

Head & Tail and Gallows, 302 Strand.

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, JANUARY 23, 1858.

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Review of the Week.

THE Emperor NAPOLEON has seized the opportunity made for him by the purveyors of hand-grenades, and, besides introducing more repressive measures, has drawn the sword of the Empire, and placed himself in an attitude of defiance before all his enemies, at home and abroad. Detestable as the mode of attack unquestionably was, and from the details it appears to have been still more brutal than in the first account, he is not to be permitted to snatch an unfair use of the crime, and to get out of it the results which the assassins themselves would have obtained. If he were permitted, he would be prepared, while immolating the robbers, to take their booty to his own share. We described the attack last week. It was, in many respects, more concentrated in its murderousness and more reckless than we thought. The grenades, whether three or four, were of the most destructive kind that could have been employed for the purpose. The plan was so laid that they could be dashed on the ground in front of the horses' feet exactly as the horses approached. PIERRI, who has been seized as one of the assassins, stood ready with a pistol and a poniard to strike the blow in the confusion; for, the assassins appear to have calculated, first, upon the chance of blowing up the Emperor with the Empress, and anybody who might have been near; and, secondly, of getting to his heart, hand to hand, in the tumult that would have followed upon the explosions. It is quite possible that the ferocity of their purpose defeated their design. It is well known that detonating powder, although more instantaneous and violent than gunpowder, imparts less momentum to the substances which it projects. The grenades, violently as they tore whatever fell in their way, probably created less commotion in the air, less commotion in the minds of the crowds, than if they had been made of the more elastic material. A few men were killed, a few horses, great numbers—nearly 150—were hurt, but the man at whom it was all aimed escaped with a wound only in his hat; and if the Empress was stained with the blood of the wounded near her, the spectacle that she presented on entering the Opera by the side of the Emperor, clothed in white, with the red stains still upon her, was the first incident in the drama that NAPOLEON has founded upon the facts supplied him by ORSINI and his accomplices.

In less than four days afterwards, he opened the session with a telling speech, in length and explicit-

ness between our Royal Speech and the American President's Message—in spirit the speech of a chairman in a joint-stock concern which has just gone through a dangerous crisis, and knows how to take advantage of the opportunity. He boasted of what his Empire had done for France—a boast the more telling, and, let us confess, the more legitimate, since he has done a great deal in the way of promoting public works—allowing PEREIRE to assist agriculture by mortgages à l'Anglaise, and exciting a commercial feeling amongst the uncommercial French people. Are you prepared, he exclaims to his party and to the interested classes—are you prepared to part with a rule that confers such benefits upon you? You see the danger to which I am exposed, and in me, too, the peace, order, trade, and prosperity of this country. If you would not have a revolution to-morrow—expensive things in which the glass is broken and business is suspended—you must supply me with more repressive laws to keep down disorder; you must make every candidate at the election of representatives swear to my constitution; you must put down any papers that raise discussions against me, even covertly; and I have also other plans of the same kind which you must give me. Everybody is charmed with the spirit of this glorious effusion, and in tremor at the prospect of a disturbance, and is quite prepared to do what he asks. The two Chambers are ready at once to register his edict respecting oaths at elections. His Minister, by existing laws, has already suppressed the *Spectateur* and the *Revue de Paris*. We have discussed in another column the extraordinary pretensions made by this lucky predecessor of ORSINI—for LOUIS NAPOLEON himself only seized power by means of a more gigantic hand-grenade than any which ORSINI could have thrown at his feet—the hand-grenade was called ST. ARNAUD.

Had Spain one great, or even one patriotic politician in her councils, there would be hope for her future, and a world of scorn and contempt saved to her present. But it is too clear that there is not a single man in Spain strong enough, or good enough, to make head against the monstrous 'influences' which have debauched the whole political life of the country, and make its Court a crying scandal to the rest of Europe. We last week reported the latest 'change of Ministry'; we now learn how that event was brought about. At the opening of the Cortes, the Queen delivered a long address, full of exaggeration and falsehood, on the stable and gratifying position of her country and Government. A very few days later, her Ministry were defeated by the

tactics of the Opposition and the 'Influence,' and tendered their resignation. The Queen refused to accept it or to send for BRAVO MURILLO, the Opposition chief. The Ministry then drew up a decree, ordering the dissolution of the Cortes. But, again, pliant to the will of the unseen 'Influence,' she refused her consent. Letters reached her from private hands, beseeching her not to dissolve the Cortes. These she showed to ARMERO, who boldly accused the King-Consort of being at the head of a conspiracy to place the Count of MONTEMOLIN upon the throne. This moved the fickle Queen to sign the decree; but, like everything else in Spain, the execution of it was delayed for a few hours—long enough for the right time to pass by. The 'Influence' had time to exercise its wonted power, and the Queen revoked her decree. What then? The Ministers took leave in 'high dudgeon,' and flung their resignations at their mistress's feet. And so Spain—though she loses little by the loss of Messrs. ARMERO and MON—is handed over to the handiest Court tools, Señor ISTURITZ and his coadjutors—and the governing 'Influence.' For how long?

While, happily, Europe does not supply a single parallel to this degraded Court, it furnishes many contrasts, none more striking than that presented by the Government of Piedmont. There we see at work a vigorous policy of reformation and progression which, wielded by the firm hand of Count CAVOUR, promises to stand, at no distant time, as a model policy for liberal continental Governments. In the circular addressed by Count CAVOUR to the Intendants-General and Provincial Intendants, in his capacity of Minister of the Interior—which office he holds *pro tem.*, in consequence of the retirement of Signor RATAZZI—he expresses firmly his determination to pursue the path upon which the Government has proceeded so far upon the road of political and social development, and he declares it to be the 'duty' of the Government 'to promote that policy and cause it to prevail, whether in Parliament, in the electoral committees, or before the supreme tribunal of public opinion.' That is a manly and trustworthy acknowledgment of a high obligation; nowhere will its fulfilment be looked for with more interest and confidence than in this country.

Another frank out-speaker is Mr. BUCHANAN. He has addressed a message to Congress on the subject of WALKER's capture by Commodore P. G. BOLDING. Without attempting to exculpate his officer from the charge of having committed an illegal landing uninvited upon the territory of Nicaragua,

he reasonably remarks that the Government of that country are the only persons competent to complain of the violation of the neutrality laws, and that it is quite certain they will never exercise their right, seeing that the act of Commodore PAULDING has relieved their country from a 'dreaded invasion.' Admitting that his officer had acted in excess of instructions, he declares his conviction that that officer acted from 'pure and patriotic motives, and in the sincere conviction that he was promoting the interests and vindicating the honour of his country.' So he has taken his side, and will have a hard fight to wage against the filibustering athlete of the Congress, who are at once furious at the interference of the Government with their hero, and vain-gloriously triumphing in the defiant position he at present maintains.

Coming to home affairs, attention is first attracted to the rapidly approaching Royal Wedding. Already some of the festivities which had been arranged to lead by steps up to the crowning festival have passed off. Two, out of the four, theatrical performances at which HER MAJESTY and her noble guests are to assist in state, have taken place. This is all very well; but when these performances are concluded, it may be time to come at something like an understanding as to the means by which certain theatrical speculators have been enabled to make an exhibition of HER MAJESTY and her illustrious guests and visitors, for their sole benefit and advantage, in the shape of some thousands of pounds. Meanwhile, all the arrangements of the ceremonial are complete; the ill-humour of the public, at being balked of their anticipated show, is wearing out; and the grumble has subsided into talk of the advantages of the alliance, and expression of hopes as to their realization.

Signs of the approach of another great event, the opening of Parliament, are given by the authorities in Leadenhall-street. A Special General Court of the Company was held on Wednesday, at which a strongly worded petition to Parliament against the measure proposed by Government for abolishing the so-called Double Government was read and discussed. The meeting was adjourned without coming to any decision on the subject, but the petition, of course, will stand.

The Calcutta mail, which arrived yesterday morning, brings little news from India, and none of any importance. Several small onslaughts have been made upon the rebels at different points, always with loss to them of men and guns, at a trifling cost of life to our forces. Nothing is said of Oude.

THE WESTMINSTER ABBEY SERVICES.—The third of the Westminster Abbey services, designed for the benefit of the working classes, was held on Sunday, and was attended by an overflowing congregation. In consequence of the large number of persons who on previous occasions were unable to obtain admission into the Abbey, the Rev. William Cureton, the rector of the contiguous church, threw open the doors of that edifice, and held a special service for the accommodation of those who were excluded from the Abbey. The consequence was that the nave of the Abbey and every portion of St. Margaret's Church were densely crowded. The Ven. John Sinclair, M.A., Archdeacon of Middlesex, preached the sermon in the Abbey. After the benediction had been pronounced, the congregation lingered to listen to the Dead March in *Saul*, which was played in memory of General Havelock. The sermon to-morrow will be preached by the Bishop of Oxford.

THE EX-LORD MAYOR.—A committee has been formed for taking steps to present some testimonial to Mr. Alderman Finnis, in acknowledgment of his able discharge of the duties of the Mayoralty; of the support given by himself and the Lady Mayoress to the charities of the metropolis; and of the zeal exhibited by the former in bringing to light the commercial frauds in the City, and in devising and establishing the India Relief Fund.

CHINA.—Lord Elgin's ultimatum has been delivered to Yoh, who shows no disposition to yield. The island of Sonan, opposite Canton, was occupied without resistance on the 15th of December by the French and English troops. The Chinese were allowed ten days to accept another ultimatum. The French Admiral has proclaimed the blockade of Canton river.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

VERY little fresh intelligence has been received this week from India. Some telegrams, however, were published yesterday, containing a few points of interest. The latest dates from Calcutta are to the 25th of December; from Madras, to the 29th; and from Galle to the 9th inst. A telegram addressed to the Foreign Office from Alexandria, January 17th, says:—

"A small force from Delhi, under Colonel Seaton, encountered a body of rebels at Guingeree, on the 15th December, took the guns, and killed one hundred and fifty men; we lost few men, and three officers. Again, on the 11th December, the same column attacked a strong force of the enemy entrenched at Putalem, near Futtehghur; killed about six hundred of them, including many chiefs; took eleven guns with their camp, and parted (pursued?) the routed enemy seven miles. Our loss was trifling, and included only one officer killed. Communication by post between Bombay and Calcutta has been re-established, letters and papers having been received. The Southampton and Prince Albert, with troops, reached Bombay, 12th."

A communication from the same city, addressed to the *Times*, contains the following facts received from Corfu in advance of the Indian mail:—

"The Furukabad rebels have been defeated in two engagements, in the latter of which, on the 18th of December, the dispersion of the enemy was complete. Their guns were captured; our loss is trifling. No further intelligence from Oude. The 11th Cavalry mutinied on the 1st of December. They were overtaken near Purneah. Eleven were killed, but the remainder escaped. The 17th Native Infantry are under orders for China."

OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

A supplement to the *London Gazette*, issued last Saturday evening, contains a despatch from Lieutenant Hughes, giving an account of the defeat of the insurgents at Bulleh, in the Kurnaul district. The Lieutenant says:—

"Nothing could exceed the gallantry with which the Sowars tore down the barricade and attacked its defenders; and I have since had the satisfaction of hearing, from the villagers themselves, that twenty of the insurgents were killed, and twenty-two wounded, in our charge through the suburbs. After a short cannonade, the town was carried by the Infantry, and a party of the 1st Punjab Cavalry. The pukka-built houses I could not easily fire, but the suburbs, containing large quantities of stacked forage, were completely destroyed. Large stores of grain, ghee, &c., which were found in the town itself, were confiscated to Government, and made over to the Tehseeldar of Gurroundah. Four of the Lumburdars, and some other influential men of the place, who are prisoners in my camp, have begged to be allowed to redeem the confiscated property, and I have agreed to their doing so, on payment of 1000 rupees over and above the balance of revenue due. I fully expect this money to be paid in the course of to-day.

"The destruction of this place—the most important town in the neighbourhood—has had a very salutary effect; so much so, that two adjacent villages (against which Mr. Le Bas had requested me to proceed) this morning brought in their revenue, as also did the Lumburdar of Dhurrumghur, in the Paneeput District.

"The loss of the insurgents cannot be estimated at less than one hundred and thirty or one hundred and forty, and of these, I should say, some seventy or eighty were cut up by the troop under Lieutenant Millett."

THE LATE GENERAL NEILL.

The only account of the death of General Neill yet published has just appeared. It is contained in the letter of a brother officer, who states that—

"He (Neill) crossed the river at Cawnpore on the 19th of October, in command of the 1st Brigade. The enemy, who were in position near the river, were at once driven back. On the 21st and 22nd, they again fell in with the enemy, when his brigade was again led by him to victory. On the 25th, they advanced on Lucknow—the 1st Brigade leading through a constant raking blaze of fire from nine A.M. to seven P.M., when, just at the last, a fatal shot from a loophole struck his head. His body was placed on a gun-carriage, and taken within the entrenched camp, and was next day buried by his own regiment, one and all of them showing how deeply they felt the loss they had sustained."

THE GWALIOR CONTINGENT.

Some particulars with respect to the operations of, and against, the Gwalior Contingent are thus set forth by the *Bombay Gazette*:—

"From the statement of a hurkaru who has come from Cawnpore, and who left that station on the 1st of December, it appears that there was an uninterrupted fight between the English and mutinous force from the 26th to the 30th of November; that the insurgents placed their guns on Nunhey Newab's Huveylee and the church; that the Lucknow force in the meantime arrived at the bridge of boats on Monday, November 30th, and, after fighting with the enemy for the whole day, succeeded in crossing over the bridge, and encamped in the mydan; that the whole English force in the entrenchments, including that in the mydan, is estimated to be 6000 strong, and the enemy's double that number; that, be-

sides the twelve infantry and three cavalry regiments of the mutineers, they have a large number of budmashes from the villages of the Cawnpore and Orei districts and the Gwalior territory with them, that reinforcements were daily expected from towards Allahabad, and a detachment of the insurgents was sent towards Futtehpoore to oppose the reinforcements on their way; and that the officer commanding at Cawnpore fell in the field of battle on Monday, the 30th of November.

"Intelligence has been received, through the Gwalior news-writer at Calpee, that a most decisive action took place on the 6th or 7th instant, which ended in the entire discomfiture of the Contingent and other insurgents, in the capture of all their artillery, baggage, &c., and in driving them back towards Calpee, in the fort of which place the Balla Sahib (brother of the Nana), who was himself wounded, has taken refuge. The villagers are said to have refused shelter to any of the fugitives."

This was the action fought by Sir Colin Campbell after the discomfiture of General Windham.

An officer of the 88th, writing from the Camp at Cawnpore on the 27th of November, states that General Windham's motive in attacking the Gwalior rebels on the previous day was because he knew they had taken up a position which they meant further to strengthen, and from which he resolved, if possible, to eject them. In a postscript to his letter, dated November 30th, the officer speaks of fighting night and day for three days. He adds:—

"About 20,000 of the enemy, with thirty guns, attacked our small force of 2000, and endeavoured to cut us off, but they failed. We went out against them the day before yesterday, but they were in such numbers we could make no ground; we therefore were ordered to take up our position in the fort, and hold out as long as possible. While we were fighting with the main body, a large force had taken position at the entrance to the town, for the purpose of intercepting our progress to the fort. We were a good way in front of the other regiments coming towards the town. When we arrived at the corner of a street, we were told the enemy was in force in the houses; we nevertheless charged round the corner, where we were received by a very heavy fire of musketry, which when we returned, the Sepoys bolted and we after them. We literally butchered about two hundred of them."

SPECIAL LETTERS FROM INDIA.

(From a Military Correspondent.)

Nagpore, December, 1857.

Let us resume our subject; let us try to estimate what have been the great sources of aid and security, which have enabled the government of India for this time to ride through this terrible storm, and which promise to carry it into port with triumph and with honour. The natural advantage of position and authority enjoyed by every established government, the special reputation of our arts and arms, the Conservative instincts of the Princes, the landholders, and the wealthy men of the country—these formed what may be called the statics of our security. Let us endeavour also to sum up the dynamics.

The first place, due to the indispensable and visible sign and symbol and active instrument of our power, must be given to our brave captains and soldiers, to those scanty and gallant bands who under Neill and Havelock, Nicholson and Vincent Eyre, fighting as they did against overwhelming numbers of disciplined sepoy, provided with guns, and trained and armed as themselves, have done more to prove the invincible and irresistible superiority of the British soldier's daring and energy than have all our previous most brilliant Indian campaigns. How sick have I become of that hackneyed phrase, "India was won by the sword, and must be kept by the sword;" untrue, if it means that all our possessions and power in India were gained or are retained by mere force of arms; untrue, if it means that we ever can govern India by garrisons, or maintain our empire and influence by any conceivable military strength alone, regardless of the rights and feelings and social customs of the people; and yet how I wish that I could persuade our rulers of the truth of this phrase in a certain sense, that I could instil that truth into their minds, and make it the basis of their reformed institutions! That India must be kept by the sword, that we must trust to the sword, that in the British sword lies our real strength; that is to say that our only real indubitable reserve and foundation of material physical strength does indeed consist in our force of European troops, and does in no degree consist in a shoal of beer-drinking and billiard-playing ensigns and lieutenants, or in any number of meddling Ignoramuses pretending to work in any department, even though they belong to the higher ranks of the Anglo-Saxon race.

