

By *Edmund Selous, Esq. & Co.*

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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Review of the Week.

THE opening of Parliament proved to be a very tame affair. The Opposition did not feel strength for any attempt at resisting the dictate of the Government on the first day. The proposal of Mr. EVELYN DENISON by Lord HARRY VANE and Mr. THORNELY, passed as if it had been a matter of course; and on taking the chair, Mr. DENISON was congratulated, not only by Lord PALMERSTON, but by his possible rival, Mr. WALPOLE. This was a characteristic act of gracefulness on the part of the Opposition candidate; but it was perhaps intended to show that the Opposition concurred in the choice, for by accepting it they prevented it from being a defeat. That simple duty performed, nothing remained for the House but to begin the investigation of its own members, their due return and qualifications; a labour which will scarcely be completed before the expiry of five or six days.

We bid farewell to the old Duchess of GLOUCESTER with regret. It is not that there was any importance attaching to the last of the Georgian Princesses—an aged Duchess is no better than any other aged woman, we shall be told; but an aged woman or any human being who happens to be brought prominently before us must be, for the sake of our common nature, a subject of regret. There must, too, have been something of a kindly nature in the old lady, for she was manifestly an object of interest to the QUEEN, who is known to be a woman of right hearty feelings and of excellent good sense. There was a time when the Duchess took her place amid the splendours of a Court, and shared the sense of an almost sacred power: how long that has passed! There was a day when her name was chiefly known in connexion with her husband, illustrious for his involuntary wit: that day now belongs to old times. And the Duchess has latterly been known to us as nothing more than the aunt of a Sovereign Lady, the great-aunt of that Lady's children.

Few events have chequered public life in our own country. The fact of a riot in Ireland comes almost with the force of novelty, especially a riot to prevent the export of potatoes, or another to mob a Roman Catholic Bishop. The Green Island appears to be returning to its character of “Ould Ireland” in reference to potatoes, while it is becoming wonderfully Protestant in election matters. The offence of the Bishop of ARDAGH was, that he had presided at a meeting to favour the return of the unpopular candidate; he had “sold” the Liberal

cause, and at Newtonforbes, it seems, the populace did not approve of the combination between the Roman Catholics and the Tories. The incident is amusing; but it does show undoubtedly that the humbler classes do not feel that absolute subjection to the Roman clergy to which they have been accustomed.

The rioting to prevent the export of potatoes has happened in various parts of Ireland. It is incited by the fact that the price of the root is doubled, not only from the prospect of a scarcity by the late sowing this year, but also no doubt from the great demand in this country and even in France. Across the Channel the price has trebled within a short time, and the intense need for all classes of provision has given a premium to every available import. Indeed, there seems no rescue for the French people from an amount of distress that would occasion great suffering, and might be seriously embarrassing to the Government, except some special measure to introduce importations, and to place new supplies at the command of the people; and a measure of that kind is confidently reported to be just now under the consideration of the Emperor. In this country we have an interest in the subject; for so long as France is restricted to the comparatively limited field from which her supplies are drawn, we must directly or indirectly feel the intensity of the pressure. Admit supplies from a wider field, and the pressure will be proportionately relieved; the Irish will then once more be able to enjoy their staple root without returning to the most barbarous form of “protection.”

Besides the systematic announcement of Mr. DISRAELI last session, and the tone of the Tory organs more recently, several incidents have tended to show that the Tory Opposition will rely upon the cry of “retrenchment.” They will attack the Government for lavish expenditure; and the estimates are to be considered as the weak point. The Tory leaders rely upon two probabilities. Should Lord PALMERSTON maintain a Conservative course, should he refuse the measures which the Liberal party expect, there will be a great indisposition to give him a cordial support; and the gradual formation of an Independent party within the broader “Liberal” ranks is already a matter of calculation. One of the principles upon which the leaders of the Independent party have started is “retrenchment.”

But that is not all. Occurrences in the far East have indicated an extension of military movements; and although the immediate estimates may not contain the sums requisite for such proceedings in

India and China, it is tolerably certain that they will be large. They will comprise some advances for the purpose of military improvements; and while an additional expenditure is “looming in the future,” the Tories no doubt calculate that the Liberals will be very severe in demanding thorough reforms in return for the increased outlay; while the additional bill impending for a later season, will afford opportunity for a redoubled echo of “retrenchment” from the Tory side.

The intelligence from India and China is indeed unpropitious. The Chinese race appears to be running beyond its Emperor, and even beyond YEH, the Governor of Canton, in hatred of the English. This spirit has displayed itself in all directions, from Canton to Singapore. At Sarawak an emissary from Singapore had successfully urged the Chinese to revolt, and it required all the chivalry of Sir JAMES BROOKE, supported by the heroic fortitude of a small European band, with the aid of Dyaks and other local allies, to inflict vengeance on the insurgents and to recover the lost ground. The Chinese had endeavoured to spike the guns on board several of the steamers at Hong-Kong; they had persevered in the attempt to cut off supplies, by burning those bakeries from which ALLUM issued his poisoned bread; they had seized one steamer, with the massacre of the captain and Europeans aboard, only one passenger escaping. In short, they appeared to labour under a paroxysm of combined patriotism and piracy; and they evidently calculated on making a booty out of the British with patronage from YEH. They had confounded the Portuguese with the British, and it is more than probable that all members of the Caucasian race will become a prey to the Chinese, unless their wolfish fever be peremptorily arrested.

Of course this extension or spread of aggression on the part of the Chinese called for reinforcements. Before Lord ELGIN could arrive on the spot, it is probable that the British commanders had sent their claim to the Indian Government. By that time the news would have arrived that the Persian war was stopped. The troops in two of the presidencies at least, Bengal and Madras, had been exhibiting some signs of insubordination, on various pretexts, but generally, it is said, because they were unemployed, and thus there was a disposition in India to fall in with an extension of the war in China. Should the Imperial Government of the Celestial Empire be unable to engage in the submission of the fierce people of the two Quangs, it is probable that Lord ELGIN and his

armed coadjutors would seize upon some portion of territory as a material guarantee. At all events the Chinese race is to be thoroughly scourged.

In fulfilment of our expectation, the Government at Washington has adopted measures which will strengthen it both diplomatically and navally on the coast of China for protecting American interests. Now, American interests will most likely be assailed exactly in the same way that English or Portuguese interests have been assailed—that is, by piracy, robbery, and murder. And in protecting the American interests, the new plenipotentiary, Mr. W. B. REED, will use exactly the same means that France and England are about to use. This is precisely what we expected; and it is more probable, since, on his way to China, he will communicate personally with the Governments of France and England.

The American Government has taken another step which appears not to have been distinctly understood. It will be remembered that when the proposition of Count WALEWSKI, adopted by the Paris Conference, was sent out to Washington, Mr. Secretary MARCY replied by proposing a thorough change in the law of privateering—the abolition of the right to capture merchant ships by public armed vessels as well as privateers. It is reported that Mr. BUCHANAN has qualified this proposition, and now proposes to extend it, so as to abolish all blockades. We are inclined to think that the reporter has mixed some of the remarks on the subject with the communication itself; which, under correction, we understand to be that the proposal of Mr. Secretary MARCY is simply withdrawn.

The disclosures of the Royal British Bank must now be classed amongst the periodicals: they come more regularly than magazines, and the interest rises as it ought to do in a novel published in parts. It is a moral tale illustrating the race for wealth, and we find all classes engaged in it, high and low. Three Members of Parliament have figured in it tragically. There is Mr. STAPLETON, the new Member for Berwick, who became positively a coadjutor in fraud by *inadvertence*. Inadvertence can scarcely be pleaded by Mr. HUMPHREY BROWN, the Member who has been under examination. He accuses his coadjutors of deliberate falsehood, but he formed part of a Board which took deliberate steps for drawing in customers when the bank was not in a solvent state; and he himself was concerned in strange transfers of securities, which the law of libel forbids us to characterize. A third Member of Parliament has died at Boulogne in a state of total ruin, pecuniary, mentally, and physically. Poor JOHN MACGREGOR, who had a half-dreamy consciousness of the conspiracy into which he had been drawn, seems really not to have been the most morally responsible of the party. But here are three Members of Parliament all engaged in this British Bank scheme, down to the very latest justifying themselves, seeking re-election or election for the first time. It has been our constant avowal that these cases are peculiar only in being exposed, and we know that at this moment there are commercial men in the highest position with whom it is a mere chance whether or not they shall topple down or stride the commercial world like a colossus. The incentive to these wholesale frauds is, painful avidity in the race for wealth. In that race, which has carried Sir ALEXANDER COCKBURN to the chief seat on the Bench, men are wearing out their faculties and their feelings; and while prizes are given to those who gamble in the game of prosperity, the Government puts on a preaching air, and on "moral" grounds refuses to assist Lady FRANKLIN in the search for her husband or his remains!

THE BISHOPRIC OF NORWICH.—The Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham, who will shortly be consecrated Bishop of Norwich, has appointed the Rev. J. J. S. Perowne, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, one of his examining chaplains. This appointment has given much satisfaction to the evangelical party in the diocese.

CONVOCAATION.—The Rev. Dr. Coleridge, vicar of Thorverton, and the Rev. E. H. Browne, vicar of Kenwyn and Key, have been unanimously elected proctors of the Lower House of Convocation for the province of Canterbury.—The Rev. Mr. Seymour, and the Rev. Mr. Woodgate, have been re-elected for Worcester.

OPENING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE new Parliament held its first sitting on Thursday. This was merely formal, the only business which was transacted being the election of a Speaker to fill the place of Mr. Shaw Lefevre. It is needless to say that the Queen did not attend; but, independently of the recent birth of a princess, incapacitating her for so doing, it is not usual for the monarch to open a new Parliament in person, as the Royal Speech is not delivered until after the completion of the preliminary formalities, which commonly take about a week. The attendance of peers was very small; but there was a better gathering in the House of Commons, where, however, the Ministers—especially the Premier—were late in arriving. The new members, as might be expected, mustered thickly; but, among the old celebrities, Lord John Russell did not present himself. The numerous voids—such as those of Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Layard, &c.—were painfully obvious; and altogether the composition of the House gave occasion for much thought and speculation. After considerable handshaking, conversation, and laughter, the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod appeared, and summoned the honourable gentlemen to the House of Lords, to hear the Commission read. This having been done, the LORD CHANCELLOR said that the cause of the calling together of Parliament would be declared as soon as the members of both Houses were sworn; and he then signified that it was her Majesty's pleasure that the gentlemen of the Lower House should proceed to the election of a Speaker, and attend the following day at two o'clock in the House of Lords, and present the person thus spoken for the Queen's approbation. The Commons then retired; prayers, invoking the Divine blessing on the counsels of Parliament, were read by the Bishop of Gloucester, their Lordships kneeling during their delivery; the oaths were administered to the several peers who were present; and the House adjourned at a quarter-past four o'clock.

The Lower House, in the meanwhile, was occupied in providing itself with a Chairman. Lord HARRY VANE proposed, and Mr. THORNELY seconded, Mr. Evelyn Denison as the person most fitted to become the Speaker; and both warmly eulogised the eminent qualities of Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and anticipated in the gentleman they then nominated a worthy successor, should he be chosen by the House. There being no other candidate, Mr. DENISON, who spoke from his usual place on the Ministerial benches, briefly but warmly thanked the House for the honour that had been done him, and was then conducted to the Chair by his mover and seconder, amidst general cheers. Standing on the steps of the Chair, the SPEAKER elect again made his acknowledgments. The Serjeant-at-Arms having laid the mace upon the table, Lord PALMERSTON congratulated the Speaker upon his election, pronounced a panegyric upon his two predecessors (Mr. Abercromby and Mr. Shaw Lefevre), expressed his belief that their new Chairman would equal the virtues of him who had just left them (to surpass those virtues, observed his Lordship, would be impossible for any man), and promised him the co-operation of the House in fulfilling the duties of his office.—These observations were followed in a similar strain by Mr. WALPOLE, who regretted the absence, through a mistake as to the hour of meeting, of Mr. Disraeli, since, had he been present, he would have spoken for the Conservative party.

Lord PALMERSTON then moved the adjournment of the House, and, the question having been put by the SPEAKER, the members separated about three o'clock.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A SERVANT girl, aged thirteen, in the employ of a Devonshire farmer, has hung herself from a beam in an outhouse in a foolish attempt to ascertain the feelings of a person when brought to the gibbet. She had recently visited the Devon Gaol in company with her master and mistress, and had been shown the place where criminals are executed. This edifying spectacle excited in her a thirst for knowledge, to which she has fallen a victim.

A child, two years old, has been scalded to death in Brandon-street, Walworth-road. Climbing on a chair near the fire, he overbalanced himself, and fell forward. He then caught at the handle of a saucepan on the fire, and drew it down, the scalding water falling over him. After about four-and-twenty hours of intense suffering, he expired.

Some men were engaged last Saturday at the Imperial Gas Light Company, Bethnal Green, in fixing a set of lofty spears for the erection of a gasometer, when a portion of the scaffolding suddenly gave way, and they were precipitated from a height of fifty feet, ponderous masses of timber falling with them. A young man, Henry Cobbing, was taken up dead, and several others were dangerously injured.

The break of a train went off the line yesterday (Friday) on the Crystal Palace Railway, bringing with it a third-class carriage, in which were five persons, two of whom were very seriously injured.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE Board of Trade returns for March were issued on Monday, and show a continued increase in the declared value of exportations. The augmentation is 1,007,778*l.*, or more than ten per cent. as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and 3,145,043*l.*, or forty-three per cent. as compared with March, 1855. Oil-seed and wool are almost the only articles on the unfavourable side, and the falling off in the shipment of these is simply to be attributed to their being retained to supply the wants of our own farmers and manufacturers. The total increase of our exports for the first quarter of the year has been nearly fifteen per cent. As compared with the corresponding quarter of 1855, it has been about fifty-two per cent. With regard to imported commodities, a decrease is shown in the arrivals of wheat and flour, but other descriptions of grain have been largely taken. In animals and salted provisions there has been an increase. Cocoa, coffee, and sugar show a falling off as regards the home consumption, and also tea, in consequence of the limited deliveries pending the reduction of the duty; but the quantities imported and taken into stock present an increase. Wines, spirits, tobacco, fruits, and spices, exhibit an increase both as regards importation and consumption.—The imports and exports of raw material show an increase in each instance, except that of tallow, which was kept back for speculative purposes.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the week ending last Saturday, there has been little change. The number of vessels reported inward was 187, being 7 less than in the previous week. The total number cleared outward was 167, showing an increase of 55, including 29 in ballast. The number of ships on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 54; and, of these, 6 are for Adelaide, 7 for Geelong, 3 for Hobart Town, 4 for Launceston, 2 for Melbourne, 4 for New Zealand, 13 for Port Philip, 1 for Portland Bay, 1 for Perth, 12 for Sydney, and 1 for Swan River.—*Idem*.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

THE 19th Regiment of Native Infantry, which recently mutinied at Berhampore, has been ordered to Barrackpore, where it will be disbanded. A mutiny has broken out among the Madras troops at Vizieragram.

"A most important despatch," says the *Times* Calcutta correspondent, "has been received from home on the subject of the Madras tenure. The survey of the entire Presidency has been sanctioned. The Ryotwaree system is to be modified, or rather abolished, and the Khetwar introduced. 'Khetwar' means field settlement, and is so called because the assessment is placed upon each field. The owner, whoever he may be, is liable for the tax, and nothing else, his right of property while he pays it being perfect."

Five thousand villages have agreed to increase their taxation one per cent. for educational purposes.

The Governor-General has for the first time exercised his veto, in refusing to authorize a bill providing a municipal government for the suburbs of Calcutta. It contained a clause prohibiting certain native religious ceremonies. This was considered impolitic, and the Governor-General therefore vetoed the bill.

Major Cuthbert Davidson, now Resident of Baroda, is to succeed Mr. Bushby at Hyderabad. He is himself succeeded at Baroda by Sir Richmond Shakespear. Sir Henry Lawrence is to go to Oude, and Sir James Outram to the Rajpootana States, Colonel George Lawrence acting there during Sir James's absence on duty in Persia.

A good deal of cholera is prevalent at Bangalore.

Brigadier Chamberlayne is now conducting a warlike expedition into the mountains on the Punjab frontier against a tribe called the Bozdars, who are constantly making raids into the neighbouring districts. There has already been a slight brush with the enemy, ending in their discomfiture.

"A serious attempt," says the *Bombay Times*, "has been made against the lives of six officers of the 5th Regiment N.I., including Captains Symons and Scott, Lieutenant Brown, Dr. Trestrail, and two others. Some poison was mixed with the soup prepared for, and intended to be taken by, them; and it was not until one of them vomited, and the others felt severe pain from the effects of what they had taken, that the treachery became apparent. Several persons have been arrested on suspicion, and the soup has been sent for medical examination. All the officers are doing well."

A treaty with the chiefs of Berbera has been ratified, and we are to reoccupy the island of Perim.

Money is plentiful at Bombay. The local banks have lowered their rates of discount, and exchange has fallen.

PERSIA.

The latest accounts from Bushire are to the 6th of March. They bring no reports of fresh operations in the Persian Gulf. The intelligence of the treaty of peace between England and Persia arrived at Bagdad on the 27th of March.

The Bushire correspondent of the *Bombay Times* writes, under date March 4th:—"We have news here of the arrival at Mahamrah of 10,000 Persians and the expected arrival of 18,000 more with seventeen guns to

reinforce the garrison already there. On our part, we are shipping but slowly. Boats are not readily procured, and the roughness of the sea during the last fortnight has nearly cut off all communication with the shipping, the nearest of which lies about three or four miles out."

CHINA AND BORNEO.

The Indian mail brings dates from Hong-Kong to March 15th. Some Europeans on board the steamer Queen, English property, under the Portuguese flag, have been murdered by the Chinese passengers and crew. The steamer, with a valuable cargo, was carried off, according to some accounts, while others state that she was burnt. She had a valuable cargo on board at the time. The attack, which was conducted by some Mandarin soldiers and pirates, who had gone on board apparently for the purpose, was made very suddenly while the captain and passengers were at dinner. The Chinese had got possession of the arms chest, and they poured a deadly volley into the cabin. One of the passengers, a Mr. Cleverley, valorously resisted for some time with a revolver, with which he wounded some of the enemy; but his thigh was at length fractured with a ball, and he then got overboard, reached a lorch, and was taken to Macao. The captain also was wounded, and jumped overboard, followed by the engineer and a European passenger. These have not since been heard of. After this occurrence, it was discovered that the guns on board some of the other steamers had been rendered useless by spiking, or otherwise.

Another massacre on board ship has taken place. The *Gulnare*, an English vessel, bound from Swartow to Havannah, was partly manned by Coolies. They made an attempt to take the vessel, and were fired upon. They then set fire to the ship, but, finding their leaders shot down, they extinguished the flames. Twenty-seven were killed or wounded, and the rising was suppressed. The vessel arrived at Hong-Kong on the 14th of March, and the affair is being inquired into. A demand has been made at Swartow, by the French ship *Catinat*, for six thousand dollars, in satisfaction of the violence done to the crew of the *Anais* by Coolies. The Mandarins have politely declined paying the sum, though the town was threatened with bombardment in the event of a refusal. The amount, however, has been made up by parties interested in the Coolie trade.

A third massacre at sea, very similar to that of the *Gulnare*, is likewise reported. The Chinese Coolies on board the Peruvian ship *Carmen* rose in a body against the Europeans, but were driven below, when they set fire to the vessel. The captain, crew, and passengers, escaped in two open boats, in which they were exposed for nine days, without water, and with no other food than two baskets of sweet potatoes which they took with them, and a dolphin which they caught in the sea, and eagerly devoured raw. "In this pitifully exhausted and wretched state," writes one of the officers of the *Carmen*, "they were cruelly attacked, when off Pulo Tingi, by a piratical prahu, manned by three Malays and a boy, who threw spears, killing one seaman and the passenger, Mr. Pedro Pereyra. Others were wounded, but by dint of great exertion, in their famished and weak condition, they managed to get away, and reached Singapore. The survivors are now in the Sailors' Home, except two, who, we hear, have been sent to the hospital to be cured of their wounds."

A desperate attempt has been made by two Chinese to take the American schooner *Garland*. They attempted to murder the captain and mate, whom they wounded; but a Chilean sailor, who was himself much hurt in the struggle, stabbed one of the Chinese to the heart, and so alarmed the other that he leapt overboard, and is supposed to be drowned. The Chinese say that they can recognise no distinction between English and American vessels.

The small chartered steamer *Eaglet*, and the boats belonging to the Honourable Company's steamer *Auckland*, have performed a small service at Toong-Chung. They destroyed four heavily-armed Chinese junks, and captured a battery of sixteen guns. The casualties on our side were one killed, and four wounded. Seven piratical junks have also been captured, and a few other minor operations have taken place, the details of which possess no interest.

The Government contractors' storehouses at Hong-Kong (those recently occupied by Allum) have been burnt down by incendiaries. Seven hundred barrels of flour have been destroyed.

Pekin gazettes come down to the 11th of February. They contain reports of some successes of the Imperial troops over the insurgents. From Shanghai, it is reported that a band of rebels had burnt Hohow, in a great tea district in the province of Kiangse. Fifteen chops of congon were lost. Along the coast, all was quiet. It is reported that one of the leaders of the revolutionary movement at Nankin has effected his reconciliation with the Imperial Government.

A collision has occurred between the Russians of Omsk and the people of Tarbagatai, or Tashtava, a distant portion of the Chinese Empire, bordering on the Siberian frontier. The affair arose from some quarrel between the two nations, caused, as the Russians allege, by the Chinese crossing the frontier to dig for gold. The results at present seem to be of a very trivial nature.

The Chinese in Sarawak, Borneo, rose on the 17th of February, and massacred several Europeans. Sir James

Brooke saved his life by swimming across a creek. One of the Borneo Company's steamers subsequently arrived at Sarawak, and, with the aid of Sir James, at the head of a body of Malays and Dyaks, avenged the destruction of the settlement by killing 2000 Chinese. A letter from Sir James Brooke, giving a full account of these events, will be found below.

THE INSURRECTION AT SARAWAK.

[The subjoined painfully interesting letter from Sir James Brooke, giving an account of the insurrection briefly noticed above under the head of China, has been communicated to the *Times* by the friend to whom it was addressed]:—

Balidah, March 15.

I may now relate more circumstantially the events of the last few weeks. Sarawak was as peaceful as it had ever been, and there was no cause to excite dissatisfaction among the Chinese or raise suspicion in our minds of any hostile designs; yet a conspiracy had been formed which had its ramifications in Singapore and in China. A follower of Tien-Te, the rebel chief, had arrived in Sarawak, and some criminals, who had been banished the country, secretly returned from Singapore. I had been unwell for some days, and on the night of the 18th retired early to bed. My servant was sleeping in a room near mine, and Mr. Steel and Nicholets occupied a small bungalow close by. Between twelve and one o'clock I was awakened by yells and shots, and, seizing my sword and revolver, I opened a window and saw that the house was surrounded. The noise told me it was by Chinese. I opened door by door in the hope of finding means for escape, but in vain. I told Penty (his native servant) that our deaths were at hand, and, as the last hope, went down to the bathing-room, which was under repair. The door was not fastened. I opened it gently, and, seeing the way clear, ran across the lawn to the creek on the right hand of the house, and took the water close under the bows of the boat which had brought the murderers to their bloody work. I carried my sword and pistol across with me. Glad was I to touch ground on the far side, though not above thirty yards. I struggled through the deep mud, and lay down exhausted and panting in the road. Recovering breath, I got to the nearest house, and, launching a canoe, pulled up to the Dattoo Bandars kampong. All was in confusion. I was too exhausted to do much, and Hercules himself could not have restored courage or order to such a panic-stricken crowd. Here Crookshank joined me, bleeding from a severe sword-cut in the arm. He believed his wife to be dead, and we both apprehended that the massacre would be general. Finding all hope of restoring affairs at the Bandars gone, I pulled to the kampongs above, and persuaded the people to secure their women and valuables in prahus, and to cross to the opposite or left bank of the river, so as to prevent the assailants from attacking them by land. My house, Arthur's, and Middleton's were long before this in flames. We got the women and children across the river, and Arthur, Crookshank, and myself retired to the same side, to the house of Nakodah Bryak. Here Crymble joined us with the intelligence that after an hour's defence our fort or palisade had been taken, and with it all our guns, small arms, ammunition, &c. It had been defended by Crymble, with four men and two prisoners; three of the defenders were killed, one or two wounded, and Crymble himself had been grazed by a spear in his side. Middleton, Steele, Ruppell, and Penty dropped in one after another. The bright fires went out, and the dull morning broke at length, but only disclosing to us the hopeless state of our affairs. We remained quietly at Inkodah Bryaks, doing what we could to animate the natives, and to prepare for such a defence as our means allowed, should we be attacked. I may here relate the fate and misfortunes of our fellow-sufferers. Poor Harry Nicholets was murdered on the grass, trying to reach my house. Crookshank and his wife escaped by their bath-room door. She ran first, and he protected her retreat with a spear in his hand, but, in passing the stable, one of these villains rushed from the opposite side and cut her down. Her husband jobbed his spear into the miscreant's back, but with a twist of his body he wrenched it out, and, seizing the shaft, he struggled to get the spear. Suddenly, however, letting go with his right hand, in which he held a short sword, he cut Crookshank across the fleshy part of the arm. Both staggered, both let go the spear, and Crookshank, weak with loss of blood, and believing his wife dead, staggered away and reached me. She, young and beautiful, lay for twelve hours weltering in her blood, conscious and calm in this extremity. One fiend hacked at her head till he cut off the long tresses which protected it; another tore her rings from her fingers; a third—for the sake of our common nature let it be told—gave her water to drink. By this time the remainder of the Europeans had been assured of protection; but when the Bishop asked the leader's permission to carry her to his house, he was told that she should be left to perish. At length the boon was granted, and she was relieved and tended, and is now, God be praised, recovering. Middleton's house was attacked at the same time and in the same manner as the others. He escaped with difficulty. His poor little wife hid in a bakery till the burning rafters fell about her, and, from her concealment, saw the assailants

kicking about the head of her eldest child. The mother was paralyzed; she wished, she said, to rush out; but could not move. The youngest child was murdered and thrown into the flames, where poor Wellington's remains were likewise consumed, his head borne off in triumph alone attesting his previous murder. The day broke, as I said, and shortly after I heard that the Chinese had assured the survivors of safety; that they had communicated with the Bishop, and sent for Helms and Ruppell. I then, hopeless of doing good, started for the Siolo, a small stream which has its outlet far below the town; it was a wild walk; we swam the stream, washed out every track of our footsteps in the mud, and took refuge in a mangrove swamp as dark came on. By eight o'clock two small boats came to carry us away, and in an hour afterwards I was in Abong Buyong's prahu, manned by forty men, with six smaller boats in company. Our party consisted of Arthur Crookshank, Crymble, Middleton, and Penty, and, after the trials and fatigues of the twenty-four hours, we slept as though misfortune had not overtaken us.

