

# The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1857.

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## Review of the Week.

FEARFUL has been the amount of work exacted from the House of Commons by Ministers, who compete with the most active of private members in pressing their measures. The effect is, to give the leader of the House of Commons, the head of the Treasury bench, an absolute power which is undisputed. There are many reasons for this, but most especially the fact that nearly one quarter of the members are new to their place; that the business of the session really commenced late in May, though it is to close at the ordinary period; and that therefore an amount of speed is required which equally precludes deliberation and interruption. The House of Commons is in the condition of persons who are 'moving,' and who cannot stand upon trifles, or look much to the future, but are only anxious to get the goods into the cart, and the cart away from the door by the proper hour. Hence Government is enabled to set aside anything that interferes with it: it is the manager of the moving for the time being, and its word is absolute. When Mr. KINNAIRD calls attention to the total weakness of the Government in Bengal, the scarcity of justice, and the notorious corruption of the police, with the consequent disorder, he is met by an admission of the fact, and an assurance that Government attention will be given to the subject; and he is induced to withdraw his resolutions involving inquiry. When Mr. WISE exposes the gross mismanagement of the Duchy of Lancaster, respectable Mr. BAINES rises to admit the charge for the *past*, but asserts that the management of the Duchy is getting on very well now, will get on better in future, and will be highly profitable to the Crown. Lord GODERICH desires to enforce the principle of competitive examinations as the rule of admissions to the civil service, and it was understood last session that Ministers pledged themselves to adopt that rule. It was upon that pledge that he withdrew a motion upon the subject until this year. Now, however, Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS declares that Ministers never intended to abandon nomination; they only use examination as a means of ascertaining the qualifications of candidates for office; and Lord GODERICH does not seem to have felt sufficient confidence in commanding the attention of the House to have made any motion. It is so through all. Even the exposure of the gross misplacing of an hospital at Netley, on the marshes near Southampton—which

has entailed a charge of 260,000*l.*—can scarcely command the attention of the House; although Ministers consent to inquire. Sir FREDERICK THESIGER may abolish grand juries; the Law Lords are allowed to cut up the Divorce Bill and patch it together, cut it up again and piece it again at their pleasure; Sir FITZROY KELLY is allowed to introduce a bill assimilating the law of wills abroad to the domestic law, notwithstanding the ancient and universal rule that the movable property of residents in a foreign country is governed by the law of that country. Both Houses, in fact, are allowed a large discretion in the *introduction* of bills, and in debating, so that the debates be short, and that the bills be withdrawn. The withdrawal, indeed, is made peremptory in bills like Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE's for the registration of voters, Mr. LOCKE KING's for abolishing property qualification, or Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR's for regulating expenses at elections—prohibiting cabs, and relieving candidates from hustings charges. All matters connected with representation must stand over till 1858.

Some of the caprices of legislation in this licentious time are curious. Mr. HARDY, indeed, has been cut short in his endeavour to extend the licensing monopoly to beer-shops. But while the ATTORNEY-GENERAL is labouring at a bill in the House of Commons, to impose penal restraints upon trustees who commit a breach of their trust, Lord ST. LEONARDS has introduced a bill into the House of Lords to indemnify the trustees beforehand who do not commit actual fraud, although they break their trust in a great variety of ways.

The most important piece of legislation is that relating to Lunacy in Scotland. The LORD ADVOCATE constructs a new board, comprising a Commissioner, a Medical Inspector, a Secretary, and a Clerk, for a complete supervision over all lunatics and lunatic asylums in Scotland. The new Commission will be subject to the General Commission in London; but in local matters will, for the most part, as we understand the measure, act separately. The fearful abuses exposed by the report of the late commissioners of inquiry must now be with more or less rapidity corrected. Practically, the bill extends the English law of supervision to Scotland; only it does so in a somewhat separate form, to avoid local jealousies.

The Committee of Five named last evening for inquiry into Mr. BERTOLACCI's petition is, as we had anticipated, a committee (with a single exception) of nondescripts, signifying nothing. We

have only now to state our emphatic confidence in the petitioner, and our emphatic distrust of the committee. If justice be done to Mr. BERTOLACCI, we fully believe that not only will a vast system of administrative plunder be undermined, but, what is even more important, the obstructive hypocrisy of certain incorruptible Administrative Reformers, more fatal to public morality than troops of Tories, will be blown to the winds.

If Parliament has been active there has been a yet greater activity out of doors. The Roman Catholics have been meeting as a body, with the Duke of NORFOLK at their head, in order to take a perfectly separate position on the subject of the Oaths Bill. They propose a bargain with Government. The Oaths Bill amends the form of the oath for all members, and lets in the Jew; if it were carried it would settle the last question of sectarian exclusion. The Roman Catholics, however, refuse their assistance unless they are allowed to use the same oath instead of the oath provided for them by the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. They offer Government their support, on condition that Government will adopt their plan. This step is universally deplored, even we know by many Roman Catholics. Most certainly if Government were to concede the concession the bill would not be carried, for the Lords who might wink at manoeuvres to carry a Jew bill through their House would take fright at any proposal to unsettle the Act of 1829, for the avowed purpose of some advance, some encroachment, as they would call it, on the part of the Roman Catholics. So the Duke of NORFOLK and his followers will get nothing by his motion, but only spoil the chance of the Jews. Where is the good of that?

The liberality seems to be transferred to those who were once exclusive. In the Congregation at Oxford the proposal for establishing middle-class examinations, originated by the Reverend FREDERICK TEMPLE, has been carried by an overwhelming majority; and a very decisive majority approved of the proposed title—"Associate of Arts." It is most remarkable, as the *Globe* points out, that while Oxford University is thus adopting a liberal revolution, London University is rather obstructing a somewhat similar proposal which emanates from the Government, dispensing with residence on the part of those students who claim degrees on examination under London University.

An astounding proposal has been made to Lord PALMERSTON by Lord SHAFTESBURY and the Anti-



slavery party. They are anxious for the final extinction of the Negro slave-trade; they are jealous of Cuba and the United States; and they propose, first, that the island shall be surrounded by gun-boats, and secondly, that a free African emigration, under guarantees, shall be encouraged by France, England, and Spain. The movement is evidently designed to overwhelm Spain, and to counteract the supposed annexation projects of the United States; and it is imagined that France will connive at a scheme which falls in well with Lord PALMERSTON'S supposed mission to put down the slave-trade by naval force. The Minister withheld a pledge, but seems to have nodded approval. It is fishing in disturbed waters. WALKER has just returned from Central America: his arrival, unexpected, has created a great excitement throughout the Union; and the interest of the 'Lone Star' will be decidedly in the ascendant just at present.

Neither France nor Spain is in a condition to join in any new crusade. Spain can scarcely keep a Government for itself, and the EMPEROR is going through the work of elections to the Legislative Corps with strong efforts to render the movement a mere pageant; while some of the boldest of the Republican and Orleanist parties are proposing to come forward as candidates, and to enter the pocket House of Commons; of course for the purpose of imparting some real independence to its proceedings.

Indeed it is questionable how far our own Government is prepared to take up a new mission. It has quite enough on its hands at present. What with French alliances, Austrian alliances; what with the Reform Bill of 1858, and the Prussian marriage; what with the mutiny of Indian troops—of which we have further accounts, this time from Merut and Umballa—Ministers will do well to avoid any entangling alliances with France, and Spain, and Exeter Hall, for the purpose of undermining Brazil, and seeking a contest with General WALKER.

We are frequently sneering at Austrian spies, and French police interference with domestic matters; but the appeal in the case of 'EVANS *versus* EVANS' discloses a practice amongst ourselves which might grow to equal any Continental espionage. A married couple quarrel and separate; a husband sets a 'detective' to watch his wife; the detective does his own work—whatever we may think of its delicacy—honestly enough, and finds—nothing. But he has money; he has women assistants in his espionage, and they return the *quid pro quo* for their handsome wages in the shape of the evidence wanted. They see just what it was wished they should see: and the wife is convicted of adultery. She appeals; the character of the evidence is more closely investigated, and she is acquitted by the Superior Judge. It was all but impossible, if not quite so, that the story told against her should be true; yet it had sent her from one court convicted and condemned. True morality can never benefit by the use of unworthy instruments.

**ARREST OF MR. HUMPHREY BROWN.**—The ex-M.P. for Tewkesbury and Director of the Royal British Bank, is now in custody upon two warrants, by each of which he is required to put in bail for 4000*l.*, with two sureties for 2000*l.* each. Sureties for 8000*l.*, besides his own recognizances for 8000*l.*, will therefore be required before he is released. The Hon. John Stapleton, M.P. for Berwick, and others who have been arrested, have already given bail to a similar amount. Within a short time, it is believed, all the parties implicated will be secured. Those who have not yet been apprehended are under strict surveillance abroad, and will be brought to this country as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

**A WHOLE FAMILY POISONED.**—Two youths belonging to the family of a minor in the neighbourhood of Cleator Moor, near Whitehaven, have been discovered poisoned and lying dead in their father's house. The father, mother, and three daughters, were found at the same time convulsed and insensible. The wife, who was far advanced in pregnancy, subsequently died. Nothing certain is known as to the cause of the fatality; but some painful rumours are in circulation.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, June 8th.

### THE MINISTERS' MONEY BILL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of DONOUGHMORE begged to ask the President of the Council whether he had any objection to lay upon the table, before the second reading of the Ministers' Money Bill, a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the last year, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a sufficient sum will remain in the hands of the commissioners to carry out the objects of the bill.—Earl GRANVILLE had no objection to afford the noble Lord all the information in his power.

### THE CASE OF MR. SHEDDEN.

Earl GREY called attention to a petition from Mr. W. P. R. Shedden, complaining that, by a decision of the Court of Session in 1803, and of the House of Lords in 1808, obtained in his infancy, he has been deprived of his status of a natural-born subject of the realm. The petition also contained certain allegations against a Mr. William Patrick, a relation, who was accused of entering into a conspiracy with his brother John to deprive Mr. Shedden of some property in America, of which William Patrick was executor. He was likewise the guardian of the petitioner; but he alleged that Mr. Shedden was illegitimate, and therefore not entitled to the property. This was denied, and a legal inquiry at New York had resulted in a verdict in favour of Mr. Shedden. Earl Grey accordingly moved that the petition be referred to a select committee.—This was resisted by the LORD CHANCELLOR (who said, with some warmth, that the course proposed was unprecedented, and who asserted that he believed Mr. William Patrick was an upright man), by Lord ST. LEONARDS, Lord CAMPBELL, the Earl of EGLINTON, and Lord REDESDALE, the last of whom, however, admitted that there was a case for redress by general legislation; while, on the other hand, the motion was supported by Lord BROUGHAM, Lord LYNCHURST, the Earl of ALBEMARLE, and Lord LYTTELTON.—On a division, the motion obtained 11 votes in its favour, to 19 against it; so that it was lost by a majority of 8.

Their Lordships shortly afterwards adjourned.

### DIVORCE BILLS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Colonel WILSON PATTEN moved to nominate the select committee:—Mr. Walpole, Mr. Massey, Mr. Estcourt, Sir John Pakington, Sir John Yarde Buller, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Bonham Carter, Sir Erskine Perry, and Mr. Adderley.—The motion was agreed to.

### SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. KINNAIRD presented a petition signed by upwards of 1500 of the principal inhabitants of the island of Jamaica, complaining of the non-enforcement of treaties with Spain relating to the abolition of the slave trade, the consequent increase of slavery in Cuba, and the difficulty of free labour competing with slave labour in the Spanish colonies.

### CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION.

In reply to Mr. DANIEL O'CONNELL, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the report of the Civil Service Superannuation Commission is now under the consideration of the Government, but he could not state that any decision had as yet been come to on the subject. A commission was appointed last session to investigate the complaints of civil servants. The commissioners had communicated with the actuaries, and it was proposed to present their report in a supplementary document which has not yet been received.

### STATUTE LAW COMMISSION.

In answer to Mr. WARREN, Mr. BAINES said that a select committee was appointed last session for the purpose of considering the recommendations made by the statute law commission, with a view to their adoption. He had the honour to be chairman of that committee. They examined a number of witnesses, from some of whom they obtained valuable and instructive evidence; but when the dissolution came on the inquiry was incomplete, and the committee determined to make no recommendation. They agreed unanimously to report the evidence without expressing any opinion on the subject. As to the reappointment of that committee, the Government, after full consideration, did not think it advisable to propose it in the present session. Several members of the committee were now engaged in other investigations; others of them would be shortly engaged in election committees; and it was felt that the committee could not therefore re-engage in the inquiry with any advantage.

### AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

Replying to Mr. ADDERLEY, Mr. WILSON reminded the House of the terms of the arrangement entered into last August for the conveyance of mails to Australia, and stated that the service was in full operation, and being performed to the satisfaction of the Government. By the contract then entered into, branch mails were to be established between Melbourne and Tasmania on the one hand, and New Zealand on the other. This part of the arrangement had been delayed owing to some misapprehension; but orders had been given to the local authorities to see it carried into effect.

### THE OATHS BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, there

was no opposition, and it was ordered, amidst much cheering, that the bill should be read a second time next Monday.—Sir FREDERICK THESIGER afterwards rose to inform the House of the course he intended to pursue with the bill. As he had intimated on a previous evening, he offered no opposition to the second reading, but he was apprehensive that there might be some misunderstanding from the cheer with which the result was announced to the House; therefore, he now gave notice that in committee he should propose at the end of the oath to add these words:—"And I do make this promise, abjuration, renunciation, and declaration, heartily, willingly, and truly, on the true faith of a Christian." (*Cheers from the Opposition benches.*)

### THE CIVIL SERVICE.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Lord GODERICH called attention to the last report of the Civil Service Commissioners, and urged the Government to extend the principle of open competitive examination already introduced. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give a promise to that effect, he would not press his motion.—Mr. BASS could not find in the orders of council any information as to who it is who nominates the persons who are ultimately selected for examination, with a view of passing into the civil service. Was the old system of patronage still in force?—Mr. RICH called attention to the fact that of the 376 vacancies, which had occurred last year, 66 only were given away on competition; and of these, 43 were given in the first six months of 1856, and only 23 in the last half of the year.—Mr. MALINS asked for information relative to the competitive examinations, as he suspected the Government of jobbery.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER replied that the Order in Council, issued two years ago, made no alteration in the power or the prerogative of the Crown to make appointments to the civil service. The subordinate appointments in some of the offices are vested by usage in the heads of departments; in the rest, they are vested in the head of the Government. The Government had not thought it desirable to throw the appointments of clerks open to public competition; but they did require that every one should be subjected to an examination to test his fitness; and the results of this plan were embodied in the papers on the table. The examinations for the civil service had been enforced with the utmost strictness and regularity, according to the spirit and intent of the first order. All the appointments made by the Prime Minister had been on that principle, and the plan had worked admirably. (*Hear, hear.*)—Colonel SYKES was strongly of opinion that, if the Government desire to advance the intellectual condition of the middle and lower classes of society, the heads of departments must throw a portion of the offices open to public competition.—Mr. VANSITTART inquired on what principle candidates presented themselves for examination?—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: "Their efficiency." (*Laughter.*)

### THE ITALIAN LEGION.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES called attention to the engagement entered into with the Argentine Confederation for the reception and employment of a certain number of the officers and soldiers of the Italian Legion, and asked whether the authorities of the Confederation had adhered to the stipulations of that agreement.—Sir JOHN RAMSDEN stated that there had been no breach of engagement on the part either of her Majesty's Government or of the Argentine Confederation; that a number of the Legion (350 men), about to be sent to the Cape of Good Hope or British North America, had accepted terms offered by an agent of the Argentine Confederation, in which negotiation our Government had in no way interfered; and that they had been subsequently, at their own request, released from their engagements.

### SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and the consideration of the Army Estimates was proceeded with. Several votes were agreed to without discussion, but a good deal of desultory conversation ensued on points connected with the alleged uselessness and expense of the 25-inch scale of Ordnance survey of Scotland, and upon the present custom of restricting the pensions of naval and military officers to those who have lost a limb, to the exclusion of those otherwise wounded—an arrangement which was objected to by Colonel NORTH, Lord ALFRED VANE TEMPEST, Sir CHARLES NAPEER, Mr. ROEBUCK, and others, and defended by Sir JOHN RAMSDEN and Lord PALMERSTON, on the ground that "it is necessary to draw the line somewhere." The several votes having been agreed to, the House resumed, and the report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to.—The report on the Sound Dues was also agreed to.

The House then went into committee on the JOINT STOCK COMPANIES BILL, the clauses of which were agreed to without any discussion.

### FRAUDULENT TRUSTEES BILL.

On the motion that this bill be read a second time, Mr. Serjeant KINGLAKE suggested a clause to meet the case of trustees who use trust funds for their own benefit, and who prove defaulters. There may be no 'intent' to commit fraud, and yet the estate may suffer loss. Persons so acting ought to be liable to punishment. He objected to that provision in the bill which requires the previous sanction of a Judge or of the Attorney-General



before a prosecution can be instituted.—Mr. NEATE concurred in this view.—Mr. ROLT thought that, if the bill passed, persons would not be willing to hold trusts. He should propose that a distinction should be drawn between persons entrusted with money in the form of money, and persons entrusted with stocks or chattels, the appropriation of which would be the same thing as a theft. The measure would operate to prevent the improvement of trusts by trustees, a man being liable in such a case to be tried under its provisions. Many of the provisions of the measure might be made useful; but, unless great alterations were made in committee, he feared that the bill would not be beneficial to the country.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL alluded to the difficulty of legislating on the subject, and invited the assistance of the House in the shape of amendments; but he hoped that the measure, as a whole, would meet with sanction.—The bill was then read a second time.

## SAVINGS BANK (NO. 2) BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill, Mr. TURNER, approving the principle involved in the measure, expressed a hope that well-managed banks might be exempted from the interference of Government officials.—Mr. GROGAN made a similar suggestion.—Mr. AYRTON opposed the bill. He complained of the management of the funds of savings banks by the Commissioners of the National Debt, stating that upon the capital account alone, between 1843 and 1855, a deficiency of 1,000,000£ had been created, a result which, in his opinion, raised the question whether the Commissioners were fit to be entrusted with this office. It was also a question whether these deposits were not intended to be kept separate, instead of being employed in jobbing in the funds. The measure had something of a socialist character.—The bill was further opposed by Mr. BARROW and Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, and was supported by Mr. McCANN, Mr. ESTCOURT, Mr. GLYN, and Mr. MAGUIRE.—Sir HARRY VERNEY and Colonel SYKES recommended that the bill should go before a select committee.—Mr. ATHERTON thought that the amount of Government interference threatened by the bill is unnecessary, and was of opinion that several other points require revision.—Mr. HENLEY desired to know the exact power of the Government under the bill, and the nature of the regulations to be made for an effectual audit.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated, in reply to Mr. Ayrton, that the Government has no power of appointing any local officer of the banks, and that the measure is not compulsory upon any banks now in existence, which are not bound to come under its operation. Objections to the management of the money of the savings banks had no reference to this bill; but he should be prepared at a future time to refer the subject to a select committee.—The bill was then read a second time.

## MARRIED WOMAN'S REVERSIONARY INTEREST BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Sir ERSKINE PERRY moved that it be postponed for a fortnight.—The House divided, when the numbers were—  
For the present second reading ... 151  
Against ... 6  
Majority ... 145  
The bill was accordingly read a second time.  
The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock.

Tuesday, June 9th.

## THE MUTINY AMONG THE INDIAN NATIVE TROOPS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord ELLENBOROUGH called the attention of the House to the reported mutinies in the Indian army, which, if true, he attributed to an apprehension on the part of the native population that the authorities were about to interfere with their religion. He wished to know whether instructions had been sent to India directing the different Governments to make known at every station of the army throughout the country that England would in future, as in times past, protect all her subjects in the undisturbed exercise of their religion?—Earl GRANVILLE replied that it was impossible to say, from the imperfect information of which the Government was in possession, how far the report of a mutiny in an Indian cavalry regiment was exaggerated or not; but, with regard to the religious element supposed to be involved in it, he was sorry that Lord Ellenborough had lent his support to the rumours which were afloat on this subject. In the opinion of Ministers, Lord Canning had shown admirable judgment in refraining from issuing such a notification as that suggested, and it was certainly not their intention to send out instructions to do so to the Governor-General.—The Earl of MALMESBURY said that he had seen it stated that Lord Canning had subscribed to missionary societies in India; and, considering the position in which he stood as Governor-General, it would be very imprudent in him to mix himself up personally in such societies. (Hear, hear.) But he thought the statement to which he referred required confirmation.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE conceived they should have some precise statement as to what specific association Lord Canning had subscribed before they proceeded to deliver their opinions on a subject so important. This he would say—that, if Lord Canning had given countenance to the belief that he had mixed himself up with societies which interfered with the religion of the natives, he ought no longer to remain Governor-General of India. (Hear, hear.)

The PRINCESS ROYAL'S ANNUITY BILL was read a second time without any opposition.

## THE DIVORCE BILL.

The House having gone into committee on this bill, which had been recommitted, the LORD CHANCELLOR, on clause 17, proposed an amendment, giving to husbands deserted by their wives the same right of considering themselves divorced *à mensâ et thoro* as had been previously granted to wives deserted by their husbands. After some discussion, this amendment was agreed to, as well as an amendment substituting the words 'judicial separation' for 'divorce *à mensâ et thoro*.' On the motion that the clause, as amended, stand part of the bill, the committee divided, when there were—

Content...	76
Not Content...	37
Majority	—39

The clause was therefore agreed to. The remaining clauses up to 22 were also agreed to.

On clause 22, the LORD CHANCELLOR called the attention of the committee to the punishment proposed to be inflicted on persons guilty of adultery. By this clause he proposed that, in suits for divorce by reason of adultery, both the adulterer and the adulteress should be made defendants, and that, if proved, the Court should have the power of fining the adulterer up to the amount of 10,000£. This amendment on the clause as it originally stood having been received with approbation, clauses 22 up to 25 were agreed to.

After clause 25, the LORD CHANCELLOR proposed a clause imposing a fine on the guilty parties, to which the Bishop of OXFORD proposed an amendment, punishing them with 'with fine and imprisonment,' or 'with fine or imprisonment.' After some discussion, the committee divided, when there appeared—

For the amendment ...	43
Against it ...	33
Majority	—10

The amendment was consequently carried, and the clause as thus amended was agreed to. Clauses up to 44 were also agreed to.

Upon clause 45, in which, on the motion of the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, words were inserted prohibiting divorced persons from marrying again, the LORD CHANCELLOR proposed an amendment, the effect of which was to permit these parties to marry again. This amendment was carried on a division in which the numbers were—

Content...	24
Not Content...	46
Majority	—22

Lord WENSLEYDALE then moved to add a proviso that either party should not marry the person with whom the adultery was proved to have been committed, and the Court in its decree for a divorce was to name that person. After some discussion, the committee divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment ...	28
Against it ...	37
Majority	—9

This clause and the remaining clauses were agreed to, and the House resumed.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

## NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. ROEBUCK gave notice that on that day week he should move the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this House the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland ought to be abolished, and a fifth Secretary of State appointed."

Mr. EWART gave notice that on that day fortnight he should bring under consideration the subject of the foundations of existing grammar schools throughout the country.

Mr. M'MAHON gave notice that on that day three weeks he should ask leave to bring in a bill respecting trials in criminal cases, and to amend the criminal law.

## THE BELLE-ISLE AFFAIR.

In answer to Mr. DILLVYN, Lord PALMERSTON said that Government had received full information with regard to the melancholy occurrence on board the John and Edward schooner, of Aberystwith, in the harbour of Belle-Isle. The vessel, owing to stress of weather, had not hoisted colours; but the officer in command of the French vessel was not justified in firing with such undue precipitancy. The explanation was, that he ordered the shot to be fired high. It was but justice to the French Government to say that no opportunity was given to her Majesty's Government to make a remonstrance on the question; for Count Walewski volunteered an explanation to Lord Cowley, our ambassador in Paris, of the most complete kind, expressing deep regret at the occurrence, and adding that orders had been given for the dismissal of the French officer who had ordered the firing of the fatal musket, and to inquire what could be done to mitigate the consequent mischief. (Hear, hear.) Nothing could be more honourable than the conduct of the French Government on the subject.

## GRAND JURIES.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER moved for leave to bring in a bill to dispense with the attendance of Grand Jurors at the Central Criminal Court, and at Courts of General and Quarter Sessions holden within the metropolitan police district, except in the case of treason, and in some other cases. Where a Grand Jury find a bill in a case

previously investigated in a police-court, their labour is superfluous, and the opportunity afforded by the secret mode of their investigation to suppress evidence throws a suspicion upon their finding when bills are rejected. Instead of the Grand Jury being a protection to the innocent, it is infinitely more desirable for a person unjustly accused that his trial should take place in the face of the country than that the indictment should be ignored by a Grand Jury. Those juries have been termed "the hope of the London thief," and they lead to many evils.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL offering no resistance to the motion, it was agreed to, after some remarks from Mr. BOWYER, who entertained great suspicion of the proposed change.

## THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE moved that the petition of the members of the Land Transport Corps, presented on the 12th of May, complaining that the War Department had not fulfilled the conditions under which they enlisted, be referred to a select committee. The men were furnished with an old scratched-out paper instead of a parchment discharge, and two hundred and two were left to find their way home as they could. They had endeavoured to obtain an honest livelihood, but could not, for the legality of the discharge was questioned, and the holders were looked upon as deserters.—Mr. TOWNSEND seconded the motion.—Lord PALMERSTON admitted that the men had good ground of complaint in regard to the documents with which they were furnished upon the disbandment of the corps. The question was fully discussed last session and a committee was appointed. Under those circumstances, he would not oppose the appointment of the committee.—The motion was then agreed to.

## WILLS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS ABROAD.

Sir FITZROY KELLY moved for leave to bring in a bill to give validity and effect to the wills of British subjects made abroad. A British subject has power to dispose freely of all property belonging to him, both personal and real, provided the will is executed by himself, and attested by two witnesses; but that right has been endangered by decisions in courts of law, and a necessity therefore arises for legislation. If, after making his will, an Englishman goes abroad, the result will be that, after his death, his intentions will be set aside and entirely defeated. Sir Fitzroy cited several cases in point. To remedy the evils thus indicated, he proposed to enact that all testamentary papers made and executed by a British subject, and duly attested according to the Statute of Wills, should be entitled to probate in this country, and have validity and effect here wherever the testator might be domiciled.—The motion was seconded by Mr. MALINS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the Government would not oppose the introduction of the bill, but could not undertake to support it, as it interfered with the universal law of Europe founded on the general maxim, *mobilia sequuntur personam*—a law which had prevailed from the earliest times. It would be extremely injudicious to introduce a rule peculiar to this country. The inconveniences complained of rose from the imperfection and uncertainty of the law, which might be remedied without making a radical change.—Sir FITZROY KELLY explained that he did not propose that the bill should have any effect on the property of Englishmen in foreign countries.—After Mr. BERESFORD HOPE and Mr. BOWYER had spoken in favour of the bill, leave was given to introduce it.

Mr. CLIVE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend and explain the INCLOSURE ACTS.

## LUNATICS (SCOTLAND).

The LORD ADVOCATE moved for leave to bring in a bill to alter and amend the laws respecting lunatics in Scotland. He proposed to appoint a kind of Lunacy Board for Scotland, but not under that name, consisting of a commissioner, a medical inspector, a secretary, and a clerk, who are to have the power of visitation, inspection, and regulation of all the asylums in North Britain, in the eight districts into which the country is to be divided. These districts are to be—Edinburgh, Inverness, Perth, Dumfries, Lanark, Renfrew, Stirling, and another.—Mr. HENRY BAILLIE defended the North of Scotland against some aspersions thrown out in the debate on this subject on a previous night, and showed that they had not been reluctant in making provision for lunatics, but liberal. Mr. ELLIOT thought that the evils would have been best met by extending the English Lunacy Board to Scotland.—Mr. COWAN approved of the bill, and leave was given to introduce it.

## HIGHWAYS.

Mr. MASSEY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of highways. The officer at present having the management of highways is unpaid, and is, therefore, incompetent. His bill proposed to relieve the parish surveyor of his present duties, and substitute the system of management prevailing in South Wales, with some alterations, with a view to its simplification. What he desired was to divide the country into districts, and to vest the management of highways in district boards.—Mr. WATKINS inquired what was to be done with the metropolitan toll bars?—Mr. MASSEY: "They are excepted."—Mr. ADAMS suggested some alterations as to the constitution of the elective boards, which would render the bill more acceptable than as at present proposed. The boards ought not to be swamped by too many members.

*officio* members.—Mr. SLANEY supported the motion.—Leave was then given.

#### LAW OF MORTMAIN.

Mr. ATHERTON moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the conveyance of lands for charitable uses. A similar bill had twice before passed the House, but had been rejected by the Lords. He sought to abolish certain technical and vexatious restrictions as to grants imposed by the 9th George II. cap. 26.—Leave was given without any discussion.