The true strength and integrity of our empire must depend on our retaining, and energizing, and consolidating our general influence and command over the good opinion and good-will of the people of India; in our spreading and confirming by wise and just government a firm belief in the beneficial effect of our supremacy—a conviction that India cannot do without us. All that has been accomplished in this direction is due to those comparatively few earnest and well-qualified Englishmen who have been and are placed in positions where useful action is possible, and where real responsi-

bility can be felt. The great crowd of young Englishmen, both in the civil and military services, whom patronage sends to India to be provided for in annually increasing numbers, serve but to make the English name cheap and common, and contemptible among all classes of natives. In one word, our physical strength is to be found in our European troops; our moral strength, in our qualified and earnest European officers. For all positions of command or superintendence over natives, or of administrative authority, English officers must be selected who are apt, willing, and qualified. There will always be a sufficient field for selection. Let the Government send out more doctors and more engineers, and let the public send out more missionaries and more schoolmasters—but no more ensigns, no more 'writers,' whether they be the product of Haileybury or of open competition, if you please.

This is a subject which I must pass lightly over now, for it requires a letter to itself, but I trust I shall not be misunderstood. I am not disparaging my young countrymen; I was a bear-drinking and billiard-playing ensign myself, and no better than the average of my comrades. I know the stuff they are made of; all our best men, after all, have been drawn from the ranks of our writers and cadets. Give them work and they will do it. But it is to their useless position, to their worse than superfluous numbers, to the vile system of patronage and intrusion of unqualified Europeans into every place of honour and emolument, to the exclusion and discouragement and degradation of natives, that I object.

And this brings us to the second dynamical source of our security and success during this period of trial—the active services of bold and able men, both European and native, in the administration and pacification of districts, and in preserving our relations with the native states. Of Sir John Lawrence's invaluable exertions, and those of the noble body of men by whom he is supported in the Punjab, I need say nothing here; they will not escape notice or fail to be duly appreciated in England. For four months the force before Delhi literally existed on Sir John Lawrence's superhuman efforts to supply them with money, provisions, and military stores, and to reinforce them with trustworthy men. Without these they must have raised the siege after the first month. Mr. Gubbins, at Benares, with rare judgment and firmness upheld the honour and authority of Government during a period of great excitement. Many more might be mentioned, on whose individual skill, prudence, and intrepidity the safety of not only their own but of all the adjoining districts depended. But all of these able public servants, Sir John Lawrence, Colonel Edwardes at our frontier station of Peshawur, the brave defenders of Lucknow, Major Davidson at Hyderabad, would acknowledge how much they were indebted to the information and the intelligent advice derived from loyal and devoted natives, both servants of the Government and persons of independent fortune. What could Mr. Gubbins have done at Benares without Rajah Deo Narain and Sirdar Soorut Sing? What could Mr. Robert Ellis (a name that will be well known in England some day) have done at Nagpore without the vigilance and wise counsels of Sheik Tuffussool Hoossain Khan? Let these cases be well marked and understood. Wherever the contrary course has been pursued failure has been universal. Colonel Durand, the Resident at Indore, a distinguished and able officer, but notorious for his supercilious disregard to native opinion, and aversion to familiar intercourse with natives, was, up to the very moment of an attack being made on his Residency by some mutinous troops, totally ignorant of all that was going on, and of the state of public feeling in Indore. He then appears to have run into the unfounded belief that the Maharajah Holkar had joined in the war against us, abandoned Holkar's territory, and denounced the Rajah to Government. On finding out his mistake he returned and took up his quarters at Mhow, the military cantonment, only ten miles from Indore, where the officer commanding a company of Bengal Artillery had already re-established friendly communications with Holkar. But of all our political, or, as you would more properly call them, diplomatic officers, the most remarkable and honourable part has undoubtedly been played by young Willoughby Osborne, who maintained himself at Rewah in Bundelcund, although the Rajah repeatedly warned him that he could not be answerable for his life, but who with indomitable pluck and perseverance kept the Rajah in the right path, and gradually bent the rebellious nobles and mutinous troops to his will, and is now in company with the Rajah leading them into the field in aid of our forces. Would that older men, such as Major Macpherson the Resident at Gwalior, who took refuge in Agra Fort, and Major Rickards, the Political Agent at Bhopal, who with all the officers of the Bhopal Contingent betook themselves to the nearest station of Madras troops, Hoshingabad, had been animated by the same spirit of devotion to their immediate duty. It is true that the Rajah of Gwalior and the Begum of Bhopal respectively told these officers that they could not control their servants and soldiers; but what did young Osborne do under circumstances exactly similar? He did not desert his post just at the very time when its retention was most important, but kept close to the Rajah and warned him that he would be held personally responsible for the safety of our Government's representative. Osborne is a lieutenant in the 24th Madras N. I., and has only served eight

years in India. Major Davidson, the Resident at Hyderabad, was begged by several native noblemen in the city to go to Secunderabad, the military cantonment only four miles from the Residency, as a place of greater security; but he replied that he was attached to the Residency by many old associations, and had a particular fancy to be buried in the garden. It is extremely probable that this advice was not really given to him with friendly intentions, but to try and create a panic, which might spread among the Madras troops. A few days afterwards the Residency was attacked at night by some hundreds of Rohillas, no doubt as a feeler to see how the Madras sepoy would behave, but they were met by a heavy fire from the native horse artillery and infantry, and easily repulsed; and the vigorous measures instituted by Salar Jung, the Nizam's minister, prevented any second attempt.

E. V.

NAVAL AND MILITARY LETTERS FROM CHINA.

EXTRACTS FROM PRIVATE LETTERS.

"H. M. S. —, Canton River, Oct. 26, 1857.

"... I have just returned from a cruise up the creeks where I have been in company with three gunboats and the boats of the Sybille, Tribune, and Esk, the commodore (Elliot) commanded the expedition. We went first of all to a village called Chan-Chune, a place of little importance except that there were a large number of junks, and we expected to find some Mandarin ones among them. We took the fort (which made no resistance, the garrison having bolted on our arrival, at least we found no one in it), spiked the guns, taking away two brass ones, and burnt three or four junks, said to be Mandarin ones. We cut the chain across the entrance of the creek leading up to the village under a heavy fire of crackers from a joss-house hard by—casualties, one man slightly wounded through the cold chisel dipping. We anchored for the night some way below the village. Next day, by various cross creeks, we got into what is called the West River (it is a branch running parallel with the main river), and proceeded up for about two days, anchoring at night, passing pagodas and forts no end. As we arrived at the latter, which by-the-by were mostly dismantled, the Commodore signalled us to prepare for action; but as none of them attacked us, we left them alone; although, once or twice I thought we should have a go in, as I saw the fellows at their guns. One Mandarin had the cheek to show his flag. The worst of it was, it was always 'Prepare for action!' just at meal times, and the chaps wanted to put the breakfast or dinner off, as the case might be, but I never would consent to fight on an empty stomach, so we gobbled our grub as we best could. We reached a point on the river at the end of the third day from starting, thirty miles due west of Canton, and a place where an Englishman was never seen before; we then turned and came down again having taken and burnt several Mandarin junks and row-boats on the way. Instead of returning through the cross creeks, we continued straight down this branch into the 'Broadway,' where we came across a lot of junks, five or six of which were Mandarins, so we chased them to a town called Gong-Moon, or Kong-Mun, and burnt them. During this latter operation, the forts of the town opened fire on us, but their shot did not reach us, so we just dropped a few shells into them from the gunboats, which silenced the beggars, and then proceeded on our way, as it was no part of the Commodore's plan to risk the loss of any men in such a fruitless skirmish as the assault of that town would have been. On the Sunday forenoon we sighted a Mandarin junk up a creek, and started in the boats in chase. He opened fire on the headmost boat as it rounded a point and came in sight of him—this was the Commodore's boat—but as soon as one of the ship's gunboats rounded the point and let fly at him, he ran on shore and bolted for the hills. I mean the junk ran on shore, and the crew ran to the hills. We took her, and burnt her; three or four Chinamen were killed and wounded in this 'pidgen.' The Mandarin and his wife were on board, and escaped with the greater part of the crew to the shore. He was most likely taking a pleasure cruise—poor old beggar! The same afternoon we came up to a fort containing four guns, and were obliged to blaze away at it. I think we must have taken the fellows by surprise, as they did not return the fire for some ten minutes, and when they did, that blessed lantridge-shot—all sorts of rusty nails and bullets put into a bag—came whizzing about us, but did no damage, as they were in such a devil of a funk that they took no aim. In the meantime we got the Marines on shore. They made a rush for the fort, headed by the Commodore. When I got to the fort, I found the Chinamen running, the Marines in the fort, and the Commodore up to his neck in mud. We chased and potted at the Chinamen for a short distance, then returned, destroyed the guns, and burnt the fort, which was a wooden one, collected our forces, and returned on board. The gunboats arrived just in time to be too late. Monday evening we arrived at Macao, and anchored there the night, and on Tuesday returned to our ship, having been away just one week. So ended that 'pidgen.' Prize-money, — dollars for the good of the ship.

"We are going down to Hong-Kong in a week or so, to give the men leave, and complete stores. We take

our turn with the other ships in the river, and after they have all been down, and the remaining gun-boats arrive, the Admiral intends closing in round Canton, retaking the factories (or rather what is left of them) and preparing the place for the reception of the Marines, in order to commence active operations as soon as they arrive. I understand that a naval brigade will be formed, and the Admiral has ordered all ships to prepare their men for landing, so I shall be engaged either with our rifle company or field piece. The mosquitoes are getting more troublesome than ever, notwithstanding that the weather is getting much cooler. It is almost impossible to keep your seat in a cane-bottomed chair, and if you go to sleep without a curtain around you, in five minutes you are covered with white blotches the size of a pea, which itch dreadfully for a quarter of an hour. Scratch them, and you are a perfect Lazarus.

"Captain Astley Cooper Key, of the Sanspareil, will probably command the naval brigade."

"H. M. S. —, Hong-Kong, Nov. 15, 1857.

"... Two-thirds of the Marines have arrived, and when the other third arrives we are to have a go in at Canton. The French are to join us, and they will probably furnish about a thousand men. I am sorry for this, as we are better without them. It is reported that the Chinese have mined the place, and have buried spears in the ground within a few inches of the top, besides other contrivances for our benefit. Whether this is all true I don't know, but we shall soon see.

"The French, Russian, American, and other Ministers are here, and there is such a saluting going on that our crockery gets most awfully smashed, and as for the glass, it stands no chance at all.

"We are here in order that our men may have a run on shore before we go up the river to Canton.

"(From the Overland Register and Price Current, Nov. 14, 1857.)

"HONG-KONG.—Most active preparations have been made during the past month, and we believe every available man and ship are now within reach except the Adelaide; and we expect that very shortly every man and ship that can be spared will be in the Canton river and before Canton. We expect that, with the Admiral's help, Major-General Struabenzee will not have fewer men under him than 8000 to 9000, a force three times greater than Sir Hugh Gough had with him.

"There seems to be no doubt that we shall have our French allies to give us assistance."

"(From the same paper of Nov. 28, 1857.)

"Beyond the capture of a large fire-raft in course of preparation, there is nothing to report. The fleet is assembling at Wang-Tung, which is the point most convenient for a rendezvous. By some people the delay of commencing operations is laid to the non-arrival of the Adelaide, with Colonel Holloway and the remainder of the Marines. But there is a detachment of the 59th and some Royal Engineers expected from Calcutta, and there is no absolute necessity for commencing operations before we have every available man present. The weather is fine, and we know it will continue so for months. As a personal matter, we have to express our annoyance at the fear of the Admiral's displeasure having induced the person from whom we, with others, had arranged to charter a small steamer to take us up the river, to refuse to complete the charter. We hope some other less timorous owner of steamers may be met with before operations commence in earnest."

AMERICA.

GREAT excitement continues to be felt with respect to the arrest of the Filibusters. New Orleans, Mobile, and Virginia, have vehemently denounced the arrest of Walker and his followers by Commodore Paulding. Congress has re-assembled, and in both Houses resolutions have been adopted calling on the President to communicate all the circumstances relating to the recent proceedings in Nicaragua. The Senate, in executive session, has ratified the Danish Sound Dues Treaty.

Walker's men have been discharged from the Saratoga, at Norfolk, by orders from Washington, and at the last advices were wandering about in a destitute condition. The General himself has written a letter to the President, declaring his determination to proceed against Nicaragua; and Mr. Buchanan has caused peremptory orders to be issued to the Federal officers in the South to stop all Filibustering expeditions, if possible. The steamer Fashion, which conveyed Walker and his men to San Juan, has been seized by the United States consul at Havannah for irregularity in her papers.

Mr. Seward has presented to the Senate a petition from a Mr. Maillard, an American citizen, praying for the intervention of the United States Government to assist him in securing his right to large property in Ireland, which he alleges is withheld from him illegally, and by mob violence. The matter has been referred to the President for official investigation.

A doubtful report from St. Louis speaks of a great battle in Kansas, between General Lane's forces and the United States dragoons at Sugar Mound, in which it is said that several of the latter were killed. The dragoons, according to this story, retreated, and Governor Denver sent four companies of infantry to assist them. The Free State men under Lane amounted to 2500; and a

very sanguinary collision was anticipated. Mr. Pugh, a member of the United States Senate, has asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for the admission of Kansas into the Union. The bill was referred to the Committee on Territories.

The New York Legislature met on the 5th inst.; but the Lower House failed to organize itself, three attempts to elect a Speaker having proved abortive.

The New York *Herald*, in an article on the Atlantic telegraph, says:—"We understand that, in addition to the two vessels which have been detailed by the British Admiralty, the whole of the Channel fleet, consisting of some ninety or a hundred vessels, will accompany the telegraph squadron to mid-ocean, from which the work of laying the cable will be commenced. Next June has been decided upon as the most favourable for the purpose, so it is not improbable that the cable will be laid before the 4th of July next. The Niagara will not leave for England before next March, to assist in the undertaking."

General Scott, at the last dates, was in Washington, planning the spring campaign against the Mormons.

Mr. Lettson, the English Minister at Mexico, has been attacked by a band of robbers on a high-road near the capital. His horse and watch were taken from him, and he was slightly wounded by a pistol shot. His servant's horse was also taken away.

The Mormons continue to harass the expedition sent out against them. They have burnt all the grass, and the animals are dying at the rate of one hundred per day. All the passes to Salt Lake City are being fortified.

Walker refuses to yield up the command of the Filibuster movement against Nicaragua. The President has transmitted a 'Message' to Congress on the subject of the arrest of the Filibuster. In this document he asserts the illegality of Commodore Paulding's course, while giving him credit for pure and patriotic motives; and denounces the conduct of Walker in strong language, but expresses his opinion that it is 'beyond question' the destiny of the people of the United States 'to spread themselves over the continent of North America, and at no distant day,' by means of emigration. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the commander of the steamer *Fulton*, dated October 12th, has been published, in which the commander is told that his instructions do not authorize him to act arbitrarily or upon mere suspicion, but that, where he finds an American vessel manifestly engaged in carrying on an expedition or enterprise from the territories or jurisdiction of the United States against Mexico, Nicaragua, or Costa Rica, he will use the force under his command to prevent it, and not permit the men or arms engaged in it or destined for it to be landed in any part of Central America or Mexico. Similar instructions were sent to Commodore Paulding.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.

It is long since any event in France has caused so much excitement, or led to so much unanimity of feeling, as the attempt, on Thursday week, to take the lives of Louis Napoleon and the Empress. All parties have agreed in execrating the design, and in congratulating themselves on the fact of the assassins being foreigners. The French and English papers have teemed with details of the event; and from these we gather the chief points of interest. A feeling of uneasiness had prevailed in Paris for some time, and it would appear that, on the morning of the day on which the attempt was made, the police received information that some dangerous scheme was being concocted. Two or three Italians were arrested, and others who had also been seized had the authorities known where to find them. As it was known that the Emperor and Empress would attend the Opera that night, an additional force of military and police was stationed on the boulevards, and the street in which the Opera-house is situated was lighted with an extra number of gas jets. A few minutes before the attempt, M. Hebert, an officer of police, met, near the theatre, an Italian named Pierri, who had been expelled from France in 1852, and had just come back under a false name, and with an English passport. He asserted that he was an Englishman, but M. Hebert recognized and arrested him. A revolver, a dagger, and a hand grenade, were found about his person. Having transferred his prisoner to other hands, M. Hebert returned to the theatre, and was just about to open the door of the Emperor's carriage when a hand grenade was thrown under the wheels of the carriage, and an explosion took place. There had been two previously to this. The first bomb was thrown at the carriage just after it had reached the street for which it was destined: about twenty persons were wounded. The coachman then whipped on his horses; but almost immediately a second bomb burst, and one of the horses fell wounded to the ground. A slight delay in the progress of the carriage, owing to another being close before it, had apparently deranged the projects of the conspirators, and caused them to do their work with less expertness. The third bomb fell beneath the carriage itself, just as it drew up before the theatre. By this explosion, M. Hebert was wounded. In all, one hundred and nineteen people were more or less hurt—some very dangerously. Six persons

were killed.* The Emperor and Empress had not alighted at the time; and to this probably they owe their escape. The carriage was much shattered; one of the horses was killed on the spot, and the other mangled so much that it has since died. The ground was covered with blood; the gas lamps in front of the theatre were either extinguished by the explosion, or were purposely turned off to aid the plot; the windows of the neighbouring houses were shattered, and the front of the Opera-house was dented deeply with the iron fragments of the shells. In the midst of these circumstances of horror, the Emperor and Empress alighted; and it was then observed that the white dress of the Empress, and even her face, were reddened with blood. One of her attendants had been wounded, and it was probably from her that the blood proceeded. But the Empress herself seems to have been slightly scratched on the cheek, and Louis Napoleon was also just grazed. His hat was cut to pieces, and his cloak rent about the collar. The utmost consternation prevailed, and several persons rushed wildly from the spot. Some of these, there is no doubt, were the assassins. One of the men who thus fled exclaimed, "The Emperor's carriage is blown to pieces, and he is exterminated!" In the meanwhile, the Emperor and Empress busied themselves with seeing that the wounded were properly attended to. Both behaved with great coolness and courage. It is said that the Emperor proposed to return to the Tuileries; but the Empress suggested that they should enter the house. This they did, and orders were given that the performances should commence. The greatest agitation of course prevailed, and, on the appearance of Louis Napoleon and the Empress in their box, they were received with loud and prolonged cheering. The Emperor afterwards presented himself at the door, and in the balcony outside the theatre, and was greeted with another ovation from the crowds assembled in the street. The performances then commenced, though it may be supposed few paid much attention to them; and the Emperor and Empress remained until the conclusion, which was about twelve o'clock.