On the morning following, I landed at Sabong, and I wish I could explain to you the tender care, the generous sympathy showered upon us. Here we received information that the Chinese, after forcing the Europeans and Dattoos into oaths of fealty, had agreed to retire up the river. It was clearly their intention, having, as they thought, disposed of myself and Arthur, to take the country into their own hands, to be friendly with the Malays and Dyaks, to patronise the Europeans, and to encourage them to trade in order to the supply of their own wants. There were two parties requisite to the success of this notable project. My intention was to proceed to Sakarran, to collect as large a force as I could, and with it to retake the town, or to command a base of operations in its vicinity. I awaited, however, the intelligence, and on Sunday, having heard of the retirement of the Chinese, I was again entering the town, when down they came a second time, before we were in any manner prepared to receive them properly. The consequence was, they gained the town before I could even land, and I again retired with all the Europeans, with the firm intention of proceeding to Sakarran. This was the only evening I felt the depression of spirits attendant on ill fortune, but I did not show it. There we were, outcasts—women and children and helpless fugitives to be provided for—the town in flames, and my people without firearms and ammunition, panic stricken, and fleeing with their families. A force from Sakarran was our only hope, and with a base for operations we might rally the people, re-arm and act against the enemy. The next morning I was on my way to Linga, when the steamer hove in sight. I boarded her. Skinner was most zealous and active. Here was the very base for our operations we wanted. We drove the miscreants out of the town, found the Dattoo in a cluster of prahus, and heard that he had recaptured nine sampans and one of our prahus containing stores of powder, some guns, &c., of which we were in great want. This was the first blow struck at the Chinese. I felt assured that each day would improve our resources and diminish those of our enemies. Their body of men was nearly annihilated, for taking the jungle behind the town or making off by the road, as they had no boats to carry them away, they were cut off by the Dyaks or starved. My next measure was to let the land Dyaks loose upon them, and within a circuit of thirty miles from Siniawan, Bau, and Bula they were driven into their defences with great loss of life, and all communication between Bau and Siniawan prevented, excepting by means of large parties of armed men. Night and day they were harassed by alarms; every straggler was cut down. In short, it was a guerilla warfare of the most harassing character, and, quite shut the enemy up in their two places of strength, Bau and Siniawan. The want of food was sure to do the rest, and it was a mere question of time how long they could hold out. Simovar and Bank were each covered, the former by the fort of Balidah, the latter by its landing-place, but early in the month the Chinese again came forth in five prahus and began ravaging the banks of the river. I was collecting my people and reassuring them after their panic. The Dattoo Bandar, on the 9th, was in a single Malay prahu on the look-out at Linda Tarak when this Chinese party came there. They declined an engagement on the water, but landed and threw up a stockade, which they defended with four guns and manned with about two hundred and fifty men, armed with muskets and rifles. The Dattoo came down himself in a small boat, and by one o'clock on the 10th we got off two more large prahus, some thirty Dyak bangkongs as a reserve; other prahus were preparing, and some followed the same evening, but too late. These three prahus ranged themselves in line and dashed at the Chinese stockade, landed sword in hand, and carried it without a check. The Dyaks cut the Chinese to pieces in the jungle, and the half-hour before sunset cost our enemies from one hundred to one hundred and twenty men. Again the remnant was distressed in the jungle. Our party returned; had it ascended the river, no man, woman, or child of our enemies would have escaped death or capture. This defeated party consisted of their picked men, and their two great leaders were killed in the stockade. A panic now seized them. On the night of the 11th I heard that Balidah and Simovar had been abandoned, and, hurrying up the following morn-

ing, the intelligence greeted me that Bank was likewise deserted, and had been burned, and that the Chinese were in full retreat towards Sambas. This took us by surprise, but our force got upon their trail on the 13th, and, after three days' desultory fighting, drove them across the frontier with great slaughter, the enemy, however, making a desperate resistance in defence of the women and children, and the efforts of our people not being able to break them. Had twenty-four hours' delay intervened to allow a concerted attack we should have had them all; but as it is, we may be thankful, for a mere remnant of the body of Chinese men has escaped, and the capture of the women and children was not to be desired. Even now, however, this wretched mass, driven to the farther side of the Sambas river, must suffer great loss, and may altogether perish in the wild jungle for want of food and from exposure. Thus the punishment has been almost as sudden and far more sharp than the treachery and first success of this miscreant body. A thousand and more have been killed in different places, their flourishing settlements destroyed, and not a roof-tree to cover their dastard heads in the country. The numbers starved in their flight by being lost in the jungle it is difficult to reckon, but it must be considerable, and out of a population of four or five thousand, certainly not more than two thousand have escaped, and half this number is composed of women and children. The punishment has been severe. The Chinese will play no further treachery here, and in future we shall prevent their being associated in companies, disavow them, and reduce them to a daily obedience to the laws and a strict surveillance. Sarawak has now passed through the ordeal that Hong-Kong is passing through, and Singapore has yet to meet. The country is secure; the authority of Government has been vindicated; the principles on which it is based proved to be right by the fidelity and ardour of its native population. Our guns have been recovered with a proportion of our musketry, and the principal loss falls on myself, on Crookshank, and Middleton. For myself, I may say that I never knew the small value of worldly goods till I lost them. I do not pretend to any sentimental cant over my noble library, my costly plate, or all the decorations and tokens of honour which were once showered upon me and have been lost even more suddenly than they were acquired. Man's happiness consists not in such things, and he destroys the chances of finding it if he persuades himself that it does.

Now, a word more as to the causes of these events. Wherever there is a Chinaman, there is the conceit of supremacy and the desire of dominion. When associated in bodies, as in Sambas formerly, and thence in Sarawak before my arrival, this lust of rule grows stronger. The stringent proceedings of the Dutch have recently thrown many desperate characters into Sarawak, and the miserably feeble Government of Singapore, with its toleration of secret societies, has strengthened the Chinese Kungsi here and given it advisers aware of the state of British affairs and policy. Without such advisers the idea of encouraging trade while murdering the officers of Government would never have entered the head of any of the rude Chinese here, and without the means of livelihood from without, and the support of the European community, so mad a project could hardly have been undertaken. To upset the Government by the murder of its principal officers and heads, and to establish other Englishmen to carry on the trade, was the suggestion of Chinese of Singapore, well acquainted with the isolated position of Sarawak, and possessed with the idea that the murder of Sarawak officers and the Sarawak Rajah would be a matter of supreme indifference to the British nation, provided that trade was continued and cottons sold. It was a high compliment to my government that, murdering me with the intention of obtaining power, these stupidly clever Chinese desisted as little change as possible. They forgot the native element, and hence their destruction has come. It was a grand superstructure, cleverly devised by men acquainted with English policy and mode of proceeding, but miserably based as regards the feelings and the ferocity of the native population. I think I have told you that one of Tien Te's followers—i. e. a follower of the rebel and Hué leader in China—has since been ascertained to have arrived in this country. It is probable that he was the great Singapore mover and agent, and to all these causes to encourage the attempt to acquire power and plunder by means of treachery and murder may be added the poverty of the Chinese, owing to the scanty yield of gold during the last eight months. I will only add that to penetrate their designs was impossible, and without a clue to the design and its advisers their attempt was not conceivable. True, some rumours had been afloat three months before that, under guise of a religious procession, the Kungsi people were to force the gaol in order to liberate some prisoners belonging to their body; but the scheme did not then embrace my life, as I was in Singapore. Crookshank took precautions, and on my return I made inquiry into the matter, without eliciting any tangible evidence to warrant me in disturbing the peace of the country. To guard against such a conspiracy is impossible; it slumbers till opportunity occurs. We are really not much hurt; our finances will suffer, but will recover, as even now, owing to the speedy and complete destruction of the Kungsi, confidence is not wanting. The loss of

the Company is trifling. It is fortunate that you will hear of our disaster and its retrieval at the same time; and, for myself, I may say that I am in good health and spirits, and ready to rough it with the best of them. Our ladies behaved with great fortitude and resignation. Charlie Johnson, as usual, has been my right hand, and every Government servant has declared he will follow its fortunes in evil as well as in good fortune. I have written to retrench every superfluous expense, and I have appropriated my pension from the East India Company to pay the pensions I grant to others. Everything else is superfluous. No books, no papers, no wine, no nothing.

AMERICA.

THE Hon. William B. Reed, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Minister to China. He is for the most part a politician of the old Whig school, but he aided in the return of Mr. Buchanan for the Presidency, under a fear that to support Fremont would lead to a Government of a sectional character, and would endanger the union of the States.

Mr. Forsyth, the American Minister in Mexico who recently negotiated a treaty or series of conventions with that State without instructions, has been recalled.

The new charter for the city of New York, and the Bill changing the organisation of the city police, have been passed by the State Legislature at Albany. The New York police will now be organised under three commissioners in much the same manner as that of London.

The United States war steamer Niagara has been fitted out to assist the English ships in laying the submarine telegraph cable. Her departure has been delayed, owing to an accident with her engines.

"The inquest on the victims of the fatal catastrophe at the Des Jardins bridge, on the Toronto and Hamilton Railroad (Canada West)," says a letter from New York, "has terminated. The jury found that the cause of the accident was the breaking of the axle of the engine, by which the whole train was thrown off the rails just as it was passing on to the bridge. The structure was strong enough to support any train as long as it kept on the line, but, being thrown on one side, the engine and carriage tore up and broke through the plank-work and plunged into the deep canal below. The jurors recommend the erection of a permanent bridge, with separate tracks over it for the Great Western and Toronto lines; they also recommend the renewal of the law compelling trains to stop before passing on to all bridges like that at which the terrible accident occurred."

The *Toledo Commercial* publishes the confession of a wife-murderer, taken down by the editor from the mouth of the criminal. The man, according to his own account, was first attacked by his wife, and also irritated by her language, till he was exasperated into striking her on the head with a flat iron. When relating these facts, it appears he frequently paused, overcome with remorse and sorrow; but this did not prevent his giving a disgustingly minute account of his cutting-up and burning the body. He is to be hung.

A horrible murder and suicide has been committed in Bullit county, near Mount Washington, Kentucky, by an elderly gentleman, Mr. Julius Bukey. His daughter was being courted by a youthful neighbour, to whom the father objected. One day, the young lady and her parent had an altercation on the subject. Bukey, who had conceived an idea that his daughter was about to elope, got terribly excited, struck the girl, drew a revolver, and shot her twice. She fell dead in the presence of her mother. The murderer then rushed from the house with the weapon in his hand, and, though one of his sons tried to prevent him, blew his own brains out.

The decision in the Dred Scott slave case, given by the Supreme Court of the United States, is causing a great deal of opposition on the part of the slave-holding States. A committee of the New York Legislature has recommended the adoption of a resolution affirming "that this State will not allow slavery within her borders in any form, or under any pretence, or for any time, however short, let the consequences be what they may." The committee also suggests the passing of a bill which shall enact—"Sec. 1. Neither descent, near or remote, from an African, whether such African is or may have been a slave or not, nor colour of skin, shall disqualify any person from being, or prevent any person from becoming, a citizen of this State; nor deprive such person of the rights and privileges of a citizen thereof.—Sec. 2. Every slave who shall come, or be brought, or be in this State, with the consent of his or her master or mistress, or who shall come, or be brought, or be involuntarily in this State, shall be free.—Sec. 3. Every person who shall hold or attempt to hold in this State, in slavery or as a slave, any person mentioned as a slave in the second section of this act, or any free person of colour, in any form, or under any pretence, or for any time however short, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be confined in the State prison at hard labour for a term not less than two nor more than ten years." A committee of the Ohio Legislature has made similar recommendations, and resolutions have been reported, appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for the protection of Ohio citizens in Kansas.

The convention settling the question of the Sound Dues between the United States and Denmark has been signed at Washington by the Secretary of State, Mr.

Cass, and M. Bille, the Danish Minister. The United States Government agrees to pay Denmark the sum of 717,829 rix-dollars Danish, or 393,000 dollars American, being the proportion that falls to the share of the United States by the capitalization of the dues.

Sailors are very scarce at New York, even at advanced wages. It is reported that a body of troops will be sent to the Salt Lake to establish proper authority among the Mormons.

A very serious fire has occurred at Baltimore, causing a loss of about 500,000 dollars.

An election riot took place at Quebec on the 11th ult., when the military were called out.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 4th ult. report that the clergy had openly declared against, and denounced, the new constitution in all the churches. The Government was about to call the Archbishop and other prominent ecclesiastics to account. The army had sworn to the new constitution, and the Government had issued a manifesto to the nation reviewing its acts. A battalion of National Guards, with a small force of artillery, had been sent to Tehuantepec to guard the national interests in that quarter. Disorders had taken place there, and many persons were killed.

"General Cass's reply to Lord Napier on the Chinese question," says the *Daily News* New York correspondent, "was delivered on the 11th of April. It is drawn up with clearness and precision, in a spirit of candour and friendliness towards England. While it declines a political and military alliance with England and France, the American Government will use its best endeavours to gain the common ends proposed by both nations."

Mr. Charles Sumner, the senator who was nearly murdered by the late Preston S. Brooks, has arrived in Europe on a tour for the benefit of his health. The sea voyage has done him immense good.

A Mr. William Bailey has communicated to the *Springfield (Illinois) Republican* an account of his capture, while travelling with nine other men in Mexico, by the Indians, who killed all but Bailey, and kept him for a long time among them, subjecting him to great misery, and forcing him to witness unutterable cruelties which they inflicted upon any white men they could seize. At length, he slipped away from them, and escaped into civilised territory.

The Mormons are increasing in audacity every day, and people are beginning to say that the Federal Government must step in, and put an end to the saintly community. Brigham Young has recently ordered to be burnt nine hundred volumes of the United States laws and reports; he has cancelled and reversed decisions of the Federal Judge; and has raised to honour criminals whom that Judge had condemned. It is said that Young has a sworn band of assassins at his disposal. All this while, he draws a salary from the Treasury at Washington in his capacity of Governor of the territory of Utah.

IRELAND.

DISTRESS AMONG THE LABOURING CLASSES.—The *Limerick Reporter* states that, owing to a combination of adverse causes, the labouring classes in that city were never in deeper distress than they are at this moment; that emigration is greater than ever; and that crowds leave almost every morning by train for Liverpool, to take ship for America, Canada, or Australia.

MURDER IN THE QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Mr. Fennell, the attack on whom we related last week, has since died.

MORE FOOD RIOTS.—Some further rioting, of a similar character to that which we chronicled last week, has taken place at Galway. The exportation of potatoes appears to be the cause of these disturbances.

THE TIPPERARY BANK still gives occupation to the counsel and judges in the Irish law courts. In the Master's-office, on Monday, an application was made to allow Mr. Jerningham, of London, to institute proceedings at law against George M'Dowell, the official manager of the Tipperary Bank, to recover a sum of 5300*l.* During the year 1848, 13,000*l.* were lodged in the Tipperary Bank in the joint names of John Sadleir and — Jerningham; and John Sadleir was improperly allowed, without the knowledge or authority of Mr. Jerningham, to draw upon his own checks not less than 5300*l.* Mr. Jerningham now sought to recover the sum from the Tipperary Bank by an action at law against the official manager. The motion was granted.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the same day, counsel applied on behalf of the public officer of the Newcastle Bank to make absolute the conditional order for a *scire facias* against Mr. Hone, in order to recover against him a judgment had against Mr. M'Dowell, the official manager of the Tipperary Bank. The question was, whether Mr. Hone was a shareholder. He asserted that he had sold his shares in 1817; but it appeared that this was merely a collusive proceeding, and the conditional order for a *scire facias* was therefore made absolute.

A SUMMONS TO ROME.—One of the Belfast papers announces that Dr. Dennis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, has been summoned to Rome "on business of importance connected with his diocese," and that he is to take his departure in a few days for the Eternal City.

THE DUBLIN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—This body has received a severe and well-merited rebuke from the

Lord-Lieutenant. Some election riots occurred during the heat of the Parliamentary struggle, and the Protestants were roughly used by the Roman Catholics. The Association complained to Lord Carlisle, which was a very proper and legitimate proceeding; but, not content with this, they launched forth into a general assertion that, of late years, "faithfulness to Protestant principles has been looked upon as unworthy the countenance of the executive authorities, especially in Ireland, and that the profession of principles avowedly hostile to the British constitution has been a sure passport to executive favour." They observe that they have noticed this "with intense pain and indignation," and they add that "crime, outrage, and lawlessness have become normal in this country; the executive authorities seem to have become a dead letter, while the lives of Protestants are placed in jeopardy, liberty of conscience outraged, the laws violated, and truth dishonoured." In answer to this, Lord Carlisle's Secretary, Colonel Larcom, states that his Excellency "will not fail to keep under his fixed consideration the transactions which are the immediate subject of complaint;" but adds that his Excellency has, "for the first time within his recollection, been exposed to remarks of a highly disrespectful and disparaging character from an association of persons in no way authorized to address him in any collective capacity." The Lord-Lieutenant therefore declines to receive any further addresses or communications from the body. The pugnacious Protestants, however, have sent a humble rejoinder to his Lordship, disavowing any intention to be disrespectful to "the Powers that be"—a notion which shocks them "as Christian men"—but not withdrawing the obnoxious observations.

THE LAST OF THE ELECTIONS.—At the close of the election for Leitrim county, last Saturday, the numbers stood—Montgomery, 1549; Brady, 985; Tenison, 588. The two first-named gentlemen are therefore elected.

ASSAULT ON A BISHOP.—The whole of Catholic Ireland has been horrified by an assault made by a mob in the village of Newtownforbes on Dr. Kilduff, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh. They dragged him from the seat of his car, and taunted him with alleged dishonest conduct in the late Longford election. One fellow attempted to strike him, but he was prevented, and the mischief was confined to such exclamations and questions as—"The dirt has come through you!" "Who sold Longford?" "Where's White's money?" "So, the Bishop took the bribe!" &c. At length, he was suffered to depart. The priests have been at great pains to hush up the affair, as a scandal to their Church.

THE CROPS.—The cold, rainy weather that prevailed through the greater portion of April has greatly retarded vegetation in all parts of Ireland.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

A FRENCH Government agent is about to proceed to Parma, for the purpose of watching the intrigues said to be going on there.

The secretary of the Ottoman Embassy left Paris on Friday week for Constantinople, on a mission.

As originally believed, Prince Napoleon has not gone to Toulon to receive the Grand Duke Constantine.

"The provincial journals," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "have been ordered not to allude in any way to the forthcoming elections until the electoral colleges shall be convoked. This is precisely the same kind of arbitrary interference which excites the indignation of the *Moniteur* when practised in the Danubian Principalities."

The installation of Cardinal Morlot, as the fourteenth Archbishop of Paris, took place last Saturday at Notre-Dame. On Sunday afternoon, as he was going to the church of Notre Dame de Bonne Nouvelle, his carriage upset, and he and his attendant priests were dragged out, rather shaken and alarmed, but not much hurt.

Marshal Serrano, the Spanish Ambassador at Paris, left that capital on the morning of Friday week, for Madrid, to take his seat in the Senate. General Khéredine, the envoy of the Bey of Tunis, recently left Paris for London, where he arrived last Saturday.

The religious marriage of young M. Pereire, son of M. Isaac Pereire, with Mlle. Fould, daughter of the notary, took place on the 22nd ult., at the Jews' synagogue, in the Rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth.

"The Grand Duke Constantine," says a letter from Toulon, "paid a second visit to the Arsenal on the 22nd ult., accompanied by his suite, all of whom belong to the navy, and who are charged to take notes of what they see. On visiting the armoury on the previous day he did not at first notice the guns brought from Sebastopol, as the precaution had been taken of turning them somewhat out of sight, but on his examining them more closely he found that they had belonged to Russia. 'Those are trophies of victory?' he asked one of the functionaries who accompanied him. 'Yes, Prince,' replied the latter, 'but I can show you something by way of a set-off,' pointing to a number of French guns which had been rendered unfit for further service by the Russian shot. 'Ah,' said the Grand Duke, 'that is what you call a set-off, is it? Perhaps it is sufficient for you,

by way of courtesy, but I— However, I accept it, such as it is,' added he, smiling. During the same visit he pointed out a dozen fire-arms, which he expressed a wish to examine more closely, and they were sent to the maritime prefecture in the evening. The Prince has declined having any attendance of troops, or illuminations, or visits from the different bodies. 'I have come,' he said, 'to perfect myself in naval affairs; I have much to learn, and it is better for me to occupy the short time which remains at my disposal in a serious examination of what may be useful than in vain ceremonies.' The Prince makes all his excursions as a private individual, and without disarranging any one. He passed nearly the whole of to-day in visiting the Arsenal, the extent of which is greater than the town of Toulon, although the latter contains seventy-five thousand inhabitants. His Imperial Highness expressed his admiration at the order and regularity which prevailed in every part of the gigantic establishment. The immense fountain, whence all the shipping in the harbour supply themselves with water, particularly struck his attention. The Prince paid a second visit to the armoury to-day; but before his visit orders had been given to hide from view the great bell which had been brought from Sebastopol. Seeing some large object, however, covered over with a tarpauling, the Prince asked what it was, and on observing some little hesitation on the part of the person to whom he addressed the question, he himself raised the covering, and, seeing what it was, gave a melancholy smile, and said, 'I will not look at that at present, but will return another day.'

"During his inspection of the French fleet at Toulon," says the *Times* correspondent, "the Grand Duke Constantine was informed that among the officers was a midshipman who had been taken prisoner by the Russians at Kinburn. He requested that the young man should be presented to him, which was done, and the Duke decorated him with a military cross. He further requested Admiral Tréhouart, the admiral commanding the fleet, to permit the young man to act as his aide-de-camp during his stay in France."

Prince Danilo, before he left Paris for Vienna, from which city he will return to Montenegro, obtained an interview with Mehemed Bey, and was afterwards himself called on by the Turkish Ambassador. The result was an arrangement which, though it does not remove all the difficulties between the mountain chief and the Porte, effects one important result—the recognition by Danilo of the suzeraineté of the Sultan.

The great Soyer left Paris last Sunday for London. This will be his first visit to England since his departure for the Crimea.

The Empress Dowager of Russia sailed from Nice on the afternoon of the 21st ult., on board the Russian steam-frigate Olaf for Civita Vecchia.

Two newspapers in the Wallachian language have just been started in Paris for the advocacy of the union of the Principalities.

The banking-house of Vallé and Co., established at Havre for many years under the title of the Caisse Commerciale, has stopped payment, the catastrophe being attributable, says rumour, to losses occasioned by the recent great fluctuations at the Bourse. The managing director has absconded.

Dr. Hale, for many years chaplain to the English Embassy at Paris, died suddenly last Sunday in an epileptic fit.

A bitter attack on England was made last Saturday in the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences by Baron Charles Dupin. In presenting a report on the projected canal across the Isthmus of Suez, he accused the English Ambassador at Constantinople of opposing the scheme; and he then launched out into a general denunciation of England for being, as he alleged, a hypocrite in matters of trade, professing great freedom, but not really according it. M. Michel Chevalier, with equal warmth, defended and eulogized this country. The conversation then dropped. Baron Dupin was at one time himself a Free-trader.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs received despatches by the last Indian mail from M. de Montigny, the French Minister who was sent to Cochin China. It is said that he has succeeded in arranging a commercial treaty with the Government of that country.

General Liprandi, of the Russian army, has arrived in Paris. General Luders, who intends, it is said, spending some years in France, has fixed his residence at Versailles. The review, which will take place in Paris on the 6th inst., in presence of the Grand Duke, will be commanded by Marshal Magnan.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor and Empress are to leave Vienna for Pesth in the Imperial steam-yacht Adler, on the 4th inst. They are to make a solemn entry into the city.

The Austrian Government intends to give protection to the telegraphic messages which are obtained by the first-class journals at a considerable expenditure, and are then pirated by the cheaper papers. A petition has been presented to the Frankfort Diet, praying for this species of copyright all over Germany; but that body does not seem inclined to concede the point.

The curious phenomenon of mirage (says a contemporary) was witnessed on the morning of the 8th at Simand, near Arad, in Hungary, when St. Martin, a

village three miles distant, became distinctly visible to the astonished inhabitants of the former place; so distinctly, indeed, that not only the houses, but also the people walking in the streets, could be distinguished, all of colossal size. The inscriptions on the tombstones of the Jewish cemetery were perfectly legible. The apparition lasted about thirty-five minutes, and then faded away. The ignorant multitude interpreted it as a sign of the end of the world, which they confidently expect to take place on the 13th of June.

A royal decree has commuted the punishment of four persons in Sicily, condemned to death for political causes, into eighteen years' imprisonment in irons. Other acts of (so called) "grace" have also been accorded.

TURKEY.

The Phanariote Bishops of Bulgaria and Roumelia, according to the writer of a letter from Philippopol, are inspired with a great hatred of the Slavonic race. One of them recently denounced the inhabitants of the city just mentioned, in a letter to the Divan. He stigmatized them as revolutionists, and said they meditated an insurrection. Ismail Pacha, governor of Adrianople, was despatched to inquire into the matter, when the Bishop denied that he had sent any letter; but the Pacha, producing the communication, dumbfounded him. The holy man then endeavoured to bribe Ismail to silence; but the latter sent back the presents that were offered him, and laid the whole proceedings before the Divan, taking with him two delegates from the district.

A scandalous outrage on a young Albanian bey at Scutari, in Albania, has been committed by Captain von Questiak, the interpreter to the Austrian Consul. The captain was riding on horseback, and, as the young nobleman did not get out of his way with sufficient quickness, he kicked him. By the custom of the country, the bey was entitled to *vendetta*, that is to say, to take the life of the scoundrel on the spot: but, out of respect to the law of the Sultan, he laid his complaint before the Governor of the town, Mustapha Pacha. While the evidence was being gone into, the captain, after haughtily asserting that his word, as an Austrian interpreter, was not to be doubted, struck the bey over the face with his walking-stick. Mustapha Pacha instantly sprang forward, and prevented the outraged young Albanian from taking his revenge on the spot; but at the same time he promised him double satisfaction and ample redress. We are not as yet informed what punishment will be awarded to the Austrian ruffian.

ITALY.

The King of Bavaria has arrived at Naples, *incognito*; but he has been visited by the Neapolitan monarch and the diplomatic corps.

The telegraph from Naples to Reggio will be opened in a few days, and the submarine connexion between that and Messina will probably be effected during the summer. Some difficulties attach to the guarantees which the Government demands. Morse's Patent Telegraph is about to be introduced in Naples.

The Archduke Maximilian, the new Governor-General of Lombardy, arrived at Milan on the afternoon of the 19th ult., and intends remaining there four or five weeks. The accounts of his reception differ. The truth probably is that he was very well received by the officials, police agents, and troops, and very coldly by the general public.

A pamphlet has been printed and published at Naples, entitled, "Encore quelques Mots sur la Question Napolitaine." The chief object of this official effusion is to show that the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies is in a most brilliant and flourishing financial state—a modern Golden Age, attributable to the parental care of the "more than father," King Bomba.

Signor Carafa states that three hundred of the Neapolitan prisoners have accepted the proposals for going out as labourers to the Argentine Republic.

A quarrel of infinitesimally small proportions, but somewhat similar in its nature to that which so nearly caused a war between Prussia and Switzerland, is now inviting the attention of diplomacy in another direction. The little communes of Menton and Roquebrune, which before 1848 belonged to the Prince of Monaco, were then to their own great satisfaction annexed to Sardinia. The Prince of Monaco lately addressed a memorial to the Courts of Europe on the subject, to which the Sardinian Cabinet has just replied in a note, insisting that the Grimaldis of Monaco were never, of right, sovereigns of Menton and Roquebrune, which were always fiefs dependent upon the crown of Sardinia. The annexation of 1848 was therefore nothing more than a resumption by Sardinia of its ancient rights, and the utmost that the Prince of Monaco can claim as a vassal is a pecuniary indemnity, which the Sardinian Government is disposed to grant if he will moderate his pretensions. The only serious part of this business is that Austria, not to lose an opportunity of being disagreeable to Piedmont, supports the claims of the high and mighty house of Grimaldi.—*Daily News Paris Correspondent.*

Some assertions with respect to our Government and the existing relations between Piedmont and Austria are contained in a letter from a special Turin correspondent of the *Daily News*. This gentleman, an Italian, states that "Lord Clarendon, impelled by the urgent

exhortations, and it may be also by the skilful and astute insinuations of Austria, invited France a short time since to unite with England in order that, in a polite and friendly manner, they might give Sardinia to understand that it would be an extremely acceptable measure on her part if she would make an official and public declaration that she had no idea of infringing or setting aside the compacts and treaties by which she is bound with regard to Austria—in virtue of which declaration the chancery at Vienna would have no difficulty in immediately despatching to Piedmont a regular envoy, to renew all the relations and mutual obligations between the states, as good neighbours to each other." Louis Napoleon, however, adds the writer, refused to accede to this proposal, which he thought would imply an injurious doubt of the integrity of the Sardinian Ministers, and would thus "concede to Austria the victory in the cause which now stands for discussion before the diplomacy of Europe." The editor of the *Daily News*, in his leading column, "earnestly entreats" the attention of the reader to this communication, and states that "the writer has access to the best sources of information, and is remarkable for patient observation and sagacious judgment." Of course, we merely give the statement on our contemporary's authority.

The Piedmontese Senate, in its sitting of the 25th ult., voted a bill for the fortification of Alexandria by a majority of 45 to 8.

SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council, after hearing the explanation of Dr. Kern, appears disposed to accept the propositions of arrangement recommended personally by the French and English Ministers. These propositions are to be communicated to the Neuchâtel Government, which has accepted them. A Berlin letter in the *Cologne Gazette*, says:—"The Marquis de Moustier, Ambassador of France, has just delivered to the King of Prussia a letter from his sovereign relating to the Neuchâtel question. The solution of this affair on the basis of the arrangement proposed by the Four Powers is considered certain here."

RUSSIA.

"The Russian Government," says a telegraphic message from St. Petersburg, "has just decreed that shares in the great Russian Railway Company shall be received at par, like the funds of the state, for all caution money or public deposits. This favour is looked upon as of great value, as the funds which are deposited in this way are very considerable, and the contractors are in the habit of paying a high premium to procure securities for that purpose."

SPAIN.

The *Amicitia*, a Dutch galliot, from Cette for Amsterdam, has been forced to take shelter in the creek of Amelador, near Vinaroz, on the coast of Valencia, having been chased by a brigantine, supposed to be a Greek pirate.

A decree in the *Gazette* appoints the Marquis de Viluma President of the Senate, the Dukes de Veragua and Ahumada, the Marquis de Santa Cruz, and Don Joaquin Casaus, Vice-Presidents. Viluma is of avowed Absolutist tendencies; the others are of no great note.

BELGIUM.

A communication from the Marquis of Normanby, English Minister at Florence, is published in the *Nord* of Brussels. The object of the letter is to deny an assertion published in that journal that, while at Paris in 1848, he had been unduly familiar with republicans and insurrectionists, and with the men who conspired against the throne of Louis Philippe.

DENMARK.

The Supreme Council of Denmark has adopted, by 34 votes to 20, the bill relative to the employment of the indemnity for the abolition of the Sound Dues.

