HYPOTHECATION OF GOODS AND WARRANTS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in reply to an inquiry by Mr. GREGSON, whether, in consequence of the doubts thrown by the courts of law upon the validity of advances on the hypothecation of goods or warrants, it was intended to introduce any bill upon the subject, Mr. LOWE, after explaining the case of *Kingsford v. Merry*, stated that Government would be willing to introduce a bill as soon as it is satisfied that the measure would meet the wishes of the mercantile community.

LIGHTHOUSES IN THE CHINA SEA.

Major SIBTHORP asked the Vice-President of the Board of Trade whether any steps were being taken by the Government towards the diminution of risk to shipping by the erection of a lighthouse on the reef known as the Protas Shoals, in the China Sea?—Mr. LOWE said that some steps had been taken in the direction indicated, but with no decisive result. There was a difficulty with respect to raising funds.

DESTITUTION OF SOLDIERS' WIVES AT COLCHESTER.

Sir JOHN TYRELL called attention to a statement in a Chelmsford paper to the effect that about three hundred and fifty soldiers' wives and children are living in a state of extreme destitution near the huts at Colchester. He wished to know whether the attention of Government had been called to the subject.—Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said he had made inquiries at the Horse Guards, and they had received no information on the subject, nor had any complaints been made.

SIR JOHN McNEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

Mr. JOSEPH EWART asked Lord Palmerston whether it is the intention of Government to make any recognition of the services of Sir John McNeill and Colonel Tulloch in the Crimea?—Lord PALMERSTON answered that those gentlemen had performed their duty to the satisfaction of the Government, and much to their own credit. Their report would prove useful as regarded the future; but it did not appear that the service was of that peculiar nature which required extraordinary recognition or honour.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, in answer to Mr. RICARDO, stated that he had no present intention of appointing a committee to inquire into joint-stock banks; but on an early day he should state the course Government intends to take.

THE ALLEGED TREATY WITH AUSTRIA.

Mr. DISRAELI again brought forward this subject, and reiterated and enlarged on his former assertions. He stated that a secret treaty was signed by France on December 22nd, 1854, guaranteeing to Austria her Italian possessions; that the English Government (Lord Aberdeen's) was privy to the fact, and gave its warm approbation and cordial concurrence; and that the treaty had been largely and extensively acted upon with their knowledge. He took great credit to himself for having, eight years ago, asserted that a guarantee had been given in the Treaty of Vienna by Great Britain to Prussia of her Saxon provinces—an assertion which was afterwards proved to be correct, though Lord Palmerston, then the Foreign Secretary, denied the fact. If he (Mr. Disraeli) were furnished with the foreign correspondence of December, 1854, and January, 1855, he could equally prove his present assertion. He must not, however, be understood as objecting to the secret treaty which he alleged to exist: on the contrary, he thought its provisions wise, temperate, and conservative; but he accused the Government of pretending to pursue a policy which in secret they were contradicting.

Lord PALMERSTON said he had not the least intention of throwing any discredit on the good faith of Mr. Disraeli; but he must repeat that he had been the victim of an imposition, to which he had given too credulous an ear. To the best of his (Lord Palmerston's) belief, no such treaty existed; nor had Mr. Disraeli given any proof of it. He had only hearsay authority, and the name of his informant had not been given to the House. The Premier then proceeded to make an admission:—"I have now to say that the only foundation for the

statement of the right hon. gentleman is this—that, in the early part of the war with Russia, when some hope was entertained that Austria would have joined her forces to those of the Allies, she entered into a communication with France, which was known to the two powers; the object of Austria being to ascertain whether, if she joined her forces with those of the Allies in the war in the East, France would undertake that no advantage should be taken of the opportunity to disturb her Italian provinces. The French Government assured Austria that they would not encourage any risings or disturbances in Italy; and, moreover, that if the Austrian armies joined with those of France and England in the war, and disturbances broke out in Italy, the French forces in Italy (which were but small in number) would act with those of Austria as far as their limited sphere extended, for the protection, not of the Austrian possessions, but of the general state of the territorial possessions of the powers of Europe. This arrangement was undoubtedly known to the English Government (*cheers from the Opposition*)—and a very proper arrangement it was, for it would have been inconsistent with the proposed alliance if any other course had been taken; and that arrangement was certainly put into the shape of a convention, which, as the right hon. gentleman says, was signed in December, 1854. I can only say that information reached us yesterday, by which we are assured that it never was signed." His Lordship went on to say that the convention was only temporary; that it differed entirely from the permanent treaty alleged to be in existence; and that, to the best of his knowledge, there was no other foundation whatever for the assertions made by Mr. Disraeli. The subject then dropped.

THE INCOME-TAX.

Major REED, after some observations, withdrew the resolution of which he had given notice respecting the Income-tax, pending the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

VAGRANT CHILDREN.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE moved for leave to bring in a bill to make better provision for the care and education of vagrant, destitute, and disorderly children, and for the extension of industrial schools. The effect of the bill was the same as that which had been passed for Scotland; so that the House had sanctioned the principle, though the details of the present measure were somewhat different.—After a few words from Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE, Mr. KINNARD, and Sir GEORGE GREY, who did not oppose the motion, leave was given.

SALE OF BEER.

The House having resolved itself into a committee, Mr. HARDY moved that the chairman be instructed to move for leave to introduce a bill to amend the laws relating to the general sale of beer by retail, and to regulate certain places of public resort, refreshment, and entertainment. He showed the necessity for this bill by quoting facts which prove that the granting of licenses to beer-shops is very lax; that the Excise will sometimes grant licenses after the magistrates have withdrawn them; that robberies and other offences are frequently planned in low beer-shops; and that spirits are easily obtainable at places where there is no spirit license. He proposed to subject to police surveillance all night coffee-shops, &c.—Sir GEORGE GREY, observing that the whole question was as to the best means of preventing drunkenness, deferred his opinion upon the measure until he saw its provisions.—A short discussion ensued in the committee, and, the motion being agreed to, leave was given to bring in the bill.

CONTRACTS FOR THE PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.

On the motion of Colonel DUNNE, the select committee to inquire into the principle adopted for making contracts for the supply of the public departments, and the effect which the present system has upon the expenditure of public money, was reappointed.

ECCLESIASTICAL CORPORATIONS.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD obtained leave to bring in a bill further to provide for the mode of securing and paying fixed incomes to ecclesiastical corporations, aggregate and sole. The bill was the same in principle as the bills which had been read a second time, the difference in the details being improvements of the measure.

CHIEF CONSTABLES.

Sir GEORGE GREY obtained leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the appointment of chief constables for adjoining counties, and to confirm appointments of chief constables in certain cases.

The other business was then disposed of; and at half-past eight o'clock the House adjourned.

Wednesday, February 11th.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Several private bills were read a second time; one of which—the MERSEY CONSERVANCY AND DOCK BILL—was opposed by Mr. HORSFALL, on the ground that it would greatly interfere with the Dock Trust of Liverpool, which is a public trust, managed gratuitously by individuals selected from the leading merchants and shipowners of the town.—Mr. EWART and Mr. HADFIELD supported this amendment.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON warmly defended the bill, and maintained that the measure was designed to give effect to the recommendations of the Admiralty, the Tidal Commission, a select committee of the House of Commons, and the require-

ments of an Act of Parliament for consolidating the Liverpool and Birkenhead Docks into one great trust.—Mr. LLOYD DAVIES, Mr. VERNON, Mr. SPOONER, and Mr. HARCOURT spoke on the same side; and Mr. HORSFALL having withdrawn his amendment, the Bill was read a second time.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

The second reading of this bill was opposed by Colonel FRENCH, who objected to the proposal for giving judgments issued by an English court validity in Ireland. He moved as an amendment that the bill should be read a second time that day six months.—This was seconded by Mr. McMARON, who urged that in various cases the bill would work great injustice.—Mr. BLAND, Mr. GEORGE, Mr. HUGHES, and Mr. NAPIER strongly objected to the bill, which was supported by Mr. HADFIELD, Mr. FITZGERALD, and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Upon a division, the second reading was carried by 56 against 46.

On the motion of Sir FRANCIS BARING, the Committee on Public Moneys was reappointed.

Thursday, February 12th.

GREECE.

In answer to the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, Lord CLARENDON explained the circumstances (already well known to the public) which led to the occupation of Greece by English and French troops. These troops have never been removed from the Piræus, and they would have been withdrawn from the country last autumn, but for a suggestion on the part of the Greek Government that the instalment it was about to pay on the interest of the loan should be applied to the internal improvement of the country. The English, French, and Austrian Governments would not accede to that proposal, because they were not clear that the sum might not have been much greater, and that the internal revenue of the country might not be more flourishing. The Greek Government then challenged the three Powers to inquire into the finances of Greece. "The proposal," continued Lord Clarendon, "was laid before us as creditors of that Government, and as creditors we proposed to institute the inquiry. The suggestion of a commission of inquiry was made known to the Russian Government, who signified their assent, and proposed to take part in it. Some delay has taken place in settling the real attributes of this commission, and its duration. The proposal, however, has been accepted in the most frank and cordial manner by the Greek Government, as it was made to them in a perfectly friendly spirit. We have no intention whatever to interfere in the internal affairs of the kingdom, and the commission will last no longer than will permit the fulfilment of its purpose."

SECONDARY PUNISHMENTS.

The Marquis of SALISBURY moved for a select committee to inquire into the subject of secondary punishments.—Lord GRANVILLE opposed the motion, on the ground that the House was not yet in possession of the plan proposed by Government; and that, until the House had arrived at some definite notion of the subject-matter of the proposed inquiry, it would be useless to appoint the committee.—Lord STANHOPE, who had moved the appointment of a similar committee last year, thought that the time for deliberation was past and that for action come. He therefore joined in opposition to the desired committee.—Lord CAMPBELL agreed with the opinions expressed by the last speaker, and said he looked upon transportation as the only punishment which affords a reasonable chance of reformation to the criminal. He also painted a gloomy picture of the lawless condition of the country, and seemed to regard with some admiration the penal laws of the reign of Henry VIII., when all who stole to the value of twopenny were "strung up."—Earl FITZWILLIAM ridiculed this speech, and said it was "a satire on the Legislature of the country." We must begin by teaching children to be honest, and not merely provide punishment.—Viscount DUNGANNON supported the motion.—Lord RAVENSWORTH, who had a notice on the paper to call the attention of the House to the necessity which existed for the formation of a harbour of refuge on the north-eastern coast, for the protection of shipping and commerce, and to suggest the employment of convict labour in the construction of the same, mentioned that two deputations, consisting of very influential gentlemen engaged in commerce, had waited upon the Government and pointed out the necessity of such a harbour of refuge. He (Lord Ravensworth) thought that convict labour might be employed on this as well as other public works; and he read from a letter of Lord Wensleydale in support of this opinion.—Lord STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said the Government was not prepared to enter upon works of that nature, the expense of which would be more than could be met.—Lord VIVIAN thought no works could be of more utility.—The motion was then negatived without a division.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CANTON.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. CORDEN gave notice that, on that day fortnight, he would move the two following resolutions:—"That this House heard with concern of the conflicts which have occurred between the British and Chinese authorities on the Canton river, and without expressing any opinion how far the Government of China had afforded cause of complaint by non-fulfilment of the treaty of 1842, considers the papers laid

on the table fail to establish satisfactory grounds for the violent proceedings resorted to with respect to the case of the Arrow at Canton." "That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the state of our commercial relations with China."

WINDING-UP OF BANKRUPT COMPANIES.

Mr. BUTLER asked the Attorney-General whether he intends to introduce any measure to facilitate the winding-up of bankrupt companies, to render speedy assistance to creditors, and to prevent the serious expenses and loss to the creditors and shareholders which exist under the present condition of the law?—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL adverted to the state of the law, and to the evils which had arisen out of it in the case of the Royal British Bank. His intention was to consider the clauses of the Joint-Stock Acts in combination with the bill submitted last session, but not passed, with the view of considering of a remedy, as regards the winding-up of Joint-Stock Banks and Insurance Companies.

PENAL SETTLEMENTS.

In answer to a question from Mr. LIDDELL, Mr. LABOUCHERE said it was in contemplation to inquire whether the settlement on the Massarooni River, in British Guiana, may not be made available for convicts from the United Kingdom. It is now used as a convict station for purely colonial purposes.

THE NELSON COLUMN.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL, replying to Mr. WARREN, explained that the Nelson column had originally been commenced by private subscriptions; that the monument had afterwards been handed over to the Commissioner of Works; that various sums of money had been paid by the nation, but that four or five thousand pounds were still required. If Parliament voted that money, the works would be carried on with the utmost expedition; but he did not think it advisable this year to ask the House to make any advance for the purpose.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. EWART gave notice that, on that day fortnight he intended to ask for leave to bring in a bill to assimilate the law in Scotland relating to capital punishments with that of England.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S LATE SPEECH.

In reply to a question by Mr. STAFFORD, Sir ROBERT PEEL admitted the substantial accuracy of a report which had been made of his recent speech, in which he severely handled several continental celebrities. But, he added, "as regards Count de Morny, I absolutely repudiate having said anything that might not be said by any gentleman in this house of any friend or relative of his own. I said he was '*le plus grand spéculateur de l'Europe*;' and I did not intend by that assertion to imply anything detrimental to his honour or character. (*Hear, hear.*) In fact, immediately on my arrival in town, I wrote to Count de Morny to say that envy and malice had done their best to twist my expression into something odious, but that I distinctly repudiated having meant anything prejudicial to his character or to the position he occupied. (*Hear, hear.*) Now I could not say more. As regards the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, that is another matter." (*Hear, hear.*) Sir Robert then explained that, when he said he did not impress him with the idea of "a frank and open-hearted sailor"—which were "the words of the gallant Admiral sitting there" (Admiral Napier)—he meant that he gave him the idea of "a man of great powers of mind (*laughter*); in fact, that he was not a mere simple sailor, but a man of a far greater grasp of mind." (*Renewed laughter.*) With respect to the Prince de Ligne, Sir Robert admitted that he did say of him that he was "as stiff and starch as the frill of Queen Elizabeth." (*Laughter.*) If—though he could not himself hold that opinion—it was thought he had given offence by these light, airy attempts to "hold the mirror up to Nature," as he believed Goldsmith (!) had said (*laughter*), he begged publicly to tender the most ample expressions of regret.

THE SECRET TREATY AGAIN.

Lord PALMERSTON corrected an error he had made on Tuesday evening with respect to the convention of December, 1854, between France and Austria. He believed on that evening, and he so stated, that the convention had never been signed; but he had since discovered that it had been signed. However, as Austria never declared war with Russia, it became a dead letter.—This explanation gave occasion to some remarks by Mr. DISRAELI, in which he asserted the substantial accuracy of what he had originally said, and taunted the Government with being obliged, bit by bit, to admit that accuracy. He also denied that the convention was a dead letter: it was still active, there being in truth no limitation to its powers.—Lord PALMERSTON retorted with some warmth that Mr. Disraeli was striving in vain to cover an ignominious retreat. No such "treaty" as had been spoken of was in existence, as far as the Government knew; and we had only agreed with, not "instigated" or "advised," the convention in question.

PUBLIC JUSTICE.

Mr. NAPIER moved that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to take into consideration, as an urgent measure of administrative reform, the formation of a separate and responsible department for the affairs of public justice.—Having en-

larged on the necessity that exists for such an establishment, the motion was seconded by Mr. COLLIER.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, on the part of the Government, accepted, with a slight modification, the resolution of Mr. Napier, but observed that the Government must not be understood as pledging itself to the creation of a separate Minister of Justice. He thought there was no need for such an officer; indeed, it would be impossible to introduce such an officer into the Cabinet while the Lord Chancellor sits there, and he believed it was quite within the power of the Lord Chancellor, if aided by a proper staff, to superintend the administration of justice. If the words "as an urgent measure of administrative reform" were omitted, he would not oppose the motion.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL expressed great dissatisfaction with the speech of the Attorney-General. He did not believe the Lord Chancellor would have sufficient time to perform the functions required of a Minister of Justice.—Mr. KEATING held a different opinion.—Mr. WIGRAM, Mr. EWART, Mr. MONTAGUE CHAMBERS, Mr. WARREN, and Mr. LOCKE KING, were in favour of establishing a Ministry of Justice.—Mr. MALINS thought the whole thing, if attempted, would end in disappointment.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY agreed with some remarks of Lord John Russell, to the effect that the Ministry of Justice should be associated with the Home Office.—Lord PALMERSTON spoke in favour of attaching the office of Minister of Justice to some office already existing.—Mr. HADFIELD thought it was high time that something was done.—Ultimately the motion was agreed to, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL consenting to allow the words he had proposed to strike out to remain.

CHURCH-RATES.

Sir WILLIAM CLAY moved for leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of church-rates, the bill to be limited to the total abolition of such rates, and a provision saving existing legal obligations.

GENERAL POLLOCK.

Captain LEICESTER VERNON moved for copies of all correspondence relating to the removal of General Pollock from the direction of the East-India Company. After eulogizing Sir George's military career during the Afghan war, and stating that, as a recognition of his services, he was in 1854 nominated one of the three Government directors of the East India Company, for two years, he complained that at the expiration of his term of office he was not reappointed, according to the full expectation of Sir George, upon the plea that a fresh appointment, and not a reappointment, should be the rule.—Mr. VERNON SMITH said his answer to the motion was simply this—that there was no official correspondence as to the non-reappointment of Sir George Pollock, and that he never was removed from his office.—Mr. DISRAELI thought that an attack had been made by Mr. Vernon Smith upon his colleague.—Lord PALMERSTON denied this, and hoped the motion would not be placed on record.—Captain VERNON then withdrew the motion.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. LLOYD DAVIS obtained leave to bring in a bill to equalize the weights and measures of the United Kingdom.

Lord CLAUD HAMILTON moved an address for a copy of the treaty concluded by his Majesty the Emperor of Austria with the Sublime Porte, on the 14th day of June, 1854, relative to the military occupation of the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia; but, on the explanation of Lord PALMERSTON that the treaty had already been printed, he withdrew it.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved that the committee on the Bank Acts be a committee of secrecy, and do consist of twenty-two members.—The committee was nominated after some discussion.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

WE have had several elections and re-elections this week. The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, having been appointed Vice-President of the Board of Education, was obliged to present himself again before his Hertford constituents, by whom he was re-elected without opposition on Monday. In addressing the electors, he spoke against the income-tax as at present levied, but added that he thought it possessed this excellency, that it enables Government to tax a man in proportion to the amount of revenue he possesses.

The Southampton election, caused by the vacancy arising out of the elevation of Sir Alexander Cockburn to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas, took place on Monday and Tuesday. The candidates were—Sir Edward Butler (Conservative), Mr. Andrews and Mr. Weguelin (Liberals). For a short time on the nomination day (Monday), there was a fourth candidate in the person of a Mr. Carden, who appears to have been a kind of dummy put forward by two of Mr. Weguelin's committee men. But, finding that only twelve persons held up their hands for him, he retired from the contest. The hands were decidedly in favour of Mr. Andrews, who was declared by the Mayor to be elected by that mode of popular suffrage. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr. Weguelin and of Sir Edward Butler. The polling commenced at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning. Most of the shops were closed; a great deal of excitement prevailed, and party feeling ran high, the

worthy Hampshireman discussing political questions with much warmth and physical energy. The fluctuations of the contest, as noted in the daily papers, are interesting. Sir Edward Butler took the lead at starting, Mr. Weguelin having the second place, and Mr. Andrews the third. These relative positions were maintained until two o'clock, when a large number of voters from the docks (several of whom had just arrived in the Colombo steamer) flocked to the different polling-booths in support of Mr. Weguelin, and at half-past two that gentleman for the first time headed Sir Edward Butler. At the close of the poll, the numbers, as subsequently verified, stood thus:—Weguelin, 994; Butler, 962; Andrews, 726. Mr. Weguelin has therefore carried the day by a majority of 32 over Sir Edward Butler, and of 268 over Mr. Andrews. Almost all the registered voters polled. One or two men were given into custody during the day for personating voters, and after the close of the poll some excitement was caused by a couple of prize fighters from London, who drove up on the box of a cab bearing Sir Edward Butler's colours, and, dismounting, commenced fighting their way through a crowd which was being addressed by Mr. Weguelin. Two policemen, however, came up, collared one of the rascals, and carried him off to the station-house amidst the cheers of the mob.

Sir Richard Bethell, who has accepted the office of Attorney-General, was, on Monday, re-elected, without opposition, for Aylesbury. In addressing the electors, he said he believed the present Government has a strong desire to effect all reasonable and safe reductions of expenditure; but he reminded his audience that the vastness of our empire, and the importance of the interests we have to defend, render a large out-going of money, and therefore a large revenue, unavoidable; and he asked "the men of Aylesbury" whether they would risk the greatness of their country for the sake of a paltry economy. He also alluded to criminal jurisprudence and national education as subjects which would be discussed in Parliament this session; and denied that, as rumour had alleged, there was any disagreement between himself and his colleague in the representation of the borough, Mr. Layard. Whenever there was a dissolution—which might be this year or the next—he trusted that himself and Mr. Layard would again be returned together.

The nomination of the Greenwich candidates took place on Monday amidst a perfect tempest of popular demonstrations for and against each candidate. General Codrington could scarcely be heard, and Mr. (or Colonel) Sleigh was hardly more audible. He was heard, however, to speak a few words in favour of Liberal principles, and then retired from the hustings, one of his enemies waving over him a sheet of official paper, made to represent a protection from the Court of Bankruptcy, where he has recently appeared. The choice of hands was in his favour; but a poll was demanded for General Codrington, who was elected on the following day by a majority of 1,432, the numbers being—Codrington, 2,975; Sleigh, 1,543. Great was the excitement during the day, it being asserted by the popular party that the Government candidate (General Codrington) had put on "the screw;" and, at the close of the proceedings, the defeated candidate was understood to intimate that he would oppose the return of his rival on the ground of bribery and corruption.

Mr. Clay, a Liberal, was on Wednesday returned for Hull, where a vacancy had occurred resulting from the elevation to the bench of Sir W. H. Watson. He was the only candidate who came forward, though two or three gentlemen (including Mr. Edwin James, Q.C.) had previously issued addresses, believing that the fact of Mr. Clay having in 1852 been unseated for bribery and corruption would render him ineligible—a supposition about which there afterwards appeared to be some doubt.

The nomination at Hereford took place on Thursday. Mr. George Clive is the Liberal candidate; Mr. Kevill Davies stands for the Tories. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Clive; on which the Conservatives demanded a poll, the result of which we have not yet received.

Mr. Hope Johnston was on Thursday elected without opposition for the county of Dumfries, vacant by the resignation of Lord Drumlanrig, consequent upon the death of his father, the Marquis of Queensberry. Mr. Johnston represented the county previous to 1847. On the same day, the Hon. Stuart Wortley, her Majesty's Solicitor-General, was re-elected for the county of Buteshire, without opposition.

Mr. Frewen has resigned the contest for North Leicestershire.

THE MANCHESTER EDUCATION SCHEME.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on the evening of Friday week, convened by the General Committee of Education in Manchester and Salford. Mr. T. Bazley, chairman of the committee, presided, and there were present the Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, Sir J. P. Kay Shuttleworth, Messrs. W. R. Wood, J. A. Nicholls, D. Maude, T. Clegg, W. Entwistle, the Rev. Canon Richison, and many other gentlemen of influence.

The Chairman having briefly opened the proceedings by pointing out the immediate necessity which existed

for the settlement of this great national question. Mr. R. W. Smiles, the secretary, read a large number of letters which had been received from members of Parliament and friends of education, and among them two from Lord Stanley and Mr. Cobden, which expressed hearty concurrence in the objects of the meeting, and regretted that previous engagements placed it beyond their power to aid the cause with their presence on that occasion.

Mr. William Entwistle moved the first resolution, which ran thus:—"That, although Parliament, by allowing the capitation grants of the Committee of Council on Education, has affirmed the necessity of additional efforts to extend and improve national education, and has sanctioned the principle of making direct payments out of the public funds in aid of the education of children according to their school attendance, it is the opinion of this meeting that the provisions of the Committee of Council on Education are not adequate to the national wants, and that in granting direct aid for educational purposes the amount of such aid, the schools to which it should apply, and the specific conditions upon which it should be granted, ought not to be left, as now, to the varying minutes of the Committee of Council, but should be determined by an act of Parliament; and that for the obtaining of such an act the friends of national education ought to combine and make the most strenuous efforts." The Rev. Canon Richson remarked upon the inaccuracy of those educational statistics which are commonly quoted by the advocates of the voluntary principle as proving that education has made great progress within the last forty years. The speaker contended, on the contrary, that allowing for increase of population, the ratio of school attendance in that period has decreased from one in ten to one in thirteen. He concluded by moving a resolution embodying these views, and urging the necessity of legislative interference. Mr. J. A. Nicholls moved, and Mr. C. E. Cowley seconded, the third resolution, which was to the effect that all parliamentary grants should be defrayed out of local rates and administered by local authorities, elected by and out of the ratepayers. Sir J. P. Kay Shuttleworth made a speech in which he supported the views contained in this resolution; and the Rev. Dr. McKerrow moved the fourth resolution:—"That although, in the opinion of this meeting, it would be unjust in administering any local rate, in aid of the schools built by voluntary effort, to interfere with the management, discipline, instruction, or inspection of such schools, otherwise than to secure the specific objects of such aid, yet it would be equally unjust to disregard the conscientious feelings of parents in respect to the religious education of their children, or of the ratepayers in respect to their paying for forms of religion to which they object; therefore this meeting considers that the only requirement pertaining to instruction which, as a condition of receiving such local aid, ought to be demanded, is a prescribed amount of secular instruction; and that the religious instruction ought to be left to be superadded, or otherwise, at the discretion of the school managers, but that no child ought to be compelled to learn a distinctive religious formulary to which his parent conscientiously objects."

In seconding this resolution, Sir John Pakington vindicated the advocates of secular education from the charge of wishing to encourage infidelity, and said he believed them when they stated that all they wanted to do was to separate the inculcation of religious doctrine from the tuition of the intellect. Still, he thought these gentlemen did not sufficiently consider that the kind of homes from which the poorer classes come are hardly the places where religion is likely to be taught. He added:—"Previous to his visit to Manchester in November, he received a communication from that distinguished man to whom reference had already been made—he meant Mr. Cobden—suggesting to him, as he would have an opportunity of communicating with the leading members of both the educational bodies in this city, to undertake the task of putting an end to the unhappy differences, and finding a common ground upon which all might unite. When he proposed a conference, in consequence of what was suggested by Mr. Cobden, some three or four gentlemen were deputed from each side. On the day after he delivered his address, they met in conference; and he was not going too far when he said that this great difficulty, which had puzzled and perplexed England for years, and which, again and again, had been pronounced to be insuperable, was solved by seven or eight gentlemen in a discussion that did not occupy two hours." (Applause.) Sir John Pakington then explained the terms upon which they had come to an agreement, and which were the same as those embodied in the resolution he was seconding.