It is said that not less than twenty of the projectiles were intended for use. Four were flung under, or close to, the carriage, but only three exploded. At the moment of one of the explosions, a man was seen to rush to the carriage, armed with a dagger and revolver; but he was caught by a sergent de ville, who, after a desperate struggle, in which he was wounded, secured the assassin. Another man was also arrested on the spot, carrying a carpet-bag, in which were pistols, daggers, and a small box. Two hundred and seventy francs in gold were in his pockets. A third man, well dressed, and wearing white gloves, was seen to raise his hat and wave it—it is supposed as a signal. He also was arrested. Some of the prisoners (who are all Italians) had only arrived in Paris the day before. The chief of the conspirators—a Count Orsini—was apprehended during the night. He was himself badly wounded, but contrived to escape to his lodgings. His servant, a man named Antonio Gomez, went about, shortly after the explosions, inquiring in a very agitated manner for his master. At length, he entered a chemist's shop, where Orsini had had his wounds dressed, but here he was questioned so closely that he fainted. The police were sent for, and he then gave the name and address of his master, who was accordingly soon in the hands of justice. From eight to nine thousand francs in English gold and bank-notes were found at Orsini's lodgings in the Rue Monthabor. The Count confesses to having thrown one of the bombs. In the course of the night, some of the Ministers, law-officers, and heads of police, assembled at the Prefecture of Police, and commenced investigations.

Immediately after the horrible occurrence, "it was supposed," says a writer from Paris, "that the authors of the attempt might have escaped into some of the houses, or had even prepared means of flight that way. A large body of police soon occupied the Diner de France, formerly known as the Diner de l'Exposition. Meantime, of course, additional troops were sent for, and the Boulevards were soon occupied by cavalry." From another source we learn that "detachments of horse cleared the Rue Lepelletier and the neighbouring passages, and some occupied the side paths to prevent any one from slipping along. From the Palais Royal came Prince Jerome and his son, Prince Napoleon, and the Princess Mathilde, to assure themselves of the safety of the Emperor." Immense numbers of persons flocked on the following day to the Rue Lepelletier, and some few, who made comments which were not to the taste of the authorities, were arrested and sent away under a guard of soldiers. A great many arrests, indeed, took place all over Paris, and, according to the *Patrie*, the police-offices are literally crammed with prisoners. It is whispered that the conspiracy had ramifications in the Faubourg St. Antoine. "It appears," says *Galignani's Messenger*, "that the projectiles employed were bombs made of cast-iron, having several tubes advancing slightly from the outward surface, and provided with detonating caps, so as to explode either in falling, or by being trampled on by the horses' feet, or by being crushed by the wheels of the carriage, should the shock of the fall not have proved sufficient to ignite the caps. The interior was entirely filled with old nails, pieces of

* This is the official account; but in some places it is stated that the number of wounded is greater.

iron, slugs, and bullets, which, when the explosion took place, were scattered with immense force in every direction. The technical name of such engines of destruction is, we believe, *carcasse*." The projectiles have been examined by a commission composed of artillery officers. It has been ascertained that they are charged with fulminating mercury. They each produce from seventy to seventy-five explosions.

On the Imperial party leaving the theatre, the streets were still found to be filled with crowds of people, who cheered vociferously as the carriage passed quickly along. The vehicle was surrounded by Lancers; but the Empress's hand could be seen from one of the windows, waving a handkerchief in acknowledgment of the shouts. An empty carriage went first, and the whole cavalcade swept rapidly through the streets. A great many of the houses were illuminated, and the windows and balconies were thronged. By the time the Emperor and Empress arrived at the Tuileries, they found that the members of the Diplomatic Corps, and several other high functionaries and dignitaries had assembled at the palace to offer their congratulations.

The people endeavoured, after the Imperial party had left, to enter the Rue Lepelletier, the street where the Opera-house is situated; but the police kept them back. In the course of the evening, up to a very late hour, several persons attempted to gain admission to the theatre with tickets, but were repulsed by the authorities.

Next day, the excitement was as great as on the previous night. The Bourse opened with loud cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Vive l'Impératrice!" There was no perceptible effect on the funds. The Emperor and Empress, in the course of the morning, visited the hospital to which the wounded had been removed; and, at about a quarter to four o'clock, they left the Tuileries in an open carriage without any escort, and drove up the Rue de Richelieu and upon the Boulevards. It is needless to say that their reception was most enthusiastic. Political differences seemed to have been overwhelmed in disgust at the atrocious nature of the crime that had been committed, and in indignation at the fact of foreigners having sought to take upon themselves the initiative of revolution.

The Senate, the Legislative Corps, the Council of State, and the Municipal Council of Paris, waited on the Emperor on Saturday, to express their indignation at the attempt which had been made, and their gratitude for its failure. They were received in four rooms, through which the Emperor passed successively, attended by Prince Jerome, Prince Napoleon, and other members of the family. Of the Legislative body, Count de Morny was the spokesman. He said:—

"Sire,—We have waited on you, that we may tell you how deeply we are thankful to Providence for having protected your life and that of the Empress; but we have thought, likewise, that you might allow us to utter words dictated by legitimate indignation and profound attachment to your Imperial House. We cannot hide from you, sire, that the population with whom we have been of late in contact is apprehensive, on account of the effects of your clemency, which takes too much the goodness of your own heart for a standard by which to judge. When they see such frightful attempts prepared abroad, they ask themselves how it is that neighbouring and friendly Governments are powerless to destroy those laboratories of murder, and how the holy laws of hospitality are made applicable to ferocious beasts. Sire, your Government, which is founded on two principles—on authority and on the protection of honest people—must, at any price, put a stop to these periodical convulsions. You may be sure of the co-operation of the Legislative body for attaining such a purpose. You are only attacked in this way, because you are the keystone of the vault of public order. And we entreat you not to follow the inspirations of your courage only, and not to forget that, in exposing your person, you expose the tranquillity of France. Sire, I am naturally the organ of the deputies, but for the sake of respect and observances, my words are only a feeble expression of their sentiments." The other addresses were to similar effect.

To all the speeches the Emperor made an appropriate reply, in which he said that he should mingle moderation with firmness. A *Te Deum* was performed on Sunday in all the churches. A similar religious ceremonial took place in London at the French Chapel, King-street, Portman-square. The French Ambassador was present, and Cardinal Wiseman officiated.

A bill is about to be presented to the Corps Législatif for granting pensions to the victims of the explosions, and to their families.

The Dames de la Halle have forwarded an address of congratulation to the Emperor and Empress. Stringent measures are to be taken against the Italians in Paris.

Rigorous measures against the press, in consequence of the attempt of Thursday week, have already been taken. The *Revue de Paris* and the *Speotateur* (formerly the *Assemblée Nationale*) have been suppressed. In his report recommending this arbitrary act, M. Billault, the Minister of the Interior, observes:—"As long as free England feared, for the family which now reigns, the attacks and the intrigues of the friends of a Pretender, that liberty of which she is proud gave way to most rigorous measures. Your Government, Sire, is at the

present moment what that of England was till a long time after William III., in an evident position of legitimate defence; the attempt of the 14th of January only proves it too well. We should be wanting to our duty if we did not at once have recourse, in the interest of society, to those weapons which the actual legislation places at our disposal, and I ask your Majesty to decree at once the severe application of the law of 1852 on the press. A review which has scarcely a two years' existence as a political organ, on the very morrow of the day upon which I allowed its publication, forgot all the formal promises made by its editors, and opened its columns to the most detestable inspirations of the demagogues. The *Revue de Paris* now seeks to make itself the centre of a sort of ramified agitation, the traces of which the Government has discovered in various departments; it, moreover, adheres to its work of propagandism, and its last number is replete with the glorification of the reminiscences and hope of the Republican party. More than once warned, and its publication suspended, during the last two years, it must now be suppressed. The decree of the 17th of February, 1852, allows this suppression, and I propose it to your Majesty. Another newspaper which, under very different colours, has never ceased since the restoration of the Empire to wage a hidden but constant war against the new institutions sanctioned by the national will—the *Spectateur* (formerly called the *Assemblée Nationale*)—persisting in its opposition, takes the opportunity, while expressing its horror at the attempt of the 14th of January, to advocate the principles which it upholds."

Piéri and Orsini (the latter of whom appears to be the Felice Orsini who made an extraordinary escape two or three years ago from an Austrian dungeon) have recently resided in Birmingham, and it is there, in all probability, that they concerted their plot. A singular anecdote of Piéri after his arrest on Thursday week is told in the daily papers, where we read:—"M. Hebert, who effected his capture, was handling one of the bombs which were seized on him, when Piéri, alarmed at the consequences which might arise to himself should it explode, exclaimed, 'Take care! Pay attention to what you are doing, or that thing may cause serious accidents.' When arrested, Piéri was very violently agitated; but, when he heard the detonations, he became more calm, and said, 'I am taken, but that is now of little consequence, for the blow has been struck.'"

The Emperor has addressed an autograph letter of thanks to our Queen, in answer to one written by her to him on hearing of the attempt on his life.

The British residents at Paris held a meeting on Wednesday, at which an address to the Emperor, congratulating him on his escape, was unanimously adopted.

It is stated in Paris as positive that a communication has been made by the French Minister in London to the English Government demanding the expulsion from England of five political refugees—one or two Italian, and the others French.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

The French Chambers were opened by Louis Napoleon in person on Monday. The Emperor spoke as follows:—

"Gentlemen, Senators, and Deputies,—

"At the annual meeting of the Chambers I render you an account of what has taken place during your absence, and I ask your support for the measures to be taken.

"Since last year the Government has followed its regular and progressive march, exempt from all vain ostentation. It has often been pretended that to govern France it was necessary continually to keep the public mind alive with some great theatrical display. I think, on the contrary, that it suffices to endeavour exclusively to do good to deserve the confidence of the country. The action of the Government has consequently been confined to doing what was most necessary in the different branches of the administration.

"In the interests of agriculture, the exportation of and the distillation from grain have again been authorized, and the support of the Bank has given support to the landed interest. The cultivation of the *Landes* has commenced.

"In Public Works, the most important results are 1880 kilometres of railway thrown open in 1857 to traffic, and 2600 kilometres of new lines granted for construction; the floating-dock of St. Nazaire, and the canal from Caen to the sea thrown open to navigation; careful surveys made to prevent the scourge of inundations; improvements of our ports, and, among others, of Havre, Marseilles, Toulon, and Bayonne; in the north and in the east of France the working of new coal mines; at Paris the inauguration of the Louvre and of a wing at Vincennes; finally, in the capital, as at Lyons, quarters thrown open for the first time since centuries to the light of day, and throughout France religious edifices are being constructed or restored.

"Public instruction, protected by the State, is being developed by the side of free education honourably protected. The number of colleges has been increased by 1500. Education has become more moral and religious,

with a tendency towards sound humanities and useful sciences. The College of France has been reorganized; elementary instruction is spreading far.

"It is the wish of the Government that the principle of freedom of worship shall be sincerely admitted, without forgetting that the Roman Catholic religion is that of the great majority of Frenchmen. Therefore, this religion has never been more respected nor more unshackled.

"The Municipal Councils meet without hindrance, and the bishops enjoy the full plenitude of their sacred office. The Lutheran, Protestant, and Jewish confessions pay their just proportion of taxes to the State, and are equally protected.

"The increase in the price of all necessaries has compelled us since last year to augment the salaries of the lesser functionaries; the rations of the soldiers have been improved and the pay of subalterns increased.

"The budget of 1859 provides for better payment for teachers and professors, and for magistrates. I may point out an increase of charitable societies—in the country those of the medical corporations, and in the towns the establishment of soup-kitchens. One million has been distributed in relief of the populations which have suffered most from want of work. The budget of 1859, which will be laid before you, will show a balance in favour of receipts, and the action of the sinking fund can be renewed. On the close of accounts a reduction of the floating debt was assured. Commerce recently suffered a check, but the firm position it took up in the midst of what may be termed a universal crisis is, in the eyes of all, an honour for France, and justifies the economical principles advised by the Government in matters of commerce, finances, and credit.

"The increase of direct and indirect revenue during the past year was thirty millions of francs.

"Among the various bills which will be submitted to you of general interest I may mention a law on patents, a new military and naval code, a proposal to employ the 20,000,000fr. remaining from the loans on works to guard the towns against inundations.

"Algeria connected with France by the electric wire has afforded new glory to our troops by the submission of Kabylia. That expedition, skilfully planned and vigorously executed, has completed our domination. The army, which has no more enemies to overcome, will have to struggle against new difficulties in constructing railways so necessary for the development of the prosperity of our colony.

"In France, the army will find in the Camp of Châlons a grand school which will keep up the military spirit and standard at the high level it has attained.

"The Emperor Napoleon bequeathed to his ancient companions in glory his private and other property. Under the Restoration it was absorbed by the State. It is to carry out in some measure that pious legacy that you, on the one hand, voted an annual sum of 8,000,000fr. for old soldiers, but, nevertheless, I wished that a medal should remind all who had served in our armies of their former leaders. More than 300,000 men in France and abroad have applied for this medal in remembrance of the Imperial epoch, and on receiving it they might exclaim with pride, 'I also belonged to the Grand Army,'—words which at Austerlitz the Emperor had reason to point out to them as the advent of a title of nobility.

"Our navy is occupied in its arsenals with those necessary changes which will enable it to maintain the honour of our flag on every sea. In China it is acting in concert with the English fleet to obtain redress for common grievances, and to avenge the blood of our missionaries who have been cruelly massacred.

"The relations of France with foreign Powers were never on a better footing. Our ancient allies, true to the sentiments which sprang from a common cause, give us the same confidence as usual; and our new allies, by their straightforward and loyal conduct in all great questions, make us almost regret that we ever were their foes. I was enabled to be convinced at Osborne, as well as at Stuttgart, that my desire to keep up the intimacy of old relations, as well as to form new ones, was equally shared by the chiefs of two great empires.

"If the policy of France is appreciated as it deserves to be in Europe, it is because we have the common sense only to deal with questions which concern ourselves directly, either as a nation or as a great European Power. This is why I avoided interfering in the question of the Duchies which now agitates Germany, for that question, which is exclusively a German one, will remain so as long as the integrity of Denmark is not threatened. If, on the other hand, I took up the Neuchâtel question, it is because the King of Prussia asked for my *bons offices*, and I was happy on this occasion to contribute to the final settlement of a difference which might have become dangerous for the peace of Europe.

"As regards the Principalities, astonishment has been expressed at our disagreement with many of our allies. The fact is, that France, in her disinterested policy, has always advocated, in so much as treaties allowed her, the wishes of the populations which appealed to her. Nevertheless, the conferences which will shortly open at Paris will show in what conciliating spirit we work to attenuate the difficulties which are inseparable from a difference of opinion.

"Such, Gentlemen, is the *résumé* of our position; I might end my address here, but I think it useful, at the commencement of a new Legislature, to examine with you what we are and what we desire. It is only well-defined causes distinctly formulated that create profound convictions. It is only standards boldly unfurled which inspire sincere devotion.

"What is the Empire? Is it a retrograde Government, an enemy of progress, desirous of suppressing generous impulses and of impeding the pacific extension of the great and civilizing principles of 1789? No; the Empire inscribes these principles as the motto of its constitution. It frankly adopts everything of a nature to ennoble the heart or exalt the mind for what is good: but it is also the enemy of every abstract theory. It seeks a strong power, capable of overcoming the obstacles which might stop its advance, for—let us not forget it—the advance of every new Power is a long struggle.