An influential party in Denmark is endeavouring to force the King to abdicate. His Majesty resists, and, it is said, has declared to the members of the Diplomatic Corps that his enemies shall never compel him to lay down his sceptre.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Moldavian Government, which is opposed to the union of the Principalities, has arrested some gentlemen who openly advocated that measure. The friends of the imprisoned have brought the case before the notice of the foreign Consuls in the Principalities, in a document which alleges that the Minister of the Interior grossly insulted his victims, calling them "wretches" and "brigands of Unionists," and threatening to put them in irons. The persons signing the document (who include several of the inhabitants of Jassy) invoke the interposition and protection of the Consuls, in order to put an end to conduct "which violates individual liberty, and treats opinion as a crime." They add:—"The Government has evidently renounced its mission of impartiality, and the Moldavians have everything to fear from the system which has been entered upon."

Rumours are current in Paris of disagreements between the Commissioners for the settlement of the Principalities. Two approve of the general conduct of the Moldavian Government; two disapprove; and one remains neutral. The Unionist Committee has sent two of its members to Paris, to make complaints on its own account.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE examination of the auditors took place on Monday, when the first person interrogated by Mr. Linklater was Mr. Thomas Page. He stated that he audited accounts from June 30, 1853, to the same date in 1856. During that time, he had had Mr. Thomas Chandler as a co-auditor, and that gentleman had acted at an earlier period. "We did not know who were the debtors to the bank, nor what was the nature of the securities. I only knew who were debtors to the bank after the failure. I objected to sign the accounts after the third audit, because it implied that all the items had been gone into by us, whereas ours was merely an audit of abstract accounts and a comparison of totals with the ledgers. I spoke to Mr. Chandler about it, and the certificate of audit was altered to the effect that we had examined the abstract of accounts, and compared them with the general ledger. We merely looked to the totals. It took us about five hours. Our business was done in the accountant's room. We saw none of the directors. Sometimes Mr. Cameron, the general manager, passed through, but we had no communication with any one but Mr. Craufurd. The accounts were audited in the same way from beginning to end. Mr. Craufurd said at first that I was very particular in my inquiries, and that he had given me all necessary information. No alteration was made afterwards. I audited the accounts up to the 30th of June, 1855, in the following month. The paper produced contains the entries. I went from Mr. Craufurd's statement. There is a statement of the assets. One item is:—'London bills, No. 5, 95,934/.' Mr. Craufurd represented that as an asset. The title given it was 'London bills discounted with security.' I had not the slightest reason to believe that that represented past due bills. In every case, without exception, Mr. Craufurd represented the assets as good. I was most astonished when I found that many of them had been bad for years. The last half-year's accounts contain an item of 1000/., owing by a Mrs. Goodridge, as far back as 1854, also 1100/., due from a Mr. Jordan, in 1851 and 1852. I had no reason to suppose that those debts had been hopelessly bad for years. There is a sum of 3185/., due from the late Mr. M'Gregor, which forms part of the 'Loan account, No. 1,' represented as loans on mortgages of houses and land, and which now turn out to be nothing of the sort. I could not assume that the chief accountant would deceive an auditor. The accounts of June, 1853, contain an item of 'suspense account.' That was represented as floating sums not appropriated to any account, but to be so in the next half-year. There is the same item in the accounts up to June, 1855, the amount being 36,610/.; next half-year it is 46,278/., and in June, 1856, 54,049/.—all at the head office. I had no notion that this embraced 31,663/., sunk in the Welsh works. It was reported to us as a kind of floating account, due from customers of the bank. I now see from the general ledger that 31,663/., is due on the Welsh works."

Mr. Page concluded by saying that he was content with Mr. Craufurd's explanations, but that the least suspicion about the bank would have led to a more lengthened inquiry. He believed the auditors had done all that could be expected. From this opinion the Commissioner strongly dissented.

Mr. Thomas Chandler, the other auditor, explained the mode in which the earlier accounts of the bank were audited. Although an auditor, he did not know the state of Mr. Cameron's account. He (witness) borrowed money of the bank. His fees went in payment of his debt. The auditors only looked at the total in the ledger.

Mr. Craufurd, the accountant, and subsequently general manager, was then examined. He was elected by the directors, but was introduced by Mr. Cameron, and was told on the first day to look to him for instructions. "On one occasion, in 1855, when he spoke to a director on the affairs of the bank, Mr. Cameron threatened him with dismissal. The accountant was not servant to the manager in every bank, but so it was in the Royal British Bank. (*Sensation.*) He did not represent all the debts and securities as good, but said they were mortgages on houses, land, property, &c. Mr. Page, at his first audit, wished to see the bills and securities; he told Mr. Cameron so, and that gentleman replied that he had misconceived his duties. (*A laugh.*) Mr. Cameron's conscience allowed him sometimes to discount the bills of the directors, without consulting the board. Mr. Humphrey Brown was one of them. He once refused to discount Brown's bills, on the ground that he had not paid his former bills, and Mr. Cameron ordered him to discount them. A gentleman, after the 1st of August, wished to buy shares; he sent him away twice, and the third time he brought the money in his pocket. He (witness) then told him to put up his money, and sent him away. He told the board of it, and one gentleman said it was a pity to turn money away while any hope existed. He told them he had no hope, and it was a deception to take people's money. He might have said something about 'roguey and deception,' as he was rather warm. None of the accounts sent to the *Gazette* were signed by the general manager. He proposed to take the salary of a clerk, and the other gentlemen associated with him would have done the

same, in order to show a good balance at Christmas, if the directors would forego their 2000/.; but the proposition was not acceded to. On the eve of the failure, there was an attempt to get assistance from the National Bank of Ireland. He told the National Bank if they did not give them money they could not keep open an hour. On one occasion, when Mr. Humphrey Brown asked for an advance upon a vessel, he asked him in the board-room if it was free. He replied 'Yes.' He telegraphed to Gloucester, and found it was mortgaged. The bank had not made a shilling of profit. The losses would have been more than sufficient to pay all the dividends. The statement of Mr. Stapleton that he (witness) had advised the directors to carry on the bank was untrue. Directly he found the concern was rotten, he advised they should close their doors. Mr. Esdaile was most sanguine."

The investigation was here adjourned to Wednesday, when Mr. Humphrey Brown was examined. "He entered on his duties as a director in February, 1853. He gave his note of hand for the shares by which he qualified, and he paid for them in no other way. He did not know that the thousand pound promissory note which he gave Mr. Cameron for the shares remained dishonoured to this day. He opened his credit by paying into the bank 18/., 4s.; on the same day, he drew two thousand pounds. (*A laugh.*) The security was not completed on that day. Security was given in June, 1853, on the Ellen Lindsay, which cost seven thousand pounds. He never sat on any finance committee, to the best of his recollection, where any bill was discounted for him. Before joining as a director, he had not been in the habit of getting bills discounted at the bank. He could not say whether other persons might not have got his bills discounted there. He was director of only three companies. Those companies were of no use to him, but a serious loss. He did not know that the Wandel Water Works had borrowed money until after he had joined the bank. As to the Wandel Water Works, he believed that the majority of the directors never paid a shilling for their shares. The companies borrowed money very largely from the Royal British Bank. He remembered there were great complaints about a loan to the Australian Company. On the 10th of March, his account was opened; in a day or two afterwards, he borrowed three thousand pounds. He borrowed four thousand on the 2nd of May. He was not an old acquaintance of Mr. Cameron. He had known him only two or three weeks before he joined the bank. The sum of seven thousand pounds, placed to his credit on the 18th of June, included the four thousand and three thousand. The seven thousand became a loan for six months on security being given. It was understood that the bill of sale on the ship should not be registered. (*Laughter.*) On the 12th of September he applied for five thousand pounds for six months, on securities to be approved of. He did not get the money at that time, but it was placed to his credit. His account, which commenced with a credit of 18/., 4s., ended with a debit of 68,617/., 5s., with sets-off. (*Renewed laughter.*) Security for 5000/., was given on the Magdalena. He was told that everything necessary for the loan would be attended to by Mr. Cameron, who was the principal man. He (witness) was only an unfortunate director, very much in the dark. (*Laughter.*) Mr. Cameron was, in fact, the bank." Mr. Brown went on to give other particulars of a similar nature, and said that one of the creditors, Mr. Oliver, had "swindled the bank—though that was a strong expression—out of 20,000/." The mortgage on his (Mr. Brown's) London ships was subject to a further mortgage of 10,300/., to a Mr. Walton. "On the 14th February, 1855, the balance against him was about 20,000/., He was then under liabilities to Walton in 33,211/., besides the insurances of 2848/., and other items; in all, 40,869/., Of this paper, 33,000/., had been discounted by the bank—at least by Walton. He had then got five ships as security, of which he was first mortgagee. In his letters to Mr. Paddison and Mr. Esdaile, of February 14, 1855, he proposed the transfer of his security from Walton to the bank, and expressed the apprehension that 'some untoward circumstance at Liverpool might cause the securities to pass into third hands. The Magdalena was not transferred to Walton as a security. She was chartered to the Government, and, to avoid the penalties, as a member of Parliament, he sold the ship to Mr. Walton. He never got a shilling in cash. He never received from Walton any consideration for the ship, nor gave any back again when it was re-transferred to him."

Mr. Linklater: "Was it ever intended that any money should pass?"

Mr. Brown declined to answer. "The negotiation with the bank resulted in his relieving them of liabilities to the extent of 40,000/., His securities were transferred from Walton to him, and from him to the bank; and he had the thanks of the Directors for doing it. The bills were cancelled, as the best thing that could be done. He had not insured the Gloucester ships, which he considered were at his own disposal, notwithstanding a mortgage to the bank; and he always dealt with them as his own. He believed he had a right to sell or mortgage those ships without communication with the bank. (*Sensation.*) If he sold or mortgaged the ships, he be-

lieved he was under an obligation to give the bank the benefit of the proceeds. He would not recollect that statement. The bank had no power to interfere with the freights of the vessels. He had received a letter from Mr. Esdaile, dated the 17th of April, 1855, requesting him to insure the vessels. By a memorandum, dated May 3rd, 1855, he had agreed to register the ships in the port of London. That agreement was never carried out." (*Sensation.*)

The Commissioner: "You seem to consider that as an excuse which was in fact a breach of the agreement."

Examination continued: "He was quite sure Mr. Esdaile did not speak to him about the registration of the ships. He could not recollect that he told Mr. Esdaile that there could be no injury in not registering the vessels as they were abroad. In a letter, dated October 12th, 1855, he promised to get the ships registered, but he never did. Three out of the five Gloucester ships were mortgaged by him before that time. On the 2nd of March, 1856, he received a letter from Mr. Cameron, telling him that no more money would be placed to the debit of his account. However, after the account was closed, he obtained a loan of 1200*l.* Nothing could be easier. (*Much laughter.*) The loan was amply secured. It was an idle ceremony to ask him to pay the demands of the bank. (*Laughter.*) He had protested against the issuing of new shares. Before the close of 1855, he believed he had come to the conclusion that between fifty and sixty thousand pounds had been lost. In 1856, the bank was represented as solvent. Beyond the securities the bank held for his debt there was little chance of their getting anything." (*A laugh.*)

This concluded the examination of Mr. Humphrey Brown. An adjournment then took place to the following day.

The first person examined on Thursday was Mr. Hugh Thomas Cameron, son of the late general manager; but his testimony was merely to the effect that his father was in Paris, and that Mr. McLeod was ill. Mr. Linklater said he did not propose to examine Mr. Paddison, as he felt convinced he was not inculpated in the transactions of the bank. Mr. George Gillott was next examined. According to the account he gave of his directorship of the bank, he was entirely unaware of the dishonest practices that were going on, and had no conception, a few weeks before the bank stopped, that there was anything wrong: in short, as Commissioner Holroyd observed, he appears to have taken everything for granted. Two other directors—Mr. Richard Hurst and Mr. Josiah Butt—were next questioned; and the upshot of their statements was the same as that of Mr. Gillott—that they were entirely ignorant of the real state of things. The further hearing of the case was adjourned to next Monday.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE AT BRISTOL.

An Irish labourer in the stone-quarries, Black-rock, Bristol, named Cooney, about sixty-six years of age, has committed self-destruction by cutting his throat after attempting to murder his wife. The perpetrator of this double crime is said to have been a very steady, sober man, who hardly ever drank a drop of beer. Last Sunday, in the course of the afternoon, he went into an apartment occupied by a labouring man named Crawley, lodging in the same house, and, after he had been there some time, said to Mrs. Crawley, "Ah, you will hear something one of these mornings that will frighten you—you will hear of me very soon." There was nothing unusual about his behaviour that day. Next day, he was observed to take a hatchet out of the parlour cupboard, and carry it into the yard behind the house; but this circumstance did not cause any suspicions. Between nine and ten o'clock, Mrs. Cooney came down stairs, and gave her daughter money to buy some tea for their breakfast. No sooner was the girl gone on her errand, than Cooney seized the hatchet, and, without any apparent cause, commenced a murderous assault on his wife, striking her with all his force on the head and other parts of her body. Mrs. Cooney struggled violently with her husband, and at last succeeded in getting away from him and running into the back yard. She was followed, however, by the man, who threw her down, and, forcibly holding her, began attacking her anew; but some of the neighbours being brought to the spot by the woman's cries of "Murder!" Cooney ran down stairs into the cellar. His wife was at that time almost insensible from the numerous injuries she had received; her head, which was covered with wounds, was bleeding profusely; her body was severely bruised in various places, several of her ribs were driven in, and one of her eyes was nearly chopped out. She was immediately removed to the infirmary. Her husband afterwards committed suicide in the cellar into which he had retreated. He was discovered by his son, at a subsequent period, weltering in his blood, a very deep and extensive wound having been inflicted across his throat with a razor, by which the veins and arteries of the windpipe and gullet were cut completely through, and the head nearly severed

from the body. A large and formidable knife was found secreted in his clothes, besides the razor. An inquest was opened and adjourned for a few days, in order that the evidence of the injured woman might be taken, should she be sufficiently recovered to be able to attend.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDING.—On the night of Wednesday week, about an hour after midnight, Mr. Mitchell, a resident at Sheepridge, was awakened by a knock at the door of his house, and, thinking the demand for admittance came from a member of his family, went down stairs and opened it, when in rushed about thirty men, who proceeded to break open the door of an inner room, which contained a couple of machines to be used in a process for turning and curling the hair in the manufacture of mohair cloth. After examining the machines and turning the handles three or four times, one of these unceremonious guests cut an end off a piece lying near. An exclamation of "All right!" was then heard, and the whole of the party left the house as summarily as they had entered it. From what we can gather, the cause of this extraordinary proceeding arose from the alleged infringement, by the construction of these machines, of a patent belonging to Mr. Isaac Beardsell, of Hagg, who had a special agreement with Mr. John Brigg, of Huddersfield, for the exclusive working of the patent. Mr. Brigg not long since obtained in one of the superior courts a verdict against Mr. Beardsell, in maintenance of that agreement. A subsequent arrangement with Mr. Beardsell has, we understand, still further secured the working of this patent to Mr. Brigg. From information received by that gentleman as to the production of the class of goods which he supposed himself to be exclusively manufacturing, and their appearance at a cheaper rate than he could produce them in the American markets, it was suspected that a large commission-house in Huddersfield had furnished the goods in question, and one of their former employes was supposed to have a principal hand in the construction of the new machines. To a neighbour of the last-named party the possession of the machines was traced, and, a friendly demand for their examination proving fruitless, the above mode of visiting this person was determined on.—*Leeds Mercury.*

WIFE-BEATING.—Ezekiah Barrett, a journeyman hatter, has been sent to prison for three months, with hard labour, for an assault on his wife, an industrious woman, whose earnings he squandered in drink, and repayed her by continual ill-usage.

MURDER IN WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.—Samuel Long, a corporal of the Royal Marines, has been killed by a seaman, named George Bave, on board the receiving-ship Hebe, moored off Woolwich Dockyard. Bave had been liberated from confinement below on the morning of Thursday week, and on that very day savagely assaulted Long, cut the ship's boat adrift, so as to prevent all communication with shore, and stabbed the marine in the groin with a bayonet. He then flourished the weapon above his head, and looked out for another victim. Several of the ship's company hurried on deck to the assistance of the wounded man; and, after a while, the boatswain contrived, by a stratagem, to approach the murderer, and disarm and secure him. He was shortly afterwards given into the custody of the dockyard police. Long died last Saturday morning. The murderer boasts of his crime, and declares his sorrow at not having killed some one else also.

WITCHCRAFT.—The country magistrate who recently communicated to the *Times* an account of an application to him by a labourer for liberty to put a woman suspected of witchcraft to the ordeal of drowning, again addresses that journal to asseverate the absolute truth of that narrative. He thus narrates a conversation between himself and an old man on the all-absorbing subject:—"I don't know, sir, whether we've one on 'em in this parish now (though old Mrs. L—, who died last year, she bore a very moderate character, and when Mr. P—, the farmer, offended her once, he had a colt went very awkward afterwards). But old Mrs. Pointer—when I wuz a boy—she wuz a real witch! Har they swum. A long ladder was put across the river, and old Mr. Loveday stood on it, pushing her under water; but 'twas no use—up she come every time. Then they pulled her out, and began to mob her. Then she called out to be weighed against the church book, but the churchwarden swore with a great oath that she should not come near the Bible, and told her "to go home, for a— infernal old witch as she was." And so she was, sir. They used to see har little things crawling about near the clock.' 'What little things?' 'Har imps, they called 'em.' 'I want to know what an imp is like?' 'I never see one, sir; I was only a boy. But I've heard they was like little meece' (nice)."

ASSAULT.—Patrick Barry, a powerful-looking fellow, who has been in custody for eight weeks, was on Monday brought before Mr. Combe, the Southwark magistrate, for final examination, charged with committing a murderous assault upon William Rendall, a police-constable, by kicking him and rendering him unfit for any further duty. The assault occurred in the course of a scuffle arising out of the ruffianism of Barry towards two other policemen. The man was committed for trial.

ROBBERY BY A YOUTH.—Charles Billars, a smartly dressed young fellow, was examined last Monday at

Lambeth on a charge of stealing from his employer, Mr. Cook, a cheesemonger in Walworth, 70*l.* out of a cash-box, which he broke open, and a writing-desk, in which there were some deeds and other papers. After effecting the robbery, he absconded and went to Paris, where he was apprehended. He was committed for trial.

ATTEMPT TO POISON TWO CHILDREN.—Fanny Stanley, a girl of fifteen, has been charged at Chester with attempting to administer poison to two little children, the son and daughter of her master. She spread the poison over their bread and butter, apparently without any motive; but it was discovered before the children had taken any of the food. The girl had only been engaged a week, and had been hired at the door. The poison she found in the kitchen, where it had been used to destroy rats. The case was remanded, and the girl has since been committed for trial.

BETTING-HOUSES.—Thirteen men were on Wednesday charged at Marlborough-street with having been found without lawful excuse in a betting-office at No. 17, Great Newport-street. The police having entered the place found the thirteen men there, surrounded by evidences of betting. The shop was fitted up as a tobacconist's, but the cigar-boxes were dummies, and the only things real were the betting-books and the racing cards. One of the captured was the keeper of the place, a man named Gideon. This man stood behind the counter, and called out, "Bets here for those gentlemen. Be as quick as you can, and do not occupy the office longer than necessary, but make way for others." The business done appeared to be very large. "Gentlemen" were perpetually putting down their money on favourite horses; and in the various drawers the police found 405*l.*, while Gideon took 138*l.* from his pockets. In one of the books, bets were entered to the amount of 1100*l.* Gideon (who, it seems, has a "partner") said it was his first offence, and threw himself on the mercy of the magistrate. All the others were discharged, but Gideon was fined 50*l.*—At the Worship-street office, Peter James Knott, the landlord of an ale-house in Norton Folgate, was charged with the same offence. No betting was going on when the police entered the place; but they found several betting-books and racing cards. Knott, through his counsel, said he had only been tenant of the house a short time. He found some betting persons there when he took the house, and unwisely allowed them to remain. He was a comparatively poor man with a large family, and his wife was near her confinement. A lenient sentence was therefore prayed for. The magistrate, in consideration of these facts, reduced the full penalty of 100*l.* to 25*l.*

ARSON.—Mr. Poclet, the proprietor of a large school at Morton, near Middleborough-on-Tees, Yorkshire, has been committed for trial on a charge of setting the house which he occupied on fire. The flames were found bursting out in five different places, and the furniture had been heaped up in the different rooms, as if with the intention of favouring the spread of the flames. The owner of the house was not insured; but Mr. Poclet's furniture was, for 530*l.*, the value being about 300*l.* Bail was accepted for the appearance of the accused at the trial.

RIOTOUS WOMEN.—Two young women, inmates of St. Giles's workhouse, have been sentenced by the Bow-street, magistrate to three months' hard labour for an assault on the schoolmistress, against whom they felt some ill-will, and whose head they beat on the flagstones of the yard till she was insensible and covered with blood.

ILL-USAGE OF A STEP-CHILD.—Ellen Connor, the woman charged (as already related in these columns) with ill-using her step-daughter, has been sent to prison for six weeks, in default of being able to pay a penalty of 3*l.*

A ROBBERY BY A SCOTCHMAN.—Simon Nelson, an aged Prussian residing at Southampton, but at present in London on business, fell in with a Scotchman a few evenings ago in London, and was induced to go with him to a beer-shop in the Waterloo-road. The landlord, who appeared to know the Scotchman, invited them into the parlour, into which two other men went. The landlord then closed the door, when the Scotchman seized Nelson, and gripped him fast, while the other two men took from him forty sovereigns which they saw he had about him. They then rushed away, and the landlord prevented Nelson from following them. The three men have not yet been taken; but Genge, the landlord, was on Wednesday examined at Southwark, and remanded, that time may be given for the arrest of the others. Bail was accepted. Genge emphatically denies all guilty knowledge of the affair.

BURGLARY IN THE STRAND.—During the night of last Wednesday, the shop occupied by Mr. Charles Dear, carver and gilder and dealer in miscellaneous goods, was entered, and a large quantity of valuable property carried away, consisting of pictures, guns, pistols, silver-mounted walking-sticks, clocks, &c. The shop is a part of Mr. Charles Grossmith's premises, at the corner of Wellington-street, Strand, and was entered at the street door, immediately opposite which is a night cab-stand. It would appear, therefore, impossible that the robbery could have been committed without the collusion of the cabmen.

COMMITAL OF A PSEUDO-CLERGYMAN FOR FORGERY.—A person named William Frederick Stewart, who was

recently officiating as curate at the village of Chacombe, near Banbury, has been committed for trial on a charge of forging the endorsement of a bill of exchange. It is said that his documents of ordination were clandestinely obtained from a clergyman in the neighbourhood, whose name has been removed, and Stewart's substituted.

ABDUCTION.—Captain Erlam was on Thursday finally examined at the Marlborough-street police-court on a charge arising out of his abduction, last August, of Rose Goodman, a young Jewish girl under sixteen years of age. After taking her on to the Continent (from which she was brought back by her father in November) the Captain had written a letter to her mother, saying that they were privately married, that he would make it his study through life to promote Rose's happiness and welfare, and that he hoped for her parents' lenient consideration. Captain Erlam was already married, and separated from his wife. He was committed for trial, and bail was refused.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

An action was brought in the Court of Queen's Bench last Saturday by a cheesemonger residing in Munster-street, Regent's Park, against a butter-factor of Somersetshire, named Newberry, for an assault on the plaintiff's wife. Kuck, the cheesemonger in question, was in difficulties during last February, and Newberry was a creditor for 11*l.* On the 5th of February he called at the shop. Mrs. Kuck was there, and Newberry promised to accept 3*l.* in full discharge; she laid the money on the counter, and he wrote a receipt. On looking at it, she saw it was only on account. She remonstrated, and begged of him to give a receipt in full or return the money. He struck her, kicked her on the leg, and ran out of the house. She screamed out; a policeman came up, and Newberry was brought back. He expressed sorrow, recommended her to put a bran poultice on her leg, and gave her a shilling. She had been under medical treatment since, and was still lame. A verdict was given for the plaintiff; damages, 25*l.*

A decision of considerable interest to the proprietors of supper-rooms, was given last Saturday by Mr. Henry, the Bow-street magistrate. A Mr. W. Cloak is the proprietor of some oyster-rooms in the Strand, and certain parts of his premises, including a parlour (used only occasionally by his customers), had been specified in the beer license, in order that beer might be served therein. The Excise-officers entered the house and found some orange wine and a bottle of gin in one of the parlour cupboards. Mr. Cloak, when the case was first brought before the magistrate, explained that the wine had been used on the occasion of a juvenile party given by his children, and the bottle of gin was kept there strictly for private use—by members of the family and the servants exclusively. Mr. Dwelly, on behalf of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, contended that the Act of Parliament prohibited the use of wine or spirits even for private consumption in any room "entered" for the sale of beer only. The clauses expressly stated that neither wine nor spirits must be there. The case was adjourned, in order that Mr. Henry might look into the act; and last Saturday he gave his decision in favour of Mr. Cloak. The summons, accordingly, was dismissed. Mr. Henry, however, remarked that a person with a license such as that of the defendant has no right to send out for wine or spirits, even if the customers pay in advance, although the practice is believed to prevail.

The Worship-street magistrate was occupied for a long time last Saturday morning by some cross summonses, in which three licensed victuallers accused each other of assaults. One of them, named Boyle, had been forced to give up a certain public-house, his lease of which had expired, to another of the defendants, one Munsey. He wished to have the fixtures and effects taken at a valuation; but Munsey objected. A sale by auction therefore took place, and at this there appears to have been a regular fight between the three publicans—the third defendant, Woodin, acting on behalf of his friend Boyle. These two appeared to be the most to blame; and the magistrate ordered each to pay fifty shillings fine and the same amount in costs.

A glimpse of a strange suggestion for a new motive power for vessels was obtained on Monday in the Vice-Chancellors' Court, in connexion with the case "Moses v. Baylis." This was a bill for the specific performance of an agreement by the defendant to assist the plaintiff in procuring, and in working when obtained, a patent for the discovery by the latter of an invention for propelling ships through the water without the aid of steam, and independently of the wind, by means of animals, it being proposed by the plaintiff to use horses and elephants for propelling large ships, though the method by which they were to effect the result did not appear. This case in itself was not interesting. Vice-Chancellor Sir John Stuart ordered that the bill should be dismissed without costs.

Sir Charles Fox and Mr. Henderson appeared in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy on Monday, to pass their last examination. There was no opposition, all the proceedings being of a very friendly character.

The bankrupts passed, and the certificate meeting was fixed for the 27th of July.

Mr. William Cockburn, a newspaper agent, has been summoned before the Lord Mayor for printing and publishing a libel on the Bank of London. He is in some way concerned in a publication called the *Joint Stock Companies Journal*, which has recently contained several very damaging assertions with regard to the bank, to the effect that the directors had received advances, and were debtors to the bank, and that the establishment was dishonestly conducted. These statements had been publicly denied, but the *Journal* continued to make them, and even hired boys to leave copies of the paper at various City banking houses, and to carry placards of a similar defamatory character up and down Threadneedle-street. Two of these boys were taken into custody; but, as it was found that they were innocent agents, they were discharged. The case was adjourned, Mr. Cockburn being suffered to go at large on his own recognizances. It was stated by Mr. Bodkin, who appeared for the bank, that Mr. Cockburn had at one time endeavoured to obtain advertisements from the company for his paper, but had failed.—Sir Frederick Thesiger, in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, obtained a rule calling on Cockburn to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against him.

A young man named Benjamin Hill, well known to the police as a notorious thief, was charged at the Worship-street police-office with having stolen, together with another man not in custody, a gold watch from Mr. William Cavalier, a dairyman living in Oxford-street, Mile End. The latter was returning home between two and three o'clock one morning about a month ago, and had just reached Thomas-street, Whitechapel, when he was suddenly stopped by two men and a woman, one of the former of whom went behind him and forcibly grasped him by the throat, while the other snatched his watch out of his waistcoat pocket, and, after twisting it off the guard-chain, ran off with his prize, followed by his companion. Mr. Cavalier, on being left to himself, was so much exhausted by the pain in his throat, caused by the violent pressure, that he fell down insensible. When he recovered, he called for the police, and he then found that he had also lost his hat. A constable came up shortly afterwards, and a woman who was found in possession of the hat was taken up, but subsequently discharged. She stated, however, that she had witnessed the robbery of the watch, and Hill was afterwards apprehended. He has been committed for trial.

Frederick Berkhead, a town traveller in the employ of Mr. Rauch, a warehouseman in Cannon-street, City, was charged at the Mansion House with having embezzled several sums of money belonging to his employer. It was his business to take orders and collect money, for which he was obliged to account to Mr. Rauch on the same day that he received it. He was sent one day to Messrs. Jay and Smith, of Regent-street, and to various other firms at the West-end, for sums amounting altogether to upwards of 40*l.*, not one of which he accounted for to his employer. Being afterwards shown a letter from Messrs. Jay and Smith, asserting that the money which they owed Mr. Rauch had been paid into his hands, he at first denied the truth of this statement, but, upon being told by his employer that he would go with him to Regent-street to ascertain whether he had been paid or not, Berkhead, after some hesitation, admitted having received the money. He likewise confessed to having embezzled various other sums he had received, and for which he had not accounted, amounting in all to 98*l.* Berkhead stated that what he had done was entirely owing to difficulties he had to contend with last autumn, when, Mr. Rauch being out of town, he appropriated the money to his own use. He was remanded.