#### NETLEY HOSPITAL.

Sir D. NORREYS moved for certain returns respecting Netley Hospital, prefacing the motion by observations suggested by the debate of the preceding evening, when the estimate for that hospital was before the Committee of Supply.—Sir JOHN RAMSDEN said, there was no intention on the part of the Government to oppose the granting of the returns, and he hoped that, when laid upon the table, they would be the means of removing the misapprehension which prevailed upon the subject.—Mr. STAFFORD protested against more of the public money being expended upon an ill-constructed building, which, according to medical authorities, would prove a hotbed of fever and erysipelas.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT defended his original assertions with respect to the faulty plan and construction of the building.—Lord PALMERSTON promised that the greatest care should be taken with respect to the building.—After some further brief remarks, the papers were ordered.

The JOINT STOCK COMPANIES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

The House adjourned about one o'clock.

Wednesday, June 10th.

#### THIRD READING.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS the North Eastern and Hartlepool Dock and Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill was read a third time, and passed.

#### FINSBURY PARK BILL.

On the motion of Mr. FORSTER, the order for the second reading of this bill was read and discharged; the bill was withdrawn; and leave was given to bring in a bill to enable the Metropolitan Board of Works to form a park for the northern suburbs of the metropolis, to be called "Finsbury Park." Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE, and Mr. COX, were authorized to prepare and bring in the same; and the examiner of petitions for private bills had leave to sit and proceed forthwith in reference thereto.

#### THE BEER BILL.

Mr. KER SEYMER moved to defer the second reading of this bill for six months. He argued that the measure would still further restrict an already restricted trade; that there is an indisposition on the part of magistrates to grant licenses; that licenses are refused in many instances to applicants of good character; and that morality is no gainer by the present system.—The motion was seconded by Mr. WILLIAM BROWN.—Mr. NEWDEGATE and Mr. GRIFFITH supported the second reading, which Sir GEORGE GREY opposed, but at the same time promised that he would give his best attention during the recess to a measure for placing public-houses and beer-shops under more effectual control.—Mr. KENDALL insisted on the necessity that exists for legislation on the subject.—Mr. PACKE conceived that London and the rural districts should be dealt with in separate bills.—Mr. HARDY, in defending the bill, pointed out the demoralising influences of beer-shops, to which he attributed a large amount of juvenile crime.—Mr. VILLIERS (who had been chairman of the committee on the subject which sat in 1853) condemned the bill, which was opposed to the conclusions of the committee.—General THOMPSON spoke to the same effect, and Mr. BARROW supported the second reading.—On a division the amendment was carried by 213 to 180; so that the bill was lost.

#### PROPERTY QUALIFICATION BILL.

Mr. LOOKE KING moved the second reading of this bill.—Sir GEORGE GREY, observing that it was the general understanding that all measures which affected the representation of the people should be postponed until a future session, moved to defer the second reading for six months.—Mr. COLLIER urged the reasonableness of this motion, to which Mr. COBBETT and Mr. DUNCOMBE loudly demurred.—Mr. GREY also argued in favour of the bill being proceeded with; but Lord PALMERSTON hoped the House would agree to the motion made by Sir George Grey.—Mr. LOOKE KING could not assent to the course proposed. On a division, however, the bill was thrown out by 204 to 145.

#### ELECTION EXPENSES BILL.—REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BILL.

On the order for the second reading of the Election Expenses Bill, Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, said, for the reason just assigned by the Government, in which he acquiesced, he did not intend to go on with the bill this session. He moved to discharge the order.—This motion, after a few words from Mr. DUCANE (who endeavoured, but ineffectually, to state his objections to the measure), was agreed to.

Mr. DUNCOMBE, for the same reason, withdrew his Bill for the Registration of Voters, which he saw no prospect of carrying in the present session, though he greatly desired to do so.

The House shortly afterwards adjourned, at half-past five o'clock.

Thursday, June 11th.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the SMOKE NUISANCE (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT BILL was read a second time, on the motion of Lord KINNAIRD; and after some remarks from Lord CAMPBELL, Lord RAVENSWORTH, and Lord REDESDALE, the CINQUE PORTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL was passed through committee.

#### BREACHES OF TRUST.

Lord ST. LEONARDS called attention to the state of the equity law as affecting trustees charged with breach of trust, and adduced many legal arguments enforcing the justice of so modifying the code as to afford relief to those trustees who may have acted *bonâ fide* and without benefit to themselves. He concluded by laying on the table a bill by which the proposed amendment would be effected.—Lord BROUGHAM, Lord CAMPBELL, and the LORD CHANCELLOR having commented at some length upon the existing state of the law of trusts, the bill was read a first time.

#### JUDICIAL BUSINESS.

Lord LIFFORD asked whether any change would be made for expediting the business in Judges' Chambers and in the Taxing Offices.—The LORD CHANCELLOR replied that delays were often ascribed to courts, when in reality the blame rested with professional men. In some offices, additional clerks had had been appointed, and provision would be made to meet any pressure of business that might arise in the courts.

Their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes after seven o'clock.

#### THE INDIAN ARMY.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in reply to Mr. RICH, Mr. VERNON SMITH eulogized the vigour and firmness displayed by the authorities in Bengal in checking the mutinous spirit evinced by some native regiments. A continuance of the same energetic course would no doubt arrest the spread of the evil, and maintain obedience and discipline among the troops.

#### THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

Mr. WISE called the attention of the House to the accounts of the Duchy of Lancaster, presented to Parliament in pursuance of the Act 1 and 2 Vic., cap. 101, and moved an address for a return of all manors and estates now belonging to the Crown in right of the Duchy of Lancaster; of all sales, grants, and enfranchisements which have taken place since 1838; of the purchases and exchanges of land which have been made since the same period, and the date and term of all existing leases of the lands, mines, and rents of the said duchy. The revenues, he observed, are eaten up by appointments, many of which were *sinecures*. There are sixty officers receiving 8527*l.*; of which the Chancellor takes 2000*l.* a year, the Vice-Chancellor 600*l.*, the Receiver-General, 878*l.* Among the remaining officers are two Attorneys-General, fifteen receivers, and twenty-two stewards. (*Laughter.*) The cost of felling and selling the timber is larger than the selling price; and altogether there is a most extravagant expenditure of money. The average annual income of the duchy is 38,000*l.*; but of this the privy purse receives only 13,000*l.* Gross mismanagement characterizes the affairs of the duchy; and he (Mr. Wise) saw no remedy but to charge the revenue on the consolidated fund, to make the management national, and to enfranchise the copyholders. One of the officers of the Bigwood Estate was the 'axe-bearer,' generally a distinguished peer. (*Laughter.*) If the woods were kept up for the pleasure of the royal family he would not say a word against it; but the fact is, that they are kept up for the pleasure of the neighbouring gentry, who shoot over the estates with the 'axe-bearer.' He wished to know why the income of the duchy was so stationary? Why the accounts, which were condemned by a former Chancellor of the Duchy, had not been improved? What was done with fines on renewals and sales? Why no account had been rendered of the royalty on coals since 1837 and 1838? Whether the Chancellor or other officers of the duchy had given their consideration to the demand for compensation for the destruction of property in North Staffordshire, arising from a town having been undermined, and a portion of it, including a mill, a rick, a pigsty, and a street, swallowed up?—Mr. Alderman COPELAND seconded the motion.

Mr. BAINES, Chancellor of the Duchy, admitted that the net revenue is less than it might be made, or would probably become hereafter. The estate, however, is burdened with outstanding leases, vested rights, and officials, who hold almost *sinecure* places for life; but every opportunity is seized for improving the property, and protecting the interests of the Crown. He consented to the production of the returns. Mr. RICARDO and Mr. BASS having spoken briefly to the same effect as Mr. Wise, the motion was agreed to.

#### PETITION OF PROTESTANT MINISTERS OF BENGAL.

Mr. KINNAIRD moved the following resolutions:—That, from representations made to this House there is reason to believe that the present administration of the lower provinces of Bengal does not secure to the population the advantages of good government, but that the mass of the people suffer grievous oppression from the police, and the want of proper administration of justice; that in the opinion of this House it is desirable that her Majesty's Government should take immediate

steps with a view to the institution of special inquiries into the social condition of the people, and to ascertain what measures have been adopted in consequence of the oppression under which a large proportion of the inhabitants of the lower provinces are now said to be suffering, more especially with reference to the system of landed tenures, the state of the police, and the administration of justice; and also that such report be laid upon the table of the House. In support of these general allegations, Mr. Kinnaird cited many individual cases.—Mr. DUNLOP seconded the motion.

Mr. VERNON SMITH said that sufficient inquiries had already been made; that ample information was already before the House; and that the allegations had been exaggerated. The Government is acting vigorously in the required direction, and a commission of inquiry would only delay improvement.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY and Lord JOHN RUSSELL, while agreeing that very serious evils exist, thought there had been sufficient inquiry.—Mr. MANGLES, on behalf of the East India Company, gave a pledge that no economy should stand in the way of establishing the best administration of justice and system of police that could be found practicable throughout India. He thought, however, that the judicial functionaries and the police had been greatly maligned.—Lord BURY believed that the civil officers of the Company are too few for the proper performance of the administrative duties assigned to them.—Mr. MILLS briefly supported the motion.—Mr. AYRTON, remarking upon the inconvenient form in which the subject had been presented to the House, moved the 'previous question' as an amendment to Mr. Kinnaird's resolution.—Mr. KINNAIRD expressed himself satisfied with the discussion, and consented to withdraw his motion.—Mr. HADFIELD, however, denounced the atrocities of Indian misgovernment, and objected to allow a question so important to pass without the definite issue of a vote.—After some discussion on the point whether the motion should be withdrawn or not, a division took place, when there appeared—For the motion, 18; for the amendment, 119: majority against the motion, 101.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock.

#### DEATH OF DOUGLAS JERROLD.

ALL Liberal politicians, all readers of current literature, whether of the newspaper press or of its more permanent forms, all playgoers, and indeed all who love genius when it is employed in the service of humanity and in the vindication of generous and lofty principles, will share the sorrow with which we record the premature death of one of the wittiest, and yet one of the kindest, of men. Douglas Jerrold, the author of countless dramas which have revived the brilliant *répertoire* of Congreve and Sheridan, and combined with the epigrammatic point of those authors a warmth of heart and tenderness of feeling to which they were strangers; the caustic but genial wit, who for sixteen years illumined the pages of *Punch* with jests that flashed over deep wells of thought, and who has contributed to many other periodicals an equal amount of intellectual wealth.—Douglas Jerrold, the dramatist, satirist, novelist, journalist, and consistent Liberal politician, has passed away from the sphere of his labours and his successes. For the last few years, his health had been somewhat impaired; but he worked on from week to week. About ten days before his death, he was seized with an attack of rheumatic gout; and on Sunday it became evident that it must terminate fatally. On that day, he took leave of several of his friends; and, on the following morning, about half-past twelve, he expired rather suddenly, surrounded by his relatives. He retained his faculties to the last.

Douglas Jerrold was born in Sheerness, and first saw the light in the year 1803; so that we have lost him at the early age of fifty-four. His childhood was passed at the same place, where his father was the manager of the theatre; and to this training we may attribute his subsequent connexion with the stage. He was sent to sea when a boy, but soon gave up that way of life, which indeed was unsuited for his delicate health. He then went to London, and became a compositor at a printing-office where, at that time, Laman Blanchard was employed as reader. Between those two wits and press-writers, now both removed from us, a close and enduring friendship sprang up. Jerrold's first effort as an author was in the form of a criticism on *Der Freischütz*, which he dropped anonymously into the editor's box of the newspaper on which he was employed as a compositor—thus repeating an incident in the early career of Franklin. It was immediately accepted, and the copy was given out into his own hands to set up. This introduced him to literature, and, before he had come of age, he had produced *Black-eyed Susan* at the Surrey Theatre. This was followed by other melodramas, which achieved great success, and ultimately by five-act comedies, which, though not good in construction, were perfect incrustations of wit. He also wrote in several periodicals, including the high Tory *Blackwood*; and at one time was co-manager of the Strand Theatre—a speculation which succeeded so well that the lessees took Drury-lane, where of course they failed. Shortly after the establishment of *Punch*, Jerrold joined it, and contributed some of its greatest triumphs, such as *Punch's Letters to his Son*, the *Story of a Feather*, and *Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures*. In 1843, he set up the *Illustrated Magazine*, in which, besides some admirable essays,



he wrote *The Chronicles of Clovernook*—a work full of the richest fancy, and a quaint species of loving satire and Epicurean cynicism, if the paradox may be allowed. The magazine succeeded for a time, but not for long; and the same may be said of *Douglas Jerrold's Shilling Magazine* (started in January, 1845, and in which the novel of *St. Giles and St. James* was published), and of *Douglas Jerrold's Weekly Newspaper*, commenced in the middle of 1846. During some of the early months of its existence, Mr. Jerrold was the editor of the *Daily News*. Since 1852, he has edited, avowedly, *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*; and his connexion with *Punch* lasted to the close of his life.

The character of Jerrold's wit was remarkable, and of the highest order. While yielding in pungency to none, and while striking through and through every species of false pretence, it was associated with manifest warmth and kindness of heart, and with a deep feeling of reverence for anything really noble and veritably sacred. Herein he differed greatly from many of the small wittlings now so numerous, whose trivial jesting has a certain Mephistophelian character in its inability to believe in anything sincere and genuine. Jerrold, moreover, was a well-read man, especially in English literature, though he had a good knowledge of foreign languages, which he had acquired entirely by his own exertions. His conversation flashed with perpetual scintillations of wit; and though, as in all such cases, he sometimes dealt hard blows at individuals, the affection of a large circle of friends shows that he never seriously intended to injure the feelings of his acquaintance. To this should be added that his practical benevolence—though he always endeavoured to conceal it—was of the widest and warmest kind.

Thus far we have written on purely public grounds, in the belief that we are giving some expression, however inadequate, to the general sorrow which the death of such a man must awaken. But we cannot conclude without uttering something of what we feel as members of that profession of which Jerrold was one of the noblest ornaments. Other callings in life are prompt to recognise the honour they have derived from particular members;—why should not ours follow that just and generous rule? We are the more inclined to speak from this special point of view because there is—we say it with regret—something of a sectional and jealous feeling in literary men, for the most part, which is not creditable to themselves or to their calling. In the case of Jerrold's death, some of our daily contemporaries have undoubtedly spoken with a warmth of esteem which honours them; but the *Morning Star* writes a grudging notice, and the *Morning Post*, with the characteristic meanness of the Conservative party, gives only two lines to its notice of the death of an eminent brother pressman. In the cold air of these petty feelings, it is pleasant to recal a beautiful interchange of compliments—sincere as the speakers themselves—which took place between Jerrold and Leigh Hunt at a dinner given some years ago in honour of the latter. Jerrold said of the veteran essayist and poet, that, even in his hottest warfare, his natural sense of beauty and gentleness was so great that, like David of old, "he armed his sling with shining pebbles of the brook;" and Leigh Hunt, with equal grace and truth, observed of "his friend Jerrold," that, "if he had the sting of the bee, he had also his honey."

## GOLD WORKS IN ENGLAND.

(Abridged from the Times.)

PEOPLE who only know of gold in nuggets, and who are accustomed weekly to read of the arrival of half a million in ounces from Australia, may be surprised to hear of works for the crushing of gold quartz being established in England. Nevertheless, such is the fact, and in a remote corner of Cheshire—pregnable only to firm railway tourists—an establishment exists, not only for the conversion of American quartz into ounces and ingots of the precious metal, but which purposes to extend its auriferous researches among the mountains and quarries of England. The Chancellorville Company, as it is called, has been at work now only for a short period, though long enough to be found a tolerably extensive factory, if we may so term it, where all the various processes necessary to the production of the circulating medium from exceedingly dirty looking stones goes on daily. The material upon which up to the present they have tested their powers has been Virginian quartz from a gold-bearing district in the United States; but they intend to venture upon experiments with the English rocks, which, if successful, may lead to important results. When delivered on the wharf of the works at Frodsham, the cost of the ore is nearly 80s. per ton. It is a coarse amorphous quartz, not unlike rock salt in appearance, but largely intermixed with auriferous and argentiferous pyrites. This is first calcined in an ordinary kiln to partially free it from sulphur, and assist the process of crushing, which it subsequently undergoes from the stampers, after being broken into smaller pieces. The stampers used at Frodsham are ordinary Cornish ones, of the most primitive form, and such as have been in use throughout Cornwall and Devon for many years. It is said that these do the work better than either Jones's, Berdan's, or Britten's quartz-crushing machines,

which certainly seems singular; but what, perhaps, is more remarkable is, that ordinary millstones,—in fact, a common flour-mill will, it is alleged, crush it better than any. Close to the Frodsham works stands an extensive flour-mill, at which twelve tons of the quartz have been ground finer than anything done by the stampers and crushing machines in the same period of time. The machine used at Frodsham has twelve seven-cwt. stampers, which crush the quartz to the consistency of a coarse sand at the rate of rather more than a ton per hour, or about twenty tons per day. There is, however, already sufficient steam power on the premises to crush fifty tons daily if the supply is forthcoming. From the stampers, the crushed quartz flows with a stream of water into a series of 'slime pits,' labyrinths of narrow pipes at the entrance of which the particles of gold sink according to their specific gravity. From these it is shovelled up with the other matter with which it is mixed and placed on the 'shaking table,' a long platform of wood fixed under a small stream of water, and which by an alternate rise and fall allows the greater part of the extraneous substances to be washed away. Only a dark coloured sand, containing particles of quartz, gold, silver, copper, and iron, remains on the table, whence it is removed to undergo the process of fine grinding, which reduces it to an impalpable powder as soft as flour, and not unlike it, save that it glitters with minute specks of metal. It is again calcined in a reverberatory furnace (to drive off the remains of sulphur), which is so constructed as to prevent the metallic particles of gold and silver passing up with the draught. Shafts are attached to the furnaces in which the sulphur and any metals that may have been volatilized are deposited, and the yield from the former appears to be large. As the ore thus roasted a second time is found to contain a proportion of other metals, it is thrown, when heated, into a bath of mineral acids, by which the copper, &c., is dissolved, and afterwards precipitated in the usual manner. For reasons of economy, muriatic acid is used, though the saving is rather in appearance than in fact, as the chlorine in the acid must naturally dissolve a portion of the gold also, and to that extent diminish the yield per ton. The auriferous powder which remains is finally passed through a stream of water under a wheel containing five hundred and fifty magnets, which revolves at the rate of fifteen times a minute. This frees it from much iron. What remains flows into an amalgamator, in which the mercury and ore are agitated together, the activity of the former being quickened occasionally by jets of steam passed through it. After a given time the mercury is removed and placed in a retort, where it is distilled into water, leaving only a gold button containing a little silver behind.

Half an ounce per ton, if worked upon the spot where the quartz is found, would pay all expenses, and even with the works at Cheshire and the mine in America 1½oz., if the supply is continuous and the works well managed, should give a fair remuneration. Twenty tons per diem are now reduced at the Frodsham works, at a cost in coals, for amalgamation, loss of mercury, labour, sundries, wear and tear of machinery, of 17s. per ton, which, with the original price of the ore, raises it to 2½ 7s.

This is by no means the first time that attempts have been made to extract gold from the Welsh quartz, though, whether from mismanagement or the intrinsic poverty of the matrix, not one of the schemes has as yet proved remunerative. No doubt whatever exists as to the auriferous nature of the soil and rocks of Wiclow, and for some time the Government mining energy was directed into that channel. The result was gold, certainly, but gold at the rate of 5½. and 6½. per oz. It must, however, be recollected that at that time steam machinery was unknown. About two years ago, a company started to produce gold from the Welsh quartz by the smelting process, but this soon met with the fate which attends all schemes that go out of the way to be excessively expensive. It was soon wound up, but its brief period of working seemed to prove that about three-quarters of an ounce of gold per ton could be got from Welsh rock, though, as far as we are aware, it did not prove that the supply of quartz of even this moderate richness was large or would be constant. That fair and, perhaps, even rich specimens of auriferous quartz may now and then be found in Wales we are well aware, though it has yet to be shown that it is rich enough to pay the working, or that enough of any kind exists to keep up a regular supply. Gold is almost as universally diffused as iron; it may even be obtained from the ashes of plants; therefore Welsh quartz is not likely to be without it, but the quantity of its yield is open to as grave doubts as the extent of any auriferous rocks in Wales at all. This is the problem which the Frodsham Company propose to solve. They are also about to enter into arrangements for a supply of Australian quartz.

## FIRE AT THE MESSRS. PICKFORD'S WAREHOUSES.

A CONFLAGRATION of alarming magnitude, the light of which could be seen over a large part of London, burst out on Tuesday night in the extensive warehouses occupied by Messrs. Pickford, the railway carriers. On that evening, according to the accounts in the daily

papers, there was an unusual influx of business, and it was past ten before the Liverpool and Manchester goods were drawn out of the warehouses. The invoices for these were still in course of preparation by the clerks, when a sudden alarm of fire ran through the building, and, on looking up from his desk, the principal bookkeeper observed an unusual glare of light at the extreme north-eastern corner of the premises, immediately adjoining the engine-house, and in close proximity to lofts in which hay and straw for the use of the horses were kept. Almost before time had elapsed to ascertain the real extent of the danger, the flames had spread into the main warehouse, and in a few moments the whole area was threatened with destruction. The clerks were terrified, and fled precipitately, leaving their books and papers open on the desks. By the exertions of some dozen carmen, however, more than one hundred valuable horses were set loose and were driven out of the building, whence they galloped wildly about the neighbourhood; but one perished in the flames. The outbreak occurred about a quarter after ten o'clock, and in less than twenty minutes the whole building was on fire. When the engines arrived, they could do nothing more than confine the mischief to the warehouses; but these were utterly destroyed. All the vast stores of goods intended for places south of Manchester were burnt as they stood upon the trucks, and, in addition to these, many thousands of pounds' worth of property stored in the warehouses, and waiting orders for removal, are irrecoverably lost. A considerable quantity of live stock perished in the wreck. No fewer than fifty pigs, some goats, and much poultry have been destroyed. At half-past eleven, the massive north wall fell into the canal, burying beneath it two barges, almost blocking up the current, and causing the water to flow over the towing-path. Among the sufferers by this catastrophe will be Messrs. Bass, of Burton-on-Trent, whose consignments of pale ale are exclusively entrusted to Messrs. Pickford.

When the horses were turned out, they were driven mostly along the Hampstead and Kentish-town roads in the direction of Highgate and Hampstead-heath, and this was nearly fatal to Mr. Inspector Fidge. He had seen the fire and was riding rapidly down Highgate-hill, when he was suddenly met by a drove of the frightened horses, which were galloping up the hill at the top of their speed. In an instant, he was in the midst of them, horse and rider being overthrown. Beyond being terribly shaken, however, and covered from head to foot with mud, he sustained no injury.

There are various rumours as to the origin of the calamity, but none of a positive character. By some it is alleged that the fire was caused by the sparks of the chimney of one of the barges igniting some hay and straw in the gallery; by others that it was from one of the men's pipes, or a lucifer match. It is stated that at least 40,000 quarters of corn were in the building, the whole of which has been burnt.

On Wednesday morning, the railway authorities, with great promptness, placed at the disposal of the company a large space on the opposite side of the canal, between it and Chaplin and Horne's warehouses. Workmen were immediately employed in erecting temporary premises, and in the course of the day the following placard was posted on the walls of the destroyed building and on the gates of the railway:—"Pickford and Co., as agents to the London and North-Western Railway Company, have arranged for conducting their business as usual since the lamentable fire at Camden-town last night.—Gresham-street, June 10, 1857."

## STATE OF TRADE.

THE reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday indicate a continued disposition to guard against the probable effect of high prices in causing a falling off of consumption. At Manchester, the market has been benefited by the suspension of work consequent upon Whitsuntide, and the general arrangements for the future diminution of the rate of production. In the hosiery and woollen districts there has been general quietness. At Birmingham, in the iron and other trades, there is a fair amount of employment, but no signs of great activity. The further reduction announced during the week in the prices of tin and copper is expected, however, to impart animation to several branches of manufacture. The Irish linen-markets are without alteration.—*Times*.

The general business of the port of London during the same week has again been very active. The number of vessels reported inward was 882, being 91 more than in the previous week. The number cleared outward was 119, including 15 in ballast, showing a decrease of six. The total of vessels on the berth loading for the Australian colonies is 49, being ten less than at the last account. Of those now loading, seven are for Adelaide, three for Geelong, five for Hobart Town, three for Launceston, one for Melbourne, one for Moreton Bay, four for New Zealand, twelve for Port Phillip, two for Portland Bay, one for Port Fairy, eight for Sydney, and one for Swan River. Of those, one was entered outward in February, three in March, and nineteen in April.—*Idem*.

The suspension of Messrs. Evans, Hoare, and Co., a firm largely engaged in the Australian export trade, was

announced on Wednesday afternoon. According to some accounts, the liabilities of the house amount to 200,000*l.*; but other estimates place them at about 150,000*l.*

#### IRELAND.

**TIPPERARY BANK.**—A motion in Chancery has been made in the case of 'M'Dowell v. Pepper' for an order of reference to the Master under the 15th section of the Chancery Regulation Act. The petition prayed for a receiver and a sale of the respondent's property, on foot of certain calls made against him as a shareholder which had not been paid. The suit was, it was stated, framed as a mortgage suit, and was similar to proceedings instituted against Mr. James Sadleir and other shareholders. The Chancellor felt very doubtful whether the law permitted him to regard the calls upon the respondent as mortgages upon his property. Finally, he made an order for a receiver, but not for a sale.

Mr. HERBERT, the new Irish Secretary, was re-elected, on Tuesday, without a contest, for the county of Kerry.

**THE LIEUTENANCY OF TIPPERARY.**—The Lord-Lieutenancy of the county of Tipperary, vacated by the death of Lord Lismore, has been conferred upon his son, the present Viscount.

#### AMERICA.

**GENERAL CASS** is said to be preparing a reply to the recent application of Lord Napier with reference to a renewal of the negotiations on the affairs of Central America. It having been announced to Lord Napier that the steamer *Michigan* on the Canadian Lakes was a few tons larger than the size allowed by the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, his Lordship directed the attention of the United States Government to the matter, and orders were given to discontinue the use of it. The Canadians, however, are anxious to retain it, as being always ready to go to the assistance of vessels in distress.

Active operations against the Mormons are still talked of, and it is believed that a large military force will be despatched against them. The crops in Texas are expected to fail for want of rain. The northern part of Michigan has been visited by a terrible famine, owing, it is said, to a blunder of the Department of the Interior and to defective arrangements on the part of the settlers themselves.

From Kansas we hear that Secretary Stanton has issued a proclamation for the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention on the third Monday in June. Returns from nineteen out of twenty counties were in at the last dates, giving 9251 legal voters. Many of the Republicans are said to be going over to the Free State National Democracy, and an attempt is being made by Northern Democrats to send Free State men of that party to the Convention.

Dred Scott and his wife and two daughters were emancipated at St. Louis on the 26th ult.

Mr. Morse, late Commissioner to Bogota, has arrived in Washington. He expresses no doubt as to the eventual settlement of the difficulty between New Granada and the United States in a manner satisfactory to both parties.

The people of Mexico are preparing for the elections to Congress, to the Presidential chair, and to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Santa Anna's friends are intriguing for his restoration to power. A reconciliation with the Pope is anticipated. The reported defeat of Colonel Crabbe and his Filibusters in Sonora is confirmed. Two of the houses in which the invaders were besieged took fire, and some barrels of gunpowder exploded, killing and wounding a great many of the party. The Sonorians also lost several men in the course of the struggle, and were left almost without officers. Sixty-five of the Filibusters are to be shot. Five hundred more are reported to have found their way into Arizona, and to have encamped in the region of Tucson.

The tendency in the New York money-market is towards greater ease, the supply on call and for first-class paper being in excess of the demand.

#### THE ORIENT.

##### INDIA.

THE disaffection in some of the Native regiments has assumed a very serious form. The 8rd Bengal Cavalry are in open mutiny. They have burnt down the lines and the officers' bungalows, and several of the officers and men have been killed and wounded. It was reported at Calcutta that a correspondence had been discovered in the possession of a native officer of the 84th Bengal Infantry, proving the existence of a conspiracy for organising a general rising of the entire army.

The British mission to Afghanistan has reached Candahar.

At Calcutta, operations in exports continued restricted owing to light supplies, high prices, and enhanced freights. The import-market had somewhat improved. At Bombay, the import-market was rather dull: in exports there was little or no change. Imports at Madras were generally steady; exports were firm, and freights looking up.

A Madras paper has announced the death of the

Nizam; but this appears doubtful, though the Prince is very ill.

General Ashburnham, with his staff, arrived at Bombay on the 4th ult., and intended to leave for China about the 9th.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday contains a 'Notification' issued by the Governor-General of India in Council, conveying his thanks to General Outram, Commodore Young, and the others, officers, privates, and seamen, engaged in the Persian war.