"Moreover, there is a truth inscribed upon every page of the history of France and of England—namely, that liberty without obstacles is impossible as long as there exists in a country a faction which obstinately disowns the fundamental bases of the Government; for then liberty, instead of enlightening, controlling, ameliorating, is nothing else in the hands of factions but a weapon of destruction.

"Therefore, as I did not accept the power of the nation with a view to acquire that ephemeral popularity, the paltry prize of concessions exacted from weakness, but with a view one day to deserve the approbation of posterity by founding something lasting in France, I do not fear to declare to you to-day that the danger, no matter what is said to the contrary, does not exist in the excessive prerogatives of power, but rather in the absence of repressive laws. Thus, the last elections, despite their satisfactory result, offered in many localities a sad spectacle. Hostile parties took advantage of it to create agitation in the country, and some men had the boldness openly to declare themselves the enemies of the national institutions, deceived the electors by false promises, and, having gained their votes, then spurned them with contempt. You will not allow a renewal of such a scandal, and you will compel (*obliger*) every elector to take an oath to the Constitution before presenting himself as a candidate. As the quiet of the public mind ought to be the constant object of our efforts, you will assist me in finding the means to silence extreme and annoying oppositions.

"In fact, is it not too sad to behold in a quiet, prosperous country, which is respected in Europe, on the one hand, men crying down a Government to which they are indebted for the security which they enjoy, while others only take advantage of the free exercise of their political rights to undermine the existing institutions? I welcome heartily, without inquiring into their antecedents, all those who recognize the national will. As regards the originators of disturbances and conspiracies, let them understand that their day is gone by.

"I cannot conclude without alluding to the criminal attempt which has just taken place. I thank Heaven for the visible protection with which it shielded the Empress and myself, and I deplore that so many victims should be made when only one life was aimed at. Yet these plots bring their lessons with them. Firstly, they prove the weakness and impotence of the parties who have recourse to assassination and such desperate means; secondly, that no assassination, even if successful, ever served the cause of those who hired the assassin. Neither those who slew Cæsar nor those who assassinated Henry IV. derived any advantage from their crime.

"God sometimes allows the just to fall, but He never allows the cause of crime to triumph. These attempts, therefore, neither shake my security in the present nor my faith in the future. If I live, the Empire will live with me; and if I should fall, my very death would only tend to strengthen the Empire, for the indignation of the people and of the army would be an additional support to the throne of my son.

"Let us, then, look confidently towards the future; let us attend calmly to our daily work for the welfare and greatness of our country. God protects France!"

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

That narrow and unchristian feeling is to be condemned which regards with jealousy the progress of foreign nations, and cares for no portion of the human race but that to which itself belongs.

DR. ARNOLD.

FRANCE.

THE Cour Impériale has pronounced a judgment annulling the decision of the Tribunal of Commerce, and declaring Auguste Thurneyssen, of the house of Stieglitz, not comprised in the failure of his son Charles.

The Countess de Morny has given birth to a son. A woman has been tried before the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Lisieux (Eure) for swindling several persons by pretending to be a sorceress and to cure those who put faith in her of any ailments by which they might be afflicted. One of her dupes was cheated to the extent of three hundred francs. She performed various absurd incantations; and, when the poor fools, finding themselves getting worse, talked of calling in a doctor, she would tell them that in that case they would infal-

libly die. One of them, however, died because he did not seek medical advice, but trusted himself entirely to the charms of the impostor. The court sentenced the woman to thirteen months' imprisonment, with a fine of fifty francs. These cases are very common in the French rural districts.

The Court of Cassation (presided over by M. Dupin) has just given its decision on an important point of law, which has long been in dispute—viz., whether a wife married under the régime of community of goods can, after the death of her husband, or in case of a separation of property in his lifetime, claim the amount of her fortune out of the personal estate of her husband, in priority to his creditors. The Court has decided that she has no priority. This judgment is counter to the opinion of M. Troplong, one of the most eminent of French judges; but it is said that the majority of the bar are in favour of the decision which has been arrived at.

A strange case has recently come before the Civil Tribunal. A man, who died in 1816, left his widow, for the benefit of their four children, a public-house and a restaurant. Some years afterwards, the woman married a man younger than herself, and, as an antidote to her faded charms, transferred to him the property which of right belonged to her four children. She and this man, in accordance with a French law, formed a partnership for carrying on the two houses of business; and it was so contrived that the man could easily, in course of time, make himself appear a creditor to the woman. Ultimately, he put an end to the partnership; declared that his wife was his debtor to the extent of 71,168 francs; and took steps for selling the businesses. However, an action having been brought against him, the Civil Tribunal has declared the partnership null and void, but has given the woman's husband an indemnity of 25,000 francs for having carried on the businesses for several years.

The editor of the *Estafette* has been sentenced to imprisonment for two months, and to pay a fine of five hundred francs, for having published an article described as 'insulting to religion and public morality.'

TURKEY.

Mr. John Tenniswood, an English engineer employed on a mine which is being worked near Ismidt, has been shot dead while returning from Constantinople with a sum of money about him. He was found to have received five wounds, and, as two of his servants have disappeared, it is supposed that they are the assassins. The Turkish Minister of Police has sent off three skillful officers to Ismidt, to inquire into the circumstances.

ITALY.

A declaration has been published, signed by Pisacane and nineteen others of the conspirators of the Cagliari, declaring that they embarked as passengers; that they planned the seizure of the vessel; that the captain and crew yielded to force and were unconcerned in the plot; and that the naval captain Daneri, who was on board as a passenger, was compelled by them to navigate the vessel. The document is dated on board the Cagliari, at half past nine on the evening of the 25th of June. The bill of indictment against the conspirators has been printed and distributed. The prosecution relies in a great measure for success, as far as regards the English engineers, on a letter from Miss White found on one of them.

Shocks of earthquake are still constantly felt in various parts of the kingdom of Naples. Referring to the catastrophe of a few weeks ago, a writer from the capital says:—"The accounts which continue to arrive from the provinces are of the most harrowing character, confirming the very worst statements which I have already made. Great as is the number of lives already sacrificed, it is expected that as many more will die of cold and hunger and sickness. Panic-stricken, famishing, despairing, the inhabitants of many places are represented to me as sitting among the ruins without the capacity of exertion. There are doubtless hundreds rotting beneath the ruins,—some, perhaps, who have only recently died, for Colletta, in his wonderful description of the earthquake of 1783, speaks of some who were taken out alive after eleven days' entombment. How many might have been saved had only one-tenth part of the energy been displayed on this occasion which was displayed last summer at Sapri? 80,000 persons were buried under the ruins of their houses in the twinkling of an eye, 250,000 persons are turned houseless on the world, and the Government is inert. A handful of men land in the same province, and thousands are sent down in a few hours to repel the attack, and commit every species of brutality." Many persons have been made ill, and many have actually died, from the effects of fear. The King, it appears, has contributed very meanly to the fund for the relief of the sufferers.

After a debate of three days' continuance, the Turin Chamber resolved that the canons of cathedrals cannot take their seats as deputies, because they are comprised amongst the exceptions specified by the 9th article of the electoral law.

Signor Ratazzi has resigned the post of Minister of the Interior in Piedmont, on account of the personal attacks which have been recently made on him.

Signor Cadorna, the Ministerial candidate, has been elected President of the Sardinian Chamber of Deputies. Signor Depretis (who also contended for the Presidency) has been elected first Vice-President: he is a member of the Left, and is suspected of Republicanism. For the second Vice-Presidency, Signor Quaglia was elected. Signori G. Cavalini, Borson, and Saracco, were chosen as Secretaries.

The results of the verification of powers have been summed up as follows:—174 elections approved, 11 annulled, 18 referred to an inquiry, 1 still to be considered: total, 204.

Ten political persons, confined in St. Maria Apparente, Naples, have been liberated. Eight had been shut up since August, 1856. The process against them had been quashed in June, 1857, but they have been detained ever since at the mere pleasure of the police. All the Judges of the Grand Criminal Court of Avellino have been dismissed for having acquitted some men who were charged with having conspired for the liberation of Poerio and his companions. The Giudice Regio of the district where the men were arrested has also been dismissed because he had discredited the charge.

There is a rumour of an attempted insurrection at Ancona, where there is an Austrian garrison; but the statement has not been confirmed.

AUSTRIA.

Some bad blood has been created between France and Austria with respect to the Riverain question. Austria (according to certain statements generally credited in Paris) refuses to recognize the right of the parties to the treaty of March 30th, to meddle with the Riverain Convention. Against this, Count Walewski protests with great vehemence, and he is said to have recently declared that if the Riverain Powers should persist in refusing to submit their convention to the Paris conference, the latter will altogether ignore it, and will itself draw up regulations for the navigation of the Danube in accordance with that part of the Vienna Congress which treats of rivers dividing or traversing different states. It is not positively known whether this language has really been addressed to Austria; but it seems that a good deal of animosity to France prevails in the political circles at Vienna.—According to a statement from Berlin, Austria has agreed to the revision of the convention by the Paris Conference.

A number of the *Oesterreichische Zeitung* has been confiscated on account of an article on the Commercial Academy, which gave offence to some members of the Government. This very article, however, was written at the instigation of the Minister of Finance!

The Emperor has just performed a gracious act towards the Protestants. He has given orders to pay out of the coffers of the State the sum of 7476 florins for a piece of ground which is to serve as a cemetery for the Protestant inhabitants of Vienna. A deputation of the Protestants waited on the Emperor to thank him for this act of consideration; and, in reply, he told them that the Protestants should in future apply to him in person in such matters, and added:—"I am well pleased to see the representatives of the Protestant communities assemble around me, and that it has been in my power to uphold their rights."

Joachim Haspinger, the renowned clerical leader of the Tyrolese in 1809, died on the 12th instant in the Imperial castle of Mirabel, near Salzburg.

The religious part of the funeral of Marshal Radetzky took place at Vienna on Monday with great military pomp. The Emperor himself was present, and the religious ceremonial was performed at the Cathedral of St. Stephen. The body was then despatched by rail to the place of sepulture.

"A few days since, at seven o'clock in the evening," says the *Times* Vienna correspondent, "ten armed men, with faces covered with crape, forced their way into the house of a M. Kallivoda, at Also-Lendva, in Hungary, and demanded his money and that of two persons who were playing at cards with him. As they refused to part with their cash, a fight ensued, in which M. Kallivoda was killed, and one of his friends dangerously and the other slightly wounded. A servant-maid who entered into the room, and endeavoured to succour her master, was also cut down by the robbers with their axes. A crowd had assembled round the house during the scuffle, but the miscreants managed to escape after having killed a gendarme and mortally wounded another man who came in their way. Two light waggons were in waiting outside the town, and into them the ten men got, and drove away as if nothing had happened."

SPAIN.

A new Ministry has been formed by Señor Isturitz, a Liberal Conservative. It is thought that his Government will only be a transition to that of Bravo Murillo.

DENMARK.

In opening the session of the Supreme Council on the 14th inst., the King said:—"We have seen with extreme regret that there exists in the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg, as regards our constitutional relations, an appreciation which could not fail to cause anxiety and excitement. The relations of those Duchies with the German Confederation necessarily brought our Government into negotiations with Prussia and Austria,

after which the matter was referred to the Frankfort Diet. In these negotiations—all documents relating to which will be laid before the Supreme Council—it will be shown that, to come to an amicable arrangement, we were willing to make every concession compatible with our solicitude for the welfare of the monarchy, and especially for the maintenance of its constitutional relations, established after great efforts. Among the bills which will be brought before you, there will be some for regulating and increasing the defensive force of the country."

GERMANY.

The offence of cutting off the pendulous tresses of the young women of Augsburg, Munich, and Nuremberg, has spread to such an extent that the fair half of humanity is afraid of stirring abroad after dark. Some three hundred police agents have been on the look-out for the thieves for some time, but with no success; so the male inhabitants have declared that they will remorselessly knock on the head any person discovered in the fact of committing one of these mercenary rapes of the lock.

STATE OF TRADE.

The state of trade during the week ending last Saturday was almost identical with its condition during the previous week. The improvement already noted continues to progress in nearly all the manufacturing towns and districts; but, at Bradford, local causes—that is to say, the failures of large manufacturers—have somewhat disturbed the market for wools and worsteds, and rather checked the previous improvement. A communication from that town says:—"Apart from the state of the market, we have had a somewhat eventful week. With a view to check the inflation of credit, all the wool-staplers here, with one exception, have signed an agreement whereby the terms of payment for wool are henceforth to be uniform. They have decided to take either a bill at three months drawn from the date of the invoice, or a fourteen days' banker's draft, allowing three months' interest from date of invoice. The terms previously have been one month's open credit, with a bill at four months, or two months' open credit, with a bill at three months; so that the new terms will reduce the period of credit from five months to three months." At Sheffield, also, trade continues dull. "Mr. F. Ward, of Norfolk-street," says a writer from the city of cutlery, "has introduced a new and improved method of manufacturing the blades of table-knives by machinery. It is anticipated that this process will rapidly expand, almost superseding the old process of hand-forging, and enable Sheffield to hold its ground in competition with the machine-manufactured cutlery now produced in America."

We give our readers the benefit of a hint or two extracted from the letter of a merchant at Bordeaux, with respect to the recent vintages:—"All sorts of '48 are out of the market. . . . The vintage of '51 was always considered good, and is, no doubt, a very similar one to '41, so highly prized amongst ourselves here; and we fancy we shall, in some five or ten years hence, when we drink the '51, appreciate them almost as highly as the '41. The '54, a most extraordinary vintage for its precocious flavour, is found to be less remarkable as it waxes older, and, if it loses caste with some, then the '51 will, notwithstanding the large stocks laid by, be made a rarity even as the '48 is at present. The '55 is only a moderate vintage, and both '56 and the new wine '57 seem to require a very great deal of selecting. Many estates have so much suffered from the disease that their wines, although good at times, do now and then ferment, and otherwise show signs of being under the influence of the slightest change of temperature. All these reasons tend to make 1861 claret the wine to lay in a stock of!"

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

MR. JOHN JEFFERSON, one of the persons employed on the works of the north pier at the mouth of Tynemouth harbour, has been swept into the sea while performing some operations during a heavy gale last Saturday. A tremendous sea came round Tynemouth Point as he was at work with some other men, and dragged him away. He struggled manfully with the waves, and managed to reach a rock. The men on the pier threw a life buoy to him, but the line became loose, and it was carried off. Shortly afterwards, the poor man was again drawn into the sea, and sank in the presence of a great many persons, who could render no assistance. A boat was put out, but it came too late.

The Ariel river steamer was nearly upset while passing the Leviathan on Sunday evening. All the passengers rushed simultaneously to the side of the vessel commencing a view of the huge ship, and threw the Ariel so much out of her proper position that she shipped a large quantity of water through the cabin windows. She was then taken across the river to the nearest pier, where a good many of the passengers disembarked, and the Ariel proceeded towards Woolwich. When off Greenwich Hospital, however, it was found that the vessel had been

injured in some way, and that she was making a great deal of water. She was accordingly run aground on the Kentish shore, and the passengers passed over a kind of bridge of boats to dry land.

A puncheon of gin which was being lowered, a few evenings ago, from a waggon in Coleman-street, City, fell against the kerbstone, when the bottom was stove in. The liquor ran in a flood down the kennel; and a labouring man named Michael Fitzgibbon, who was passing at the time, seized a pint pot from the barrow of a costermonger, and, stooping down, began ladelling the spirit into his mouth. After taking a great deal this way, he went down on all fours, and lapped up the gin with his tongue. One of his comrades endeavoured to dissuade him from drinking any more; but he went on till he was unable to continue. He was then wheeled home in a state of insensibility, and a surgeon was fetched; but death by this time had ensued.

While a salute was being fired at Dover last Saturday, in honour of the arrival of the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg, one of the guns prematurely exploded. Two artillerymen were blown over the parapet into the ditch, a depth of forty feet; the arms of both were broken, and the bayonet sword of one was driven into his stomach, causing injuries of which he died on the following night.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT QUESTION.

A NOISY and excited meeting was held at the London Tavern on Tuesday night, to consider the question of the future government of India. Mr. George Crawshaw occupied the chair, and spoke in favour of the Company, but was frequently interrupted by the disapprobation of his auditory, which consisted chiefly of working-class men.

Mr. Lewin proposed the following resolution:—"That the Court of Directors, by submitting to the coercion of the English Government, have brought upon India and upon England the disasters and the dangers to which both are now exposed; and that this meeting holds the prevention of the further aggravation of those disasters and dangers to reside solely in the Court of Directors asserting for the future their administrative independence, recurring to the rules laid down by the House of Commons in 1782, and by so doing obtaining for themselves the support of the people of England." Major Rowland seconded this resolution; denounced the war against Afghanistan; gave a dismal picture of Sir Colin Campbell's position in India (at which there were cries of 'Bravo!'); asserted that our army is gradually wasting away in Oude, and that England is in danger; and advised that we should restore the King of Oude to his throne.