An action for ejectment was brought in the Court of Common Pleas, on Wednesday, to recover possession of a cottage at Hoxton. Being virtually undefended (says the report in the daily papers) it would no doubt have lasted only a few minutes, but one of the defendants was Mr. Cobbett, a prisoner in the Queen's Bench, whose name has been frequently before the courts of law, and who claimed as tenant to Mrs. Mosley, the other defendant. With the aid of his wife, Mrs. Cobbett, who is equally well known with her husband at Westminster, he advocated the case for the defence; and, in so doing, cross-examined the witnesses at great length, and with wonderful pertinacity, on all kinds of points totally irrelevant to the issue, insisted that all the title-deeds adduced should be read in full, made use of language for which he was reproved by the Judge, and, in short, as Mr. Justice Williams observed, "with the view of conciliating the jury," succeeded in protracting the trial of the cause into the afternoon of the day, it having been commenced at the sitting of the court. The facts of the case are uninteresting. To the great surprise of Mr. Cobbett, a verdict was given for the plaintiff.

A Mr. Abbott complained before Alderman Humphery, at Guildhall, a few days ago, that he could not get back from the Metropolitan and General Benefit Building Society some money he had paid in. On Tuesday, the secretary, Mr. White, appeared, in order to explain matters. He said there were several other depositors wanting their money, and they would all receive it in due course; but Mr. Abbott must wait his turn. The

total amount of subscriptions the Society had received amounted to 20,000*l.*, on which 5*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per cent. interest is paid. The interest is added to the principal, and paid when the money is drawn out. The money paid by depositors is invested; therefore, the Society could not pay every one at once. When the money-market is easier, and interest lower, funds will be borrowed for paying off Mr. Abbott and others. A conversation ensued between the Alderman and Mr. White, the former asking—"What security have you to offer in borrowing money?" Mr. White: "Mortgages and title-deeds, held as security for loans to members in the shape of advanced shares. Our liabilities on the 1st of January were about 4000*l.*, and we have security by mortgage to the amount of 13,000*l.*, representing the shares advanced. We only owe 4000*l.* to members, and 6000*l.* to bankers, solicitors, and others for loans." Alderman Humphery: "But do you part with your mortgages for these loans, or what security do you give, for bankers will not lend money without?" Mr. White: "We retain all the mortgage-deeds in our own possession, and our directors borrow money upon their notes joint and several, for which they are all personally responsible." Alderman Humphery: "How many members have withdrawn from the Society?" Mr. White: "About three hundred, and we have paid as much as 3000*l.* in that way." Alderman Humphery: "Have you money enough to pay off all the members?" Mr. White: "Certainly not, Sir, without borrowing." Mr. Martin (the chief clerk): "Are you in a position to realize your securities and pay all the members?" Mr. White: "No, Sir. The money is all lent out and well invested, but we cannot at present call it in, because it is lent to members for a term of years, and we cannot coerce them into payment; and that is the reason we are obliged to borrow, to pay off those claims." Finally, the Alderman said he could do nothing for Mr. Abbott, and Mr. White left the court, observing that the case ought never to have been brought forward.

Sir Frederick Thesiger obtained on Thursday, in the Court of Queen's Bench, a criminal information against Sir Edward Conroy, a magistrate for the county of Berkshire, on account of some violent and insulting language used by him towards a brother magistrate, Mr. Barker, in open court. The quarrel arose out of some negotiations which had been going on between Sir Edward, on the one hand, and Mr. Barker and some other gentlemen on the other hand, with respect to certain alterations which the Rev. Mr. Cameron had made in the parish church of Hurst, which were objected to.

Mr. James Worthington Maude, formerly a wharfinger and lighterman, brought an action on Thursday in the Court of Queen's Bench against Messrs. Kemp and Clay, bill-brokers in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for having maliciously instigated a prosecution against him for obtaining money under false pretences. He and his clerk, Edmund Whitby, had been given in custody in October, 1855 (at which time the facts appeared in our paper), and had been subsequently acquitted at the Central Criminal Court. Whitby had since brought an action for malicious prosecution, in which a verdict for him was taken by consent. The plaintiff in this case was now a bankrupt. He obtained a verdict; damages, 300*l.*

Mr. Overend, on behalf of Mr. Ford, the attorney for the defendant in the case of Mr. Wooler, who was tried at Durham on the charge of poisoning his wife, and was acquitted, moved in the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday that the defendant's bill of costs be referred back to the Master for taxation. It seemed that Mr. Wooler had objected to various items in the bill, and, on taxation before the Master, several reductions had been made. The learned counsel stated that the gentleman on whose part he applied had made extraordinary exertions to defend his client, had incurred very considerable expenses, and believed that he was fully entitled to make some of the charges which the Master had disallowed.—The rule was granted.

LAUNCH OF THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

The noble new screw steam three-decker, the Royal Sovereign, was launched at Portsmouth last Saturday. "She was originally designed and framed," says the *Times*, "as a sailing ship of 110 guns, after the sample of the Queen, and was commenced building in December, 1849; but, after the success of the experiment of cutting the Windsor Castle (similar ship) in two, and making a steam 131-gun Duke of Wellington of her, and the satisfactory repetition of the experiment with the Marlborough, it was ordered that the Royal Sovereign should undergo the like process, and about two years ago, when up in frame, she was lengthened twenty-three feet amid-ships, seven feet for the screw aperture, and five feet on the bow, and thus we have the splendid and powerful screw 131 gun battery of to-day. She is the production of the present Naval Architect-General, Captain Sir Baldwin Walker, Bart., K.C.B., and has been built under the immediate direction and personal superintendence of Mr. Richard Abethel, the master shipwright of Portsmouth Dockyard." Her dimensions are as follow:—Length from forepart of figurehead to afterpart of the tailrail, 280 feet; length between the perpendiculars, 240 feet, 7 inches; length of keel for tonnage, 201 feet, 11½ inches; extreme breadth, 60 feet, ½ inch; breadth for tonnage, 59 feet, 2 inches; breadth

moulded, 58 feet, 4½ inches; depth in hold, 25 feet 4 inches; burden in tons, 3765 40-94; horse-power, 800.

The particulars of the launch itself we reproduce from the *Times*:—"The time appointed for the ceremony of naming the ship and releasing her from the stocks was about twenty minutes to twelve, but by nine o'clock the public began to crowd into the dockyard. Comfortable accommodation was made by Admiral Superintendent Martin for the berthing of about 10,000 spectators in stalls, and a grand stand was erected at the head of the ship for the Admiralty and military authorities and the visitors expected. Her Majesty's ship *St. Vincent* and the receiving ship *Bellerophon*, which were moored off the front of the slip, were crowded with company, and numerous yachts and steampackets, as well as a great flotilla of hired boats, all laden with company, and themselves gaily dressed in flags, lent a picturesque feature afloat to the animated scene ashore and within the building shed, which was handsomely decorated in various ways, and resounded with the lively music played by the band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry of the Gosport Division.

"The stands were not much more than half full at eleven o'clock, at which time the tide had risen so high that the ship manifested symptoms of getting 'alive,' and it became imperative to name and launch her to prevent the annoyance of her launching herself. A shout was raised, and Miss Seymour, the eldest daughter of the Commander-in-Chief, took the bottle of wine from Mr. Abethel, the master shipwright, and, pronouncing 'Success to the Royal Sovereign, and honour to all who serve on board her,' dashed it against the stem, and in five minutes more the stupendous fabric glided majestically and securely into the sea, amid the reiterated plaudits of 40,000 spectators. She 'broke on launching' three inches, and her draught of water when afloat was—forward, 14 feet 6 inches; aft, 20 feet 2 inches. Never was the axiom of 'time and tide wait for no man' proved more aptly than in the launch of the Royal Sovereign, for not even the necessary presence of the First Lord of the Admiralty was waited for; the time of tide having arrived, delay became dangerous, and off she went. But Sir Charles Wood's disappointment was shared by the Duke of Richmond, the Prince of Saxe Weimar, the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-Governor, and other dignitaries, as well as by thousands upon thousands, who flocked into the dockyard from country places, excursion trains, &c. Sir George Seymour, Admiral Martin, Mr. Abethel, and other officials all entertained large parties of visitors on the occasion, which was made a gala day in and out of the dockyard."

ANOTHER LAUNCH.—The launch of the large steam screw corvette *Raccoon*, 22 guns, took place at Chatham dockyard last Saturday afternoon in the presence of several thousand spectators. The *Raccoon* has been built in the short space of ten months, having been laid down in May last. She is constructed from the designs of Sir Baldwin Walker, K.C.B., Surveyor of the Navy, by Mr. F. J. Laire, the master-shipwright, and his assistants, and differs from the other vessels of this class in being furnished with an extra spar deck. The following are her principal dimensions:—Extreme length, 229 feet 6 inches; length between perpendiculars, 200 feet; length for tonnage, 171 feet 9½ inches; extreme breadth, 40 feet 4 inches; breadth for tonnage, 40 feet; breadth moulded, 39 feet 4 inches; depth of hold, 22 feet 8 inches; burden (in tons), 1462 21-94. She is to be fitted with a very heavy armament, consisting of 20 8-inch-60 cwt. guns, each 9 feet in length, and 2 long 68-pounder pivot guns of 95 cwt. each and 10 feet in length. Her machinery, a portion of which has arrived at Chatham, will be of 400 horse power. She will be fitted for sea forthwith.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

FIRE AT ALDERSHOTT.—The large bakery at Aldershot camp was burnt down last Saturday, in spite of the strenuous exertions of the fire brigade, who were speedily roused. A large amount of property was saved, but some of the stores were consumed.

COURT-MARTIAL.—Sergeant W. Binns, of the Royal Horse Artillery, has been tried by court-martial for neglect of duty in giving the word for firing, during the late manoeuvres on Woolwich Common, on the occasion of the visit of Lord Bloomfield, before one of the gunners, named Mark Sharp, was clear of the gun wheel; in consequence of which Sharp was injured by a premature explosion of the gun. The case was acknowledged to be one of ordinary occurrence in cases of speedy firing. However, by sentence of the court-martial, which was confirmed by the commanding officer, Binns was ordered to be reduced from the grade and pay of sergeant to the station of gunner in the ranks.

THE BOANERGES.—The Emigrant Commissioners transmit to the *Times* a report on the subject of the statements made in a letter from the matron of the *Boanerges*, emigrant ship, recently wrecked, to the effect that the poor passengers were left in a state of destitution. It appears that such was not the case; and that the Commissioners are doing for them all that can be required. A letter from the matron is also published, regretting that she was misinformed.

ADMIRALTY APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. G. Romaine, late

Deputy Judge Advocate to the Forces in the East, and who recently unsuccessfully contested the borough of Chatham, has been appointed Second Secretary to the Admiralty, vice Phinn. Captain the Hon. J. R. Drummond, C.B., has been appointed private secretary to Sir Charles Wood, First Lord of the Admiralty, in the room of Mr. T. G. Baring, M.P., resigned.

EDUCATION IN THE ARMY.—A very important step (says the *United Service Gazette*) has been taken towards the promotion of education in the army. A "Board of Education" has been formed, at the head of which is the Commander-in-Chief (*ex officio*), with Major General Cameron, 42nd, for Vice-President, and Colonels Portlock, R.E., and Addison, Assistant Quartermaster General, for members. Everything in relation to the suitable preparation of officers for first commissions and later advancement will be under the government of this board. The examinations will no longer be conducted at Sandhurst, but by competent professors, holding their appointments temporarily, as recommended by the Commissioners who lately returned from the Continent.

AMENDMENT OF OUR MERCANTILE CODE.—A numerous and influential meeting of merchants and ship-owners of the port of Bristol was held on Friday week, at the Commercial Rooms, in that city, for the purpose of aiding in the movement which is being made for promoting an amendment of the laws which govern the mercantile marine of this country.

DEVONPORT DOCKYARD.—The sailmakers' and spinners' wages at the Devonport Dockyard have been increased fourpence a day, in consequence of the abolition of job and task work. Some alteration has been made in the stowage of the gunboats, with the view of bringing them six inches by the stern. They will all be paid wages in advance at Devonport before sailing for their destinations.

SIR CHARLES WOOD, accompanied by Sir Baldwin Walker and others, inspected the Naval Hospital at Gosport on Monday.

A BRIG ON FIRE.—The brig *Jessamine*, from Poole, with three hundred tons of coal on board, was discovered to be on fire, last Sunday morning, in the canal at Southwick, between Brighton and Shoreham. It being found impossible otherwise to subdue the flames, she was scuttled.

THE QUEEN STEAMER.—Attempts have been made to get off this vessel, which, after striking on the Carr rocks on the 19th ult., ran aground at Crail, Scotland; but they have failed, and last Saturday morning the tides broke her in two, and she has become a total wreck.

THE TRANSIT, having the 90th regiment on board for China, has been obliged to put into Corunna in great distress. According to the account of a person on board, she is in a condition totally unfit for sea.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—We understand that, in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Frederick Peel, Mr. Massey, the new member for Salford, will move the army estimates in his stead, and in all probability be his successor as Secretary at War.—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE NORTHERN BELLE.—A despatch from Mr. Dallas has been received by Lord Clarendon, with reference to the loss of the *Northern Belle*, off Kingsgate, Kent, on the 5th of last January. We here read:—"The United States Minister at the Court of Saint James has the honour to transmit to the Earl of Clarendon, &c., twenty-one silver medals and a bill of exchange for 270*l.* sterling, and to request that his Lordship will be pleased to cause these testimonials to be delivered to the brave individuals for whom they are intended by the President of the United States in acknowledgment of the services rendered in saving the lives of the crew of the American ship *Northern Belle*."

OBITUARY.

MR. JOHN M'GREGOR, the original Governor of the Royal British Bank, the author of several historical and commercial works, and a statist of considerable industry and penetration, died at Boulogne on Thursday week, of bilious fever, combined with paralytic affection. It is probable that his end was hastened by anxiety and annoyance consequent on the breaking up of the British Bank, and the lamentable disclosures that have followed. For some years, he was connected with the Board of Trade, and until recently was a Member of Parliament.

THE REV. C. NASIR, the founder of the Westminster Reformatory, has died in New Zealand, to which he recently went out. In former years, he was a lawyer, and was a well-known, though anonymous, writer on railway matters. His opposition to railway corruptions involved him in a great many lawsuits, and dissipated his means.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.—After lingering through the greater part of the week, getting more and more feeble every day, the Duchess of Gloucester—the last of the children of George III.—expired on Thursday morning, at a quarter after five o'clock, aged eighty-one. The theatres were closed in the evening, and will be again on the day of the funeral. The state apartments at Windsor Castle will be closed until further orders. "There were present at the last moments of the Duchess," says the *Court Circular*, "their Royal High-

nesses the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, who had remained at Gloucester-house during the night. Two of the medical advisers of the Duchess were also in attendance until the time of her death. The Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, quitted Gloucester-house in the morning for Kew."

LADY FRANKLIN has resolved to send out another and final expedition in search of whatever trace may exist of the lost crews of the *Erebus* and *Terror*. A screw yacht, the *Fox*, now lying at Aberdeen, has been purchased, and the command is to be given to Captain M'Clintock. A subscription has been opened for the purpose of assisting the devoted wife in this pathetic effort. Who, that has the means, will withhold from contributing towards so touching an expedition?

EQUALIZATION OF THE POOR-RATES.—A public meeting of the ratepayers of St. George's-in-the-East and the adjoining parishes was held on Wednesday evening at the George Tavern, Commercial-road, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament for an equalization of the poor-rates throughout the metropolis. The Rev. G. H. M'Gill took the chair, and a petition to Parliament was agreed to.

SIR ALEXANDER COCKBURN (Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas) paid a visit to Southampton last Saturday, and was entertained at dinner in the evening by the Chamber of Commerce. The members for the borough and three of the county members were among the company. In responding to the toast of his health, the Chief Justice attributed the success of his professional career and the present high and honourable position which he occupied to his connexion with Southampton, first as Recorder for the borough, and subsequently as its representative in Parliament for ten years. His Lordship was accompanied in his visit by Mr. Baron Bramwell and Mr. Justice Williams.

THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL.—A copy of Sir Thomas Lawrence's portrait of Sir Robert Peel, executed by Mr. Wood, a pupil of Sir Thomas, was presented, on the evening of Friday week, to the corporation of Tamworth. A numerous company assembled in the Town Hall, and the Mayor, Mr. C. B. Hamel, presided. Alluding to the bronze statue erected six years ago in front of the Town Hall, he observed that a gentleman, who warmly sympathized with the object of those who proposed to erect that monument, told them they had made a mistake—that they might have succeeded in getting a good marble bust, but that a small and poor population could not possibly raise the 700*l.* or 800*l.* which a bronze statue would require. "That gentleman," said Mr. Hamel, "knew more of the emptiness of our pockets than of the depth of our feelings. We raised 1100*l.* in subscriptions varying from 50*l.* to 1*l.*, everybody being anxious to share in the work."

FIRES.—A fire, attended with a serious loss of property, took place last Saturday night, at a late hour, in a spacious pile of premises belonging to Mr. T. Halstead, sail manufacturer and ship chandler, in Everett-terrace, Victoria Dock-road. The house adjoining Mr. Everett's was considerably damaged by fire, &c.—Some premises occupied by a packing-case maker at the eastern extremity of Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, caught fire last Saturday morning, about noon, and the flames extended to a neighbouring timber-yard, where a large amount of wood in stacks was burnt, and to three houses in the neighbouring Greystoke-place, Fetter-lane, one of which was destroyed, while the two others were greatly damaged.

THE BROTHERTON MEMORIAL.—It has been determined that the intended memorial to the late Jos Brotherton, Esq., M.P. for Salford, shall consist of a monument over his tomb, in the Salford cemetery, at New Barn, and of a bronze statue in the Peel Park, Salford. The commission for the statue has been given to Mr. Matthew Noble, and its cost will be 1000 guineas. The pedestal will be of granite.

CLIMBING BOYS.—A society has been formed for the suppression of the employment of climbing boys in sweeping chimneys. The practice, though against the law, is very frequent in the provinces, and involves great cruelty.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.—Mr. J. Smith brought the privileges and proceedings of this body before the last meeting of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association. At the close of the meeting, it was ordered that a tract, on the history of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the results of its operations, also a petition to Parliament, praying for inquiry and for the abolition of the monopoly, should be prepared.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The latest advices from Algoa Bay reach to February 22, and from Cape Town to February 13. Affairs in British Kaffraria were giving uneasiness. Robbery and violence were on the increase. A letter from Fort Peddie, dated February 15, states that oxen to the value of 100*l.* had been stolen from the vicinity of the Toie Camp, while another communication from the same quarter, published in the *Graham's Town Journal*, speaks of some horses having been stolen, and adds that the police, who were on their track, had been confronted by a large body of Kaffirs, computed at 1000, who fired upon them and drove them off. The Governor was in the east district, and was about to visit the frontier. The *Cape Monitor* and other papers mention

reports of disorders on the part of the German Legion, but the *King William's Town Gazette* declares that the facts have been exaggerated.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.—The anniversary meeting of this society, the object of which is to teach the blind to read, took place on Monday afternoon at the Hanover-square rooms; the Bishop of Carlisle in the chair. Several of the pupils of the school were on the platform, and in the course of the afternoon they read two chapters from the Bible and sang several pieces of sacred music. The pages both of the Bible and the music were embossed. From the report, it appeared that the association is flourishing. The Rev. Mr. Gowring, who is himself blind, testified to the excellence of the method by which the afflicted are taught to read. At the close of the proceedings, a collection was made at the doors, and in one of the small rooms there was a sale of fancy articles in worsted and basket-work, made by the pupils of the school.

SIGNOR SAFFI.—By invitation of a number of the most influential inhabitants of Dalkeith, Signor Saffi, ex-Triumvir of the Roman Republic, and the eloquent defender of the cause of Italian independence, delivered a lecture there last Friday week, on the past and present condition of Italy, and the wants and aspirations of the Italian people. The meeting was numerous and respectably attended.—*Daily News.*

THE PRINCES OF OUDE have been visiting Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Glasgow, this week.

AN INDIAN GENTLEMAN, a devout Mussulman, is now staying at Southampton, and has dined with several of the gentry. His manners are very agreeable, and he is extremely temperate in his mode of living. He speaks English pretty well. Having performed, with great difficulty, in company with his wife and father, a pilgrimage to the Holy City, Mecca, he conceives that God has blessed him with great abundance. His dress is very rich. He is about forty years of age, and his name is Hadjee Jaffa Suliman.

THE LAW REFORM SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the members of this society since the dissolution of Parliament was held on Monday evening. Mr. Headlam, M.P., occupied the chair. The report, which was read by the Secretary, was adopted, and the meeting separated.

THE WATER WE DRINK.—The General Board of Health have issued a report stating the results of the microscopical examination which they have caused to be made into the water supplied to the metropolis by the various companies. Dr. Hassall, who conducted the examinations, and who signs the report, comes to these conclusions:—"That the waters supplied by the nine metropolitan water companies under the new act for the improvement of the water supply of the metropolis still contain considerable numbers of living vegetable and animal productions belonging to different orders, genera, and species. That these living organic productions were found to be particularly abundant in the waters supplied by the Southwark and Vauxhall, the Lambeth, the New River, and the Hampstead Companies. That they were rather numerous in the waters of the Grand Junction Company. That they were much less abundant in the waters of the Chelsea, West Middlesex, East London, and Kent Companies. That those waters which contained most organic productions were cloudy and opalescent, as the waters of the Southwark and Vauxhall, the Lambeth, the New River, and the Hampstead Companies. That the waters which contained fewer organic productions were clear and bright, as those of the Chelsea, the West Middlesex, the Grand Junction, the East London, and the Kent Companies. It follows that the metropolis is still supplied with water containing considerable numbers of living vegetable and animal productions, and which are not present in the purer waters, as, for example, that supplied by the Plumstead, Woolwich, and Charlton Company."

MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS.—A Report of Captain W. Moorsom, C.E., has just been published by Messrs. G. Grassi, Velini, and Co., 14, Southampton-street, Strand, on the patent screw locomotive engine, for the ascent of steep railway gradients, invented by Signor Grassi, of Milan. By the report of the eminent engineer it is proved that the difficulties of crossing mountains will be removed by Mr. Grassi's system, with which an incline of one in twenty will be run with facility by the new locomotive. The invention of Mr. Grassi has attracted the attention of the industrial world both in England and abroad, for the reason that its application will lead to the suppression of tunnels, and, therefore, a large economy is to be attained. One example alone will suffice to convince our readers. The tunnel projected to cross Mont Cenis, on the line from Lyons to Turin, is estimated to cost more than one hundred million francs, even although there occurs a gradient of 2 1-8 per cent., whilst on the same line, Mont Cenis may easily be surmounted by Signor Grassi's system at a probable expenditure of three or four million francs at most above the cost on ordinary railways, assuming that the increased length of the line is threefold that of the tunnels.

AN INTELLIGENT HORSE.—In the course of an action for damages, recently brought in the Court of Common Pleas by the widow of an old man who had been killed by a horse belonging to the defendant, one of the witnesses, a policeman, said that the horse, at the time the

accident occurred, was trotting quietly down "with the intention of being harnessed to his cart." The sagacity and devotion of the beast are beyond all praise; and possibly it was owing to his zeal to be at his post—or, rather, at his shaft—that he ran the old man down.

ALDERMAN MAGNAY.—The Court of Common Council, on Thursday, adopted, after some discussion, a motion of Mr. Blake's, "that the members of this court be permitted to inspect all the official documents in possession of the City solicitor affecting a member of this corporation"—i. e. Sir William Magnay.

MR. W. H. RUSSELL'S LECTURES.—Mr. Russell—one of the real heroes of the Crimea, whose pen rescued England from the abyss into which she was falling, and whose genius will perpetuate to succeeding ages the minutest features of the short, fierce struggle with Russia—will, on Monday week, deliver the first of three Lectures on the Crimean War; the two others to follow on the ensuing Thursday and Saturday. The lecturer observes, in his preliminary advertisement, that many little incidents which he was obliged to leave unrecorded in the hurry of daily writing for the press, will now be related. He will "sketch, as it were, the private life and interior economy of the armies and of the camp, and enter upon the description of subjects which during the war it would have been injudicious and impolitic to have communicated to the world." It is impossible to conceive a series of discourses of a more profound and fascinating interest. The general public will now be enabled to see personally the man who flushed their cheeks and made their hearts beat stronger day by day during that tremendous period; and all the wonted spirit, force, vivacity, and colour of the written descriptions will, we doubt not, acquire an additional charm and dramatic interest from the verbal narration.

SALE OF THE "MORNING HERALD," &c.—The copyright, plant, &c., of the *Morning Herald*, *Standard*, and *St. James's Chronicle*, were put up for sale by auction on Tuesday. They were offered at a reserved bidding on the part of the official assignees of 13,500*l.*, and it was intimated that one bid of not less than 100*l.* would constitute a sale. There being no offer made, the property was withdrawn for the present.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF THE TILL.—Sitting yesterday in a public place—a place where human sinners go to satisfy the hungry body with roast and boiled, and the famished mind with the morning's papers, and the mutual comments that are suggested by their perusal—we heard a little bit of our national Christianity, associated as it not uncommonly is, with the presence of the table-cloth and with reminiscences of the till. From every side rose up scattered comments on the British Bank disclosures of the week; and in one locality two comfortable feeders thus discoursed:—"Well, so John M'Gregor is gone!" "Yes: I suppose he's in the lowest hell by this time."—Now, we would by no means put M'Gregor in the catalogue of saints, even of Scotland, where saints are bound to be "canny;" but perhaps a pit a little less low than the lowest would "meet the justice of the case," considering that Bomba has yet to come.

SIR W. F. WILLIAMS has denied the truth of the statement that he was about to vacate his seat in Parliament in order to make room for Mr. Frederick Peel.

JEW IN PARLIAMENT.—At the Court of Common Council on Thursday, Mr. Anderton moved, "That this Court do again petition both Houses of Parliament that the Jews, and all her Majesty's British-born subjects, may have extended to them the rights of civil and religious liberty, and be qualified to hold all civil offices in any of her dominions, without any test of their religious opinions." The motion was carried unanimously.

POISON FOR PHYSIC.—The Malta correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"We had a sad case of poisoning here a few days since, which would have most likely proved fatal had it not been for the prompt remedies that were applied. Miss Cleugh, the daughter of the clergyman of Valetta, and her cousin, Miss Graves, the daughter of the late superintendent of the ports, have lately been practising photography. Miss Cleugh being unwell had to take medicine early in the morning; unfortunately Miss Graves had left a bottle of the poisonous mixture near the medicine, and the maid servant, who could not read, gave the poison instead of the medicine. Miss Cleugh had fortunately eaten a piece of bread previously, which imbibed the poison; medical aid was instantly called to her assistance, and in a couple of days she was all right again."

THE RUINS OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.—A second sale of *débris* took place on Tuesday, when, among other things, the four massive Doric columns forming the portico were disposed of. These, together with the adjoining pilasters, &c., fetched only 25*l.*, though their original cost, it is said, was at least 500*l.* We cannot but regret their loss. They were a real ornament to London.

THE LUNDHILL COLLIERY.—Four more bodies have been discovered; but nothing else of interest has occurred during the week.

ITALY.—"For some days past," says a letter from Turin of the 22nd ult., in the *National Gazette* of Berlin, "a movement has been observed on the Parmese frontier. Forged letters from Garibaldi, declaring that the Sardinian Government favours the movement, are said to be in circulation."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 2.

PARLIAMENT (YESTERDAY).

THE HOUSE OF LORDS assembled at two o'clock.—Mr. J. Evelyn Denison, the newly-elected Speaker of the House of Commons, was presented, and the Commissioners, on the part of the Queen, signified her Majesty's approval of the choice made by the House of Commons. Their Lordships then adjourned.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS also assembled at two o'clock, under the presidency of the new Speaker, and the swearing in of members was proceeded with. No other business was transacted. The members were taken in the alphabetical order of counties.

THE NEUFCHATEL TREATY.

The Federal Council has authorized unanimously the signing of the treaty. Two members proposed to submit the question at once to the Federal Assembly, with a recommendation in its favour.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The reason of the adjournment of the elections for the Divans is stated to be a necessity that has arisen for revising some of the articles of the firman, which were not sufficiently clear. This will be done by the European Ministers at Constantinople. The elections are not likely to come on till the end of this month.

THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE arrived in Paris on Thursday afternoon. On the same day, the *Presse* contained an article—supposed to be inspired by Prince Napoleon—eulogising the English alliance as a necessity to European civilization.

CONVOCAION.—The new Convocation assembled for the first time yesterday (Friday). The business was merely formal. The Very Rev. Dr. Elliott, Dean of Bristol, was elected prolocutor. The sitting was adjourned to the following Friday.

ADULTERY.—An action for crim. con. was brought yesterday in the Secondaries' Court by a Mr. Smith, of Ulverstone, against the son of M. Duterbe, a resident at Dinan, in France. The damages were assessed at 300*l.*

M. DE MONTALEMBERT AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.—The *Correspondant*, the Liberal Catholic Review, has received a second warning for Count Montalembert's article on the recent condemnation of the Bishop of Moulins.