##### CHINA.

No fresh operations had taken place in the Canton river. Yeh is said to be embarrassed by want of money, and great discontent prevails at his inability to effect anything.

At Foo-chow-foo, uneasiness had been caused by accounts of disturbances and the presence of rebels in the tea districts. The first crop of Kishow teas will be lost, and the price of tea has consequently risen.

"The Chinese Coolie who is supposed to have murdered Mr. Markwick," says the *Times* Hong-Kong correspondent, "has been captured, and is now in custody awaiting his trial. In consequence of some disclosures made by him, an expedition was sent to Stanley, and one also to Cowloon, to try and capture some of Yeh's emissaries, who are said to be about. The expeditions were not successful, although it was understood that such parties had been at those places."

A plot against the lives of Colonel Cain (the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong-Kong) and Mr. Caldwell (the Registrar and Inspector-General) has been discovered, and one of the conspirators, the 'head watchman' of Stanley, was taken into custody. His chief accomplice, the 'Tepo,' or headborough, of the same place, has fled.

##### PERSIA.

The expeditionary force is to remain in Persia three months after the ratification of the treaty of peace. Mr. Murray will return to Teheran, escorted probably by the 1st Scinde Horse, which corps, according to popular rumour, will proceed as far as Herat, in order to ascertain beyond a doubt that the Persians have evacuated that city, and restored it to the family of Yar Mahomed. The general health of the English troops in Persia continues good.

Mohammed Youssouf, a man who, some short time ago, assassinated the Prince of Herat, has, in his turn, fallen by the hands of the sons of the murdered man.

#### THE TREATY OF PEACE WITH PERSIA.

THE text of the treaty of peace between England and Persia, signed at Paris March 4th, 1857, and ratified at Bagdad May 2nd, has been published. It consists of the ordinary preamble, fifteen Articles, a Separate Note referred to in Article X., and an Annex to the Note. The document is of considerable length; but it is thus summarized in the *Times* :—

"Persia is to retire from Herat; to withdraw from it and Afghanistan [and to relinquish all claims on them]. In case of any quarrel with them, she is to request the friendly offices of the British Government, which is to do its best. Persia is only to attack Herat for the defence of her frontier, and to push her arms no further than necessary for repelling aggression. Our Consular establishments are to be on the same footing as those of the 'most favoured' nation. The pecuniary claims of British subjects, or of Persians under British protection, are to be settled by a Mixed Commission. [The Persian Government will set at liberty, without ransom, all English prisoners, and make an exchange with the Afghans of all Afghan prisoners. The contracting powers will renew their agreements for the suppression of the slave trade in the Persian Gulf.] England gives up the protection of Persian subjects, unless in the employ of British representatives and agents, and provided also that no larger privilege of protection is allowed by Persia to any other Power. The dignity of the British Crown is to be vindicated in the person of Mr. Charles Murray, who is to receive in State a letter of apology for some offensive remarks of the Shah, and to be solemnly invited to the capital. He is to be conducted thither in State, to receive a visit from the Prime Minister, to be accompanied by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Palace, and presented by him to the Shah. He is to receive another visit the day after from the Premier, at noon; which visit Mr. Murray is to return the next day—at the latest, before noon. No private names or domestic circumstances appear in the Treaty. There is not a word about the proposed electric telegraph, or the Euphrates Valley line, or any port or emporium in the Gulf, or about the Russian acquisitions of territory on the Caspian. Russia only appears under the euphemism of 'the most favoured nation.'"

The offensive letter of the Shah for which apology is to be made is as follows:—

"December, 1855.

"Last night we read the paper written by the English Minister Plenipotentiary, and were much surprised

at the rude, unmeaning, disgusting, and insolent tone and purport. The letter which he before wrote was also impertinent. We have also heard that in his own house he is constantly speaking disrespectfully of us and of you, but we never believed it; now, however, he has introduced it in an official letter. We are therefore convinced that this man, Mr. Murray, is stupid, ignorant, and insane, who has the audacity and impudence to insult even kings! From the time of Shah Sultan Hossein (when Persia was in its most disorganised state, and during the last fourteen years of his life, when by serious illness he was incapacitated for business) up to the present time, no disrespect towards the Sovereign has been tolerated, either from the Government or its agent. What has happened now that this foolish Minister Plenipotentiary acts with such temerity? It appears that our friendly missions are not acquainted with the wording of that document; give it now to Meerza Abbas and Meerza Malmum, that they may take and duly explain it to the French Minister and Hyder Effendi, that they may see how improperly he has written. Since last night till now, our time has been passed in vexation. We now command you, in order that you may yourself know, and also acquaint the missions, that until the Queen of England herself makes us a suitable apology for the insolence of her envoy we will never receive back this her foolish Minister, who is a simpleton, nor accept from her Government any other Minister."

#### STATE OF BELGIUM.

(Extracts from a Private Letter.)

"Brussels, Jan. 10.

"The streets are now quiet, but the excitement of the country is far from being calmed. The Communal Councils of all the great cities have addressed the King, felicitating him on the adjournment of the Chambers, and recommending him to withdraw the bill altogether. The Communal Council of Ghent, though presided over by M. Delahaye, elected President of the Chamber in payment of his desertion of the Liberals; that of Ypres, a city of which M. Malou is deputy; and that of Bruges, whose bishop is the real author of the bill, have been the first to come forward in this way. . . . Yesterday the Right met at the house of M. le Comte de Mérode-Westerloo. Fifty members were present. The discussion lasted four hours. It was resolved to refer everything to the wisdom of the King. With regard to the law of Charity, it was decided that the debate should not be continued, and that it would be proper to bring the session to a close. Twelve members declared that they would vote against the law if the debate was renewed—indeed, only three members remained obstinate. Every one agreed that it would be improper to dissolve the Chambers, and undesirable that the Cabinet should resign. In consequence, the Council of Ministers met yesterday and decided that the bill should be withdrawn, and that the Chambers should be convoked as soon as possible. . . . The damage committed at Brussels during the riots will cost only four hundred francs to repair. An amusing incident happened when the crowd collected before the house of M. Malou. On the previous evening, some gamins had broken the windows of a neighbour, who accordingly hung out a large placard over his door, thus worded:—"The Charity Bill: Windows to be broken next door!"

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

##### FRANCE.

THE elections are the chief topic of interest now in France. We read in the *Siecle*:—"Are we to consider the department of the Maine-et-Loire as placed beyond the common law? This might be believed, for the *Indépendant de l'Ouest*, in its number of the 5th inst., affirms that it has been prohibited from writing about electoral bulletins; that it has been officially 'invited' to abstain from any observations that might resemble a censure, a blame, or even a praise of the functionaries of the Empire; finally, that it cannot interfere in the elections, as silence has been imposed upon it. After the circular of the Minister of the Interior, and when similar prohibitions, dictated by excess of zeal, have been everywhere withdrawn, the position to which the *Indépendant de l'Ouest* has been reduced is an anomaly which cannot last, and to which we now direct the attention of Government."

A circular has been addressed by the Ministry of the Interior to the Prefects of Departments explaining the course they are to pursue with respect to the Imperialist candidates who may present themselves in competition with the official candidates put forward by the Government. The Minister desires that complete liberty shall be allowed to these candidates. The Ministers of Marine, Justice, and Commerce, have, at the desire of their colleague, also addressed circulars to their subordinates, instructing them to give their assistance to the Government at the approaching elections.

The most remarkable electoral address that has yet come out (says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News*) is one issued in the department of the Eure-et-Loir by a non-official candidate named Henri Bosset. He takes for his text the promise made to the



nation by the Emperor at the beginning of his reign, that "liberty should one day crown the edifice." M. Bosselet thinks that the proper time has come, and it is for that reason that he presents himself as a candidate. "If," he says to the electors, "you return to the Corps Législatif the old deputies, you will show yourselves satisfied with the present state of things; if, on the contrary, you vote for the independent candidates, you will declare that in your opinion the hour has come for the fulfilment of the promise made to the nation, 'Liberty shall crown the edifice.' I, therefore, ask for your suffrages, being one of those who think that the time has arrived, and that the management of public affairs should now be in the hands of independent men." The *Messenger du Midi*, so far from being of the above opinion, thinks that the hour of liberty will never strike for France. "France does not know, does not love, does not understand, does not wish for, liberty."

The *Indépendant de l'Ouest* contains the following brief statement of its intentions:—"We had been forbidden to discuss the electoral question; but this prohibition has now been raised. We avail ourselves of the freedom granted us to declare that we shall abstain."

Baron Mariani, Chevalier d'Honneur of the Princess Bacciocchi, and the Government candidate for the new circumscription given to Corsica, has issued a circular to the electors. He here states that the Emperor himself supports him, and that, if any other person should present himself, that person would be guilty of an act of opposition to the sovereign will. He appends a letter of Napoleon's, signifying that he "shall be very happy if the confidence of the electors places" the Baron in the Chamber.

The Opposition candidates for the electoral districts of Paris are—M. Laboulaye, formerly one of the editors of the *Constitutionnel*, candidate for the first arrondissement; M. Belmont, second; General Cavaignac, third; M. Emile Ollivier, fourth; M. Carnot, fifth; M. Goudchaux, sixth; M. Darimon, of the *Presse*, seventh; M. Vavin, eighth; M. Ferdinand de Lasteyrie, ninth; and M. Regnault, former Sub-Prefect of Sceaux, tenth.

The *Assemblée Nationale* contains some information on the electoral movement as follows:—"It is known that, with few exceptions, the candidates supported by Government are the late deputies. We are now acquainted with certain of these exceptions. The Duc de Conéglino, Chamberlain of the Emperor, will oppose M. de Montalembert in the Doubs. Count Tascher de la Pagerie, son of the Chamberlain of the Empress, and himself Chamberlain, replaces the Duc d'Uzès, who is set aside in the official list. In the Calvados M. A. Renée, political director of the *Constitutionnel*, and 'special defender of the cotton goods interest,' succeeds M. Leroy Beaulieu. Count Migeon is replaced in the Haut-Rhin by M. Nizole, jun., 'a man new to politics,' says the Prefect, 'who has offered to Government a devoted co-operation in order to support a dynasty which has saved the country and covered it with glory.' M. H. Bosselet has addressed a circular to the electors, declaring himself an independent candidate. M. Jules Brame likewise presents himself to one of the districts of the Nord as 'an independent candidate.'"

The number of non-official candidates is said to be far from numerous.

M. Brifaut, member of the French Academy, and a dramatic author, has just died at the age of seventy-seven.

Professor Carlo Matteucci has been elected a member of the French Institute. He is Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Pisa.

M. de Segur, First Secretary to the French Embassy at Constantinople, who is in Paris on leave of absence, is not to return to Turkey. It is thought he will be promoted to the Ministry.

A review of infantry took place at Longchamps on Thursday week in presence of the Emperor, the Empress, and the King of Bavaria.

The weather has been intensely hot in Paris.

Marshal Randon has received the submission of the various Algerian tribes against whom he has recently been operating.

The *Leader* was again seized by the French authorities last week. It was the only one of the English weeklies thus distinguished.

General Count Kisseleff, the Russian Ambassador at Paris, having obtained leave of absence for two months, has determined to pass that period at one of the watering-places of Germany. During his absence, M. de Balabine will carry on the business of the embassy.

The King of Bavaria left Paris at half-past nine on Monday morning by the Strasburg Railway.

A very serious fire burst out on Tuesday morning in the Rue Ponthieu, close to the Champs Elysées, in the hay-loft of a dealer in horses. The beasts—as at the fire on the same day at Pickford's, in London—were rescued with great difficulty, and it was feared at one time that the flames would have spread to a lamentable extent. As it was, a great deal of mischief was done.

M. A. Fould, Minister of State, has left Paris for England for a few days.

#### DENMARK.

A note has been addressed by the Prussian Government to Herr von Steffens, its Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen. It has reference to the Duchies of Holstein

and Lauenburg, and in it we read:—"The Danish despatch [of May 13th] contains the promise that the provincial estates of Holstein shall be convoked, at the latest, in August of this year, and a revised draught of a constitution for the 'special affairs' of the Duchy be submitted to them for due deliberation according to the forms of their constitution. It contains also the further promise that this draught to be submitted to them shall also contain those provisions which shall define the scope of the 'special affairs' of the Duchy of Holstein. Finally, there was specially the express assurance given in it, and to this we attach especial weight, that the Assembly of the Estates should have ample opportunity afforded them of expressing themselves freely and unhindered on the limits to be put to the competence of the Estates. In all this, however, there is nothing said as to how far the Danish Government will be prepared to meet the claims which the promises of 1851 and 1852 entitle the Duchies and the Confederation to make. On this point we must wait for the results of the approaching deliberations of the Estates, and although in respect to it we confidently reckon on the wisdom and justice of his Majesty the King of Denmark, all the rights must of course be reserved and vindicated which flow out from the constitution of the Duchies, and from the undertakings entered into by the Crown of Denmark with Prussia and Austria in the years 1851 and 1852. . . . Under these circumstances, we, in common with the Court of Vienna, find ourselves at the present moment under no call to bring the matter before the German Diet. It must be observed, however, that the Copenhagen despatch holds out an expectation of a draught to be submitted to the Estates of Holstein only in respect of the 'special affairs' of the Duchy; of the constitution for the 'common affairs' of the Danish Monarchy there is no special mention made. . . . Finally, the despatch of the 13th May does not make any special mention of the Duchy of Lauenburg; we presume this to have arisen from the circumstance that, as is currently understood, negotiations have been opened with the Estates of Lauenburg, for we believe we may look on it as beyond all question that the Government of his Majesty the King of Denmark is prepared to recognise a no less amount of rights as resident in the Estates of Lauenburg than in those of Holstein."

#### SWEDEN.

The King continues ill. His Majesty is labouring under a nervous debility, which renders him incapable of deciding on important questions in the Council of Ministers, and, if his health do not speedily improve, it will be necessary for the hereditary Prince to assume the government.

#### SPAIN.

Lord Howden, on the 31st ult., gave a magnificent banquet to the Prince and Princess Galitzin. Thirty-five persons sat down to dinner, and several members of the diplomatic corps were present. Marshal Narvaez was unable to attend, owing to indisposition. The dinner was followed by an evening reception.

Desperdicios, or Dominguez, the famous *torador*, lies dying, having been frightfully wounded by a bull in the ring of Puerto de Santa Maria, in the presence of ten thousand spectators. The beast caught him with its horns first on the right side, then on the left, tossed him, and, as he fell, caught him under the chin, splitting the jaw, and driving the horn up to the right eye, which it forced out. Several other accidents of the same kind are also recorded.

#### AUSTRIA.

The Princess Vogorides, who has just been divorced from her husband at Vienna, arrived with her family, and will leave in a few days for Paris, where she intends taking up her residence.

#### ITALY.

Monsignor Berardi (says a communication from Rome of the 26th ult.) has obeyed to the letter the instructions of Cardinal Antonelli—that is, he is constantly near the person of the Pope, and prevents him from having any direct communication with those of his subjects who might respectfully explain to him the truth as to the deplorable situation of the country. At Perugia, for instance, his Holiness was earnestly entreated by an inhabitant (his devoted adherent) to prolong his visit one day, and the Pope consented, but Monsignor Berardi observed to his Holiness that if he did so the order of his journey would be altered. The Pope was forced to change his resolution. During his stay at Perugia, Monsignor Berardi prevented the citizens from approaching his Holiness, and the forty-six hours he remained there were spent in visiting the convents. The deputations from some municipalities were only suffered to approach the Pope to kiss his feet; they were not permitted to speak.

The Sardinian Minister of the Interior has given orders that the body of the Protestant which was refused sepulture in the churchyard of Fara shall be disinterred and buried in consecrated ground.

The students of the University of Parma, in conjunction with those of Piacenza, have forwarded 426l. 8s. to the Minister of Finance at Turin, to be added to the subscriptions sent by other Italian students in aid of the purchase of one hundred guns for the fortress of Alessandria. They hope that the following inscription

will be placed on one of the guns:—"The Italian students."

Cardinal Antonelli has addressed a circular to the provincial authorities of the Papal States, forbidding the Communal Councils to assemble. The cause assigned for this measure is to prevent the Council from taking advantage of the journey of the Pope to express their complaints and make known their wishes. Pio Nono, in his progress through his dominions, continues to be received respectfully, but by no means enthusiastically.

A striking romance of Italian life is told by the *Gazetta Popolare* of Cagliari, where it is stated that a solemn reconciliation has been effected between the villages of Perfugas and Bortigadas (island of Sardinia), the inhabitants of which had lived in perpetual feud (*vendetta*) for upwards of a century. The most singular circumstance connected with this event is, that it has been brought about by a notorious bandit named Pietro Marras, a native of Perfugas, who has been the terror of the country for the last twenty-two years. He obtained a safe-conduct from the Government, in order to be present at the ceremony of the reconciliation, and it was intimated to him that if he would constitute himself a prisoner, and submit to a trial, he would obtain a pardon in consideration of the important service he had done to his country; but he refused, and returned to the woods immediately after the banquet which closed the proceedings, saying that "birds liked the forest better than the cage."

The silkworms have suffered in the districts of Mantua, Brescia, and Cremona, but the apprehensions of the inhabitants of the country around Milan and Pavia are said to have been exaggerated. The worms are thriving in Friuli, Venice, and the Tyrol, as also in Modena, Parma, in the domains of the Church, and in Tuscany. In Sardinia, the prospects are but middling.

The trial at Parma of the prisoners accused of having been connected with the political disturbances of the year 1854 has taken an extraordinary turn. One prisoner, who had given information against his accomplices, has refused to appear to give evidence against them in public. He declares that he had received a promise from the authorities that he should not be confronted with his confederates. Every inducement has been held out to him to prevail on him to repeat his evidence in court, but he remains obstinate. The judges have consequently continued the trial without him, and it is believed that the other prisoners will be acquitted.

The Pope arrived at Rimini on the 4th inst.

#### TURKEY.

The Porte is said to have demanded of the Belgian Government the recall of its Minister, but it has refused compliance. It is anticipated that there will very shortly be a suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries. The cause of the dissension is not known.

Diplomatic conferences are about to take place shortly between the Grand Vizier and the Representatives of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Paris, in order to agree to the interpretation of the Firman for convoking the Divans in the Danubian Principalities.

"Above 4000 peasants of all religious creeds, and without firearms," says a letter in the *Austrian Gazette*, "are assembled near Tula; they demand the reduction of taxes, the removal of abuses, and the realization of the Hatti Humayoun. The endeavours of the authorities to dissipate the assembly have failed. The peasants ask for the formation of a commission composed of Turkish functionaries and European consuls, in order to have their grievances taken into consideration. They also intend despatching a deputation to Constantinople."

A conference took place on the 30th ult. at the Porte on the subject of the Danubian Principalities. The persons present were, the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Representatives of the Powers which signed the treaty of Paris. The object of the meeting was to inquire into the complaints against the Government of Moldavia, brought forward by some of the commissioners, especially those of France and Sardinia, and also to solve some difficulties encountered in carrying out the provisions of the Imperial firman. The conference lasted several hours, and broke up at an advanced hour of the night. It appears that the points in dispute were settled to the satisfaction of all parties, and more especially of the Turkish Government. — *Times Constantinople Correspondent*.

#### SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Assembly met on Tuesday. The message of the Federal Council proposes and recommends the ratification of the treaty relative to the affairs of Neuchâtel. M. Escher, President of the National Council, expressed himself in the same sense. The treaty has been referred to a committee.

#### CIRCASSIA.

The Russians have opened the campaign against Schamyl. Prince Baryatinski commands the expedition. M. Finck, Consul for France at Tiflis, accompanies the Prince.

#### RUSSIA.

The Czar means to call his infant child Sergius, having, in company with his consort, vowed before the tomb of the saint of that name—the 'protector' of Russia—that, if the Empress should be safely delivered of a son,

he should be christened after the holy man. Accordingly, the child was born, and hence the name. Alexander has communicated the fact to the Reverend Metropolitan of Moscow, Philaret, in a letter in which it appears that he expressly stipulated that the Empress should be "happily and safely delivered;" otherwise, the bargain would not have held good. But what vain old fellows these saints are, who will do anything to have a child christened after them!

#### THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Kaimakan Vogorides has received the Grand Cordon of the Iron Crown from the Austrian Government. It has been suggested that this is a testimony of approbation for his conduct in opposing the Union.

In the negotiations concerning the organisation of the Danubian Principalities, the partisans of the Union of the two provinces have often brought forward the name of a Prince of the Royal Family of Belgium, the Comte de Flandres, as a candidate for that eventual constitutional throne. The representative of Belgium at Constantinople has even been accused of lending an active aid to that candidature. Such an intervention would have been not only a signal *maladresse*, but a positive infringement of treaties on the part of a state which is bound to strict neutrality. The *Moniteur Belge* has accordingly denied in formal terms these accusations, and has published the correspondence exchanged between the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Belgian representative at Constantinople. It is quite evident from these diplomatic letters that neither the Belgian Government nor its representative has ever in the slightest degree interfered in the questions relating to the Danubian Principalities.

#### PRUSSIA.

The King and Queen have left Berlin for Toplitz.

A long and excessive draught has prevailed in the neighbourhood of Berlin. The light sandy soil flies about in clouds for want of moisture, and penetrates through doors, windows, and walls; and the heat and aridity are so great that the trees in the woods frequently burst into spontaneous combustion. Two fire-work shops have been blown up, destroying the lives of four or five persons.

A railway station, also, suddenly burst into flames, without any apparent cause.

#### THE ALLEGED MALVERSATIONS IN THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

(From the *Preston Guardian*.)

It will be seen by our Parliamentary report that Mr. Coningham has obtained a committee of some sort to inquire into the allegations contained in the petition of Mr. Francis Bertolacci. As the accusations in that petition are to be submitted to a *quasi-judicial* tribunal, we will not at present enter into the details of the case between the late auditor and the inculpated noblemen; but we may express a hope that the investigation will be conducted openly and searchingly—that, in short, it will be a real, and not a sham inquiry. Shall we confess it—we have our misgivings! After Mr. Baines's assurance that his predecessors were most anxious to meet the charges preferred against them, and to show cause for the removal of an apparently high-minded and honourable man from his office, because he appeared unwilling to gloss over flagrant irregularities, we hoped that a full committee would have been nominated in the usual manner, and that Mr. Coningham would have been placed at its head. Instead of this, the government seem to have constrained the honourable member for Brighton to refer the choice of his committee to a select little body of cabinet nominees, and to limit the members to a manageable number—five. This first step does not look well, and we wonder that Lord Cavendish—who certainly has the honour of his relative at heart—did not assist the mover of the resolution to relieve himself from an unusual compact.

What on earth have the general committee of elections to do with the case of the Duchy of Lancaster? We have Mr. Henry Hansard's rules and orders of the House of Commons lying before us, in which the mode of appointing committees is specified, and to save quoting the rules applicable to the matter under notice, we may observe that in the hitherto almost, if not quite, invariable order of things, Mr. Coningham would have been entitled to nominate his own committee. Why, then, delegate this function to a body appointed for contrary purposes? The question is not answered by referring to the debate on Thursday night week. Let us, however, hope that the progress of the investigation will remove any suspicion arising from its false initiation. We assume that the committee will sit with open doors. Public feeling will not tolerate a secret investigation into such a matter as this petition. The *quasi-judicial* character of the tribunal is a powerful reason against concealment. Nothing will certainly afford us more pleasure than to find Earl Granville innocent of all just cause of complaint; but we can assure the amiable young nobleman, whose maiden speech of Thursday week does great credit to his understanding and his heart, that his motive will be defeated by a clandestine inquiry. The triumph of Earl Granville and his companions will be, at all events, incomplete, unless the trial—if we may so speak—be conducted openly. People are very suspicious

about the affairs of the Duchy, and no one can say that this distrust is not warranted. The public fancy that there has been gross jobbery in the management of the estates. Perhaps the public are in error, but we cannot say that we think they are. A short time since a review of the internal economy of the offices showed that there were 69 persons employed, whose salaries alone amounted to 7936*l.*; the surveys and valuations came to 1668*l.*; and the general expenses were 4781*l.* per annum. We also find that

The ten years' total revenue was.....	£ 390,819
The sum received by the Queen was .....	121,000

The outgoings were ..... 269,819  
The antiquity of an abuse we hold to be no palliation for its continuance, but certainly the present system is not a thing of modern growth, nor, by-the-by, is it confined to one duchy. The affairs of the Duchy of Cornwall are as wastefully conducted. Here we find that—

In ten years the receipts were .....	£ 566,537
The outgoings were .....	288,478

Leaving for the Queen..... 278,059

#### OUR CIVILIZATION.

##### A DANGEROUS TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.

A POLICEMAN was nearly killed in the Haymarket last Saturday morning by a ticket-of-leave man. Sergeant Crocker observed two men in the Haymarket about twenty minutes past two o'clock. In one of them he thought he recognised a burglar who had recently entered the residence of Lord Panmure; but, not being certain, he sent for a police constable, one Murrell, who knew the man better. On the two officers approaching the men, the latter ran off in the direction of Leicester-square, pursued by Crocker and Murrell. The suspected burglar was speedily caught, and recognised by the constable; but the other man escaped. The two officers walked with their captive as far as James-street, Haymarket, when the sergeant left in order to try and find the other man, and Murrell, the constable, continued to conduct his prisoner to the station-house. They had not walked far, when the burglar, who goes by the name of Melbourne, suddenly pulled out a pistol and shot the constable in the mouth. The sergeant, who was at no great distance, and who heard the report and the cries for help, hurried back, and found Murrell still grasping his man, though bleeding considerably and almost stunned. Melbourne then fired another pistol at the sergeant, but it took no effect. Before the arrival of Crocker, however, some of the 'swells' who haunt the Haymarket at that hour of the morning had rushed upon Melbourne, and handled him so severely that, upon being brought up in custody the next day at Marlborough-street, he exhibited a very battered appearance. It was with great difficulty that the police rescued him. He was well known to the constables as a housebreaker, and in 1853 he was tried for that offence, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; but he was afterwards liberated on ticket-of-leave. He was now committed for trial. The pistol had been loaded with a stone, which had lodged in the constable's chin; but the wound was not mortal, and he gave evidence against the man on Saturday morning.

**WHOLESALE SHOPLIFTING.**—Two women, sisters, and the wives of artisans at Plymouth, are now in custody at that town, charged with shoplifting on an immense scale. Goods sufficient to stock a shop with were found by the police at their lodgings. Their courage must have been equal to their dishonesty; for one day they went to a draper's shop, stole a parcel of silk braid, and afterwards had the audacity to make a second visit with the braid still in their possession.

**EXTENSIVE FRAUD.**—A young man of the name of William Jones has been examined at the Guildhall police-office on the charge of having attempted to defraud Messrs. Dent and Allcroft, wholesale glovers of Wood-street, City, of 1600*l.* worth of goods. Early in last month, the young man went to the firm, and, after stating that he came from Messrs. Jones and Evans of New York, and of Melbourne in Australia, and that he was transacting business for them, selected stock to the amount of 1600*l.*, and gave instructions for its shipment, adding that he would call again the next day and settle the account. On leaving, he took with him a pair of gloves and a scarf as a sample, but nothing more was seen of him until a week afterwards, when one of the men at Dent and Allcroft's observed him walking down Wood-street. He stopped him, and inquired when he was going to pay for the goods he had selected. Jones denied that he had ever selected any goods, on which he was taken into the counting-house, where, on being spoken to by one of the partners, he confessed the whole fraud, and begged for mercy. He was given into custody, and it was then discovered that the scarf and gloves of which he had defrauded Messrs. Dent and Co., had been pawned for 1*s.* 6*d.* He was remanded.

**DEFALCATIONS OF OFFICERS OF SAVINGS-BANKS.**—A return published on Monday gives full particulars of

defalcations discovered to have taken place in savings-banks since the 1st of July, 1851, with all the correspondence thereto relating. Defalcations have taken place in the following banks—viz., in the Ongar branch of the Romford savings-bank, the Dunmow bank, the Newport (Isle of Wight) bank, the Runcorn bank, the Bradford (Wilts) bank, the Southport bank, the Yoxall and Barton bank, the Rugby bank, the West London bank, the Bromley bank, and the Leicester bank.