The last resolution was to the effect that Sir John Pakington and Mr. Cobden be requested to persevere in Parliament with a measure for the promotion of education, based upon the principles previously moved. All these resolutions were carried unanimously, and the meeting separated.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A PORTER at a house of business in the City has been killed by one of the 'points' on the South-Western Railway at the Nine Elms Station flying off and striking him down.

A man who, together with his wife, was arrested a few days ago at Coggeshall, Essex, under suspicion of their stealing some silk from their employers, suddenly staggered and fell down dead as he was about to be removed in custody. The wife has since been examined, and admitted to bail. The man had been suffering some time from disease of the heart; and the inquest has terminated in a verdict of Natural Death.

A lamentable occurrence has taken place in the Lord Effingham Saloon, Whitechapel-road. Mr. Abrahams, the landlord, and his wife, with several other persons, were sitting together in the kitchen, when a large quantity of brickwork fell into the room through the roof, which was then undergoing repair. Mrs. Abrahams and a female friend both received some severe contusions on the head from the falling matter, and were otherwise seriously injured. Two workmen who were employed on the roof at the time, laying down a leaden gutter, were precipitated downwards, a distance of sixteen feet, on to the lower dwellings, by the falling in of the upper part of the high wall and some of the slatework of the roof. The four sufferers were immediately removed to one of the bedrooms; they were all in a frightful condition, bleeding profusely from the injuries they had received.

STANISLAUS WORCELL.

ON the 9th of this month the last honours were paid to the remains of the lamented Polish exile, STANISLAUS WORCELL, by a deputation of the proscribed patriots of France, Germany, Poland, and Italy. An eloquent and affecting address was delivered over the grave of the departed exile by M. LEDRU ROLLIN, who exhorted his proscribed brethren to derive courage and consolation from the noble memory and example of departed virtue rather than despair from the passing triumphs of victorious crime. M. Ledru Rollin spoke with generous emotion of the antique honour, the inflexible austerity, the brave-hearted simplicity, and the unostentatious abnegation of STANISLAUS WORCELL, who, born in the lap of opulence and luxury, had sacrificed wealth, rank, possessions, the favour of princes, and even family affections, to devote his energies unreservedly to the great cause of freedom and humanity. M. Ledru Rollin concluded with a stirring appeal to the united devotion of all who desired the same end—however they might differ about the means—to the common cause, which was nothing more nor less than the elevation and happiness of the human race.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE general reports from the manufacturing towns throughout the kingdom continue to show a steady trade, but on the average there has been less animation during the week ending last Saturday than for some time previously. At Manchester, the demand has been dull, and rather lower rates have been accepted, the state of the Liverpool cotton-market still inducing great caution. The Birmingham report describes no alteration in iron. The tone, however, is rather less firm. At Nottingham, there has been an unusually large business in lace, and the transactions in hosiery have likewise been satisfactory. In the woollen districts, prices are well maintained, and employment has been general, although scarcely so active as during the preceding week or two.—*Times*.

About two hundred and fifty colliers have turned out at Silverdale, in North Staffordshire, for an advance of wages. They ask for the return of 6d. a day which was taken off some few months back, when the price of iron was lowered in that district, the price having since then risen again. The turn-outs have held several meetings, and with the men of one colliery arrangements are said to have been made; but the rest refuse to go down the pits again unless their wages are at once raised, instead of being kept at the present rate until the 1st of next month, as desired by the employers.

IRELAND.

THE TIPPERARY BANK.

A MOTION, made before Baron Greene, in chamber, that the conditional order obtained for liberty to issue a writ of *seire facias* against Mr. Vincent Scully, M.P., be made absolute, was ordered to stand over till next term. The conditional order was granted on foot of a judgment obtained by Mr. Walker as public officer of the Newcastle Bank, against the official manager of the Tipperary Bank, for the sum of 25,000*l*.

PROTESTANT EDUCATION.—The *Fermanagh Reporter* states that the ignorance of the Protestant young men of that part of the country is so great that they are positively unfitted for the position of policemen.

AUSTRALIA.

MR. DONALDSON, the new Treasurer at Melbourne, has submitted the Ministerial budget to the Assembly. He said that at the end of 1855 the deficit in the revenue was not less than 120,000*l*., the accumulation of former deficits. The present Administration intended to raise 150,000*l*. by terminable annuities.

The prospects of the country were cheering. The

estimated income was 1,200,000*l*., and was in excess of the expenditure. The Customs' revenue was in a prosperous condition, a highly favourable change having set in during the last six months. The accounts from the gold-fields are of the usual prosperous character. At Horley River, however, a sad catastrophe has occurred, five Scotchmen having been buried alive by the earth falling in upon them as they were working a tunnel. Melbourne and its vicinity have been visited by a wind and sand storm surpassing in intensity any which had been previously experienced in the colony. Considerable damage was occasioned by it.

In addition to the tragedies in the 40th Regiment, stationed at Melbourne, which we related a fortnight ago, some other lamentable events have taken place at the same settlement. A police-sergeant, named M'Nally, has been shot dead in endeavouring to secure a desperate bushranger; and another policeman, named Moore, who was assisting him, was wounded at the same time. A much worse business, however, took place among some of the convicts confined on board the hulks at Williamstown. One of these convicts is a man named Melville, alias Smith. He is a notorious ruffian; but, by affecting a great deal of religious fervour, he obtained a remission of his sentence, in the form of removal from the hulk No. 1, the President, where the discipline is the most severe, to No. 2, the Success, where there is more indulgence. A gang of the prisoners had been on shore at Williamstown, to break stones, and, about five in the evening, fifty of them were ordered into a launch, to be towed back to the ship. A small boat, manned by four men, refractory sailors condemned by the magistrates, was attached by a rope to the launch; and by hauling on this rope the convicts in the launch brought the boat nearer to them. Owen, one of the boatmen, called for help, and Jackson, shipkeeper of one of the hulks, rushed forward through the convicts in the launch, but was instantly thrown overboard by Melville. He swam back, but Melville held him for a time under water. Another of the seamen was also thrown overboard, and his brains were beaten out by one of the convicts. Several more seamen were thrown into the water, but they were ultimately saved, as was Jackson. One of the convicts jumped out of the small boat and was drowned. The rest cut the tow-rope, and put out to sea, Melville standing up as he passed the last hulk, and exclaiming, as he kissed his hand, "Adieu, Victoria, at last!" But he was doomed to disappointment. Shots were fired from the hulks at the fugitives, and one was killed and another wounded. A boat from the hulks, and a water-pole boat, gave swift pursuit, and the convicts were overtaken after going about eight hundred yards. Melville says he knew that the odds were as nine to one against him: but he is tired of life, and so determined to run the risk. All the fugitives (nine in number) will be tried for the murder of the seaman whose brains were beaten out.

AMERICA.

THE question with respect to the alleged corruption of some of the members of the Washington Legislature continues to be the chief topic of conversation in the United States at the present time. Mr. Simonton, the correspondent of the *New York Times*, who made the original accusations, has been placed under arrest by the House of Representatives, for refusing to disclose to the Committee of Inquiry the names of the persons who communicated to him the facts on which he based his accusation. His refusal he explains by saying that it would be a breach of trust to mention the names of his informants. On being arrested, he gave notice to the Sergeant-at-Arms of an action for false imprisonment, and a writ of *habeas corpus* was to have been applied for to test the power of the House to keep in custody a prisoner for contempt; but the House and the Senate thereupon passed, with the utmost celerity, a short bill giving the power disputed. Another witness has been captured in endeavouring to fly from the city, and four others who will be called have resolved to defy the Committee. "The contest," says the *Times* New York correspondent, "develops a rather surprising amount of ancient Toryism latent in the Conscript Fathers of the Republic: the language used in speaking of the press sounds very like echoes of the days of Eldon and Castlereagh, of which the hurried bill just enacted has some little trace."

The same writer says that "the Senate has again discussed the Atlantic Telegraph Bill, with an amendment limiting the aid to be given to the undertaking by the United States to that furnished by the British Government under its first contract. It was passed on the 22nd of January. The only disturbing anxiety about the line is, that no guarantee can be given for its use in time of war. The termini are on British territory, and it is conceded that this is unavoidable; but the possession of one of them is not enough to secure the communication. Mr. Seward stated his belief that the telegraph would prove one of the greatest agents in preventing war."

General Harvey has declared war against the Florida Indians.—It is doubtful whether Mr. Sumner will be able to sit in the Senate, his election to which he has accepted. His health has never been restored since the attack made on him by Mr. Preston S. Brooks. How-

ever, he has survived his assailant, who died at Washington on the 27th of January. He had had a severe cold, and, while telling his friends that the crisis had passed, was seized with croup, and died in about ten minutes in dreadful agony.

A letter from one of an English party of emigrants to the Mormon territory, dated Leavenworth City, Kansas, and published in a Leeds paper, gives a pitiable account of the sufferings of the men, and still more of the women, in passing to their settlement. They had to walk; and many of them were knocked up, and died.

Walker is reported to be in a better condition than ever, and to have 1200 able-bodied men at Rivas, well supplied with provisions and ammunition, while at Punta Arenas was a body of nearly 300 men under Colonel Longbridge, who intended to attack the Costa Ricans at Castillo and San Carlos, and retake the river, as soon as he had the means of transportation. Other accounts, however, are less hopeful. A few more reinforcements are on their way to him; but some have been arrested, and detained.

New York has been suffering from an unusually severe frost. For a few days, the city was bright and loud with the sleighs, and their gaily-dressed occupants, and the bell-tinkling horses; but the cold soon became too Arctic for that sport, and every one who could possibly get in doors did so. Business has been greatly reduced in consequence; railway traffic for a time was stopped; passengers were snowed up; the New York streets have been turned into avenues of ice; and at the latest dates there was no prospect of a thaw. The shipping has suffered horribly.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

A COPY of a letter addressed by the Directors of the East India Company to the Governor-General of India on the 10th of December, 1856, on the question of Oude, has just been published. The Directors regard with just complacency the acquisition of a territory of nearly 25,000 square miles, and containing 5,000,000 inhabitants, "without the expenditure of a drop of blood, and almost without a murmur." The Directors approve the amount fixed for the annual stipend of the ex-King of Oude—viz., twelve lacs of rupees. They are unanimously of opinion that it is not advisable to perpetuate or to prolong the tenure of the royal title, which will accordingly die a natural death with the present titular sovereign, Wajid Ali Shah; at all events, no promise has been made to the contrary. The royal descendants, however, will enjoy a certain stipend, as the twelve lacs of rupees settled on the ex-king will descend as an hereditary grant. The young princes are to be trained and educated so as to become "useful citizens;" and it is suggested that the family may be made "jagheers," so as to prevent them from sinking into degraded habits of life. The payment of the arrears due to the army of Oude is approved. The conduct of the Governor-General of India, and of Sir James Outram, is warmly commended by the Directors.—*Times*.

PERSIA.

General Buhlar (says a despatch from Marseilles) has been sent to the theatre of war, but he has left Herat and Candahar in a good state of defence. The Persians are very much excited by the English invasion. A great agitation prevails in the Province of Ourmiah. Confirmation has been received of a revolt at Maraca. The insurgents sacked the town. Fifteen English ships were anchored before Bender-Abbas.—It is now stated that the Shah, so far from yielding, has proclaimed "a holy war" against the English.

The *Teheran Gazette* of the 26th Raby-el-thany (24th of December) publishes an explanatory reply to the English declaration of war issued from Calcutta on the 1st of November. We have discussed the chief statements and arguments contained in this document in another column.

CHINA.

Some particulars of the recent hostile operations against Canton are given by the writer of a letter which appears in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, of Paris. It would here seem that the damage sustained by our foreign merchants in the course of the bombardment has been greatly exaggerated, though at the best it was considerable, being augmented by an irruption of some of the thieves and ruffians who belong to the floating population. These fellows began pillaging right and left; and it was found necessary to throw some shells among them. The captain of a French frigate sent a detachment of his men on shore with four light howitzers, which completed the brigands' discomfiture; but they had already set several places on fire.—The French have been making some vigorous hostile demonstrations against the city of Touranne, in Cochin China. The authorities had contemptuously rejected a letter presented to them by the captain of the corvette *Catinat*. Thereupon, the French entered the town, spiked the cannon, wetted the gunpowder, and returned untouched; the result being that the authorities made the most humble apologies, sued for pardon, and carried the rejected letter with great pomp to the capital.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Tribunal of Correctional Police has finished the trial of the twenty-five men charged with belonging to a secret society. Fifteen were found guilty, and sentenced to fines, various terms of imprisonment, and interdiction for a certain number of years; the remaining ten were acquitted.—The same tribunal has acquitted the proprietors, editors, &c., of the *Revue de Paris* (which has been suspended for an article offensive to the King of Prussia) of a charge of publishing the commencement of a romance antagonistic to "public morality and religion." The story is by M. Flaubert, and is entitled "Madame Bovary."

The editor of a medical journal, called the *Moniteur de Hopitaux*, has been forbidden to publish an article which he had announced, and the object of which was to show that Verger was insane. A similar instance of ridiculous repression has arisen out of a lawsuit against the Lady Superior of the Piepus Convent of the Sacré Cœur, which establishment is accused of inducing a person of weak mind to make a will in its favour. The advocate for the plaintiff made a sharp attack on the Archbishop of Chalcedoine; and this speech the journals have been ordered not to report, nor, indeed, any of the proceedings. In the state of the public mind arising out of Verger's stifled and imperfectly heard denunciations of the higher orders of the clergy, the attack in question would no doubt have a powerful effect. But these unnatural repressions will of course exacerbate the final and inevitable disclosures.

"Advices from Paris," says the *Times* City Article, Wednesday, "mention that the Southern of France Railway will be opened throughout from Bordeaux to Cette early in March—an event of considerable importance to commerce. Cette, the second French port of the Mediterranean, will thus be within twelve hours of Bordeaux, and the transit between the two seas, which has already become important by means of the lateral canal of the Garonne, will be in a condition to receive its full development. The distance between the mouth of the British Channel and Marseilles will be diminished from 2100 miles to 760, and Malta will be practically nearer for goods and passengers by 830 miles. Such an economy of distance, it is contended, will be a compensation for the transhipment of goods at the termini of the railway, since the saving of time will be even greater in proportion than that of distance, and vessels can freight goods at London or Liverpool, destined for Bordeaux, Marseilles, southern Switzerland, or the ports of the Mediterranean. Bordeaux and Cette are also expected to become important *entrepôts* for the wool trade of Spain as soon as the Spanish railways shall have been completed to Bayonne."

The Ottoman Ambassador at Paris is said to have asked for information on the subject of the article in the *Moniteur* on the union of the Danubian Principalities. The answer was vague. The Austrian representative has also, it is reported, asked for an explanation.

Paris, it is said, is now definitively named as the place of meeting of the Conferences on the Neuchâtel question, and the time of meeting will be the beginning of next month.

A commission has just been appointed to examine thoroughly the question of the currency. The principal members are—MM. Michel Chevalier, de Parieu, de Boivilliers, Guillefroy, and other Councillors of State, together with MM. Schneider, Leroux, and several members of the Senate and Legislative Body. The commission has the right to examine witnesses.—*Times Paris Correspondent*

AUSTRIA.

King Maximilian of Bavaria has arrived at Milan on a visit to the Emperor. It was at first expected that he was about to visit the King of Sardinia at Turin; but he appears to have abandoned that intention—a change which has excited several comments.

The Credit Bank of Vienna has resolved to establish branch banks at Pesth, Lemberg, Prague, and Brunn.

The sudden arrival in Vienna, at this cold season of the year, of Count Rudolph Appony, from London, has caused some political gossip as to the probability of the relations between Austria and England being made "still more intimate."

ITALY.

The correspondent of a German paper says that the pro-legate at Bologna, Cardinal Viale Preti, whose rigorous administration has discontented the inhabitants of the Legations, was some time back assailed by the population, whilst driving out, with showers of apples and stones. He escaped with difficulty, and has since fallen ill from the effects of the attack. The *Austrian Gazette*, however, attributes his indisposition to inflammation of the lungs. For a long time past, the Cardinal's decrees were regularly torn down in the night by the population.

Several political trials, ending in convictions, have taken place at Rome. Dr. Ripani, of Cremona, who was some time ago sentenced to hard labour for twenty years, has been pardoned at the instance of the French Government, which claimed him. He was physician to Garibaldi's legion, and after the fall of Rome he remained under the protection of the French.

The 29th of January—the anniversary of the granting of a constitution to the Neapolitans—was celebrated in King Bomba's capital by the arrest of seventy-nine persons in the *cafés* and billiard-rooms near the Teatro Fiorentini. The King remains shut up at Caserta, closely guarded by soldiery; but he can no longer depend upon the army, which is deeply penetrated with a revolutionary feeling. Several soldiers have recently been arrested, and not a day passes without fresh seizures among them. The entire regiment of the third battalion of Cacciatori was put under arrest on the 27th ult. A proclamation and a biography of Milano are said to be circulating among the army. The Government is in a great state of anxiety about a descent which it is feared is about to be made upon the coasts of Sicily by armed emigrants from Malta and Genoa. A double cordon of Urban Guards has been drawn round the island; the powder mills have been closed, the powder carried off to the Royal castles, and suspicious persons arrested. According to the Sicilian consul at Malta, the expedition from that island has already started. Rumour also speaks of an Englishman who has recently passed through Italy, and taken revolutionists into his pay.

The Grand Duke Michael of Russia arrived at Turin on the 5th inst. The Duke was to leave the following day for Genoa, whence he would return to Russia.

Prince Orsini has been elevated to the rank of Senatore (first magistrate) of Rome, with a pension of ten thousand crowns. The post is said to be a mere liveried nonentity; and all the other Roman Princes have refused to accept it.

SPAIN.

A democratic conspiracy at Barcelona has been discovered. It was on the eve of breaking out when the authorities seized those who were implicated.

The proposed journey of the Queen southwards has been definitively abandoned.

TURKEY.

The Commissioners for the Danubian Principalities had an audience of leave of the Sultan on the 24th ult. It was a private interview, and consisted simply of certain formalities.

Some intelligence from Constantinople is contained in a communication from Marseilles, which says:—"A despatch from Vienna has been addressed to the Ottoman Porte, announcing that Moldavia and Wallachia will be evacuated by the Austrian troops before the 24th of March. The Turkish troops are not to cross the Danube before the departure of the Austrians. The union of the Principalities gains ground: it will be approved by the majority of the Moldo-Wallachian Divans. The Ottoman Porte at present confines itself to the rejection of the nomination of a foreign prince to govern the united provinces. The Porte is about to take possession of the delta formed by the mouths of the Danube. The Porte, considering as illegal the sentence of exile pronounced by the Hospodars, permits the exiled to return to the Moldo-Wallachian territory, their country. The brother of the Khan of Khiva has offered his alliance to the Shah of Persia. Great embankments are projected on the Euphrates. The plan has been sent to London. The Arabs are troublesome in that country."

Turkey is making fresh endeavours for self-reformation. Some conferences of Ministers have taken place at Constantinople, with a view to forming a commission of six members and a president, who are to study the existing abuses and corruptions in the state, and to propose a plan by which they may be remedied. The first subject to be considered is the administration of the provinces in all the great departments of government. When the commission shall have elaborated a plan of provincial administration, it will first be tried in one particular province—probably Broussa or Adrianople, as being near to the seat of government; and if it succeed, it will be generally adopted.

RUSSIA.

It is stated that very warlike preparations are being made by Russia in connexion with the present state of things in the Caucasus and Persia. The writer of the letter which conveys this information says that there is no truth in the assertion that Russia is endeavouring to re-establish her position in the Black Sea. On the contrary, the term, "Russian fleet in the Black Sea," has been erased from the *Imperial Almanac*, and is replaced by that of "Flotilla of the Black Sea." But that may be part of a 'dodge.'

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Wallachian Minister of Finance has been despatched to Paris and London, in order to form an Austro-Anglo-French Company, with the view of commencing a railroad between the Wallachian frontiers, bordering on Transylvania, and Rustchuk. The Minister is reported to have had but ill success with the French capitalists.

GERMANY.

The cattle disease which for the last few years has manifested itself in various parts of Russia, threatens to spread into Germany. The recent ravages of the disease in Russia have been a chief cause in the late advance of the tallow market.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

ADULTERY.

AN action for criminal conversation which was brought in the Court of Common Pleas last Saturday caused considerable interest, not only on account of the main facts, but by reason of the defence which was set up. The plaintiff was Captain Ling, of the 14th Light Dragoons, now thirty-three years of age. In July, 1849, he married, at Lahore, in India, a daughter of Sir John Littler, the distinguished Indian officer. The young lady was then only eighteen. As long as they remained in India, the couple continued on terms of great affection; but a change seems to have arisen on the passage home of Captain and Mrs. Ling in the course of the summer of 1855. One of the passengers in the vessel was Captain (afterwards Major) Croker, a gentleman of fifty years of age, and the defendant in the present action, and it would seem that an intimacy sprang up between him and Mrs. Ling, though the lady was near her confinement, and was actually delivered of a child during the voyage. After their arrival in England, Captain Ling obtained a commission in the corps of Bashi-Bazouks, and left, in December, 1855, for the Crimea, where he remained till the latter part of last year. His wife and children stayed at the seat of the wife's parents, Sir John and Lady Littler, at Bigadon, near Totness, Devonshire. Here it was presently discovered by Lady Littler that her daughter, Mrs. Ling, carried on an active correspondence with Major Croker. Lady Littler then requested her daughter to leave Bigadon, which she did, and took up her residence at Corsand, near Plymouth. Shortly after she left Bigadon, a letter for her came from Major Croker. This was opened by Lady Littler, and was found to confirm the suspicions already entertained. At Corsand, and afterwards at London, the criminal familiarity between Mrs. Ling and Captain Croker continued, the lady sending to her mother's her infant child; and, in the course of last December, the couple were discovered, after great exertions by the friends of Captain Ling, living as man and wife, under an assumed name, at Allsopp-terrace, New-road.

The defence was that Captain Ling permitted, and even encouraged the intimacy of Major Croker with his wife on their passage to England; that he afterwards directed his wife to keep up a correspondence with the Major; that he corrupted her mind by letters full of the most licentious suggestions and language; and that finally he offered to allow her to live with whom she pleased upon condition that she and her lover should pay him 550*l*. Some of the Captain's letters were read in court; portions of them, however, were too indecent for publication. The reply to this defence was that the letters were forged; but no proof with respect to them was offered, either to prove their authenticity or the reverse. Mr. Justice Willes said that, if the jury regarded them as authentic, the verdict must be for the defendant, as the letters amounted to leave and license. The jury, however, found for the plaintiff; damages, 1000*l*. A question with respect to giving up the letters to the plaintiff was left for the Judge's ulterior decision.

Sir Frederick Thesiger, counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. Edwin James, counsel for the defendant, both alluded to the disgraceful state of the English law, which allows of actions for money compensation for adultery to be brought.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.—William Holtaway, an elderly man who had been brought up once or twice at Guildhall on a charge of embezzling 1100*l*. from his employers, Messrs. Hyde and Co., stationers in Fleet-street, was discharged last Saturday by Alderman Cubitt, who remarked that the accused's first deficiencies had been regarded as a debt by the Messrs. Hyde, and the same rule must be applied to the whole affair.—David Thomas Sadler, a commercial traveller in the employ of Messrs. Crowder and Garrod, has also been discharged at the same office from an accusation of embezzling 400*l*. belonging to his employers. The evidence against him was not sufficient to warrant his detention.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—Joshua Gordon, a man who gets his living by singing at public-houses, has been tried on a charge of endeavouring to prevent a boy from giving evidence at the Middlesex Sessions in a case of robbery. Gordon made the boy drunk, and endeavoured to detain him until after the trial; but he escaped, gave evidence at the trial, and procured the conviction of the accused. The jury found Gordon guilty, and he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.—George Stoptoe, Thomas Banks, and Charles Geary, were found guilty of stealing cows, and were condemned to four years' penal servitude.—William Sayer, a respectable-looking lad, fifteen years old, pleaded guilty to four indictments of forgery. He had fallen in with bad characters, and was induced by them to forge cheques on Smith, Payne, and Co., in the name of his employer. The proceeds he devoted to purchasing expensive articles. He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—James Barber, who pleaded guilty to an indictment for forging a deed, and other charges, was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—David Angelo Linford, who was convicted of stealing a quan-

tity of plate belonging to his master, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

OUTRAGE BY SOLDIERS AT THE CHATHAM POST-OFFICE.—A singularly audacious outrage was committed early on Saturday morning at Chatham post-office. Near one o'clock, A.M., Mr. Dadd, the postmaster, was attending to his duties consequent on the arrival of the mail bags from Sheerness and Sittingbourne, when he heard a great uproar in the office lobby. Going out, he found several soldiers attacking a sailor. Mr. Dadd pulled the man into the office; but the next moment the latter fell lifeless to the floor. The soldiers then aimed a blow with some heavy instrument at the head of Mr. Dadd; and this, passing through the glass door leading into the lobby, inflicted serious injuries on the postmaster. The office was speedily burst into by the soldiers, who prepared for a formidable attack; but Mr. Dadd took up a sword, and kept them at bay for some time, though he was continually pelted with stones. The driver of the mail cart, who was outside, came up to assist Mr. Dadd, but very soon had his head cut open by a blow from the brass end of one of the soldiers' waist-belts. Some of Mr. Dadd's relations and other persons, on running up to the rescue, were also attacked by the military, who fought their way out of the office, and, after committing some further depredations, made off. The postmaster, although suffering severely from his wounds, went at once to the residence of Colonel Eden, the commandant of the garrison, and gave information. Active measures were immediately taken to arrest the offenders, and a court-martial has since been held, the result of which is not yet known.

LEGAL OPPRESSION AT TORQUAY.—Great indignation is felt at Torquay at the condemnation to imprisonment for ten days of a boy, nine years old, for throwing stones in the streets. The boy's father, who is a working cabinet maker, could not pay the fine of five shillings, and so the boy was sent to the county gaol, and the father was condemned to pay another two shillings. The Governor of the prison, touched by the hardness of the punishment (for the boy seems to be a very inoffensive and respectable child), has taken peculiar care of the juvenile culprit.

FURTHER RESPITE OF MANSELL.—The Governor of Maidstone Gaol has received from the Home-office a further respite for the convict Mansell until the 11th of May.