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 pruned 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

"CANDIDE" ON THE ELECTIONS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I perceive that you, and some of your contemporaries—taking the cue from you—have been sufficiently deficient in gallantry and good taste, to object to the active interference of ladies at election time. It is humiliating to observe how prone are even clever men to prejudice and presumption. Were it not for these conceit-begotten mists that so unworthily dim your intellect, you would rejoice with exceeding great joy to find the fair women of England engaging in the strife of men. Their freedom from envy, hatred, malice, and all the little jealousies and meannesses of mankind, renders them peculiarly fitted for work that is so apt to call into play the bad passions of frail humanity. Absorbed in the exclusive love of country, and actuated only by the most lofty and disinterested principles, they devote themselves with all the energy and vivacity of their nervous organisation to the elaboration of the greatest public good, without reference to persons or feelings. And thus they descend into the arena as the harbingers of peace, good-will, and brotherly love. In this light I was particularly impressed by the remark of an active parliamentary agent in one of our eastern counties when I inquired into the prospect of success that awaited a certain candidate.

"He has a very fair chance," he said; and then, after a slight pause, significantly added, "he is going to let loose his wife and daughters upon the borough."

The idea in the learned gentleman's mind was evidently that of a flock of snow-white doves, or fantails, each with a green olive leaf in its mouth, fluttering and cooing, and displaying its plumage, and diffusing around an atmosphere of peace, purity, and christianly forbearance. I know that you gentlemen of the quill affect to sneer at a certain noble lady of the last century who, under the impulse of patriotism, imprinted a ducal salute on the unctuous cheek of a blue-aproned son of slaughter. But, for my part, I honour and admire earnestness in all its forms and phases, and consider such conduct quite as estimable and feminine as that of the chivalrous heroines.

who are immortalized in the verse of a Tasso, or an Ariosto, as quellers of men and tamers of horses. Would that this genial spirit were more generally developed! Would that my tailor's eldest daughter, and my boot-maker's pretty wife, would call in person to solicit my "further favours!" The wife's place is by the side of her husband—a domestic aphorism that might be brilliantly illustrated by Tom Sayers and the Tipton Slasher if, at the forthcoming struggle for the champion's belt, they would come up to "the scratch" supported by their loving spouses.

It has long been a matter of sorrowful conviction in my mind that in this prosaic England we do not pay sufficient attention to the importance of beauty and grace. Should it ever please an all-wise and inscrutable Providence to place your modest correspondent on the throne of these realms, a very great change should be introduced in that respect. In the first place I would have all deformed and ill-conditioned people put carefully out of sight. Unhappily, there still exist prejudices against shuffling off the mortal coil, of a nature to prevent the most economical disposal of these unsightly individuals. But, most certainly, they should be removed far from public gaze. In their stead, to obviate the vacant appearance our streets might at first be expected to exhibit, I would erect beautiful statues at all the crossings, and would make even the lamp-posts of an elegant and ornamental design. There should be none of the monstrous effigies of bareheaded, barefooted gentlemen, of a rusty hue, and loosely wrapped in unwashed *peignoirs* that at present disfigure our cities. There can be no doubt that our own features, and secondarily our temper and disposition, are gradually moulded into a resemblance of those that most frequently fill the eye, and, through the eye, the mind. It is thus that married couples after a time are so generally taken for brother and sister. And in like manner the unborn babe would acquire the expression of the angelic statue in front of the drawing-room windows. Depend upon it, sir, that this would prove superior even to Mrs. General's system. Apollo and the Graces would do more than "paper, potatoes, prunes, and prism." But this by way of parenthesis.

There is another point connected with electioneering time that appears to me in the highest degree favourable to the feelings and convictions of a believer in human nature like myself. At no other period will you witness such magnanimous sacrifices of private friendship, or such complete postponement of friendly ties and interests to the public good. Men may for years previously have suspected their intimate acquaintances of dishonourable conduct, but never have they breathed a syllable of such suspicions, in the hope that their neighbour would see the error of his ways, and turn and repent. But let the blast of a disputed election sound in their ears, and instantly they drag into light the hidden things of darkness. For their country's sake, they are willing to renounce those dear friends with whom they have so often taken sweet counsel and a social glass. And with equal alacrity do they open their arms to the sinner so soon as their country no longer demands of them the renunciation of their gossips. A notable instance of this lately came within my own knowledge. I was sojourning for a few days in a very populous and wealthy city, enjoying a most prosperous trade, and beautified through the spoliation of towns in the interior. The excitement of the election and consequent abnegation of self were at their height. One of the candidates was a gentleman of ample fortune, acquired in trade, who for long years had been an honoured citizen, and whose invitations to dinner or to a dance had never been declined but with regret. All this long time he had been suspected of defrauding the customs in the first place, and his customers in the second. But who would throw the first stone at such a pleasant, such a prosperous, such an hospitable gentleman? It was not to be thought of. Now, however, it would have been equally wrong to turn a deaf ear to their country's call to do their duty. Suddenly, a band of patriots stepped forward, regardless of past or future conviviality, and on the very hustings charged this gentleman with being—a cheat. They had, indeed, insinuated as much beforehand, during the preceding day or so, but now they openly denounced him in unmistakable language. The election was consequently lost—"and, with it, the character of an English gentleman?" Oh, dear! no. Not at all. His character was merely snuffed out for the occasion, because England demanded the sacrifice. But it was relighted on the day after, and, no doubt, now blazes forth more brilliantly than ever.

And then, sir, how great a moral lesson has been taught to public men by what you call the "huge ingratitude" of the electors of Cottonham. Henceforth they will learn to labour without hope or expectation of any such vulgar reward as the gratitude of their fellow-countrymen. They will do good for its own sake, nor will any baser motives influence their conduct. Hitherto, our statesmen have been too fond of popular applause, too proud of the grateful acclamations of their admiring fellow-citizens. They will now estimate that admiration at its proper value, and perhaps will think a little more of the preservation of their own health and property. Thus, all things are for the best; and whatever is, is right, even when apparently most wrong.—And so, once more, I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

CANDIDE.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"The Italians in Alexandria," "Icaria," Miss Parkes' fourth letter, and other communications, are unavoidably omitted this week.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 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.

SIR JAMES BROOKE IN BORNEO.

WE must go back a little before we can rightly estimate the importance of the late events in the Indian Archipelago. The Rajahate of Sarawak, under the independent domination of Sir JAMES BROOKE, is a territory about eighty miles square, forming the north-west corner of the vast island of Borneo. It has a mixed population of Malays, Dyaks, and Chinese, the Chinese occupying a cluster of settlements isolated from the rest of the community. Sir JAMES BROOKE, having obtained the sovereignty of the province, established a code of laws applying equally to all classes of the inhabitants; the peaceable Malays and Dyaks at once acquiesced; the piratical tribes resisted, and were subdued; the Chinese were incessantly restive, and waited for an opportunity to relieve themselves from the presence of a regular Government. It mattered not that they prospered under the new system of rule, or that they saw Sarawak flourishing. Within a few years, a wilderness became a garden; a wretched population of fourteen hundred increased to fourteen thousand at the capital alone; in the several districts large spaces were opened to agriculture; slavery, head-hunting, and infanticide were abolished, confidence was established, the country was brightened by the aspects of industry and civilization. There was not a more picturesque town in the East than Sarawak, with its broad-eaved houses raised on wooden pillars, its elegant plantations, and the river dividing its various quarters. Certainly, there was none with happier prospects. Yet the Chinese, though benefiting by the development of trade and the extirpation of piracy, remained obstinate and sullen, while the Serobas and Sakarrans, formerly Sir JAMES BROOKE'S enemies, adopted his authority and were among his most efficient coadjutors during the brief but terrible campaign among the villages and forests that followed the March massacre. Some time ago, the acting-commissioner was compelled to take a force of Malays and Dyaks down to the Chinese quarter, and to obtain the surrender of a culprit at the point of the sabre. In every respect, the Chinese exhibited their contumacy and their hatred of the British Rajah's Government. They conspired to defeat his plans, and the recent outbreak was simply the development of their intention to overthrow his authority altogether, to take his life, and to establish their own supremacy. It was, we believe, the branch of a great conspiracy in Eastern Asia, in which a large section of the Chinese people on the mainland and in the scattered settle-

ments are implicated. The incendiaries of Hong-Kong passed the signal to the incendiaries of Sarawak; but nowhere was the manifestation of their animosity so brutal, so merciless, or so deliberate as in the Rajahate of Sir JAMES BROOKE.

They collected by night; they crept in swarms to the residences of the English settlers; they first flung burning brands upon the roofs, and then fired through the lattices; as the inmates ran forth, man, woman, or child, these miscreants carried on the havoc; they murdered one Englishman as he stumbled in the grass; they cut down a woman as her husband bled in her defence; while she lay, "calm and conscious," weltering in her blood, they hacked at her head, and tore the rings off her fingers; they kicked the heads of children about like footballs; they decapitated one unhappy gentleman, and bore off his skull as a trophy. The houses of the European residents were burned; Sir JAMES BROOKE'S entire possessions, the accumulations of a life, including a noble library were lost to him; ten thousand dollars were abstracted from the Borneo Company's treasury. The night was a revel of assassins, pirates, and incendiaries.

The British Rajah himself, surprised during his sleep, called his servant, armed himself with a cutlass and a revolver, gained the creek, swam across, "struggled through the deep mud, and lay down exhausted and panting in the road." It was not long, however, before he recovered his energy and proceeded to the rescue of the settlement. All honour to the Dutch—his old foes—that they proffered their assistance; but before their screw schooner appeared, Sir JAMES BROOKE had retaliated with condign justice upon the bloodthirsty horde of burglars who had broken into the peace of a happy and beneficent community. The land Dyaks, or tribes of the interior, were let loose upon the Chinese; the Malays worked up the rivers, and thus caught them between two hostile lines; they were slaughtered at some points, and at others hunted into the jungle; their settlements, with one exception, were obliterated—"not a roof-tree left to cover their dastard heads in the country." Perhaps we are to hear an outcry against this act of retributive necessity. But of this we feel assured, that from the vast majority of intelligent Englishmen and Englishwomen, Sir JAMES BROOKE will receive encouragement, sympathy, and admiration. He has sacrificed all he possessed on earth to the civilization of Borneo; he has spent the better part of his life in endeavouring to push commerce beyond its ancient limits, to ameliorate the condition of the natives, to teach them the advantages of law and order; he has done more than a hundred missionary societies to humanize and christianize a barbarous population. In the midst of these efforts he is attacked by a band of cowards thirsting for his life, but also maddened by a common fury against the European settlers. They afterwards professed to have aimed only at him and his official associates; but what were among the incentives of Sir JAMES BROOKE to visit them with retribution? A young, delicate, beautiful woman, the wife of his friend, with her head cruelly hacked, twice stabbed, and slashed across the shoulder with a jagged weapon; the head of a defenceless guest, whose body had been lost in the flames; the ashes of one child burnt, and the mutilated limbs of another hewn to pieces! We trust that if any sympathy is aroused, some of it at least will be spared for the victims. If any human creatures may be described as vermin, they are the Chinese, who make war with arsenic, and fight with the daggers of assassins. Sir JAMES BROOKE did not yield

to passion when he smote them with the edge of the sword; he knew what lesson they required, what was due to the peaceful settlers, what was essential to the future safety of the province. Ask the Malay chiefs, whom he has conquered; ask the Dyaks, whom he has constrained to forsake their old prejudices and pleasures; ask the defeated pirates, converted by compulsion into traders, whether he be a cruel or a selfish man. In these latter days, when every nondescript notoriety earns his testimonial, it would, perhaps, be audacious to suggest a public subscription to redeem the losses of Sarawak and to reward its Rajah, the highest and noblest type of an Englishman, the representative to our age of those men of genius and magnanimity who filled with lustre the reign of ELIZABETH.

Two or three episodes of bloodshed to ten years of happy progress,—such has been the history of Sarawak. British relations are extending thence to all parts of Borneo. The British consul-general and commissioner at Bruné periodically entertains the native princes and chiefs, and so good has been the effect, that although the only Englishman in that large, semi-barbaric capital, he is perfectly free from fear. Such influences, however, seem only to act upon the Malays and Dyaks. There has not yet been discovered in the west the secret of conciliating the natives of China, especially that sordid, cunning, cowardly class engaged in the opium traffic—the class that sought, in darkness and by stealth, to murder Sir JAMES BROOKE and his brave companions in Sarawak.

MANCHESTER AND ITS EXHIBITION.

THE national importance of the Manchester Exhibition is the reason why Prince ALBERT will attend to open it in person, notwithstanding the court mourning. He, as the head of practical art in this country, considers that the gathering in the centre of the manufacturing district is to have some great influence on the nation; and perhaps the Prince is not wrong; perhaps, for he is a far-sighted man, he foresees some of the ulterior political consequences. But to the multitude, high or low, the opening next week will be nothing more than a splendid holiday—a splendid holiday with splendid materials for it. The exhibition is of a kind which has never yet been witnessed. It differs from that in London or Paris as much as the whole illustration of history differs from a monster shop; from the Exhibition at Sydenham as much as the collected heirlooms of a state from a combined museum and bazaar; from the New York Exhibition as much as success from failure. It is intended for the working classes especially; it was designed to carry to them examples of the arts in combination with manufactures, at different periods, so that they might be enabled to improve their own handling, their own conceptions, by the example of what others had done. It was expected that this would raise the character of the working man, give a new impulse to his self-education, improve the style of our manufactures, place in many a superior mind of the class that spark which would kindle into a lasting fire, and elevate the man above the level to which he was born. That was the intention, and to a certain extent it may be carried out; though other parts of the plan have expanded to excessive proportions. Upon the whole, we may consider that the didactic function of the display will be far less than the holiday-making.

This will be enormous. In population, Manchester is the next town in the kingdom to London; it is second only in intelligence; it has even come to consider itself the centre of English progress; in many respects it is

before London in the education movement; and we may say truly, upon an intimate knowledge, that the average of intelligence is far higher than that of London. If you descend into the very humblest abodes, you will find a greater degree of perception, more sharpness, less absolute stolidity, than in the great metropolis; and the working class generally have faculties and energies cultivated by much mental activity and discussion. The display of wealth will bring to them a crowd of ideas certainly not intended by the Council of Practical Art. All that every Lord can enjoy to his single self, the mass of luxury, the elaborate refinement of decoration, evidences of the furniture which is requisite for the great mansion, where so little will serve for "the house part" even of a dresser's cottage, will be shown to the working man bodily; and there is no study of such things like seeing them. Thousands upon thousands of the democratic men of Manchester will now, for the first time, understand what is meant by the three-piled hyperbole of luxury which is requisite for the English aristocrat. But we do not believe that the balance of the thoughts suggested in this display for their benefit will be invidious.

On the contrary, they will be pleased. Pleasure will be the order of the day. The Manchester lads and lasses have a great genius for holiday-making. Life goes fast among them, and if it is sometimes wasted, they learn how to seize the transitory occasion; the spin of the machinery, the rapid passage of the Sunday, have taught them that trick. They will receive hosts of visitors from all quarters of the globe—from London, from Edinburgh, from the Land's End, from the Highlands, Wales, the Channel Islands, France, America, Russia, the East, Brazil, and India. Manchester will be a huge hotel; lodgings will go up tremendously; monster excursion trains will be daily pouring their numbers into the town; which by its extent and general distribution is not so ill suited for such a visitation as its manufacturing character might make one suppose.

The gentry near Manchester are hospitable to a degree excelled in no part of this hospitable country, and they will strain every nerve to do justice to this summer, when Manchester is to out-do London for the season. The manufacturers are accustomed to make their money fast; they are go-ahead fellows with a hearty spirit; and every house in the town will be overflowing. The same geniality characterises the whole body, the Million, in that spinning county. Besides the exhibition itself, there will be everywhere a ferment of friendly enjoyment, such as England in modern days has seldom seen. It is Old England in its newest dress; for after all, great as it is, the exhibition will be only a peg upon which to hang all this holiday gaiety.

One thing is wanting: we perceive the absence of the roc's egg. Manchester cannot contain the whole of industrial England for whom this exhibition is designed. It will not be possible to collect all that is to be gathered simply from one day's visit, or two, or three. The admission will cost something; and lodgings are at a premium. How is the working man to meet the cost? How will the crowds from Birmingham, the Potteries, the Collieries, the Woollen districts, the Silk districts, be able to do more than take a scrap from the great feast? If this exhibition is intended for industrial England, it ought to be peripatetic; and carried from one place to another. As it is set down in Manchester this year, it should in the future year be placed in Bristol, for the benefit of Southern England; next year Warwickshire, for the benefit of Birmingham and the iron

districts; at a later date in Glasgow, for the good of cotton; afterwards in Newcastle, for the solace of the coal and fishing; and so on, unless Lancashire is to be the exclusively favoured child of England.

Meanwhile, something of course will be done to mitigate the favouritism. Railways will seek to turn an honest penny by opening the largest possible amount of traffic; and excursion trains will be virtually adding many towns to the precincts of Manchester. But by a very simple process this use of excursion trains might be largely extended. One difficulty in the excursion train is, to know how to provide for the number at the specific time. If precise numbers could be ascertained and properly distributed over the day, it would be possible to convey immense numbers from Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham, and Macclesfield, at a charge so low that several visits would be within the compass of the humblest working man and his wife or sweetheart. Now this object might be effected by issuing excursion tickets for particular trains some days after date. For instance, on this 1st of the month might be issued a limited number of tickets for the 8th; another limited number for the second train, on the same day, the 8th; and a third limited number for a third train; in each case with the return. On the 2nd the same process would be repeated for the 9th. By this means, Railway Companies would be able to distribute an immense multitude with something like evenness; and the issue of these tickets, at a very low price, would still leave a large mass of free traffic at the ordinary prices.

ARMY EDUCATION.

IT may well be doubted whether Lord PANMURE is really in earnest as an army reformer. We have previously expressed our doubts on this subject. They have just received fresh confirmation from an unimpeachable quarter. Dr. VAUGHAN'S letter, on which we made some remarks last week, has drawn forth a most important statement from Mr. GLEIG, the Chaplain-General of the Forces. It appears that he made a report on the military schools of Continental nations so long ago as 1847, and that Lord PANMURE, then Mr. FOX MAULE, Secretary at War, kept back the report from the public and the House of Commons. Happily, it is no longer possible to keep these things in the dark corners of the War Office; but for this we have not to thank Lord PANMURE. There are also, it seems, three plans at present before the Government: one drawn up by Colonel LEFROY, Inspector-General of Military Schools, and embodying the views of Lord PANMURE; another framed at the Horse Guards, and signed by the Duke of CAMBRIDGE; a third from the Chaplain-General of the Forces, sometime Inspector-General of Schools. - Mr. GLEIG'S suggestion is, that these plans and the criticisms upon them should be made public, and we heartily concur in the suggestion. We shall then be able to gauge the intentions of the Government, which we can only do at present by the inadequate general order on staff appointments.

We have already commented on this order: but it is necessary that the subject should be kept constantly before the public. It is obvious that as things stand, the future efficiency of our staff-officers will depend on the efficiency of the examination as a test of military qualifications. It will be remarked that the blot in the scheme is the retaining of the old plan of nomination; and that the remedy for that defect would be the introduction of the principle of competition into the proposed method of providing an effective staff.

Whatever course may be pursued with respect to appointments to commissions is unimportant in comparison. General SHAW KENNEDY very clearly states the reason why the selection of the staff should be made on the soundest principles.

"All who have ever seen war," says this venerable survivor of the ditch at Badajoz, "will admit that the qualities required by a general officer commanding in the field are very rarely met with, and, consequently, it must frequently happen from the very nature of man, that important commands fall into the hands of incompetent commanders. This it is utterly impossible to avoid, for many men do not even know themselves before being tried on such commands. The very great importance of abating or overcoming this most serious evil, is that of having a highly instructed and efficient staff." And in another place he speaks of "the necessity of the rule being absolute," that none but officers, carefully educated and well trained, should be on the staff. The experiment which the Government is about to try is, whether a carefully educated and well-trained staff can be obtained by means of a hybrid system of nomination and a test examination, for the strictness of which we have no guarantee. The experiment will fail. We must have a Staff School on the principle of competition.

If there is one thing more distinctly enforced than another in the Report of the Army Commissioners, which we briefly summarized some weeks ago, it is that the system of severe competition, so beneficial in France and Austria, might be applied to staff appointments in the British army without being open to those objections which do apply to the general adoption of such a system for the disposal of commissions and other appointments. Fighting officers are indispensable, and they are not always the most scientific; but scientific officers are indispensable also; they are the providence of armies.

What we most want is, a gradual reform of the army, so managed as to retain the fighting officer, to secure a large proportion of officers who spring from the gentlemen of England, to remove all obstructions that impede the rise of genius, either of a fighting or a scientific order from the ranks, and to provide an ample supply of officers having the most extensive knowledge of the art of war in all its branches, from whom to select the staff by a process which shall pick out the best from the best. In order to accomplish this we must raise the general standard of military education in officers of all ranks and all arms. We do not want to create a class of soldier-pedants by the aid of soldier-pedagogues. We do not require a strictly professional army, because that would tend to disturb the relations which subsist between a British army and British institutions. If we were bent on aggressive warfare, on extensive schemes of conquest like Russia; if our empire in Europe were analogous to that of Austria, where the army is the cement that binds together alien provinces; if our Government were despotic like that of France, and exposed like France to the permanent chances of invasion, then it would be our duty to raise a large army, and to supply it with officers, every one of whom should be the most perfect machine attainable. But we do not require an army divorced from the nation, and master of its political destinies. On the contrary, it is essential that our army should be completely subservient to the civil power, and in no way injurious to the liberties of the nation. Yet this should not prevent us from having the most complete and powerful army which is consistent with the maintenance of our rights and privileges; it should not prevent us from stimulating and rewarding merit

wherever found; nor should it lead us to tolerate any system which admits of gross favouritism, or converts a regiment into a pleasant club for wealthy, vicious, and empty-headed idlers. What steps it will be necessary to take to secure a competent staff, and raise the general standard of professional education in the army, we shall have ample opportunities for discussing.

A STRONG GOVERNMENT AT SEA.

IF we are to exchange the encumbrances of political freedom for the paternal advantages of an administrative monarchy, let us at least be decently administered. If we are to sacrifice all party feeling, all parliamentary tradition, every liberal watchword, to the substantial blessings of a strong Government, let us at least understand in what the strength of our Government consists. The ABERDEEN Ministry, of which Lord PALMERSTON was a consenting and conspicuous member, was roundly accused of insincerity and incompetence, because it found some difficulty in adjusting a rusty peace establishment to the sudden exigencies of a distant war. When Lord ABERDEEN had exhausted and appeased public obloquy by his secession from power, and the Duke of NEWCASTLE had fallen a victim to undiscerning public clamour, Lord PALMERSTON was summoned to the helm to steer the State through summer weather to assured success. Ever since, he has been regarded by a judicious public as the incarnation of a strong Government. Now here we are with another war upon our hands, and not a little war. Let us see how the strong Government sets to work. Three or four regiments are drafted for China: it is important that not a day should be lost in shipping them for their destination, and it is equally important they should be landed with all despatch, and in serviceable condition.

Whatever may have been the shortcomings of Lord ABERDEEN's Government, certain it is that it despatched with unprecedented celerity, and without a casualty, some ten thousand men to the seat of war. Lord ABERDEEN was a man of peace, and it was not as a war minister that he had served the Crown. Well, we have now a war minister *par excellence* at the helm, the chief of a strong Government, as the Ministerial journals are perpetually reminding us. Let us note the energy, vigour, and mastery with which it organises an expedition of five thousand men. The first thing it does is to select, for the transport of a regiment to the scene of operations, a notorious tub, miscalled the Transit (probably to signify the ominously transitory life of those who embark in her), distinguished only for never having gone out of harbour without a break down—for never having made a safe or successful passage—for being utterly unseaworthy and universally condemned. As if to make assurance doubly sure, our strong Government despatching troops to China, pitches on a ship made infamous to all the world at the great Review last year by breaking down in Southampton Water with a living cargo of Peers Spiritual and Temporal on her deck, like patience on a monument, smiling at grief. Everybody who had an acquaintance in the 90th was aghast at the report that they were to go out in the Transit. A letter to the *Times*, signed "Haud in Transitu," called the attention of the Admiralty to the fitness of the Transit for the transport service; the *Times* backed up the doubters; all to no avail. Questions were put in the late House of Commons to Sir CHARLES WOOD, who, with all the confidence of a civil First Lord ashore, and with the

blindest official complacency, affected a sort of indignant surprise at any doubt of the Transit's staunchness and virtue. After much delay, the Transit is off, and before she is well out of sight of the Admiral she is all but ashore in a fog under the Wight, somewhere between Yarmouth and the Needles, and knocking a hole through her bottom with her own anchor when she swings with the tide; an accident a collier would be ashamed of. Back she comes to Portsmouth soaking and sinking, discharges men, stores, and ammunition, and goes into dock to be stopped. Letter after letter appears in the *Times*, warning after warning is addressed to the Admiralty, who are as deaf and dumb as a well-regulated department is bound to be. Out of dock comes the Transit once more, stopped and patched; reships men, munitions, and stores, goes to Spithead and off to China again. The next we hear of her is from a letter placed in the hands of the active and able correspondent of the *Times* at Portsmouth. She has "put into Corunna in deep distress." Here is the letter "from an intelligent and respectable person on board the Transit, and authenticated by name, rank, and every other essential establishing the credit of the writer:"—

"Her Majesty's ship Transit, Corunna, April 19.
"Here we are! done up! Two days' 'Bay' weather sent us in here to be fresh-rigged; you never saw a worse sea-boat in your life—crank, top-heavy, and everything that's bad! We have everything we could wish in the way of provisions—only two days' salt since we came on board; but such an old tub you never saw; the rigging never set up, or anything secured; we had hard work to keep the masts from going over the side; if she had pitched instead of rolling I am sure the foremast must have gone over the bows. We had to get tackles across the decks from side to side to brace the rigging in to save the spars; in fact, a greater tub to roll I never knew. She is top-heavy. I am certain she will never weather the Cape, or she will deceive all on board, both soldiers and blue-jackets. She is a disgrace to the British Government, and more so to the dockyard authorities. If she is lost, I only hope my diary will be found to condemn those who sent her to sea. You may think what she must be when I tell you for a truth that there are not one dozen men (troops) on board with a dry hammock, every seam in her deck letting in water. They had to give, or at least did give, extra grog.

How eloquent is the naked truth of this letter compared with the statements of the First Lord in the House! Imagine a British steam transport "done up" after two days' roughish weather in the Bay. Imagine a regiment sent to China in a leaky kettle of a craft combining the qualities of "crank, top-heavy, and everything that is bad." Imagine this coffin being sent to sea, after one false start, *with the rigging never set up or anything secured*. Imagine the "undergoing stomachs" of our brave and gallant fellow-countrymen of the 90th; not a dozen of them with dry hammocks! Now, it was known to all the world that the Transit was so rotten a carcase that "the very rats instinctively had quitted her;" and now we discover that not even the common precaution of a trial cruise to set up her rigging had been attended to. Forty-eight hours at the back of the Wight would have sufficed for that.

Now is not this a disgrace to England, to the Government that perpetrates, and to the nation that permits it? Perhaps our easy-going rulers who stay at home at ease may say with Falstaff, "Tut, tut; good enough to toss: food for powder—food for powder; mortal men—mortal men;" but will the friends and relatives, will the fellow-countrymen of the gallant 90th be silent and see them cheated of their lives by the reckless indifference and debonair pedantry of a strong Government? We know how British soldiers can face death at sea when death is inevitable; but they would fain die a dry death in the enemy's front. When Monsieur CANDIDE visited Portsmouth, he was

told that a British admiral was shot from time to time "for the encouragement of the rest." It is on this principle of encouragement that we send out regiments in sinking ships. And all this time we are told night and morning by ministerial journals that we are in the enjoyment of a strong Government. We are to put away the idle vanities of political reforms and electoral cries, and to be content with administrative excellence. Where is this administrative excellence to begin if not in our navy? There is no department of the public service on which the nation is more ungrudgingly lavish than on this. And such is our reward. When we were at war in the Crimea we shipped two armies without accident or loss: we cannot move a single regiment for China in common safety. How is this inconsistency to be explained? Simply by the fact that in our late war our transports were taken up, and that our great commercial companies are not in the habit of employing unseaworthy ships. We have only one decent steam transport in the service, and she was bought from the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Why can't we build a dozen or two Himalayas, or get them built, instead of laying down, day after day, those unwieldy and utterly impracticable line-of-battle ships, which, for all fighting purposes, are as obsolete as the Great Harry? General PAIXHANS, who knew what he was talking about, used to say that light, swift craft, with a few heavy guns, would do the work of future wars, and we have lived to realize his words. But our strong Government blunders on in the old routine of big ships, typical enough of bluster and pretence. We ask for Himalayas and gun-boats; we are presented with Royal Sovereigns and Transits. Nevertheless, let us repeat, we are now in possession of a strong Government; it is nothing if not strong. It eschews organic changes, repudiates political reforms, laughs to scorn electoral cries. And Lord PALMERSTON will be permitted to personate a strong Government so long as the British public fails to perceive that, until we have strengthened the constituencies, we shall not strengthen the House of Commons, and that until we have strengthened the House of Commons we shall not secure a Government fit to send a troop-ship to sea.

WHAT TO DO IN CHINA.