**ASSAULT BY A SOLICITOR ON A BROTHER SOLICITOR.**—On the Mayor of Birmingham leaving the banquet at Dee's Hotel given to the Duke of Cambridge on Monday week, he asked Mr. Hodgson, a solicitor and the ex-Mayor, to take his place as chairman. This was accordingly done; but, if we may rely on Mr. Hodgson's subsequent statement, Mr. Collis, another solicitor, told him that it was the desire of the Mayor that the festivities should be speedily closed. Mr. Collis denies this, and says the suggestion was merely one of his own. On the following day, the Mayor inquired why the party had been cut short. Mr. Hodgson attributed the fact to what Mr. Collis had told him. Mr. Collis then wrote a note to Mr. Hodgson, asking him if he adhered to the statement, and the latter replied that he did, though expressing himself in very conciliatory language. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Collis went to the office of his brother solicitor, and, holding up the letter, said, "Do you withdraw this?" Mr. Hodgson answered, "No, but—" At that moment, he was struck on the face by Mr. Collis, and, according to his own account, he received some dozen blows, causing a flow of blood. The poker was also brandished over his head. At length, he became insensible, and, when one of the clerks burst the door open (for it was locked), Mr. Collis threatened to "lay him straight" if he interfered. When the case was brought forward at the police-court, Mr. Collis said Mr. Hodgson admitted that his letter was a tissue of falsehoods, and offered to write any apology. He then began writing it, but suddenly seized the tongs, and called out "Murder!" on which, Mr. Collis says he knocked him down three times. The offender was committed for trial. His counsel threw up his brief on hearing Mr. Collis in open court call Mr. Hodgson a liar.

**A MORTAL BLOW.**—A dancer and singer at Evans's Hotel, Covent Garden, named Hildebrand is now in custody under a very serious charge. He is in the habit of appearing in the saloon of the hotel, towards the small hours of the morning, as 'an Ethiopian serenader'; and on the night of the Derby day he was going home to his lodgings in Church-street, Waterloo-road, when he met a man named Rowland White, who was intoxicated. It would appear that this man struck Hildebrand, who returned the blow with such force as to knock his adversary down. White rose, with his mouth bleeding profusely, and exclaimed, "My jaw is broken; he kicked me on the jaw." He was assisted by the proprietress of a 'coffee-house' in Wellington-street, where the circumstance occurred, and was afterwards conveyed to King's College Hospital. Hildebrand, in the meanwhile, walked off; but he was taken into custody at Evans's on the night of Friday week, and on the following day he appeared before the Bow-street magistrate. A young woman, named Jane Hicks, with whom he cohabits, and who performs as a *pose plastique* at the Coal Hole, was with him at the time, and she confirmed Hildebrand's assertions that he merely acted in self-defence. The allegation that he had kicked the man, Hildebrand solemnly denied to the police, saying, "So help me God, I did not;" but he acknowledged that he struck White two or three times. Mr. Nicholson, of the Coal Hole Tavern, and some others gave Hildebrand an excellent character for sobriety and steadiness, and the police stated that White was known to them as a constant drunkard. The accused was remanded, and admitted to bail. During the progress of the case, a constable brought in the intelligence that White had just died at the hospital. The young woman Hicks fainted and fell back, and was taken out of court insensible. The inquest has terminated in a verdict stating that White was killed by Hildebrand in self-defence.

**WIFE-BEATING.**—James Shadrach, a middle-aged man and a carpenter, has been sent to prison for six months, with hard labour, for an assault on his wife, a wretched-looking woman, whom he frequently ill uses, and on the present occasion nearly murdered. He accused her of being drunk, but this appears to have been a falsehood, the neighbours giving the woman a very good character. The man, however, was himself intoxicated, and this was all the defence he could offer. The wife, who is always kept very short of money, was assisted with a small sum from the poor-box.

**A VIOLENT MAN AND HIS VIOLENT SISTER.**—A Mr. Hickmott, one of the guardians of the poor of Mile-end Old Town, owns a cottage and piece of market garden ground at Bromley, which is in the occupation of William Moyce, a gardener. Wishing to dispossess this tenant, Mr. Hickmott obtained a writ of possession, and two went on Monday morning with a sheriff's officer and two policemen (for Moyce had the character of a very violent person) to the premises. The man was required to give up possession; but he said he would not. The door of the cottage was then broken open, and the officers began to remove the furniture. Moyce be-



came very violent, and, taking up a gun, said he would shoot some one. After some parleying, he fired the gun into the air, and laid it aside in the house; but subsequently he appeared with the weapon again (having apparently reloaded it in the interval), and fired it at Mr. Hickmott, who fell to the ground, seriously wounded. A rush was then made on Moyce, and he was secured. During these proceedings, his sister, a Mrs. Scott, was exceedingly abusive and threatening, and, as she appeared to stimulate her brother's violence, she also was taken into custody. On being brought before the Thames magistrate, she was set at liberty on promising to appear again on Saturday (to-day), until when Moyce was remanded. The defence of the accused was that he had been very harshly used by Mr. Hickmott, who had frightened his mother to death by his violence.—Mr. Hickmott was unable to attend, being too seriously wounded. The gun was loaded with small shot, which penetrated his right side.

**TRIAL AND CONVICTION FOR FORGERY.**—Joseph Manning Wilson, lately a merchant in Leith, was charged at the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on Monday, with forgery and uttering six forged bills of exchange, to the amount in all of 2345*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, between October, 1855 and January, 1856. About the same period, several other bill forgeries were committed in Leith, and a merchant there named Jacob Christiansen was apprehended and convicted in connexion with them in May, 1856, and sentenced to be transported for life. In February or March, 1856, Wilson had been examined by the Procurator-Fiscal in regard to the forgeries then creating so much uneasiness in Leith, but there was no evidence sufficient to detain him, and soon afterwards he absconded and took ship for Australia. In his absence he was indicted for trial, and on not appearing was outlawed by the High Court in May, 1856. He was at length, however, apprehended at Folkestone in November last by the superintendent of the Leith police, Mr. Grant, having just come ashore in a small boat from the vessel in the Channel, and awaiting the opportunity to proceed to America or the Continent. After a trial of eight hours, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and Wilson was sentenced to transportation for life.

**ATTEMPTED POISONINGS.**—William Fogg, a diminutive, haggard-looking man, working as a shoemaker, has been charged at the Worship-street police-court with swallowing oxalic acid, and attempting to make his daughter take the same poison, in which, however, he was prevented by the presence of mind of the girl's aunt, a young married woman who did work about the house. To this woman, Fogg had paid improper attentions, wishing her to leave her husband and live with him; but she had refused. On the morning of the attempted poisoning, she had interfered to prevent the man beating his daughter with a strap. Fogg himself swallowed a large portion of the poison; but a powerful antidote was speedily administered, and he recovered. He was remanded.

**AN IRISH SAVAGE.**—Roger Grogan, a ruffianly-looking Irishman, has been examined before the Southwark magistrate and committed for trial on a charge of assaulting and attempting to rob a Mrs. Counsell. The woman was going, late on Saturday night, to her home, in Cow-alley, Bermondsey, and was walking slightly in advance of her husband, when Grogan demanded her money, and assaulted her very indecently. Her husband, hearing her cries, came up; but he too was attacked with great savageness. Another man, however, interfered, and Grogan was overpowered and given into custody.

**MURDEROUS ASSAULT BY AN ITALIAN AT CARDIFF.**—William Barry, an American sailor has been dangerously wounded by an Italian seaman named Antonio Firpo, in an affray between the two men at Cardiff, where several vessels from various foreign ports are stationed. On Sunday night at a late hour, a considerable uproar arose at a house in Pendoylan-street, amongst a number of foreign sailors of different nations, in the course of which a quarrel took place between Firpo and Barry. The Italian suddenly lifted his arm, his hand apparently containing some sharp weapon with which he evidently stabbed Barry, for the latter immediately afterwards fell down, bleeding profusely from a severe wound in his throat. Firpo and his comrades then ran away. The tumult was dreadful, both within and without the house, and one of the witnesses describes the scene (though somewhat hyperbolically) as having the appearance of a town in a state of siege. The police had much difficulty in suppressing the riot, but they at length succeeded in apprehending Firpo and his accomplices, the former of whom was brought before the magistrates the next day and remanded, that the police might take the deposition of the wounded man, who lies in a very dangerous state, and it is feared will not long survive his injuries.

**MURDER AT DUNDEE.**—James Coyle, a weaver employed at Dundee, entered, while in a state of intoxication, a cottage occupied by an old woman, named Burnet or Quin, and her married daughter. He made an infamous assault on the latter, to whom he acted with great indecency, and the old woman, after vainly endeavouring to prevent him, expressed herself loudly on the scandalous nature of his conduct. The young woman at length got him out at the door, but he re-

entered at the window, and so savagely maltreated old Mrs. Burnet that she died very shortly after. The murderer fled, but was subsequently apprehended by a policeman, after a desperate struggle.

**EXTENSIVE SWINDLING.**—Manchester has recently been the scene of some swindling on a very extensive scale; and several of the wrong-doers have been apprehended within the last few days.

**STRANGE CREDULITY.**—Caroline Ramsden, a woman belonging to Leeds, has been sent to prison for two months by the Manchester magistrates for obtaining money from a young lady of Ardsley under the false pretence of freeing her from the influence of witchcraft. A revolting-looking elderly man was then charged with administering grains of paradise to the same young lady, in order to procure abortion. She had been to him to consult him about her health, and the probability of her obtaining a husband. He undertook to procure her a husband, extorted 5*l.* from her, seduced her, and then administered the poison with the intent already indicated. He was committed for trial.

#### GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A RULE having been obtained in the Court of Queen's Bench for quashing a conviction under the Game Act, the facts were argued before the judges last Saturday. The question arose out of the case of Swinfen v. Swinfen, tried at Stafford at the Spring Assizes in 1856, in which the title to estates of considerable value in the county of Stafford came in question. At the trial, a compromise was come to by the counsel for the parties, which Mrs. Swinfen, who was in possession of the estate, refused to ratify, and ultimately it was decided by the Court of Common Pleas that the agreement was not binding upon Mrs. Swinfen, and the Court refused to enforce it. On the 29th of September, 1856, the day on which the claimant, Captain Swinfen, would have been entitled to have the estate conveyed to him, he gave an authority to a farmer on the estate named Bacon, or any of his friends, to shoot over the Swinfen estate; and Bacon, availing himself of this authority, went, with six others, on two several occasions, and killed game, destroying, as alleged by the other side, all the game on the estate, including tame pheasants. The parties were summoned before the magistrates at Lichfield, and were convicted; but the convictions were subsequently brought up into the Court of Queen's Bench, in order to their being quashed as being made without jurisdiction, and being bad on their face. It was alleged that the magistrates had refused to receive evidence of the right of the defendants to shoot on the grounds, and that one of them had said the accused were "a parcel of blackguards." Lord Campbell said he was of opinion that the conviction was bad and must be quashed. The terms of the conviction stated that each of the defendants was to be imprisoned in the common gaol for the space of one month, "unless the said several sums [*i.e.*, the fines] and the costs and charges of conveying each of them so making default to the said common gaol shall be sooner paid." The plain grammatical construction of that was, that "each" was to be imprisoned till the penalty, &c., of "all" was paid. The form of conviction usually adopted pointed out that one should not be liable for the default of the other; but that form had been departed from in this case. The other judges concurring, the conviction was quashed.

William M'Gowan was charged at the Westminster police-court last Saturday with having written two libellous letters to M. Albert, an attaché to the Prussian embassy. One evening, about a fortnight ago, M. Albert, who had previously been more than once accosted in the street by M'Gowan, was visited by the latter at his private house in Victoria Grove, West Brompton. M'Gowan on this occasion produced a letter in which it was stated that M. Albert owed him 100*l.*, which he had borrowed of him under the name of Charles, Baron de Bierre, twenty years ago at Oxford. M. Albert denied all knowledge of the affair, and declared that M'Gowan was an utter stranger to him, and that he had never assumed the title of Baron de Bierre. M'Gowan, however, persisted in saying that he was the Baron, and that he owed him the money. By the advice of his friends, M. Albert at last gave information of the matter to the police, and an officer afterwards called on M'Gowan and told him that proceedings would be immediately taken against him if he troubled M. Albert any farther. Notwithstanding this warning, he again went to the house of that gentleman, and left an abusive letter respecting his alleged claim. Wishing the matter thoroughly investigated (for M. Albert was never in this country until seven years ago, and was a boy at school in Germany in 1837), the complainant had taken the present proceedings. In his defence, M'Gowan stated that a man, greatly resembling M. Albert both in appearance and manner, and calling himself the Baron de Bierre, came to Oxford, where M'Gowan was carrying on business as a draper, about twenty years ago, borrowed numerous sums of money, and swindled several persons, M'Gowan among the number. The latter afterwards lost sight of the supposed Baron until two or three years ago, when he met him at Brompton, and had kept his eye on him ever since. He still firmly believed in his own heart that M. Albert was the man, and he said that his wife believed so likewise. Mr.

Ingham thought that M'Gowan was altogether mistaken as to the identity of the Baron, and adjourned the case for a week in order that the whole matter might be thoroughly investigated.

The case of Willcox v. Smith, which had been previously argued on petition in Vice-Chancellor Kindersley's Court, was last Saturday brought on for judgment. The question raised was as to the liability to succession duty in a case where a tenant in tail, whose right was created under a deed executed prior to the Succession Duty Act, did not come into possession until the death of the tenant at life. The Vice-Chancellor, after having entered into an elaborate statement of the facts, combined with a verbal criticism of the words of the law, observed that the case came, not only within the literal words of the act, but within the meaning and intention of it. The Legislature meant to make the accrual of interest in the survivor the circumstance which was to impose liability to the duty. Several of the sections contained inaccuracy of language. The fifth began by making a future verb apply to a past event. And there were not merely inaccuracies, but considerable ambiguities. The Vice-Chancellor, however, had not any fair or reasonable doubt as to the intention of the Legislature, that a party in the position of the respondent was liable to pay the succession duty. Some discussion then arose upon the claim of the Crown to costs; but, this being resisted, the claim was waived.

The legal members of the House of Lords sat on Monday afternoon to consider a petition of Mr. Henry Smith, barrister-at-law, of the Inner Temple, and of Belle Isle, Windermere, Westmoreland, praying for a divorce on the ground of his wife having committed adultery with a M. Leopold Dutertre, a French gentleman, against whom an action was recently brought, when damages were given to the extent of 3000*l.*—a sum which the petitioner had been unable to recover. The Lord Chancellor, thinking the adultery had been clearly proved, saw no reason why the bill should not be read a second time. This was accordingly done.—Campbell's divorce bill has been read a third time, and passed.

The certificate meeting in the case of G. C. Franghiadi, a merchant of Old Broad-street, took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday. The bankrupt traded in partnership with his brother and one Valenti. They had three houses—one in England, the second at Trieste, and the third at Alexandria. The three houses were distinct, although consisting of the same individuals. The London house is bankrupt, and the two other houses are insolvent and are being wound up at Trieste and Alexandria. The bankrupt's trading commenced on the 1st of January, 1853, with a capital or surplus of 12000*l.*, and closed with unsecured creditors, 96,498*l.*; liabilities, 41,000*l.*, of which 25,000*l.* are expected to become proofs against the estate; and assets about 24,000*l.* Mr. Peachy, for the assignees, was willing that the bankrupt should now receive a first-class certificate. Mr. Abrahams, who appeared for a creditor, prayed an adjournment of three months, to obtain information of the position of the firms at Trieste and Alexandria. Mr. Lawrance (for the bankrupt) pressed for immediate judgment. An adjournment, however, was ordered.

Adolphus Harrison Feistel, a person who has made himself disreputably notorious in connexion with the house of Madame Denis into which Alice Leroy was entrapped a few years ago, and who recently brought an action against the Marquis of Bath and other noblemen for wine supplied to them at 'the establishment,' appeared in the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday, under the designation of a wine merchant, of 25, Bucklersbury. The petitioning creditor is Mr. Benjamin Wood, wine merchant, of Blackfriars, who, however, did not appear, and the choice of assignees was deferred. The bankrupt was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at the time that Madame Denis left the country. Mr. Barrow now applied for his release from prison. Mr. Lucas, for the Marquis of Bath, opposed, on the ground that the bankrupt was in custody for the costs incurred in the mischievous action against his Lordship, which ended in Feistel being nonsuited; and that the bankruptcy was got up to obtain a release from those costs. The Commissioner said this was not an ordinary case. He should not interfere—certainly not at present. A person who got up such an action ought to suffer.

A man named Joseph Mountain has been examined at the Leeds police-court on a charge of endeavouring to pass himself off at the north-east polling booth, during the Leeds elections, as a voter named William Hartley. Having obtained a voting-paper from Mr. Beecroft's committee-room, the young man proceeded to the Sir John Falstaff, where the poll was held, and gave his number. He was asked his name by the returning officer of the ward, and replied that it was William Hartley, and that he voted for Beecroft. However, two of Mr. Mills's committee-men who were present, and had witnessed the affair from the beginning, knew that the person who represented himself to be William Hartley was not the man in question, and they therefore gave him into custody. Mountain was remanded.

Mr. Alexander Angus Croll, engineer of the Great Central Gas Company's works, on Bow-common, appeared before the Thames magistrate on Wednesday to answer a summons taken out by Mr. Edward Fulcher, Inspector of nuisances and sanitary inspector to the Poplar District Board of Works, which charged the de-

pendant with allowing a nuisance to exist of a threefold character and injurious to the health of the inhabitants of the locality. The nuisance on the premises of the company was described as follows:—Several open pits for the reception of refuse from the gas purifiers, very offensive; open tar tanks, very offensive; also method of slacking glowing coke by foul water, giving off filthy effluvia; the premises altogether a nuisance and injurious to health." After a long discussion, Mr. Selfe made an order for the abatement of the whole nuisance in one month, and it was arranged that Mr. Fulcher, the Sanitary Inspector, should see the thing done in an effectual manner.

A suit for divorce, by reason of adultery, was brought in the Arches Court on Wednesday by Mr. Omwell Lloyd Evans, of Cheltenham. Sir John Dodson, in pronouncing judgment, felt obliged to come to the conclusion that, notwithstanding a verdict in Mr. Evans's favour on a second trial for *crim. con.*, the evidence against Mrs. Evans was not sufficiently strong to justify him in granting the suit.

The adjourned examination meeting in the affairs of Edward Baldwin, the late proprietor of the *Morning Herald*, *Standard*, and *St. James's Chronicle* newspapers, took place in the Court of Bankruptcy on Thursday. The copyright, plant, and machinery of those journals have been sold for 16,500*l.* We believe they have been bought by the Derbyite party. An adjournment for three weeks was ordered.

#### ASCOT RACES.

TUESDAY was a bad day for the first of the Ascot Races. The clouds gathered heavily, and a steady rain drenched the ground and damped the spirits of the pleasure-seekers. Nevertheless, the Grand Stand was crowded with fashionable company, and the races came off in due course. They consisted of—The TRIAL STAKES of five sovs. each, with fifty added, won by Mr. T. Walker's Early Bird; the ASCOT DERBY STAKES, of fifty sovs. each, won by Mr. R. E. Cooper's Claude Lorraine; the GOLD VASE given by the Queen, added to a sweepstakes of twenty sovs. each, won by Mr. Howard's Arsenal; the FIRST ASCOT BIENNIAL STAKES (First Year), of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Mr. Howard's Clydesdale; and the SEVENTH ASCOT TRIENNIAL STAKES (Third Year), won by Captain White's Aleppo.

The races on Wednesday were—The CORONATION STAKES, of one hundred sovs. each, won by Lord Exeter's Beechnut; the WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES, of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Baron Rothschild's Sydney; the ROYAL HUNT CUP, a piece of plate value two hundred sovs., by subscription of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Lord Londesborough's Rosa Bonheur; HANDICAP PLATE, of fifty sovs., for all ages, won by Mr. B. Land's Amelia; SWEEPSTAKES, of ten sovs. each, with twenty-five added, won by Mr. Merry's Lady Albert; and the FERN HILL STAKES, of fifteen sovs. each, with fifty added, won by Mr. Barber's Polly Peachum.

Thursday was the CUP DAY—the chief day of the races. The weather was fine, the company brilliant, and the Queen honoured the occasion with her presence. Lord Palmerston, on horseback, was in attendance on her Majesty, and among the royal and fashionable visitors were Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Montrose, the Russian Ambassador, Earl Derby, Earl Granville, Lord Malmesbury, Sir William Codrington, and many others. The first race was for a SWEEPSTAKES of fifty sovs. each: this was walked over by the winner of the Derby and the Oaks, Blink Bonny, who was afterwards, by desire of the Queen, paraded in front of the Royal Stand. Then came a HANDICAP SWEEPSTAKES of five sovs. each, with fifty added, won by Mr. La Mert's Maggie Lauder; and then the GOLD CUP, which was won by Lord Zetland's Skirmisher. As the horses concerned in this race were proceeding to the starting post (say the daily papers) Winkfield 'bolted' for the gateway through which he is accustomed to enter the course daily. Bartholomew, his rider, instantly pulled him up, but in doing so his stirrup-leather broke, and he fell heavily to the ground. His horse was instantly stopped, and Bartholomew was only for the moment stunned. After a little delay, he remounted, and joined the horses at the starting-post. Much anxiety and compassion were evinced for Bartholomew by the spectators, for he was one of the most severely injured jockeys in the fearful accident at Goodwood last year. His second mount since that occurrence was on Thursday.

The conclusion of the race for the GOLD CUP (which, by the way, is a silver cup) is thus described by the learned gentlemen who report these matters for our contemporaries:—"As they rounded the turn by the brick kilns, Skirmisher began to creep forward, and soon joined Saunterer, and these two were now in close company with Chevalier d'Industrie. On entering the straight, the Chevalier had completed his work, and dropped back, leaving Saunterer with a slight lead, Skirmisher taking second place, with Polestar and Gemma di Vergy in close attendance. They ran thus to the half distance, where Skirmisher headed Saunterer. Opposite the Grand Stand, Gemma di Vergy passed Polestar, caught Saunterer within a few strides of the

chair, but failed to reach Skirmisher, who won easily by a length and a half; a head only separating the second from the third; two lengths dividing the third from the fourth; Rogerthorpe and Chevalier d'Industrie passed the post, side by side, fifth and sixth, about six lengths behind Polestar; Tasmania was seventh, Warlock eighth, Winkfield ninth, Wardermarske tenth, and Leamington eleventh; Pretty Boy walked in."

The last important race of the day was that for the NEW STAKES, of ten sovs. each, with one hundred added, won by Mr. Howard's Sedbury.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

RETURN OF TROOPS FROM INDIA.—The East India Company's troopships Owen Glendower and Vernon have arrived at Gravesend, having on board nearly five hundred invalid troops from regiments serving in India. The Owen Glendower, Commander Watson, sailed from Kurrachee on the 11th of February last, having on board two hundred and thirty-five non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the 8th (the King's), 24th, 27th (Enniskillens), 81st, 87th (Royal Irish Fusiliers), and the Royal Artillery, with thirty-three women and children. During the voyage, six men died, and one insane soldier, named Mahon, belonging to the 24th regiment, jumped overboard when the vessel was near St. Helena, and was lost, although every effort was made to save him.

MILITARY BANQUETS.—A banquet was given by the Grenadier Guards at the London Tavern last Saturday evening. Covers were laid for sixty. The chair was taken by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and among the company was his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar.—The officers of the 17th Lancers gave their annual dinner at the Clarendon Hotel on the previous day, when they were honoured with the company of the Duke of Cambridge.

A GOAT FOR THE WELSH FUSILIERS.—The Queen has just presented to the 23rd Regiment (Royal Welsh Fusiliers) a beautiful Cashmere goat, from the herd in Windsor Great Park. It was despatched on Wednesday week, under the charge of Drum-Major Knight and a drummer of the same regiment, to the head-quarters in Portsmouth garrison. This is the fifth present of a similar kind made by her Majesty as a special mark of her favour to this regiment, the other goats having died at various periods. One, which had become very docile and trained to march before the regiment, died on its passage from the Crimea, since which time it had been replaced by another goat from Windsor Great Park. This died a few weeks ago, and the present animal, which is perfectly white and two years old, is intended to replace it.—*Times*.

THE FRENCH WAR MEDAL.—Sir John Pennefather has assembled the regiments at Malta, for the purpose of presenting the French war medal to those on whom the French Emperor had bestowed it. The General called the men out, and personally pinned the medal on their breasts. He also assembled with them all those who had previously received it, and addressed them in a spirited speech.

SHIPWRECKS.—The barque John Calvin, Captain Duncan, which left Greenock on the 15th ult. for Quebec, foundered at sea about one hundred and eighty miles west of Tory Island; but her crew, consisting of seventeen, were picked up by the brig Mary Young, which arrived at Greenock from Trinidad on Saturday. The Venus of Bath, laden with limestones, was lost about four A.M. on Monday morning opposite Aberdovey. The captain swam on shore, but his crew, three in number, were drowned.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen held a Drawing-room in St. James's Palace last Saturday afternoon. This reception, the first public Court held by her Majesty this season, was very numerously attended.—The baptism of the infant daughter of the Prussian Minister and Countess Bernstorff took place on Monday at the Prussian Legation, on Carlton-house-terrace, on which occasion the Princess Royal stood sponsor to the infant. Prince Albert and the Princess Royal arrived at the residence of the Legation soon after one o'clock, attended by Lady Caroline Barrington, the Marquis of Abercorn, Lord George Lennox, Major-General Wyld, and Colonel F. H. Seymour. After the christening, the royal party remained to luncheon, and returned to Buckingham Palace at half-past three o'clock.—The Court on Tuesday left town for Windsor Castle.—The Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and suite started from Dover for Calais on the same day, in one of the Dover Royal Mail Company's boats. A sympathetic reporter records that, shortly after their arrival, her Royal Highness and suite partook of a small quantity of chloroform and water in order to allay the sea-sickness.—Prince Frederick of Prussia arrived at Dover on Wednesday evening, rather unexpectedly. Thence he immediately started for Windsor.

THE CRUSH AT THE DRAWING-ROOM.—Correspondents of the *Times*, who evidently speak from cruel experience, repeat the complaint, uttered by the fair 'Verbena' two years ago, of the bad management at her Majesty's Drawing-room with respect to the admission of the visitors. More are invited than can be comfortably packed in the ante-rooms; and the consequences

are, hours of stifling pressure, a fierce struggle for the Throne-room, and a general rumpling and disturbance of the ladies' silks, satins, gauzes, plumes, and even hair. Many of the fair courtiers are almost reduced to fainting; and their entrance into the presence of Royalty is hardly so smooth and composed as the occasion would seem to require or would lead one to expect. For these defective arrangements the Lord Chamberlain is to blame. Last Saturday, he caused to be constructed in one of the approaches a barricade of old benches, over which, however, some adventurous Irish ladies leaped in sporting style, to the great admiration of all beholders, excepting the officials. The reader will no doubt admire the republican simplicity of this proceeding.

THE EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES AT MANCHESTER.—We have authority to state that the Queen, and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Alice, Prince Alfred, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia, will visit Manchester on Monday, the 29th inst. They will honour the Earl of Ellesmere by residing at Worsley-hall, the noble earl's seat, near Manchester, during their stay. Her Majesty will pay a formal visit to the Exhibition on Tuesday, the 30th inst. On Wednesday, the 1st of July, the Exhibition building will be reserved for the private examination of its contents by the Queen; and it is expected that her Majesty will return to London on Thursday, the 2nd of July. The Secretary of State in attendance upon her Majesty will be Sir George Grey.—*Times*.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.—Mr. A. W. Twyford, who was the only Englishman in the late scientific expedition to discover the sources of the White Nile, has returned to England by the overland mail. He had proceeded up the Nile with the steamers and boats under his charge as far as the fourth cataract (Meroe), when he was recalled by the Pacha of Egypt, who had determined to break up the expedition.

OPEN-AIR PREACHING.—Between thirty and forty clergymen and Dissenting ministers of Bristol have arranged to carry out a series of out-door services during the summer months.

THE ROTTEN NEW CATHEDRAL AT PLYMOUTH.—Another fall occurred at the new Roman Catholic cathedral on the evening of Friday week, happily without injury to any one. The remainder of the western transverse arch of the transept gave way first, and was followed by the eastern arch, which brought down the roof of the transept and all the roof of the chancel except the small portion of the apsis, or semi-octagon, at the eastern end of the cathedral.

ORDINATION SABBATH-BREAKING.—The Bishop of London held his second ordination at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday. There were forty candidates for priests' and deacons' orders. The service lasted about five hours. Hard work, this, for Sunday!

FINSBURY PARK.—A report from the committee of Works and Improvements, on the subject of the formation of Finsbury Park, was brought up on Friday week before the Metropolitan Board of Works. The architect's estimate of the cost of making the park was stated as follows:—Purchase of property, including all interests, 175,000*l.*; formation of the park—viz., fencing, gates, and boundaries, 6336*l.*; levelling ground, filling ditches, making drives and footpaths, 9750*l.*; plantations, roads, and iron bridges over the New River, 6034*l.*, making together 22,120*l.*; addition of ten per cent. for contingencies, 19,710*l.*; maintenance of the park, constables, gardeners, lighting, &c., at 8000*l.*, and capitalized at four per cent., equal to 25 years' purchase, 75,000*l.*—making a grand total of 291,830*l.* On the other side, the report showed a return from the sale of ground rents, 50,000*l.*; by rents from grazing lands, 8000*l.*—making a total return of 58,000*l.* A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Vestry Clerk of Islington, explaining the conditions upon which the Lords of the Treasury are prepared to propose to Parliament to vote money for making the park, was also read. The conditions are thus stated—"1. The amount to be furnished by the Government to be in the proportion of one-third of that furnished by the Metropolitan Board of Works; but not in any case to exceed 50,000*l.* 2. The Government to propose to Parliament to vote one-third of the sum of 50,000*l.* in the present session, and one-third in each of the sessions of 1858 and 1859. 3. The Government to make the actual issue of the money after it has been voted, but at no time to be called upon for more than a sum equal to one-third of that which shall have been actually expended from time to time by the Metropolitan Board of Works." The report was received; the bill for the formation of the park was introduced; and the discussion, after extending over some clauses, was adjourned. Several of the clauses were agreed to on subsequent days.