THE CASE OF JOHN MARKHAM.—The jury who tried the poor man Markham, who was wrongfully convicted of forgery some time since, have addressed a memorial to the presiding Judge of the next session of the Central Criminal Court, setting forth their sorrow for the mistake they committed, which, however, they think was unavoidable on the evidence adduced; expressing their hope that his innocence will be proclaimed in open court; and begging that his Lordship will use his influence to get him a permanent situation.—A sum of upwards of 150*l*. has been collected for Markham.

THE ALLEGED POISONING AT STAMFORD.—The body of Mrs. Ann Bacon, mother of the man Bacon who is now in custody on a charge of killing his children, was exhumed on Friday week from the churchyard at Great Stamford, in order that the body might be examined in pursuance of the inquiry now being made into the cause of her death. The abdomen and viscera, with their contents, having been removed, the body was again committed to the earth, and the inquest was held. Mrs. Bacon died in the May of 1855, being seized with a mortal sickness shortly after eating of some broth into which it is suspected Bacon, her son, put arsenic. It appeared from the evidence that Bacon had previously purchased arsenic of a druggist, saying he wanted to kill rats. He had sent a boy, a day or two before, to another chemist's for arsenic, on pretence of wanting it to harden iron, but it was refused; on which Bacon said to the messenger, "Oh, never mind! I'll get it myself." One of the witnesses gave the subjoined particulars of what happened on the day of the death:—"Thomas (the prisoner) was continually in the house during the Tuesday, and was present when his mother died. Her son William Bacon, his wife, and Mrs. Scholes, were also present. There was a little dispute between the two brothers about deceased's rent-book. This took place while the mother was dying. Mrs. Scholes 'hushed them,' and said their mother could hear if she could not speak. Thomas had taken the rent-book out of the house. I heard William Bacon's wife tell Thomas that his mother had made a will. Thomas told me that his brothers had had their fortune. He did not know that his mother had made a widow's will, and seemed quite surprised that she had done so. He told me he expected he should get the property at his mother's death." The inquest was adjourned to next Wednesday.

KIDNAPPING BLACK SEAMEN.—Thomas Hudson, an unlicensed shipping master, who shipped a number of black sailors on board of the American ship *J. L. Bogart*, for Mobile, saying that she was the *Robin Hood*, for China, has been prosecuted by the Liverpool solicitor for the Board of Trade, and fined by the magistrates 20*l*., or in default to be imprisoned, with hard labour, for three months.

PRETTY WORKHOUSE TYRANNY.—The lessee of the Bath theatre kindly offered to admit the children of the workhouse gratuitously to a day performance of the

pantomime. The offer was accepted by the chairman of the Union, subject to the approval of the board. It would seem that the children were sent on their way to the theatre before that approval was obtained; whereupon, the guardians met in hot haste, and resolved (by a bare majority of one) not to sanction the chairman's permission. A messenger was then sent after the children, and they were actually brought back when on the very threshold of fairyland. Some lines referring to this shabby and heartless piece of tyranny, and strongly condemning it, have since been introduced into the pantomime, and are received every night with loud applause.

A LAMENTABLE TALE.—A widow, named Allsopp, has made an application to Mr. Broughton, the Marylebone magistrate, for assistance. She is ill and unable to earn a living. Three of her sons, who were in the army, were killed in India; two more in the Crimea. In her letter she adds:—"I am now a poor, destitute widow, the granddaughter of a general, and the daughter of a captain, all slain for England's glory. My husband was an officer, but he had to sell his commission to pay his debts, which deprived him of a pension at his death. Since the death of my husband and the loss of my poor children, I never received a shilling from Government. Worthy Sir, that is the thanks I received for bringing up five beautiful young men to be slain. Indeed, Mr. Broughton, I received more relief at your hands than I have received of any, unless what little the workhouse allows me to pay for my lodgings." An application for assistance which she made to Prince Albert failed of success. Mr. Broughton expressed his great commiseration, and gave the poor woman seven shillings from the poor-box. Subscriptions have since been sent in for her.

MANSLAUGHTER.—Edwin Hammond, a well-dressed man, is in custody, and under remand at Clerkenwell, on a charge of causing the death of Richard Cotterell by striking him in the course of a drunken quarrel. Another man, who was charged with participation, has been set at liberty, there being no case against him.

CRUELTY TO A GIRL.—A Mrs. Martin, the wife of a farmer in Lincolnshire, her man servant, and a farm lad, have been charged with gross cruelty to Eliza Tait, a female servant. On one or two occasions, she was beaten very indecently, and last Saturday week the man held her while naked, on to a grindstone, while the boy turned the handle, so that a great deal of the skin was torn off. Mrs. Martin was standing by at the time, and she laughed at the poor girl's shrieks. The latter ran home as soon as she could get away, and was immediately put under the hands of a doctor. The Bench fined the woman 5*l*., the man servant 3*l*. 15*s*. 6*d*., and the boy 1*l*. 5*s*. 6*d*., including costs. The indignation of the persons in and around the court was so great, that Mrs. Martin was escorted to the lock-up by the police, the people yelling and hooting after her, and threatening to duck her in the river.—Mr. John Walker, a haberdasher in Shaftesbury-street, New Road, is under remand at Worship-street, charged, at the instance of the parish, with cruelly ill-treating his niece, an orphan child, eight years of age. According to the evidence already brought forward, the child was repeatedly and unmercifully beaten, half-starved, kept with insufficient clothing, and confined in an underground wash-house. Bail was accepted for the man's future appearance. He has been receiving parish relief, though it appears that he is possessed of property.

THE FRAUDS ON THE CITY BANKS.—The final examination of Anderson and Saward took place on Wednesday, when the Lord Mayor committed them for trial. The convict Salt Hardwicke, in giving his evidence, asserted that he was innocent of the robbery for which he was transported. He added:—"It was always part of my scheme to represent myself as a respectable man. I represented myself as a colonial trader, and I was one. I had land in Australia. I was not in England when Markham was tried. When I heard that he had been innocently convicted, Anderson, Saward, Attwell, a man named Thomas Smith, and myself, met and subscribed a sovereign each for his wife. The 5*l*. was given to Attwell to leave for her at a public-house, the landlord of which has since told me that he gave her the money. I reasoned with Anderson for not trying to get Markham acquitted, upon which Saward said that 'that wouldn't do, as he (Anderson) might draw himself into it.' (Sensation.) I knew Edward Agar (the approver in the late bullion robbery case) through Saward, with whom I first became acquainted about twenty-five or twenty-six years ago. He was always known as 'Jem, the penman.' I do not want to make myself appear better than I am, but Saward was known, for years after I first became acquainted with him, to be carrying skeleton keys through the city for a gang of burglars when they wanted them for a night. I cannot say that I corrupted Saward." (Laughter.)

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—The February general sessions commenced on Monday, when the first persons tried were John Murphy and George Porter, two very young men, who were indicted for stealing a cash-box from the bar of a public-house in Wapping, in the midst of some confusion caused by one of them pretending to be in a fit. They were found guilty, and, being known bad characters, were sentenced each to four years' penal

servitude.—Six years' penal servitude was adjudged to two youths (ticket-of-leave holders) for stealing three gold rings from a shop—a charge to which they pleaded Guilty; and the same sentence was passed on Thomas Leebridge (also a ticket-of-leave convict) for stealing a watch from the person.—Michael Cummins, a miserable-looking youth, pleaded Guilty to stealing some beef from a shop. He said he did it through want, as he had been three times on that day refused assistance at the workhouse. It was stated in court that famishing creatures were constantly being turned away from the workhouse, and being driven by starvation into theft. The prisoner added that his parents were "too great a pair of drunkards" to help him; in fact, they had turned him out. He was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT DARTMOOR PRISON.—A young man, nineteen years of age, a convict at Dartmoor Prison, has made an attempt to murder one of the warders by striking him on the head with a spade. It is but a short time since a similar crime was committed at the same place.

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT WALWORTH.—A further examination of Bacon and his wife took place on Wednesday, in connexion with the charge of child-murder, when the case against the man was strengthened by evidence showing his flurried and distraught manner the day after the murder, and the contradictions which he made in speaking of himself in connexion with the affair. Both prisoners were again remanded.

CRIME IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND.—Accounts are received from the west of several outrages committed on the highways in Devonshire and Somersetshire.

'HONEST PAUL'S' ASSISTANT.—Joseph William Hawes, an occasional assistant to Paul, who has been found guilty of frauds on the City of London Union, has been committed for trial on a charge of forging receipts for 290l.

WORKHOUSE TYRANNY.—Four destitute young women were charged at Southwark with creating a disturbance outside the workhouse. They said they were starving, and had been turned out by the authorities. The magistrate discharged them, saying that the conduct of the parish officers was very harsh, and might have the effect of driving the young women to prostitution.

SUSPECTED MURDER.—A man named Richard Smith, who has been in custody for some weeks on suspicion of having caused the death of William Kieffe, a person employed at the Edinburgh Castle tavern at Peckham, has been discharged, the evidence against him amounting to nothing more than that he had given some contradictory accounts. The probability seems to be that the man Kieffe lay down in the stables while drunk, and that his brains were kicked out by a horse.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A MAN who is described as a beer-shop-keeper in the neighbourhood of Whitechapel, but who is known to the police as a bad character, has been examined before the Worship-street magistrate on a charge of being concerned, with another man who has escaped, in attempting to break into a house in the Mile-end-road. A policeman came upon them while stealthily at work, between five and six o'clock in the morning, on the street door, and, with the assistance of another constable, he succeeded in making one of them his prisoner. The man, when before the magistrate, asked whether it was not after six o'clock in the morning when the occurrence took place; and he carefully drew the magistrate's attention to the answer. The policeman said no; it was before that hour. Had they answered in the affirmative, the offence would have been removed from the class of burglaries, and made it a common attempt at robbery. The man was committed for trial.

Alderman Wilson, at the Mansion House, has severely rebuked a police inspector for not allowing boys to pursue their trade as shoeblacks in the space between the Royal Exchange and Exchange-buildings. The officer said the boys were thieves, and assembled for dishonest purposes; but the alderman replied that, if they were hindered in getting an honest livelihood, they were very likely to become thieves. In the particular case in question, a gentleman who was going to a dinner party employed a boy to black his boots. One boot was finished when the police officer interfered, and the gentleman was obliged to go to his friend's house with one boot dirty and the other cleaned—"which," he sorrowfully pointed out to the alderman, "made him look perfectly ridiculous." The sympathetic magistrate thought that made the case worse against the inspector.

A rather singular charge was brought forward at the Worship-street police court a few days ago, against an undertaker living in Park-street, Finsbury, named Charles Townley, the burial contractor, as was alleged, for the metropolitan police force. A police sergeant, while on duty one night in the locality, saw drawn up in front of Mr. Townley's premises a hearse and mourning coach; and, on passing through the street again the following morning, he found them still there, and was afterwards told by a constable on the beat that they had stood there the whole night. He subsequently learned that two coffins were in the hearse, one of which con-

tained the body of a policeman who had just died of a malignant fever. He called at Mr. Townley's house, and mentioned the circumstance, and he believed that the coach and hearse were afterwards removed, but they were speedily succeeded by other vehicles of the same sort, which remained there for six days together; and this caused such an obstruction in the roadway, that the officer at last felt himself bound to summon Mr. Townley. The undertaker stated to the magistrate that, in consequence of the road being under repair, he had been unable for several days to obtain access to the stable-yard in which he kept his carriages, and was therefore compelled to leave them in the open street. He had, however, made arrangements to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance complained of. Mr. Hammill believed that Mr. Townley had not committed the act with any bad intention, and therefore merely ordered him to pay the costs of the proceedings, without imposing any penalty.

Two men named Mallan, alias Sykes and Paton, were charged at the Westminster police-office, on Tuesday, with an astoundingly impudent attempt at cheating. They went to the house of a Mr. Bannister, in Coleshill-street, Pimlico, and, intruding themselves into the dining-room, were found there making themselves very much at home, the former lounging upon the sofa, and the latter warming himself in an easy chair. On Mr. Bannister's entrance, Paton, although a perfect stranger, familiarly extended his hand, which Mr. Bannister, in the surprise of the moment, took; but, on recovering himself, he said he had not the pleasure of being acquainted with either of them. Paton affected much surprise that Mr. Bannister did not know him, and, having introduced Mallan as a Crimean hero who had lost a leg, entreated Mr. Bannister's sympathy, and a private interview. Mr. Bannister declined the interview, and told the men they had better be off. They took him at his word, but had no sooner turned their backs than he missed his silver spectacles from the room. He went in pursuit of the fellows, and collared them, when Mallan dropped the spectacles, and both were given into custody. It afterwards appeared that they had made similar attempts at other houses. They were committed for trial.

Some cases of cruelty to horses have come before the magistrates this week, and been met with appropriate punishment.

An action brought by a tailor in the Court of Exchequer, on Tuesday, for the recovery of 107l., alleged to be due for clothes supplied to a Mr. Propert, was remarkable on account of an admission made by the plaintiff. The defendant pleaded "infancy," as he will not be of age till next September; to which it was replied that the clothes were "necessaries." It came out, however, that 13l. 13s. of the sum was money lent, but charged as clothes, in order to deceive the young man's father, a surgeon in New Cavendish-street. The Chief Baron expressed himself warmly as to "the gross and abominable" nature of this fraud, which he thought was worse than picking a pocket; and he told the tailor that, had he obtained the money, he would have been liable to fourteen years' transportation. The young man was at college, and appears to have been very expensive in his habits. Mr. Woulfe, the tailor, wrote some letters to him, promising that, if he would introduce customers, he (Woulfe) "would not fail to return the compliment when Mr. Propert was in need of assistance." Ultimately, however, finding he could not get his money, he threatened to arrest the young man on the day he was going to be examined at college; and, in the affidavit sworn by Woulfe on this occasion, he stated that the sum of 107l. was for goods supplied. At this point, the Chief Baron ordered the plaintiff to remain in court till the end of the case, and asked him if he was not aware he had committed perjury in that affidavit. He answered that he was not. The arrest, it appeared, was prevented by some arrangement. A verdict was given for the defendant.

An action to recover 66l. 8s. has been brought in the Court of Exchequer by a Mr. Simmonds, a silversmith, against a Mr. Hughes, alias O'Keith, and Miss Emma Stanley, the proprietors of the entertainment called "The Seven Ages of Woman." Mr. Simmonds had fitted up the room, and, after a large part was completed, he had to take the things down and begin again, because Miss Stanley said it would not do. One of the witnesses called was Mr. Joseph Stammers, who said he had been concerned in the speculation, but that Miss Stanley did not pay any one, except a few trifling sums. Nobody was paid but the landlord, and he stopped the rent. Mr. Hughes and Miss Stanley, according to Mr. Stammers, were living together as man and wife. "That is rather ungallant towards Miss Stanley," said the Lord Chief Baron. "How do you know it?" The witness replied that it was notorious among the musical profession; and his statement was confirmed by the landlord of a house where the couple lived. The Chief Baron thought no case had been made out against the defendants; and the plaintiff was accordingly nonsuited.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

CRUELITIES ON BOARD AMERICAN SHIPS.—A special report from the managing committee of the Liverpool Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress, adopted at

a meeting held on the 4th inst., has been published. It has reference to the cruelties frequently practised on board American mercantile vessels upon men who have been induced to serve as sailors. Of these men we read:—"Some of them have been carried off by force or stratagem, leaving behind parents, wives, and children; others are enticed by the promise of good wages; and the great majority are turned away entirely destitute on their arrival in England." The Society examined during the last year as many as seventy-nine cases, and since the beginning of the new year the cases have actually amounted to twenty-seven. "It is on record," says the report, "that many have been offered work on board a steamer in the river, or to unload ships, and are thus prevailed upon to step into a small boat to be carried on board, which leaves them as soon as they are put on the deck of the ship, where they are retained forcibly. Among the applicants for relief there have been coopers, carpenters, cooks, waiters, clerks, and surgeons, who have been carried off in this nefarious way. The cruelties which are practised upon these poor unprotected men on board these ships would be incredible, had they not been of late frequently confirmed by the proceedings in the Liverpool police court; but unfortunately in redress for these ferocious assaults, committed upon the high seas, there is no practical remedy for these poor men on their arrival in this country. It has been proved in that court that on board the Ocean Monarch men have been forced to draw with their teeth iron nails from the deck, into which they had been driven for that purpose to the depth of two inches; that they had been compelled literally to lick up the dust from the deck of the cabin floor; and at the inquest held upon a Dutchman who had been beaten to death by the third mate and boatswain of the Guy Mannering, the surgeon who made the *post mortem* examination deposed 'that the head presented an enormously contused mass, the face was completely battered in, and there were from seventy to eighty contused wounds upon the feet, legs, thighs, and back.' The hospitals of Liverpool record many instances of the lamentable condition in which the majority of these victims of savage ferocity are brought in. . . . It is, however, but justice to exonerate the majority of the captains from any participation in the actual ill-treatment. This has been generally practised by the mates, boatswains, and crews."

SHIPWRECKS.—The Anita steamer, belonging to the Magdalena Steam Navigation Company, has been wrecked off Moro Hermoso, which was some twenty miles to the south-east. Captain Hills, the commander, saved himself by clinging to a cask and an oar; and he and eleven more of the crew were taken off by the Estrella, another vessel belonging to the company, which was pursuing the same course. Twelve of the crew, however, perished; half of which number had formed part of the crew of the Tay, which was lost a few months ago in the Gulf of Mexico. The Anita left Savanilla on the 23rd of December, for London. She had not been out more than two hours before a formidable leak was discovered; a gale sprang up; all efforts to reduce the in-pouring of the water failed; the furnaces and boilers were speedily reached by the waves; and, in five hours from the starting of the vessel, she foundered.—The Ravensbourne, London and Antwerp steamer, has been wrecked at Flushing, owing to a heavy sea stoving in her bows.—The French barque Sally, bound from Bordeaux to Liverpool, has been wrecked in Carnarvon Bay. Out of a crew of sixteen, only two were saved. The vessel broke up in fifteen minutes after she struck.—The Water Wyvern yacht, the property of James Edward Stopford, Esq., Vice-Commodore of the Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland, and managing director of the Royal Irish Fisheries Company, is a total wreck. She was on a voyage from Dublin to Galway Bay, but, striking on a reef of rocks to the westward of Mutton Island, she went to pieces.—A Scotch commercial vessel, the Welsford, was wrecked at Cape Race on Christmas-day, and all hands but the mate and two men—in all, twenty-three persons—perished. The ship and cargo are totally lost.

REDUCTIONS AT WOOLWICH.—A great many temporary clerks, employed in the Government Department at Woolwich, are to be dismissed. Some two thousand labourers and artisans are also to be discharged at the end of March. Many of those persons who are now engaged in the store branch of the War Department, and who are advanced in life, are to retire on the superannuation list. Reports, also, are current to the effect that the majority of the artillery officers employed in superintending the departments of Woolwich Arsenal are to be superseded by civilians experienced in the duties of the departments, the services of the military officers having been demanded by the Commander-in-Chief.

ANOTHER ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Lady Franklin has addressed and published a letter to Lord Palmerston, seeking to engage the sympathy of those in power in the despatch of an expedition in search of the remains of the Franklin party. She endeavours to show that the proposed search may be made with slight hazard of life and very small cost; and observes: "This final and exhausting search is all I seek in behalf of the first and only martyrs to Arctic discovery in modern times, and it is all I ever intend to ask."

THE TYNE.—Attempts are still being made to raise the Tyne.

SAILORS' STRIKE AT HULL.—The seamen of the port of Hull are now on strike for an advance of wages.

MISCELLANEOUS.

RUSSELL, THE BLACKING MANUFACTURER.—This bankrupt passed the Court last Saturday. The business had been carried on at a loss for some time, and it would appear that the bankrupt's habits were improvident.

COREA.—The *Pays* announces that, while the Chinese Government shows itself so unfriendly to foreigners, the King of Corea has spontaneously opened the ports on his coast to commercial ships of all nations. The kingdom of Corea, which lies between Manchuria, Japan, and the Straits of Corea, contains many fertile districts, and produces many articles suited for export to Europe. The King of Corea acknowledges the suzerainty of the Court of Peking; but he is completely independent as to the government of his kingdom.—*Times*.

NORFOLK ISLAND.—Norfolk Island is to be severed from the diocese of Tasmania, and to be annexed to that of Sydney, the Queen being empowered, by a bill, to issue letters patent to that effect.

THE UNEMPLOYED.—A crowded meeting of working men was held on the evening of Friday week at the Temperance-hall, Clerkenwell, Mr. Neale Porter in the chair; when several resolutions were agreed to, having reference to the present distressed condition of the working men of the metropolis. The first resolution called the attention of Government to the "severe, wide-spread, and alarming distress existing in the metropolis and its suburbs, the result of a long stagnation in the building and other trades." The other resolutions spoke of the "acute and almost intolerable privations" now endured by working men, their wives and children, and stated that the only hope of the men who could not find employment was emigration to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada; and they therefore prayed the Government to grant them a free passage to the colonies. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based upon the resolutions, were agreed to.

REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.—The reports of the Factory Inspectors for the half-year ended the 31st of October appeared in print last Saturday. From their conjoint reports it appears that the inspectors have applied themselves to the consideration of the duties under the act of last session in regard to the fencing of mill gearing and machinery. They find the provisions of the "arbitration" clause wholly inadequate to afford that amount of protection to the operatives which they conceive must have been contemplated by the Legislature in passing the Act of 1856, and they have therefore not taken any proceedings under that Act. They do not object to the principle of arbitration, but to the class from which the arbitrators are required to be chosen, because that class is not qualified to act in such a capacity. The number of children employed has decreased considerably in flax and woollen factories, while it has increased in worsted. The total number of children under 13 years of age employed in all kinds of factories last year amounted to 46,071; the number of males between 13 and 18 to 72,220; the number of females above 13 to 387,826; and the number of males above 18 years to 176,400—making an aggregate of 682,407. There were 1919 accidents from machinery, and 53 not due to machinery. The number of informations was 380, and the number of convictions 245.

THE INCOME-TAX MOVEMENT.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Bath, convened by the Mayor, has been held at the Guildhall, for the purpose of protesting against the continuance of the war increase of the income-tax, and against "our meddling foreign policy." Both the members for Bath were present, and promised to vote against continuing the tax as it now stands.—A meeting was held at Marylebone on Thursday evening, when Sir Benjamin Hall spoke in favour of a reduction of the tax, but said it could not be altogether abolished without injustice to the poorer classes.

ILLNESS OF MR. THACKERAY.—Mr. Thackeray delivered one of his lectures on the Georges last Tuesday, at Halifax, and was to have delivered another at the same town on the following evening, and also one at Leeds on Thursday; but he was seized with illness at Halifax on Wednesday, and was unable to lecture either on Wednesday or Thursday.

THE LATE ARCHDEACON WILBERFORCE.—Tidings of the decease of the Rev. Robert T. Wilberforce, second son of the late Mr. W. Wilberforce, and late Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, at Albano, fourteen miles from Rome, on Tuesday, February 3, of gastric fever, have been received by his family.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The colony for the most part is tranquil; but apprehensions of attacks by the Kaffirs are felt by the white men. The savages are also said to have committed wanton havoc among the crops.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its annual meeting on Monday in the Manchester Town-hall, when a long report was read and adopted, having reference to the necessity of encouraging the growth of cotton in India, our African possessions, and other of our colonies.

MILLINERS AND DRESSMAKERS.—A meeting to express sympathy with the frightful overwork of milliners and dressmakers, and to call the attention of English-

women to their oppressed condition, was held on Monday night at Exeter-hall. The Bishops of London and Llandaff, Lord Shaftesbury, and Dr. Lankester, were among the speakers, and resolutions in accordance with the objects of the meeting were unanimously carried.

THE WINDSOR CASTLE THEATRICALS.—Mr. Charles Kean has written to say that, when the greater number of the actors at a particular theatre are taken away on one night, to perform at Windsor Castle, so as to cause the theatre to close on that night, the manager receives a sum in compensation, and the salaries of the actors are paid on that occasion on the calculation of what they ordinarily receive. Mr. Rogers, therefore, on the night for which he received 13s. 4d., was paid double salary. It must be manifest, however, that this does not do away with the charge of meanness.

REFORMATORY AND REFUGE UNION.—The first annual general meeting of this society was held on Wednesday, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. Besides the chairman, the meeting was addressed by Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Chambers, M.P., Mr. Russell Gurney, the Hon. A. Kinnaid, &c., by whom resolutions (which were carried unanimously) were proposed, in accordance with the objects of the association.

THE BRITISH BANK.—The negotiations lately in progress for a compromise between the shareholders and the creditors of the Royal British Bank have terminated in an agreement that 6s. 6d. in the pound shall be paid, over and above whatever may be realized from the assets.

BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. FOX AND HENDERSON.—Messrs. Fox and Henderson, engineers and contractors, were on Wednesday declared bankrupts in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, and duly surrendered in the course of the afternoon. The reluctance of a large English creditor to sign the deed of inspection agreed upon in November, and not the recent decision of the French Court, is said to have precipitated the bankruptcy. The first meeting is fixed for the 2nd of March, and the last for the 30th of the same month. Mr. Coleman, of London, is to prepare the accounts. The Court granted an allowance of 10% per week to each of the bankrupts.

RUINS OF CARTHAGE.—A Mr. Davis, an English gentleman, has been excavating in the neighbourhood of ancient Carthage, and has discovered some very interesting remains.

STABBING IN SELF-DEFENCE.—A young man at Edinburgh has been tried for the manslaughter of a labourer. The deceased attacked him in the streets at night, when the accused stabbed him with a knife, and also wounded three others. It was held to be justifiable homicide, and he was acquitted.

RACE v. RACE.—This case, by the desire of the parties interested, was heard in the Vice-Chancellor's private room on Monday and Tuesday; and at the conclusion of the arguments, shortly before four o'clock on the latter day, his Honour reserved his decision until Thursday morning. The decision, like the former proceedings, was delivered in private; but it transpired that the following order was made:—"Declare that the infant plaintiff, Alicia Race, ought to be brought up in the Protestant faith. Appoint Captain Conolly and Mr. Woodroffe (of the Chancery bar) guardians of the infant, if they think proper to accept the office. Otherwise, refer it to chambers to appoint fit and proper persons to be such guardians. Order that the infant plaintiff, Alicia Race, be delivered to the Sailors' Orphan School at Hampstead." This order proceeds upon the undertaking of the Rev. E. U. Bickersteth, and four other gentlemen, to clothe, maintain, and educate the child in a manner suitable to her rank; to an amount not exceeding 25% per annum, until she attain the age of twenty-one years.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF JOHN PAUL.—The adjudication of bankruptcy in this case, which had been disputed, was on Thursday confirmed.