THE British Government is not responsible for the recent events in China. Those events were the fruit of long-latent conspiracy; had the Arrow incident been passed over, another occasion would have been forced, if not by YEH, by some other golden-skinned savage in the confidence of the Imperial Government. Therefore, our Ministers at home and their agents in the East are free from reproach, except in one particular. They knew, or ought to have known, that a collision was about to take place. If they did not know, it was because they did not believe the representations made to them by military men and by civilians, who, before the October quarrel, counselled the authorities to take care of their establishments in China. The conflict broke out and proved us practically unprepared. We have to concentrate our naval forces in the China seas; we have to collect an army near Canton, from home, from India, and from Persia. We may attempt to force a passage, with gun-boats, up to Peking; we may operate by bombardments upon the coast cities; or we may invest Canton, and starve it into a capitulation. Twelve thousand men would suffice to secure within a fortnight the surrender of Canton; they might circumvallate it completely with mili-

tary lines, take possession of the roads, bridges, and canals in the rear; keep open a double communication with the fleet, drive back every relieving force, and wait patiently for the physical exhaustion of the Cantonese. Thus a great result might be effected, according to the calculation of no secondary authorities, with the least possible expenditure of time, treasure, and human life. On the other hand, to shell the city and to leave its land communications uninterrupted, would be to damage a number of roofs and walls, and to produce no appreciable effect. Should the capture of Canton fail to determine the dispute, it would be time to develop the campaign along the coasts of the Yellow Sea, whither, it is reported, several squadrons of imperial junks have retired, to lurk in fancied immunity from shot and shell. Those who know the country, however, who are locally acquainted with Canton, and have had experience of Chinese war, point to the investment and starvation of YEH's populous stronghold as the most direct and efficient means either of closing the contest or of opening it upon an extended scale.

MUSTERING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

FOR once, Parliament has mustered and dispersed, without a word about policy. The attendance, to use a reporter's phrase, was neither numerous nor influential; Lord PALMERSTON was present, but Mr. DISRAELI was not. The election of Mr. DENISON as Speaker was got through without fuss or éclat; the mover and seconder were studiously mediocre; the First Minister's congratulations fell flatly on the ear; Mr. WALPOLE'S encomiums were uncomfortably magnanimous. And so, Mr. DENISON became Mr. Speaker, and avowed himself very grateful to the Commons. The Commons went home, and it will not be until next week that we shall scent the real qualities of the new Parliament.

A LAST ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE extent of coast line in the Arctic seas already examined by the Government searching expeditions, is six thousand five hundred miles. There remains to be discovered only three hundred and seventy miles. To this narrow space the highest authorities point as the probable prison or tomb of the Erebus and Terror explorers. It includes a narrow circle not far from the North Magnetic Pole, completely surrounded by the discoveries of recent years. This portion of the Arctic continent is easy to reach. In the spring of last year Lady FRANKLIN solicited the Government to authorize a last expedition for the purpose of setting at rest the question of her husband's fate, and of rescuing, if possible, the records of his ill-fated adventure. To her letter a reply was immediately written, expressing profound sympathy, with a hope that she would be assisted. No assistance came. Lady FRANKLIN waited until the summer had passed, she then repeated her application. The answer was, "Too late for this year, at all events." Early in the present spring she wrote a third letter, which appeared in the public journals. Again, time was taken to consider; the reply was delayed until the season for operations had commenced; and then came a positive and definitive refusal on the part of the Government to aid Lady FRANKLIN in a final search for the missing expedition.

This was not fair treatment for devotion to receive. But she would not be daunted. Despairing of official co-operation, she resolved to dedicate the remnant of her fortune to a last search for her husband, for his remains, for the Erebus and Terror, or for the journals kept by the officers of those unfor-

tunate vessels. At her expense, the late [Sir] RICHARD SUTTON'S screw-schooner yacht was purchased; Captain McCLEINTOCK, already famous for his Arctic explorations, volunteered to command it, and, with that object, obtained a year's leave of absence from the Admiralty. The expedition will be carried out, and, unless the public interfere, it will be carried out at the expense of Lady FRANKLIN, who has already sacrificed the greater part of her fortune in the endeavour to exhume two gallant crews from the accumulated winters of the Polar ocean.

Now, why not yield to the suggestions of the address transmitted a short time ago from New York, and send the Resolute? There are at Woolwich abundance of stores for Arctic service, saved from previous expeditions; there are also large quantities of stores in *cachettes* near the immediate ground of operations. The expedition proposed is not dangerous; there is no service more popular among seamen than the northern navigation in a particularly healthy climate. So that the humanity of the Government is a simple pretence. Lady FRANKLIN, we think, has been treated with worse than discourtesy.

THE AMEER ALI MORAD.—Papers relating to the confiscation of the territories of the Ameer Ali Morad have been published on the motion of Mr. Isaac Butt, the member for Youghal in the last Parliament. It appears from the correspondence on the subject that the Ameer fraudulently altered the treaty of Nownahur concluded between himself and Meer Rooston and Meer Nusseer Khan, so as to substitute, among the possessions ceded to him, instead of the village of Mathelah, the pergunnahs of Meerpoor, Mathele, and Mehurkee. His Highness was therefore mulcted of a portion of his territory, by way of punishment.

THE NEW MALTA EXCHANGE.—The ceremony of opening the New Exchange, at Valetta, took place on Saturday, the 11th instant, in presence of the Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir John Pennefather, the Members of the Council of Government, the Heads of Departments, her Majesty's Judges, the Foreign Consuls, the Members of the Chamber of Commerce, and several of the residents. In his speech upon the occasion, his Excellency dilated upon the importance of Malta as a naval arsenal, and showed that it would increase in value in proportion as the native resources of the place are augmented.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.—The subscription for this fund is about to close. All persons desiring to contribute should therefore forward their names and donations without delay to the Honorary Secretaries, 11, Serle-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

THE ITALIAN NATION.—A great meeting was held at Glasgow on Tuesday last, the Lord Provost in the chair, at which resolutions were passed in favour of Italian Independence, and against the meddlesome intervention of foreign powers. Few meetings have taken place in Scotland so enthusiastic or so influential. Mr. Buchanan, M.P., Mr. Dalglish, M.P., Dr. Nichol, and Mr. O. A. Campbell were among the speakers.

THE REV. F. D. MAURICE.—Through the exertions of the Bishop of London and the new Dean of Westminster (Dr. French), Mr. F. D. Maurice has been restored to his professorship at King's College, London, of which he had been deprived in consequence of his opinions on the subject of eternal punishment. The rev. gentleman has lately given 500*l.* to the Working Man's College, and 1000*l.* more have been lent to it on a mortgage by an unknown person, who is said to be no other than Mrs. F. D. Maurice.

THE BEDFORDIAN SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSE.—Dr. Bedford delivered a lecture on Tuesday evening, at the Lecture Hall, Chester, on "Social Progress and Civilization." In this discourse, he contended that the great stumbling-block in the path of popular improvement is the superstitious reverence attached to the Bible; and he showed that the present observance of the Sabbath is Jewish, and not Christian. Any religious teaching, he observed, that is contrary to reason, is contrary to God; and, if England will not give up her paganism and idolatry, the meridian of her glory will have past. We must "look to the starry heavens for the key to the mysteries which have enslaved mankind. Art, Literature, and Science, must be the motto inscribed on the banner of future progress and civilization." The lecturer was very warmly received, with the exception of a few, who made some interruptions; and on the following night he was serenaded by some of his disciples, who played several pieces of music beneath his windows.

THE PANOPTICON, Leicester-square, was put up to auction on Thursday, and was knocked down at 11,000*l.* to Mr. E. T. Smith, the lessee of Drury Lane.

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*.

WE may remind our readers that the election to the vacant Professorship of Poetry at Oxford takes place next Tuesday, and that the Rev. BASIL JONES and the Rev. J. P. TWEED, who were candidates, having withdrawn, the contest now lies between Mr. MATTHEW ARNOLD and the Rev. J. E. BODE. We have already expressed our opinion of Mr. ARNOLD's qualifications for the chair. His success as a poet has been considerable; and the virtues of form and finish for which his poems are mainly praised, prove that his mind is even more critical than poetical; while the introduction to his earlier volume of poems shows a careful study of the principles not only of his own art, but of art generally. He is, therefore, well fitted for the vacant post, which is, as we intimated, rather a Professorship of *Æsthetics* in general than of any single branch of the associated arts. We may add that Mr. ARNOLD's election would be a graceful recognition by the University of a name well known in Oxford, and revered throughout the country. For while, of course, no man ought to be elected simply because he is his father's son, other things being equal, the son of Dr. ARNOLD certainly has a special claim on the consideration of such a constituency. We hope, therefore, that his friends will muster on Tuesday in sufficient numbers to secure his election.

The new number of the *Quarterly Review* may fairly be styled peripatetic; two of its leading articles being "Pedestrianism in Switzerland," and "Roving Life in England." As in the last number, Natural History, so in the present, Natural Scenery, is the chief subject of discourse. This, however, is but in harmony with one of the oldest and best characteristics of the Review. While its narrow politics soon become obsolete, its broad and genial love of nature and art survives all political change, giving a life and character to the Review which it never could retain as a mere Tory organ. Representative of the country party, the *Quarterly* has always reflected something of the fresh, breezy, and manly character of English sports and English country life, delighting in adventures with the rod and gun, with horses and hounds, and enjoying to the full every form of open-air life and healthy activity.

The first article of the present number strikes, at the outset, the old key-note in the following passage:—

A periodical writer lately said of a deceased poet, that "he wanted an out-of-door mind." The deficiency is not an uncommon one. It occurs both to the old and the young in large classes of all civilized people, and in persons of otherwise the most opposite tendencies and tastes. If it is lamentable to see young persons engrossed by the frivolities of metropolitan life, it is hardly less sad to find others, of the fairest promise and even commanding ability, spending their manhood in studies of a merely speculative or imaginative cast, remote from the interests of humanity, and the glorious realities of the natural world. They have limbs endowed with elastic muscles, fresh and healthy blood circulating in their young veins; the eye is clear, the step is firm, yet the former is cramped in its range to the pages of a book, the latter is doomed to expend its spring against the resisting pavement of the streets. Let such persons cultivate the "out-of-door mind," and for doing so we cannot recommend a better school than Switzerland, or a better grammar than Mr. Murray's hand-book—dear to pedestrians.

The writer goes on to describe Swiss scenery, and details the difficulties and dangers to be encountered by travellers amongst the mountains; the paper being, in fact, a short manual for pedestrians in the Alps. But though we enjoy the spirit and style of the article, we must say that we are beginning to get tired of the Alps. They meet us everywhere—in panoramas and periodicals, in books and lectures, in songs and sermons, in solitude and society, whether engaged in business or pleasure; till we look back with envy and regret to the old times in which, as HUMBOLDT pathetically laments, "statesmen and generals, with men of letters in their train," constantly passed from Helvetia into Gaul without leaving a single description "of the eternal snows of the Alps when tinged in the morning or evening with a rosy hue, or of the beauty of the blue glacier ice," &c.

The second article, entitled "Dred—American Slavery," is a temperate and seasonable review of the actual state of the slave question in America, with the relation of the Northern and Southern States to each other, and the prospects of the contest which must soon inevitably take place between them.

An article on "Lunatic Asylums" compares the present management of the insane with their treatment a hundred years ago—a contrast which shows the growth amongst us of national humanity and national conscience perhaps more strikingly than any other department of social legislation.

The paper on "English Political Satires," written in a pleasant, readable, graphic style, is full of striking facts and pungent illustrations, but the brilliant detail loses much of its effect from the absence of any attempt to generalize the principles whose working it illustrates. While we do not expect much philosophy in such an article, still, if English Political Satire is treated historically, we may fairly expect some attempt to show its importance as an index of national life and progress. The writer has evidently read more than he has digested, and the result is a species of intellectual congestion, which prevents the healthy play of his powers. The paper on "Photography," while smartly written, is unsatisfactory in a scientific point of view, and fails to appreciate the true value of photography as the handmaid of Art.

India and China seem likely to occupy a growingly large space in our litera-

ture as well as politics. The last number of the *National Review*, for example, has an article on "Indian History;" the current *Westminster* one on "Hindu Poetry;" and, more recently still, the *Times* devotes two long articles to Hindu Philosophy, looked at from the Chinese point of view, to Buddhism, as expounded by that wonderful Chinese pilgrim HIOUEN-TSANG, whose character irresistibly excites our admiration, but whose name baffles any attempt at pronunciation, probably from the fact that nearly all the vowels are in one syllable, and all the consonants in the other, the proportion being in either case (minus the aspirate) as four to one. Most of our readers must have noticed these striking articles on "Buddhist Pilgrims," as they appeared in the *Times*, and many have probably read the correspondence which has since taken place between the Reviewer and a Mr. BARHAM on a disputed point of Buddhist doctrine. This discussion is interesting, as it concerns the view of a future state given in a religious system firmly held by a fourth of the human race. What is the Buddhist heaven—the *Nirvana* that BUDDHA himself attained, and which is proposed to his followers as the highest reward of all their efforts? Is it annihilation or deification—the final quenching of a vital spark, or the melting of a drop into the ocean—the utter negation of all being or the absorption of the human soul into the divine nature? Mr. BARHAM tries to show that the latter must be accepted as the true opinion, while the Reviewer vigorously defends his first position—that the *Nirvana* is total annihilation. The question, though debated with zeal on one side, and learning on the other, is really left undecided, the conclusion arrived at being extremely unsatisfactory, if not essentially incredible. So far as acquaintance with the literature of the subject is concerned, the Reviewer, of course, has the best of it; his opponent evidently writing with more zeal than knowledge, and from earnestness of feeling rather than clearness of philosophic insight. With Mr. BARHAM, indeed, the wish is most probably father to the thought, as he is himself, we believe, a kind of Christian Buddhist. If we do not mistake, he published some years ago a mystical work with the first letter of the English alphabet as a title, forsaking, in this, the example set him by the treatise *De Verbo Mirifico* of his chosen master REUCHLIN, to follow the practice of the Cabalists, who were wont to write long dissertations on the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet—the *Aleph tenebrosum*, as they styled it—which was at once the alpha and omega of their system. Having thus a strong sympathy with the doctrines of emanation and absorption common to the mystics of the East and the West both in ancient and modern times, and a horror of nihilism in any form, Mr. BARHAM naturally starts in alarm at the thought of a wide-spread system like Buddhism ending in a negation, and seeks to identify its *Nirvana* with the more positive apotheosis of his favourite schools.

The Reviewer, on the other hand, takes his chief stand on authority, and satisfies himself with referring, in support of his opinion, to the views of the earliest Buddhist metaphysicians whose works have come down to us. But in the present imperfect state of our knowledge, the best evidence being still vague and conflicting, even authority is by no means decisive, and it is surely possible to discuss the question on other grounds than those of personal feeling or partial testimony. The rapid spread and wide diffusion of Buddhism are great historic facts, and we may fairly infer something as to the general character of its teaching from the result. The unknown, or only partially known, cause must be of a kind fitted to produce the known effect. If, therefore, according to the interpretation which some of its own writings even seem to favour, the central doctrine of Buddhism is one incapable of moving a single human being, much less of producing a revolution amongst the most immovable people in the world, as we know Buddhism did, there is at least a philosophical presumption in favour of a different interpretation. The annihilation theory, in fact, reverses all that experience teaches of human nature, contradicting directly the *Carpe diem* which was practically the motto of the ancient Cyrenaics, and the *Dum vivimus vivamus* which has ever been the chosen maxim of all who, like them, believe only in the present. But, according to the view in question, the Buddhist apostle went forth to the people, and said: "Deny yourselves, renounce the pleasures of the world, chose privation and toil as your portion." Why? Because this is the path to a nobler life? Not at all; but "because all existence will soon come to an end, and you will cease to be." That was obviously, as the Reviewer seems to feel, not the kind of gospel to produce a great moral revolution amongst an ignorant and degraded people. The writer betrays a keen sense of this difficulty both in his articles and in his letter, though he seems scarcely aware of the practical contradiction in which the effort to maintain his position involves him. In the former, for example, he says: "How a religion which taught the annihilation of all existence, of all thought, of all individuality and personality, as the highest object of all endeavours, could have laid hold of the minds of millions of human beings, and how at the same time, by enforcing the duties of morality, justice, kindness, and self-sacrifice, it could have exercised a decidedly beneficial influence not only on the natives of India, but on the lowest barbarians of Central Asia, is one of the riddles which no philosophy has yet been able to solve." We may add, which no philosophy ever will be able to solve, for human nature being what it is, the thing is essentially incredible. Again, after describing BUDDHA's devoted life, he adds: "And yet all this self-sacrificing charity, all this self-sacrificing humility by which the life of BUDDHA was distinguished throughout, and which he preached to the multitude that came to listen to him, had but one object—and that object was final annihilation. It is impossible almost to

believe it." We venture to say it is not only almost, but quite impossible to believe this; and that the most trustworthy traditions of his life and character contradict the supposition.

In his letter, however, the Reviewer unconsciously gives up the point in dispute, for he says expressly that both in India and China "Buddhism, as soon as it became a popular religion, had to speak a more human language than that of metaphysical Pyrrhonism." But why was it obliged to speak a more human language *as soon* as it became popular, if this necessity did not really exist *before*? If the statement has any force at all, it must mean that "a more human language"—in other words, a rejection of the negative doctrine—was a necessary condition of its popularity; and if so, this must have been adopted at the outset, and the doctrine vanishes altogether. The Reviewer is thus reduced to the alternative of holding the more positive doctrine of Buddhism to be at once the *condition* and the *result* of its success—the offspring being in fact its own parent; or of giving up a position which demands such a suicidal line of defence.

As we have already said, the most trustworthy traditions of BUDDHA—the best records of his life and character, his teaching and last words, confirm the belief that he himself held no doctrine of real annihilation—that *Nirvana* was, in his view, simply a state of being free from all the conditions of earthly life—a condition of supreme and undisturbed repose.

CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA.

Christianity in China, Tartary, and Thibet. By M. l'Abbé Huc. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

WE rank the Abbé Huc among the best writers on China. He has incurred judgment from certain self-sufficient authorities; but Orientalists of the highest class concur with him in his views of Chinese history and civilization. As a Roman Catholic, he of course allows a particular bias to influence his narrative of Christian missions; but in all that relates intrinsically to China he is unprejudiced, far-sighted, and informing. We do not care to be told that he once mistook the colour of a mandarin's button, or the chimeras painted on a warrior's tunic; his relation of Travels in China and Thibet may take rank among the most fascinating books in the library of adventure and observation, and to that work this is a fitting companion. It is simply historical, unless we regard as controversy a few positive assertions respecting the Catholic propagand, in its rivalry with the Protestant religious organizations at work in Northern and Eastern Asia. It is, in fact, a Catholic version; a Protestant version, in all probability, would be at least as unfair. The Abbé has been judicious enough to avoid all discussion of the actual civil war and its causes. Such discussions are really premature. Too little information has been diffused in the West to justify an absolute opinion. We have had monstrous fables concerning the visions and ecstasies of Hung-Tseu-Tuen, and all the wonderful coincidences, to use the mildest word, that have marked his career; but the subject lies under a mystery. It is not known whether the rebellion had one or many sources, one or many leaders, one or many objects,—who started it, where it began, what it aims at, how it prospers, how far it has extended. A great deal is authoritatively written about it, but assuredly very little is understood. M. Huc cuts short his narrative at the ascent of the Ming dynasty; he begins it, however, far before the period of historical reference, among the doubts and traditions of the pre-Christian era. Even after that date the religious annals of the Chinese are enveloped for several hundred years in dense obscurity. It is still disputed whether St. Thomas ever visited those shores; the inscription discovered at Si-guan Fou points, however, to the preaching of certain apostles as early as the seventh century. In 1625, some Chinese workmen, engaged in digging the foundation of a house at Si-guan Fou, in the province of Chansi, discovered a large dark-coloured monumental tablet of marble, bearing a duplicate inscription in ancient Chinese, and in the characters called Estranghelos, commonly found on early Syriac manuscripts, testifying to the mission of Olopen, who travelled from a distant empire to China, preaching Christianity, and attended by a train of Syrian priests, whose names fill ninety lines. The empire alluded to may have been Rome or Judæa, or even Persia; but there can be little question that the stone is a genuine monument. The Chinese were at all times exposed to proselytizing influences; toleration was originally a law of the state, and scepticism a habit of the people, so that the old being fenced about with little reverence, the new was imported without much difficulty. At the same time, it proved impossible to inculcate a lasting faith among semi-barbarians so incredulous and so conceited. The Dominican and Franciscan pilgrims explored their country, and the neighbouring regions of Tartary and Thibet, with infinite pertinacity and heroism, confronting with equal courage the Dalai Lama and the Khan of the Golden Horde; there were multiplied martyrdoms; and many an incident of picturesque romance varied the story of the missionaries. The Abbé relates how Gazan, a persecutor of Christians in the East, contributed unwillingly to the glory of the Church:—

Gazan had married a daughter of the King of Armenia, a Christian princess, distinguished, it is said, by great piety and extraordinary beauty. She gave birth, however, to a child repulsively ugly and deformed, "more like a little monster than a human being." Gazan tenderly loved his wife, but was ashamed and shocked at having a son so hideous; and his courtiers (most of them Mussulmans) thought they had now found a favourable opportunity of ruining the princess, who, as a devout Christian, and full of zeal for the propagation of her faith, was highly objectionable to them. They held a council, therefore, and declared that the child just born must necessarily be the offspring of adultery; and both mother and child were consequently condemned to be burned alive. The pile was prepared, and the victims led to torture, in the midst of an immense concourse of people, amongst whom very contradictory feelings were manifested; for this tragic event, which was the triumph of the Mussulmans, had plunged the Christians into sorrow and dejection. The pile being on fire, crackled and blazed in all directions, awaiting its prey, when the unfortunate Princess of Armenia, with tears, besought her royal spouse to grant her one moment to fulfil the last duties of her religion, and to procure the grace of baptism for her poor child, ere she should die with him in the midst of the flames. Gazan, moved with compassion, granted his wife the favour she implored; a minister of the Christian

religion presented himself, heard the confession of the mother, and after having fortified her by the reception of the holy *viaticum*, administered the sacrament of baptism to the child. But scarcely had the holy water destined to regenerate the soul of that unfortunate creature flowed over his forehead, when a sudden and marvellous change took place in the sight of the multitude, who were anxiously awaiting the end of this frightful drama.

God had given to the waters of baptism the power of embellishing the body; at the same time that it washed away the original stains from the soul. The child had suddenly become ravishingly beautiful; the numerous witnesses of the miracle uttered cries of admiration, and Gazan, convinced of the virtue of his wife, led her back in triumph to his palace. From that time, he also determined to worship that God who had wrought such marvels, and he made a public profession of Christianity, along with a considerable number of his subjects.

"Mosheim relates the same fact, but does not appear to put any great faith in it," says M. Huc. The ecclesiastical historian indeed asks whether it is not possible that, by some trickery, a beautiful child was substituted, at a convenient moment, for the infant monster:—

Yes, assuredly the thing is very possible, but a miracle is still more so; we have not, like Mosheim, an insuperable objection to miracles, and it is even difficult for us to comprehend the views of those who always prefer granting to the cunning of men what they refuse to the omnipotence of God.

Among the most attractive chapters in M. Huc's work are the last two, in which he describes the fall of the great Ming dynasty under the blows of the Mantchu Tartars, and the ascendancy of the new power. All lines of barbaric monarchs are traced to a heavenly origin. The Mantchus, living for ages in simplicity, hunting and fishing in their vast forests and broad rivers, and feeding their herds and flocks on endless pastures, conceived an ambition to become a ruling race. Poetic vanity supplied them with a pedigree. Three girls once descended from the skies to bathe; two dipped their white forms in the Songali river, and resumed their tunics; the third, Fegula, after bathing, saw a red fruit lying near her clothes; she ate of it, and being thus deprived of power to quit the earth, remained alone until a son was born to her. Placing it on a little island, she directed it to wait until a man coming to fish should find and take it away. Then the celestial mother returned to the stars. The child became the parent of a nation and a dynasty, by which China was conquered, in an age when Christianity promised to supplant the ancient idolatry as well as the philosophy of Confucius. Father Schall, the Catholic, was the familiar companion of the Emperor Chun-Tché:—

It frequently happened that he went in the evening, and the conversation was then often prolonged till the night was far advanced. Chun-Tché had then the consideration to send him home escorted by six of his guards, lest any accident should happen to him in going on horseback through the streets of the capital; and he took care to advise the guards not to go too fast, and not to frighten the horse. Father Schall was always received at the palace as an intimate friend, and treated with the utmost cordiality; and there were cushions provided for him covered with sable, that he might not fatigue himself by sitting cross-legged in the Tartar fashion. The emperor often passed whole days in his company, taking lessons in astronomy and mathematics, assisting in chemical experiments, or manipulating drugs to make pills with; and he would then invite the father to dine with him. One day when he was on horseback, hunting in the beautiful park adjoining the imperial palace, Father Schall was about to present a petition. "I will read it in the evening, Maffa," said the Emperor, smiling; then, perceiving a hare leap through the underwood, he shot it with an arrow, quite pleased with the opportunity of showing his skill to Maffa.

The Emperor Chun-Tché died young. His funeral was magnificent:—

To the solemn and sumptuous pomp of the Chinese rites, were added the extraordinary and barbarous customs of the Tartars. Tragic scenes took place, in which many of the attendants of the late Emperor put themselves to death, that they might proceed to the other world, and continue their accustomed services to their master. It is stated in the annals of China, that the empress mother, perceiving a young prince who had been the intimate friend and favourite of Chun-Tché, expressed to him, with strong emotion, her grief and astonishment at finding him alive.

"Is it possible," said she, "that you are still alive? My son loved you, is doubtless now waiting for you;—hasten then to join him, and prove to him that your affection was sincere and generous! Run and bid adieu to your parents, and then have the courage to die! Your friend, my son, is stretching out his arms towards you."

According to the historian, these words, uttered in a tone at once affectionate and severe, caused great distress to the young man. He loved Chun-Tché, but he loved life also, and could not think of death without a terrible shudder. He was surrounded by his afflicted family, who were urging him to escape by flight from so frightful a sacrifice, when the empress mother sent to him a present of a box ornamented with jewels, and containing a bowstring for him to strangle himself.

The unfortunate young man still hesitated, for he was at the happiest time of life, and could not resolve to die of his own accord, as the barbarous prejudices of his nation required, but the two officers who had brought him the fatal present had orders from the empress mother to help him out of this perplexity, and give a little assistance to his courage should he be unable to put himself to death, and they helped him accordingly.

Whoever would comprehend the present phenomena of Chinese politics and manners will do well to study the religious history of the empire in this admirable and entertaining book.

THE FORTUNES OF GLENCORE.

The Fortunes of Glencore. By Charles Lever. 3 Vols. Chapman and Hall.