THE LEEDS ELECTION.—Mr. George Skirrow Beecroft (Conservative) has been elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of Leeds caused by the death of Mr. Robert Hall. He obtained 2070 votes to 2064, given to Mr. Mills, the Liberal candidate. A scrutiny is threatened by the friends of the latter.

DEPTFORD FAIR.—Some persons who on Sunday morning were making preparations at Deptford to commence a fair, were arrested by the police, and were brought before the Greenwich police magistrate on the following day. The chief offender was ordered to find bail in 40*l.*, and to enter his own recognizances to the



same amount for the next three months. The other man was discharged.

**THE MAINE LIQUOR LAW.**—A conference of ministers of religion from various parts of the country assembled on Tuesday at the Town-hall, Manchester, to devise measures for aiding the Maine Liquor Law movement. The sittings are to continue for several days, and are to be followed by a public meeting at the Free-trade hall.

**THE PARLIAMENTARY OATHS BILL.**—A deputation, comprising Catholic noblemen, members of Parliament, and other influential gentlemen, waited on Lord Palmerston on Monday at his private residence, Cambridge-house, Piccadilly, for the purpose of urging on his Lordship the propriety of including Catholics in the relief from the objectionable passages in the oaths now taken by members of the Legislature. The deputation was introduced by his Grace the Duke of Norfolk, and included several noblemen and gentlemen of distinction. Lord Palmerston's replies not being considered satisfactory, a meeting was held subsequently at the Stafford-street Club, Piccadilly, his Grace the Duke of Norfolk in the chair, "for the purpose of adopting such steps as might be deemed expedient in reference to the result of the interview with the Premier." Further operations were resolved on.

**THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CITY SEWERS COMMISSION.**—Mr. Deputy Peacock has been compelled by illness to vacate the Chairmanship of the City Sewers Commission.

**ELECTION PETITIONS.**—The General Committee of Elections has fixed Monday, the 29th of June, for the trial of the Maidstone and Sunderland petitions, and Tuesday, the 30th of June, for the trial of the Oxford, Tewkesbury, and Bury petitions.

**FIRE.**—The Red Lion Inn, Hounslow—a considerable range of premises—was burnt down early on Sunday morning. The inhabitants, who were in bed at the time, escaped with difficulty. The supply of water was insufficient, and at one time some of the adjoining houses were seriously threatened.

**THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.**—The completion of 1250 miles (one-half) of the cable for the Submarine Atlantic Telegraph by Messrs. Newall and Co. was celebrated at their works, Birkenhead, on Wednesday, by a dinner given to about six hundred of their workmen, with their wives and families.

**ALDERMAN EAGLETON** has resigned his gown, owing to ill health.

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE CITY.**—Alderman Copeland, in the Court of Aldermen, on Tuesday, brought up a report on the return of the inspectors of weights and measures for the last year, and for granting them the usual gratuities. He felt much gratification in assuring the Court that the poorest people in the most populous districts of the City are deriving important advantages from the exertions of Mr. Knott and Mr. Harvard, the inspectors appointed by the court; and that several remarkable instances of deception and attempts at plunder in connexion with the necessities of life had been recently detected by those officers. The report was unanimously agreed to.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—The returns for the week that ended on Saturday, June 6, exhibit the gratifying fact that the remarkably small number of 868 deaths was registered in that period in London. There has been a constant decrease of mortality since the temperature rose, and in the first week of June the deaths are about 200 less than they were in the first week of May. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the week corresponding with last week was 979. But, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average, with a view to comparison, must be raised in proportion to the increase, and in this case it will become 1077. The result is that the deaths now returned are less by 209 than the average rate of mortality at this period of the year would have produced. In the first week of June, 1847, the deaths were 786, in that of 1850 they were 844; and these furnish the only instances in corresponding weeks in which the deaths were not more numerous than those of last week, though each successive year has added to the number of persons living within the bills of mortality. Only three persons whose deaths are returned had attained the age of 90 years or upwards. Two women were 98 years old; and a widow died in Hereford-street, Marylebone, at the great age of 96 years.—Last week, the births of 774 boys and 768 girls, in all 1542 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1497.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

**MILITARY EDUCATION.**—Sir De Lacy Evans will move the following resolutions on Military Education in the House of Commons on the 30th inst.:—"That, as the numerical strength of the British army available for European war is far less than that of any other great Power, and as our Government have for many years neglected the education of the commissioned ranks of the service, while other Governments have been devoting to this object large annual sums and very great attention, it is the opinion of this House that a higher standard of professional instruction than of late deemed requisite ought to be established for our officers generally, but especially for those of the Staff. That this cannot be effectively accomplished in this country, where powerful influences obstruct the best intentions of those invested

with patronage, without having recourse to the principle of competitive examination, in conformity with the recommendation of her Majesty's Commissioners on Civil and Military Appointments and Education, recorded in their reports recently presented to Parliament. That the candidates nominated by the Commander-in-Chief for commissions in the Line be therefore subject to the condition of competitive examination previously to their being appointed to commissions; and that officers of a sufficient term of regimental service, desirous of qualifying themselves for the Staff in the senior department of instruction or Staff school, should receive their admissions and final certificates of qualification on the same principle. That commissioners, consisting of an equal number of military officers and civilians, should be nominated by the Secretary of State for the purpose of superintending these examinations, and that the educational establishments for the Line and Staff be under the direction of the Secretary of State, who is responsible to Parliament for the administration of the army, and who is already charged with the control of the existing schools and examinations for the artillery, engineers, and the non-commissioned officers and privates of the army."

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—A Congregation was held on Wednesday for the decision and consideration of various important matters. The series of statutes affecting professors was first brought forward. These were all passed with the exception of the clause to which objection was made on the promulgation by Mr. Rawlinson, of Exeter, whereby professors were allowed to hold college professorships with their professorships if permitted by decree of Convocation. This clause, which was put to the vote six several times in connexion with six different professorships, was in every case rejected by majorities varying from 32 to 62, the largest number of supporters which it found being 17, and the smallest 4. There was a division on the main clause in the statute on the Sedleian Reader, but this was carried by 57 votes to 18. On the other professorial statutes there was no division. The Craven Statute was rejected by 54 votes to 31, the main objection (as we gathered) being to the assignment of three scholarships to Physical Science. The statute taking power to alter the Bampton Lecture Trust was also rejected by 49 votes to 38. The form of statute establishing an examination for the middle classes was then read and submitted to the vote. The main provisions of the statute were carried by 81 votes to 16, and the title of "Associate in Arts" by 62 votes to 38. The Provost of Oriel spoke a few words in Latin against the giving of any title to the persons examined, and the public orator (Mr. Michell) handed in a protest against proceeding with the statute, on the grounds of insufficient notice.

**MURDER AT WEYMOUTH.**—William Newton, a labourer at Tatten Farm, near Upway, is in custody at Weymouth on a charge of causing the death of one Charles White on the highway by stabbing him with a knife in the course of a quarrel.

**THE HANDEL FESTIVAL.**—The arrangements for the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace are rapidly progressing, and are on a gigantic scale. "A very liberal allowance," says the *Times*, "has been made of counter space. No less than 1600 visitors can now at once set down to dinner, and, in addition, 2000 can be served at counters: draught bitter ale will be served everywhere, and ices, quarter bottles of sherry, with glass, and packets of biscuits, will be ready for instant delivery at the intervals between the programme."

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, June 13.

## LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

HER MAJESTY'S DRAWING-ROOM.

**LORD RAVENSWORTH** brought this subject before the House, complaining of the want of accommodation at St. James's Palace.—**EARL GRANVILLE** said that plans were to be prepared in order to afford greater space on these occasions.

**THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S ANNUITY BILL** passed through committee.

**THE PENAL SERVITUDE BILL** was brought forward in committee, and passed through that stage after some discussion.

**DIVORCE BILL.**

The report of amendments on the Bill were brought up, and several of them were rejected.

The Bishop of Oxford gave notice that on the third reading he should move the rejection of the Bill.

The House adjourned at half-past nine.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

**TROOPS FOR CHINA.**

In answer to Mr. LAURIE, Sir JOHN RAMSDEN said that some troops were on their way from the Mauritius to China, but it was merely in the ordinary course. The troops were not to receive anything beyond the colonial allowance, which they would have received at Hong-Kong.

THE DRAWING-ROOM AT ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

Mr. G. DUNDAS brought forward the subject of the insufficient accommodation for the ladies and others attending her Majesty's Drawing-room. He made out a very pitiable case of suffering and loss of dresses on the part of the ladies; and urged the necessity of much better accommodation being provided.—Sir BENJAMIN HALL said that the apartments in question were only adapted for the reception of a few hundred and not for a thousand or twelve hundred persons. Order was given to prepare plans for alterations commensurate with the requirements of such occasions.

PRESTON WORKHOUSE.

Mr. COBBETT complained of undue influence having been used by the Poor Law Board to induce the guardians of the Preston Union to build a new workhouse.—Mr. BOUVERIE stated that the Poor Law Board had only pursued the usual and legal practice.—Mr. DRUMMOND wanted the Poor Law Board to have more power; and that the guardians should be made to think less of the interests of the rate-payers and more of that of the poor.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

Sir F. BARING brought forward the subject of expenditure having been incurred for works in St. James's Park without any vote being come to on the subject by Parliament. In cases on which estimates have been exceeded, Parliament had censured Ministers, even when the necessity of the case was undoubted; but here the expenditure had been incurred without necessity.—Sir BENJAMIN HALL said that the chief expense had arisen from the operation of draining and cleansing the lake in the Park, the outlay being sanctioned by the Treasury on the ground of necessity, arising from sanitary causes; and, on their own responsibility, trusting to obtain the sanction of Parliament.—After some discussion, the House went into committee on

THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

Mr. WILSON gave a general explanation of the estimates in order to account for an excess on them in the present year over that of 1856; a good deal of it was more apparent than real in consequence of the transfer under Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1853 of a large number of items of the Consolidated Fund to the annual votes. Of the total augmentation no less than 1,430,000*l.* was explained, leaving only 880,000*l.* to be otherwise accounted for. There had been on the last few years an increase of 334,000*l.* for the Education vote, 180,000*l.* for Harbours of Refuge, 242,000*l.* for Printing and Stationery, 114,000*l.* for Prisons and Convict Establishments, and 81,000*l.* for Public Buildings. He then dealt with a further excess of 598,000*l.* which had been occasioned by acts and resolutions passed by Parliament. In short the increase in the expenditure had been caused by the increased requirements of the country.

A short desultory discussion followed, after which the House proceeded in committee to deal with the votes on the estimates in succession, and this business mainly occupied the remainder of the sitting.

## THE UNITED STATES.—SURRENDER OF WALKER.

The latest news from Nicaragua is to the effect that General Walker capitulated on the 1st of May to Captain Davis, of the sloop of war St. Mary's, having then less than three hundred men and but two days' provisions. Rivas is in the hands of the allies. Walker and a portion of his officers were taken to Panama by the United States sloop of war St. Mary's, and others obtained passage by the steamer Panama. Walker and his staff arrived at New Orleans on the evening of the 27th ult. He was enthusiastically received.

With reference to the alleged ill-treatment of seamen on board American merchant ships, Lord Napier has made a representation to the Washington Cabinet, and received from General Cass a reply in which he states that the laws now in force on the subject are sufficient for the protection of sailors.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* officially announces that the labours of the Senate have terminated for the present session. Madlle. Rachel is rapidly sinking.

## DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT FLORENCE.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

At Florence, on Thursday night, the scenery of the theatre caught fire during the performance of "The Siege of Sebastopol." A panic arose; forty-three persons were killed, and one hundred and thirty-four wounded.

**DOUGLAS JERROLD.**—The funeral of the late Douglas Jerrold will take place on Monday at Norwood Cemetery. It will be strictly private. The friends will meet at the cemetery at half-past one.

## Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

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

### THE LAWS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The 7th, 8th, and 9th clauses of the petition were as follows:—

"That newspapers constantly detail instances of mental oppression, 'wife-beating' being a new compound noun lately introduced into the English language, and a crime against which English gentlemen have lately enacted stringent regulations; but that for the robbery by a man of his wife's hard earnings there is no redress, against the selfishness of a drunken father, who wrings from a mother her children's daily bread, there is no appeal. She may work from morning till night to see the produce of her labour wrested from her and wasted in a gin palace; and such cases are within the knowledge of every one.

"That the law in depriving the mother of all pecuniary resources, deprives her of the power of giving schooling to her children, and in other ways providing for their moral and physical welfare, it obliges her, in short, to leave them to the temptations of the street, so fruitful in juvenile crime."

I have but little to say of these three clauses written out at some length, except to observe that they express the result of a state of domestic feeling which the law encourages with one hand and expresses with the other. After treating the wife as a chattel and non-existent, it is shocked to find that this non-existent is not unfrequently threatened with loss of limb and life, to have its eyes gouged out, or a chair sent violently flying at its head. The administrators of the law, many of them full of chivalry and kindly feeling, and considering women to be citizens of the heavenly kingdom, though denied any status in the earthly one, declare that in certain physical senses the non-existent is to be considered as an entity must be fed and clothed, and that any breaking of the peace against the said non-existent is severely to be reprimanded. Then the man is put in prison, whence it is supposed he will emerge and return to the domestic hearth in a sweeter and tenderer frame of mind. Now suppose, which we do not suppose, that kicking and cuffing are much reduced by this process; that the Habeas Corpus Act spreads a broad protecting wing over women of the lower classes, we have but to meet a more silent and subtle kind of ill-treatment. There is the idea of prerogative untouched, and it finds vent in a thousand ways. It is not by stealing money out of a box or from the toe of an old stocking that a man robs his wife. It is rather by a force of domestic opinion engendered by the law and backed by the law, that it comes into his hands. In how many thousand instances it must be quietly rendered up to him as the head and the stronger—the possibility of unredressed physical force lying grimly in the background.

Sometimes the money may be taken and drunk away, sometimes it may be put into a bad speculation, little or great. It is not in the broad lights and shades, but in the greys and browns, the delicate tintings of domestic life that these laws work the most evil. All this had been said by Mrs. Jameson in the first part of her "Communion of Labour" far better than I can say it. The latent poison of an injustice is worse than its obvious effects. This particular injustice takes away the mother's balance in the family; it cuts off a hand whereby she might exercise her just will. It is a screw loose which jars the whole machinery, affecting temper, morals, and mutual respect, in manifold and untold ways, just because it is gentler than a kick it is more efficacious for mischief. This law makes unhappiness which no law can cure; unhappiness which is locked up with the family skeleton, and never comes out till the house is quiet and the law has gone to sleep.

I remain, sir, yours obediently,  
BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.

Algiers, March 2, 1857.

**A VETERAN ENGINE.**—The first engine constructed for the Stockton and Darlington Railway—the patriarch of the iron roads—is still preserved with great veneration; and last Saturday the foundation stone was laid of a pedestal on which the old locomotive is to be placed. It was made in the year 1825 by George Stephenson; but, though a wonder for those days, it was very incomplete, and could not go faster than a coach and horses. The original driver is still living, and so is the 'father' of the railway, Mr. Pease, who is now very old. His son presided on the present occasion. A dinner took place in the evening.

### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1857.

## Public Affairs.

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

### THE LICENSING SYSTEM.

No case ever rested more completely on the gross assumptions and perversions of truth than that of Mr. HARDY, in proposing to extend the restrictions of the public-house licensing system to beer-houses. According to his description, beer-houses are the theatre in which every kind of crime is concocted; there is no check upon the character of those who apply for beer licenses; many beer-shops are houses of a low character in disguise—gambling-houses, and worse; and in 1635, Lord Keeper COVENTRY declared that "ale-houses and tippling-houses were the greatest pests in the country." Mr. HARDY is obliged to resort to the middle ages, illustrations of drunkenness in Sweden, and gross misrepresentations of present facts in England, in order to vamp up his case. Now the truth is, that the statistics show the beer-houses on the whole to be quite as well conducted as the public-houses, if not better. If some beer-houses are only blinds for establishments of a worse order, so are public-houses. If you want to arrange a sporting visit—say to some boxing match—you will learn how to manage it at a well-known public-house. The licensing system has fallen very much into a routine. In fact, the licence is given less for the character of the applicant than for a general concurrence of the brewer, the builder, and the licensing justice in distributing the licenses, and they do it by favour. The licensing system is a monopoly, and the privileges of all monopolies in connexion with trade may be bought. They have almost nothing to do with character. Nor are public-houses and beer-shops the only blinds for questionable establishments. If it were thought necessary to put down whole branches of trade because the shop may be made the blind for vice, the same argument might bring the bonnet-makers or the milliners within the restriction of the licensing system. Before free-trade was established, the linendrapers might have been equally the subjects of license, because the shop would be the blind for the smuggler's business. The whole plan of protection on that ground completely fails.

In fact, the system which was to protect the morals of those who frequent public-houses has only had the effect of undermining the morals of those that administered the system. It was stated by the committee, which inquired into the subject, that the clerks to justices and police-offices have become actually the servants of brewers and of

licensed publicans; the justice's clerk assisting the brewers and publicans to obtain the license, the police clerk assisting to forefend inconvenient results to publicans or brewers on informations laid before the court. A system which draws some of the most respectable men—magistrates and public officers—into a conspiracy against the public interests and laws, is thoroughly bad, and can scarcely have any really moral result. Ineffective, then, for its direct purposes, practically resulting in mischief, the public-house licensing system is not one to be extended to beer-shops, even if the two classes of establishments were alike.

But they are not. The dealer in wines and spirits trades in luxuries; the seller of beer sells that which is rather a necessary in this country; so that if the one should be restrained, the other at least should be free. There is another distinction: the man who drinks beer, as a general rule, works hard; the man who drinks spirits, still speaking generally, is not such a hard worker. The beer-drinker is poorer than the wine-drinker or the spirit-drinker; and to tax the draught of the poor man is as bad as to tax the loaf of bread.

Sir GEORGE GREY promised to reconsider the whole subject during the recess, and to introduce a measure next session. In making this promise, he made also some excellent observations against Mr. HARDY's interference. A certain form of licensing where goods of the kind are sold is quite proper. If persons intend to make their own residences in their nature public, they ought to give notice to the authorities, in order that protection of the public may be extended within what would otherwise be the inmate's 'castle.' It is for these reasons that inns, taverns, public-houses, and beer-shops are more open to the entrance of the police than private dwelling-houses. A sufficient charge to pay for the expences of this kind of surveillance, is a charge which, with freedom of trade in other respects, would fall upon the consumer. But beyond this the interference of the State can only be mischievous. So far as police intervention is concerned, let it be effectual; but let the police interference be limited to the maintenance of order and the enforcement of law; nothing else.

If, indeed, Government desire to draw revenue from the fees exacted upon granting licences, well and good; the house of public entertainment is a proper subject for taxation, but the limit for the charge would then be that point at which the largest revenue accrued; and, in order to obtain the largest revenue of trade, should be perfectly free, without restraint in multiplying establishments. Revenue considerations, therefore, are quite counter to any artificial restraints upon the number of such houses, or the mode of conducting them.

It is most probable, from the facts stated before the committees of Parliament and repeated in the debate the other night, that public order would be directly promoted by throwing the trade open to perfect freedom. Applications for licences greatly exceed the number of licences granted; the trade, therefore, is artificially restrained to a limited number. The obtaining of a licence, or even of the public-house itself, becomes an object of intrigue; the character of the occupant is only a secondary consideration, in comparison to his connexion with the brewer and the brewer's friends. In many cases the character of the goods that he sells may be inferior, and yet he may retain the position secured to him by a virtual monopoly. What matters it to him that his customers complain that the beer is watery, the spirits rapid, the



wine hot, and his house not well conducted? he enjoys the privileges, while he undergoes the penalties, of restricted trade. Throw the trade open, let a house be set up in the same street, free to compete in the freshness of its beer, the strength of its spirits, the flavour and lightness of its wines, and the respectable conduct of the house, and the neighbours will certainly give the preference to the new shop. The better man will maintain his ground and the occupant of the ill-conducted shop will be obliged to give up. There is nothing like freedom of trade for teaching men how to serve the community in the way the community best likes. All respectable neighbourhoods desire to have well-supplied and well-conducted public-houses. If in other neighbourhoods there are houses that are ill-conducted, let the police look to them. The best auxiliary both of police order and of revenue is complete freedom of trade. If Sir GEORGE GREY desires to render his promised bill effectual for his purposes, and thoroughly in harmony with the facts ascertained by experience and by committees of the House of Commons, he will introduce into it that free-trade element.

#### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SOME members of Parliament are enamoured of competitive examination as if it were the panacea for all the defects of the Civil Service. Others denounce political patronage as if it were answerable for all the shortcomings that characterized the official conduct of the war. A third party—the 'ignorant public'—hearing that competitive examinations are already introduced, but that patronage is retained, are hopelessly unable to understand the question—a state of mind rather happy than otherwise. For of all the public topics of the day we know of none like this of the Civil Service on which all writers and all speakers (from those who never saw a government office to those who once wrote a letter to a chief clerk) consider themselves competent to express a decided opinion.

The old political patronage may have been a bad thing regarded as a means of corrupting constituencies or degrading representatives, but it supplied a very fair raw material for the Civil Service. The young men were nominated through political influence. Now, political influence in town or country is not generally possessed by men without character or property. The man who by property, or by force of character, or by political cleverness, can command ten or twenty votes in a borough, may not be a perfect person nor a very refined character, but he is a very good representative of the average Englishman, of the men whose industry and craft supply the staple of our prosperity. These were the men who obtained appointments for their sons and nephews. The official qualities required in those young men were attention, obedience, trustworthiness, and readiness for work, and there was nothing in their antecedents or in the social position of their families to make it unlikely that those qualities would show themselves if properly called forth. The two damning defects, however, in the system were, firstly, that no proper means were taken to prevent very stupid or very silly boys from getting in; and, secondly, that the service was utterly without an organisation calculated to make the best use of the raw material provided by political patronage. The first of those evils has been removed by the examinations of the Civil Service Commissioners; but the second evil—the want of organisation in the service itself—remains unremoved. The examinations have been extended to competitive trials between nominees; but

the plan is only tried partially, and in an underhand way. Some head of a department gives away a junior clerkship of 90*l.* a year to be competed for, and mentions the matter privately to a dozen masters of some of our third-rate schools. The 'good boy' of the school is sent up to the competition, and the situation is given to the boy who has crammed into his poor brain a greater amount of knowledge than the other boys. If one boy knows algebra, French, geography, Italian, German, and the use of the globes, and if another boy knows all these, and knows logarithms in addition, the lucky connoisseur in logarithms obtains the prize, and for the remainder of his life copies or writes routine official letters—something a little above printed circulars in variety or individual interest. This is but the natural result of a competitive examination as to the scholastic knowledge of boys. You must give the place to the best boy, and the best boy is he who knows most. The partial underhand manner of the present competitive examinations makes them the more absurd. A boy that will be beaten in the January trial when pitted against five or six first-rate boys, may be far superior to some third-rate boy who wins at the February examination because his opponents are all dunces. The nominations to the examinations and the competitions themselves are timed by chance, and thus there is no general competition.

The advocates of competitive literary examinations as tests for Civil Service situations forget one consideration not altogether unimportant. Are the best literary men the best Civil Servants? The work of the Civil Service involves various duties and demands some very special qualifications. In some offices there is a daily discharge of routine and petty duties requiring great patience and unrelaxing attention, qualities in which many very clever and well-informed men, capable of passing any examination, are signally deficient. The duties of a bookkeeper require not alone a clear head, an unfailing habit of order, and a thorough knowledge of accounts, but an almost infallible talent for *not* making mistakes—a talent proved only by years of exactitude. Other offices connected with our diplomacy and foreign politics require a most honourable reticence of secrets that could be sold for ten times the amount of any clerk's salary. Now, official patience, punctual exactitude, and gentlemanlike honour, cannot be ascertained by any literary examination; and as to the latter quality, we would sooner trust to one hundred men nominated by members of parliament than to one hundred men appointed because they were clever fellows. But even 'clever fellows' are not the men who come best out of the competitive examinations. The pupils of clever tutors sometimes succeed; a man who can retain in his memory a mass of facts crammed into it for the previous month is almost sure to succeed—and we have heard a very sensible, intelligent candidate say that he owed his success not to his quickness in composition, nor to his knowledge of languages, but simply that he had luckily learned by heart the day before a chronological table of two hundred dates of the principal events of the world. If the examinations were constructed so as to be tests of general literary ability there might be a pardonable pride in considering that we are outstripping our enemies the Chinese in official honours to literary men; but the examinations are mainly as to the dry facts of history, geography, or science—knowledge in which, perchance, some of our best literary men may or may not be very deficient.

At the risk of being accused of asserting a mere truism, we must say that the object of

appointing a man to a civil situation is to get the special service of the post well done. We have not appointed him to reward him for being a good boy at school, or to encourage literature—two very good objects, but not so great that we must sacrifice the efficiency of the Civil Service to promote them. If we examine the candidates, we should then examine them as to their *fitness* for the situation—not as to their fitness for the editorship of a magazine or the conduct of a village school. If the candidate thoroughly knows the duties of the post, why reject him because he is ignorant of decimal fractions? And yet such rejections have taken place; in one instance, a lad who wrote a fine engrossing hand and who had a useful knowledge of legal details, was rejected for a situation in a solicitor's office in one of the Government departments simply because he did not know decimal fractions—an ignorance that would never incapacitate him for any possible duty he should ever have to discharge. In another case, a gentleman of our acquaintance was examined for the post of interpreter, to be sent out to the East during the war; he knew several Eastern languages, and was a smart, fine young fellow. The examiner, who barely knew the Turkish alphabet, asked the candidate where was the island of Socotra, and the candidate confessed ignorance. He was turned away, and but for the influence of a friend of the family would have been finally rejected!

The faults of the present practice are twofold. 1. The nominations are departmental. For instance, the political chief of the Foreign-office nominates his friends to that office; but his friends may possess not a single peculiar qualification, whilst for other departments of the service they may be signally fitted. He cannot interfere, however, with other departments. His friends 'cram' for the examination—not competitive—and pass it, or are rejected. But while they are rejected there are passed for the Customs or the War-office young men far below them in qualifications, who have been subjected to a much lower test. Thus we have not the best man in the best place, but a chance medley of men in the places which patrons can give, and which cramming can secure. 2. The second evil is, that the examination is in knowledge, and not in ability; in literature, and not in official talent; in general qualifications, and not in fitness for the particular situation. The qualifications of a good Civil Servant are varied and high enough to form the subject of a severe examination, but some influential men, bent on encouraging literature, think otherwise, and think that any man who knows about the second Punic war and the position of the island of Socotra, must be able to do official work.

#### BELGIAN POLITICS.

Our estimate of the character of the movement in Belgium appears to have been the correct one. Despite some excesses and certain unjustifiable acts of violence—provoked partly, as at Jemmappes, by local causes of irritation—the Liberal party may be said to have acquitted itself very creditably. There was nothing, at any rate, in their conduct to justify the absurd ravings of the Bonapartist Parisian journals, which insist, in the cut-and-dry rhetoric that came into fashion with the Empire, that 'the hydra of anarchy has raised its head,' and that Parliamentary government has received a mortal blow in Belgium. Parliamentary government is not quite so delicate a creature as that. It is accustomed to, and deserves a little rough treatment at times; and, indeed, could never live in the false atmosphere which Continental politicians would throw round it. A

Parliament is *part* of the life of a nation—not its life: it must act in harmony with the other functions of the body politic—not paralyse society and try to be a living point in a dead mass. We do not deny that what has passed in Belgium is abnormal. Foreigners have not yet learned the art of exercising 'pressure from without,' whilst avoiding contact with the police. Nor have *we*. Our Hyde Park riots were as irregular as anything that has happened in Brussels; but they also enabled a government to escape from a difficulty, and were rather considered as an over-healthy action of our constitution than as a sign of decay. In Belgium bones were broken as well as windows, and some blood was shed. Let us hope that similar scenes will not soon recur, either there or elsewhere; but we should prefer the alternative of a little lawlessness to the sight of elected legislators, taking advantage of their title of representatives and disposing with the recklessness of irresponsibility of the fortunes, the happiness, the honour of a country lying in abject submission before them. Parliaments, like women, are apt to take refuge too often behind the privileges which opinion grants them—to meddle and torment and tyrannise because they think they can do so without danger.