Mr. Mead spoke in favour of placing India under the direct Government of the Crown, and proposed the following amendment:—"That, in the opinion of the meeting, it is desirable to obtain a responsible form of administration for India instead of the present double Government, and also such a reform of the representative system as will ensure an effectual Parliamentary control over the Indian authorities." Mr. Ernest Jones seconded the motion, which was opposed by Mr. Frost (the Chartist), who thought that to transfer the administration of India from the East India Company to the Crown would be to make bad worse. At this, there were hisses, and cries of "You are a traitor!" Mr. Ernest Jones begged the meeting to hear Mr. Frost, though "it was easy to see through the trick." Mr. Frost hereupon retorted that he had no trick to play, "but could easily see the trick which that man (Mr. Jones) was playing." Groans and uproar succeeded this passage of arms, and the meeting concluded with the almost unanimous adoption of the amendment.

THE EAST INDIA HOUSE MEETING.

The adjourned meeting of the Court of Proprietors was held on Wednesday; Mr. Mangles, M.P., in the chair. Previous to the resumption of the debate, the Clerk read the letter addressed on the part of the company to Lord Palmerston, and dated the 31st of December. After acknowledging the receipt of his Lordship's letter, containing an intimation that it is the intention of Government to propose a measure to Parliament for the purpose of placing the Government of India under the direct authority of the Crown, the writers observe that they feel it due to themselves, and to the constituent body they represent, to lose no time in offering such observations as suggest themselves on the occasion. They state that the Court propose that a searching inquiry should be instituted into the causes of the mutiny of the Bengal army, and they have instructed the Government of India to appoint a commission to make such inquiry. They conceive that it would be satisfactory to them if a similar inquiry were proposed in Parliament, with power to extend the investigation to an inquiry respecting the conduct of the Home Government. They express surprise that, without imputing blame to the Company, the Government, even before the mutiny is quelled, and while considerable excitement prevails in India, should propose the entire supersession of the East India Company, which is entitled to the credit of having so administered the government in India that the heads of states and the people had re-

mained true to the Company's rule. The Court of Directors express their conviction that a change so important would be misunderstood by the people of India, and submit that, if any such change should be really thought desirable, it should be introduced at a time of tranquillity, when the circumstances of India could be regarded without prejudice, and when the change would not, in the eyes of the natives, be connected with the late calamitous events. The Court asserts that they have always shown themselves ready to acquiesce in any change that would prove useful to the general interests. The directors would not object to relinquish their trust if a better system could be devised for India; but in 1853 the question was thoroughly investigated and exhausted, and the present system was the result. That system, it is admitted, is doubtless capable of some improvement; but the objections to the 'double Government' are rather nominal than real, as the duties of the Board of Directors are of an executive rather than of a deliberative character.

The Secretary next read the following reply of the Prime Minister:—

"Piccadilly, January 18, 1858.

"Gentlemen,—I have had the honour to receive your joint-letter of the 31st December, 1857, on the subject and the measure it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to propose to Parliament, in reference to the future system on which the government of India is to be conducted. I beg to assure you that the observations and opinions therein expressed will be duly considered by her Majesty's Government. I forbear entering at present into any examination of those observations and opinions. First, because any correspondence on this matter would be most conveniently carried on through the usual official channel, the President of the India Board; and, secondly, because the detailed arrangements of the measure which her Majesty's Government mean to propose will be best explained when that measure shall be submitted to the consideration of Parliament.—I am, &c.,—PALMERSTON."

The secretary then read the petition which it was proposed to present to Parliament, and which had been prepared by the directors and recommended by the proprietors. It is a very long document, but the chief points are summarized in the letter to Lord Palmerston, of which an outline is given above.—After considerable debate, the discussion was further adjourned for a week.

IRELAND.

THE LAW APPOINTMENTS are at length finally settled. Mr. Serjeant O'Brien is to be the successor of the late Judge Moore in the Queen's Bench, and Mr. Henry George Hughes (a Roman Catholic) succeeds to the Solicitor-Generalship in the room of Mr. Christian, the new judge in the Common Pleas. Mr. Richard Deasy, Q.C., and M.P. for the county of Cork, has been appointed third serjeant, in the room of Serjeant O'Brien.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SHIPWRECK.—The emigrant ship Windsor was wrecked off Bonavista, Cape Verd Islands, while on her voyage from London to Australia, on the 1st of December. She struck on a reef of rocks; but the crew and passengers, with the exception of two sailors, were safely landed, and were subsequently forwarded by a Portuguese war schooner to St. Vincent's. These facts have been derived from the first number of a small folio newspaper, called the *Argo*, which was edited and printed from week to week on board the steamship *Argo*, which took the left wing of the 68th Infantry from Portsmouth to Madras.

RECRUITS FOR INDIA.—The standard of recruits for all regiments of infantry serving in India is reduced to five feet three inches until further orders from the Horse Guards.

THE INDIAN REINFORCEMENTS.—The transport York, Captain Redpath, which sailed from Plymouth on Tuesday for Madras, had a cargo of shot, shell, guns, and various stores. She embarked at Gravesend Captain Mure, in military command, and eight rank and file of the 43d Regiment; Ensign Heane, and thirty-seven of the 44th; Dr. Elliott, 95th, in medical charge; Captain Arbuckle (and wife), Bengal Artillery; Mr. Wickham, and fifty men 1st Madras Fusiliers; Mr. Crawford, Hon. East India Company's service; thirteen men of the 60th Rifles, thirty-two of the 66th Foot, and twelve of the 74th; and at Plymouth, one sergeant and ten men of the 69th, in charge of the residue of the baggage belonging to that regiment.

THE CAESAR, 91, screw, is fitting out for the steam reserve at Portsmouth by the crew of the steam depot ship Blenheim.

THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT YACHT.—Her Majesty's state yacht Victoria and Albert, Captain the Hon. J. Denman, is nearly ready to receive her crew, who will turn over to her next Tuesday. It is not expected that the Royal marriage flotilla will leave Portsmouth for Gravesend before the end of the month. Every available vessel that can be spared will be sent to the rendezvous off Gravesend, so as to make the Royal embarkation as imposing a spectacle as may be under the circumstances.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

TOMAS JONES and John Jones, brothers, both very respectably connected, who pleaded Guilty at the last sessions to a charge of assaulting some policemen, were on Tuesday sentenced to four months' imprisonment, reckoning from the 4th inst.

James Mackinder, a coachman, was indicted for stealing two 50l. notes and three 10l. notes, the property of his master, with which he had been entrusted to purchase some horses. He was found Guilty, and sentenced to penal servitude for three years.

William Keen, a young man employed at the Builder's office, pleaded Guilty of stealing 9s. 6d., the money of his employers. He appeared to have been pilfering for some time past. He was sentenced to eight months' hard labour.

The two guardsmen charged with assaulting the police in Broadway, Westminster, were tried on Tuesday. They were found Guilty, and sentenced each to six months' hard labour.

An amusing incident was unfolded in the trial of Joseph Wilkinson and Henry Wilkinson, father and son, for having stolen a large number of fowls, the property of the Hon. Lady Selina Mason. Her ladyship resides at Willesden House, and the fowls in question were stolen from her premises on the evening of the 22nd of December. On the following morning, a policeman named Macdonald found some of them in a sack concealed in a dung-heap in a field at Edgware, and, concluding that the persons who had placed them there would take an early opportunity of fetching them away, he hid himself in the dung-heap. After he had been there, covered over, about seven hours, the prisoners came with a truck to remove the booty. One of them said to the other, "Be quiet! Get over the gate; there's no one about, and if anybody comes I'll whistle." Henry Wilkinson then went to the heap, and was dragging the sack away when he trod upon the policeman, who jumped up, and Wilkinson ran off, crying out that it was the Devil that had sprung up from the heap. The father was taken, and the son gave himself up a day or two afterwards. They earned a living by selling fowls in Portman Market. An *alibi* was set up for Henry, and the jury acquitted him. The father was found Guilty, and sentenced to eight months' hard labour.

Charles Carew, a Guardsman, pleaded Guilty on Wednesday to an indictment charging him with having stolen a watch, value 3l., and another watch, value 1l. 12s. 6d., the property of Frederick Berry. Mr. Berry keeps two shops, one at Pimlico and one in Parliament-street, the latter being the place where Marley committed the crime which led to his execution. Carew stole a watch from the shop in Parliament-street, and then went off to that at Pimlico, and stole another. The Court sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—A pitman, named Henry Etherington, residing near Bishop Auckland, has committed a very savage attack on Mary Venison, a married woman, who had been deserted by her husband, and who had recently lived with Etherington. She had a child by him, but was desirous of parting company. Etherington wished her to return, or to let him have the child; but she refused, and he then struck her several times on the head with a pick. She broke away, and was followed by him; but her mother interposed, and held him back till he was apprehended by a policeman. He has been committed for trial.

FALSE AND TRUE DISTRESS.—A man giving the name of John Reed, has been charged at the Westminster police-office with fraud and felony. He and a companion went to the house of a gentleman in Ebury-street, Pimlico, with a begging petition on behalf of one John Ward, who was said to be the dustman of the district. While the gentleman was reading over the petition, a friend who was present observed Reed's companion (who was in the passage) helping himself to a coat which was hanging up. The room door was open; but Reed stood in the doorway, and, when the friend endeavoured to rush out and stop the thief, the confederate stopped him, and the coat was carried off. A similar trick had been performed in the same neighbourhood a few days previously. Reed was remanded.—A case of real distress, of a very singular character, has been brought before the attention of the Lambeth magistrate. Mr. Heard, a practical chemist of some distinction, and the author of the discovery (made in the early part of the present century) by which coal gas was made applicable to domestic purposes, was found to be living in a state of abject destitution in a house in South Lambeth. Though eighty-one years of age, Mr. Heard had a comparatively young wife and a family of four children, the oldest of whom was only fourteen. Owing to old age and infirmities, Mr. Heard was unable to prosecute a discovery he had patented a few years ago, and so had fallen into distress. A subscription has been opened in his behalf, and the Lambeth magistrate has given 1l. from the poor-box.

THE KNIFE.—A Greek sailor and an Irish labourer are under remand at the Thames police-office, on a charge of stabbing another Irish workman in the course

of a quarrel, near Ratcliff Highway, about some loose women.

MURDER AT OVER DARWEN.—A young man named Thomas Kershaw has been apprehended at the village of Over Darwen on the charge of murdering his father, Robert Kershaw, who lived with his family at the same place. The murdered man had formerly been a farmer, but, from reduced circumstances, was compelled to seek employment at the mills at Over Darwen, where he and all his children had worked together for some time past. One day, his son Thomas absented himself from work, saying that he was going to Blackburn; but the rest of the family went to the mills as usual and found both their parents at home when they came in to dinner. When, however, they finally returned home from work in the evening, their father was absent, and they inquired of their mother where he was. She told them he was out, but she did not know where he was gone to. About nine o'clock, the whole family retired to bed, and had not been there very long, when the eldest son Thomas told one of his brothers, who slept with him, that he found his father lying dead on the floor when he came home from his work, and, on seeing this, he dragged his body down stairs into the coal cellar, and buried it under the coals. At the same time he enjoined his brother to keep the affair strictly secret; but the latter immediately got up and mentioned the circumstance to his uncle, who lived close by. The police were then communicated with, when several constables went to the house of the murdered man, and, having descended to the cellar, and dug away nearly half a ton of coals, they discovered the body of Robert Kershaw. He was quite dead, and it appeared evident that death had been caused by a heavy blow on the forehead; but the throat and face were horribly mangled. The son Thomas was at once taken into custody, and his mother, who related to the police a few circumstances in connexion with the murder of her husband, but who appeared to be in some measure an imbecile, was likewise apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in the affair. The coroner's inquest on the body has terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Thomas Kershaw, the son. Mrs. Kershaw has been discharged.

BURGLARY.—The house of Mr. Joseph Clarkson, an old gentleman of considerable wealth, residing in a very lonely spot about five miles from Barnsley, was entered by a gang of masked burglars early on Wednesday morning. Mr. Clarkson was a good deal ill-treated, and his daughter-in-law was threatened; but the ruffians were attacked by a servant-man with a gun, and put to flight, carrying with them only a very small amount of booty.

IRISH RUFFIANISM.—Two Irishmen are under remand, one at Guildhall, the other at the Thames police-office, on charges of fracturing the skulls of men with whom they had picked quarrels. In both cases it appears highly probable that the wounded men will die.

MURDER AT WADSWORTH.—The body of Bethel Parkinson, a cattle dealer and stone delver, has been found in a field on Wadsworth Moors, Yorkshire, frightfully mutilated. The man was probably returning from a cattle fair or market, and appears to have been murdered for the sake of a large sum of money which he had about him, and which was not found on the body. A young man, named Shepherd, is in custody under suspicion.

EMBEZZLEMENT.—Isaac Brouwer, an agent recently employed by Messrs. Poole and Co., cattle salesmen, appeared on Wednesday in discharge of bail at Guildhall, to answer a charge of embezzling various sums of money, amounting to upwards of 2000*l.*, the property of his employers. He was committed for trial; but bail was accepted.

GAROTTE ROBBERY AT MANCHESTER.—About half-past six o'clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. David Ritman, jeweller, while on his way home from his shop in Stork-street, Cheetham, Manchester, was attacked by three men and robbed. One of the men put his arm round Mr. Ritman's neck and garotted him, while the two others deprived him of a leathern case containing twenty-three silver watches, twelve gold watches, twenty-four gold guard chains, and three 10*l.* Bank of England notes—in all, about 400*l.* worth of property. They then made their escape, leaving their victim in a state of insensibility.

THE KEIGHLEY POISONING CASE.—John Sagar has been committed for trial on the charge, already described, of poisoning his wife with arsenic.

MURDER OF A DAUGHTER.—The girl Bennet, who has been in the Camberwell workhouse for some time, owing to injuries inflicted on her by her drunken mother, died on Wednesday evening.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A CASE concerning the conduct of a solicitor was brought last Saturday before the attention of the Court of Chancery. The solicitor in question, Mr. Daniel Keane, had written an offensive letter to one of the Masters of the court, who handed the letter to the Lord Chancellor, and an application was made to his Lordship to take such a course as seemed necessary under the circum-

stances. The Lord Chancellor, in delivering judgment, gave a severe reprimand to the solicitor, who was ordered to be present, and declared that the letter was most improper, and such as never should have been written. The solicitor, however, had put in an apologetic affidavit, and on that account he would not visit him with the censure of the court further than to compel him to pay all the costs of the application.

Mr. Justice Byles, the new Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, took the oaths last Saturday, in the Court of Queen's Bench, and was congratulated by Lord Campbell on his elevation. This was followed by the introduction to the court of Dr. Adams, Dr. Phillimore, Dr. Deane, and Dr. Twiss, the new Queen's Counsel. These gentlemen were complimented by Lord Campbell on the accession of learning and talent which they bring to the common law bar.

Sir Cresswell Cresswell, the Judge Ordinary of the new Court of Divorce, took his seat for the first time last Saturday morning. Doctors Adams, Phillimore, Deane, and Twiss, were called to the inner bar as Queen's counsel. The first case was then called on, when Dr. Phillimore appeared in a suit for divorce, promoted by Ann Dean, against Arthur Dean, by reason of adultery. The suit was instituted by letters of request from the diocese of Oxford, in last Michaelmas term; and the Dean of Arches had pronounced the husband in contempt, but efforts to serve the decree had not been successful. The decree was *via et modus*, or by ways and means. The present proceedings were merely preliminary, and the case was adjourned for a week.

Mr. Beadon, the Marlborough-street magistrate, gave judgment on Monday in a question arising out of a charge against a pawnbroker of receiving, and advancing money upon, a Crimean medal belonging to a man who was recently in the 44th Foot, and is now in the militia. The medal had been pawned while the man was totally unconnected either with the regular army or the militia; and the question was, whether, being a civilian at the time, he had not a right to dispose of the distinction. Mr. Beadon decided that he had not. It was evidently intended, he observed, that the medals should be handed down from generation to generation as a species of heirlooms; and the Legislature therefore prohibited their being disposed of. The War Office, however, would not press for a conviction in this particular case, provided the medal were given up.

Captain Thomas Denkin, of the ship *Hibernia*, was on Monday summoned at the Mansion House on a charge of attempting to defraud the Maritime Passengers Insurance Company of 110*l.* Previous to starting for Quebec, he had insured a quantity of wearing apparel and nautical instruments. During the voyage, the ship was waterlogged and abandoned by the crew, who were afterwards picked up by the *Hermann*, of Bremen. The captain's things were saved, though they were somewhat damaged by salt water. He afterwards distributed them among the crew, saying he did not care for them, as he was insured; and, on coming back to England, he made the demand of 110*l.* on the company. The charge was supported by the evidence of the sailors; but it appeared that they had some pique against Captain Denkin, and the Lord Mayor dismissed the case.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, Colonel William Petrie Waugh again failed to surrender to pass his examination, and was proclaimed as an outlaw. The choice of assignees was perfected in the case of Messrs. Jonathan and Robert Hills, bankers, of Dartford and Gravesend. The claims of unsecured creditors amount to about 25,000*l.*, and nearly the whole of the property of the bank is held by the Commercial Bank of London as security for advances of about equivalent value.