WHEN men have been successful in one department, they often imagine they could have succeeded better in another. The statist wearies of figures, and aspires to oratory; the mechanic thinks of art; the poet considers that an excellent statesman has been lost to the world—they seldom measure themselves by the public standard. Mirabeau despised his own eloquence, but mistook his ugliness for beauty. We have many Mirabeaus now, wanting only the eloquence—persons who are clever in one profession and yearn to triumph in another. It was long ago said that Lord John Russell thought himself qualified to command the Channel fleet. Such prepossessions are strange; but, what is more strange, they may be correct. Here is Mr. Charles Lever, a humorist, teller of "tremendous Irish tales," a prophet of the lively race which counted Ezekiel among the noble Romans, and Nicodemus among the heathen gods, which apostrophized a maiden of chaste demeanour as the divine Diana among the groves of

Blarney, and localized the deeds of Ajax on the Baltic shores. That is to say, Mr. Lever made use of the language and the people suited to comedy, led his heroes helter-skelter through a succession of up-and-down incidents, seldom paused to be serious, and was always associated by the public with Charles O'Malley riots, Harry Lorrequer entertainments, Jack Hinton drolleries, and Dodd Family absurdities. When *The Fortunes of Glencore* was announced, most readers expected a new book added to the same library; the name tasted of Ireland; it was a double-word and had an echo; but no one, we venture to say, anticipated the work of a philosophic artist, a scrutiny of human nature, a confession from the author that he has taken to a new line, and almost disdains the cheerful interest of his earlier novels. He has not disguised from himself, he says, the secrets of his actual popularity; he knows that the public have looked to him for light-hearted stories, for stirring incidents, for gaiety, for the russet that lines the purple mantle of romance. Yet, all the time he has felt convinced that his *forte* lay in the delineation of different scenes and personages, that he should reap a real success as a photographer of character, an analyst of human motives. He professes to hope that he has not mistaken his own powers, and allows that he may have unduly despised the qualities for which the public has admired him. "To test my conviction, or to abandon it as a delusion for ever, I have written the present story of 'Glencore.'" Opportunities of society, as well as natural inclination, he adds, have disposed him to become a student of social aspects, of men's aims and impulses, of that mysterious phantasm called character. For many a year he has stood patiently over the game of life, not playing but watching, estimating the qualities that ensure success, and noting the play of passion, the modes of temper, and the varieties of natural organisation among the well-bred Ten Thousand. The curtain rises alternately in the west of Ireland and in Italy, though the scene is occasionally transferred to London. No contrast could be better marked than that between the Castle of Glencore, hung with grey and green tapestries of time, and the palaces of Florence, also touched by age, but still haunted by the frivolous, the happy, the eager, the weary, and the random wayfarers of cultivated life; people of tepid sensibility in search of emotions, fools, dupes, hacks, idlers, and vagabonds, the favourites as well as the rejected of society. We prefer the Glencore ruin to the frippery of Florence; for it is there that Mr. Lever develops with most distinctness the purport and plan of his story. The interest, we think, would have been more concentrated, and the plan more original, had the action of the piece taken place almost exclusively within reach of the melancholy castle, the home of the dismal Glencores. Of course, it may have been necessary to find a frame of white and gold for the Watteau picture of Italian festival, to paint the sculptor's face in relief against a southern sky, to follow a modern diplomatist to the theatre of his Tusculan disputations; perhaps it was also incumbent on Mr. Lever to satirize Downing-street and the House of Commons; but in these directions, we must say, he falls far short of a positive success. It is true that Sir Horace Upton is the ideal of a delicate great man, elaborately mounted; but his idiosyncrasies are rendered almost grotesque by the unmixed colours in which they are depicted. When Iago is personified on the stage, the actor usually commits the mistake of dressing himself, darkening the expression of his eyes, hanging out a sign of villany in his face, so that, while the mighty Moor of Venice is deceived, the spectators in the gallery at once identify Iago as a devil. So with Sir Horace Upton. He almost says, I am an intellectual impostor, trickster, and scorners of my species—the fool of physicians, a self-seeker and a sceptic. When he first appears in character costume the effect is an exaggeration: he comes into the rich chamber of Lord Glencore attired in a purple dressing-gown profusely braided with gold, loose trousers as richly brocaded, and a pair of real Turkish slippers resplendent with costly embroidery; a small fez of blue velvet with a deep gold tassel covers the side of his head, at either side of which his soft, silky hair descends in long massy waves, apparently negligently, but in reality arranged with all the artistic regard to effect of a consummate master. From the gold girdle at his waist depends a watch, a bunch of keys, a Turkish purse, an embroidered tobacco-bag, a gorgeously chased smelling-bottle, and a small stiletto with a topaz handle. This Upton is one of the mainsprings of the story, which turns upon an affliction in the life of Lord Glencore of Glencore Castle. His wife, he believes, has been lost to him; to punish her and to gratify an unnatural passion for revenge, he marks with a bar sinister the escutcheon of his only son, and affirms him to have been the offspring of a mistress. The boy, nurtured in family pride, quits Glencore when this announcement is made to him; his mother, a star of the smiling society that breathes lemon fragrance in the Tuscan capital, closes her palace portals and vanishes into private life. A mystic clue leads through chapters of complex adventure, bringing in love, art, learning, conspiracy, diplomacy, and politics as elements of the story, which closes without satisfying the reader. We hardly know whether to anticipate a sequel; certainly the end is abrupt, and if Mr. Lever had a reason for this he has not made it clear. We might object to his manner of conducting the narrative as irregular and perplexing, and occasionally to his style as not toned by an under current of allusion, an essential in a book meant to be partially satirical; but we have said enough in reply to the challenge thrown down by Mr. Lever to all frank and liberal critics. We have explained why we think that, successful though he is in delineating what is left of nature in men, after fashion has remoulded them, and what is added by art, the careful manipulation in these volumes is scarcely so admirable as the graphic golden sketches by which Charles Lever first made himself a name. "The Fortunes of Glencore" is a book that proves its author's versatility, but it does not suggest that he mistook himself when he wrote *Charles O'Malley*.

CALVIN'S LETTERS.

Letters of John Calvin. Compiled from the ORIGINAL Manuscripts, and Edited with Historical Notes by Dr. Jules Bonnet. Vol. II.

Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

On his death-bed Calvin requested that selections from his letters should be made, and presented as a memorial of his unwearied zeal to the Reformed

Churches. This duty was bequeathed to Theodore Beza, his friend and fellow-labourer. Adverse times hindered for a while the accomplishment of this request. "Without speaking," says Beza, "of the assistance that was indispensable for the examination of so extensive a correspondence, or of the time required for so laborious an undertaking, the calamities that befel our city, the plague that raged for many years, the convulsions of a neighbouring country, have more than once interrupted the progress of the work. The selection of the letters also involved great difficulties, at a time when men were predisposed to judge harshly and unfairly. There are many things that may be said or written in the familiar intercourse of sincere and ingenuous friendship, such as Calvin's, which can hardly be given to the public without inconvenience. We were obliged in our work to have respect to persons, times, and places." Notwithstanding these obstacles the request of Calvin was destined to have an accomplishment more complete than even the great Reformer himself could have anticipated. His memory was preserved with filial reverence, not to say devout zeal. By the care of his affectionate disciples, the originals or the copies of a vast number of letters addressed to France, England, Germany, and Switzerland, were collected and deposited in the archives of Geneva. We are, however, principally indebted to the devotion and unwearied energy of Charles de Joinvillers for the extensiveness of the collection. This loving disciple was born of a noble family, but embracing the faith of the Huguenots, was obliged to flee from France. He found refuge in Switzerland, and, being admitted to the friendship of Calvin, eventually became his secretary. For twenty years he employed himself in hunting up the autographs of his late master. The result was the publication, in 1575, of the first detachment of this correspondence. Nearly three centuries, however, elapsed without adding anything to the edition; though numerous unpublished documents were suspected to exist in the Libraries of Geneva, Zurich, Gotha, Paris, and elsewhere. Within the last twenty years, however, the indifference of the previous centuries has been compensated for by the appearance of several works containing unedited letters. It was reserved, however, for the present editor to collect and publish in a distinct form the correspondence of this voluminous letter-writer.

Independent of their special value as exhibiting the character and opinions of Calvin, portrayed by his own pen, these letters possess an extrinsic historical value. Nor must we forget their literary merit. They range over a period of thirty-six years, beginning with his youth and closing on his death-bed. Calvin was born at Noyon in 1509, and, after obtaining an elementary education at the college of La Marche, went to that of Montaigne, where he studied logic and other liberal arts with great success. He had from his youth shown great seriousness of mind, and often sternly reproving the vices of his companions, was, therefore, destined for the Church. A chapelry was accordingly procured for him when scarcely twelve years old, and a few years later he obtained a parochial cure. It was not long, however, before he expressed disgust at the corruptions of the Church he had entered, and, having withdrawn from her communion, devoted himself to the study of the law. At Paris he became acquainted with a zealous supporter of the Reformation, and, being persuaded by him, he abandoned all other studies, and devoted himself entirely to preaching. His life now became one of ceaseless activity. He travelled from country to country and from city to city, and enforced, by the inflexible energy of his character, the doctrines of the New Church. France, his native country, was too dangerous a place to remain in; he therefore removed to Basle, where, having published his "Institutes," he proceeded to Italy. Finally, however, he settled down in Geneva, terrified by the denunciation of his friend Farel, that if he did not consent to join him in his work there, a curse from Heaven would rest upon him. But Geneva was in an unsettled state. Papacy had been extirpated, yet violent contentions prevailed. Calvin and Farel were banished for a while by the syndics or chief magistrates, and retired to Strasbourg. The former eventually returned, and became the spiritual dictator of the city. He died in 1564, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. In the letters we possess, the general outline of the life of this great Reformer is admirably filled in. We see him as he was; perhaps we know him better than his contemporaries. Such was his influence, so towering his genius, he exercised a kind of universal apostolate. He exhorts with the same authority the humble ministers of the Gospel and the powerful monarchs of England, Sweden, and Poland. He holds communion with Luther and Melancthon, animates Knox, encourages Coligny, Condé, Jeanne d'Albret, and the Duchess of Ferrara; while in his familiar letters to Farel, Viret, and Theodore Beza, he reveals the innermost workings of his heart.

The present English edition of Calvin's collected correspondence will, when completed, form four volumes, and contain at least six hundred letters, the greater part of which remain as yet unpublished. The first volume appeared in 1855, and embraced a period of seventeen years, commencing when he was about nineteen. These letters are principally addressed to his friends, and detail the private struggles against which he had to contend. They display the keenness and vigilance with which he watched every event that influenced directly or indirectly the Reformation, and the justice of his penetration may be seen in his criticism on the conduct of Henry VIII. of England. "The King himself is only half wise. He prohibits under severe penalties, besides depriving them of the ministry, the priests and bishops who enter upon matrimony; he retains the daily masses; he wishes the seven sacraments to remain as they are. . . Then, because all do not appear to be of sound mind, he does not suffer the Scriptures to circulate in the language of the common people throughout the kingdom; and he has lately put forth a new interdiction by which he warns the people against the reading of the Bible. Moreover, that you may understand that he is quite in earnest, and not by any means jestingly insane, he lately burnt a worthy and learned man (John Lambert). . . Our friends, however, though sorely hurt by atrocities of this kind, will not cease to have an eye on the condition of his kingdom." Nothing seems to escape his knowledge, whether near at home, or far away in foreign lands.

The second volume embraces, perhaps, the most busy and most varied period of Calvin's life. He was engaged in a constant struggle against the throned powers of Catholic Europe; he was endeavouring to build up the

faith and confidence of the Protestant powers; he was hurrying to and fro to establish the weak Churches and confirm the strong. He combated against what he termed the tyranny of Luther, and reproved the mildness of Melancthon. He denounced the doctrines of Servetus, called in the temporal arm of the Genevese magistracy to extirpate the heretic and his creed, and only paused to ask a commutation of his sentence when his victim was about to be bound at the stake. "We endeavoured to alter the mode of his death, but in vain," observes Calvin, in a letter to Farel. The account we have of the unfortunate Servetus, given us in another letter addressed to his friend Sulzer, exhibits in painful colours the ferocity of the times, and the unmitigated severity of the lean Cassius-like Reformer. "As Michael Servetus, twenty years ago, infected the Christian world with his virulent and pestilent opinion, I should suppose his name is not unknown to you. It was he whom that faithful minister of Christ, Master Bacon, of holy memory, in other respects of a mild disposition, declared from the pulpit to be worthy of having his bowels pulled out and torn to pieces. While he has not permitted any of his poison to go abroad since that time, he has lately, however, brought out a larger volume, printed secretly at Vienne, but patched up from the same errors. To be sure, as soon as the thing became known, he was cast into prison. He escaped from it some way or other, and wandered in Italy for nearly four months. He at length, in an evil hour, came to this place, when, at my instigation, one of the syndics ordered him to be conducted to prison; for I could not disguise it that I considered it my duty to put a check upon this most obstinate and ungovernable man." This question, as well as others we have in view, will be more properly considered when we have the entire collection in our hands. In the meanwhile, we shall look forward to the publication of the third and fourth volumes of this important correspondence, and hope that Dr. Jules Bonnet will not allow so long an interval to elapse as that between the publication of the first and second.

PHANTASMATA.

Phantasmata: or, Illusions and Fancifulisms of Protean Forms Productive of Great Evils. By R. R. Madden, Author of "Memoirs of Lady Blessington," &c. 2 vols. Newby.

PERSONS who undertake to write history have been distributed into two classes—the artists, and the artisans. We must add a third division—the labourers. Dr. Madden is a labourer. He throws his industriously collected materials into a formless heap; whether compiling or speculating, he is equally confused. Not that he disdains a plan of systematic arrangement, but that he only vaguely understands his subject, and having accumulated a mass of quotations and testimonies, is at a loss what to do with them. Too ambitious to content himself with a "Mémoire pour servir," he prefixes to his long succession of chapters the proposition of a theory, deducing certain reasons in evidence from Pascal, Fuller, Stobæus, and, as secondhand, from Prudhomme. We warn all readers, however, who may be fascinated by Dr. Madden's subject, and by the curious contents of his two large volumes, to pass leniently over the preface. It is a specimen of toil, and nothing more, and is disfigured by some chimerical statistics of the French Reign of Terror. There is the more necessity for denying the claim of the book to rank among philosophical histories, as Dr. Madden raises a lofty basement of introductory disquisition, synopsis, index, and authority. But we must not be understood to imply that the performance is worthless, or wanting in merit. It is a laborious selection of curious particulars relating to historical illusions, impostures, and mental disorders; it is replete with interest; it cites a singular variety of anecdotes; it brings together a large quantity of information from scattered sources, and it will have a charm for such readers as love to dwell upon the eccentricities of human nature.

The traditions of the Wandering Jew, of the Trembling Aspen, of the Millennium, were poetical phantasms; such also have been the popular beliefs in the approaching annihilation of the world. Witchcraft points the way to a broad department of Dr. Madden's inquiry; but his scope is irregular and he neglects many legitimate branches of his investigation. He first—after the long preliminary—touches the question whether the early Christians were really addicted to the murder sacrifice, and eating of children; but leaves the point where he found it, in considerable obscurity. Thence he passes to dreams and visions, to Swedenborg, St. Teresa, and thence, with arbitrary ease, to the Inquisition, which is scarcely to be enumerated among Phantasmata. His account of this institution is excessively meagre. Next he reviews the opinions of old Catholic and Protestant writers on magic, enriching the chapter with some remarkable extracts. Still more interesting is the picture of middle-age sorcery and of Lycanthropy, preceding a notice of the flagellation mania. The famous sect of the Flagellants arose in Hungary in the fourteenth century, to avert by their mortifications the terrors of the Black Death epidemic; then, sweeping through Eastern and Northern Europe, all classes joined them—men, women and children—who scourged themselves in public. Boileau's work, the English notes to which have apparently escaped Dr. Madden's attention, goes back to Arcadian history in search of precedents; various other ancient nations believed in the virtues of voluntary and involuntary whipping; in monasteries it was adopted to lacerate the flesh, in nunneries as the most direct and graceful means of discipline. Boileau, however, denounces the system as having led to great abuses. What was intended as a punishment became a pleasure, especially as, when a lady had been condemned to a hundred lashes, she was sometimes permitted to choose a bundle of feathers, or of the lightest twigs, as the instrument of her mortification, instead of the twisted cords or inexorable rattans of the less tender penitents. The grand lady mentioned by Brantome suffered her smart by proxy, and agreed with a number of her maids that she should do penance in their persons; but others prided themselves on their capacity of endurance, added knots to their thongs, and converted discipline into torture. Certain old anchorites even beat themselves with heavy stakes, and counted the blows by thousands. Even this mania, though as monstrous as any that Juggernaut ever witnessed, was less

repulsive than the epidemic hysteria, the convulsive chorea, and the Tarantula dancing madness of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, since these were the antics of populations smitten by plagues, overcome by horror, and reduced to a state of savage mental imbecility. Whole towns became temporary Bedlams. The people assembled in great multitudes; their preachers addressed them; a trumpet was sounded or a drum beaten; and every individual began to tramp, prance, jump, and hop as though he would make the last moment of his life coincident with a kick of his feet. The dancers wore garlands, and other bridal decorations; but being under the influence of a strange epidemic malady, producing a tympanic distension of the body, each person wore a bandage round the waist with a stick to twist it tightly whenever the convulsion should commence. St. Vitus was a patron of these illusionists; so also was St. John, whose festival is still associated with similar practices. "Not only in Germany, but in several other countries, and in Ireland within my own recollection," says Dr. Madden, "the festival of St. John and the eve of it were solemnized by bonfires, leaping through the flames; by patterns at holy wells dedicated to the saint; by music and dancing."

In his second volume, Dr. Madden devotes more than two hundred pages to the story of Jeanne d'Arc and her inspirations. His remaining chapters are occupied with epidemic monomania and demonopathy in convents, with theomania and the Jansenist convulsionaries. There is a good deal of monotony in this part of the narration. We must characterize the book, in general, as a rude compilation, abounding in points of interest, but valuable rather as historical material than as history itself.

NOVELS.

Roua Pass; or, Englishmen in the Highlands. By Erick Mackenzie. 3 vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—The name of this book suggests its character. It depicts Highland life with the usual concomitants—a whisky still, a crone with a creaky voice, fishing-parties, and a Highland lassie proper, as follows:—Graceful short attire, naked feet white as lilies, hair transmuted by the sunbeams to molten gold, eyes darkly, brightly, beautifully blue. Then there is Norah, the tall brunette, with Esmé, of the floating brown locks, sometimes looking like the Magdalen, at other times like the Cenci—always lovely, however. The scenery is elaborately painted; there are good descriptions of local customs, after the style of Scott; fashionable elegances form a contrast with the natural manners of the mountains; but the story itself is neither very real nor very new. It is a drama of platonic love, of a daughter's escape, of a tragedy, of a lynx-eyed Italian mistress, of a fair sweet face and bright blue eyes gazing through a mist of memory, of Esmé's and Normal's ultimate happy union,—all strongly tinged with sentimentality. Scottish readers may be fascinated by the landscapes, circulating-library readers by the spasms of love, hate, and alarm; but we cannot bestow any better praise on Mr. Mackenzie's novel. We should add, perhaps, that the style, though artificial and often exaggerated, is generally correct and euphonious.

The Rival Suitors. A Novel. By Mrs. Hubback, Authoress of the "Wife's Sister." 3 vols. (Skeet.)—The "Wife's Sister" was a popular novel—it was called for at the libraries; it was extensively read by ladies; it was a story of strong family interest. In *The Rival Suitors* the interest is of a similar quality, only the element of love is more predominant. Love, pure and simple, has gone somewhat out of fashion as a staple of romance, and "young people" have deplored the innovation which came in with heroines "not strictly beautiful," and other originalities by no means fascinating to minds all music and roseate imaginations. Mrs. Hubback, to suit the taste of the times, has added bigamy; but, for the most part, her tale is one of love and jealousy, and a climax of marriage, in which one suitor proudly leads his bride to the chancel-rails, while the other, "with heart still bleeding from the bitter wound," gnaws his chain of unrequited affection. Such a novel, especially with the agonies in store for the third volume, opens a delightful prospect to young lady readers. We will not damp their curiosity by setting forth what happens to Mortimer, and whether Norah, after all, marries Gerard, who says, "Nora, it's no use trying, I cannot be silent; I cannot help it, I love you desperately"—but we will commend *The Rival Suitors* to such persons as care about dramatised jealousies.

John Halifax, Gentleman. By the Author of "The Head of the Family." New Edition. (Hurst and Blackett.) *John Halifax* has been republished, with revisions, in one volume. In this form, it will, no doubt, enhance Miss Mulock's popularity. The story is interesting throughout, displays a remarkable knowledge of human nature, and is told with touching simplicity.

The Two Convicts. By Frederick Gerstaecker. (Routledge and Co.)—This is an original novel, full of stirring scenes, descriptive of life in an Australian convict colony. Gerstaecker has a style of his own, and manages his plot so as to keep up the excitement to the end.

Grattan's successful novel, *Jacqueline of Holland*, has been added to the *Parlour Library*, forming the hundred and sixtieth volume. To the same series has been contributed a translation of *The Two Dianas*, by Dumas—a story told with the author's customary art and power.

Dr. Oliver's Servant. By Miss Meteyard Silverpen. (London: Arthur Hall and Co. 1857.)—Miss Meteyard tells a pretty story, in which she endeavours to enforce upon servants the advantages of being faithful and dutiful toward their employers, and upon young married ladies the miserable consequences of running away from "the most affectionate of husbands" with an officer in the Guards.

Stories and Sketches. By James Payn. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—The character of these Stories and Sketches will be best suggested by the announcement that they are, for the most part, reprints from *Household Words* and *Chambers's Journal*. Mr. Payn writes his best, of course, for *Household Words*. He is gay, spirited, observant, and throws into his miscellanies no little knowledge of men and books. The volume is a pleasant one for rail-way and occasional reading.

The Arts.

NATURE AND ART.

EXHIBITIONS OF THE WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY, THE NEW WATER-COLOUR, BRITISH INSTITUTION, AND NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

AN interesting paper on photography in the *Quarterly Review* hazards one indiscreet remark. It speaks of the photographic art as ministering to the matter-of-fact spirit of the present age, and as something different from tasteful art, if not antagonistic to it. The fact is, that the photograph has been the greatest auxiliary to the elevation of taste, of thorough intelligence and perception on the part of the artist as well as of the public; and if any one doubted that inference, he might have confirmation of the fact in the exhibitions, especially in the exhibitions of this year. At the very first the photograph gave us a matter-of-fact standard in form and chiaroscuro. The earliest productions in which the form struggled through a dim shadow at once corroborated the handling and method of the greatest artists. You had reproduced by the machine the same simple, well-defined, yet organically varying outline that you found in RAPHAEL: the same sharpness and flatness combined with roundness that gave the vital character to TITIAN; the same simplicity of chiaroscuro with an endless gradation of tint that you find in the most elaborate colourists like TITIAN, or the broadest masters of chiaroscuro like CORREGGIO. But since the machine has become more perfect and can seize forms in the flash of an instant, all these characteristics have been brought to much greater perfection; they stand out more distinctly, and the most unlearned eye, with a little patient scrutiny, can now compare the fixed mirror of nature with the works of art; the effect is, to corroborate the greatest masters, to fix a standard towards which able men of a second rank can now work and do work with considerable success, and to throw into the shade of condemnation those jobbers that may have some qualities of taste, but have no real power of mastery or execution. In the present year this effect of the photograph seems upon the whole rather disheartening. None of the smaller exhibitions, even those of the highest rank, are quite up to their own standard.

The Old WATER COLOUR is not unlike an Old Water Colour collection without so many of the very striking subjects that we have been accustomed to see upon its walls. The incidents chosen by those who formerly gave the greatest animation to the collection are mostly of a tame character, but still we recognize the handling of the master. In FREDERICK TAYLER'S "Highland Drivers," for example—the men sending the cattle before them over an undulating country—you have all the sharpness, the exactness, the identity of the photograph, with something more. The photograph has given us the picture of men in motion—a body of soldiers marching, for example—but the motion must be comparatively slight and at right angles to the plane of the picture; if it be anything more, motion in the object becomes mist in the portrait. Nor can the photograph colour; indeed, sometimes the natural colouring distorts the chiaroscuro. Many an English spectator will be disappointed with photographs of the Campanile, or bell-tower of Florence, because the yellow reddish tint of the stone, which looks so light and brilliant between the blue sky, becomes, with the darkening of the yellow, dull and heavy in the photograph, and even obscures the forms. In "A Ride through the Heather," by TAYLER, you have all the animation of youthful cavaliers scampering across an open country. Art has fairly ridden away from the photograph, but in the meanwhile it has confirmed the artist in the strength of his own style, and has helped to fix his excellence as the standard for other artists; in short, the photograph disciplines the artist through the model, and he must add the action and colour for himself. It has not taught him only form, it has taught him chiaroscuro; and it has also taught him to base the reproduction of his own imagination upon nature.

We might carry the same lesson with fresh illustrations through all the most interesting pictures of a really interesting collection. Take DAVIDSON'S "Corn-field near Hastings." It is better than the photograph, in proportion as it rivals the photograph in exactness, but surpasses it in a photographic exactness of colouring. DAVIDSON'S "Haymaking: Lewes, Sussex," and E. DUNCAN'S "Sheep Feeding" in a winter scene, excite a feeling of perfect delight, they are so thoroughly filled with the vitality of vegetation, of peaceful animal life, of the open atmosphere. HARDING has always been an exact painter; his "Scene near Blair Athol," in Scotland, is an admirable specimen of his style; but he has never before arrived at the freedom which the photograph, we are inclined to think, as well as the practice of a long life, have enabled him to develop. The same natural standard has helped to chastise painters like the COXES, who suffer one to see the material as well as the intended scene. There is great skill, great freshness of colour, whether you take pictures like the "Caernarvon Castle" or "Vale of Conway;" but you desire to see the landscape, and you can scarcely do so uninterruptedly, because you equally see the paper and pigments. NAFFEL has great power in reproducing pure tints, and he has sometimes victimized the scene for the sake of exhibiting that power. This year, it appears to us, he is sober, and being sober, exhibits more real strength.

The same applies even to the figures. Nothing can be better as reflexions of character, as a matter of beauty, than CARL HAAG'S "Lady of Albano," or "Saracinescan Girl." NASH reproduces many old buildings, such as the terrace of the mansion called Braunshill, in Hampshire. He dramatizes the scene by "A Summer Afternoon's Diversion." Gentlemen in a costume of the Stuart days are fencing on the carpeted terrace, while their companions, ladies, and children, are looking on or loitering about.

The master of the Water Colour has always, to us, appeared to be W. HUNT, who reproduces grass, flowers, and fruit, and "humans," as if he had actually assisted in the Creation. He has few this year, but the "Poacher" is amongst the most characteristic—the head of a bearded rustic, audacious and sinister. Primroses, quinces, apple-blossoms, roses, and blackberries, lie upon pieces of veritable earth. The blackberry, with its leaf pointing towards you, is like a piece out of a stereoscope; but no stereoscope could give that perfect identity of the grey green, or enable you to see through the sharp red of the crude fruit.

It is in the naturalist class of landscapes that the NEW WATER COLOUR is most successful. Following the modern movement, men like JAMES FAHEY, WILLIAM BENNETT, and EDWARD G. WARREN, strive to take in the endless variety of forms, the sharpness of nature, in foliage, rising corn, rock, or broken ground, to catch the flash of light across a country; and they attain a wonderful success. Mr. WARREN is peculiarly powerful and happy this year. We still observe a common struggle with the pigments in the skies: the blue is blue tint upon paper; the clouds are paper left blank, with a certain ragged sharpness that has no resemblance to nature. In one of Mr. ROBINS'S pictures, "Blowing Hard on the Downs," with Dutch luggers cutting the sharp waves for Ramsgate, this sharpness of cloud is conquered, and the effect of misty, moving masses is ex-

cellently copied. The same hand is not so happy in another picture. The sky, as well as the ground, is well finished in WARREN'S Scottish scene, "Glen Soumochs." JOHN ABSOLON, who still paints simple figures after a certain "old English" fashion of his own, ventures upon landscape in "A Peat-field near Capel Arthoy, North Wales;" and although there treatment is too flat, the effects of aerial space, of broad light, and open air, are admirably conveyed.

The figure-painting in this exhibition is far less interesting than usual. CORBOULD has a "Scene at a Prussian Fair," in which the picture is filled with highly finished figures in various animated attitudes; but his chief painting is illustrated by a few lines from Rogers's *Italy*, and is the critical scene in the life of Buondelmonte Buondelmonti,—that where the Lady of the Amidei discovers to him the bride that she has been keeping for him, and he becomes at once enthralled. The young lady is a pretty girl, but by no means endowed with such extraordinary beauty or audacity of expression as to account for the infatuation of the cavalier. The whole group, however, serves to display costume and accessories. LOUIS HAGHE has several striking pictures; the principal illustrating a passage in the life of the painter Cornelis Vroom, when he was wrecked on the coast of Portugal, and rescued by some monks for the sake of his religious pictures. The scene consists of nothing more than a group of monks in a convent, examining some pictures; but it has in every trait—in the perspective, the architecture, the relief of the figures, and their individuality of character—all the force of the photograph; not a coloured photograph, but a photograph executed in colours. Mr. WEHNERT is not in force; as is seen in an Exeter Hall illustration of the life of John Pounds, the worthy voluntary ragged-schoolmaster. CHARLES VACHER has several striking scenes from Algeria, which he has lately visited. D'EGVILLE, admirable portraits of Venice. HENRY WARREN, a dramatic scene in Cairo, a wedding procession viewed from a shop. It will be observed that the best pictures have a strictly matter-of-fact character; and that "design," in the popular sense of the word, is dormant in the exhibition of the New Society.

Turning into the contemporary exhibition of British Artists at the BRITISH INSTITUTION, we find a very various collection; the most striking of which, perhaps, is the first picture. It is FRANK DILLON'S illustration of Shelley's "Ozymandias"—colossal figures in the Egyptian desert, with an effect of setting sun nearer to actual light than any that we have seen in modern painting. But the most striking characteristic of the exhibition is the remarkable scarcity of really bad paintings. Any one who remembers "the exhibition" years ago, would be astonished to find so few daubs, and, although so little that rises above the middle level, so much merit.

The same must perforce be said of the NATIONAL INSTITUTION of the Portland Gallery, our notice of which has long been deferred. There are a number of meritorious landscapes by the well-known hands; there are a few animated designs by LAUDER, but most of the men who give character to the exhibition have either gone, or have sunk into the level; and the staple consists of clever landscapes, good in proportion as they become matter-of-fact transcripts from nature.

ROYAL ACADEMY: PRIVATE VIEW.

VARIETY and sameness appear at once to characterise the exhibition of the Royal Academy this year. Glancing round the walls, one is struck with the absence of any very prominent or commanding picture; there is no such thing. Some of the most popular painters are absent, or are more than absent,—are present only in works that may be considered an incognito. Many paint according to pattern; with the absence of commanding pictures there is an absence also of incident; and yet, within a certain quiet range, there is an unusual variety in the pictures actually exhibited. At the first view it appears to us rather an unusually small proportion of portraits. It may be that among the portraits were many "Crimean heroes," and other gentlemen who vary the general array. Thus the show of pictures is above the average in point of interest, although there is nothing that at once strikes the eye.