GEORGE HOLMES, the man who was released from prison by Sir George Grey, on pretence of ill health, about a month ago, has again got into custody on a charge of theft.

RAILWAYS.—The Railway system continues not merely to increase but to change. Of the 265 separate companies mentioned in "Bradshaw's Manual" for 1848, as having an independent existence, upwards of ninety have either become absorbed in others, or been abandoned and broken up. Notwithstanding this somewhat surprising alteration, the number of companies which now exist in the three kingdoms amounts to no less than 243.—*Bradshaw's Railway Manual, &c.*, 1857.

THE THEATRES.—Two novelties have been produced this week, to which we have only space barely to allude. One is a translation at the Haymarket from a celebrated French piece, called in its English dress *Double-Faced People*. Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Compton, Mr. Chippendale, Miss Reynolds, and Mrs. E. Fitzwilliam, in this drama throw a various light on the one principle of hypocrisy.—The other new piece is at the Olympic, where Mr. Robson excites laughter in the complications of a farce called *A Splendid Investment*.

THE FRENCH JOURNALS have received orders from Government to be absolutely silent on the subject of the approaching elections, for fear, we suppose, of disturbing the purity of the suffrage.

THE NEW JUDGE.—Mr. Serjeant Channell will, we are informed, succeed the late Sir E. H. Alderson as a Baron of the Exchequer.—*Morning Post*.

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 LAWS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—You have kindly promised me space in the columns of your "Open Council" to speak at length of the first petition on the subject of the alteration of the laws respecting the property of married women, which was signed by three thousand petitioners of the female sex, and presented to the Houses of Lords and Commons by Lord Brougham and Sir Erskine Perry respectively. This petition, succeeded by many others from all parts of the kingdom, was intended to include in some sort a summary of the arguments in favour of the change it supported, and was therefore drawn up at some length. It contained thirteen clauses, detailing most of the special injuries which the petitioners conceived to be inflicted by the said laws upon society. Permit me to take these clauses one by one, and examine their statements. The first clause humbly sheweth

"That the manifold evils occasioned by the present law, by which the property and earnings of the wife are thrown into the absolute power of the husband, become daily more apparent. That the sufferings thereby occasioned extend over all classes of society. That it might once have been deemed for the middle and upper ranks a comparatively theoretical question, but is so no longer, since married women are entering on every side the fields of literature and art, in order to increase the family income by such exertions."

That the particular evils complained of are on the increase, both as regards fact and as regards publicity, admits of no question. We cannot take up a newspaper without seeing cases wherein the woman's earnings have been dissipated by the man; while the story is sometimes reversed in an advertisement, wherein the husband announces to the public that, after the date of such and such an insertion, he will not hold himself responsible for his wife's debts. This partly arises from the vigilant surveillance which the press now exercises over society, dragging to light every minute detail of private life, so that that which was once hidden in secret is now proclaimed upon the house-tops; but still more from the increased facilities of action which our modern civilization affords to woman. It is evident, upon the slightest thought, that until the physical forces of society are brought into order, the power, whether moral or intellectual, of the weaker sex must be doomed to comparative inaction. Not only is the woman, from her feeble frame, exposed to chances of death, but, as a mother, she bears during many years the responsibility of other lives than her own. She may possess the artistic eye of Rosa Bonheur, or the fiery genius of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, but these are of no sort of avail so long as she must remain shut up in a feudal castle, only taking exercise amidst the laurel bowers of "The Lady's Walk," and seeing the world, either panorama-wise from the top of a tower, or in small ornamental sections of the court and the chapel; so long as she must lead the life of a bird of bright plumage tenderly fed in a gilded cage, under pain of exposing herself to death, or worse than death. Women are physically at the mercy of evil doers, and herein lies the gist of the whole argument for their servitude or their enfranchisement. It is well to put this plainly, because it affords at once excuse for the past and hope for the future, and destroys the force of that "*semper et ubique*" which decrees that women have been, are, and ever shall be in the position of minors before the law.

But this very law which redresses the balance between the strong and the weak, now performs for woman that office of personal protector, in which she was once obliged to instal father, brother, or husband. Not only is a woman sure of instant redress, from the picking of her pocket up to major offences, but, what is of infinitely more importance to refined and sensitive natures, is the fact that the unseen pressure of the law, aiding the increase of good manners, actually secures from impertinence all women who do not bring it upon their own heads, and that, with the exception of particularly lonely country districts, women are equally safe by day and by dusk in the streets of London, in the precincts of the country town, in the village, in the farm, and on the king's highway. Women may travel all over England without the risk of any annoyance except such as they choose to create in their own imaginations; they may enter into business relations with men, married or unmarried, and thereby gain not less

but increased respect, provided that they be doing their work in a *bona fide* spirit. The Lady of Erin's Isle can walk about in her jewels, "rings on her fingers and rings on her toes," as she chooses, without any poet, therefore, thinking it necessary to put her into a ballad; and though the Bard of Seven Dials sings, *à propos* of Miss Nightingale, that

Women was born for the comfort of man, man certainly has at last secured a very large amount of personal comfort and freedom to women, and in so far has altered somewhat the condition, or rather the level, of his relations to them. The wood and water, the coarser elements of safety and bodily well-being, having been secured to the sex, we find ourselves raised to the consideration of deeper and more delicate relations, which formerly had no play because they had no existence. The woman is no longer sold, actually or virtually, by her father to her husband. She makes her own choice at an age when she is supposed competent to exercise a choice, and society, whatever its practice, is extremely shocked at any other theory of married life. Now come into the question various shades of feeling, various complications of interest between father, mother, and children; the mother, feeling directly and individually responsible to God for the moral well-being of boys and girls, desires to exercise some practical influence over their destinies, and it is universally conceded that she has a joint right to do so, even during the life of the father, while the case of Alicia Race has lately proved that Protestant prejudice itself declines to interfere with the rights of a widowed mother, the Catholic guardian to the children of a Protestant father, who died "defending his country." Hard as the individual religious question appeared in this case, we yet greatly rejoiced that the law gave to the surviving parent those parental rights which, by the death of the other, naturally fell to the decision of her conscience.

Thus it is, we think, amply proved, that even because men have secured so much legal justice and personal safety to women, questions are now rising on all hands having their root in this new and noble foundation of our social life; and that, since the woman no longer has to buy protection by the unconditional surrender of person and property, the manifold evils occasioned by the present law, whereby the property and earnings of the wife are thrown into the absolute power of the husband, become daily more apparent.

The same clause goes on to state "that the sufferings thereupon ensuing extend over all classes of society. That it might once have been deemed for the middle and upper classes a comparatively theoretical question, but it is no longer, since married women of education are entering on every side the fields of literature and art, in order to increase the family income by such exertions." No sign of the times is more singular than the diffusion of the habit of working for money among married women. We do not mean to say that money is always the motive of the work—which it can never primarily be in the case of true artists—but that the labourer is worthy of his hire. While many women really do a great amount of hard literary hack-work, such as translating and compiling, for the sake of earning an honourable livelihood for those dear to them, and are paid in the same way, if not always at the same rate as professional literary men, editors, *et id genus omne*, female geniuses receive no less a golden equivalent for their talents; Mary Barton bears a price, as well as *Vanity Fair*, *Aurora Leigh* will prove that the apple of the tree of knowledge bears some affinity to the golden apples of the garden of the Hesperides, and will run through as many bound and gilded editions as the Poet Laureate's *In Memoriam*. And comparing the literary women of the present day with those of the early part of the century, it is curious to remark how many more of the highest class of intellect are married, and living happily in domestic life. Maria Edgeworth, Jane Austin, Mary Mitford, all these lived and died unmarried. Mrs. Hemans, the poetess *par excellence* of our mothers and aunts, was separated from her husband. L. E. L. had but a short and fatal experience of matrimony, over which hangs an impenetrable mystery. At the present day our two most popular female novelists, Mrs. Stowe and Mrs. Gaskell, are both married and the mothers of many children; Elizabeth Barrett is a wife, and mother to a "young Florentine," who finished, we suppose, the original of that most unsurpassed baby in *Aurora Leigh*. Our only strictly scientific female writer is also married—Mary Somerville; Currer Bell married, and, had she lived, would have continued, as Mrs. Nichol, the noble series which Charlotte Brontë had begun; while the popular writers whose works circulate in all our watering-places, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Marsh, and Mrs. Trollope, are equally within the 'holy estate.' The woman whose name is known all over England in connexion with the improvement of literature for the people is Mrs. Howitt; but we might go on for ever with the list. And among those women who, unmarried, occupy a prominent place in literature, it is choice, or the accidents of life, and no dread of 'bas bleu' on

the part of the other sex, which has kept them so. Among artists are Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Carpenter; among philanthropists we may reckon Mrs. Fry, who has been dead but little more than ten years; and what she did for love and zeal, other women can do for benevolence and necessary pay. Mrs. Chisholm works as hard as a Foreign Secretary; and Madame Luce, in Algiers, is the paid directress of the Mussulman school, which she was the first to organize and force upon the attention of Government. It is the same in all countries, from Mrs. Johnstone, of Edinburgh, who was for years the real editor of the widely-circulating *Inverness Courier*, which was put out under her husband's name, to Mrs. S. C. Hall, Mrs. Newton Crossland, and so on *ad infinitum*. Mrs. Everett Green collates state papers, and "truly the labourer is worthy of his hire." Then among teachers of arts and of languages, from the El-listons, who inherit the genius and grace of both father and mother, to the exiles, Madame Kinkel and Madame Pulsky, everywhere we see the same thing—married women of ability and reputation helping their husbands in the struggles of life. And it is no use to set up a sentimental theory that they ought not to do this, when the claims of their own genius, or the economical necessities of the country, are increasing every day the number of female labourers. As well try to dam out the flowing of a mighty river, as to stop women from working when once they have seen the need, felt the power, and tasted the profits of exertion. And the laws which once operated with sufficient justice in a society where every wife was supported by her husband, and took out that support in active, practical household work—weaving of linen and knitting of hose—no longer apply to a condition of things in which, these operations being necessarily confided to Manchester and Nottingham, and the cooking to a maid of all work, women of ability find it to be far more profitable to spend their time in earning pounds, than in saving pennies. In a succeeding letter we hope to prove, that, so soon as the wife really contributes actively her share to the family income, its uncontrolled disposal by the husband is an injustice productive of many moral evils, while, on the other hand, we need not fear, although the love of money is defined by Jeremy Taylor to be "a vertiginous pool, sucking all into it to destroy," that English mothers will be drowned by reason of its depth.

BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.

Algiers, February 1, 1857.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—An article which appeared in your paper some months since, and which spoke in favour of an alteration in the present laws, makes me take the liberty of troubling you with this letter.

Some days since I met with a letter in the *Times*, headed "Imprisonment for Debt in France," and its contents so startled me, that I at once despatched a letter to Paris, and the result was a reply of which I will give you some extracts.

Some time since, a Mr. Morney, whom my correspondent states was a gentleman of amiable manners and disposition, having just parted from a friend who visited him in his *cellule* before breakfast, walked down a passage, and looking out of a window, was shot by a sentinel; the ball severing the carotid artery, his death was instantaneous.

The murderer's excuse for his act was, that the deceased had mocked him; that he had six times called out "*Retirez-vous!*" and that he was attempting to escape.

Now, my correspondent says that this gentleman was not the sort of person to mock any one. He perfectly understood, and could speak the language, and had just settled a process which entitled him to receive 150,000*fr.* (6000*l.*); and as to his attempt to escape, that he died with his hands in his pockets!

The writer of this letter implores me to use my pen in the cause of the distressed "English" *détenu* in a foreign land. He states that their sufferings in these prisons are very dreadful, and as no notice has ever been given that the act of looking out of a window may be punished by death, fears that occurrences of the kind may be frequent. If half the miseries inflicted upon prisoners for debt in the United Kingdom (and which imprisonment I term "punishment for misfortune"), were known to exist among the natives of Timbuctoo, or some of the wilds of Central Africa, the saints of Exeter Hall would, long ere this, have placarded all London, and have met in solemn convocation. But in addition to the continuance of a barbarous law, and the keeping up of *bastilles* and all their machinery as cages for the victims of the black sheep of the legal profession, we are now to hear of our countrymen being confined in a foreign land, and shot at like dogs if they attempt to catch a few mouthfuls of the polluted air which is wafted around their dungeons.

I could tales unfold respecting our own prisons which would fully show the necessity of the repeal of the present law, but will not now further occupy

your space than to give you the opinion of the late Lord Eldon:—

"The law of imprisonment for debt is a permission to commit a greater oppression and cruelty than is to be met with in slavery itself; to tear the father from his weeping children, the husband from his distracted wife, to satiate the demoniac vengeance of some worthless creditor."—*Lord Eldon's Speech on the Slave Trade.*

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CIVICUS.

GOLD.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—For the sake of one of the most important principles connected with modern chemical science, I beg to call your attention, and that of your readers, to an extract admitted into the *Leader* of January 3 from an article on Occult Philosophy in *Fraser's Magazine* of the current month. The passage referred to, after instancing the extent and variety of application of a few of what are considered to be elementary bodies, expresses a doubt that Nature, after clothing a man from head to foot with carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen, should be so extravagant as to devote a single element to the manufacture of a watch, or a coin. No doubt, there is here a logical paradox; but when it is remembered that Nature has no hand in selecting man's costume, and that it would be indifferent to the Universal law if he were to garb himself entirely in gold, the attribution of such anomalous conduct to our great mother, is, I think, simply impertinent. It has never been proved that gold does not combine with other elements, and form new substances of an organic nature, even supposing that we do not discover its presence in animal and vegetable substances. Other elements have been found to exist in conditions in which they were insensitive to ordinary tests. Are the usual tests for gold infallible? Gold was once thought to be incapable of vaporisation. Gay Lussac caused it to evaporate under a powerful burning-glass. Might it not, in such a state, find a fitting partner amongst the other elements to constitute some new body valuable to man, and interesting to the philosopher? Let it be shown fully that gold and its combinations are not primarily essential members of the grand system of physical nature, before their restricted applications to the arts of life (arguing only man's incapacity) be assumed good ground for upsetting a scientific dogma that has sustained all the proof that human ingenuity has been enabled to apply.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. B. THOMPSON.

17, Great Canterbury place, South-west-road.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, February 14.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

In this House, the Earl of DERBY gave notice of his intention to make a motion on the subject of the Chinese war; and discussions took place with regard to the state of the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland, and the Rights of Married Women, the latter being originated by Lord BROUGHAM, who, however, introduced no measure on the subject.

Their Lordships adjourned at nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CATHEDRAL REFORM.

In answer to Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, Lord PALMERSTON said that the Government had no present intention of bringing in a bill on the subject of Cathedral Reform.

PERSIA.

In answer to Mr. LAYARD, Lord PALMERSTON said that a debate on the Persian question would have a detrimental effect on the negotiations now going on with the Shah—especially as the negotiations were proceeding in a promising manner.—In answer to Mr. H. J. BAILLIE, Lord PALMERSTON said he could not at present lay on the table the ultimatum which was sent to Persia before the declaration of war.—Mr. ROBERTSON said the circumstances of the Persian war, and of the negotiations that were going on, showed that the boasted supervision of Parliament over public affairs was a mere farce; as they could not ask a question either before, during, or after a war, and get an answer.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the position of affairs in relation to this matter was peculiar, and one that required the forbearance of the House; and he deprecated any discussion on the subject.—Mr. GLADSTONE said it would be difficult for the House at present to enter into a discussion on this subject; but still there was this peculiarity, that a war had been begun by the Government on their own responsibility, and without the sanction of Parliament; but, as the papers which had been promised professed to clear up that point, he could not at present form any judgment as to the necessity of opening a debate.—Mr. DISRAELI said that it was necessary that the House should know that the negotiations which were going on were such as held out a sound prospect of their ending in a peace; because it

was possible that the war might go on, without inquiry of the House, simultaneously with the negotiations.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER brought forward his financial statement. He said that it was more in the ordinary course to bring forward the Estimates before introducing the Budget, but he had reversed that course out of deference to the wishes of the House. He called attention to the state of expenditure and revenue of the current year. He stated that last year he estimated the revenue of the current year at 71,740,000*l.*; it had reached 71,885,000*l.* The expenditure he estimated at 82,113,000*l.*, showing a deficiency of 10,000,000*l.* and a fraction. To cover that deficiency, loans were effected: part of the first loan of 5,000,000*l.* was received this year, then there was another loan of 5,000,000*l.*, and an issue of 2,000,000*l.* of Exchequer Bills, making the loans available 7,000,000*l.*; only 1,000,000*l.* of Exchequer Bills was, however, borrowed. The total receipts by revenue and loans was 79,000,000*l.*; the expenditure would be about 78,000,000*l.*, leaving a balance of more than 1,000,000*l.* The right hon. gentleman having gone through the usual comparison between his estimates of revenue last year and the expenditure, he proceeded to estimate the expenditure of the ensuing year at 65,494,000*l.* Of this the interest on the funded debt would take 28,550,000*l.*, the charges on the Consolidated Fund 1,707,000*l.*, and the cost of the services, civil and military, would be 32,904,000*l.*; the estimate for the army and militia being 11,625,000*l.*, the navy 8,109,000*l.*, packet service, 965,000*l.*, civil service 7,250,000*l.*, collection of the revenue 4,215,000*l.*, superannuation 475,000*l.*, and a vote towards the Persian expedition of 26,500*l.* There would also be required a sum of 2,250,000*l.* to pay off Exchequer Bonds and a portion of the sinking fund on the last loan of 5,000,000*l.* As regarded taxation, he proposed to reduce the income-tax to 9*d.* in the pound for three years, on incomes of 150*l.*; and to 5*d.* in the pound on incomes of 100*l.*, which he intimated would produce 9,000,000*l.* He estimated the revenue at 66,365,000 from all sources, which, as against an expenditure of 65,494,000*l.*, would leave a surplus of 871,000*l.*

A desultory discussion followed, but no debate in the strict sense of the term, and the formal resolution moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was agreed to.

THE CONTINENT.

According to a Berlin letter in the *German Journal of Frankfurt*, "the preparations for the conference which is to terminate the Neuchâtel question are proceeding very slowly, and replies have not yet been received from all the Powers to the note in which Prussia declared that by the liberation of the prisoners she was enabled to enter into negotiations for the definitive regulation of the question. The Prussian Government has profited by the last few weeks to collect various documents which support her claims."

The *Paris Moniteur* of yesterday announces that Count de Morny remains at St. Petersburg as Ambassador Extraordinary. M. Schneider, Vice-President, will act as President during the session.

"It is certain," says the *Globe* Paris correspondent, "that the Grand Duke Constantine will arrive in France at the commencement of April."

The Emperor of Russia is going to Warsaw.

The French Emperor will open the Corps Législatif in person on Monday.

The bill in the Sardinian Chambers on the reorganization of the superior administration of public instruction, has been adopted by a majority of 75 to 53.

The creation of a free port at Naples, and the complete revision of the customs laws, have been decided in council by King Ferdinand.

The *Madrid Gazette* announces the discovery of a dépôt of arms and ammunition in the Théâtre des Variétés. The director of the theatre has been arrested.

PERSIA.

We are informed by a despatch from Constantinople that "the English, under Chamberlayne, have entered Cabul, marching with an Afghan army, under Dost Mahomed, on Herat. A reinforcement of seven hundred men from Bombay has arrived at Bushire." Probably this is a revival of the old report, which has taken some time (and larger dimensions) to travel through Persia. By the latest accounts, Brigadier Chamberlayne, after intimidating a refractory tribe, had returned into the British territories. In any case, intelligence of movements in Afghanistan will be received more quickly, and therefore of more recent date, *via* Bombay and Egypt than *via* Constantinople.

"I have reason to believe," says the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* of this day, "that Russia will not continue in advising Persia to resist the demands of England. It is quite possible that despatches will shortly reach the Persian Envoy in Paris of a conciliatory character. France desires peace, and Russia wishes to be on good terms with this country, for reasons easily imagined." A Vienna correspondent of the *Weser Gazette* says:—"It is asserted in diplomatic circles here that England has accepted the mediation of France in the Persian dispute."

AMERICA.

The City of Washington has arrived from New York with advices to the 1st inst., and no specie.

Congress, with but little debate and without a syllable being uttered with reference to the slavery question, passed bills providing for the admission of Oregon and Minnesota into the Confederation as Sovereign States.

General Garcia, formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Tamaulipas, in revenge for being deprived of the command of Tampico by the revolution of the 30th of October, has seized the goods belonging to various mercantile houses in transit to the interior.

Nicaragua and Costa Rica have agreed upon a new boundary line.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, February 13th, 1857, including season ticket holders, 8037.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The "Author of Adaptability," who does not send his name, does not appear to us to contribute any new light to the discussion of the important question to which his letter refers.

THOMAS PEACOCK.—We beg to refer our correspondent to the notice which has appeared several weeks consecutively in our columns. The residuary letters in type on the Lunar controversy are now exhausted, and we must be permitted to consider the discussion closed in this journal.

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

The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

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 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE Army and Navy Estimates had prepared the public, to some extent, for the Financial Statement of Sir CORNEWALL LEWIS. It was felt that, with these avowed reductions of expenditure, the Government could not possibly propose to retain the War Income-tax. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, accordingly, is prepared to relieve incomes of 100*l.* a year of elevenpence, and incomes above 150*l.* of sevenpence—out of sixteenpence—in the pound. These, certainly, are concessions, but it may be doubted whether they will be regarded as satisfactory by the Opposition or by the country. The Income-tax is still a heavy impost—heavier than before the war. So far from reverting to Mr. GLADSTONE's settlement, Mr. CORNEWALL LEWIS desires to levy nearly double the amount on all incomes of more than 150*l.* a year—ninepence instead of fivepence. We see on this point the opportunity of a formidable party attack, by which, should Mr. GLADSTONE continue to coalesce with the Tories, and obtain the concurrence of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, the Government may be taken by storm. Moreover, it by no means appears that the estimates have been adequately reduced. They have not been calculated on a war scale, it is true, but neither have they been calculated on a peace scale. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, we suppose, will reply that they have been calculated with a view to improved efficiency; but improved efficiency does not mean increased expenditure. The Government asks for three millions more, at least, under the head of Army and Navy Estimates, than were required by the Budget of 1853.

The discussion in the House of Commons last night was desultory and indecisive, forming no test whatever of the reception likely to be given to Lord PALMERSTON's Budget

for 1857. Next week there will probably be debates more alarming to the Government; nor do we anticipate that the agitation out of doors will be altogether lulled by the imperfect concessions of the Treasury. The public asked for the total and unconditional abolition of the war ninepence; why, then, is only sevenpence to be repealed on the higher class of incomes? It is not the difference between 100*l.* and 150*l.* that we desire to be recognized, but the difference between one 100*l.* and another 100*l.*—the former precarious, and worth three years' purchase, the latter fixed, and worth thirty years' purchase. Now is the opportunity for the House of Commons to govern the Government on questions of finance.

MORAL OF THE SECRET TREATY.

MR. DISRAELI has learned, at some expense to himself, that although a newspaper may be benefited by 'startling disclosures,' which no one cares to contradict, it is not permitted to a statesman to engage in that sort of traffic. When a young-Tory journal, naturally eager to attract notice, ventures to deal in 'exclusive' intelligence during the Parliamentary recess, fly-catchers are amused, and a fractional public, perhaps, is deceived. But the Tory leader in the House of Commons occupies a different position. He cannot, without loss of character, commit himself to exaggerations and absurdities. Mr. DISRAELI, therefore, has already sacrificed all the advantage he gained in the first debate of the session, by his heavy attitudinising on the subject of the Secret Treaty. We ventured, last week, to suggest the real meaning of the Convention alluded to; and it would have been fortunate for Mr. DISRAELI had he adopted a similar interpretation, or, at least, refrained from making a statement which only rendered his original blunder more distinct and inexcusable. We said that he had caught a glimpse of certain negotiations between France and Austria, sanctioned by England, which resulted, not in a formal treaty, but in a diplomatic understanding, and we added that Mr. DISRAELI, by a skilful cross-examination of the Minister, might have elicited this fact, without exposing himself to contradiction and ridicule. It appears that the circumstances were of the nature we described. There was no treaty; but there was a Military Convention; yet Mr. DISRAELI, leaving no way open for retreat, advanced beyond his original position, affirmed the existence of a treaty, indicated the date of its signature, misrepresented its objects, and gave Lord PALMERSTON an opportunity to retort upon him, more triumphantly than before, that he had been imposed upon by the gossips of Paris. The Tory spokesman denied that he had derived his information from Paris, where he procured his speech at the death of the Duke of WELLINGTON; but, from whatever quarter it came, Naples or Vienna, it was literally incorrect, so that Lord PALMERSTON's "connivance" turns out to be Mr. DISRAELI's "credulity."

With reference to the Convention itself, it would have been a perfectly fair concomitant of a Treaty between Great Britain, France, and Austria, against Russia. Such a treaty would necessarily have been offensive and defensive. Politically and diplomatically considered, it would have been impossible to invite the co-operation of Austria in a war which would have brought her at once face to face with the enemy, and to have refused to protect her rear against insurrection, perhaps incited by Russian intrigue. The commonest instinct of self-preservation would have induced the Austrians to propose such a re-

ciprocity of advantages; the commonest sense of justice must have compelled the Allied Powers to grant it. But the Convention had reference only to a particular time and a special purpose. It was in no sense a treaty, in no sense a guarantee. It simply engaged the French Government to act in concert with Austria in Italy, so long as the Austrian Government acted in concert with France on the Danube, and England, interested as deeply as either of the negotiating Powers in the cause at issue, was bound to acquiesce in the arrangement. Nothing could have been more insane, on the part of Austrian statesmen, than to lead the van of a Russian war, with the certainty of an Italian insurrection in the rear; and nothing could have been more insane than for the combined Powers to require such a service without indemnifying their new ally against the consequences of her loyalty. We, indeed, should have sympathized with the Italian insurrection; we should be better pleased to hear that Austria had been defeated in Italy, than that Russia had been defeated in Bulgaria; but we cannot expect Austrian statesmen to take that view of affairs, and we must allow that the leaders of European diplomacy act only in obedience to universal human motives when they exact an adherence to their own policy as the security of their own system. Admitting that which, diplomatically, must be admitted, that an Austrian alliance against Russia would have been valuable while the war lasted, we are under the necessity of confessing that neither the French nor the British Government evinced a disposition to pay for it more than could be reasonably claimed by Austria, or honourably granted by the Allies.

But, believing as we do, that however important at one period in the history of modern Europe may have been the integrity of the Austrian Empire, that integrity is now a burden, held up in opposition to a bugbear, we are not inclined to approve of the Austrian sympathies which have crept into our Cabinet. The character of European diplomacy has materially changed since 1830-31, when Austria proposed to France the reconstruction of the kingdom of Poland. It is no longer a question between Austrian and Russian influence, but between constitutional and despotic influence, the despotic principle being represented equally by either of the two Powers, which invariably act in harmony when the interests of absolutism are concerned.