The case of Samuel J. Haynes came before Mr. Commissioner Murphy in the Insolvent Debtors' Court on Tuesday. He was a linendraper at Bow, and is now in custody at the suit of Messrs. Keats and Mechi, the late sheriffs, for 140*l.* law costs entailed upon them by an unsuccessful action brought by the insolvent. There appears to have been an attempt on the part of Haynes to defraud the sheriffs, and the Commissioner felt so strongly that the insolvent had perjured himself, that he announced his intention of submitting the facts to the Attorney-General, in order to ascertain whether any other steps could be taken. He refused to sanction the discharge of Haynes from the suit of the sheriffs till the lapse of eighteen months from the vesting order.

Applications under the Divorce Act have been made during the week at the police-offices for protection to the property of married women abandoned by, or separated from, their husbands. At the Lambeth office, an order was granted in the case of Mrs. Freeman; and the consideration of a case at Clerkenwell was postponed, in order that the wife might bring witnesses as to the desertion of her by her husband. The first application in Leeds under the provisions of the act came before the borough magistrates on Tuesday, when a respectable-looking woman appeared for the protection of her property. She stated that, on the 16th of February, 1836, she was married to George Wilcock, who deserted her without just cause on the 18th of March, 1848, since which time they had been separated. During the separation she had acquired property by her own earnings, consisting of eleven houses, furniture, money, &c., and she applied to the Court for its protection from her hus-

band and his creditors. The husband was not present, and the order was made.

Mr. Cronin, a medical gentleman, has obtained (by an action in the Court of Queen's Bench) 250*l.* damages from Lord Powerscourt, on account of injuries received by him owing to the careless driving of the defendant, which caused a collision between his Lordship's carriage and that of Mr. Cronin.

OBITUARY.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR WILLIAM HENRY MAULE.—This acute lawyer and eminent Judge died last Saturday morning, in the seventy-third year of his age, after an attack of bronchitis which only commenced on the previous Monday. He was a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; led the Oxford circuit for many years; was M.P. for Carlow from 1837 to 1839; was subsequently appointed a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, which position he resigned in 1856; and was made a Privy Councillor in 1855. In politics, he was a Liberal.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE died suddenly, at an early hour on Monday morning, of paralysis, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. About five years ago, he had an attack of the same nature, from which, however, he recovered sufficiently to return to all the active pursuits of life. He was recently entertaining large parties at Bolton Abbey for grouse shooting, and had for some time enjoyed such good health that he did not pay his usual autumnal visit to Brighton. In politics, he was a Whig, but he never spoke in the House of Lords. He was sent on a special embassy to Russia in May, 1826, as Ambassador Extraordinary at the coronation of the late Emperor Nicholas, and astonished the Russians by the superb character of his retinue. It is said that he spent more than 50,000*l.* beyond the allowance made by Government. Nicholas conferred on him two Russian orders of knighthood, and on returning to England he was made a Knight of the Garter. He has twice served as Lord Chamberlain of the Household. He was never married, and is succeeded in the title and estates by his kinsman, the Earl of Burlington. His fondness for horticultural pursuits, and his great benevolence to his tenantry (who derived great advantages from his truly paternal regard for them), gave Leigh Hunt occasion to observe, with equal pertinence and beauty, in one of his dedications, that the late Duke was "one of whom it may be said, without poetical exaggeration, and even without metaphor, that his footsteps may be traced in flowers, and that he has made the houses of the poor to smile."

MRS. NISBETT.—Lady Boothby, better known to playgoers as Mrs. Nisbett, died last Saturday at her residence, Rose Mount, St. Leonard's, of an illness brought on by domestic griefs. She was a Londoner by birth, and was the eldest daughter of Lieutenant Frederick Hayes Macnamara, of the 52nd Regiment. When only thirteen years old, she was obliged by family misfortunes to take to the stage; and, when scarcely nineteen, she married Captain John Alexander Nisbett, of the Life Guards, who shortly afterwards lost his life in trying a horse not thoroughly broken in. His widow then returned to the stage, and acquired a brilliant reputation in light comedy. Again marrying—this time Sir William Boothby, Bart.—she was again speedily left a widow, and once more went back to the stage, from which, however, ill-health shortly compelled her to retire. There was recently some talk of another re-appearance; but death has interposed to prevent any such pleasure to the frequenter of the theatres. The almost sudden deaths of her mother, brother, and sister, to whom she was tenderly attached, gave such a shock to her system that she expired after an illness of only two days. She was in the forty-sixth year of her age. Her acting was especially distinguished by the quality of joyousness—of hearty, impulsive hilarity and buoyant ease; and this gave to it a fascination which dwells in the memory like sunshine. She did not possess any power over pathos; but her comedy was charming.

ARCHDEACON VENABLES died a few days ago, in his eighty-fourth year. The Archdeaconry of Carmarthen, and the vicarage of Nantmel, Radnorshire, are thus left vacant.

VICE ADMIRAL SIR JOHN COODE.—An officer who distinguished himself during the last war with France and at the bombardment of Algiers in 1816, died on Tuesday evening at his residence, St. Andrew's-terrace, Plymouth, in the seventy-ninth year of his age.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha arrived at Buckingham Palace on the night of Friday week. The Princess of Prussia arrived on the following afternoon. On Monday, the arrivals were Prince Albert of Prussia, Prince William of Baden, the King of the Belgians, the Duke of Brabant, and the Count of Flanders. The Prince of Prussia reached Buckingham Palace on Tuesday. The Queen and her guests, on Tuesday evening, visited Her Majesty's Theatre, and saw *Macbeth* performed by the special company. On Wednesday evening, a State Ball was given at Buckingham Palace, to which 1100 persons were invited. Among the more distinguished company was the Maha-

rajah Dhuleep Singh.—Her Majesty and the Royal visitors paid a visit on Thursday to Woolwich, and inspected the vast works carried on there. There was afterwards a review of troops on the common: and in the evening the Court went to Her Majesty's Theatre, where the *Rose of Castille* and *Boots at the Swan* were performed.

THE WEDDING OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The whole of the decorations of St. James's Palace and Chapel being now complete, the result (say the daily papers), is pronounced to be highly creditable to the taste of Mr. Phipps, architect to the Board of Works, and to the executive skill of Messrs. Johnstone and Jeanes, of Bond-street, to whom the difficult work was entrusted. The doorway into the Palace, known as the garden entrance, now leads to a handsome corridor in crimson and yellow, the royal colours, and at each side handsome apartments have been fitted for the numerous retinue which will be in attendance at the wedding. The grand staircase looks exceedingly well in its new carpeting and blue and gilt railing. The oaken top of the latter has been covered with crimson velvet and silk fringe, which also adds considerably to the general effect, while the rather sombre general tone of the decorations is effectually relieved and contrasted by the coloured marble of the walls and pilasters. The room which in the drawing-room season is used as a retiring room by her Majesty, has been on the present occasion fitted up as boudoir for the Princess Royal, and is a light and beautiful apartment. The paper, which is white and gold, is quite bridal in its character and effect, the hangings are of the richest crimson damask of the newest pattern, and the walls also are fitted with costly mirrors, so arranged as greatly to increase the apparent dimensions of the chamber. All the furniture of this room is new, and has been made expressly for the occasion. It is crimson and gold, and its arrangement is in the best possible taste.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES TO THE CITY.—The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Frederick Charles Prince of Prussia, Albert Prince of Prussia, Adalbert Prince of Prussia, and the Prince of Hohenzollern, attended by their suite, visited the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, last Saturday, whence they proceeded to inspect the internal arrangements and peculiar machinery of the Bank of England; after which the royal party went to the Guildhall, where they were received by the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen Wilson and Copeland. They were then conducted through the various public offices, and shown the different mementoes and curiosities of the edifice.

DISPOSING OF PAUPER BODIES.—Alfred Feist, the late master of Newington Workhouse, was on Wednesday finally examined at the Lambeth police-court on the various charges of unlawfully disposing of the dead bodies of paupers for anatomical purposes. He was committed for trial.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF LOUIS NAPOLEON.—The Court of Aldermen has transmitted to the French Emperor an address of congratulation on his late escape. The Court of Common Council has resolved on a similar address.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the second week of the year, the total number of deaths registered in London was 1289, of which 637 were deaths of males, 652 those of females. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1232; but, as the deaths included in the present return occurred in an increased population, the average, to admit of comparison, should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it would become 1355. The returns for last week are, therefore, so far satisfactory as to show that the deaths were less by 66 than the number which the average rate of mortality in the second week of January would have produced. The 1289 deaths are classed under five general heads; 261, of which number 210 are the deaths of young persons, are referred to zymotic diseases; 259 to constitutional diseases; 605 to local diseases; 142 to developmental diseases; 13 are the results of burns, drowning, wounds, or other injury. Nine deaths are not assigned to any of the above classes, because the fatal disease or injury is not described. Last week the births of 902 boys and 861 girls—in all 1763 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1571.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

THE INDIAN MUTINY.—Mr. Alderman Finnis, in writing to the *Times*, says that an association has been formed for the special purpose of assisting the Kussowlee Institution for the children of soldiers.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES.—Successful efforts are being made, by means of special religious services, for the poor in Exeter. The various dissenting bodies have united and taken the largest public room in the city, where Divine service is held every Sunday afternoon.

ANNUITY TO SIR JOHN DODSON.—By the new Prorogative Act, Sir John Dodson, the Judge of the late Prorogative Court, is allowed an annual sum of 2000*l.*, to commence from the 11th January instant, the day when the act came into operation.

EQUALIZATION OF THE POOR-RATES.—A meeting to facilitate this object was held on Tuesday evening in the Mille End-road. Mr. Ayrton, M.P., presided.

MAJOR HODSON.—A correspondent of the *Times*, says

that Major (late Lieutenant) Hodson, who shot the Delhi princes with his own hand, did not at first intend to perform the office of their executioner, but that, finding they had been rescued shortly after their capture, he thought it advisable to put them out of the way of doing further mischief.

HERO-WORSHIP AT BRADFORD.—In the midst of royal solemnities it is curious to note the form which hero-worship is taking in one of our great manufacturing centres. We are informed by a letter from Bradford that on the 29th instant a gathering of the admirers of the political writings of Thomas Paine is to take place in that town. The proceedings are to commence with a flow of soul in the shape of a social repast, and to conclude with a feast of reason in the shape of a discussion suggested by the occasion of the entertainment.

CLARIFYING SUGAR BY SOAP.—A Mr. Garcia, a sugar refiner of Louisiana, has invented a new method of clarifying sugar by pouring soap into it when in a liquid state. The soap rises to the top, carrying with it all impurities; and by this time it has acquired an excellent taste.

THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—"Of late," says the *Building News*, "but little progress has been made in the works as respects the exterior; but considerable activity has been manifested in the interior, and the private residences in the north and south wings of the river front are now nearly finished, more especially the mansion (for so we must call it) intended for the official residence of the Speaker of the House of Commons. This residence occupies the whole of the north end of the river front of the building, and extends to what is termed the Speaker's Court, the whole forming in plan a parallelogram which measures one hundred feet by eighty-five feet. The entrance is in the Speaker's Court, through an appropriate stone porch." The residence is being fitted up with great magnificence, and it is expected that it will be occupied soon after Easter. "In the south wing, two complete residences are being fitted up for the 'Black Rod' and the librarian of the House of Lords. These residences are being arranged with every modern convenience and comfort, but in a much plainer style than the Speaker's house, and they are not so near completion. Generally, the building remains in much the same state as it was in at the close of last session, except that the ponderous castings which are to form the roof of the Victoria Tower are being hoisted to their situations."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 23.

FRANCE.

THE Emperor has promoted the Maréchal de Logis Samuel, who was seriously wounded on the 14th of January, to the rank of Second-Lieutenant in the Paris Guard. Bruiset, Maréchal de Logis in the same corps, and Henrion, private, have received the Cross of the Legion of Honour from the Emperor. Privates Berna, Dahlen, Garnery, and Rumigny have received the military medal. They were all wounded on the occasion of the attempted assassination.

Rudio, the youngest of the assassins, has confessed, and made certain revelations. The trial will take place on the 8th or 10th of February.

SWITZERLAND AND BELGIUM.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has asked the Geneva authorities to draw up a report on the conduct of the refugees of late.

The Belgian Government has laid before the Chamber of Representatives a police bill respecting foreigners.

THE REFUGEES IN LONDON.

We have received the following:—"The Editor of the *Leader* is apprised that a posse of French police have arrived in London for the purpose of kidnapping certain suspected refugees, and conveying them to France by a vessel now lying in the river Thames. It is said that London detectives will, *sub rosa*, lend their aid."

THE INDIAN HEROES.—Yesterday evening's *Gazette* contains the appointment, to the honour of being Knights Commanders of the Order of the Bath, of Major-General John Eardley Wilmot Inglis (the hero of Lucknow), Captain William Peel, R.N., C.B., Colonel Edward Lugard, C.B., and Colonel James Hope Grant, C.B. A long list of newly appointed ordinary members of the Military Division of the Third Class contains the name of Rear-Admiral Sir Henry J. Leeke, Knight, sometime Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy. Colonel Showers, Colonel Cotton, Lieutenant-Colonel Tombs, and several other distinguished officers, are to be extra members of the Military Division of the Third Class; and it is announced that Colonel Nicholson and Major Stirling would have been recommended for the dignity of Companions of the Order had they survived.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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.

Several communications unavoidably stand over. 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.

ERRATUM.—In the article "The New Government for India," in our last week's number, for 'fifteen hundred commissaries,' read 'fifteen hundred commissions, &c.'

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1858.

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 ATTEMPT IN PARIS.

We do not propose to discuss with the Italian conspirators whether or not their actions are in accordance with political or any other kind of morality. There are some principles so sacred, that to enter the lists in their defence is almost to abandon them. The conscience of all Europe has declared unequivocally that to explode an infernal machine of whatever kind that must inevitably slaughter or maim numbers, in order to destroy one, is an unpardonable offence; and it is needless to add that, in England at any rate, we have rejected the tradition of BRUTUS, as we reject that of RAVAILLAC, JACQUES CLEMENT, and CHARLOTTE CORDAY. Under no circumstances whatever can we admit the right of a private individual to lay an ambush for the Chief of a party or state; and to allege patriotism as an excuse is in our eyes only an aggravation of the crime. Refugees, in some of their insane moods, may speak with reverence of ALIBAUD and PIANORI. In England, even after a lapse of time, we think of them only with horror. FIESCHI is to us a loathsome wretch; and the names of ORSINI and PIERRI, if they be proved guilty of the crime charged to them, will never be mentioned without execration.

The Paris police pretend that they had received timely warning that an attempt at assassination was about to be made; and talk largely of the extra precautions they had taken. These precautions were ludicrously inadequate. Had it not been for an accident by which PIERRI was discovered and arrested, it is probable that the ferocious project would have succeeded. Even deprived of their most determined accomplice, the conspirators, concealed in the crowd that lined the pavement opposite the Opera-house, began to shower hand-grenades on the Emperor's carriage as it came up. It is useless to call them cowards. They must have known they were within range of their own projectiles; and all, we believe, were more or less wounded. That was a terrible moment. The gas was extinguished; but the explosion of the shells filled the street with glares of blue light. The Emperor and Empress scrambled from their carriage in a hurry which would create no remark, were it not for the silly inventions of the press. There was no time for heroic attitudinizing or Spartan sayings. The Lancers, taken quite by surprise, were charging one another, or the crowd in the midst of darkness. Many of the wounds attributed to the hand-grenades, were sword cuts or spear thrusts. Others were disloca-

tions and bruises, naturally caught in the hurried flight of so many dismayed persons. All the conspirators had time to get away. Pistols and revolvers were found scattered in the streets near at hand. Many police-officers rushed wildly from the neighbouring cabarets. It is true, ALESSANDRI, and a band of faithful Corsicans, were not daunted, and rallied round the Emperor and Empress, staining the gown of the latter with blood. The Emperor was one of the first to recover his presence of mind. His voice was heard high above all others enjoining calm; and calm was at length restored. The Lancers drew up, ashamed of their panic. Their Imperial Majesties entered the theatre, enjoyed as best they might the acting of Madame RISTORI, and returned at midnight amidst acclamations to the Tuileries. Meanwhile, the signs of butchery had been removed. All traces of the blood that had flooded the gutters had disappeared. There were only a few broken windows on either side of the street. Some half-dozen men, wounded and despairing, and, we hope, remorseful for their useless crime, were skulking home tracked by the police; and all Paris was talking of the tragedy that had taken place, and the still worse tragedy that had been averted.

If the whole world is unanimous in condemning this atrocious business, this massacre of innocent men, women, and children in the attack on a life which is not touched, it is almost equally unanimous in agreeing with the conspirators on one point. Had they succeeded, there would have been an end of the Bonapartist dynasty for ever. The very name of NAPOLEON would have been forgotten in the tremendous convulsion that would have ensued. To say the contrary is mere policy, or the evidence of fond parental or dynastic delusion. A dozen different parties are waiting to seize upon power. The death of the Emperor would open the flood-gates. This it is that condemns his system as false and dangerous; but this it is also which enhances the criminality of the attempted assassination. To overthrow a Government even by straightforward means, when there is a moral certainty that it can be succeeded only by anarchy, has always been considered the greatest of political mistakes. No doubt the necessity of something like order to save a nation from perishing would at length lead to a new dictatorship. But is this a prize worth running such tremendous risks? He must be mad or drunk with vanity who is ready to take upon himself the responsibility of all the blood that will be shed in France the next time that the great problem of legal liberty is discussed with cannon and musketry in the streets.