The events that have taken place in Belgium, and which have not yet found their catastrophe, sprang out of an untimely endeavour to re-legislate on a point long before settled. Instead of behaving as the representatives of the country at large, the Chamber made itself the representative of a corporation. Even the Ministers gave up their free will and acted under the immediate direction of a party and interest outside the House. How they contrived to obtain a majority would be easy to explain. But this is now immaterial, as in the most unequivocal manner we have been told that that majority does not represent the nation. Not only have the populations of the towns declared themselves with a unanimity and an energy never before known, but even in the country, among the ignorant peasantry, usually so much under ecclesiastical influence, most energetic declarations have been made that nothing that increases the power of the priests will be tolerated. It is true these bovine expressions of opinion are not to be much hearkened to. In Belgium, as in most other Catholic countries, provincials may often be heard to talk very loudly against priestcraft, even to retail free-thinking ideas, whilst at the same time they are under the thumb of the curé, and may be detected now and then paying sly visits, with all the appearance of being *en bonne fortune*, to the confessional. We may suppose, therefore, that the routed Ultramontanes will be able to fall back on a considerable reserve; and the Liberals must continue to harass them unceasingly in their retreat. It may be quite true that at the meeting that took place at the house of M. DE MÉRODE the clericals resolved to abandon the law on charities; but we must not suppose they will so easily give up a struggle in which they have been so nearly victorious.

We have not yet received news of any modification in the Ministry. MM. DE DECKER and VILAIN XIV. still keep to their posts, though they are reported to be edging away from their colleagues; and the great ALPHONSE NOTHOMB has not yet retired to Luxembourg. This last gentleman, after describing the semicircle of success—from extreme Liberalism to extreme Conservatism—the well-trodden path from opposition to favour—has not yet been awakened from his dream. Two years of office have left him as ignorant and as vain, as imperturbable and as abundant, as ever. The experience of the last month, too, seems to have been lost upon

him. M. MALOU, the Bishop of Bruges, showed great discretion when he entrusted to such a man the management of his Charity Bill. M. NOTHOMB not only still clings to his post, but is reported to be preparing a factually fluent dissertation for delivery to the Chamber when it meets again to discuss this project; whilst every one is saying that the Catholic party, of which M. NOTHOMB is the tool, have at any rate agreed to put themselves in the hands of the King, and leave to him the responsibility of disposing of the obnoxious measure.

It is difficult, as yet, to tell how the *dénouement* of the drama will be brought about. If the Ministry refuses to be modified—if it is bound together by pledges—and such may probably be the case, if we may judge by the manner in which the Charity Bill was brought forward and supported—it is not likely that the King will venture on the experiment of dismissing it altogether, and endeavouring to carry on the Government with a Liberal or Coalition administration in the face of a hostile majority. Kings know too well now the peril of such a course. Besides, they are but men after all—Men and Fathers. Excellent King LEOPOLD was just about to have proposed to the Chamber a little bill for the dotation of his daughter CHARLOTTE—a name dear to the memory of the heart and the pocket of England. He is about to give her in marriage to the Archduke MAXIMILIAN of Austria; and what Englishman is ignorant of the cost of these interesting transactions? To convoke the Chambers for this purpose only would be impossible. Yet convoked they must be. According to the letter of the Constitution an adjournment cannot last more than a month. It is said the meeting is fixed for the 25th—unless in the meantime the Government determine on a dissolution.

A dissolution! This would then be the year of elections. After the brisk and noisy contest in England—in which English constituencies, independent or corrupt, ignorant, prejudiced, enlightened, liberal, conservative, and servile, managed to arrive at an average representation of their want of earnestness—we shall have the muffled and unequal struggle of an exasperated minority in France, with the Government supported by its half-million of soldiers, and preceded by its flock of six or seven millions of electors—or *bulletins*; and then would come the deadly wrestling of two hostile parties in Belgium—the ghastly, but vigorous, cowed monk with the ripening modern man—the disciplined hordes of the convent with the enthusiastic crowds of Liberalism. But the probability is that the Jesuit party, with their usual caution, will act according to the feeling of the meeting at the house of M. DE MÉRODE-WESTERLOO—do everything they can to prevent a dissolution of the Chambers or the breaking up of the Cabinet. Though defeated on one point they desire to preserve their position for future use. We may be sure, at any rate, that the struggle is not really over. An ecclesiastical party is not so easily overcome. Much, of course, will now depend on the policy pursued by the King. If he clearly see that his power, or at any rate his popularity, is risked by these desperate Conservatives, who would throw everything into confusion, he will, in as far as the Constitution allows him, range himself on the Liberal side. Every one feels that the contest will not be decided when the Charity Bill has been withdrawn. The advanced party in Europe, singularly enough, is waiting with anxiety for the decision of a King—fearing that that decision will be a check to monarchy—hoping that it will consolidate a throne and confound the calculations of whoever may seek advantage from anarchy.

## THE NATIVE ARMIES OF INDIA.

THE latest intelligence from India solves all doubt as to the reality or extent of disaffection in the Bengal Army. It is now certain that the whole of the native ('regular') troops are more or less implicated in a conspiracy against the State. The fruits of Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK's mad crusade against military discipline are no longer to be mistaken. The outbreak which has just occurred had been long predicted alike by soldiers and civilians of ordinary Indian experience. What, then, has been done towards meeting the threatened danger, if, indeed, it could not be altogether averted? Nothing—absolutely nothing! As for the feeble palliatives glanced at in our last number, such remedies could, at the most, be expected to have no better effect than that of from time to time postponing the evil day. An increase of European officers has, it is true, been doled out during the last twenty years; but the increase of extra-regimental staff appointments has been far more than corresponding. So that the addition spoken of would go for rather less than nothing, were it not, in certain other respects, positively detrimental, as we can very soon show. The subjoined table exhibits the proportion of European officers allowed to a Bengal native infantry regiment, at a period immediately succeeding Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK's reductions, and again at the present day:—

1837.		1857.	
8 companies; 640 privates.		10 comps.; 1000 privates.	
Colonel ... ..	1	Colonel ... ..	1
Lieut.-Colonel ... ..	1	Lieut.-Colonel ... ..	1
Major ... ..	1	Major ... ..	1
Captains ... ..	5	Captains ... ..	7
Lieutenants ... ..	8	Lieutenants ... ..	11
Ensigns ... ..	4	Ensigns ... ..	5
Total	20	Total	26

Hence it will easily be seen that, in 1837—excluding field officers—there were 17 captains and subalterns allowed for an establishment of 640 privates; being at the rate of 1 officer to about 37 Sepoys. In 1857, we find that the captains and subalterns have been increased to 23: but the number of privates has been augmented to 1000; and the result is, that the proportion of officers to soldiers is only 1 to about 43. The vaunted increase of officers is thus proved to be an arithmetical fallacy. And how great the practical fallacy is, may be gathered from the fact that, on the strength of this imaginary augmentation, three, four, or five more individuals have been withdrawn, for staff employ, from regiments already much under-officered. This state of things is, as we have already said, positively detrimental; but still more detrimental results must ensue from a persistence in the pitiful half measures hitherto adopted. Referring again to the establishments of 1837 and 1857 respectively, we observe that a cadet of the former year, on joining his regiment as fourth ensign, had only seventeen steps between him and the regimental majority—the point, in fact, at which mere military service begins to be pretty well remunerated—though promotion was far from being rapid at that period. But the cadet of 1857, joining as fifth ensign, has twenty-three steps to win ere he can occupy the same desirable position; and, as he must rise by dint of sheer seniority, a JOHNNY NEWCOMB of the present day need, under ordinary circumstances, look for no better result than that of finding himself half way up the list of captains, at an age when most generals are ripe for shelving. Here is an argument which, were other grounds wanting, is in itself all-sufficient to establish the necessity for reform. But in the Bengal Presidency, at least, the work of demoralisation has proceeded so far that 're-



formation' must be understood in its literal sense of 'reconstruction.' The Bengal army is ruined, stock and block, beyond all repairing. It has, for years past, been a gigantic sham, a showy imposture; but now that the bubble has fairly burst, let us think of some new system of military organisation more applicable to the present requirements of British India.

In our opinion a complete reconstruction of the Native Infantry might be effected at a very trifling cost. There may be a considerable amount of prejudice to encounter: but no vested rights need be interfered with, if any such exist. Half the number of regulars that we now maintain would, if suitably organised, constitute a far more valuable fighting army than India at present possesses. We would have this 'Field Force,' as far as possible, concentrated in large frontier cantonments. It should consist of small battalions on the scale of 1837; but there should be a captain and two subalterns for every company, with two majors, in order to stimulate regimental promotion. Native commissioned officers would be quite superfluous. Every individual attached to this force ought to be, in all respects, an effective soldier, and any officer accepting of civil employment should at once be struck off the regimental rolls. The 'Field Force' might supply its own staff in the purely military departments; but, with a view to improve and benefit the greatest possible number of aspirants to office, the tenure of staff appointments might well be limited to the period, say, of five years. The fighting soldier should no longer be called upon to perform the duties of a policeman, or to undertake treasure escorts within our own provinces. *Caste* should be absolutely ignored, as it always has been on the Bombay side. With the increased proportion of officers, since it has been deemed necessary to introduce an English system of discipline, that system might be consistently maintained, which is at present an impossibility.

The interior of British India may be very safely entrusted to a second military force, composed of local, provincial, or district battalions of 800 or 1000 men, under a commandant, second in command, and adjutant. And here an opportunity would offer of giving commissions to native non-commissioned officers selected from the field force, and thus providing them with an honourable retirement, upon the first sign of their efficiency for more active duties appearing to be on the wane. Hither, also, would be transferred from the 'Field Force,' in order to serve out his time, every man suspected of being less than fully up to the mark. These battalions would undertake all the civil and other duties, in the performance of which the strength of the line has hitherto been frittered away, and its discipline so lamentably impaired.

Such is, in brief, apart from minute details, our idea of what might be easily done, if once set about with energy. The existing excitement may possibly be made subservient to so wholesome a purpose. Years may elapse before mutual confidence be fully restored between the Sepoy and those in authority over him; but it will be some satisfaction, at least, to know that timely measures are being taken to promote the return of that better feeling which has been so perilously estranged.

#### THE ELECTORAL MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

WE need not insist particularly on the wording of the few liberal Addresses and Circulars now publishing in France with reference

to the elections. They are necessarily so constrained, so full of almost imperceptible innuendoes, that an English reader can scarcely appreciate their significance. We have, for example, before us a sort of lithographed general epistle to the electors, signed by GARNIER PAGES, CARNOT, LE FRANÇOIS, HEROLD, and BUCHEZ, in which it is announced that 'our friends' have decided on action, whilst of when, and where, and how, there is no revelation. 'Action' means voting for Opposition candidates—if possible, 'Democrats'—if not, the most 'sympathetic persons elected in 1848.' The electors are warned they may be in a minority; but what then? 'Ambition fears defeat: patriotism may submit to it with honour.' There is, of course, no direct mention of the principles on which the election is to take place, no discussion of topics of public interest. All that the leaders of the people dare say is: "Every suffrage given in favour of Democracy will be an echo of past days, a consolation to suffering, a balm to those who languish in a foreign land, a hope for all."

This enigmatical language is rendered absolutely necessary by the tone adopted by the Government. As we predicted last week, the impartial professions of M. BILLAULT were understood on all hands to be imperial jargon. Their best commentary is the language adopted by the Prefects to whom the circular was addressed, and the tone of the addresses of Government candidates. The Prefects, one and all, but more or less clearly, intimate that the struggle is not to be between an Opposition and a Ministry, but between the Government and its antagonists, between the Empire and its enemies, between liberty and despotism. Thus, at the last moment, the country discovers—if it waited until now to discover—that all that has been said about the desire of the Emperor to behold a return of political life, of his wish to grant a little more liberty in order to give some satisfaction to the intellect of France, was simple sham. There is no place for liberty in France. It could lead to nothing but the overthrow of the present institutions. "Wherefore should I come forward?" writes a well-known statesman, explaining why he refused to be a candidate. "What could I say if elected? *Mes chers collègues, vous êtes des gredins*—that is all." When such is the temper of some of the best men, it is easy to understand that the Government is anxious to elect its own nominees, and no others. But it has to thank itself, and itself alone, for bringing matters to such a pass. It never loses an opportunity of making every question a question of confidence. It asks always for the old 'yes or no' vote over again. It does not want the co-operation of the people. All it cares for is a periodical ratification of the colourable compact by which LOUIS NAPOLEON represents France, and is entrusted with the duty of attending to—his own interests.

Yet, with all this, the Empire insists on appearing before the world, as much as it possibly can, in the character of a representative government. Arrangements have been made for filling the columns of the press, native and foreign, with articles and paragraphs and announcements imitating to a certain extent the phraseology of constitutional formularies. There is talk of elections—of candidates and electors—of ballot-urns, and so forth. In order to preserve a mask of appearances, some sort of independent voting must be allowed here and there, where the Government screw cannot be openly employed. But, as we can understand from the addresses of Prefects and Government candidates, all such voting will in reality be looked upon as seditious. The Baron MARIANI stands for Corsica,

with a formal letter of recommendation from the Emperor, and announces that any opposition will be considered 'opposition to the sovereign will, loudly proclaimed.' This is indeed the tone everywhere adopted. The Government causes it most clearly to be understood that it is making a stand for its existence, and that whoever is not with it, will be considered against it. Even fervent Bonapartist candidates have been snubbed for presuming to stand without permission.

"There is no human probability," says a correspondent of unexceptionable character and high position, "of defeating the omnipotent influence of a centralized administration over universal suffrage. All the peasants—that is, nine-tenths of the electors—will vote as the Mayor of each village, who is the nominee of the Prefect, will tell them. They all think they are obliged to vote, as they pay their taxes, according to the Emperor's mandate."

Under these circumstances it is obvious that we must not look forward to the return of many Liberal candidates in the provinces, though we are not sorry to see that in spite of the overwhelming influences to be brought to bear against them, the Liberal party are resolved to inform the world that they are not defunct. Nor do we much regret the rumoured coalition between the moderate Democrats and the Orleanists. M. DE MONTALEMBERT, who announces that if elected he will endeavour 'to repress scandalous speculation and watch over the public fortune,' will probably have the votes of the Republicans in the Doubs. The mixed list for Paris will no doubt be accepted by the whole Opposition. On it, indeed, the great interest of the election will turn. Paris is the only place in which it is almost impossible to drill the electors. Much will be done to tamper with their votes it is true, but the masses are too great and too closely pressed together. If a victory be obtained by the Opposition in the capital, it will be of the same value as a general protest of all the great towns; and the Government may either be driven to efface all semblance of a constitutional government altogether, or may make some of those concessions, which are prudence or suicide, according to the temper of the people whose interests are concerned.

THE SEACOLE FUND.—Our readers are aware that a committee has been formed to promote the claims of Mrs. Seacole to the support and sympathy of the public. Her exertions in the Crimea are well known; but we are informed that she rendered valuable services as a nurse and medical attendant in Jamaica in 1850 and 1853, when the yellow fever and cholera committed such ravages. Mrs. Seacole has been reduced to poverty in consequence of her devoted attendance to the sick in the Crimea. At the termination of the war her premises were full of valuable stores, consigned to her at high prices, which could neither be carried away nor sold, except at a ruinous loss. Mrs. Seacole has received many testimonials to her skill, kindness, and utility, as well from persons of high rank as from private soldiers; and we believe we may safely recommend the Seacole fund to the generous consideration of the public.—*Times*.

AUSTRALIA.—From Melbourne we hear that four only of the members of Mr. O'Shanassy's Ministry out of seven have obtained seats in the Assembly. A vote of want of confidence was spoken of, with the adhesion of many who contributed to turn out the late Ministers. Inspector-General Pierce, of the penal department at Melbourne, has been killed by the convicts. Trade at Melbourne was very dull, from the apprehension of large imports. The production and export of gold continued at the average rate.—The steamer William Denny has been lost at Cape North, New Zealand; but everybody on board was saved.—The Great Northern Railway from Newcastle to Maitland, in the Hunter River district, New South Wales, has been opened. It was commenced at the end of 1854; its length is sixteen miles and a half; and the cost of construction has averaged 10,000*l.* per mile.

MALTA.—The squadron under Lord Lyons left Valletta harbour on the 8th inst. for Tunis, Cagliari, Spezzia, Toulon, and the ports of Spain. Sir William Reid has resigned the Governorship of Malta.

## Literature.

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

THE week has been saddened by the death of DOUGLAS JERROLD,—carried off suddenly by one of those acute attacks to which he had been so often liable. We are bereaved of one of our most popular moralists, and most vigorous writers, at a time, perhaps, when we were most feelingly conscious of the power and vitality of his genius. JERROLD's life seems to have been destined to thwart the theories of system-makers. Born in a seaport town, with a brave and ardent disposition, it was natural that he should take to the sea; natural, with his love of liberty, that he should resent the oppressions of naval life; and the young midshipman was taken from the promised glories, and consigned to the humble labours of the compositor. He had tried a brilliant career and failed, and was to be a working man! But if ever genius could be repressed, certainly that of JERROLD was not of such mould. While he was still a compositor, he showed something of his temper as an author, and soon after delighted the world with a reminiscence of his sea life wedded to art, in *Black-Eyed Susan*. The dull workman, who was unfit to be an officer, became a brilliant dramatist; but the playwright, who was then pronounced to be fit to wait upon T. P. COOKE, soon developed powers of satire that have seldom been equalled. Your satirist is often either a crabbed man, having few sympathies with his kind, or a closet man: JERROLD was neither; he was a man of the world; a man of fine, full heart. His satire, therefore, was used as the weapon on the side of right, and especially on the side of the helpless. His experiences amongst the working men had shown him the darker side of society, and he was a reformer; his sea-life had given him boldness and animation, and had freed him from many restraints that might have bound a mere landsman; and thus it was that the boy who was not strong enough to be a middy, the man who was too fanciful to be a compositor, became one of our most downright and popular politicians. Perhaps there were few examples of men who more thoroughly negatived the Laputan notion of the day, that capacity can be found out by 'examination' in school studies. From the necessity of the circumstances his education was irregular, and his temper was of a kind to have rebelled against examination pedantries. Yet who more able to handle facts, and to turn them inside out so as to show their true meaning, than JERROLD?

The last number of the *Revue de Paris* contains a striking article on M. LÉON DE LABORDE's recently published work, *De l'Union des Arts et de l'Industrie*. The author of this work—a member of the French Commission at the Great Exhibition—was appointed to draw up a report on the Fine Arts, and the various branches of industry connected with them, and two elaborate volumes, with the above title, are the result. The first volume, devoted to the past, contains an historical sketch of the progress of the arts, with an account of the particular works and general style of the various nations represented at the Exhibition. In the second volume, entitled 'The Future,' and occupied with the author's plans for the re-organisation of the arts, he details minutely and at length the various reforms which the present state of the arts, both fine and industrial, imperatively demand in France. Amongst these, at the outset he urges that the people should be trained in art, and the artists educated. Under the former head he insists strongly on the doctrine which our own schools of art in connexion with Marlborough House are established to enforce—that thorough elementary instruction in art should, like reading and writing, form an indispensable part of ordinary education. In discussing the latter point—the general education which artists ought to have—he gives a most startling picture of the 'abyss of ignorance in which they are plunged,' and in which it seems they contentedly live. According to M. DE LABORDE, many distinguished French artists can scarcely read or write; and he attributes the present degradation of French art in great measure to this deplorable ignorance. The Great Exhibition of 1851 proved that in decorative art our neighbours across the water were superior to ourselves; and we are accustomed to think that many branches of art at least are in a flourishing condition in France. It is instructive therefore to note what a low and almost despairing view both author and critic take of the existing state of French art. The critic, M. DU CAMP, in particular, complains terribly of the present state of things, and urges the most sweeping reforms. He would abolish for instance the French school at Rome, which he says only perpetuates a disastrous style of painting, destroys originality, and stamps with the seal of hopeless mediocrity all its distinguished pupils. In the same way he would at once suppress the Academy of Fine Arts, as not only useless but dangerous. Its very existence is a standing excuse for feebleness and negligent execution. "We all know by experience," he wickedly says, "that there is no connexion between the works of a master and those of an Academician. In order to be strong, Art must be absolutely free; and its development will be arrested when controlled by a body of men, estimable enough perhaps in many respects, but who on principle look only towards the past, rarely see the present, and systematically despise the future. Instead of encouraging original efforts, the Academy, by a natural conservative instinct, denounces and represses them." *Delenda est Academia*, therefore, is his motto. He concludes by a lament over the present state of France and the impossibility of realizing M. DE LABORDE's industrial and æsthetic reforms while

she continues so characteristically a military nation. "Figures," says he, "are said to have their eloquence, and we conclude with some that will explain our whole thought." The following, according to M. DE LABORDE, is the yearly average of expenditure given by the budgets for the last ten years:—

ARMÉE DE TERRE. Ministère de la Guerre. 328,558,042fr.	ARMÉE DE LA PAIX. Lettres et Beaux-Arts. 3,966,443fr.	ARMÉE DE MER. Ministère de la Marine. 119,438,961fr.
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After this, who will say that CHATEAUBRIAND was not right in declaring the disheartening truth—"France is only a soldier!"

We have often had occasion to remark on the careful study of our recent Literature displayed in its criticism of English authors by the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. The last number contains an article on LONGFELLOW's *Hiawatha*, remarkable for subtle insight into the peculiar character of the poem, and genial criticism of its special merits. The writer, M. EMILE MONTÉGUT, shows a thorough appreciation of the poetic substance and form of LONGFELLOW's Indian legend scarcely to be expected in a foreigner, and least of all in a Frenchman. He pronounces *Hiawatha* to be the most finished poem LONGFELLOW has produced. Of the metre he says: "The melody of the verse, rapid and monotonous, is like the voice of Nature, which never fatigues us though continually repeating the same sound. Two or three notes compose the whole music of the poem, melodious and limited as the song of a bird." Describing the general character of *Hiawatha*, he says: "The feeling for nature that pervades the poem is at once most refined and most familiar. The poet knows how to give, as a modern, voices to all the inanimate objects of Nature; he knows the language of the birds, he understands the murmur of the wind amongst the leaves, he interprets the voices of the running streams, and yet, notwithstanding this poetic subtilty, he never turns aside to minute description, nor attempts to prolong, by reflection, the emotion excited. His poem, made with exquisite art, has thus a double character: it is Homeric from the precision, simplicity, and familiarity of its images, and modern from the vivacity of its impressions, and from the lyrical spirit that breathes in every page."

We have just received the first number of a new and most important series of tracts, entitled *Blue Books for the People*, edited by Mr. EDWARD WALFORD, sometime scholar of Balliol College, Oxford. It is on Army education, being, in fact, an abstract of the report of the Commissioners appointed to consider the best mode of reorganising the system of training officers for the Staff, which was presented to Parliament in February last. This abstract, made with great care and judgment, presents succinctly and compactly the pith and substance of the original report. It is a pocket pamphlet, well printed, the matter well arranged under appropriate headings, and containing sixty-two pages of instructive and by no means uninteresting reading. The subject chosen for the first number of the series is seasonable, the Army Education Report being of public interest and importance just now, especially as the Horse Guards shows a decided disposition to shuffle out of the subject, and to shirk the recommendation of the commissioners. Sir DE LACY EVANS is to bring the report before Parliament on the 30th inst., and it is therefore of the highest importance that the public should be fully informed on the question. Each number of the new series will be devoted to a single subject, and contain a digest of the blue-books and parliamentary papers connected with it. The idea of thus bringing these hitherto inaccessible stores of valuable information within reach of the public is excellent, and the execution is worthy of the idea.

'THE DEAD SECRET' which since the commencement of the present year has been the admiration and delight of thousands of readers in *Household Words*, and has held half the homes in the country in eager expectation and suspense, is concluded this week; and simultaneously with the appearance of the last chapter in *Household Words* appears the whole story, revised with characteristic and conscientious care, in two elegant and substantial volumes beautifully printed by Messrs. BRADBURY and EVANS. We shall have something to say in detail on this extremely remarkable work of fiction next week. For the present, we simply recommend all our readers to re-read the story in its entire and perfect form; to possess themselves of these two volumes, as an English classic not excelled, we are bold enough to say, in the whole range of fiction, for constructive art, for clear and ingenious narration, for chaste and vigorous style, for generous and healthful morality, not stuck upon its chapters (as in novels with a 'purpose') like a phylactery, or a ticket on a blind impostor's waistcoat, but breathing through the whole book an atmosphere of purity, of kindness, of piety to God and man. We doubt not the 'Dead Secret' will considerably enhance the high reputation of the author, not only in England, but in France and Germany, where his name is already held in loving honour and esteem.

## A DANISH STORY.

To be, or not to be? A Novel. By Hans Christian Andersen. Translated from the Danish by Mrs. Bushby.

THIS is rather a tale for certain sections of human nature than for the general mass of readers. It is a book to be recommended by sedate orators at Exeter Hall during the May meetings, or by members of the Evangelical Alliance at the September conclave. The Bishop of London might distribute it from Fulham Palace, and the King of Prussia would enjoy it



over his champagne, were it not for certain anti-German allusions to the Schleswig-Holstein question. In short, it is a religious, or rather a polemical, novel; and, like all other stories of its class, succeeds in nothing but in boring the reader, who, as we have had occasion in these columns to remark with reference to other novels, regards himself as having been entrapped by a false pretence, and made to attend a theological lecture when he had been induced to expect a little mental relaxation in the shape of an amusing fiction. The celebrated phrase from *Hamlet*, which gives its title to the story, is intended here to moot the important psychological question—Are we, or are we not, to exist hereafter? and the tale itself relates the life-history of one Niels Bryde, who passes from a state of religious faith to one of complete infidelity, and ultimately back again to faith.

The narrative on which the author's theological reasonings are hung is of the very slightest texture, and may be told in a brief space. Niels Bryde, at the commencement of the book, is a little boy, the son of Poul Bryde, who attends on the students at Regentens, a college in Copenhagen. His father is killed in the streets by an accident, and an old Jutland clergyman, Japetus Mollerup, who was formerly a student at the college, and who is on a visit there at the time of the catastrophe, takes the boy, whose mother is already dead, under his own care, and brings him up at the Manse, where he is regarded as one of the family. He exhibits considerable quickness of intellect, combined with a nature at once generous and passionate, and with great strength of will. He is intended for the church, and at the proper age is sent back to Regentens to study. Here he falls in with a student who lends him a copy of Strauss's *Life of Jesus*. He reads it with breathless awe and with much horror at its opinions; but it makes a lasting impression on his mind. He begins to question and criticise what he had before regarded as too sacred for anything but adoration. He travels for a few months in Germany; sees more of 'life' than ever he had seen before; and day by day becomes less orthodox in his opinions. By the time he pays his first visit to the Manse since quitting it, he has floated far away from the opinions of his benefactors, and stands on totally different grounds. He shocks Mrs. Mollerup, pains his adopted sister, Bodil, and positively enrages the clergyman himself, who, it must be confessed, is a great bigot, though a fine-hearted old fellow in other respects. Niels leaves in dudgeon; gives up all intention of becoming a minister; and studies medicine. His scepticism increases, and at length he becomes a thorough materialist, notwithstanding the fascinations of a young Jewess, Esther Arons, who has become a Christian, and who tries to overthrow the scepticism of the young student. At this point, the war of 1848-49-50, between Denmark and the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, breaks out, and Niels joins the Danish army as an assistant-surgeon. He is wounded, and is brought by pain to give up something of the arrogance of his former opinions. His self-reliance had been such that he had been led to think that man might, by the aid of science, acquire an absolute command over the universe, and be enabled to imitate the most secret productions of Nature, even to the creation of human beings themselves. He now recognises the existence of a God, but still denies the immortality of the soul. While these mental struggles are going on, he returns to Copenhagen, becomes more and more impressed with the beauty and gentleness of Esther, and at length feels that she is essential to his happiness. But cholera has broken out in Copenhagen, and Esther is struck down. He attends her deathbed, and receives a new lesson in faith:—

"Thank you for coming," she said; her voice sounded as if it had come from a distance. "Only tell me, will it be over soon? Science says that this is—"

"DEATH!" said Niels Bryde, involuntarily and calmly—he was stupefied by this unexpected misfortune. Everything seemed swimming round with him.

"And Faith says," she whispered, "it is LIFE!"—she pronounced the last word with emphasis, while she pressed his hand in hers. It was not a moment for conversation, not another word was said. Her eyes seemed to sink deeper in, and as when warm air passes over a figure of ice, it loses its impressed shape, thus annihilation passed over that form the soul's image of beauty, her hand became like marble, and yet it grasped firmly. "It is life!" These three words were the bridge between "TO BE, OR NOT TO BE?" here, amidst those who loved her.

"She is dead!" sobbed her mother.

"Dead!" was echoed around, but not uttered by Niels Bryde, he had not that word on his lips or in his mind. Esther, in whom were centred his happiest thoughts, she the bright, clear, living spirit, away—extinguished! Extinguished like a fire, with nothing but ashes remaining of her! Ashes that never more could be revived! No, he could not entertain that thought, could not admit that idea; he felt convinced that she was not dead, passed for ever from consciousness and life into nothingness. . . .