In the hasty glance, amidst the interruptions of a private view, it is difficult to do more than catch that which lies on the line or above it; and we are well aware that we must have passed pictures which challenge notice. Many of the portraits catch attention, simply because they are effigies of persons in whom the public is interested—such as Sir Roderick Murchison, Dr. Livingstone, Sir John Burgoyne, Dr. Adler, Sir George Pollock, Sir George Simpson, &c. &c. One of the first pictures to arrest you is MILLAIS'S "News from Home," which demands closer scrutiny before we can judge of it. It represents a soldier in the trenches of the Crimea reading a letter; the most conspicuous objects being the red coat and gaiters of the gallant warrior. "Fort Socoa," by STANFIELD, begins a series of great pictures by the master-hand, which rules the elements of the marine palette as if his youth would never depart. "The Well-known Footstep"—a soldier returning to his homestead, and approaching up an avenue of green, is a happy work in REDGRAVE'S new manner. Near it "Reading the Psalms"—two pretty, pure-faced children, by DOBSON; then comes LANDSEER'S "Scene in the Brae Mar," with deer the size of life; and MACLISE'S strenuous piece of grouping—William III., in respectable self-possession, visiting Peter the Great at his shipwright labours. DYCE gives us Titian preparing to make his first essay in colouring—the boy about to tint the drawing of a Madonna with the juice of flowers; FAIRB, "Kate Nickleby at Madame Mantalini's," humbly holding articles of dress for Miss Knagg, who is seen in the looking-glass; J. C. HOOK, "A Signal on the Horizon"—a sailor family looking out, with a highly-finished piece of landscape foreground; COPE, a breakfast scene, with a young lady and children, one of whom she is making to shut her eyes and open her mouth; HORSLEY, a scene in a lane, which we shall have to examine for the brilliancy of its light and colouring; FRANK STONE, "Margaret at her marvellously-fine Spinning-wheel;" STANFIELD, again, "The Wreck of a vessel of the Spanish Armada off the Giant's Causeway;" LESLIE, "Sir Roger de Coverley in Church;" J. PHILIP, "The Prison Window, Seville, 1857"—a young wife holding up a child for the imprisoned husband to kiss; J. R. HERBERT, a landscape scene on the coast of France; DANBY, "A Ruddy Morning in the Gardens of the Alcinoüs"—a sort of dawn-ing sunset. These are but a few of the pictures in the first room, and we have passed over many that will detain the visitor on a second visit.

In the middle room, the most striking picture is MILLAIS'S "Dream of the Past, Sir Isumbras at the Ford"—a picture which commands attention from the force of its painting; though whether the horse is a toy-horse or a veritable horse, whether the knight himself is a real cavalier or a paper portrait, we have not yet divined. Next, in point of force is Sir EDWIN LANDSEER'S "Uncle Tom and his Wife for Sale," a pair of bulldogs leisurely awaiting the purchaser; the husband by no means likely to furnish a moral illustration of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's tale. Egg has a charming picture from Thackeray's Henry Esmond; Esmond returning from the battle of Wynendel; Horsley, a young gentleman, when young gentlemen wore pretty costumes, hiding behind a tree,

and found by the young ladies that are seeking him; ANTHONY, "The Spring in the Wood;" ANSDELL, "Mules Drinking at Seville;" POOLE, a "Field Conventicle" in Charles II.'s days; and MILLAIS, another picture, powerful, beautiful, but unintelligible. We shall hereafter endeavour to decipher the story: the beauty of the principal figure needs no deciphering; it is the loveliest face yet painted by MILLAIS, which amounts to saying that it is the most beautiful ever yet painted by an English artist. But why debar us from sufficient explanation to understand the action of the gentleman who is releasing her? Somebody ought to rise in the House of Commons, and ask the Secretary for Foreign Affairs what were the real circumstances of the incident. PHILIP has another Seville picture—a satire on the charity of the Spanish clergymen.

In the third room, COPE's "Pilgrim Fathers," WALLIS's "Montaigne," ARCHER's "Time of War," HOOK's "Ship-boy's Letter"—a rustic group stopping at work to hear the tidings from the sea; DOBSON's "Child Jesus borne down by his parents to Nazareth"—are amongst the pictures that make the traveller stay; but the most conspicuous in this room is ANSDELL's great landscape, quite in a new manner, a ploughing scene near Seville—a broad scene of plain land, with oxen deliberately marching over the ground under the luscious sunlight.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

No performance brings back old days more vividly to the frequenter of HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE than the *Puritani*. The famous Four—GRISI, RUBINI, TAMBURINI, and LABLACHE—are indissolubly associated with the *Elvira*, the *Arturo*, the *Riccardo*, and the *Giorgio* of this melodious opera. GRISI's *Son vergin vezzosa*, RUBINI's *Ell'a è tremante*, and the famous *Suoni la tromba* of LABLACHE and TAMBURINI are traditions of the golden age of Italian music and Italian singers. If in these latter days we cannot boast of a cast including four names so universally renowned as those of twenty years ago, we can at least record such a representation of BELLINI's *chef d'œuvre* as, in some respects, has not been equalled since GRISI was in her prime and RUBINI at his apogee.

Ten years ago there was a notable revival of the *Puritani*, with MARIO, whose voice was then in its full unwaning glory, and GRISI, as yet unconscious of the lapse of years. But to TAMBURINI, still the accomplished artist, there remained only the tradition of a voice, and LABLACHE was at 'the other house.' The performance on Tuesday last was, in its general completeness, as well as in one or two distinctive points, superior to the best we have heard for many years. Signor GIUGLINI, the *Arturo*, has fairly taken rank in London as the legitimate successor of RUBINI. Neither in the *Favorita* nor in the *Traviata* had he found an equal opportunity of distinction.

In BELLINI's music he is thoroughly at ease, and in the prodigal succession of lovely airs he revels in all the luxuriant richness of his voice with an evident sense of power and enjoyment in its manifestation. In the *A te, o cara!* perhaps there was a slight disposition to drag the time, and, so to speak, to cloy the sentiment to excess; but the charm of the *portamento* and the grace of the embellishments were irresistible. In the more energetic passages, and in the recitatives, Signor GIUGLINI sang with equal strength and spirit, and always with the most finished elegance; and in the last act he startled the oldest inhabitant of the stalls into a belief that RUBINI himself was here again, so wonderfully did the transcendent quality of the voice, the style and the expression, resemble the great *Arturo* of other days. Not to forego the privilege of criticism, we must, however, again hesitate a doubt of Signor GIUGLINI's falsetto, which, we confess, is not to our liking. Probably it has been little cultivated by a singer who can happily do without it so well, but in the *Puritani* the falsetto is indispensable, and we find Signor GIUGLINI's somewhat weak and flat in tone. Study and practice will, no doubt, amend this defect, but while we are critical, let us be permitted to add that Signor GIUGLINI would do well to moderate a tendency to conventional gesticulation, and to restrain the *scooping* motion of his arms. These are trifles, perhaps, but in a dramatic artist so near to the promise of perfection they deserve to be noted and to be corrected.

Madlle. ORTOLANI, the *débutante*, is an elegant lady, with a pleasing but not particularly expressive face, a light and slender figure, and a refined demeanour. Not having what is called a good stage face, she is scarcely capable of impersonating the strongest emotions; but there is a sort of tearful prettiness, a beseeching gentleness in her voice and manner, that engages the preference of an indulgent public. Her voice may be strictly denominated a pure, unmixed soprano; it ranges exceedingly high, and is purest and sweetest in the highest notes, becoming feeble and thin in tone as it descends. Dryness and

hardness are its besetting sins, and in pathetic moments an inclination to whine. Madlle. ORTOLANI made her first appearance at a disadvantage, before an audience betraying the lassitude and indifference peculiar to an off-night, as every night on which Madlle. PICCOLOMINI does not sing must be called. For it may be remarked that your bright particular star not only eclipses all contending lights, but leaves a double darkness in its absence from the sky. Madlle. ORTOLANI came heralded by no notes of admiration, and she has succeeded in making a favourable impression. The tremulousness of her voice on the first evening was, we dare say, only occasional: the flexibility, the brilliancy, and the facility of her vocalization, are sure to tell with increasing effect the more they are known; and we doubt not Madlle. ORTOLANI will gain in favour as the season proceeds. Apparently, she will be heard to greater advantage in the concert-room than on the stage.

An amusing instance of our truly national horror of innovation and persistence in received prejudices, is the remark which some of our contemporaries have made with evident sincerity and a sense of its profound justice, that Signor BELLETTI is too small and too light for the part of *Giorgio*: the reason for this judgment being that the part of *Giorgio* is inseparable in the orthodox Opera-goer's mind from the form and figure of the great LABLACHE. Undoubtedly a finer and grander *Giorgio* than LABLACHE is not to be imagined, and we shall not soon see his like again; but why the *Giorgio* of the opera must be as big and heavy as LABLACHE it passes our comprehension to understand. Signor BELLETTI looks the rude, old, kindly Puritan to the life (he is about CROMWELL's stature), acts the part very sufficiently, and sings it most effectively. We are particularly happy to be able to say a hearty word of praise for Signor BENEVENTANO, whom we may have seemed too little disposed to appreciate. On this occasion we shall not even take his legs in vain, but pronounce a decided opinion that his *Riccardo* is, on the whole, an admirable performance. In the beautiful airs with which the part is studded he sang with marked discretion, and a delicacy for which we were not prepared, and in the famous *Suoni la tromba* his really noble voice, encouraged and excited by the alliance with BELLETTI, vibrated through the house with immense effect. If the duo was not audible at Bologna, it was powerful enough to shake the Austrian Empire to its base. We never heard it sung with more enthusiasm or with more success. After the curtain had fallen, the audience insisted on its repetition, and the two singers vied with each other in the power and intensity with which they declaimed in unison, ringing out the *Libertà* like the tocsin of awakened Italy. At Milan *Libertà* would have been pronounced *Lealtà*.

We cannot speak so well of the orchestra on this occasion. It was too loud, and sometimes coarse. Signor BONETTI is a vigorous and effective conductor, but his propensity is rather to the slashing style. He is apt to ride his orchestra like a steeple-chaser, with more boldness than judgment.

Last evening (instead of Thursday) the *Traviata* drew an immense house again. To-night the *Puritani* is repeated.

At the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA the *Favorita* was revived on Tuesday with MARIO as *Fernando* and GRISI as *Leonora*, both pre-eminently fine. The delicious voice of GRAZIANI as *Alfonso* was very acceptable. By the way, we may apologize for the havoc a typographical error made with his name in our paper last week, and we may here correct an *erratum* which made *Monday of Thursday* in last week, the first night of the *Trovatore*. This evening *Lucrezia Borgia* is produced, and Madlle. CERITO makes her first appearance.

We learn from Paris that Madame RISTORI has achieved an immense success in MONTANELLI's new tragedy, *Camilla*.

In speaking last week of the forthcoming performances of the Bouffes Parisiens at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, we said that we had often regretted that, instead of two Italian Operas, the company from the SALLE VENTADOUR was not established at the LYCEUM. This was a slip of the pen: we meant, of course, the company from the SALLE FAVART, where the Opera Comique, one of the most delightful of all dramatic entertainments, is performed.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Mr. CRESWICK is indefatigable in the provision of relishing dishes for the entertainment of his audience at the SURREY. Easter Monday saw a new drama of exciting interest, and the following Monday the production of another, called *Florence, or the Fatal Error*. It is a pleasing composition of assassination, seduction, treachery, retribution, and other gentle stimulants of the same order. Of course all this shadow has its sunshine of love and generosity, and several hairbreadth escapes add to the breathlessness of the interest.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 28.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—THOMAS OWEN, Liverpool, joiner and builder.

BANKRUPTS.—ELIZABETH SILBY SMALL, Fonthill-place, Clapham-road, plumber, painter, and glazier—JOSEPH BRUCE, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, grocer—THOMAS HARRISON, Harrietsham and Maidstone, coal and timber merchant—WILLIAM PASKELL GARRARD, 16, Little Tower-street, City, wine and spirit merchant—HENRY MARKINFIELD ADDEY, 17, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden, and 29, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde Park, bookseller and publisher—ALFRED HINTON, Birmingham, druggist and grocer—GEORGE ALEXANDER HEWITT, Derby, chemist and druggist—WILLIAM TASKER and JOHN AUDUS, Selby, Yorkshire, potato merchants—GEORGE PARKER, Leeds, grocer—HENRY WALTERS and BENJAMIN WALTERS, Alfreton, Derbyshire, druggists—ROBERT M'LEAN and JAMES M'LEAN, Hulme, Manchester, builders.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—W. CRAIG, Nelson-street, Tradeston, Glasgow, wine and spirit merchant—R. MARSHALL, Whitehill, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, farmer and grain dealer—P. BALFOUR, Dundee, manufacturer.

Friday, May 1.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—NATHAN MITCHELL, Leeds, merchant—CHARLES HEALY, Manchester, wholesale clothier and marine store dealer.

BANKRUPTS.—JAMES ALURED, Norwich, tailor and outfitter—JOHN BURGOYNE REED, Cardiff, ship broker—GEORGE ELLIS, South Bront, Devonshire, miller—JOHN H. BROWN, Sunderland, shipbuilder—JOSEPH STONER, Southport, Lancaster, grocer—ROBERT HUGH LANKESTER, Bread-street, Cheapside, enamelled bag manufacturer—FREDERICK THOMAS WILLIS, Whitecross-street, oil and colourman—GEORGE PACBY, Stafford-street, Liverpool, merchant—GEORGE MOORE, Shardlow, Derbyshire, innkeeper—JOHN WATKINS, Orickhowell, Brecon, shoemaker—PHILIP NAKEN, Warren Mills, near Belford, Northumberland, miller—WILLIAM M'GILL, Manchester, merchant—ROBERT JAMES BROWN, Sunderland, timber merchant—JOHN KILLICK, Knightsbridge-terrace, Knightsbridge, silversmith and jeweller—HENRY WILLIAM BUND SMALLPIECE, and HENRY WILLIAM SPIROCK, Guildford, Surrey, carriers and saddlers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—ALEXANDER MILNE, Dundee, baker—SANGSTER and DUNLOP, Edinburgh, wholesale stationers—A. M'DOWALL ROSS and Co., Edinburgh, fancy goods warehousemen—DONALD CAMPBELL, Amulree, Perthshire, innkeeper—JOHN FERGUSON, Patrick, near Glasgow, flesher.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CARR.—At Manchester, the wife of Dr. J. K. Carr, 25th K. O. Borderers: a daughter.
DOUGLAS.—At Claybrooke Hall, Leicestershire, the wife of H. Sholto Douglas, Esq.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

DAVIES—HENDERSON.—At Trinity Church, Paddington, Henry D. Davies, Esq., of Spring-grove House, Middlesex, to Harriet, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Henderson, H.E.I.C.S.
GODFREY—MORTLOCK.—At St. Marylebone, the Rev. William Godfrey, of Kennett Hall, Cambridgeshire, to Agnes Leathes, daughter of the late Sir John Choctman Mortlock, one of her Majesty's Commissioners of Excise.

DEATHS.

BIRD.—At Hensingham House, near Whitehaven, the Rev. Wentworth Bird, aged 48.
GRANT.—On the 22nd ult., Ellen Muir, aged three years, youngest daughter of Mr. George Grant, London Secretary of the Scottish Provident Institution, and of Springfield Lodge, Amwell, Herts.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, May 1, 1857.

THE three last days at the Stock Exchange have been devoted to the settlement of the account, and but little business else has been done. This day has been a holiday, according to custom, and we have no later prices than those of Thursday evening. A general depreciation will be observed in stocks and shares as well as Consols, which close 92½, 92½ for money, 92½, 92½ for account, and 93½, 93½ for the June account.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, May 1, 1857.

WHEAT and Flour have arrived in but small quantities, and are held for higher rates. The supply of Barley is in excess of the demand, and to effect sales factors are obliged to accept a reduction of 6d. to 1s. from former prices. Oats are in fair request, without alteration in value. Two or three cargoes of Saida Wheat arrived have been sold at 4½s. cost, freight, and insurance, and a few cargoes of Galatz Maize on passage at 36s. and 36s. 6d., cost, freight, and insurance to the Continent. Beyond these, there have been hardly any fresh arrivals off the coast.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	213	215	213	214	214	214
3 per Cent. Red.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Consols for Account	93	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 3 per Cent. An.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
New 2½ per Cents.	70½	70½	70½	70½	70½	70½
Long Ans. 1860	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
India Stock	222	222	222	222	222	222
Ditto Bonds, £1000	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d
Ditto, under £1000	4 d	4 d	4 d	4 d	4 d	4 d
Ex. Bills, £1000	3 p	par	5 d	3 d	3 d	3 d
Ditto, £500	par	par	par	1 d	1 d	1 d
Ditto, Small	par	par	par	1 d	par	par

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	100	Portuguese 4 per Cents	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	85	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	...	Russian 4½ per Cents	...
Ohlian 3 per Cents	...	Russian 4½ per Cents	...
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish	...
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	97½	Spanish Committee Cert.	...
Equador Bonds	...	of Coup. not fun.	...
Mexican Account	237	Turkish 6 per Cents	...
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	70½	Turkish New, 4 ditto	...
Portuguese 3 per Cents	44½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents	...

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Piccolomini, Giuglini, Belletti, Vialetti, Pocchini.
First Night of **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR** on Tuesday next, May 5 (first time these six years).
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.
Lucia.....Piccolomini (her first appearance in that part).
Edgaro.....Giuglini.
LA ESMERALDA.
La Esmeralda.....Pocchini (her last appearance but four).
On Thursday next, May 7.
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR.
LA ESMERALDA.

For particulars, see Bills.
A limited number of boxes in the half-circle tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had on application at the Box-office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price One Guinea and One Guinea and a Half each.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Mrs. ANDERSON (Pianiste to her Majesty the Queen, and Instructress to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Her Royal Highness the Princess Helena, and his Royal Highness the Prince Alfred) has the honour to inform her patrons and friends that her **ANNUAL GRAND MORNING CONCERT** will take place in Her Majesty's Theatre, MONDAY, May 18, commencing at half-past 1 o'clock precisely, on which occasion, by an arrangement effected with the Direction, she will be supported by all the principal artists, and the orchestra and chorus of that establishment.— Full particulars will be announced forthwith.

Applications for Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets, to be made at the Box-office at the Theatre; and at Mrs. Anderson's residence, 34, Nottingham-place, York-gate.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.
Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.
Monday, and during the week, will be performed a new Drama, entitled **DADDY HARDACRE**. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, and Leslie; Mesdames Stephens and Hughes. To conclude with a new and original Fairy Extravaganza, called **YOUNG AND HANDSOME**; supported by Miss Swanborough, Mrs. Melfort, Miss Thirlwall, Miss Hughes; Mr. F. Robson, Mr. G. Murray, Messrs. Leslie, Danvers, G. Cooke, &c.
Commence at half-past Seven.

LES BOUFFES PARISIENS, FRENCH PLAYS.
ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

It is respectfully announced that the entire Company of Les Bouffes Parisiens will have the honour of appearing at the St. James's Theatre for a short season, commencing on **WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 20.**

In order to ensure the best possible effect to their performances, it is intended to bring over the entire Orchestra attached to their Establishment, under the able direction of the Composer, Monsieur **OFFENBACH**.

Messieurs **PRADEAU, GUYOT, GERPRE, &c.**, Mesdemoiselles **DALMONT** and **MARECHAL**, will have the honour of making their first appearance in this country. Owing to the limited duration of this engagement, performances will be given **EVERY EVENING**, but Subscribers will have the option of selecting either the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings, or the Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Subscription to Stalls for Twelve Representations, Five Guineas. Private Boxes, Thirty and Forty Guineas. Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets may be engaged at Mr. **MITCHELL'S** Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.

DER KÖLNER-MÄNNER-GESANG-VEREIN (80 Men Voices), under the direction of Herr **FRANZ WEBER**.—Mr. **MITCHELL** respectfully announces that this distinguished Society will visit London for a fortnight only, and will give **CONCERTS** at the **HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS** on Monday Afternoon, May 25; Tuesday, May 26; and Wednesday, May 27. Subsequent arrangements will be duly announced.—Reserved and Numbered Seats, 10s. 6d.; Unreserved Seats, 5s. Subscriptions for Six Concerts to the Reserved Seats, 2 guineas; which may be secured at Mr. **MITCHELL'S** Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

EXETER HALL.—COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.

This distinguished Society will have the honour of giving **ONE EVENING CONCERT ONLY**, at the above Hall, on **THURSDAY EVENING, May 28.** The Programme will comprise the most popular pieces in their repertoire. Director, Herr Franz Weber.—Tickets, 2s. each; area, 4s.; reserved seats (western gallery), 4s.; reserved seats, 7s.; stalls (reserved and numbered), 10s. 6d., which may be obtained at the Office, No. 6, Exeter Hall; Messrs. Keith, Prowse, and Co., Cheapside; at the principal Libraries and Music-sellers in the City and West-end; and at Mr. Mitchell's, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, COVENTRY STREET, LEICESTER-SQUARE.

Programme: Lectures by Dr. **KAHN**, daily, at 3 o'clock, on highly interesting and instructive topics, and by Dr. **SEXTON, F.R.G.S., F.E.S.**, as follows: At half-past 1, the Phenomena, Curiosities, and Philosophy of the Sense of Sight. At 4, the Great Tobacco Controversy. At half-past 7, the Food we eat; its Uses, Preparation, Adulteration, and Digestion. The Museum contains 1000 Models and Preparations, and is wholly unrivalled in the world. Open daily (for gentlemen only) from 10 till 10. Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis to visitors.

PERFECT FREEDOM from COUGHS is secured by **DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS**. To **SINGERS** and **PUBLIC SPEAKERS** they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice. They have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1/2d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box. Sold by all medicine vendors.

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STILL UNRIVALLED.—John Winterton, of Birmingham, Rutland, takes a pleasure in informing Professor Holloway of the happy effects he has experienced by the aid of these inestimable remedies. He was a sufferer for four years with an ulcerated leg, and repeatedly under medical treatment for the same without obtaining the slightest alleviation of pain. Having heard of Holloway's Ointment and Pills, he determined to test their virtues; after using them for a time, to his astonishment and delight his restoration to health was complete.

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EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,

OPEN AT MANCHESTER, MAY 5TH, 1857.
SEASON TICKETS, 2l. 2s., may be obtained at the Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester; also in London, W. H. SMITH and SON, 186, Strand; Mr. SAMS'S, Royal Library, St. James-street; Mr. MITCHELL'S, Royal Library, New Bond-street; LETT'S and Co., Royal Exchange; SMITH and Co., 157, Strand; and at HIME and SON'S, Church-street, Liverpool.
By order, **THOMAS HAMILTON**, Secretary.
Inquiries as to APARTMENTS may be made from Mr. **SAMUEL HADEN**, Offices of the Exhibition, 100, Mosley-street, Manchester.

EPSOM GRAND STAND. Stalls and Private BOXES may be engaged for the **DERBY WEEK.** For particulars apply to Mr. **DORLING**, Epsom.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The Fifty-Third Annual Exhibition is now Open at their Gallery, 5, Pall-Mall East (close to Trafalgar-square), from nine till dusk. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.
JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of Pictures by Modern Artists of the **FRENCH SCHOOL**, will Open to the Public on **MONDAY, the 4th of MAY**, at the **FRENCH GALLERY, 121, PALL MALL**, opposite the Opera Colonnade. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogues, Sixpence each. Open from **TEN to SIX** Daily.
B. FRODSHAM, Secretary.

MADLE. ROSA BONHEUR'S GREAT PICTURE OF THE HORSE FAIR.—Messrs. P. and D. COLNAGHI and Co. beg to announce that the above Picture is now on View at the **GERMAN GALLERY, 163, New Bond-street**, for a limited period.—Admission, 1s.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. The Annual Public Meeting of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State-patronage and Control will be held at **ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG-ACRE**, next **WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 6th May.**
The Chair will be taken by **THOS. BARNES, Esq.**, of Farnworth, at Seven o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by **W. J. Fox, Esq.**; **E. G. Salisbury, Esq., M.P.**; the **Rev. John Burnet**; and the **Rev. J. P. CHOWN**, of Bradford; and **Edward Miall, Esq.**, 2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY. And pronounced by **HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS** to be **THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.**
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DR. GRANVILLE, F.R.S., Author of "The Spas of Germany," "On Sudden Death," &c. &c.

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1, Curson-street, Mayfair, January 7th, 1856.

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Sold only in **IMPERIAL** Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 9d.; Quarts, 8s.; and labelled with **DR. DE JONGH'S** Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE CAN POSSIBLY BE GENUINE, by many respectable Chemists throughout the United Kingdom.

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SOLERA SHERRY.—VINTAGE 1834, guaranteed, 54s. per dozen. Queen Isabella's favourite Wine, as used at the Royal table of Spain.
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"This wine possesses immense body, combined with a full and rich nutty flavour, and a dryness mellowed by its age, constituting at once the finest sherry we ever tasted; and we say to connoisseurs of really fine wine, Call and judge for yourselves."—*Vide Morning Herald*, Feb. 19, 1857.

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GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN and FLORIST, 10, RAILWAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respectfully to inform his friends and patrons, that his unrivalled collection of Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds is now arranged, and Catalogues will be forwarded, post free, upon application. T. B. further begs to state that he still continues to make assortments of choice Vegetable Seeds, in collections suitable for Gardens of every size, from Ten Shillings and upwards.

Ladies and Gentlemen not being able to call at the above Establishment, may rely upon their orders being executed with only First-class SEEDS.

All orders from unknown correspondents must be accompanied with reference or Post-office Order. Borough Branch.

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 The Amount Insured was.....2,752,197l. 7s. 2d.
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Two Bonuses have been declared (in 1848 and 1853) adding nearly 2 per cent. per annum on the average to sums Assured, and by which a Policy of 1000l., issued in 1842 on a healthy life, is now increased to 1260l.
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BONUS TABLE,
 Showing the additions made to Policies of 1000l. each.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1820.....	523 16 0	114 5 0	1638 1 0
1825.....	382 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1830.....	241 12 0	98 2 0	1334 14 0
1835.....	185 3 0	88 17 0	1271 0 0
1840.....	128 15 0	81 13 0	1213 8 0
1845.....	65 15 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1850.....	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 15 0
1855.....	—	15 0 0	1015 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion.
 The next appropriation will be made in 1861.
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THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, No. CCII.
is published THIS DAY.

- CONTENTS:
- I. PEDESTRIANISM IN SWITZERLAND.
 - II. SLAVERY IN AMERICA.
 - III. LUNATIC ASYLUMS.
 - IV. POLITICAL SQUIBS AND SATIRES.
 - V. PHOTOGRAPHY.
 - VI. ROVING LIFE IN ENGLAND.
 - VII. PERSIA AND ITS INHABITANTS.
 - VIII. THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND ITS WORK.
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THE DUBLIN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE,
No. CCXCIII. MAY, 1857, price 2s. 6d.

- CONTENTS:
- THE CASTLE OF DUBLIN.—CHAPTER II.
 - A SKETCH OF TWO HOMES.
 - THE ORGANIST. BY MORTIMER COLLINS.
 - WHEWELL'S HISTORY OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLAND.
 - PROGRESS. BY FRANCIS DAVIS.
 - SIR CHARLES JAMES NAPIER.
 - JOHN TWILLER.—CHAPS. XIX. and XX.
 - THE STEREOSCOPE.
 - THE MANCHESTER EXHIBITION OF ART-TREASURES.
 - THE RIDES AND REVERIES OF MR. ÆSOP SMITH. (CONTINUED.)
 - A FORTUITOUS CONCURRENCE OF ATOMS.
- * * In the June Number will appear the first portion of a New Tale, by Mr. SHIRLEY BROOKS, to be entitled "The Partners."
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PRICES OF ADMISSION:—From the 6th to 16th May (both days inclusive), 2s. 6d. for each person. On and after Monday, the 15th May, 1s. for each person, except on Thursday in each week, when the charge will be 2s. 6d. for each person.

N.B. There will be also certain days (not exceeding eight in all) specially reserved for proprietors of 2l. 2s. season tickets, of which due notice will be given by public advertisement at least seven days beforehand.

SEASON TICKETS at 2l. 2s. entitle the proprietors to admission on all occasions when the Exhibition is open to the public; tickets at 1l. 1s. entitle to admission on all but the "reserved days." These Tickets may be procured at the Exhibition Building; or at the offices, 100, Mosley-street.

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 - II. THE LAST CENSUS OF FRANCE.
 - III. THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
 - IV. KAYE'S LIFE OF MALCOLM.
 - V. ROUMANIA.
 - VI. THE FESTAL LETTERS OF ATHANASIUS.
 - VII. BOSWELL AND BOSWELLIANA.
 - VIII. THE DILETTANTI SOCIETY.
 - IX. BRITISH RELATIONS WITH CHINA.
 - X. THE PAST SESSION AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT.
- London: LONGMAN and Co.; Edinburgh: A. & C. BLACK.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, for
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 - THE ATHELINGS; OR, THE THREE GIFTS.—PART XII.
 - OXFORD AND THOMAS HEARNE.
 - THE SCULPTURED STONES OF SCOTLAND.
 - LIFE IN CENTRAL ASIA.
 - COLUMBUS.
 - LAYS OF THE ELECTIONS.
 - LETTERS FROM A LIGHTHOUSE.—No. IV.
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 - Notes on Canadian Matters. Part II.
 - Charlotte Brontë.
 - Taste in France.
 - Mr. Warren's Miscellanies.
 - Excursions in Armenia.
 - John Mitchell Kemble.
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