The conspirators, therefore, can expect no sympathy from England. As far as is at present known they are Italians; but many circumstances seem to indicate that instead of being friends of M. MAZZINI, as has been gratuitously supposed, they were decidedly severed from him in policy. We suspect that it will be found they acted entirely in obedience to their own gloomy fanaticism. At any rate, it would be most unjust and absurd to envelop in their condemnation any persons not strictly proved to have been their accomplices. An indiscriminating cry against the refugees who now enjoy the hospitality of England would be the worst, as it would be the most ungenerous, of mistakes. Every person who flies from oppression in his own country is not necessarily an assassin. Even such as are ready to take up arms to reverse the decision of arms, should be regarded with the greatest indulgence. The present Emperor more than once started with cannon, muskets, ammunition of war, money, and men, to stir up civil war in France.

Nothing that has been said in extenuation of his offence should be now forgotten, if it be proved that the exiles who have taken his place have been ready to imitate his example. It is our duty to repress all such attempts by means of the laws provided for that purpose. Nothing more. Any demand inconsistent with the duties of hospitality must be met with a prompt and unconditional refusal.

There seems no doubt that the Emperor will make the first trial of his influence, backed by some display of force if necessary, against Belgium. The press of that country, or rather a small and unimportant fraction of it, seems inclined to provoke such measures. Perhaps the writers think that an attack on Belgium might lead to complications favourable to their ulterior views. They must be disappointed. The battle for the right of hospitality must be fought by all liberal Europe on whatever field may be chosen. The laws of Belgium provide a remedy for such a gross offence as apology for assassination. Let those laws be applied, if the offence has really been committed, in their utmost rigour. Already the Brussels police has proved itself tolerably subservient. At such a time, as Belgium can scarcely pretend to hold its head so high as England, no one will object to a little extra severity. But any attempt at wholesale and indiscriminate persecution should be repelled by every power which does not care to become virtually a province of France. If we sacrifice Belgium, our turn will come next. At such a time it is necessary to speak out the truth without phrases. There is real danger that, considering our position in India to be more critical than it is, the familiars of the Emperor may take a turn and demand concessions which, if we ever listen to without indignation, would go more to lessen our prestige in Europe than the loss of a great battle.

OUR EPITHALAMIUM.

IN Love all extremes meet and accord. It will be no wonder, then, that, in a few hours, two Christian kingdoms will accept with happiness—by proxy—the light-sceptred rule of pagan HYMEN. In a few hours two Christian countries will be wedded, for better, for worse. But while the air fills with the soft preludings of bridal songs, who can think of anything but of the 'better?' Have we not been told by all the newspapers, copying from an accomplished contemporary, that the Poet Laureate is pruning his wings for a flight of panegyric on the Royal nuptials? Do we not know that from the stage of the Lyceum Theatre another dramatic poet, WESTLAND MARSTON, is prepared to soar with unpruned wings into the empyrean of laudation, in honour of the high event? And shall we, dreaming away the propitious hour in doubts and visions of ills that may *not* descend upon this marriage of our country's daughter, be silent?—offer her no pleasant homage?—be alone without our wedding-day congratulation—our epithalamium? "Away with the thought!" as editors say.

But let us approach the altar by slow and reverent steps, stopping to pay due homage to the Royal mother, soon to lose the charm of daily intercourse with her first-born. There is not a Royal family in the world which is so bound to the hearts of the people over whom fortune has placed them as Queen VICTORIA and her children. From the hour of her marriage, she has not been more Queen of the land than chief in the domestic virtues of her kingdom, the extolled exemplar of wives and mothers; and she has never appeared more great or royal than when as Queen she has performed some act

dictated by feelings that live only by the hearth-side, and that find sympathy nowhere but in the heart of home—the English heart of hearts. Thanks to the perfect trustfulness with which her frank and tender home-life has inspired her people, the cloud which always—or almost always—overshadows the idea of a royal marriage, has not rested upon this of her daughter; no one believes that she, nurtured so carefully, the first-born of a model mother, has been sacrificed at the shrine of state necessity. The QUEEN has given her child, it is said, not to cold policy but to affection. Is the affection less welcome because it includes something august, judicious, and advantageous to public business?

Deep murmurs of distant shouts come running upon the wind, nearing and swelling. A few moments more and the sound of drums, abrupt and confident of tone, rises above the long-pealing shout of the thronging multitude; and then there spring high above all other sounds the gallant voices of trumpets—speaking like auguries. Drums and trumpets for a young lady's wedding! "Do you call that nothing?" Ay; and cannons thundering, too, till the heavens tremble. Among the jewels lately presented to the bride by her affianced was a pearl necklace worth 4000*l*. Could PAUL have bestowed that upon VIRGINIA? But the blessings are indeed innumerable; 'what other girl' can go to church in a train so superbly ample that eight young ladies are required to hold it up out of the dust?

—'And what other girl' begins her married life with a prospect of so much domestic happiness—such splendid houses—such superb carpets—such curtains—such carriages—such power! If any ordinary FREDERICK is a decent fellow, his VICTORIA may be able to screw out of him a shawl, to make him subscribe to her favourite charitable object, or to vote for papa's friend as churchwarden; but what other girl can convert her graces into political engines? If he should inadvertently talk Russian, to put her pretty finger on his mouth is worth any treaty of alliance. If she is called 'my love,' it is peace in Europe. If there is a difficulty on the Elbe, an unstudied 'my darling' will remove it. Should Prussia be slow on the Danube, a pretty smile will animate the sluggish power. Should despotic ideas obtrude at Sans Souci, the bright English eyes will eye and laugh them away. 'Nice customs' of the Zollverein will curtsy to her winning ways. Will not Beauty rule when the royal eagle 'lies tangled in her hair?' What other girl can look for delights like these—for domestic bliss based on the map of Europe, virtue robed in ermine, or ecstasy exalted by trumpet and drum!

CROWN GOVERNMENT IN INDIA.

PRINCE ALBERT aspires to a new title, and his friends assure us that it will add nothing to his influence or dignity, and is, therefore, not worth withholding. On this principle, the Whigs are asking for the India patronage, on the plea that it is theirs already, and that, consequently, we are alarmed by a shadow. Nevertheless, the truth stands where it was;—a transfer of the East India Company's authority to the Crown would throw an immense weight of patronage into the hands of the Horse Guards and the Ministry of the day. At present, not more than a ninth of the home patronage is in the hands of the President of the Board of Control. The Governor-General has been customarily a man of rank; but, let the proposed change be sanctioned, and while the aristocracy rule the Court and camp, we shall have noble local governors and noble commanders-in-chief.

Technically, these appointments are already derived from Downing-street, Cannon-row, or the Horse Guards, but the power of recall has been the independent safeguard that is now to be taken away. The Cabinet aims at concentrating in itself the supreme authority of India, and at vesting the Horse Guards with the irresponsible administration of a vast European military establishment in the East. Here, the lordly departments have a prospect of almost boundless patronage—not only the old patronage of the Company, but a new patronage, still to be created. And how will they exercise it? The *Daily News* has warned us that, unless public opinion be strongly expressed, Lord GEORGE PAGET will go out to India as Inspector-General of Cavalry, a job which, we do not hesitate to say, insults and disgraces the service, and leads the way to the ultimate deterioration of our Indian army. That army has not been governed upon the same principles as the QUEEN'S. It has been less favoured, but it has been better organized, and has produced, within the passing century, a far larger proportion of able and energetic commanders. Surely, the PAGETS might be satisfied with the honours already bestowed upon Lord GEORGE, the noble author of a *Treatise on Equitation*; as a cavalry colonel at home he is said to have converted a fine regiment into a corps of 'irregulars'; he was promoted in the Crimea to the command of the Light Brigade, and wears the Inkerman clasp for being in the neighbourhood of a great battle. Then, he housed himself in England while the Light Brigade rotted on the Balaklava-road during the 'horrible and heartrending' winter of 1854, and, as the *Daily News* very justly adds, he had a right to do all this, and is not to be blamed if his friends have rewarded him above his merits, but what Indian officer is to have justice done to him if Lord GEORGE PAGET is to be Inspector-General of Indian cavalry? Hundreds of more deserving men are known to the Horse Guards, but they are not the sons of marquises. We may well be alarmed when it is announced that the Crown is to make itself responsible for the entire administration of British India, and that the six thousand commissions in the Company's army are to be handed over to the Horse Guards for distribution.

"The Indian Empire," says the *Saturday Review*, "is the creation and the heritage of the middle classes." We are glad to find ourselves in agreement on a question so vital with our independent contemporary, which avows itself to be 'not only an organ without a party, but an organ without a patron,' a position incomprehensible, perhaps, to the familiars of Whig sophistry and servility. We have from the first made a stand against the attempt to load the East India Company with the entire responsibility of the Indian disasters; we have written justly, we think, of that political and administrative corporation; and while willing to remove the encumbrances and remedy the deficiencies of the double Government, we have uniformly declared against a change that would degrade our Indian Empire into a Whig department, with its chief honours and profits absorbed by the aristocracy. To this view the most liberal and intelligent of our contemporaries adhere, and we are persuaded that it will not be without the support of an enlightened public opinion. Gentlemen from India with personal grievances, and platform spouters, may pass resolutions at turbulent tavern meetings; but the verdict has not yet been pronounced, and there is still time to repel this Whig aggression upon the middle-class government of British India.

The equivocations of the Whig organs are

not the most consistent or ingenious. We have heard them declare that the Government merely desires to establish in name that which now exists in fact, and that, so far as patronage is concerned, very little change is to be expected. They have India already. Another turn of the wheel brings up the assertion that they would not have it if it were obtainable. It is too remote for their younger sons; the climate is too disagreeable. The argument of distance goes for nothing, being disposed of by the overland journey; while that of climate is dissipated by a glance at the delightful hill stations, which are at least as alluring as many of our colonies, whither the cadets of patrician houses flock without hesitation. Salary is the emollient mitigation of the 'bore'; pension is the consolation of a distended liver. At least, we do not find a PAGET reluctant to visit Bengal; nor was a young lord indifferent to the advantages of the Military Secretaryship at Calcutta under Viscount CANNING, until the fluttered virtue of a ball-room induced a premature resignation and a return, over the waters blue, to his native shore.

We anticipate that the hard work, the study of the Indian vernacular, the rainy-season vigils at lonely stations, the long expatriations, and the exhausting labour of the Indian service, will continue to be the portion of the middle classes. All this we concede. But the high prizes of patronage hitherto reserved as rewards would, under the proposed system, be gifts, and they would reap who had not sowed. Out of ten thousand civil and military appointments the best would be bestowed to suit the private or political interests of the Minister, and the residue of small salaries and heavy duties would remain with the classes that have built up the Indian Empire. It answers no purpose to urge that the East India Company has not prevented Peers from becoming Governors-General, or Governors of Madras and Bombay, and that the Whigs long ago grasped the patronage of the Indian bench and staff; such an argument proves too much. So far as they have had the power, they have excluded the middle-class element; but is this a ground for increasing their privileges? On the contrary, we may argue from the past to the future, and, admitting that the Crown is practically paramount in India, we may deduce thence the strongest reasons against a scheme that would render it not only the paramount but the sole authority. If the Afghan war was a disaster, it was one for which the Crown was responsible. "I ordered that war," said Lord BROUGHTON, who sat in the Cabinet. And how did Parliament control him, either in his policy or in his appointment of governors and generals? Who will dare to move the House of Commons on the question of Lord CLANRICARDE'S promotion? Who sought to keep Mr. VERNON SMITH out of the Board of Control? These are matters of Crown and Ministerial prerogative, in which no direct interference is tolerated. The Whigs might instal Sadleirism in the Treasury of India, and no one would be responsible. So might the East India Company, it may be said. But such has not been their practice. Never was a great country governed by abler men or upon purer principles than the East Indian Empire under the rule, complicated and defective as it is, of Leadenhall-street. This it is proposed to abolish, in order that a Whig peer may be made Secretary of State for India, with the good, easy Duke of CAMBRIDGE in command of an enormous Indian army, and millions sterling of civil and military emoluments in the gift of the Crown, to be shared among the heaven-born and the obsequious.

CRIME-COMPELLING CONDITIONS.

THE discussion at the meeting of the Surrey Society for the Employment and Reformation of Discharged Prisoners at Kingston last week, is deeply interesting. It is at least evidence how the best intellects and stoutest hearts of the country are struggling with one of our most difficult problems. The Society itself has been before the age hitherto, but now we cannot help thinking that it is behind the age. It was started in 1824, for the purpose of assisting penitent prisoners, especially the young, on their discharge from prison. It has done a great deal of work during the interval, but it fails to be effectual for want of funds. During the last three years it sold out all its stock in order to meet the demand upon it, and, nevertheless, last year it rejected *thirty-nine* applications 'for want of funds.' The Society, therefore, is languishing because society at large does not appreciate its object.

We can scarcely wonder at that when we see some uncertainty of opinion still prevailing amongst the leading men at this meeting. Lord JOHN RUSSELL was chairman, and Lord ST. LEONARDS was one of the most conspicuous speakers. Lord JOHN expressed an opinion that, 'the State cannot undertake the management of criminals to a further extent than it now does;' a supposition which is refuted by proceedings which the State is 'now' actually carrying on: Lord ST. LEONARDS believed the true recourse to lie in transportation; an astounding mistake for so clear-headed a man; but evidently he has the faculty of limiting his view to the single country in which he lives, or he would know that convict transportation results in an enormous manufacture of vice. We get rid of one criminal, or one crime, in this country, to make ten in the colony. He gave, however, some remarkable examples of the manner in which society, through its individual members, is endeavouring to get at some equitable punishment which shall not subject the criminal to the contaminating influences of the gaol as it is at present conducted:—

"There was a gardener at Hampton Court named Johnson, who, when he detected any person stealing flowers—making a nosegay as it was called—was in the habit of giving to the party the choice either to be taken before a magistrate or to wheel the garden roller for an hour. It was no doubt amusing to see the culprit wheeling the roller amid the laughter of his companions and the visitors—and, no doubt the punishment was effectual, but it was illegal."—"A magistrate had ordered two boys to be whipped, but on being told they were sixteen, whereas the law did not allow boys over fourteen to undergo that punishment, he sentenced them to be imprisoned. Suddenly, however, he called them back, and gave them their choice, either to receive the whipping or go to prison. Ultimately they preferred the former, were whipped by the gaoler, and discharged. Now a more illegal act was never committed by a criminal judge than that of which this magistrate was then guilty."

But he mentioned even a more preposterous case:—

"He heard lately of a lady who was charged with shoplifting, and some of the stolen goods being found upon her person, the shopkeeper told her to state whether she would be given in custody to a policeman, or go up-stairs and submit to a whipping such as a child would receive. They might laugh at this, but in his opinion it was frightful. They had heard of cases where a woman's dress had caught up articles, making them appear guilty of shoplifting when they were innocent. Suppose, in such a case, the woman, frightened by the threat of being sent to gaol as a criminal, submitted to the whipping—he could not imagine anything more awful; certainly there could not be anything more illegal."

None of these persons mean badly; on the contrary, like Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Lord ST. LEONARDS, and the members of the Surrey Society, they are anxious to repress evil-doing without creating more in the process. In despair of seeing transportation renewed, Lord ST. LEONARDS pointed to the true recourse. To seize the criminal, to punish him, and then to turn him loose in

the world with a blasted character and no means of obtaining his livelihood, is, in fact, to drive him anew into the commission of crime. "He had seen at the approach of winter numbers of these men—who had been convicted of the most daring villainies—turned out of prison when they could not possibly earn a shilling, and thus, in order to live, forced to fall again into crime, and become the pests of society." The great mistake of Lord St. LEONARDS is to suppose that his plan is not already in force. It is so, under the superintendence of Captain CROFTON; but it is only in Ireland, not in England. Under Captain CROFTON'S care, the criminals are classified, are trained, are gradually tried in their power of self-control, are sent out from the prison for a day's work, or, when they are incorrigible, are detained in prison and employed in a manner that makes them useful and harmless. An account as clear and eloquent as it is concise will be found in a pamphlet by the Reverend ORBY SHIPLEY, M.A.*

Lord JOHN found good reason why the rich classes should interfere; and his declaration on that subject is one of the most remarkable results of the meeting. He rebuked those who think that there is any distinction between the rich and the poor in morals, except that the rich have the power of purchasing the means of vice.

"If a poor man indulges in drink or leads a life of profligacy, he cannot raise money from money-lenders or run up debts with tradesmen, for they will not trust him, and he has recourse to a violation of the law, takes either by force or fraud that which is the property of another, and becomes at once amenable to the criminal law. He is brought before a jury, convicted, and condemned to imprisonment as a felon. But if those who have to consider these subjects would reflect, it might occur to them that, had their own position in life been different from what it is, some amongst those who were closely connected with them, and are dear to them, but who have contracted improperly engagements they were unable to meet, might have been brought under the infliction of the criminal law. It is not that the labouring classes, the poorer classes, are worse—not that they have worse passions and more evil affections than the rich—but that they have no other means of indulging in those evil passions than by violating the law, that they thus become in so much larger a proportion subject to the criminal law, suffer the punishment of imprisonment, and remain marked for so long after the period of their punishment has expired as persons in whom no trust can be placed."