Mr. DISRAELI'S strategy in Parliament this week has been doubly a failure. Instead of making progress, he is forced back within the old lines of the Opposition. The basis of his attack was completely cut away by Lord PALMERSTON, whose statement must have been satisfactory to all who believe in the virtue of European diplomacy. We suspect that virtue, but Mr. DISRAELI does not; he has been foiled, and his defeat is owing more to his own indiscretion than to the strength of the ministerial case, as stated by the Premier.

SLAVERY ABOLITION AND COTTON SUPPLY.

At the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Mr. BAZLEY, the President, has avowed that the manufacturers of this country are at present short of raw material of every kind,—of silk, flax, wool, and cotton, besides materials for dyeing and subsistence for the labouring hands. We have a threat of a scanty cotton crop in the United States, the consequence of disorders amongst the Negroes, which have restricted the cultivation. We have had such reports before, and they have proved fallacious; but we have had short

cotton crops, and when they happen they inflict a serious loss on the manufacturing interests of this country. The warning is quite sufficient to remind us of a twofold danger under which we lie. With supplies drawn almost exclusively from one quarter, we are entirely dependent upon the changes of the season; while by the agitators of this country, we assist in increasing the chance of a calamity that might suddenly stop the entire supply of cotton. A general insurrection amongst the slaves in the Southern States would be frightful in the calamities of civil war, and in the White reaction against Black violences; and before the revolt was suppressed, perhaps millions of Negroes would be sacrificed. We should feel it, in the stoppage of a material upon which the manufacturing districts depend. Bankruptcy for the millowners, starvation for the factory hands, would be the direct consequences of that Abolitionist insurrection.

Meanwhile our safeguard against such an economical contingency would be the gradual extension of the cotton culture in other quarters, especially within British dominions. It is not probable that any jealousy of that culture would be excited in America, since it must necessarily be gradual, and hitherto the progress has not threatened any very fatal rivalry with the West. We look more especially to India, where any species of native culture would be a powerful auxiliary in improving the condition of the natives. At the commencement of the present century, indeed, all the cotton consumed in the world was grown in India, and there have been reasons only too substantial why the trade has been transferred from the East to the West. The indigenous cotton of India is too short in the staple for the purposes of a weft. Attempts have been made to introduce the American varieties, even the Sea Island and Pernambuco, and other very superior qualities; but we limit our attention at present to those kinds which in India are lumped under the name of New Orleans cotton, and are identical with the species imported from the United States for consumption in Lancashire. The cultivation of this cotton in India has been pronounced a failure; the Indian growth, it is said, being inferior to the American. We have in our hands, however, unmistakable proofs that this is an error; at the same time, the very causes of the misconception establish one among the many true obstacles to the cotton commerce in India. The main idea of the rude natives was to export the largest quantities; to that end, the more valuable cotton from the West was adulterated with the indigenous cotton. In some cases the two were ginned together; in others the seed was mixed, and a bastard crop was grown. The importing merchant of this country found that the manufacturer rejected the commodity; Americans in India pronounced the experiment to be a failure; and vast as the benefit to India would be, some persons have been so discouraged as to contemplate the abandonment of the attempt.

The importance of persevering may be shown by a single fact. Supposing India supplied us with cotton,—supposing, what is quite natural, that in return for exports she took exported manufactures from this country,—and supposing that her consumption was proportionate to the consumption of our colonies, the West Indies, Canada, Australia, the Cape of good Hope, or Mauritius, her consumption of British cotton manufactures would range from 211,000,000*l.* sterling to 486,000,000*l.* Indeed, those figures are only too moderate. It is important therefore to investigate the true obstacles to the extension of the culture in India.

These obstacles vary in different provinces. Madras may be considered for the present in a state of suspense, pending a gigantic improvement which the excessively depressed condition of the native cultivators has rendered necessary. Lord HARRIS is aiming, with what prospect of success we can at present scarcely estimate, to convert the tenure of land at the expense of an immense present sacrifice in revenue. The two provinces of present practical importance with reference to improvements in detail, are Bengal and Bombay.

In the Presidency of Bengal the difficulty does not arise from the tenure of the land, though it might be improved; still less does it arise from the mode of collecting the revenue, the amount of which is fixed, and which has become relatively less with the increase of population and with such improvement as has already taken place. Railways and canals will do much; but the great thing is the introduction of British capital and also of British intelligence in superintending the application of capital. Well, why not then bring in the cash and talent?

We have seen that one of the most fatal checks to the cotton cultivation in Bombay has been adulteration. We have witnessed the destruction of a fine trade from the same cause: the trade in the linen cloth of Nankin perished from the substitution of an inferior article, and no attempts to recover it were successful. In order to prevent the extinction of a nascent cotton growth in Bombay, it is necessary to look into the actual institutions of the province. The land is held directly under Government by the ryot, or peasant cultivator, who pays the rent or revenue to the Government at stated periods. This man is entirely without capital; he is invariably in arrears; and to make good his payments he borrows money of a professional lender, who takes a mortgage on the crop. By the laws of the land debts descend from father to son. The virtual owner of the crop therefore, almost of the land, is the money-lender; but he has no interest or authority in regulating the cultivation. The crop is disposed of through a dealer, who looks principally to gross quantity and weight. Price is a secondary consideration. In order to make up quantity and weight, the ryot adulterates the consignment as much as possible, throwing in even a surplussage of dirt, and positively *watering* the cotton to make it heavier! Sometimes the exporter requires a bulk of cotton at a given price; and if that is below the real value of the commodity, the obvious course is to adulterate the cotton down to the price offered—to make it nasty enough for the required cheapness. The real obstacle therefore to a better cultivation of cotton in the Bombay Presidency is the institution of ryotwar.

One difficulty in dealing with the subject in this country is, that the chief authority lies with the Board of Control, and that that Board, devoid of detailed information, is at the mercy of those who cram it. Hence, it sometimes happens that persons really well-informed on parts of the subject, or on the state of different provinces, present their view as embracing the whole of India. It is by that means that railways have been advocated as the one lever for cotton improvement, in a district where a seaboard affords the natural mode of transit. A practical experiment, however, was made in a collectorate of the South Mahratta country. There are two collectorates, Belgaum and Dharwar; the climate of these two collectorates is the same, the race is the same, the language the same; but the energetic experiment in cotton culture succeeded in Dharwar, failed in Bel-

gaum. Why? The reason was, that Belgaum was under the management of a gentleman who saw the fitness of the New Orleans species for Indian adoption, and who saw through the causes which had checked the growth. He succeeded, therefore, in extending the use of the New Orleans species, in checking the obstructions. That gentleman, Mr. ALEXANDER SHAW, is now in this country, and is accessible to give every information on the subject. It is not impossible that he may be returned to Parliament for a northern constituency, and the interests of the country will then have an advocate practically and minutely acquainted with the question as it applies to Bombay.

In the meanwhile those out of doors who have information of practical value in Indian subjects will probably be aroused to the protection of their own interests. At the present day we must rely to a great extent upon the incorporated representatives of commerce, and we know of none who can act with more efficiency than the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. To that body any question bearing on its great staple must be of paramount and urgent interest, and we have reason to believe, indeed, that it is already moving. Some of the facts which we have stated are drawn from a note addressed by Mr. SHAW to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; and we are convinced that if that body should take the lead in the public movement, its influence would soon be felt in Parliament, and obeyed by the Government.

THE GREY TICKET-OF-LEAVE.

SIR GEORGE GREY'S new law for the treatment of criminal offenders must be watched on the twofold score that it is not quite sufficient for its purpose, and that it takes too much power for the Executive Government. We take the two sections separately.

Crime is increasing, though statistics tell us the reverse; and Sir GEORGE GREY enjoins us not to be alarmed, for the number of prisoners convicted is declining. The proportion of offences committed by ticket-of-leave men is only sixteen per cent. on the total number of that class, or five per cent. on the total number of offences committed; and we ought to be satisfied with the progress. In the meanwhile, however, the public does not get over the facts that enormous frauds are committed right and left; that gentlemen are garotted in the open day, in populous streets even of London; that well-watched houses are entered by burglars; and that the progress of civilization exhibits itself quite as much in the art with which thieves and ruffians surmount the impediments of police, as in the development of the police itself. Perhaps we ought not to complain of the law in failing to check these evils, so much as of the state of society which tends to produce the evils; but the bill at least gives us no fresh protection in any of these particulars. It continues the ticket-of-leave men; it does not provide any means for procuring discharged prisoners employment; it simply obviates the confusion arising from the nominal sentence to transportation, and the actual sentence to penal servitude. Essentially it is not calculated to diminish the number of convicts, to carry any more of them abroad than are at present sent, or to withdraw a larger number of ticket-of-leave men from the streets, and help a larger number of persons in transition from a criminal to an honest life.

But if doing nothing except the one thing that Sir GEORGE GREY disclaims, it may, if well administered, somewhat improve the discipline within our prisons. It will give judges a larger discretion in apportioning sentences to offences. It will perhaps faci-

litate a better selection of convicts to be transported to the one colony taking them, Western Australia. And it may perhaps end in some mode of holding for a longer time in prison hardened and incorrigible offenders. But the whole of any such improvement lies, not in the law, not in the specific enactments of the bill, but in the execution by the Government.

It is here that the bill dangerously takes too much power for the Executive. The judge will pass a sentence apportioned in its term to the prisoner's guilt, and from that date the prisoner will be handed over to fate in the form of the Home Secretary. The sentence may be remitted to an almost indefinite extent, for although Sir GEORGE GREY thinks that it will be in general undesirable to remit more than one third or one fourth of the sentence, he believes that you cannot fix any precise limit. The prisoner may be released on ticket of leave, he may be detained the whole term in prison, he may be transported to the colonies at the pleasure of the Executive. The Minister might be lenient to some prisoners, very severe to others; and although Sir GEORGE GREY is not likely to be influenced by extraneous considerations, a time might come when prisoners would be sentenced for political offences under a Government actuated by strong political feelings. At such a time a sentence of the judge would constitute a vague surrender of the prisoner to the mercies of the Government, and those mercies might be dispensed with a dangerous discrimination. We have seen, as recently as 1842, a condition of great disorder in the country, in which repressive measures were thought to be necessary by the Executive, and in which popular agitation led men into the commission of acts technically subjecting them to transportation. By the present Bill they would be liable to a degree of punishment indefinite in its nature and depending upon the amount of leniency or rigour, of charitable feeling or party bitterness, in the breast of the Home Secretary.

There is an ulterior possibility lying in the same discretionary power, equally against justice and the constitution. At present there are few of the colonies which consent to receive convicts. The chief Australian colonies threatened rebellion rather than submit. The Cape colony actually rebelled, under the administration of Sir GEORGE GREY'S cousin, Lord GREY. The experiment would be very dangerous with the North American colonies, and no Minister of the slightest discretion would risk it. But we have had Ministers of no discretion; we have had Ministers who despise the remonstrances of colonies. There have been on both sides of both Houses strong advocates for renewed transportation. Is not Lord DERBY among them? A time, then, might arise when a Colonial Minister, theoretically favourable to renewed transportation, might not dislike to exercise his powers in the teeth of so contemptible a community as that of a colony. If any colonial settlement thwarted a Minister, he might even think it expedient to punish that community by inflicting upon it the insult, disgrace, and curse of convict transportation. We have seen Ministers quite capable of that act of vigour. The present Bill does not actually provide for any such contingency; but we believe that in the large powers which it hands over to the Executive it involves sufficient authority for any such course of proceeding.

Its progress through Parliament, therefore, must be watched, with a view to seeing if its provisions can be strengthened so far as to provide a more efficient penal discipline, and also to see if further restraint

might not be imposed upon the Executive, so as to prevent a one-sided exercise of 'justice' in times of political excitement, and a virtual change of the law in renewing practices which the Bill appears to discontinue.

A WEEK OF ELECTIONS.

WEGUELIN for Southampton, CODRINGTON for Greenwich, CLAY for Hull, KENNARD for Newport, JOHNSTONE for Downpatrick. There is little to be said for or against the choice of the free and independent. Mr. WEGUELIN is respectable, General CODRINGTON is respectable, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JOHNSTONE, and Mr. KENNARD are respectable. We have a sympathy with Mr. ANDREWS, and we recommend him to organize his forces for another contest. We have a sympathy with Greenwich, and are glad it has escaped Mr. SLEIGH, whose return would have been a parody of 'representation.' Mr. SEELEY, the unsuccessful candidate for Newport, is a thorough Liberal, and may, on future occasions, find a constituency prepared to accept him. But, as tests of our public opinion, we repudiate the whole batch of the week's elections. They are farces, follies, and illusions, and only serviceable as proofs of the necessity of parliamentary reform. No one will deny that an improper amount of money was expended at Southampton; no one will affirm that, had the Government screw been worked for Mr. SLEIGH, General CODRINGTON would not have been in a minority. As for Newport, it is a political fungus at the foot of Carisbrooke, a thirteenth-century corner, with a few hundred electors, celebrated for returning, in 1700, that knave JOHN SHEPHERD, who was forced on his knees in the House of Commons, expelled, and sent to the Tower for infamous bribery. We must decline to consider such an election as a constitutional proceeding at all. Indeed, the entire range of the elections now going forward simply illustrate the corruption and the injustice of our present system. Why was General CODRINGTON elected? Partly because the electors were under compulsion to vote for him; but partly, also, because a Greenwich election is so costly, that only a Government candidate or a pupil of ancient Pistol can be expected, in the fifth year of a Parliament, to contest it. Consequently, no man of the slightest political respectability was found to oppose the Whig General, unpopular as he is, on account of his refusal to support the ballot, or abolish military flogging. Mr. SLEIGH'S pretensions were purely ridiculous; his biography might amuse the electors, but certainly his representative statesmanship could have been of no service to them.

At Southampton the conflict was carried on with almost fratricidal fury. Little rivulets of gold streamed out of interested pockets; the Bank Charter was generous; Mr. ANDREWS was regardless of expense; Sir EDWARD BUTLER must have drowned many a railway dividend in the bitter waters of Whig and Tory strife. At Newport, the ground to be covered was not so large, so that Mr. KENNARD'S atomic majority may be supposed to have been won over with winged words dipped here and there in a yellow solvent. For Downpatrick, the 57. and 10% householders, and the 8% rated occupiers, whose dwindling numbers threaten to die away, and who once claimed for their own the Right Honourable JOHN WILSON CROKER, have fixed their favour on the Orange JOHNSTONE, in preference to the less brightly-tinted KERR. In North Leicestershire, the delicate Toryism of Lord JOHN MANNERS is confronted by the hard and heavy Protestantism of Mr. FREWEN. Lord JOHN MANNERS, however, is

the RUTLAND candidate, and when RUTLAND speaks North Leicestershire obeys—otherwise, how did the Marquis of GRANBY find himself a representative man, and how, in the names of GOSCOTE, FRAMLAND, and GARTREE, is EDWARD BASIL FARNHAM a member of Parliament? The Southampton election resembled a battle on Scamander's flowery bank; but the Greenwich day was an inglorious Donnybrook, at which the praise of a Portugal-street THERSITES was sung by a Tipperary PINDAR. Sing, O Seven Dials! how a candidate from far, in a chariot rolled along by four impatient steeds, dispensed large draughts of "joy-in-the-heart-of-man-inspiring" beer; and how the bilious minstrels, who, since the pale-eyed morning broke, had been imbibing unconstitutional gin, danced like mad Egyptians round the booth. But, from the Crimea came a warrior;—he unseated the taunting charioteer, whom (politically) black Death received, and him the white-armed maidens of Kent may mourn—but CODRINGTON goes into Parliament.

FRAUDULENT TRUSTEES.

AFTER a rather long period of inaction, the veteran reformer is once more up and doing. —HENRY LORD BROUGHAM, true to his old vocation, is again bestirring himself among the dirty holes and corners of the law. His late letters to the Law Amendment Society, and to Lord RADNOR, are fresh manifestations of the extraordinary activity which has animated this extraordinary man at every part of his eventful career; there is the same vigour of thought, the same uncompromising severity of expression, the same restless activity to amend abuses and sweep away humbugs and evil-doers from the earth. And certainly, if there are two subjects better calculated than any other to rouse the dormant fire of the old man eloquent, they must be those to which Lord BROUGHAM has lately been turning his attention—the Ticket-of-Leave Question and the Law respecting Fraudulent Trustees.

One of these subjects is quite enough for a journalist to grapple with at one time. It may be within the compass of a BROUGHAM to take them both together and, like HERCULES in his cradle, strangle a python with each hand. There may also be a kind of latent connexion between the two subjects; for can we not draw comparisons between the rough villain who reeks with tobacco and gin and throttles you in his hard grasp, or beats out your brains with a bludgeon that he possesses himself of your loose cash, and the sleek and well-dressed Mr. GAMMON who relieves you of your money in larger quantities, but by quieter means, and contents himself with ruining your prospects and breaking your heart. But we refrain. We have at all times a prudent respect for legal questions. We well know that lawyers (like all other technical persons) are very bigoted about their technicalities, and that an argument, when brought to bear upon one of these exclusive subjects, will fail utterly in its purpose if it displays the slightest ignorance of any quirk or quiddit connected with the matter. It appears to us, therefore, that one legal question at a time is quite as much as we can undertake to grapple with, and the question shall be the law affecting fraudulent trustees.

In his letter to Lord RADNOR, Lord BROUGHAM refers to this class of offenders in the following terms:—

"There is another failure, or at least a postponement, to be still more regretted. The law respecting breach of trust is left in the same state as before, and liable to all the powerful objections so often urged, but now strengthened by the scenes of fraud, it may be truly said of plunder, which have lately been exhibited. How

often have I besought the Lords, the highest court of judicature, seriously to consider the peculiarity, so discreditable to the law of England, of treating breach of trust as an excuse to the wrong-doer, while all other systems of jurisprudence regard it as an aggravation of his offence. Take the law of Scotland, for instance. The indictment sets forth that theft is a heinous crime, and severely punishable by the laws of all well-governed realms, more especially if committed in breach of a trust. But in the well-governed realm of England there can be no criminal indictment at all, nothing beyond a civil suit, against a trustee who robs those for whom he is entrusted; for by an absurd refinement, which prevents any court except the Court of Chancery from taking notice of the existence of the latter parties, he is not a criminal, but only a debtor, and only a debtor in what we are pleased to call equity."

Yes, this is the precise state of the case: a fraudulent trustee, who derives his authority and ownership from the Court of Chancery, is held to be answerable only to that court for his misdeeds, and as the only punishment in the nature of a criminal punishment which the Court of Chancery administers is for contempt of its authority, the remedy of the *cestius que trust*,—which is good law-French for the unfortunate persons whom he has cheated,—lies only against his estate. But if that is gone, if that is scattered to the winds like the trust-moneys which have been confided to him, then there is neither remedy to be got nor punishment to be adjudged; the legal robber is as free as air to go out into the highways and by-ways, foist his name (if possible) into another trust-deed, hold an equitable pistol at the head of new victims, and bid them stand and deliver fortune, happiness, and hope.

From the time when Trusts made their first appearance in the English law, they have never been regarded with any great favour by the untechnical; yet the scientific lawyers have always regarded them with affection; and we can scarcely wonder at this when we recognise in them the fruitful and inexhaustible source of three-fourths of the legal chains which now enslave the soil of England, and nine-tenths of the litigation which has drained that soil to the enrichment of the lawyers. To borrow a simile from the turf, they were got by Priestcraft out of Chicane. To what monkish brain we are indebted for this subtle invention we know not; but it is certain that it is from the casuists of the Church that this scheme for hiding the real ownership of the land originally emanated. It was part of the great system of expedients and dodges with which the most holy Catholic Church endeavoured to support that enormous scheme of aggrandizement whereby she hoped to absorb within herself not only all the power but all the wealth of Europe. When the law against Mortmain interfered between the dying and penitent owner of lands and the crafty priest who made the cession of his property and the spoliation of his heirs the sole condition of forgiveness and salvation, some astute ecclesiastical brain discovered that there was a means of evading the law, by conveying or devising the property to a layman *to be held in trust for the Church*. This was the origin of trusteeships, and although we are far from denying that it has afforded some protection to women and children, and has even protected spendthrifts against themselves, it must be confessed that this system has not a very creditable parentage.

As there are few men who have not in some form or other been induced, at some period of their lives, to look into the duties of trusteeship, with a view to making up their own minds as to whether or not they shall undertake them, we do not think it necessary to enlarge upon this branch of the question. Everybody knows that a trusteeship is a very peculiar and anomalous office. You have the entire control of the property, and are expected not to touch a shilling of

it; so that (let us be just) you have much of the cares of property, without any of its advantages. As at present constituted it is an onerous office, and too often a thankless one. The honest trustee can get little or nothing for his labour, and only the rogue can reap any profit. It is only fair, then, that if the law is amended so as to bind trustees to their duty more strongly, it should also insist upon their being paid for their work. No man should be expected to give his labour for nothing, and it is notorious that the under-payment of agents is one great source of embezzlement. It is one thing to undertake the office of trustee when your old friend tells you that his daughter is going to be married, and the wedding-dresses are ordered and the bride-cake is baking, and the favours are being made ready for your button-hole, and it is quite another thing to execute the duties of that office, when the husband is on one side, and the wife on the other, beseeching you to betray your trust, and to sow the seeds of a Chancery suit with the children in order that some temporary release from a pressing difficulty may be afforded; or, more still, when the orphaned children are at your door, asking you what has become of property wasted through your criminal complaisance. These are the difficulties which prudent men see in the distance, and which prevent them from accepting trusteeships; and thus it is that, the good men refusing to do the work, it necessarily falls into weak or evil-doing hands.

The law therefore requires amendment on both sides. The trustee must be liable for his breach of trust to the last shilling of his property, and where fraud can be proved he must be liable to that condign punishment in his own person which such a vile, criminal peculator deserves. On the other hand, there should be a regular per-centage upon the management of trust-estates, fixed with the same certainty as the legacy duty or any other tax upon property, and payable to the trustee as remuneration for his labour. Such a provision would take away the last, indeed the sole excuse that can be urged in favour of fraudulent trustees.

A suggestion has been thrown out in favour of having an official trustee, just as we already have an official assignee; but we do not well see how that would be practicable. There is an intimacy necessary between the trustee and those for whom he stands legal sponsor, which no mere official personage could acquire. As it is, the Lord Chancellor is trustee for all who have none and who require one, and in the case of orphan wards he exercises some portion of his duties personally, generally with great advantage to the wards; but even here it is found necessary to delegate the details of the post to some other guardian, and then the Keeper of the Royal Conscience finds it necessary to have recourse to some old and trusted friend of the family.

In proportion as trust is reposed is the wickedness of its fraudulent betrayal increased. Upon trustees do all the fortune and all the happiness of a family frequently depend, and if they betray the confidence placed in them, they commit a crime which too often proves to be tantamount to a murder.

AN IDEAL SESSION.

SIR JOHN EARDLEY WILMOT has drawn up the prospectus of an ideal parliamentary session.* Like most ideals, it is strongly stamped with personal sympathies and antipathies; it is the creed of advanced Whiggery, of that delicate and discriminating Liberal-

*A Letter to Lord Brougham on the Legislative Requirements of the Coming Session. By Sir J. E. E. Wilmot, Bart. Longman and Co.

ism which is agreed upon by elderly baronets in amber drawing-rooms, but which is not calculated to attract to itself the enthusiastic support of any party in or out of the Legislature. Sir EARDLEY WILMOT is a Reformer—sincere and vigorous—but a Reformer of that class which would trim a ‘measure’ into an elegant pattern, and send it up to the House of Lords etherealised and perfumed, with no rough surfaces or sharp edges. Precisely similar in spirit is Mr. GEORGE HARRIS,* who adds another to the long category of theoretical Reform Bills, and desires that every learned order and every profession shall depute its delegates to the House of Commons, treating the nation, the body of the commonwealth, as a mere numerical majority not comparable in importance with a Faculty or an Academy.

Mr. HARRIS is not so practical as Sir EARDLEY WILMOT, who solicits the support of Lord BROUGHAM for a programme which is infinitely too liberal for the present Cabinet. He is infected, however, with the fallacy that Party-Government has ceased to exist, forgetful of the truth that Toryism and Whiggery divide the Legislature as completely as ever, and that what seems a fusion is only a floating fragment which occasionally unites the political continents on the right and left of the Speaker’s chair. However, he strikes off, after some preliminary pages, into the question of Parliamentary Reform; proposing to disenfranchise totally or partially a number of small and decaying boroughs—leaving fifty seats for distribution among those counties and boroughs which are now imperfectly represented, or not directly represented at all. Enlarge the basis of the suffrage by reducing the electoral qualification; but do this in a nibbling, hesitating way, is the counsel of Sir EARDLEY WILMOT. Sir EARDLEY now turns a corner and reaches the Ballot. He hates it, does not understand it, insults it, and passes on, without adducing the ghost of an argument in disparagement of the principle. The Ballot, Sir EARDLEY, has been adopted as a Liberal test; and, at the next election, it will go hard with many candidates, unless they advance a few steps on this point, and meet the popular desires.

The ideal session, supposed by the Recorder of Warwick, would restore the system of transportation, abolish tickets of leave, put a check on the royal prerogative in cases of murder, reform the law of divorce, purge the ecclesiastical courts, enlarge the jurisdiction of county courts, cheapen Chancery, establish a department of public justice. These are the views, this is the ideal, of an irresponsible Whig; what should we expect from the same Whig in official fetters? It is to be feared that, without an agitation spreading far and wide, and resounding like that of 1830, the policy of the Whigs will continue tame, slow, and unsatisfactory.

As a rider to this statement, we wish to notice the taunt so frequently flung at the Liberal party. It has no recognised or palpable organization. We know, and have acknowledged that fact. But why is it a fact? Because the Liberal party has never been in power; the Whigs and Tories have held office alternately for centuries; the Liberals have been invariably excluded. On this account, unless rallied round the standard of some exciting question, they are necessarily scattered, and their course of action is as necessarily indefinite.

WILLS, WIVES, AND PRIESTS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR deserves to be a favourite with the clergy; he has produced his

* *The True Theory of Representation.* By George Harris. Longman and Co.

annual three bills on the subjects of Church discipline, testamentary jurisdiction, and marriage and divorce. He proposes to place the procedure against clergymen, guilty of immoral conduct or of bad doctrine, under some kind of rule. Priests in the pulpit would no longer be persecuted by dissenting churchwardens, but a clergyman must take the initiative before the bishop; and prosecutions for immorality would cease to be the vent for private spite. But perhaps the greatest favour which the LORD CHANCELLOR has conferred upon the clergy is, that he has not yet got his bill ready. It is most desirable that there should be a reform of the law bearing upon the gentlemen in black, but a bill by the LORD CHANCELLOR is as certain a preventive of any improvement as any finality ever yet invented.