Ha! what sound was that? every one heard it—there passed a tone, a musical note, as it were, through the room—higher and higher it swelled, and then it died away. What could it be?

"Only a string of the pianoforte broken," said the eldest sister.

"Which string?"

"The E string!" she said, as she stooped over the instrument.

"E!—Esther!" he exclaimed hastily; and he remembered what he had once said in jest to Esther, if I die first, and there is an everlasting life, I shall reveal myself to you, as a chord, or a tone. Esther had taken up these words, and now—he who despised Belief—he with whom proofs visible to the understanding were needed for conviction—he became, at that moment, the child of superstition.

His conversion is thus completed, and the story ends with his reconciliation with the old clergyman and his wife and daughter.

This meagre scheme is drawn out with tedious minuteness and with continual repetitions. Long theological discourses, in which the chief arguments for and against materialism are reproduced without a touch of novelty either in the reasoning or the treatment; elaborate analyses of the spiritual condition of Niels Bryde at various stages of his career; and an ample flood of the usual washy, common-place moralising of 'good and bad boy books,' conceal the bareness of the narrative, and help to make out the volume. But, when we have finished the perusal, we find ourselves asking what good the author can expect to produce by his—and the reader's—trouble. No new light whatever is thrown upon the great questions here discussed; the arguments are precisely those with which all ordinarily reflective minds must be already familiar; and they are not made to assume any new clearness or force by means of dramatic illustration. In fact, the painting of character

is throughout of the feeblest kind. The chief personages of the story are little more than the mouthpieces of certain opinions; and the Christian convert from Judaism, Esther Arons, is merely a repetition of the pious daughter of Japetus Mollerup. When the course of the story removes Niels from the sphere of Bodil, Esther takes up the thread of the argument in favour of Christian faith. The best characters in the book are a gipsy woman with a deformed and idiot child, and an old tailor, who carries honesty to an ultra-sensitive degree, and goes mad under suspicion of having committed a theft of which he is quite innocent; but of these persons we do not hear as much as we could desire. A good-humoured scholar, Herr Svane, who, owing to an early disappointment in love, is subject to occasional attacks of low spirits and spleen, might have been elaborated into an excellent character; but he is a mere sketch, and indeed all the *dramatis personæ* are singularly devoid of substance and completeness.

The tale, in truth, is dull, and, as we have said, seems as if written for a special class of readers. The course of the Schleswig-Holstein struggle is followed with a wearisome particularity, and a total absence of all picturesqueness or power of striking the glare and horror, the hurried vehemence and hot tempest of war upon the page. The best part of the book is that in which the quiet, almost primitive, life at the old parsonage in Jutland is described. We have here an interesting glimpse into a remote nook of Scandinavia and into the pastoral simplicity of its people, among whom, at the period spoken of—less than twenty years ago—"all traffic and money transactions were carried on by barter," and who only possessed, in the way of circulating medium, one five rix dollar bank-note. But since those days a town has been built in the solitary regions described by Mr. Andersen, and matters are of course greatly altered.

We cannot say much for Mrs. Bushby's rendering of the original into English. Without giving any opinion as to its faithfulness as a translation, we are at liberty to say that the composition is not good. It is deformed by Hibernicisms or Scotticisms. The sentences are often very clumsy, the grammar defective, and the punctuation equivocal; and we meet with such phrases as—"the ground was arid and red like." At one part we hear of "a lark"—not in the ornithological, but the slang, sense of the word. And there is surely a little needless detail in this bit of description, notwithstanding its truth:—"A butcher's stall, with pieces of meat hung out, and bloody livers and lights, was near the crossing." But this is rather the fault of Mr. Andersen than of Mrs. Bushby, though the lady might perhaps have softened the Scandinavian plain-speaking. On the whole, we cannot recommend this volume to our readers.

#### THE FRANKS.

*The Franks, from their First Appearance in History to the Death of King Pepin.* By Walter C. Perry, Barrister-at-Law. Longman and Co.

THE object of the present volume is to prepare the way for a careful and judicious History of the life and times of Charlemagne. At first sight, it might seem as if the subject had already been exhausted by the researches of those historians who have directed their enlightened labours to the elucidation of the early annals of their country. But, for the most part, French writers have too closely adopted the conclusions arrived at by their immediate predecessors, without paying sufficient attention to the collateral lights furnished by the learning and industry of their fellow-craftsmen in Germany. National prejudices are, no doubt, answerable in some degree for this omission. The Celtic origin of the race is still a popular fiction, while the Latin and German elements that were superimposed on the Gallic substratum are treated with disdain. It is impossible, however, to form a proper judgment of the early period of the French monarchy without allowing a very large consideration to the Teutonic institutions that were grafted on the Gallo-Latin, or Romance stock. In this respect, Mr. Perry has rendered essential service to the students of French history, for he has brought to bear upon those dark though important ages an ample and accurate knowledge of the distinctive characteristics of the German conquerors. To Englishmen it must ever be a matter of deep interest to trace the various meanderings of the old Teuton race, as they deviated into strange and unaccustomed channels. It is a curious subject for reflection, to mark the difference in the same people as conquerors or conquered, as exemplified on the opposite sides of the narrow sea that separates France from England. The triumphant Frank and the subjugated Saxon issued from the same swamps and forests, sprang from the same blood, possessed the same intense individuality, and in their rude manliness concealed the same germs of future chivalry and civilization.

Majestic in stature (says Mr. Perry), high in spirit, with fearless hearts, on which no shackle had been laid, they came forth from their primeval forests to wrestle with the masters of the world. They dared to meet the Romans when they were mightiest; when their armies, schooled in a thousand battles with the bravest foes, were led by "Danger's own twin brother," whose military genius laid the Roman Empire at his feet; and he himself has told us that his tribunes and prefects wept with terror at the very aspect of their giant foes; that throughout his ever-victorious army the Roman soldiers, on the eve of their first conflict with the forces of Ariovistus, were engaged in making their wills in the recesses of their tents. This mere horde of undisciplined barbarians, with naked bodies, and swords so badly tempered that they bent at every stroke—with no fortifications but their waggons, and no reserve but their wives and children—rushed fearlessly on the finest armies that the ancient world produced, and came off with honour, and sometimes with success, according to the testimony of their not over-truthful enemies. Triumphant over in the streets of Rome, they remained unconquered on the Rhine. The tide of German life which set towards the East, was one of which no imperial command from Rome could stay the impetuous course. When African, Parthian, Greek, and Gaul had bent the neck and borne the chain, the Germans alone kept up a doubtful struggle with the universal conquerors, and laughed at their pompous threats and empty triumphs.

The manners, customs, and institutions of these splendid barbarians are described with considerable eloquence; chiefly, of course, on the authority of Tacitus, whom Mr. Perry vindicates from M. Guizot's charge of having merely gratified an *accès d'humeur* by satirising the vices of his own countrymen. The Franks themselves, as it is now universally acknowledged, were a powerful confederacy of certain tribes who inhabited the north-western

districts of Germany on the banks of the Rhine. Their name indicated their enjoyment and love of freedom, which their ferocious valour enabled them to maintain by enslaving their less warlike neighbours. The motive for forming this league was probably twofold: the necessity of emigration through the increase of population, and a desire to possess themselves of the wealth of the Gallic provinces. They accordingly burst upon the enervated outposts of the Roman empire in two torrents of invasion, known respectively as Saliens and Ripuarians—the former, probably, being the dwellers on the Sal, or Yssel, and the latter on the Rhine. Their progress, however, was slow and gradual, and centuries elapsed before they had rendered themselves the undisputed masters of Gaul. Towards the close of the fourth, and the beginning of the fifth century, the Franks were engaged in an incessant struggle to drive back the fresh hordes of barbarians who followed in their track, impelled by necessity or excited to cupidity by their example. So little is known of the internal state of the Frankish league at this period that a name has been adopted to veil the obscurity. That name is Pharamond, regarded by tradition as the founder of the French monarchy, but only recognised by history as the appellation of a family, of whom various members ruled over the different tribes by that time firmly established in Gaul. Of these chiefs the most distinguished was Clodion, the reputed father of Merovæus, from whom—if he ever existed—descended the long-haired kings of the first royal dynasty of France. At the end, however, of the fifth century light began to dawn upon the thick darkness, and the chaotic confusion to assume form and order. Clovis, 'the eldest son of the Church,' had espoused the cause of Catholicism, and, with the zeal of a convert and the charity of an orthodox believer, conquered the heathens and persecuted the heretics. His conversion was effected by a divine miracle, unless it be ascribed to his wife's influence and to worldly interest. Catholic writers agree in representing him as a patriot, a hero, and a faithful servant of the Deity, whose eternal laws of justice and mercy he continually violated. But, as Mr. Perry justly observes,

If, in far happier ages than those of which we speak, the most polluted consciences have purchased consolation and even hope, by building churches, endowing monasteries, and paying reverential homage to the dispensers of God's mercy, can we wonder that the extraordinary services of a Clovis to Catholic Christianity should cover even his foul sins as with a cloak of snow? He had, indeed, without the slightest provocation, deprived a noble and peaceable neighbour of his power and life. He had treacherously murdered his royal kindred, and deprived their children of their birthright. He had on all occasions shown himself the heartless ruffian, the greedy conqueror, the bloodthirsty tyrant; but by his conversion he had led the way to the triumph of Catholicism; he had saved the Roman Church from the Scylla and Charybdis of heresy and Paganism, planted it on a rock in the very centre of Europe, and fixed its doctrines and traditions in the hearts of the conquerors of the West.

Nor was Clovis the only monster panegyrised by the monkish chronicles as *sapiens, bonus, solus formosus, et rex*. Clotaire was equally indebted to Gregory of Tours for rescuing his name not only from oblivion, but from merited infamy and execration.

The historian has related to us in full and precise terms the several enormities of which Clotaire was guilty; how he slew with his own hand the children of his brother, in the presence of the weeping Clothildis, and under circumstances of peculiar atrocity; how he forced the wives of murdered kings into a hateful alliance with himself (he had at least seven wives, and several at the same time); how he not only put his own son to a cruel death, but extended his infernal malice to the latter's unoffending wife and children. And yet the learned, and, as we have reason to believe, exemplary bishop of the Christian Church, in the very same chapter in which he relates the death of Chramnus, represents the monster as having gained a victory by the special aid of God! In the following chapter, he also relates to us the manner in which Clotaire made his peace with Heaven before his death. In the 51st year of his reign, he sought the threshold of the blessed Martin of Tours, bringing with him many gifts. Having approached the sepulchre of a certain priest, he made a full confession 'of the acts of negligence of which he had, perhaps, been guilty, and prayed with many groans that the blessed confessor would procure him the mercy of the Lord, and by his intercession obliterate the memory of all that he had done *irrationally*.'

It would be unreasonable, however, to expect from the laity a purity and strictness of morality superior to that which prevailed among the clergy. When Agilbert, Bishop of Paris, and Probus, Bishop of Rheims, wished to persuade Duke Martin to repair to Ebroin's camp, they guaranteed his personal safety by a solemn oath sworn upon a receptacle supposed to contain sacred relics:—

The bishops, however, to save themselves from the guilt of perjury, had taken care that the vessels, which were covered, should be left empty. Martin, whom they omitted to inform of this important fact, was satisfied with their oaths, and accompanied them to Ecri, where he and his followers were immediately assassinated, without, as was thought, any detriment to the faith of the envoys.

Again, Cautinus, Bishop of Tours, A.D. 553, is described as being "excessively addicted to wine, and generally so drenched in liquor, that he could scarcely be carried from a banquet by four men." His avarice led him to commit acts of open violence, and he even punished a presbyter for refusing something which he had demanded by causing him to be buried alive in the crypt of his church. Badigesil, Bishop of Mans, A.D. 586, was "a monster in human form, and had a wife even worse than himself." The Abbot Dagulfus, about the same period, frequently indulged in theft, homicide, and adultery, and was killed, while in a drunken fit, by a husband whom he had wronged. A priest of Mans went about with a woman of good family in male attire, but, being discovered by her relations, was at length apprehended. His paramour was burned, and he himself put up for sale. "Bishop Ætherius, of Lisieux, redeemed him (*castigatum verbis lenibus*) by paying twenty gold pieces, and afterwards entrusted him with the instruction of the boys of his diocese."

Eonius, in the year 580, fell down in a drunken fit when performing mass at the altar in Paris; and "was generally so disgustingly (*deformiter*) drunk, that he could not walk." The Bishops Palladius and Bertchramnus having quarrelled at the table of King Guntram, accused each other of "adultery and perjury," at which, says Gregory, "many laughed, but some who were possessed of greater wisdom grieved." The deeds of Pappolus, Bishop of Langres, were of such a character that the historian thinks it better to pass over them without notice. . . . Sagittarius and Solonius, Bishops of Gap and Embrun, in Dauphiné, lived in perpetual bloodshed and las-

civiousness, and though twice deposed for their crimes, they were twice restored again to their episcopal chairs, and King Guntram believed that his son's death was the consequence of his having put these wretches in prison.

So much for the virtues of the episcopacy in those early ages of the Christian Church, which are usually exalted to the heavens for their exemplary piety and zeal. And if we turn from fierce warriors and unrighteous prelates, we find no redeeming points in female character. The experience of past ages is certainly not in favour of investing women with irresponsible power. Where they have not subjected themselves to the whims and caprices of unworthy favourites, they have almost invariably exhibited cruelty so remorseless, fraud so unscrupulous, and vindictiveness so implacable, that one might almost imagine the fallen angels to have been of that sex. Not a few notable instances of the disastrous effects of their undue influence may be found in the volume under notice. It was in consequence of the suggestions of his queen Amalaberg, niece of Theoderic the Great, an 'inestimable treasure,' that Hermenfried, a king of Thuringia, destroyed his two brothers. The celebrated Brunhilda "became one of the leading spirits in an age of intrigue and blood, and is charged by her enemies with having instigated so many murders as to have fulfilled the prophecy of Sibylla: 'Bruna shall come from the parts of Spain, before whose face many nations shall perish.'" Yet more terrible and relentless was Fredegunda, originally the mistress, and subsequently the wife of Chilperic, King of Soissons, whom she instigated to the murder of his first queen. By Fredegunda were hired the assassins who mortally wounded Sigebert, the high-minded King of Austrasia. To her counsels was due the death of her stepson Merovæus, and to the same source of evil has been ascribed the murder of her husband Chilperic. Another stepson, Clovis, and his unfortunate mother, perished through her vile suggestions; and she even "endeavoured to kill her own daughter by forcing down the lid of an iron chest upon her neck."

To say that she committed many other murders, which want of opportunity and power alone prevented her from doubling; that she brought false accusations against all who displeased her; that she ground the poor with intolerable taxes; that she attempted the life of her benefactor Guntram, who foolishly and wickedly maintained her cause when she was most in need of his assistance—will scarcely add one shade to the blackness of the character we have attempted to portray.

But Mr. Perry has not restricted himself to picturing the vices and crimes that marked those truly dark ages. Incidentally we read of perjury, fraud, violence, murder, adultery, and religious imposture, but in the midst of that horrid Saturnalia of human passions our attention is drawn to the leaven that was working out a better state of society. As through a magnifying glass we watch the embryo of the future Christian empire taking shape in the womb of time. We see how women and minors created temptation and opportunity for usurpation; how the usurpers established their position by enlisting the support of the clergy; and how 'divine grace' through the medium of St. Peter's successor supplanted natural and hereditary right. We mark the gradual rise of the nobility and their assumption of peculiar privileges, and the first stand made by the crown and the people against the encroachments of this arrogant class. At one time we tremble for the Christianity of Europe, and dread lest the logic of the sword should raise the Crescent above the Cross; but our fears are presently allayed by the consideration that the same argument may be wielded by the followers of Christ, and we applaud Augustine's conviction of the necessity of persecution. "The Lord himself," says that holy man, "first orders that men should be *bidden* to his supper, but afterwards *compelled to come*." Finally, we rejoice with excusable pride that it should have been reserved for our own countryman, Winfried of Kyrton—the Boniface of monkish literature—to regenerate the Church and save it from relapsing into Paganism; and we forgive the feebleness of his doubts as to the propriety of indulging in horseflesh, in consideration of the courage he exhibited in dying the death of a martyr. Seriously, we commend Mr. Perry's excellent work to all students of the rise and progress of the political and social system of modern Europe.

### A VISIT TO CHINA.

*A Residence among the Chinese: Inland, on the Coast, and at Sea. Being a Narrative of Scenes and Adventures during a Third Visit to China, from 1853 to 1856.* Murray.

By Robert Fortune.

MR FORTUNE is already known in connexion with China by the authorship of two other works, *Three Years' Wanderings* and *A Journey to the Tea Countries*. In the present volume he takes us over a good deal of new ground; and acting, as he says, on the hint of certain reviewers, endeavours to give completer pictures and fuller details on matters which he has hitherto comparatively neglected—the character and manners of the Chinese. The result is a very agreeable and readable volume, full of pictures, somewhat thinly painted it is true, but evidently taken from nature. Mr. Fortune has not much technical skill, and his imagination does not receive impressions forcibly; but he is careful, conscientious, and observing; and whenever he does not discuss political and diplomatic points—which he treats with a candour and simplicity quite engaging, but little authoritative—he is always worth listening to. Better and newer peeps into China we have not been indulged with for many a day.

We must send our readers to Mr. Fortune's pages for his amusing accounts of the earthquake and of the mysterious production of hairs, the report of a sunken village—common enough in oriental countries—the pilgrimage to Ayuka's Temple, the descriptions of tea-farms, the interviews with mandarins and their ladies, the sketches of domestic manners, the trade-information, the adventures with robbers, and the romantic journey to the Snowy Valley and its bounding waterfalls. The character of the book is indicated by these allusions. We find, however, some personal experiences with the rebels which have a peculiar interest at the present moment, and to which we shall more particularly direct attention. Writing in 1853, Mr. Fortune says:

While these events were going forward the rebellion in the interior of the country was causing the greatest excitement, not only amongst the natives, but also amongst residents. The rebels were known as the Kwang-si men, as they belonged to the



province of that name, which had been for several years in a state of great disorder. In 1850, three years before the time of which I write, a memorial, presented to the government by a number of gentlemen in the province, shows that fully two-thirds of it was overrun by robbers, who committed great violence upon the inhabitants: "At the time the petition was written hundreds and thousands of fields were lying uncultivated; the communications were in the hands of the outlaws, so that the supplies of the government could not travel."

Commissioner Lin was summoned from Fokien to endeavour to put down the insurrection, but he died on the way. Other high officers were sent on the same duty, but failed; and the insurgents made rapid progress until they stormed Nankin in March, 1853:—

When the news of the success of the rebels at Nanking and Chinkiang reached Shanghai, the alarm amongst all classes was very great. Some persons were of opinion that the march straight upon Shanghai was attracted thither by the reported wealth of the foreign merchants; and while the better informed did not apprehend much danger from this source, nearly all agreed in the propriety of taking some precautionary measures for the protection of the settlement. Meetings were held at the British Consulate, parties of sailors and marines were landed from our men-of-war, some rude fortifications were hastily thrown up, and every precaution was taken to prevent surprise. It turned out afterwards that, however prudent these measures were at the time, they were quite uncalled for, as it does not seem to have been the intention of the insurgents to molest foreigners in any way whatever.

Mr. Fortune then gives facts which show that the insurgents, without being the devils they have been painted, shared the usual arrogance of the Chinese, and actually pretended to sovereignty and lordship over the whole world on the strength of their successes against the mandarins. They required the English to acknowledge their supremacy, and were with difficulty persuaded that we had a prejudice in favour of independence. As to their religious opinions, it appears certain that they read the Bible with eagerness; but whether they understood or were influenced in any way by it, seems as yet doubtful. The 'Eastern Prince,' who falls into a trance and has direct communication with the Supreme Being, reminds us strongly of Joe Smith. However, we must not decide such questions on slight information. Let us see what Mr. Fortune reports of the rebels from personal experience. We must premise that rumours of an insurrection against the authority of the emperor, and a constant attack on the part of the rebels, had for some time been rife in the city of Shanghai:—

The morning of the 7th of September being the day on which the mandarins usually pay their visit to sacrifice in the temple of Confucius, was chosen by the rebels for the attack upon the city. Without knowing anything about their plans, I happened to pay a visit to the city soon after daybreak. On entering at the north gate I observed a number of men looking earnestly at some object in the guard-house, and saw at a glance that something of an unusual nature had taken place. Ascending the steps of the guard-room with the Chinese, I was horror-struck at finding the mats and pillows belonging to the guard saturated with human blood. Upon inquiry, it appeared that a band of men, believed to be composed chiefly of the members of the secret society already noticed and called the 'Small-sword Society,' had entered the city and were then on their way to the houses of the chief mandarins, namely, the Taoutae and Che-heen. They had met with some feeble resistance from the guards, whom they soon overpowered, and made themselves masters of the gate. When the rebels reached the centre of the city, they divided themselves into two divisions, one of which marched to the Che-heen's office, and the other to the Taoutae's. The guard at the Che-heen's, consisting of about forty men, fled without making the slightest resistance, and are supposed to have been in league with the rebels. Some one ran to inform the magistrate that his house was attacked, and the old man came out and endeavoured to pacify the mob with a few fair words and promises for the future. He was told, however, that such promises were now too late, upbraided for his former conduct, and barbarously murdered on the spot.

The division which marched to the Taoutae's was equally successful, and met with no resistance. Report says this officer—who was the highest in Shanghai—behaved very bravely on this trying occasion. Having been informed of the intended attack a minute or two before it took place, he dressed himself in his official robes and came out to meet the rebels. Most of his attendants had fled, and seeing that the few men who remained true were a very unequal match for the rebels, he prevented them from offering any resistance. "If you want my life," said he, "you have the power to take it—see, I am unarmed and defenceless." The rebel chief replied that they did not want his life, but that he must forthwith hand over the official seals, and take an oath not to molest those who were now the masters of the city. He immediately gave up the seals, and retired to his his own apartment, where he was allowed to remain unmolested while the other parts of the building were plundered or gutted.

From the fact that Mr. Fortune, immediately after these occurrences, moved in safety about the city, and frequently came in contact with the rebels, we may infer that, after all, they were not very dangerous people. They seem to have had the same wholesome hatred of theft which distinguishes the French revolutionist. Pilferers were put to death by mob-justice just as if they had been caught on the Carrousel; and no property was touched but Government property. Mr. Fortune, though he tries to be quite just to these rebels, speak of them with the constrained horror of a mild Conservative:—

Leaving the offices of the magistrate, we now proceeded to the residence of the Taoutae, or the highest civil officer of the city. Here a scene of a different kind, but scarcely less common, was presented to us. This place has been made the headquarters of the rebels, and we found the door strictly guarded by their men. The guards allowed us to pass without question, and walking up a straight path to the furthest end of the buildings, we found a large hall filled with men, engaged in arranging some matters connected with their food and wages. A more blackguard or unruly-looking collection of beings I had never before seen. Some were armed with short swords, others with muskets and pistols, and a number with rusty-looking spears of all forms and sizes. Here and there we observed some busily engaged in grinding their swords, and every now and then feeling their edge, like a butcher about to slay an animal for his stall. The greater number were taking part in a hot discussion which was then going on with their leaders, all talking at the same time, and apparently in the greatest disorder; but as this is Chinese custom, it gave us but little surprise or concern. The uniform worn by this motley band was most varied in its character, but each man wore a distinguishing badge of some kind either round his head or as a sash round his body or his breast. The Fokien bands had generally a red band tied round their head, while the Canton men had a white one, said to be a badge of mourning for the Ming dynasty—their ancient kings. Having seen enough of these unruly spirits, we left them talking, and walked quietly homewards through the streets of the city. Every place was perfectly quiet, some of the

shops were open, and the people generally seemed to be looking on with Chinese indifference.

Mr. Fortune gives an animated narrative of the occupation of Shanghai by the rebels, and of their final expulsion by the Imperialists, assisted by the French, who were once bravely repulsed in an assault, and afterwards contented themselves with a murderous bombardment. We can only regret that he suffers himself occasionally to be led away into speaking with undue severity of the rebels because of the strong measures they were obliged to take for their own interest during the siege and of the ruin which naturally overtook the city during so protracted an operation. 'Thieves and pirates' are hardly fair expressions to apply to persons who scrupulously protected private property as long as they were able. However, as we have already said, Mr. Fortune tries to be impartial; and has produced a volume which we can scarcely expect for some time to be surpassed in value as far as regards freshness and novelty of statement. It is by the constant efforts of such patient explorers as he that the truth on this Great Empire, so long overhung by the fog of mystery, will ultimately be made known. Then we shall ask for some philosopher to narrate facts in order, and compress what is worth knowing about China within reasonable limits. The threatened China library will extend at first beyond the power of human reading. After all we cannot afford much time to people whose names end in 'ko' and 'wing.' There must be some proportion between the size of books and the relative importance of their subjects. Volumes that treat of distant places should diminish as their distance increases—just as objects seem to do. But for the present we must have patience, and even receive with welcome the dozens of octavo volumes that will rapidly crowd to our shelves.

#### LATTER-DAY POETRY.

A vast accumulation of volumes of verse, lying upon our table and waxing day by day, warns us to fetch up arrears, and to despatch several in rather summary fashion. Inspired, therefore, with a lofty courage, commensurate with the demands made upon it (for it is no light task to grapple with a dead weight of Parnassian platitude), and tempering severe justice with due compassion, we dash boldly at the heap before us, and are lucky in singling out for our first subject the production of a man who is certainly superior to the ordinary run of Latter-day Poets, and who has earned the good feeling of all by some genuine qualities. The volume which we hold in our hand is entitled—

*Under Green Leaves.* By Charles Mackay. (Routledge.)—All the old characteristics of Mr. Mackay's verses are to be found repeated in these pages. Our readers already know our estimation of those characteristics; and we see, on the present occasion, neither advance nor retrogression to induce us to modify our previously expressed opinion. Again, as of old, we find the strong lyrical feeling of the writer finding vent in bright and varied measures, comprehensible to the popular understanding, and yet possessing a certain charm for the cultivated ear: again we find a generous sympathy with humanity and with all that can ennoble it; a rough contempt of whatever is mean or false; pleasant bits of description of country life, mixed with a good deal that is weak and common-place; a manly respect for labour, unaccompanied by anything fawning or pretentious; and a strain of somewhat obvious moralising. The pretty title of the book expresses its character—a vein of tranquil thoughtfulness pursued under the cheerful influences of Nature.

Of a higher mood is *The Chain of Lilies, and Other Poems.* By William Brighty Rands. (Knight and Son.)—The first of these poems represents the wild, wayward course of a lover's passion, analyzing his various emotions, his capricious thoughts, his feverish unrest and final calm, with a quaint richness of fancy and delicacy of feeling which remind us of Mr. Coventry Patmore's *Angel in the House*, though Mr. Rands has less intellectual subtlety and range of thought than that remarkable poem exhibits. A very few pages are occupied by this *Chain of Lilies*, and the whole might be read in ten minutes; but the effect of the stanzas on the mind is abiding in its sweet gentleness and fantastic beauty. The other productions in the volume are not equal to the first, being somewhat vague and indistinct; but we welcome Mr. Rands as possessing the true instincts of a poet, and we hope to hear of him again.

*Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece, with Other Poems.* By John Stuart Blackie, Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh. (Sutherland and Knox.)—A union of sing-song and heaviness is apparent in the greater number of the Professor's pages, which, though commencing with the invocation, "Muse of old Hellas, wake again!" are so destitute of Attic taste (unless when obviously Homeric epithets are reproduced) as to leave very little doubt on the reader's mind that the said Muse has refused to hearken to the call. If there be any sense of Athens in Mr. Blackie's verses, it is of the modern Athens. The music is not that of the Greek lyre, but of the Scotch bagpipes—a heavy and wearisome drone. What does the reader think of the divine dreams of antiquity being invoked from their graves by enchantment such as this, spoken of Iphigenia?—

She stretched her hands to the standers by,  
And tenderly besought them;  
With shafts of pity from her eye,  
The lovely maiden smote them.  
O! like a picture to be seen  
Was she, so chaste and beautiful,  
And to her father's will had been  
In all so meek and dutiful.

In a word, the writing is too much that of a professor. We could fancy many of the poems being delivered in lectures to classes of pupils, and we almost expect to find questions for examination at the end. Professor Blackie is the gentleman who some months ago asserted the vast superiority of Scotchmen over Englishmen; but he does not object to 'eke out his imperfections with the thoughts' of English poets. Within the compass of a few pages we find—'Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks!' (Shakspeare); 'the human face divine' (Milton); and 'the leafy month of June' (Coleridge): all unacknowledged. Two or three of the poems in this volume rise

a little above the dead level of the rest, and in the tale of Ariadne, more especially, there is some pretty writing; but common-place is the rule, and real poetical feeling the exception. Mr. Blackie would probably have been more a poet had he been less a pedant.