The abuses that have made wills the food of rats; the legacies and means of legatees, the food of proctors; the expenses the food of courts, with unsettled, and barbarous, and dilatory jurisdiction, are perfectly well known to every reader of *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield*; that is, to all the world. The LORD CHANCELLOR has to amend this; but what does he do? He retains the diocesan districts, he retains the proctors, and, by way of improving the confusion, he creates a new court where no new court is wanted, puts at its head a common-law judge, and places it under the Court of Chancery.

But the best of the joke is the legislation on the subject of marriage and divorce. It would be quite waste of time to examine the drafts of legislation, which are nothing more than dreams. They would have been greeted in the House of Lords with a shout of laughter—were it not that all the law lords, yes, even the reactionary Lord ST. LEONARDS, really wish to get on with reforms—and amusement at the CHANCELLOR’S vagaries is crushed in indignation at the waste of time. The man means well. He had in his Bill a provision by which any married couple, on agreement, might obtain a divorce for all practical purposes—except marrying again. No doubt this proposal creates a great deal of alarm. People are content to see the hideous amount of vice which goes on at present; the domestic discord; the collusion. The man who sells his wife, and, disappointed of payment, brings an action for criminal conversation, is condemned to maintain the same happy home which he has exposed to the public; and that is said to be in the interest of ‘morality!’ The poorer husband, who, like poor Mr. TENNANT appeals to the Marlborough-street police court against the wife that pursues him with drunken vilenesses and wastes his substance, must continue to exemplify conjugal fidelity. A direct and orderly separation is what the public mind is not at present prepared to tolerate. The proposal horrified Lord CAMPBELL, and the CHANCELLOR himself mentioned the provision with that modest voice which invites condemnation. But there is another provision which he did not include in his bill. In the case of *LING versus CROKER*, Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, the high Conservative, expressed the embarrassment and difficulty which he felt in bringing before a court of law a case of criminal conversation. He described the exposure, so disgraceful to every person concerned, even to the plaintiff who is appealing for justice. ‘I always feel oppressed with these considerations whenever I have to open a case of this kind.’ It is the one abuse which most challenges instant removal. The LORD CHANCELLOR’S bill does nothing for it. He persecutes wives and husbands with another of his tentative clauses, leaving them to every misery created by the past or the present law, tantalizing them with

hopes of relief, and stopping the way of those who would really give us the reform. If priests are his favourites, he is less considerate to wills, but cruellest of all to wives.

MOLDO-WALLACHIAN AGENCIES.

THE French Government has declared itself favourable to the Union of the Danubian Principalities. The discussion, therefore, has advanced a step since we last adverted to it; but no new points have been raised for investigation. However, considering the position held by England with reference to Moldavia and Wallachia, there are some circumstances indirectly bearing on the subject, to which we invite the attention of the reader.

It would be well if, while endeavouring to reform the Turkish Empire, we undertook to reform our own agents in Turkey. The East, which we propose to fashion after our own image, must have a strange power of transforming the strangers who inhabit it, since it has so powerful an action on Englishmen, who boast that wherever they go they always remain emphatically and positively English. If we cannot say what we gained by the last war, if our taxes have been augmented in order that thousands of souls might perish from cold or hunger in the East, those who had the good fortune to return are able to tell us that they saw with their own eyes the misery of the Turks, and found the representatives of England more Turkish than the Ottomans themselves. It appears that many of these gentlemen, instead of endeavouring to introduce into Turkey our customs and civilization, have thought it more agreeable to become Turks themselves, and have been so accustomed to Eastern life that they have actually succeeded in getting themselves called Pachas. Our agents, of all classes, in Turkey, would seem to have formed, by means of reciprocal services and protection, a species of Mutual Annuity Society, with the assistance of which they slip from under the control of the central Government; and once installed in office, they remain there for life, no matter what their conduct may be. Doubtless it would be a pernicious policy to make frequent changes in our consular establishments, but our present system of perpetual service in such situations is often seriously inconvenient, when we consider that these agents are virtually free from control—especially in Turkey, where so many temptations abound and so many facilities are afforded for intrigue. After too long a residence they lose sight of their mission, and become accustomed to feel and see things in the same light as the natives, while frequently they create for themselves interests as contrary to those of the country they reside in as to those of the country they represent. The vices of the system are nowhere more apparent than in the Danubian Principalities, where life annuities are secured to the representatives of British interests, who, even if we suppose them to have once possessed the necessary qualifications, have, in twenty or thirty years, become necessarily disqualified for the posts in which they have been forgotten. In the Principalities our representatives are not mere commercial agents; they have also a diplomatic mission, and are pitted in that capacity against other consuls generally the most eminent of European diplomatists.

At the conclusion of the war, France, Austria, Russia, Prussia, and even Belgium, sent special agents to deal with the exceptional state of things which had arisen in Moldo-Wallachia—England alone employed on this special service her consuls of twenty years’ standing. These gentlemen thus fancied themselves in the palmy days of their first appointment, and limited their action to the

protection of this or that family of Boyards, or aspirants to power. Ignorant of the great changes impending, yet desirous of taking part in them, they spent their long leisure in organizing hunts after the British fashion, and formed thus a claim to the name of Reformers. As for our consul in *partibus*, as our honorary agent at Iassy is called, he cannot give himself up to these innocent pleasures, for his age and infirmities for more than ten years past have caused him to abandon them, as well as work of every kind.

Most remarkable of all, however, the Danubian public finds our agents mixed up in all the Boyard coteries, and might not be disinclined, in consequence, to believe that they share in the profits which are made by the abuses of the country. The result is, that we have lost the legitimate influence we were entitled to possess in the rich countries of the Lower Danube at the very time when it was of most importance that we should preserve it, and where, had we been properly represented, it would have been increased; for the Roumans had, from the first, turned towards England for sympathy.

At the outbreak of the war something was said of an inquiry into our consular system, but little has since been heard of the subject. No doubt Lord PALMERSTON, who intends to remain a long time in power, is in no hurry to introduce the necessary reforms in the various branches of our public service. It is not so with the English people. We may therefore very properly express a hope that some one will be found in Parliament to call attention to this important subject, and that something more than repartee may be demanded of our dexterous Premier.

GO TO—BATH!

We may anticipate a Bath Book of Sports. The Western City of Pleasure has repented it of its sins, and the children of the Union Schools are the scapegoats turned into the wilderness to atone for the levities of the Pump-room, and the other profane recreations of King BLADUD and his visitors. The illustration in point is this:—Mr. CHUTE, the lessee of the Bath Theatre, a gentleman very much respected by the residents, invited the Chairman of the Board of Guardians to send all the children of the Union Schools to a day performance of his pantomime. The Chairman, Mr. J. W. BUSH, accepted the offer, subject to the approval of the Guardians. To the Guardians, therefore, the question was submitted. What did those gentlemen say? They protested against an act which "would lead the children into the paths of disgrace and shame"—the disgrace of innocent enjoyment, the shame of holiday laughter. These were the words of the Reverend Mr. NEWNHAM. Then rose Mr. CORTESELL, by profession a "Friend," and then Mr. DALLAWAY, whose ignominious nonsense amounted to a libel on the Bath Theatre and its lessee. The result was, as the *Bath Journal* says, "a sudden, sad, and vexatious disappointment" to the children; in other words, a cold Bath,—at this inclement season, too. Mr. CHUTE was rebuked for his generous proposal, and Bath was saved from the "disgrace and shame" of a merry day among the children of the poor. The pupils are the victims of the guardians; but the guardians are the pupils of society, which sanctifies the bigot.

COUNTER-DECLARATION OF PERSIA.

No one who has attentively perused the proclamation of war issued by the Governor-General of India can have failed to entertain strong suspicions that a valid cause for hostilities had been furnished by the Court of Teheran. The only thing, indeed, wanting to a positive conviction was the absence of any sort of explanation on the part of the Govern-

ment, whose conduct was thus arraigned. That deficiency is now supplied. The Persian Government have put forth their counter-statement, and in so doing have pronounced their own condemnation.

According to the official organ, the *Teheran Gazette*, the rupture with Mr. MURRAY was caused by the British Minister extending the protection of the national flag to all the servants of the Embassy, even to those who might be "real subjects of his Majesty the Shah." In like manner, when Mr. McNEILL, in 1837-38, demanded a fitting reparation for the insult offered to his country in the gross outrages committed on the person of his groom, by the sanction and in the presence of the Prime Minister, the "Persian Government asserted their right to seize, punish, or put to death, without reference to the British Minister, the Persian servants in his employment." But such pretensions are so completely at variance with the spirit and letter of international law, that they are unworthy of a serious refutation.

Mr. MURRAY is further charged with mixing himself up "with the (?) intrigues relating to Afghanistan in general, and to Herat in particular," contrary to the stipulation prohibiting the interference of the British Government "in Persian and Afghan affairs, except as a mediator with the consent of both parties." For this stipulation we are referred to three treaties, said to have been concluded between the two Cabinets. First, in 1809, with Sir HARFORD JONES; second, in 1812, with Mr. CROSLY; and third, in 1814, with Mr. ELLIS. Now, in the first-named treaty, there does exist an article to that effect, but it immediately precedes one couched in the following terms:—

"VIII. It is acknowledged the intent and meaning of these preliminary articles are defensive. And it is likewise agreed, that as long as these preliminary articles remain in force, his Majesty the King of Persia shall not enter into any engagement inimical to his Britannic Majesty, or pregnant with injury or disadvantage to the British territories in India."

In 1812 no treaty whatever was concluded between the two Cabinets. Certain articles, indeed, were drawn up and signed by Sir GORE OUSELEY, MAHOMED SHEFI, and MAHOMED HASSAN, but they were not ratified by the British Government. The definitive treaty, however, negotiated by Mr. HENRY ELLIS, in 1814, among the "happy leaves" of "a nosegay plucked from the thornless Garden of Concord," does certainly contain that most absurd and injudicious stipulation. But the general tenor of that treaty was so utterly untenable, that, only a few months afterwards, two important articles were annulled for a pecuniary consideration, and the whole was set aside in 1838 in consequence of the embroilment between the two Governments. It is of more importance to examine how far the articles of agreement concluded in 1853 between the British Plenipotentiary and the Persian Prime Minister justify the interposition of this country in defence of Herat.

By that document the Persian Government relinquished all claims to the sovereignty of Herat, and engaged to abstain from all interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of that free and independent city. It was only in the event of a hostile force invading the territories of Herat that the Persian Government was authorized to send troops to maintain the integrity of those territories, and it pledged itself to withdraw this friendly and auxiliary force so soon as the invaders retired to their own country. It is now alleged by the Court of Teheran that the case contemplated by these provisions had arrived when DOST MAHOMED, on the death of his brother KOHUNDIL KHAN, possessed himself of the town of Candahar. The Ameer, as the paramount authority in Afghanistan, was clearly justified in taking measures to prevent disturbances within the dominions subject to his suzerainty. Had he exhibited less promptitude and energy, the most terrible anarchy would have ensued, and perhaps the entire kingdom might have been involved in the horrors of a civil war. It is asserted, indeed, that he acted "by the advice and counsel" of the English, but not a single proof is adduced in support of this gratuitous assertion. There is neither a British Envoy at Caubul, nor any accredited representative

* *Kaye's War in Afghanistan*, vol. i. p. 266. A new edition of this valuable work is now being published by Mr. Bentley at a price that places it within reach of the most modest library. The first volume contains an animated description of the former siege of Herat, with copies *in extenso* of the treaties between the British and Persian Governments, to which such frequent allusions have recently been made.

of the Ameer at Calcutta, nor has the Indian Government in any way interfered with the internal affairs of the Afghan kingdom since the return of its armies of retribution. But had it even been otherwise—were it incontestably proved that it was at "the instigation" of the perfidious English that DOST MAHOMED reduced Candahar to a state of peaceful submission—in what manner can that movement be construed into a menace against Herat? No less urgent an emergency than the violation of the Herat territories could justify the entry of the Persian troops; and, as already shown, with the removal of the offence the defensive measure was bound to be simultaneously withdrawn. DOST MAHOMED did not invade Herat, but the Persians even captured that city by force of arms, and against the will of its inhabitants. In contravention of existing treaties, the Court of Teheran now declares Herat to be Persian soil, just as on the former occasion it declared that "the rightful dominions of the Shah extended to Ghuzni." Under the Suffarean dynasty, both Herat and Candahar were conquered provinces of the "king of kings;" and in the reign of Queen MARY Calais was a possession of the British Crown. When the sovereigns of England reassert their claims to the throne of France, it will be lawful for the Shah to enforce his sovereign rights over the Afghan cities. In the meantime his Majesty's Ministers, and their un-English advocates in this country, will do well to invent a more plausible excuse for the invasion of Afghanistan than a pretended menace on the part of DOST MAHOMED against a petty principality which the Shah was pledged, indeed, to protect, but not to conquer and oppress. The friendly remonstrances of the British Government have been met by insolence and derision, its representative subjected to repeated insults, and a heavy blow aimed at the foundation of the barriers of its Indian empire. To remain tranquil under such affronts would betoken a pusillanimity as yet unknown to the British character, and might be fraught with pernicious consequences to the maintenance of our moral influence in the East.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The total income of the United Kingdom for the year ended the 30th of September, 1856, amounted to 71,348,066*l.*, and the total expenditure to 83,307,477*l.*, leaving a deficit of 16,959,411*l.* The Customs yielded 23,093,300*l.*; the Excise, 17,861,777*l.*; stamps, 7,180,041*l.*; taxes, 3,100,026*l.*; the income, or, as it is here called, the "Property-tax," 15,940,330*l.*; and the Post-office, 2,768,152*l.* As regards the expenditure, 28,625,517*l.* was appropriated to the charge of the public debt; 1,750,321*l.* to the charges on the consolidated fund (including the civil list salaries and courts of justice); and 57,931,638*l.* to the supply services. Of these last the army and ordnance cost the country 28,094,824*l.*, a sum equal to the interest of the debt; the navy, 17,608,995*l.*; the vote of credit (war with Russia), 1,410,000*l.*; miscellaneous civil services, 6,693,172*l.*; and the salaries of revenue departments, 4,124,646*l.* The balances of public money in the Exchequer on the 30th of September, amounted to 7,084,743*l.* In the year ended the 31st of December last, the income was 72,218,988*l.*, and the expenditure 82,323,400*l.*, leaving a deficit of 10,104,412*l.*, or less by 600,000*l.* than at the end of the preceding quarter. The produce of the income-tax for the year was 16,028,421*l.* The balances of public money at the end of the year amounted to the sum total of 6,942,427*l.*—*Times*.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in London, which had been in the first week of January 1135, and in the last week of the same month 1209, rose in the week that ended last Saturday to 1368. In the years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1180. If this average is raised for the purpose of comparison proportionally to increase of population, it will become 1298; and hence it appears that the rate of mortality which prevailed last week was higher than the average rate in the beginning of February.—Last week, the births of 976 boys and 915 girls, in all 1891 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1626.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return*.

RESISTANCE TO THE LIVERPOOL TOWN DUES.—One of the most important questions in connexion with the imposition of the Liverpool town dues is the legal right of the corporation to exact dues from vessels which, though passing up the river, make no use of the Liverpool Docks. This particularly affects the small port of Garston, about four miles up the river, on the Liverpool side. There is already a commodious dock, with direct railway communication (St. Helen's Railway), and vessels of large burden can be received there. The question of right to levy dues on vessels trading there and not calling at Liverpool is about to be tried, Messrs. Pender, of Manchester, having given notice to the corporation officials of their intention to despatch a vessel, which has loaded at Garston, without paying the town dues.

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*.

Why is it that teachers of Elocution usually have either a brogue or a stutter, and that essayists on Style usually display a remarkable deficiency of those very qualities they would have others acquire? LONGINUS, indeed, "was himself the great sublime he drew;" but his successors are, for the most part, dull dogs. In the new number of the *North British* some juvenile LONGINUS discourses on "Modern Style." How competent he is to appreciate Literature will be estimated by every reader who meets this sentence on the very first page: "Now we have no Drama but the French—no Poetry but a Laureat's—no Humour but the shilling wit of Egyptian Hall;" and how delicate a sense of style guides our critic's pen may be estimated from this sample, both of his writing and his thinking:—

But the style must differ in proportion to the subject, and when this requires it, there are beauties which must be brought in. Venus must not be slovenly and unkempt. These adornments, like the blemishes which we have pointed out, are some derived from genius, some from education. The former must not be striven after, but their absence in a writer of celebrity is justly censured. Such are power, warmth, enthusiasm, and lofty flights. Yet the excess of these virtues constitutes some of the vices mentioned. Mr. G. P. R. James is a signal instance of too much power (whether natural or not, we leave the reader to decide)—becoming bombastic, unnatural, and even ridiculous; and Mr. Dickens, whose forte lies in character, not in description, has often gone to the most absurd lengths in his attempts to divest a necessary picturing of its tedium. Again, all these beauties must be used sparingly, and in the right time and quantity. If you cry wolf too often, your neighbours become deaf.

The opening article of the Review is more worthy of it than this ambitious article on "Style;" it is on the "Employment of Women," and continues the excellent series of papers on the Woman question which the Review has of late years produced. It mainly treats of employment for the lower classes, but glances also at the higher. On the folly of rearing girls, solely with a view to marriage, the writer well says:—

This is the great cardinal error of our system. High and low, it is all the same. Instead of educating every girl as though she were born to be an independent, self-supporting member of society, we educate her to become a mere dependent, a hanger-on, or as the law delicately phrases it, a *chattel*. In some respects, indeed, we err more barbarously than those nations among whom a plurality of wives is permitted, and who regard women purely as so much live stock; for among such people women are, at all events, provided with shelter, with food, and clothing—they are 'cared for' as cattle are. There is a completeness in such a system. But among ourselves, we treat women as cattle, without providing for them as cattle. We take the worst part of barbarism and the worst part of civilization, and work them into a heterogeneous whole. We bring up our women to be dependent, and then leave them without any one to depend on. There is no one—there is nothing for them to lean upon; and they fall to the ground.

Now, what every woman, no less than every man, should have to depend upon, is an ability, after some fashion or other, to turn labour into money. She may or may not be compelled to exercise it, but everyone ought to possess it. If she belong to the richer classes, she may have to exercise it; if to the poorer, she assuredly will.

In the same spirit, and in tones of earnest, direct, almost Roman eloquence, Miss BARBARA LEIGH SMITH takes up this question in an article published in the *Waverley Journal* (Feb. 7th), and reprinted as a threepenny pamphlet by BOSWORTH and HARRISON, of Regent-street, under the title of "Women and Work." This very remarkable pamphlet states in a few pregnant decisive passages the rational arguments which demand a place for women among the workers in modern society; showing how such an extension of woman's sphere of activity would not only ameliorate her condition, physical and moral, but also ameliorate society. The style is distinguished by its nervous concision, directness, and propositional clearness; in this absence of all hesitating wordiness there is power, which is felt all the more because a ground-tone of deep feeling, like a fine moving bass, runs through every paragraph. This is the style in which women should advocate the cause of women.

In this same *Waverley Journal* (which, by the way, is in its third volume, although we never heard of its existence before), there is an interesting letter by Miss BESSIE RAYNER PARKES, on "French Algiers," and one still more interesting, by the same writer, on a school kept by a French lady in Algiers for the instruction of Mohamedan girls in some of those European accomplishments—such as French, Arithmetic, Sewing, &c., which, to the little Moresque beauties, must be an education equivalent to a social revolution. "Every Moresque thus educated," says Miss PARKES, "carries into her home the seeds of a better state of moral thought and feeling, germs of a kindlier sentiment towards the conquering race, and a prospect that her own little daughters will have to contend with fewer social prejudices in working out a good and useful career." We have had the "Schoolmaster abroad" for some years, "with results," as CARLYLE would say; there is still greater hopes for society now that the Schoolmistress is also abroad. For, although the poet sings truly,

As the husband is the wife is, thou art mated with a clown,

And the grossness of his nature shall have weight to drag thee down,

the converse is still more deplorably true, and the husband is either held aloof from sympathy altogether, or else daily finds all that is fine within him "growing coarse to sympathize with clay."

Those readers who felt their interest for "Rats" awakened by the entertaining article in the last *Quarterly*, should read the paper on "Histrionic Rats," in the *National Magazine*, which describes the performance of a comedy by a

troop of these rodent comedians, admirably drilled by their Swedish manager. We trust that the ingenious Swede will bring his troop to London, that we may add our "inextinguishable laughter" to the applause of all who witness these interesting beasts.

Let us, in passing, also call attention to an article on THACKERAY, in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* (for January), by M. H. TAINÉ, a young writer of more than ordinary promise. It is essentially critical and appreciative, not a mere pouring out of common-places.

THE INDIAN NAPIER.

The Life and Opinions of General Sir Charles James Napier, G.C.B. By Lieut.-General Sir W. Napier, K.C.B. Vols. I. and II.

Murray.

ALL the letters, all the journals, of Sir Charles Napier are interesting. A certain interest is possessed, also, by Sir William Napier's narrative; but Sir Charles speaking for himself is immeasurably more impressive than Sir William speaking for Sir Charles. Yet to be impressive has been the one object of the biographer, and the effort has gone far to spoil his book. He writes in an invariable strain of pomp, is always florid in his eulogy, violent in his criticism. He appears, indeed, to suffer from a monomaniacal persuasion that to be a Napier is to top the world, and that, as Sir Charles's prowess were heroic, the words of Sir William are oracular. We have read these volumes, therefore, with a feeling of regret that the "Life" was not composed by a less partial pen, the more so, because the partiality is indiscreetly displayed, and, in consequence, fatiguing. It is only to the spirit and to the manner of the work, however, that any objection can be raised. Sir William Napier is a ready writer, knows how to arrange his materials, is always vigorous, and occasionally brilliant. He has not the art of literary modulation; his style is monotonously rotund, heraldic, defiant; but, with not a few defects, this book of biography and "opinions" is a remarkable publication, which most persons will read to the end with unabated curiosity.

Sir William's conspicuous fault, as we have said, consists in his affectation of pomp. The two volumes are divided, as a History of the World might be, into sixteen "epochs," and the epochs into "periods." The first volume begins, "This shall be the story of a man who never tarnished his reputation by a shameful deed;" but the stentorian biographer, if he loves large words, hates long paragraphs, and strikes at once into the substance of his narration. The course of Sir Charles Napier's life, from his birth at Whitehall in 1792, to his administration of Sindh in 1843, presents a series of prominent episodes, Irish, Peninsular, Italian, Ionian, Greek, Australian, English, and Indian. It is not too much to say that he distinguished himself under every circumstance, and in every capacity, and that when past his sixtieth year, his genius seemed brightening with the lapse of time; nor is it unjust to add, that he was not always generously or gratefully used by the government he served. Sir William Napier, of course, applies his most imperative emphasis to accusations against men and factions; and in spite of his acrimony, he appears to be right, though there may have been reasons, not stated by this biographer, why a Napier should never remain long on friendly terms with any administration. Sir Charles, like the rest of his family, was vain, impetuous, eager to command, as fearless in correspondence as in battle, an excellent general, but a very indiscreet letter-writer. It must not be supposed, however, that his epistolary style resembled the historical style of his biographer; the one is curt, simple, easy; the other is ostentatious and swelling—the refinement of bombast, the burlesque of epic.

Sir Charles Napier was eldest son of the Honourable George Napier—the pupil of Hume—and Sarah Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond—the lady who, at eighteen, declined to marry George III., and who afterwards would have been happy to accept his hand—instead of which he sent her an apology. Charles, rendered sickly in his childhood by "the misconduct of a barbarous nurse," was stunted in his growth, but evinced, as certain trifling anecdotes are intended to show, precocious signs of genius. At twelve years of age he obtained a commission in the Duke of Wellington's regiment; was transferred to the command of Lord Moira, and, after a brief interval of life in camp, was sent to an Irish seminary. There he organized the pupils into a volunteer corps, and was educated to the art of arms until 1799, when he became aide-de-camp to the general in command of the Limerick district; next he was on the staff in London, and saw much of Fox, playing cricket, frightened by a snail. We then find Napier in the Peninsula—at Vimiera, at Lisbon, on the line of retreat from Corunna, in an enemy's prison. In his twenty-eighth year began his long series of disputes with the British administration. Says Sir William, "his claim to promotion was met by shuffling, cold evasions; it was his right, and of course was denied him." In the following year he received the desperate wound in the jaw which affected him through life. Without quoting a few passages it would be impossible to indicate the sprightly style of the letters. "That two spiritual fountains constantly played within Charles Napier's heart is evident," says Sir William; "the one sparkling to the light of glory, the other flowing full towards the tranquillity of private life." There was a third fountain, however, frothing with abundant gossip and levity. This is to his mother:—

"You are the most provoking woman alive: you tell me you have been ill in a copper-plate hand, and of your being better in a scrawl like mud where a hundred chickens had been walking. As to Lady Bellamont, you have chopped her and the Bible together, so that I fear for her character; she cannot well be separated from Solomon's concubines by the best decipherer of telegraphic despatches: you see the impropriety of your carelessness. Solomon puts me in mind, through Methuselah, of old people. Colonel Ferguson has an aunt alive at Richmond. She knows Wellington, and she did know Eugene and Marlborough! She is niece of the celebrated Lord Stair, and widow of a General Bland, who wrote on military discipline, and was adjutant-general to the British army at Dettingen in 1743."

And this is his profession of politics:—

"Whigs have all the Tory faults and their own besides. A Tory is a bold open bandit who avows his trade and takes all chances, doing at times handsome and generous things. The Whig is a sneaking pickpocket, pretending to elegance and

honesty while he commits every dirty trick recorded in the Newgate Calendar—so far as it is safe. Tories by birth are not to be hated, Tories from subservency are. The institutions of the country make the first, he has no choice, unless he be a man of extraordinary talent and character. A high-born Whig who has not courage or talent to be Radical or Tory is hateful."

He would educate his daughters, he said, up to a certain point, and then, if they pleased, they might become "as blue as burning brandy."

O'Connell, as he called the Duke of Wellington "a stunted corporal," and Lord Hardinge "a one-armed miscreant," had no respect for Napier, and therefore called Sir Charles a ridiculous blockhead. To which Sir Charles retorted:—

"You, Mr. O'Connell, call me 'a ridiculous blockhead,' and accuse me of heaping 'filthy vituperation' on you. Possibly a blockhead I may be; and as I am forced by conviction to go along with you on the subject of a poor-law for Ireland, I confess alarm, knowing the danger which attends a blockhead when he travels with a consummate knave: but as to vituperation, I have not used it, nor would it be wise to do so against so perfect a master of the art. I once asked a dirty fellow, black as a chimney-sweep, if a coal-pit could be descended without soiling my clothes? 'Lord bless you, I goes down ten times a day and never minds my clothes,' was his answer. Do you, Mr. O'Connell, make the application!"

In various ways, Napier was an author. He writes, in 1839:—

"Count Alfred de Vigny wrote a book to prove that soldiers were helots: Colburn offered me money to edit a translation, with preface and notes."

And, in the same letter:—

"Colburn has my romance, *Harold*, but I can't get an answer from him! Davenport, who is a good fellow, is managing for me with Colburn, who wants me to edit the life of the Duke, but I refused. I saw a letter from Alaric Watts, which says, that to his knowledge the Duke's despatches don't sell, and he is out of pocket a thousand pounds: this is curious."

In the Greek islands he knew Lord Byron, and gossiped about him in his letters:—

"Lord Byron tells me he has touched up the Duke of Wellington in *Don Juan*: he means to write one hundred and fifty cantos, and he gets two thousand pounds a canto! Good trade, a poet's!"

Again:—

"Lord Byron is still here, a very good fellow, very pleasant, always laughing and joking. An American gave a very good account of him in the newspapers, but said his head was too large in proportion, which is not true. He dined with me the day before the paper arrived, and four or five of us tried to put on his hat, but none could: he had the smallest head of all, and one of the smallest I ever saw. He is very compassionate, and kind to every one in distress."

In 1839, when Napier was in his fifty-seventh year, he was appointed to the command of the Northern districts. The Chartist agitation was rising to its climax. Sir Charles was sent for by the ministers:—

"Saw Lord John, a mild person in manner. Poor man, he is in affliction which makes it hard to judge, but he seems unaffected and thoughtful. He spoke with good sense, and without violence against the Chartists, which pleased me."

The Whigs are charged as the authors of the troubles in the north. Sir Charles sympathized strenuously with the agitators, but was resolved to make use of his military power, if compelled, with rapidity and decision. Moreover, he hated the demagogues, who turned these evil days to the interest of sordid passions. All this part of the narrative is deeply interesting; it is the light that was wanted for the history of that memorable year of hope, of error, of disappointment. It is necessary, however, to check the statements of this energetic and almost wild historian, who calculated so fiercely the effect, upon an undisciplined mass, of his rockets, with their "wriggling tails of fire," but who yet assented to the popular claims:—

"The people should have *universal suffrage*—it is their right. The *ballot*—it is their security and their will, and therefore their right also; and the new poor law should be reformed."

Everywhere, he records, if fighting seemed necessary, the civilians clamoured for slaughter; the soldiers hung back, "averse to fire on unarmed people." It is easy to fancy the highly-fed civilians calling out for a fusillade to protect life and property. The following is an entry dated Manchester, March 2nd, 1839:—

"The streets of this town are horrible. The poor starving people go about by twentys and forties, begging, but without the least insolence; and yet some rich villains, and some foolish women, choose to say they try to extort charity. It is a lie, an infernal lie, neither more nor less;—nothing can exceed the good behaviour of these poor people, except it be their cruel sufferings."

Even more characteristic is this:—

"Chartism cannot be stopped, God forbid that it should: what we want is to stop the letting loose a large body of armed cut-throats upon the public."

It would have been a strange incident had the Chartists of the North discovered, in 1839, that the general in command of the "Government blood-hounds" was writing, "Chartism cannot be stopped: God forbid that it should."

We might linger long over this uncommon book, but we have said enough to indicate the quality of its contents. The biographer writes often in bad taste, and sometimes at random; but the biography itself, interspersed with passages of private correspondence, is one that must excite universal attention.

EDINBURGH ESSAYS.

Edinburgh Essays. By Members of the University. 1856.

Adam and Charles Black.

THE success of the *Oxford and Cambridge Essays* has suggested the present publication, which will probably meet with equal encouragement. It opens with an article on "Plato," by Professor Blackie; but as we dissent from the opinions therein expressed, both in its general estimate and the particular arguments, and as to express our dissent would lead us into a long article, we pass on to the description of "Early English Life in the Drama," by Mr. John Skelton, a picturesque bit of historical dissertation which every one will read with interest and profit. Dr. Gairdner examines "Homœopathy" in a searching yet temperate article; and Mr. Andrew Wilson gives us what

we may describe as an Emersonian essay on "Infanti Perduti," or those happy unhappy children of genius uniformly misjudged and maltreated by the world. There is a touch of Charles Lamb's humour mingling with the following:—

These and similar considerations point towards the conclusion that men of genius appear in the world in order painfully to give their lives for the world's great gain, and that it is very difficult to distinguish between the misfortune which is unnecessary waste, and that which is necessary to their highest effort. This conclusion has no charm of novelty about it, for it is as old as human thought, and even savages express it in their own rude, frank way. Foe, the distinguished Buddhist who, near Kala on the Indus, gave his body to preserve a famishing tiger, only acted on the doctrine that men of genius must give themselves to preserve the perishing Time-Spirit. When the Arab merchant, Shayk Mohammed of Tunis, went among the Forians of Central Africa, these intelligent clouded-black critics, observing his Semitic reddish-brown complexion, and considering the subject in the light of such moral and physical truth as abounds amongst them, came to the conclusion that he was not a ripe man; that he had been born into the world before his time; that men so born are good to eat—and that their Sultan had sent this one to be devoured. A very rude way that was, but at least unaffected, of stating the doctrine; and I must say that in all the lately published philosophical treatises, I have found no such proof of penetrating genius as is afforded by the above judgment, which proves, moreover, if the work of a poet be to *show* what other men do, that these negroes were poets as well as philosophers. But in order to see the profundity of the remark, we must remember that the phrase "made to be eaten" can be very variously translated. With the majority of the Forians eating meant eating—slicing, broiling, masticating; but one man among them seems to have had more enlarged views, for he proposed that they should wound the Arab in order to see how long it might take to empty his veins. He apprehended that an unripe man was sent by the Sultan in order that the ripe men might make food of him, not for their stomachs only, but also for their souls; that instruction, as well as pleasure, might lawfully be got out of men born into the world before their time. In this way the Forian doctrine may be made to suit a great number of cases, for, in the great human tribe, the man born before his time is devoured in very various ways. In rude states of society they eat him literally, and with relish, but as men advance, they get a distaste for this article of diet, and take their gratification out of him in other ways. In less rude states they sacrifice him to their gods, believing that though they themselves cannot, these will relish the delicate unripe morsel. In still more advanced states they sacrifice him, not to the Powers of Nature, but to the Moral Power. They regard him as impious. They immolate him for the benefit of morality—pounding him in mortars, giving him hemlock to drink, sawing him asunder, crucifying him, burning him, throwing him to wild beasts—thus obtaining, besides the satisfaction of the moral principle, spectacles of great interest, and greatly gratifying to certain human sensibilities. Civilization teaches the introduction of the more cruel element of mercy; the most interesting of all sights being to see the man "die of himself."

In his eloquent protest against a misjudging world's treatment of genius, Mr. Wilson overlooks one important fact, namely, that the world only neglects genius because it misjudges it, because it cannot recognize the genius. Let the world once believe that a man of genius is living, and how blind is its worship! Whether the genius be in its manifestations intelligible or unintelligible, whether it be Goethe or Kant, Dickens or Carlyle, there is no lack of willing adoration.

Mr. Wilson enters a warm protest against the judgment usually passed on Edgar Poe, whom he admits to have been a madman, adding with great cogency:—

Mr. Willis tells us that that mother-in-law loved him to the last, covered his failings, got his stories sold, wept and pleaded for him. All which means, let us consider, that she who gave him her daughter and had most reason to complain of all his failings; who tended him in sickness, knowing any transient shades of anger, who was often beside him when reason had fled, imagination was degraded, from his white lips all the evil that was in him foamed forth, and in his delirium he uttered wild words to the hideous throng of wild shapes which were passing across his brain,—that she could not be alienated from him, but still loved him, with that womanly love before which man's harsher judgment must be mute, as before the infinite pity to which even the best must look for pardon,—loved him so, that hers was the only hand "to wash his scarred face," hers the only voice to bid him "rest in peace, the noblest of his race."

Mr. James Sime has a valuable paper on the "Progress of Britain in the Mechanical Arts," full of interesting details; we can only find space for the following sketch of the history of railways:—

Liverpool supplies the country to the east and north with the productions of other lands, and also exports the woollens of Leeds, and the cottons of Manchester. Easy communication between these towns was, therefore, of the utmost importance to the manufacturing interests of the nation. Canals were thought of; but the science of the day was frightened at the difficulties to be encountered in their construction, and declared the thing impossible. Valleys had to be crossed; mountains to be levelled or bored; and rivers spanned. How was it possible to carry a river across a river, through a mountain, or from side to side of a deep valley? The feat has been accomplished; the difficulties that lay in the way have been overcome, and we are now unable to estimate their greatness. Brindley undertook the work. He was laughed at as a fool, written down as a man of no education, and charged with squandering his employer's money on impossible projects; but he persevered. He had faith in his own abilities, and could inspire others with confidence. Some time elapsed; and this self-taught genius from being the laughing-stock had become the idol of England; his cuttings, bridges, tunnelling, and contrivances were the wonder of newspapers, and the common talk of family circles. In fifty years canals had done their utmost as a means of inland carriage, and the industry of the nation was again checked: imports could not be conveyed to the interior, nor exports forwarded to the coast to meet the demands of consumers. Manufacturing firms in Manchester had to take their turn in getting goods from Liverpool; and not unfrequently the complaint was heard that cotton was conveyed across the Atlantic in less time than between these towns. Travelling was unavoidably slow; accidents or frost rendered the transport of goods at times impossible; and factories were put on half work, because the canals could not furnish the necessary supplies of cotton. Tram roads, as the railways were then called, seemed to offer a remedy. They were extensively used in the mining districts, where cast iron rails had taken the place of the "oaken frame," about 1760; and locomotives had been invented in 1784 by Murdoch, the ingenious assistant and afterwards the partner of Boulton and Watt. So useful had these railroads been found that the proposal to levy a tax on iron in 1806 was opposed, because it would increase the expense of constructing them about 700*l.* a mile. At first they had been laid down for short distances only; but, in course of time, the proprietors of mines considerably removed from rivers were emboldened to increase their length to seven, ten, and even twenty miles, by the facilities they offered for the conveyance of coals

and goods. Locomotives came into use in 1804, though the machinery was still very imperfect, and the ideas of engineers very crude. They were much improved in the course of the next twenty years, and a speed of from four to seven miles per hour was attained, with a prospect of greater. High-pressure engines required to be used, and there is something in the very name that has always frightened the ignorant; the boilers had been formed of cast iron in some cases at first, and the results, as might have been expected, were unsatisfactory and alarming. The difficulty of arranging the parts of a high-pressure engine on a moveable carriage, and the apparent impossibility of furnishing enough of steam to make the wheels turn at the rate of twenty or even ten miles an hour, retarded the progress of the locomotive. If a wheel, four feet in diameter, turn 110 times in a minute, or travel at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, each cylinder will take from the boiler 220 fills of steam per minute; and it is not surprising, therefore, that many thoughtful people, whose opinions were entitled to respect, regarded a speed of fifteen or even ten miles an hour as unattainable. Where learning failed, however, natural genius triumphed. George Stephenson, once a locomotive stoker in the north of England, and afterwards one of the most distinguished engineers of modern times, invented the tubular boiler, and raised the speed of the engine from seven to thirty miles an hour.

And, he subsequently adds:—

Almost every year since 1830 has witnessed an increase in their number and power. Stephenson's prize locomotive, the Rocket, weighed four tons and a quarter, and ran on rails of thirty-five lbs. to the yard; engines are constructed now weighing more than thirty tons, and running along rails of eighty lbs. to the yard.

To us the most interesting papers in the volume are Alexander Smith's essay on "Scottish Ballads," and Dr. George Wilson's on "Chemical final causes." The former is every way a remarkable production, the prose of a poet, who can write prose, and think prose, with a felicity of expression, and steadiness of conception, which mere versifiers would find hopelessly impossible. We detect the poet in his love of concrete images, and in the cadences of rhythm, but even when the style is most elevated it is always prose, as in the following, which might have been signed by Ruskin:—

None of these ballads can be looked upon as the work of a single author. Their present form is the work of generations. For centuries the floating legendary material was reshaped, added to and altered, by the changing spirit and emotion of man. Rude and formless, they are touching and venerable as some ruin on the waste, the names of whose builders are unknown; whose towers and walls, although not erected in accordance with the lights of modern architecture, affect the spirit, and fire the imagination far more than nobler and more recent piles; for its chambers, now roofless to the day, were ages ago tenanted by life and death, joy and sorrow, for its walls have been worn and rounded by time, its stones channelled and fretted by the fierce tears of winter rains; on broken arch and battlement every April for centuries has kindled a light of desert flowers, and it stands muffled in ivy, bearded with moss, and stained with lichens, crimson, golden, and green, by the suns of forgotten summers. We are told to imitate this, but who can recalc the strong arms and rude hearts that piled huge stone on stone? Who can simulate the hallowing of time? Who can create a ruin to-day with the weather-wear and lichens of five centuries upon it?

Here is a fine bit of direct vivid writing:—

The first thing which strikes the reader of the Ballads is their direct and impulsive life. There is nothing cloaked or concealed. You look through the iron corslet of the marauder, and see the fierce heart heave beneath. None of the heroes ever seem to feel that hesitancy and palsy of action which arises from the clash of complex and opposing motives. At once the mailed hand executes the impulse of the hot heart. There seem to have been no dissimulators in those days. If a man is a scoundrel, he speaks and acts as if he were perfectly aware of the fact, and aware, too, that the whole world knew it as well as himself. If a man is wronged by another, he runs him through the body with his sword, or cleaves him to the chin with his pole-axe, and then flees, pursued day and night, awake and asleep, in town and wilderness, by a bloody ghost. If two lovers meet in the greenwood, they forget church and holy priest, and in course of time the heron is startled from his solitary haunt, and shame and despair are at rest beneath the long weeds of the pool, and a ghost with dripping hair glides into the chamber, and with hand of ice awakes the horrified betrayer from his first sleep on his bridal night. And these men had their rude reverences and devotions, terrors of the solitary mountain-top and the moonless waste, wandering fires of the morass, spirits of the swollen stream: Edom o' Gordon, who burned a mother and her children in their own tower with laughter and mockery as if agony were a jest, would ere night mutter an Ave to Mary Mother, and cross himself as devoutly as ever a saint in the calendar; and the moss-trooper who could impale an infant on his spear point, would shiver at an omen which a schoolboy laughs at.

We fear that "Z" of the *Athenæum* will find many words, and even phrases, in this essay, which other writers have used before; and to all 'Z's' one may fancy a covert sarcasm conveyed in the following:—

The literary merit of many of these Ballads is great; in the majority, the singer is in utter abeyance, and the subject is all in all. There is no straining and effort, no artifices are employed to fillip the dulled spirit of the reader; no impertinent ornaments distract the attention from the agony or the woe. Their authors were not literary men, and there was no existing literature by which their efforts were measured. Originality was not expected of them, and they were consequently never tempted to call grass purple, to avoid the imputation of plagiarism, some former writer having called it green. There were no critics to show up their failings and shortcomings, or to parade their good things—perhaps a line and a half in length—in italics, as the manner of some is. It may fairly be doubted whether the present time is favourable to the production of poetry of a high class; not, as is commonly supposed, that there is anything necessarily unpoetical in the artificial state of society, in the eternal struggle and roar of labour, in the shifting of the points of interest from green fields and meadows, and the sweet goings on of pastoral life, to the joys, crimes, and tragedies of men congregated in thousands beneath the smoke of mighty towns, but mainly from the greatness of existing literature, the prevalence of criticism, and its immediate application to literary productions.

We can only afford to quote one more passage, and it shall be this:—

It is this seeking a "new outlet for one's self," which is the cause of nearly all the vices of contemporary literature—of poetry especially. On it may be charged the strain and glitter, the forced and perverse originality, and the extraordinary innovations in rhythm and measure of which so much is heard, both in the way of applause and condemnation. The primal emotions of humanity have been so fully sung in England during the last two hundred years, that a poet of the present period, unless he is swept away by the torrent of feeling, or is bold enough—which he is perfectly justified in being—to look upon every situation of life, whether expressed before or not, as merely poetical material, and to use it for his own purposes, colour it by his own mind, shape it by his own emotion,—is tempted, when he remembers in a former writer some consummate expression of an idea, indispensable to the sequence and stream of emotion, to diverge from the direct path, and to attest his originality

by becoming unintelligible or unnatural. It is required of every builder that he should erect a house new and well-proportioned; it is *not* required that he should, with his own hands, have baked every brick employed in the edifice. The existing system of criticism, and the greatness and fulness of literature, are in many respects injurious to poetical writers. An author's first book is generally written *con amore* and for himself; critic and reader are forgotten in the heat and delight of the task; but after he has run the gauntlet of dailies, weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies, he becomes more conscious and less single-hearted. He writes with one eye to his subject, and the other to what the reviewers will say of him. He is more careful of the expression than of the thought. He desires to dazzle and astonish.

Of Dr. George Wilson's paper we have left ourselves no space to speak, and must take an opportunity of recurring to it. Mr. Baynes's paper on "Sir William Hamilton" will also be read with interest by the admirers of that prodigy of learning and acuteness. Altogether, this volume of *Edinburgh Essays* may be pronounced a brilliant commencement.

HENRY THE FOURTH AND THE LEAGUERS.

La Ligue et Henri IV. By J. Michelet.

Paris: Chameron.

WHEN a writer possesses a highly characteristic style, it would be strange if all his characteristics were merits. Merits they may be, indeed, in one sense, since they produce variety, and relieve us from literary lotus-eating; but, in point of art, of taste, of power, and beauty, a very peculiar book may always be expected to present some very peculiar contrasts. Of no Frenchman is this more true than of Michelet. He is often grand, pure, lyrical, but quite as often eccentric, wild, ungracefully familiar. His historical account of the sixteenth century abounds, more, perhaps, than any of his other works, in diversities of substance, in inequalities of surface, in abrupt transitions of manner. As Emile Montégut says, Hear the sound of the epic trumpet sinking into the tiny pipings of a whistle. Far-sought analogies, dramatic figures of speech, vast transepts of digression, break the continuity of the narration, while, at times, the critic and chronicler seems to forget that he is preparing the inscription of a noble monument, and expresses himself as though he were scratching doggerel on a gravestone. Thus, he describes Marie Stuart as "the common woman dragged by soldiers through the streets of Edinburgh;" he refers to Marguerite, wife of Henry IV., as having "the provoking eyes of a wanton;" he depicts the "hereditary muzzle" of the Medicis, and their countenances "very intelligent and bestial." Still less scrupulously he alludes to the disgust conceived by Henry II. for his wife, by saying, "he abhorred her, as a woman that had been bred in an Italian sepulchre." These are examples of a displeasing mannerism which have not escaped Michelet's French critics. But it would be injustice to note them without admitting that they are exceptional, and that, though Michelet is frivolously addicted to epigrams, to flashes of rhetoric, to surprising turns of language, and precipitous descents from epic to colloquy, he is a master of style, a penetrating thinker, in most respects a man of whom this generation of Frenchmen may well be proud. A specimen of Michelet's extraordinary manner is to be found at the end of the fourth volume of his work on "France in the Sixteenth Century." "This," he says, "is not an impartial history." It is "frankly and vigorously partial"—partial on the side where right and truth appeared to him to prevail. It is advocacy and attack, charged with invective, redolent of eulogy, unmeasured and unsparing. In his dissection of personal character especially, he treats the men and women of the past as though they had destroyed his happiness. He reviles Catherine de Medicis as though she had poisoned his wife, Marie Stuart as though she had disgraced him. This element of his book, this persecution of historical names, may add to the warmth and richness of the composition, but it destroys "that beautiful serene" which should reflect the shapes and colours of history.

The period of the League embraces the last quarter of the sixteenth century—from the massacre of St. Bartholomew to the peace of Vervins. M. Michelet disposes of this memorable epoch in large groups, connected by their proper relations, and surrounded with an artistic arrangement of accessories. The Cardinal of Lorraine, after the murder of Coligny, had set up in Rome a golden tablet, inscribed with these words: "Religion had withered and languished; but this day we have seen an augury that she will revive and bloom once more." But Protestantism, adds M. Michelet, though abased in France, "survived and shall survive, invincible in Holland, victorious in England, creative in America," with another Protestantism in the rear—that of reason, science, and equity, "conquering the human mind through Rabelais, Shakspeare, Bacon, and Descartes; conquering in the right of Europe through the peace of Westphalia; conquering even to the stars through Kepler and Galileo." The Byzantine casuists are discarded; Cujas replies to them in a sentence; Palissy turns from sophistry to nature; the epoch wore the mask of the League; but France and Europe were progressing—the genius of the Renaissance, the heroism of the Reformation, bore fruit in Europe, in the East, in the New World; but, unhappily, in France, the peace of Vervins riveted the links of the old Catholicity; and a melancholy reaction opened the way to the Thirty Years' War. On the morrow of St. Bartholomew Charles the Ninth stood triumphant; intoxicated, yet apprehensive. His successor, Henry the Third, under the overpowering influence of Catherine, commenced a premature conflict, which resulted in his humiliation, and then the League arose. The clergy said, on the 5th of March, 1559, "If necessary, the king must be killed." "That," says M. Michelet, "was the first utterance of the Leaguers." Their constitution, original and unique, was that of a federal religious body, acting by violence, intimidation, treason, and cruelty, upon the throne, the church, the nobles, and all the representatives of authority. They were Catholics—the crusaders of Catholicism; and among their neophyte champions the king was included in 1576.

The series of broad episodes in this history is admirably ordered in M. Michelet's work. It includes: the famous Jesuit campaign, the assassination of the Prince of Orange, the conspiracy of Rheims, the execution of Marie Stuart, the compulsory self-sacrifice of Henry the Third, the battle of Coutras, the Spanish insurrection in Paris, the fitting-out and ruin of the

Armada, the deaths of Henry de Guise and Catherine de Medicis, the terrorism of the League, the siege of Paris by the King of Navarre, and the death of the third Henry. The fourth, an imposing figure, then comes upon the scene; the siege of Paris is continued, and followed by the siege of Rouen; the peace of Vervins closes the magnificent record, and the story of France in the sixteenth century is complete. One sketch of manners, as influenced by the League, is too characteristic to omit. It refers to the period of the Catholic terror:—

In Paris the close of Lent was a stimulus to the prevailing excitement. A series of processions took place which were begun, innocently enough, by children, girls and boys, who walked two by two, with tapers, chanting hymns and litanies prepared for them by the priests. . . . Then came parish processions in which all the parishioners of whatever age, sex, or quality, joined; some of the most devout walking to do penance as though in their shifts. Still a new impetus was wanting. It was necessary to warm the popular heart by a great theatrical display. A priest came forward and declared that in these processions over the hard pavements of Paris, nothing could be more meritorious, nothing more agreeable to God, than that women should walk with their delicate little feet bare, however it might cause them to suffer. Immediately, many an enthusiastic young girl devoted herself to this new mortification, and appeared, not with bare feet only, but almost naked—wearing only a slight linen drapery, not too carefully covering her form. These weeping and dishevelled Magdalens produced more laughter than edification. At length, the Duchess of Montpensier, the Judith of the League, decided to act her part without hesitation. She abandoned robes and petticoats, and dispensed with the light drapery of the penitents, even over her bosom, with the exception of a simple veil of lace. The people rushed to see her. Crowded and pressed, the heroine was by no means disconcerted. She had set the fashion. Matrons and maidens followed it.

Of course, the clergy eagerly encouraged the yielding humours of these penitents, so submissive to correctional discipline; and many were persuaded to receive, at anointed hands, the punishment of refractory vestals.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF COMMON LIFE.

The Philosophy of Common Life; or, the Science of Health. By John Scoffern, M.B. Ward and Lock.

THIS is a better book than its gaudy outside and frontispiece would lead the reader to anticipate. Mr. Scoffern writes popularly, and his compilation contains material on various topics affecting the regulation of our health. After a sketch of the human body regarded as a machine, he gives an outline of the various kinds of food, and their digestibility. He then treats of circulation and respiration; of adulterations in food; of poisons, their action, their remedies, and the means of detecting them; of the eye and its functions; of houses considered in a sanitary point of view; of climate; of dress; of cosmetics; of medical creeds—hydropathy and homœopathy; of Life Assurance and of State Medicine.

A large and attractive list of subjects, as the reader perceives, and not admitting of more than a rapid popular treatment in one volume of three hundred pages; but in his sketchy way Mr. Scoffern contrives to indicate many interesting facts; one of them will be new to most readers, namely,

That the blood globules of an animal are subject to change of shape as the result of fright and other emotions of the mind. It has been stated by Mr. Bowerbank, that if an animal be suddenly alarmed, and whilst in that condition a drop of blood be drawn and examined microscopically, each of the particles or discs contained in the blood will be found to present a ragged outline, very different to the well-defined contour which is observable if the animal had been allowed to remain calm. This fact has a physiological significance, though the precise application of it be not known.

The following is worth bearing in remembrance:—

Remembering well that the animal organism creates no element, the reader will perhaps call to mind certain dietetic fallacies of which he may have been the victim. He may remember, perhaps, when sago, tapioca, and other starchy varieties of food were administered to him under the impression that they were strengthening, and still he derived no benefit from them. Strengthening they undoubtedly are when administered in due proportion with other wants; but alone, they are so far from strengthening, that by no amount of them could life be prolonged beyond a very short period. They hold no nitrogen; they, hence, cannot make muscle (flesh), nor blood,—nor, indeed, can they make the greater number of animal constituents, except fat; which latter does not contain nitrogen.

The same remarks which apply to starch also apply to sugar; between the two the difference of composition is remarkably slight; hence sugar is unable to support animal life, if administered alone. To some the well-attested fact that negroes in the West Indies rapidly fatten during the sugar season, notwithstanding the hard work to which they are exposed, because of the amount of sugar which they swallow, will seem incompatible with the statement just made that sugar alone, no matter in what quantity swallowed, cannot for any prolonged time support life. Fat, however, does not confer strength; on the contrary, it frequently becomes a source of weakness. The medical practitioner well knows that as a rule, fat persons bear the effect of bleeding and lowering medicines very ill; that they are stricken and die under causes which would not have injuriously affected the lean and spare. Fat, indeed, may be regarded physiologically as a sort of animal coal-cellar.