Here is another volume of poems by a Scotchman—*The Wanderer: Fantasy and Vision, &c.* By the Smith of Smitheden. (Edinburgh: Hogg.)—We do not know whether or not the writer is really a working smith; but, as it may be so, we shall content ourselves with simply notifying to the reader that such a volume has been published, as there is always something that commands respect and sympathy in untutored literary efforts, however great the failure, and in the present instance we find it impossible to congratulate the writer on success.

Nor can we congratulate Mr. W. Attfield, M.A., Oxon—who publishes a few pages of verse called *The Neptune's Car: a Tale of New York* (Saunders and Otley)—upon anything else than the good feeling which inspires his writing. He has versified a narrative of real life, recently published in the *Daily News*, the heroine of which is a Mrs. Patton, a young American lady of twenty, who, when her husband was stricken with brain fever at sea in the commercial vessel which he commanded, took his place, though having to attend on him, conducted the ship through the rest of her voyage (she was circumnavigating the globe), defeated the evil designs of the mate, whose conduct was refractory and suspicious, and brought the valuable cargo safely into port, though she was near her confinement. A nobler or more pathetic story was never acted in truth or invented by fiction; but Mr. Attfield, though evidently moved by the tale, seems incapable of relating it with the earnest simplicity it demands.

Poems by Alastor (Saunders and Otley) must assuredly be the productions of some sentimental youth in a Byronic collar, stupidly fond of moonlight and concertinas. He publishes two dedications—one to the memory of Byron, the other (in verse) to a "fair thing" who is asked if she will "have it—say?" The first poem we come to—*The Belfry*—is a tale of the author's passion for a certain Maude, a "pale, marble girl," like Tennyson's, although "from a robust woman sprung." Of the young gentleman's admiration of this damsel we are told that it extended

To the brink

Of feelings where the soul doth sink.

As a consequence of his soul being in this perilous position, Alastor behaves with rude gallantry one day to Maude; then goes well nigh out of his wits with remorse, but is finally forgiven and made happy by the marble fair one. The style in which these things are told may be gathered from this choice specimen of inversion:—

Quietly answered Maude me thus—

"Than friends there'll be no more 'twixt us."

Alastor's heart is evidently exceedingly susceptible. If he makes love as often in fact as he does in verse, we shall probably hear of it in the law courts; but no doubt he reserves many of his raptures for the woods and the printers. Several of his poems are addressed "To —," and we cannot help suspecting that he has previously sent them through the post in the form of Valentines. It is to be hoped the fair "—" approves of them; but, for ourselves, great as our sympathy is with these modest stammerings of the heart, we could wish the author had first learnt a few of the plain rules of grammar, metre, and composition.

A volume of verse with a map for the frontispiece is a novelty; yet here it is in the shape of *The Poetical Legends of the Channel Islands*. By the Rev. W. Langley Pope, M.A., Pembroke College, Oxford. (Saunders and Otley.)—"Gloria Deo" is the motto which, in no very good taste, Mr. Pope puts on his title-page; but he dedicates to the Earl of Shaftesbury, and probably thinks it necessary to appear in full canonicals. In his epistle to that nobleman, he says he submits the Legends to his Lordship's "attentive perusal"—which is really demanding too much—and adds that, at the same time, he considers it his duty "to commend them to the Catholic Church of Christ." Turning the page, we find this

#### PREFACE.

Most courteous Reader! askest thou me, why

Legends my theme? Pray, know they Truth supply.

This must surely be regarded as a parody on a deceased wit's burlesque of the elaborate nothings which Martial used to weave into verse:—

Jones eats his lettuces undress'd:

D'you ask the reason? 'Tis confess'd—

That is the way Jones likes them best.

The use of the map in Mr. Pope's volume is to point out, by means of red numbers, the sites of the legends here immortalised. If the reader wants a further taste of the poems, here it is:—

The loveliest of village maidens she:

Her deep blue eye glistened with purity.

Young, graceful, fair, of chastest soul,

Bold fisher Hubert bow'd to her control.

This will probably be enough. Mr. Langley Pope is certainly widely distinct from Mr. Alexander Pope.

## The Arts.

### ROYAL ACADEMY.

#### V.—VARIETIES.

ANOTHER glance at the whole face of the Exhibition discovers some works that we have passed in looking out for specimens to illustrate the particular point that we have in hand. We still observe the same tendency to improve the matter-of-fact, and to decline in the inventive. The portraits show this as much as anything. We have excellent 'likenesses,' few designs in portraiture. The artist aims to emulate the photograph rather than Titian; and since the one is easier than the other, upon the whole the effect is satisfactory. Take the portrait of Captain M'Clintock, by S. PEARCE, an artist whose name we do not remember to have frequently quoted: it is excellent, full of life and reality.

One of its closest rivals is the portrait of Sir Roderick Murchison, by the same hand. A more ambitious painting, but excellent also for this character of vigour, is PHILLIPS's portrait of Sir John Burgoyne. Other examples will be the portrait of David Cox, by BOXALL; a portrait of Eastlake, by KNIGHT, and of Professor Ward, by the same; George Combe, by Sir WATSON GORDON, and Mr. Dallas, the American Minister, by EDDIS. In the last the painter had a capital subject; for Mr. Dallas is a fine specimen of an American. With his dignified and cheerful countenance, his bearing, and the set of his hair, he might very well stand to all time as the model of an Archbishop.

We have passed over two of the most remarkable pictures in the Exhibition, not perhaps even naming "Rough and Ready," one of LANDSEER's smaller paintings. It is excellent. A hen has laid an egg, and is in the usual state of fuss which follows that operation; while a horse looks on as if willing to give the sympathy that the hen demands, but scarcely understanding the nature of the situation. The characteristics of the animals are more vigorously presented than in LANDSEER's later works, because, while the handling is freer it is more firm and precise: he attempts less of effect by the short course of manufacturing clouds of white paint over grey, as in his Braemar scene. "Uncle Tom and his Wife for Sale" is a catch, so far as the title is concerned. It represents two bull-dogs in a fine state of preservation and ugliness. Uncle Tom is sitting with his mouth open, his tongue out, panting under the oppression of his own comfortable state and the heat of the weather; while his wife turns to him with an appealing tenderness. Of course you may name any dog "Uncle Tom" and his companion "Uncle Tom's wife;" but the wag of an artist has either christened his work with much humour, or he has really designed a satire. There is a resemblance between the black-muzzled, snub-nosed bulldog and the Negro. The Uncle Tom in the picture has a sort of ostentatious contentedness, which quite equals that portrayed by Mrs. Beecher Stowe; and the look of humble affection in the wife, regarded from a Nigger point of view, is truly laughable. We only wonder how Sir EDWIN LANDSEER can settle accounts with the Duchess of Sutherland!

Amongst the landscapes which we have passed, and which would have well illustrated some of our remarks, is "A Scene in a Welsh Valley," by F. W. HULME: it is full of life and conscientious labour. The picture is worked out with a high degree of finish. The artist has taken the side of a chain of tall hills, which are clothed with vegetation; and every one knows how endless is the variety of form, of shadow, and tint in such a surface. By a careful fidelity to the scene itself, the artist has preserved all this aspect of variety—has caught the whole character of the mountain surface, the sharpness and almost the movement of the foliage. In comparison with the most perfect landscape of the Exhibition, there is perhaps less variety, less exactness in following the infinite change of forms in nature. For instance, the trees which stand in front of the mountain rise in the middle of the picture, are too exactly parallel in the uprightness of their stems, too precise in the imitation of each other's general form. Again, more to the dexter side of the picture, where the branches of the trees diverge, the angles of divergence are too equal. Another defect is strange in an artist who has done so well. In nature, the forms that stand near the foreground, are sharp and clearly defined, the details visible; as the distance increases, the forms blend into each other, until at the extremity they become vague; and it is the same with clouds: but in this picture, the dimness that comes over the forms of the mountain range as it recedes from the foreground is not paralleled in the perspective of the clouds that overhang the range. It is, however, a very fine picture.

Two other landscapes we ought to have noticed in our survey. One is WILLIS's scene with cattle. Is it an imitation of SIDNEY COOPER's treatment? A better model could not be found.

But above all we ought to have pointed out one of COOPER's own most perfect works—a small landscape with cattle, who are settling down to their repose under the falling night. The picture is almost in darkness; but the eye, growing accustomed to the dim light, can gradually discern even the distance; and the calm repose of the coming sleep of nature is beautiful.

Among those which we ought not to have passed is "Crimea, 1855—A Welcome Arrival," by J. G. LUARD. It is an officer's hut; the inmates engaged in breaking up a package from home, with its newspapers, its letters, its Fortnum-and-Masonica, and its beloved photograph. There are in the Exhibition many scenes from the Crimea, and many Crimean heroes among the portraits; but there is not one which gives us a glimpse of life as it passed amongst the residents of the Crimea so vividly and vigorously as this; it is a portrait history.

GOODALL's *fête* in Brittany is an advance upon his recent works—less mannered in the roundness of its forms, more characteristic.

But one of the prettiest bits is GOODALL's sketch of the Breton lover, asking "Veux-tu la tendresse, Jenny?" The scene in which the rustic couple sit—a bank rising up under the trees—is painted in harmony with the story; but the story is the thing. The lover is seated rather behind the girl, not pressed very close to her, his face anxious, earnest, fixed, tender, and patient—the very look of a man who is urging home a sustained and truthful plea on which he relies, and yet anxiously watches the effect. The girl, her face towards you, listens; she has not yet yielded, but she is moved, and she delays the yielding that she may draw out the pleasing importunity.

### DON GIOVANNI AT THE TWO HOUSES.

THIS has been a MOZART week in the height of a VERDI season. Now, without disrespect to VERDI, without joining in a hypercritical howl against operas which all the world (whose opinion is worthy of consideration) applauds and enjoys, we must confess that a deep draught of the perennial fountains is strengthening, and refreshing to the musical sense, a little pallid and cloyed by *Traviata* and *Trovatore*, *Trovatore* and *Traviata*, *decies repetita*. Who does not recognize in the old masters a majestic calmness, a grand simplicity, a power, a clearness, a deep tranquillity of strength which belong only to the Immortals? In the music of these latter days is there not a feverish pulsation, a fretful immaturity, a hectic languor, a tumultuous excitement singularly characteristic of a jaded and dissolving society, and of an age of noise and lassitude? In MOZART we have art in its eternal youth, and science in its full serenity. What a rhythm, what an accent, what symmetry of form, what a wealth of harmony, what inexhaustible melodic invention, what a sustained mastery of expression! But we are running away from our simple duty of recording the appearance of *Don Giovanni* at the Two Houses this week. For some days the town had been startled by numerous placards announcing the performance of "MOZART's *Chef-d'œuvre*" with restorations, 'majestic finales,' and all kinds of important discoveries. MOZART was to be taken in and done for in the Haymarket, with the same magnificent patronage as SHAKESPEARE in Oxford-street. Meantime, without any ceremony, *Don Giovanni* was quietly put in the bills of



the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA for last Tuesday, and on that evening quietly performed at the LYCEUM before the most crowded and select audience of the season, in a manner as nearly approaching perfection as it is easy to conceive. The opera was put on the stage with becoming taste and richness, the orchestra was all that even Mr. COSTA could desire in vigour, delicacy, and precision, and the principal singers were in admirable voice and temper. GRISI's *Donna Anna* made us ashamed of having ever deprecated her return to the stage, for where can such another *Donna Anna* be found? We do not presume to bolder the Sun because he sets in glory to-night only to shine again to-morrow. Madlle. MARAI is the best *Elvira* we have heard since AMALIA CORBARI, and Madlle. BOSIO's *Zerlina* looks and sings as though she would enchant the great composer from his monumental sleep. The arch simplicity and playful tenderness of her acting heightened the effect of her singing, in which we knew not whether to admire most the tone, the method, or the expression; and her shake in 'Vedrai Carino,' so full-throated, joyous, and triumphant, is not to be described, but to be remembered, and—heard again. MARIO, who looked as if he had stepped from a picture as *Don Ottavio*, sang with a finished grace of which he has the secret, and with a quality and freedom of voice peculiar to his 'happy' evenings. FORMES, who was very well received on his first appearance this season, is undoubtedly a very able and complete dramatic singer, with a noble voice and uncommon intelligence; he plays *Leporello* with evident zest and zeal, and sings with accomplished ease and power; if he would only be a trifle less obtrusive in some scenes (an objection which does not apply to the last scene of all), and if his Italian were a little more choice, he would, perhaps, do his reputation more entire justice. What shall we say of RONCONI? To speak of so consummate an artist in any terms but those of admiration and respect would be mere ingratitude. But that with all his powers he is not at home as the *Don* is the feeling of critics and public alike, from which we find it impossible to dissent. Inveterate sticklers for the old days declare that there has never been a *Don Giovanni* since (we believe it was) AMBROGETTI. We know how RONCONI can master his ungrateful voice, but except, perhaps, in 'La ci darem,' his singing is almost ineffective in this opera, notably so in the Serenade; and once or twice, at least, his acting, albeit his air and manner are neither vulgar nor undistinguished, reminded us more of *Figaro* than of the *Don*.

The minuet was danced by Madame CERITO and M. DESPLACES. We may note, as a proof of the good sense and taste on both sides of the curtain, that heartily as the opera was enjoyed throughout, only two encores were insisted on and given—the 'Trio of Masks' and the 'Vedrai Carino.'

We must reserve for a more convenient season, and for larger space, what we should have to say in detail on the performance of *Don Giovanni* at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, where the patronage of MOZART was conspicuously displayed in the bills. An immense audience was assembled on Thursday evening to welcome MOZART in his new home. Great was the expectation of the scenery, the dresses, and the appointments. For the present we must be content to say that the enthusiasm was prodigious, and the success never for a moment doubtful. Signor BENEVENTANO realized the *Don* to his own entire satisfaction, and sang as if he had pebbles in his mouth. The trio of ladies—Madlle. SPEZIA (*Donna Anna*), Madlle. ORTOLANI (*Donna Elvira*), and Madlle. PICCOLOMINI (*Zerlina*), come in the order of merit as we have placed their names. But is it not time, and is it not the duty of kindness, to warn the very charming young lady last named against the seductions of a too indulgent public? Is she not already failing in voice, and deteriorating in method, from the carelessness which the bouquets of privileged boxes have most regretably encouraged? Her singing of 'Batti Batti' and of 'Vedrai Carino' (both uproariously encored) was disrespectful to MOZART. It was singing at the music like an ambitious and thoughtless school-girl, and had none of the humility and the devotedness of the true disciple of art. Madlle. PICCOLOMINI looked (need we say it?) very charmingly; youth and high spirits are contagious, and we do not care to resist the contagion: but freshness and impulse, and unembarrassed enjoyment are quite removed from that licence of manner, and that romping familiarity which are delightful at the PALAIS ROYAL or the FOLIES NOUVELLES, but out of place and out of character in 'MOZART's *chef d'œuvre*,' at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. This it is not agreeable to say, but we say it in the kindest spirit of sympathy and regard for a young lady who has a soul for something truer than 'ovations' and 'recalls.' BELLETTI (the nearest friend to MOZART in the company) sang and acted *Leporello* with case and gusto: his delivery of 'Madamina il catalogo e questo' was excellent. Signor GIUGLINI, we are disposed to think, has not improved his reputation by his performance of *Don Ottavio*. His 'Il mio tesoro' was both flat and incorrect: he was better in the 'Della sua pace' (one of the restored airs) but not good enough to render it effective. Signor CONSI was more successful as *Masetto* than as *Nino* the other day; acting the peasant with much quiet humour, but with scarcely voice enough to enable us to say how much of it is left. As to the restored airs, the motive of their restoration is of course undeniable, but the policy doubtful, if, as we believe, MOZART himself sanctioned their omission. The chorus, 'Viva la Libertà,' was given with great effect, and deserved the applause—a circumstance worth noting. The orchestra was zealous and im-

patient of control. The *mise en scène* was rich and handsome; the ball scene, with a real fountain in the centre, quite magnificent. Perhaps the introduction of the cloisters, (from *La Favorita*), in the scene of the Statue was injudicious; but on the whole we cannot but praise the evident good will by which this revival of *Don Giovanni* is distinguished.

THE week has been prolific in Concerts. Herr MOLIQUE's was in all respects worthy of the high position so deservedly held by that esteemed composer. On Wednesday Mr. BENEDICT gave the first of a series of grand Concerts at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, embracing all the vocal and instrumental celebrities of that establishment, in addition to Madame CLARA SCHUMANN, the celebrated pianiste, Herr ERNST, Signor ANDREOLI, and last, not least, the eminent *bénéficiaire* himself. The sole deficiency in the programme was, the *Times* very justly observes, the too sparing introduction of Mr. BENEDICT's own compositions, which, with characteristic modesty, were limited to two; but it is pleasant to record that no piece was more heartily applauded by an audience comprising almost all the best society in London than the overture to *The Crusaders*. A striking novelty in the Concert was the production of the finale to MENDELSSOHN's unfinished opera, *Loreley*, with scenic accessories, and Madlle. SPEZIA as the heroine. This performance was one of special interest, but its success was not proportionate to expectation. The truth is, in its present form it is quite unfit for the stage, and we take leave to doubt whether MENDELSSOHN would have consented to its representation. At the next concert of the series, which according to the vocabulary of the present season, is denominated a 'Festival,' selections from GLUCK's *Orfeo* are to be given, with Madame ALBONI in the part of *Orpheus*. To hear ALBONI sing 'Che farò' would be worth a pilgrimage.

M. JULLIEN, ever alive to the signs of the times, has inaugurated a Grand Musical Congress at the ROYAL SURREY GARDENS, to celebrate the gathering of the Choral world for the Handel Festival. This Congress (which commenced yesterday evening) includes performances of HAYDN's *Creation* and *Seasons*, MENDELSSOHN's *Elijah*, a ROSSINI Festival, a VERDI Festival, a BEETHOVEN Night, a MENDELSSOHN Night, and a MOZART night, and is to conclude with the *Messiah*. M. JULLIEN is supported by a vast array of vocal and instrumental talent, and in ten days he will leap, like an orchestral acrobat, with mingled sprightliness and dignity from sacred to profane, from lively to severe, to the rapturous astonishment of country cousins, who believe and tremble at his ambrosial nod.

#### MADAME RISTORI.

AFTER the elaborate criticism we gave of Madame RISTORI's acting last year, we need not do more at present than announce her reappearance in this country on Monday last, and record the continuance of her favourable reception. She has appeared this week in LEGOUVE's *Medea* and in ALFIERI's terrible tragedy of *Rosmunda*, and last night in MONTANELLI's *Camma*, a piece written expressly for her, and eminently successful in Paris. We shall, however, reserve our notice of this new part for next week, merely observing that Madame RISTORI's style, already so remarkable, appears to be gradually ripening. Contact with refined audiences will always bring about this result in natures so impressionable as hers.

#### MR. ALFRED WIGAN.

THE entire public, and the dramatic profession at home and abroad, will learn with deep regret that this fine and finished actor, and most esteemed gentleman, is reluctantly compelled to abandon all hope of returning to the exercise of his art for an indefinite period. A host of personal friends and a vast public of admirers have long marked with anxious regret his prolonged absence from the stage; and for our own part, we have hoped against hope that a decisive and favourable improvement in health might be certified in the bills of the OLYMPIC. Unhappily, this hope has been deceived: the continuance of a most painful and complicated malady, rendering even the slightest physical exertion dangerous, compels Mr. WIGAN to seek absolute retirement and repose, and as a necessary consequence to resign the direction of the theatre which he had raised to so distinguished a position, and to which night after night he had attracted the *élite* of London society.

The management of this favourite theatre is to be assumed, we hear, by Mr. ROBSON, in conjunction with Mr. EMERY; an alliance certainly full of promise and deserving of all encouragement. The OLYMPIC is identified with the fame of Mr. ROBSON, and it was under Mr. WIGAN's management that Mr. EMERY, known as a powerful and effective actor in melodrama, achieved a selecter and more ambitious reputation. We trust that Mr. and Mrs. KEELEY (and why not Miss LOUISA KEELEY, the little ALBONI-DEJAZET of the British stage?) will be added to the OLYMPIC firmament. Meantime and always, in common with the public, we shall look and listen eagerly for good news of Mr. WIGAN, whom the best wishes and the grateful sympathies of all to whom he has given so many hours of pure enjoyment accompany with sad solicitude. May we meet again!

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGE, AND DEATHS.

##### BIRTHS.

HALL.—On the 8th inst., at Bathford, near Bath, the wife of Captain Richard Morgan Hall: a son.  
WILLIAMS.—On the 11th inst., at Woodlands-terrace, Blackheath, at the house of her father, General Sir Edward Nicolls, K.C.B., the wife of J. Hill Williams, Esq., of 12, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall: a daughter.

##### MARRIAGE.

HARRIS—MAGNIAC.—On the 4th inst., at the Chapel of the British Embassy, Paris, George Harris, Esq., H.M.'s Consul-General at Venice, to Ellen Henrietta, daughter of Daniel Magniac, Esq.

##### DEATHS.

JERROLD.—On the 8th inst., at his residence in Grenville-road, St. John's-wood, after a short illness, Douglas Jerrold, Esq., in the 55th year of his age.  
JOHNSON.—On the 31st ult., at his house, Burleigh-fields, Loughborough, Cassius Matthew Johnson, Esq. (formerly Clanchy), a Major-General in the British Army, and Lieutenant-Colonel in the Portuguese Military Service.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, June 9.

BANKRUPTS.—CHARLES CULLEN MERRER, Margate, Kent, builder—JOSIEVA STUCKFORD, Studley-terrace, Larkhall-lane, Lambeth, and Clifton-street, Wandsworth-road, builder—JOSEPH BROOK, 8, Lawrence-lane, City, and Bradford, Yorkshire, stuff merchant and manufacturer—WILLIAM LYON, Guildford, Surrey, butcher—THOMAS GREENWOOD and SAMUEL KING, Cannon-street, and St. Aubyn-street, Devonport, builders and contractors—WILLIAM HASLAM, Sheffield, horn dealer and cutter—SAMUEL WROTH ANTHONY, Liverpool, ship and insurance broker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. COLQUHOUN and Co., Bridge-street, Paisley, blanchers—R. REID, 150, Bridgegate

street, and 167, Eglinton-street, Glasgow, baker and grocer—W. JAMIESON, Paisley, wood merchant and wright—ROBINSON and NIVEN, Greenock, drysalers.

Friday, June 5.

BANKRUPTS.—SAMUEL STONARD and LOUIS JOSEPH STONARD, Shoreditch, oilman—JAMES BUGBEE, Vincent-square, contractor—EDBERT GRIFFITHS, Fenchurch-street, wine merchant—JOHN ELPHINSTONE FATQUA HOCHRE, Surrey, vander of paint—JOHN JULIAN JACKSON, Lawrence-lane, City, dyer and blancher—JOHN BUSHER, New Bond-street, Middlesex, livery-stable keeper—CHARLES WING, North End, Fulham, apothecary—JAMES PEART, Birmingham, bookseller—JOHN LINNET, Berners-street, Oxford-street, jeweller—SAMPSON HACKETT, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, draper—GEORGE MILNES HIRST, George HIRST, and WILLIAM FREDERICK WILMAN, Batley, Yorkshire, manufacturers—DANIEL ROSS, Romford, Essex, grocer—CHARLES STANLEY BRYAN and CHARLES SOUTHERN BRYAN, Chapel-street, Grosvenor-square, bookbinders—JOHN PALMER, Birmingham, pin maker—THOMAS CUTBERT M'KAY and JOHN M'KAY the younger, hostlers—JOHN GREGORY, High-street, Borough, wholesale and retail oilman—WALLACE ALFRED JONES, West Brompton, tea-dealer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—GEORGE HUNTER, Alton, lately commission agent—FRANCIS SHEPPARD, Glasgow, commission merchant.

## Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, June 12, 1857.

THE demand for money for commercial purposes continues so active that the large importations of bullion into the

country seem to have little or no effect in satisfying the demand. The Bank continues to maintain its rate of interest and it is thought will be guided by the state of the Bank of France before any reduction.

#### BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	213½	212	214	.....	214	212
3 per Cent. Red.....	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	93½	93½	94	94½	93½
Consols for Account	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	93½
New 3 per Cent. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cents....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860.....	.....	.....	.....	2 7-10	2 7-10	.....
India Stock.....	.....	.....	223	.....	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	.....	.....	.....	7 d	3 d	.....
Ditto, under £1000.....	.....	.....	4 d	.....	.....	0 d
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	1 d	2 d	1 d	2 p	2 d	2 p
Ditto, £500.....	5 p	2 d	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, Small.....	6 p	.....	.....	4 p	6 p	3 p

#### 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	.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	101½	Cents.....	108½
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents....	98
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	65½	Spanish.....	25½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	97½	Spanish Committee Cer-	.....
Ecuador Bonds.....	.....	of Coup. not fun. ....	0½
Mexican Account.....	22½	Turkish 6 per Cents.....	95½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents....	75½	Turkish New, 4 ditto....	101½
Portuguese 3 per Cents....	40½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents..	.....

**HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.**

The restoration of DON GIOVANNI having been received with the greatest enthusiasm, the chef-d'œuvre of Mozart will be repeated on **TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY**, the 16th, 18th, and 20th June, with the following unprecedented cast:—Zerlina, Madlle. Piccolomini; Donna Anna, Madlle. Spezia; and Donna Elvira, Madlle. Ortolani. Don Giovanni, Sig. Beneventano; Leporello, Sig. Belletti; Masetto, Sig. Corsi; Il Commendatore, Sig. Vialletti; and Don Ottavio, Sig. Giuglini. The Minuet in the Ball Scene will be danced by Mdles. Pasquali, Karliski, Moriacci, Marie, and the Corps de Ballet.

A limited number of Boxes on the Half-Circle Tier have been specially reserved for the Public, and may be had at the Box-office, at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price 21s. and 11. 11s. 6d. each.

**MR. BENEDICT'S GRAND MORNING CONCERT at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, on WEDNESDAY, June 24.**

Piccolomini, Spezia, Ortolani, and Alboni; Giuglini, Charles Braham, Reichardt, Bottardi, Beneventano, Corsi, Vialletti, and Belletti.

The Programme will include a selection from Gluck's ORFEO; the part of Orfeo by Madame Alboni. The distinguished instrumentalists engaged for the occasion will include Miss Arabella Goddard, Mr. L. Sloper, Signori Bazzini, Piatti, Pezze, and Bottesini.

Boxes, to hold four persons, 2, 3, and 4 guineas; Pit stalls, 17. 1s.; Pit, 7s.; Gallery stalls, 5s.; Gallery, 2s. 6d. To be had at all the principal music-sellers and libraries; of Mr. Benedict, 2, Manchester-square; and at the Box-office at the Theatre.

**FRENCH PLAYS.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.**

**LAST WEEK BUT ONE OF THE SEASON.**

Notwithstanding the great success which has attended the performances of LES BOUFFES PARISIENS, Mr. Mitchell begs to announce that, owing to engagements entered into by M. Offenbach with Lyons and other large towns of France, the present engagement in London must unavoidably terminate on the 30th of this month. Performances will be continued to be given every evening until the close of the season. Monday next, June 15, the following attractive entertainment:—*"L'Opéra aux Fenêtres," "Le Savetier et le Financier,"* Musique de Offenbach; *"La Rose de St. Flour,"* Musique de Offenbach. Tuesday next, June 16, Mozart's admired *Opéra-Bouffe, "L'Impresario,"* a new Opérette (first time in this country), *"Le 661,"* Musique de Offenbach, in which M. Pradeau will perform; *"Les Deux Aveugles,"* Patachon, M. Pradeau; Giraffier, M. Mesmacre. In rehearsal, and will be produced during the week, *"Le Roi Boit," "L'Orgue de Barbarie,"* and *"La Pomme de Turquie."*

Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Public Boxes, 5s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 2s. Private Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets, may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; and at the Box-office, which is open daily from Eleven till Five o'clock.

**ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.**

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, and during the week, Murphy's Comedy of **ALL IN THE WRONG**, Compressed into Three Acts.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke, E. Murray; Mrs. Stirling, Misses Swanborough, Marston, Bromley, Stephens, and Cottrell.

To conclude with **DADDY HARDACRE**.

Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke; and Miss Stephens and Miss Hughes.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

**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.—Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

**FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTH**

ANNUAL EXHIBITION of Pictures by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL, is Now Open to the Public at the FRENCH GALLERY, 121, PALL MALL, opposite the Opera Colonnade. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogues, Sixpence each. Open from NINE to SIX Daily.

**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, 168, New Bond-street, from 9 to 6, for a limited period.—Admission, 1s.

**ROLFE'S GOSSIPING CONCERT, on**

Monday Evening, June 15th, at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. Stalls, 2s; reserved seats, 1s; unreserved, 6d. Commence at Eight.

**TEETH.—Messrs. GABRIEL supply COM-**

plete SETS, without Springs, on the principle of capillary attraction, avoiding the necessity of extracting stumps or causing any pain.

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