Of the practical hints contained in this volume we may select from the chapter on poisons information which it will be useful to bear in mind:—

A person who has swallowed an irritant poison by way of suicide will be less garrulous, less apt to give information, or afford any clue, than a person who has taken poison accidentally, or to whom it has been administered purposely by one, whose aim is murder. Moreover, a poison swallowed to the end of suicide, will in all probability not have been taken during a meal. Meantime, the investigator looks about; he tries to discover some glass, or phial, or other vessel; he examines the dress of the patient for spots or discolourations. If he finds a phial or other vessel, or observes a spot, and if on applying the tongue to either he tastes a sourness, he has at once resolved the case sufficiently for the application of a remedy. He is sure that a sour acid has been given (remember some acids are not sour); what kind of sour acid he may not know at this stage, nor does it much avail that he should know. Whatever the kind of sour acid, the same treatment is indicated. Chalk or whiting should be mixed with milk and administered copiously. If neither be forthcoming, a

portion of the white wall or ceiling may be substituted. Whatever the kind of sour acid, nothing more can be done at the present stage. The stomach pump is not eligible in any of these cases, even were it at hand, and a medical man to use it. If the sour acid should happen to be oxalic acid, the treatment here indicated will almost assuredly save the patient's life, if administered somewhat early. If either of the strong mineral acids, the case is not so promising.

Again:—

It is of less consequence to be made aware that a certain specified poison of this class has been swallowed, than any one of the class; because the treatment in all cases will be precisely similar. There is no place for chemical antidotes here; at any rate, their power is of a very inferior kind. Everything depends upon freeing the stomach from the poisonous body swallowed, with the least possible delay. To this end, an emetic, promoted by copious draughts of warm water, should be administered; and the circumstance should be borne in mind, that the ordinary emetic, composed, as it usually is, of tartar emetic and ipecacuanha, is ineligible; not only because of its depressing tendency, but because of its promoting the absorption of any poison which may not be expelled from the system by the direct operation of the emetic.

Whenever an emetic is proper in the treatment of poisoning, almost the very best, if not quite, is a teaspoonful of mustard, stirred up with warm water; and its action promoted by copious draughts of the latter.

Humanum est errare, and Mr. Scoffern pays his tribute to this inexorable law when, at page 64, he speaks of proteine as the origin of gelatine, fibrine, albumen, and caseine. No organic chemist of authority *now* believes in the existence of proteine at all—it is a purely hypothetical substance. At page 71 Mr. Scoffern attributes to Harvey the discovery of valves in the veins; the discovery was made by Fabrice d'Acquapendente in 1574, and by means of it Harvey was led to the discovery of the circulation. Harvey's discovery was a grand physiological induction; but all the anatomical facts on which it rested were discovered by others.

BERANGER'S SONGS.

Béranger's Songs of the Empire, the Peace, and the Restoration. Translated into English Verse by Robert B. Brough. Addey and Co.

IT would be affectation to advise any one who can read Béranger's songs in the original to read them in translations. Indeed, strictly speaking, songs cannot be translated—they must be re-written. To those, however, to whom French is Greek, we commend Mr. Brough's volume. Some of the lyrics, which we have compared with the originals, are models of accurate interpretation, Mr. Brough having succeeded to an uncommon extent in subduing the idiom to the necessities of his English version. No reader should remain unacquainted with these political songs of Béranger they contain, as Mr. Brough suggests, an outline history of France during the early part of the present century. As satires they are perfect—the half-hidden irony, running like arterial blood through epigram and carol, contrast and allusion, fable and fancy, as in *The King of Yvetot*, *The Dead Alive*, *The Common Stamp*, and *The Petition of the Dogs of Quality*. We miss *Gai! Gai!* by the way, from Mr. Brough's selection. Of his style as a translator, one example is all we can give; it is *My Recovery*, and refers to a present of wine, to be taken in internal *douches*, received by Béranger after an illness:—

After a cup of Chablis white,
I found the *douche* had done me good;
I cursed the Muse that made me write
Against the men in pow'r who stood.
Still, from relapse I fear'd rebuffs,—
On with the treatment I must go:
I felt inclined to write them puffs
After a cup of red Bordeaux!
After two cups of Chablis white,
At all my past misdeeds afraid,
I see my chamber crowded quite
With folks whom pow'r has happy made.
The sentence of my judges kind
Causes repentant tears to flow;
E'en to'w'rd Marchangy I'm inclined,
After two cups of red Bordeaux!
After three cups of Chablis white,
I see no class that need to groan;
The press is unrestricted quite;
The Budget censors feels alone!

Spirits of tolerance on foot
About the town in cassocks go;
The Gospel is in practice put,
After three cups of red Bordeaux!
At the last cup of Chablis white,
My eye all wet with joyful show'rs,
Sees Liberty in garlands bright,
Of olives, golden corn, and flow'rs.
Laws bind us with a silken thrall;
The Future low'rs with ne'er a woe;
I hear the bolts and fetters fall
At the last cup of red Bordeaux!
O crystal Chablis! rich Bordeaux!
You twain presided o'er the birth
Of fair Illusion, born, we know,
Of Love and Hope, to jilt the earth.
This vineyard fay two wands of might
(Twin sceptres) wields o'er all below,—
A silver shoot of Chablis white,
A purple branch of red Bordeaux.

The notes by Dr. G. L. Strauss, and by Mr. Brough himself, contribute largely to the interest of this welcome volume.

LUCY AYLMEY.

Lucy Aylmer. By the Author of "The Curate of Overton." 3 vols. Bentley.

Lucy Aylmer contains a series of careful portraits, and tenderly-tinted landscapes, overshadowed by a dense controversial cloud. Behind the ancestral manor of the Nevilles, the ancestral castle of the Erresfords, the ancient vicarage of St. Walburga, behind the pretty young girls and the weak-hearted Vicar, the hierarchy, the squirearchy, and the patricians, rises the haggard shape of Puseyism, morganitic bride of Romanism. An apparition of this kind might have warned us from opening the second volume, had not a certain interest, excited by Lucy, lured us on. The character of Lucy, indeed, is a very graceful delineation,—too graceful by far for the uncouth treatment it receives towards the close of the story, when the author, intent upon a tragic scene, slays her heroine, and spoils her book. *Lucy Aylmer* abounds, as might be expected, in illogical impetuosities of denunciation directed against "Rome" and the missal beauty of her churches; and it is a strong test of the writer's power that, in spite of these repulsive ingredients, the novel is thoroughly readable from beginning to end. It is not wanting in pathos, and emits from time to time a spark of satire. Given, indeed, that it is a good thing to write anti-Tractarian romances, and to show how a gaudy chancel may bring weak hearts to misery, and *Lucy Aylmer* is a success.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN ALMANACK.

The Anglo-Indian Almanack for 1857.

Published at the "Indian News" Office.

If any proof were required of the growing interest in Indian affairs felt by the British public, it might be found in the circumstance that a compilation of the above character has become not only useful, but necessary. The speciality indicated by the title has been ably worked out. Almost every species of information that can be desired respecting the organization of our Indian Empire is clearly and systematically afforded. In addition to the ordinary matter furnished in cosmopolitan almanacks, we find in this little volume everything we could wish to know about the Civil, Military, and Ecclesiastical services, their Examinations, Regulations, and Pensions. We are told where every regiment is stationed, where every civilian is to be found, and what duties he is discharging; and, in short, where we must look for our brothers, kinsmen, and friends, whatever be the post they hold under Queen or Company. Nor are the "outside barbarians" altogether ignored, though the Fourth Estate is apparently considered unworthy of notice; and the same silence is preserved with regard to the Uncovenanted Service. Perhaps in the following year these deficiencies will be supplied, and also some fuller instructions given for the benefit of persons about to proceed to India; in the present number the Marseilles route is entirely omitted. On the other hand, there is a very useful summary of debates on Indian questions in the two Houses of Parliament during the last session, together with much valuable information about Railways, Postal Regulations, Coins, Weights, Measures, and many other subjects that have hitherto puzzled the homely wits of home-keeping youths. In other words, an "obvious void" has been now filled by this Anglo-Indian Almanack, which we cordially recommend to all who have even a Scotch cousin in India.

DR. YOUNG AND HIS "NIGHT THOUGHTS."—The study of men, as they have appeared in different ages, and under various social conditions, may be considered as the natural history of the race. Let us, then, for a moment imagine ourselves, as students of this natural history, 'dredging' the first half of the eighteenth century in search of specimens. About the year 1730, we have hauled up a remarkable individual of the species divine—a surprising name, considering the nature of the animal before us, but we are used to unsuitable names in natural history. Let us examine this individual at our leisure. He is on the verge of fifty, and has recently undergone his metamorphosis into the clerical form. Rather a paradoxical specimen, if you observe him narrowly: a sort of cross between a sycophant and a palmer; a poet whose imagination is alternately fired by the "Last Day" and by a creation of peers, who fluctuates between rhapsodic applause of King George and rhapsodic applause of Jehovah. After spending "a foolish youth, the sport of peers and poets," after being a hanger-on of the profligate Duke of Wharton, after aiming in vain at a parliamentary career, and angling for pensions and preferment with fulsome dedications and fustian odes, he is a little disgusted with his imperfect success, and has determined to retire from the general mendicancy business to a particular branch; in other words, he has determined on that renunciation of the world implied in "taking orders," with the prospect of a good living and an advantageous matrimonial connexion. And no man can be better fitted for an established church. He personifies completely her nice balance of temporalities and spiritualities. He is equally impressed with the momentousness of death and of burial fees; he languishes at once for immortal life and for "livings;" he has a fervid attachment to patrons in general, but on the whole prefers the Almighty. He will teach, with something more than official conviction, the nothingness of earthly things; and he will feel something more than private disgust if his meritorious efforts in directing men's attention to another world are not rewarded by substantial preferment in this. His secular man believes in cambric bands and silk stockings as characteristic attire for "an ornament of religion and virtue," hopes courtiers will never forget to copy Sir Robert Walpole; and write begging-letters to the King's mistress. His spiritual man recognizes no motives more familiar than "Golgotha" and "the skies;" it walks in graveyards, or it soars among the stars. His religion exhausts itself in ejaculations and rebukes, and knows no medium between the ecstatic and the sententious. If it were not for the prospect of immortality, he considers, it would be wise and agreeable to be indecent, or to murder one's father; and, heaven apart, it would be extremely irrational in any man not to be a knave. Man, he thinks, is a compound of the angel and the brute; the brute is to be humbled by being reminded of its "relation to the stalls," and frightened into moderation by the contemplation of death-beds and skulls; the angel is to be developed by vituperating this world and exalting the next; and by this double process you get the Christian, "the highest style of man." With all this our new made divine is an unmistakable poet. To a clay compounded chiefly of the worldling and the rhetorician, there is added a real spark of Promethean fire. He will one day clothe his apostrophes and oburgations, his astronomical religion and his charnel-house morality, in lasting verse, which will stand, like a Juggernaut made of gold and jewels, at once magnificent and repulsive: for this divine is Edward Young, the future author of the "Night Thoughts."—*Westminster Review* (January).

DEATH OF THE KING OF ABYSSINIA.—A letter from Alexandria of the 24th ult. states that intelligence has been received there of the death of King Theodore, the King of Abyssinia.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BLAKE.—On the 26th ult., the Dowager Lady Blake: a son. **SALTOUN.**—On the 8th inst., at Ness Castle, near Inverness, the Lady Saltoun: a daughter. **STOKES.**—On the 29th ult., at Galatz, the wife of Major Stokes, Royal Engineers, her Majesty's Commissioner on the Danube: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CHURCHILL-CALTHORPE.—On the 5th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill, second son of the Duke of Marlborough, to the Hon. Harriet Louisa Esther Gough Calthorpe, third daughter of Lord Calthorpe. **TURNBULL-MYERS.**—On the 13th of December last, at the Cathedral, Madras, by the Very Rev. Archdeacon Shortland, Gavin Ainslie Turnbull, Esq., 12th Royal Lancers, to Mary Isabella, eldest daughter of J. P. M. Myers, Esq., of Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

DEATHS.

IND.—On the 2nd inst., at Baldock, Herts, Mrs. Mary Ind, in the 100th year of her age. She had 10 children, and lived to see the birth of 69 grandchildren, 114 great grandchildren, and two great grandchildren's children—in all 195 descendants. **LUCAS.**—On the 31st ult., at Lisbon, aged 70, Charlotte, relict of the late Robert Lucas, Esq. **POWER.**—On the 8th inst., at Haslar Hospital, Richard Blizard Power, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon R.N., aged 30. The trials and hardships endured in the Crimean war led to his premature end.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 10.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—HENRY JOHN GIRDLESTONE, Brighton, Berlin wool dealer.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM EDWARDS, High-street, Wapping, ale merchant—THOMAS SKINNER, Sheffield, electroplater—HYAM LEVI, Liverpool, clothier.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. MUIRHEAD, Glasgow—R. GOVAN, Glasgow, stone merchant, and Eastwood, near Pollokshaws, Renfrewshire, quarrier—W. GARDNER and Co., Glasgow, builders—J. MILLER, late of Kirkmichael, farmer—J. ANDERSON, Cumnock, Ayrshire, draper.

Friday, February 13.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—DAVID SMITH, Duke's-road, St. Pancras, licensed victualler—JOHN ATKINSON, Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, builder.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM EDWARD HAWKEY, Sykes-terrace, Mile-end-road, tailor—WILLIAM BRYANT, Stratford, Essex, boot and shoe maker—ADOLPHUS SCHERMAN, George-street, Minorics, general merchant—JOHN SMITH, Staplehurst, Kent, corn dealer—FREDERICK KINDRED, Framlingham, Suffolk, miller—SIGISMUND GANS, Essex-street, Strand, merchant—JOHN DANGERFIELD, Sen., Kirkley, Suffolk, builder—THOMAS CORNELL, King-street, Regent-street, carver and gilder—GEORGE CAULTON, Radford, Nottingham, brewer—JOHN LEE, Garrison-lane, Birmingham, brickmaker—MICHAEL PARKER, Kingston-upon-Hull, ironmonger—JOHN PAUL, St. Mary Axe, City, seed merchant—CHARLES FOX, Hulme, Manchester, corn and flour dealer—JOHN WILLIAM LANGRIDGE, Birmingham, stay maker—GAVIN MCCLYMONT, Jun., Bradford, draper—CHARLES HADSON CLAYTON, Liverpool, milliner—JOHN DAVISON, Kingston-upon-Hull, anchor maker—PHILIP PORTER, Liverpool, cotton broker—MICHAEL STEPANOFF, Liverpool, merchant—GEORGE CAVENS, Carlisle, jeweller—JAMES WATTS, Norton Saint Philips, Somersetshire, innholder—WILLIAM CALVERT, and WILLIAM CALVERT the Younger, Sunderland, hosiers—Sir CHARLES FOX and JOHN HENDERSON, London Works, Smethwick, Stafford, Fore-street, Limehouse, and 8, New Spring-gardens, engineers and contractors.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—WILLIAM KELLY, Kent-road, Glasgow, contractor—DAVID WRIGHT, Harwood, near West Calder, farmer—HILLSON, TURNER, and COMPANY, North Bridge-street, Edinburgh, clothiers—WILLIAM SHIRLEY and JAMES FARIE, Greenock, Larnie Pottery Company.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, February 13, 1857.

THE arrivals of two goldships, and the favourable reduction in the forthcoming estimates, and the prospect of the Income-tax being lowered, have contributed to make the public securities and share markets wear a brighter aspect than has prevailed for some weeks. The Three per Cent. Consols are well supported for money at 93½, 94; for 5th March account, 94½, 94½; and ever so little stir made in real

The Arts.

THE SUNBEAM.

The Sunbeam: a Photographic Magazine. Edited by Philip H. Delamotte, F.S.A. Part I. Chapman and Hall.

THE first number of the *Sunbeam* contains four exquisite illustrations—The Woods at Penllegare, by Mr. J. D. Llewelyn; The Tournament Court in the Castle of Heidelberg, by Sir Jocelyn Coghill; Magdalen College, Oxford, from the Cherwell, by Professor Delamotte; and the Baptistry, Canterbury Cathedral, by Mr. F. Bedford. Mr. Llewelyn has caught with marvellous effect the light-tracery of branches—the path, the bridge, the moss around the roots, the heaped leaves on the turf. Sir Jocelyn Coghill brings out, with beautiful precision, the Raphael and Giulio Romano façade in the Tournament Court of Heidelberg Castle, the Octagon Tower of Frederick, the vegetation piled against the walls, and the windows which show only the shadows within. Magdalen College, "the point of mediæval romance that jewels the whole city" of Oxford, is delicately photographed by Professor Delamotte, whose trees and water are wonderful, as well as his aerial perspective and the tone and outline of his architecture and landscape. Mr. Bedford's Baptistry, Canterbury Cathedral, may be described in one sentence: it is perfect.

purchases and investments will give the market a strong extra fillip upwards. Turkish Six per Cent. Bonds are rather more in demand, and have risen from 93½ to 95½, and look still to be tending to go even higher. Four per Cent. Turkish continue steady.

The foreign share market has greatly improved; Luxembourg and Lombardo-Venetian more especially. Grand Trunk of Canada have not kept pace with the general improvement; the delivery of shares in this undertaking has been heavy this account.

In the heavy railway market, Leeds and Birmingham, and Great Westerns, have been most inquired after; the continuation prices were not heavy, and it is probable that it has not been a heavy full account.

Eastern Counties have made a stride upwards. South-Eastern are 15s. per share; the dividend, it is now understood, will be at the rate of 15s. per share, or 5 per cent. per annum; at their present price this would give 6½ per cent. Caledonian are firm at 32½, and with increased care in the Money Market will see a much higher figure. Yesterday and to-day money was easily obtainable at 6 per cent. on Government securities.

A considerable business has been transacted in Joint-Stock Banks. Ottoman and Egypt are better, and the latter are nearly at par. A large amount of business has been transacted in British mines, and it is to be hoped that this kind of business may be done through the medium of the Stock Exchange, as a guarantee for real prices, and not fictitious. West Towey Consols, Great Wheel Alfruds, Treveltha, the Bassetts, Great Vor, Trolawny, Mary Anne, have been amongst some of those in which business has been transacted.

The Bank returns do not promise to be very satisfactory to-morrow, but Consols leave off 94½, 94½ for account, and 94½ for money.

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 64½, 64½; Chester and Holyhead, 36, 37; Eastern Counties, 93½, 10; Great Northern, 93½, 94½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 111, 113; Great Western, 68½, 69; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 99, 99½; London and Blackwall, 67, 7; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 109; London and North-Western, 107½, 107½; London and South-Western, 104½, 105½, x.d.; Midland, 83, 83½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 80½, 81½; South-Eastern (Dover), 75½, 76½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 5½, 6; Dutch Rhenish, 4½, 4½ pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32½, 32½; Great Central of France, 4½, 4½ pm.; Great Luxembourg, 64, 64½; Northern of France, 30½, 31½; Paris and Lyons, 54½, 55½; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 84, 84½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, February 13, 1857.

THE market is very shortly supplied with grain of all kinds, and the arrivals off the coast are not worth mentioning. But both Liverpool and London are well supplied with Flour, and the trade remains in a quiet state and without alteration in the value of any article except Oats, which are a shade worse. A few unimportant sales of Wheat have been made on the East Coast for Bordeaux and north of Spain. Three cargoes of Maize have also been sold at about 41s. 6d.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	217½	217½	217½	.....	218	218
3 per Cent. Red.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	94½	94½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92½	93	93½	93½	94	94
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93½	94½	94½
New 3 per Cent. An.	93½	93½	93½	93½	94½	94½
New 2½ per Cent. ...	76½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860	2½	.....	2½	.....	.....	.....
India Stock .....	.....	219	220	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	.....	.....	.....	2 d	.....	1 p
Ditto, under £1000 .....	.....	2 d	1 p	par	2 p	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000	par	par	3 p	3 p	par	1 p
Ditto, £500	par	par	.....	par	3 p	3 p
Ditto, Small	par	par	3 p	3 p	3 p	3 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds.....	102½	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...	.....
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	85½	Russian Bonds, 5 per	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Cents .....	.....
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents....	90½
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65½	Spanish	40
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	98½	Spanish Committee Cer-	.....
Equador Bonds	14½	of Coup. not fan.	0½
Mexican Account	22	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	100
Peruvian 4½ per Cents....	78½	Turkish New, 4 ditto	100½
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	41½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents..	.....

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the Week,

DELICATE GROUND.

Mr. G. Vining, Mrs. Stirling, and Mr. Leslie.

After which, a New and Original Farce, by Bayle Bernard, Esq., called

A SPLENDID INVESTMENT.

Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, H. Cooper, Misses Marston, Castleton, and Stephens.

To conclude with YOUNG AND HANDSOME.

Messrs. F. Robson, Rogers; Misses Thirlwall, Swanborough, Clara St. Casse, and Mrs. Melfort.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

In a few days will be produced a new Drama by Tom Taylor, Esq. Principal Characters by Messrs. G. Vining, Addison, G. Cooke; Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Melfort, and Miss Maskell.

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; and a new Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, P.M.—Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. Kahn, gratis.

TWENTY SHILLINGS PER DOZEN.

SOUTH AFRICAN PORT."Having tasted these Wines, we say to those who like wine possessing Richness without Sweetness, Dryness without Acidity, and Body without Brandy, by all means give them a trial."—*Vide Bell's Weekly Messenger*, January 17, 1857.

Bottles included. Packages allowed for when returned. Delivered free to any of the Railway Termini in London. Terms Cash.

A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.

Country Orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to be crossed "Bank of London."

J. L. DENMAN, Wine and Spirit Importer, 65, Fenchurch-street, London. Counting-house entrance, first door on the left up Railway-place.

THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY,
BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

Are enabled, by their connexion with the principal wine growers, to supply every description of WINE of the finest qualities at prices for cash far below the average, including their

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.

Genuine ditto, 34s. per dozen.

Superior Pale or Gold Sherries, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.

Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.

Claret, from 30s. to 84s.

Post orders must contain a remittance.

ASTHMA.**DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS** give instant relief, and a rapid cure of asthma, coughs, and all disorders of the breath and lungs.

TO SINGERS and PUBLIC SPEAKERS they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice. They have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box. Sold by all druggists.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent (the only patent for these preparations). Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession. ADNAM'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS and BARLEY are manufactured by a process which entirely removes the acidity and unpleasant flavour, so universally found in similar preparations. They produce Gruel and Barley Water in the highest perfection, and, being manufactured perfectly pure, yield food of the most light and nourishing quality for the Infant, the Invalid, and the Aged. The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

The Patentees publish one only of the numerous testimonials they have received from eminent medical professors, relying more confidently on the intrinsic quality of the articles, of which one trial will not fail to convince the most fastidious of their purity and excellence.

(Copy.)

"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,

February 19, 1855.

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

(Signed)

"A. S. TAYLOR."

"Messrs. Adnam and Co."

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each package bears the signature of the Patentees, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

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

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS

—INCREDIBLE CURE OF BAD LEGS OF SEVENTEEN YEARS' STANDING. — James Nash, Thurston Farm, three miles from Chatham, was afflicted for seventeen years with inveterate sore legs, there were thirteen wounds in them; he was in St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals nearly seven months, all the surgeons concurring that amputation was the only thing likely to save him; this was too great a sacrifice, therefore he commenced using Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which healed all the wounds in a short time, and restored him to perfect health.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamp, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

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, 12s. per dozen; desserts to match, 9s. 6d.; if to balance, 6d. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. 8d. per pair; larger sizes, from 14s. 6d. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table-knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; desserts, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 2s. 3d. per pair; black horn table-knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; desserts, 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.

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The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

Fiddle or Thread or King's
Old Silver Brunswick Pattern.
Pattern. Pattern.Table Spoons and Forks per dozen... 38s. 48s. 60s.
Dessert ditto and ditto... 30s. 35s. 42s.
Tea ditto... 18s. 24s. 30s.
Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.**CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.**Table Spoons and Forks Fiddle. Thread. King's.
per dozen... 12s. ... 26s. ... 30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto... 10s. ... 21s. ... 25s.
Tea ditto... 5s. ... 11s. ... 12s.**DISH COVERS and HOT WATER DISHES**

In every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. Tin dish covers 6s. 6d. the set of six; block tin, 12s. 3d. to 23s. 9d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 58s. 6d. the set; Britannia metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 76s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 10s. to 16s. 10s. the set; block tin hot water dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. to 30s.; Britannia metal, 22s. to 77s.; electro-plated on nickel, full-sized, 11s. 11s.

The additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe) 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, Turnery, Lamps, Gaseliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bed-hangings), 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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The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

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Price 1s. 1d., and 2s. 9d. per box.

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This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

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The Proprietors of the SPONSALIA have purchased the Stock of an eminent French Manufacturer, who has retired from business. The magnificent works of France in their highest perfection form a considerable portion of this stock, which will be sold at a REDUCTION of ONE-THIRD from the established prices. The BERNOUS, with the Patented Frontlet, invented by JAY and SMITH, and which cannot be purchased elsewhere, is acknowledged still to be the most graceful and the most comfortable Winter Cloak. The price is marked upon each article in plain figures.

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The FORTY-SEVEN SHILLING SUITS, made to order, from Scotch, Heather, and Cheviot Tweeds, all wool and thoroughly shrunk.

The PELISSIER SACS, 21s., 25s., and 28s.

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WILLIAM S. BURTON'S NEW LIST of BEDS, BEDDING, and BEDSTEADS is NOW READY, and can be had gratis.

The quality of beds, mattresses, &c., of every description he is able to guarantee; they are made on the premises, in the presence of customers; their prices are in harmony with those which have tended to make his house ironmongery establishment the most extensive in the kingdom.

Feather beds.....	from £1 5 0 to	28 0 0
German spring mattresses..	" 2 8 0 "	7 0 0
Horse hair mattresses.....	" 0 16 0 "	5 0 0
Wool mattresses.....	" 0 7 6 "	4 9 0
Flock mattresses.....	" 0 6 6 "	0 18 0
Best Alva and cotton mattresses.....	" 0 6 6 "	0 19 0
Sheets.....per pair	" 0 7 6 "	2 6 0
Blankets.....each	" 0 3 0 "	1 4 0
Toilet quilts.....	" 0 4 0 "	1 7 6
Counterpanes.....	" 0 2 6 "	0 15 0
Portable folding bedsteads	" 0 12 6 "	4 15 0
Patent iron bedsteads, with dove-tail joints.....	" 0 15 0 "	9 0 0
Ornamental brass ditto.....	" 2 10 0 "	29 0 0
Children's Cots.....	" 0 15 6 "	5 0 0
Bed hangings, in every variety.....per set	" 0 14 0 "	10 0 0

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