The truth is boldly proclaimed, and it may be applied to some other themes.

THE EMPIRE OF EVENTUALITIES.

We think that there cannot be a doubt that no party in England is interested at present in the overthrow of the Imperial Government in France. Our sympathy for the Emperor may not be very keen; but our feelings for most of the persons who occupy the thrones of Europe are only a little more favourable. As to the various pretenders or chiefs of parties who might be called to power in France in case of a change of government, it may be boldly said that none of them have sufficient claim on our admiration to induce us to run any risk for their sake. Had the recent attempt of the Rue Lepelletier been successful, the whole of this country would have been in a state of anxiety and consternation. Such being the case, our comments on the events of last week must be eminently of a disinterested character; and the advice that comes from this side of the Channel should be listened to with attention and respect.

We do not profess to know the motives which dictated the speech delivered by the Emperor at the Tuileries last Monday to the as-

sembled Senators and Deputies. Some represent the most important portion of it to have been conceived and composed in mere anger. There is, indeed, an extraordinary similarity in its tone and expressions with the addresses pronounced on the previous Saturday by M. DE MORNY and M. TROPLONG. It is likely, therefore, that the policy it announces may have been determined no later than Friday in the midst of the first emotions of fear and spite. There can be no doubt that the adherents of the Emperor were more moved than he himself. The most violent and reckless probably talked loudest, and with greatest effect. Other and nearer influences may have been brought into play. There is something in the whole sequence of events and words that suggests the illogical action of women. If this be true, we may infer that the Emperor's self-will may be weakening. Men do not usually decay at fifty. But power held by such a tenure is wearing to all faculties. At any rate, it is clear that the dictates of prudence have been for a moment forgotten. M. GUIZOT once said: "*Les pouvoirs qui se passionnent sont près de leur défaite.*" This phrase nearly applies to present circumstances.

Four Italians conspire to kill the Emperor, and are supposed to have a few accomplices abroad. They fail in their main object, but succeed in slaughtering and wounding a number of innocent people. The whole of France, according to official reports, is seized with indignation. From all sides congratulatory addresses pour in. Not a single public body fails to make its voice heard, from the Senate down to the meanest municipal council. Wherever two or three persons may exercise a collective action without fear of the laws, they take advantage of their privilege to send up an expression of their sentiments to the Emperor. A few extreme politicians might represent this to be sycophancy; but the best accounts from Paris report that by every class of oppositionists the cruel assault was at once energetically reprobated.

Now, if we were to read this narrative in history, we should expect, as we turned over the pages, to find accounts of the arrest of the criminals, their trial and execution, and of some precautions taken to prevent the recurrence of such offences; but we should also expect to be told that, in consideration of the unanimous sympathy of all parties, existing repressive laws were relaxed, and that the Emperor had stepped out of the protection of his army and thrown himself on the love of his people. There may be reasons why this noble conduct has not been pursued in the present case. Remembrance of recent bloody occurrences may be too keen in the masses, their desire of reprisals too well known. But certainly there was no excuse for increased severity. Even if there had been any danger of revolution before the 14th of January, which there was not, that danger would have been indefinitely postponed by the natural repugnance of all parties to appear as the heirs of assassins.

The early part of the Emperor's speech was probably written before the hand-grenades of the Italians came to frighten him from his propriety. It paints a picture of felicity and content almost unparalleled. The Government for the last year, without making any theatrical display, has been exclusively occupied in doing good. Agriculture has been benefited—new lines of railway have been opened—numerous public works have been completed or commenced—education has been improved—new religious edifices have risen at all points—Catholicism has found its Utopia—Protestantism has been equally respected—soldiers, schoolmasters, and justices of the peace have been

better paid, because the value of all things has increased—the poor have been cared for—finances are prosperous—commerce has withstood the crisis better in France than in any other country—Kabylia has been conquered—the French army has been covered with glory—sentimental interviews have taken place between the Emperor and the chiefs of two great nations, one of whom has shown an eager desire to continue an old alliance, and the other has been so amiable as to excite regret that he has been beaten—diplomacy has at once been true and generous—in fine, the country 'is calm, prosperous, and respected in Europe.' If all this be not mere rhetoric, why should the abortive attempt of four foreign assassins make a change in so happy a state of things? Why should there be talk of new repressive laws?

The Emperor has not shrunk from thus contradicting himself in the face of Europe. His speech implicitly asserts the existence of discontent so wide-spread and dangerous as to put his dynasty in peril. He has accordingly resolved to crush his enemies or 'reduce them to silence.' We believe that he exaggerates the state of things. That he has succeeded in converting nobody to his system may be true. But the majority of even the civilized classes would be content to submit to him if that system were changed. The funds were rising when the attempt at assassination took place. They struggled to maintain themselves for some days; but the threatening speech from the throne imprinted a retrograde movement on the Bourse; and when it was followed up by the suppression of the *Revue de Paris* and the *Spectateur*, there was a regular panic. This is sufficient to show that France, though quite unprepared to shake off the Imperial Government, does not approve of these measures of violence and anger. The generous and chivalrous feelings of a gallant nation revolt against treatment which assimilates its condition to that of Parma and Modena. The Emperor will probably soon learn the disastrous effect of his ill-judged language and proceedings, and putting his conduct under the guidance of his own judgment, he may desist from his dangerous experiment before it is too late. We sincerely hope and trust that this may be the case. France is not yet prepared for liberty; but it is equally unprepared for absolute and grovelling servility. A continuance of the system of repression would be a danger to all Europe.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM.

To any body of men so well acquainted as our mercantile classes must be with all the many and glaring evils of the existing bankruptcy system, it seems an almost needless labour to place before them any facts or figures tending to prove the necessity of an immediate root and branch reform. This necessity, and the reasons for it, are admitted on all hands, for while large estates are carefully and systematically kept out of the Court, even when they present features of commercial immorality which can only be properly and effectively dealt with by an honest legal tribunal, the heavy and disgraceful expenditure, regulated as it is in a great measure by the pernicious system of 'percentage,' and paid as it is out of the estate, falls with undue severity upon those unfortunate creditors who are interested in the numerous small cases taken generally by the choice and connivance of the debtor for administration in the Court. The existence of such a tribunal, constituted as it is, must inevitably nourish the growth of that overtrading and lax mercantile morality which it

* 'The Purgatory of Prisoners; or, an Intermediate Stage between the Prison and the Public; being some Account of the Practical Working of the New System of Penal Reformation introduced by the Board of Directors of Convict Prisons in Ireland.' Published by Masters.

was professedly created to check and punish. With what dignity, weight, and authority, can a judge stand up and enlarge upon the virtues of careful expenditure, moderate discounts, prudent credits, thoughtful provision for the interests of creditors, and all the rare but shining virtues of theoretical and moral trade, in a Court whose charges amount to the old usurious abomination of 'sixty per cent.?'

When such utterances come from the mouth of a Commissioner, the buzz in and about the Court is a sign of the derision which such hollow virtue excites. A discourse upon honesty is all very well, but we do not take it kindly from men who fatten upon the sacking of bankrupt estates, and who may be merely grumbling that there are not more assets thrown down to be scrambled for.

Why should a man—who is not restrained by any higher considerations than mere self-interest—rest contented with the slow profits of legitimate trade, when he can realize a large fortune in a few months by abusing his credit—that life-blood of commerce—and escaping with impunity because of the expensive, tardy, and uncertain operation of the Court of Bankruptcy? How many creditors consent to take what we should call a *judicious* dividend, even when they see a palpable reservation of property on the part of the respectably fraudulent debtor, because the justice required to punish the robbery costs more than the robbery itself? Nor should the high moralist, arguing upon abstract grounds, assert that trade will never be purified until the creditor class consent to sacrifices for the sake of making examples of the dishonest debtors. The creditor, while he is a creditor in relation to one man, is a debtor in relation to another, and his only duty is the seemingly narrow one of making the most of a bad debt. He is not the custodian and preserver of the morality of our national trade, and to ask him to make a sacrifice for the public good, is to ask him to do something that it is the function and duty of the State to perform. How well the State—with all its commissions of inquiry, blue-books, and acts of Parliament—performs that duty, the present condition of the Court of Bankruptcy will bear a melancholy witness.

The gross amount which the Court absorbs in salaries, compensations, &c., according to the Report of the Bankruptcy Commission, 1854, is shown by this Summary Account, paid out of the Court fees:—

Salaries	£59,759	15	9
Compensations	21,565	4	7
Retiring Annuities	2,900	0	0
Court and other expenses	4,366	4	0
Bank Remuneration	1,799	17	8
	£90,391	2	0

To this we have to add the diminution of the value of assets under a forced sale, or a very low valuation under which the bankrupt, by the assistance of his friends, frequently becomes again the possessor of his forfeited property. Then come the various charges that depend upon 'per-centage.' First stands the Official Assignee, who claims 8½ per cent.; then the Messenger, who takes 6 per cent.; then the Broker, who withdraws 5 per cent.; and finally the Trade Assignee and Sundries, absorb another 1½ per cent. Then another charge, arising out of the Court and its peculiar organization, is that of the Solicitor to the estate, who usually gets no less than 26 per cent. Then there are rent and taxes to be paid about 6½ per cent., and the bankrupt's allowance and wages, amounting to 4½ per cent., so that the balance remaining for the creditors by way of dividend after all these payments and a considerable lapse of time is about 33½ per cent. of the whole of the assets taken into, realized, and collected by the

Court! Is it to be wondered at that such a clumsy, expensive, and tardy piece of legal machinery should have thrown to it to be torn to pieces no more than about eight hundred small estates of unreturned value during the whole year?

Is it to be wondered at that bankruptcies, when likely to be profitable to the Court, are regarded as a godsend by the hungry officials; and when small and unpromising are sent away, if possible, or taken up with unconcealed signs of disgust?

Of course, no Court can be worked without a certain expense, and it is a question whether much of this expense—such as the salaries of the commissioners, 10,000*l.* per annum—should not, as in the case of the other law judges, be thrown upon the Consolidated Fund. The amount itself, wherever it may fall, is disgracefully out of proportion to the labour it procures. Close upon it comes an item for registrars of 5750*l.*, flanked by a chief registrar with 1200*l.* per annum, and supported by a staff of clerks who cost 1479*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* per annum. The ushers are put down at 830*l.*; a very moderate amount, when we look at the superfluous office of the accountant and his clerks, which inflicts an annual charge of 6710*l.* Then there is the taxing master and clerks at 1650*l.*, and all this for the dirty, insignificant Court in Basinghall-street. The country commissioners cost 21,600*l.*; the registrars, 9600*l.*; and the ushers, 940*l.* Amongst the compensations, are the late London commissioners, 1000*l.*; the Clerk of the Hanaper and other officers of the Lord Chancellor, 716*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*; and that wonderful office of Patentee of Bankrupts, which costs each year 7352*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*! The late country commissioners wind up this list with 12,495*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

Then there are retiring annuities, 2900*l.* per annum; Court and other expenses, rent of country courts, travelling, stationery, &c., 4366*l.* 4*s.*; and a sum to the Bank of England, paid each year as remuneration for keeping the banking account of the Court, 1799*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* These are some of the details of the expenses of this mercantile Court, which help to explain how it is that any trader who is not too greedy or imprudent to be unwilling or unable to offer five shillings—we say it again, exactly five shillings—in the pound may commit each and all of the crimes that are covered by the protecting shield of trade, and yet escape with impunity from a legal investigation.

THE ENGLISH VIEW OF THE FRENCH PLOT.

WE can readily understand why the French Emperor will never learn to tolerate the English principle of asylum. To him it is dangerous and offensive. It affords to the unappeasable enemies of his throne a ground on which they can safely plan their operations. This, perhaps, is an evil; but it is an evil inseparable from our laws and institutions. We should not only injure the exiles, but impair our own political basis by expelling such refugees as may be named in the requisition of the French Minister. Every man, alien or subject, within the British realm is entitled to his liberty until he commits an illegal act. In that case only one course is open to the authorities.—They must indict him and procure his conviction by a jury. Otherwise, he is independent of the Secretary of State, for, even if the Alien Act were brought into strict operation, it would only compel the exiles to register themselves and obtain certificates. These, however, they would be necessitated, under a penalty, to give up on quitting the country, so that foreign governments would, in that case, be thus far

informed of their movements. But such precautions would be practically of little value. Nor can the Emperor hope to root out the conspiracies radiating in the English soil. As a French ruler he can only apply for the extradition of Frenchmen, which would leave the Italian dagger in its Birmingham sheath; or does the communication to Lord CLARENDON include a demand that France may hereafter be empowered to nominate the refugees who are to enjoy British hospitality? The embarrassment is serious, but it is of LOUIS NAPOLEON's creating. Whatever may be said, the worst example is his own. He conspired, and by conspiring gained an empire. What lesson more seductive to the promoters of a republic? LOUIS NAPOLEON plotted in England, prepared his expedition in England, started from England, shot a harmless man at Boulogne, and, after endeavouring to subvert a Government founded on the national will, escaped to England for safety. Like his present enemies, he refused to abandon his idea. He became a conspirator, he discharged a shower of grape-shot in Paris; the prototype of PIERI and ORSINI, he slew and wounded many with whom he had no cause of quarrel, and his splendid triumph is, we repeat, a perpetual temptation to conspirators. All declamation on this subject is unnecessary. The facts are known to the world. LOUIS NAPOLEON's Government arose out of a successful plot; it may be the best Government on the earth, but the record of the plot is indelible.

This victorious conspiracy, then, naturally desires to suppress all other conspiracies, finds the task difficult, and is therefore irritated. The irritation is excusable. The French people, in a large degree, have accepted the Empire. It gives them that which they desire—quietude and material prosperity. Unhappily, however, the men of thought and intelligence are universally in opposition; and while this state of things is permitted to exist, the semblance of content will cover a secret agitation, finding occasional vent in a fulmination of grey gunpowder. For the moment, the incident of the Rue Lepelletier may be left out of sight. It was Italian in its origin and character, although the French Emperor selects it as an excuse for fresh measures to bridle the nation of France.

We wish to interpret the purely English view of this matter. In Great Britain the principle of assassination is detested. We have not even a CANTILLON on our pension list. The attempt to blow LOUIS NAPOLEON and the Empress out of their carriage is regarded as an act of reckless brutality, and all classes rejoice not only that the consummation of such a crime was prevented, but that France was saved from the transient period of anarchy rendered inevitable by the principles of the Empire. But there are two points in connexion with this affair on which the English people do not concur with LOUIS NAPOLEON. They will not surrender the character of their country as one in which every man not a criminal is free; and they remark with anxiety the departure of the French Government from its habitual tone of reticence and moderation. It is not for the first time that we witness the brandishing of a menace against Belgium; we have already heard of remonstrances concerning our privilege of asylum; but it is something new to be told that after six years of Imperialism, public opinion in France is formidable, and must therefore be gagged. The Empire unconsciously compares itself with the dyke of Haarlem; a tepid protest trickles through the columns of two opposition journals; but that may become a flood, according to M. BILLAULT, and not a moment must be lost in

choking the *Revue de Paris* and the *Spectateur*. The Liberty that crowns the edifice is M. BILLAULT, it seems.

These events have unsettled the English opinion of the French Empire. It needed nothing to remind us that a taste of Italian chocolate, a pistol-shot, the invention of a FIESCHI, a dagger-stroke, a sudden malady, or an accidental fall from a horse might, at any unforeseen moment, compel France to revert to the doubts and perplexities of 1851. But it had been imagined by many persons that, so long as his individual safety was ensured against assassins, LOUIS NAPOLEON felt no apprehensions as to the political condition of France. Now, however, it is admitted that the Empire is not sufficiently powerful to reign in the presence of even the most moderate opposition. The Minister of the Interior applies the whole apparatus of his department to suppress a republican insinuation, and the Empire avows itself incapable of contending, except by physical force, with a royalist sneer. At this spectacle English public opinion has become uneasy, and, for the first time, the bewildered devotees of success have asked how, supposing an *eventuality*, they might maintain their credit with the French as a nation. Surely, had ORSINI'S missiles struck down the Empire, the alliance would not have been at an end. But we have always said that, to secure the cordial amity of France, it is necessary to do more than flatter the tenant of a temporary throne. If we would enter into a political partnership with a brave and cultured race, let us extend to them our highest sympathies, or refrain, at least, from the insolence of declaring ourselves the only people on earth deserving of liberty, or capable of self-respect.

HAVE WE A RESIDENT MINISTER AT WASHINGTON?

It is some time since we noticed with satisfaction the appointment of Sir WILLIAM GORE OUSELEY on a special mission to Central America. Great expectations, indeed, were created in the United States and, by reflection, in this country, when the mission was announced. It was supposed that Sir WILLIAM OUSELEY was peculiarly fitted to negotiate the unsettled questions, especially those between this country and the United States. He combined with the qualities that conciliate a high English spirit which would render him the last man in the world to surrender the rights of his country, while, at the same time, there were particular reasons for believing that he would be able to unravel the entanglements of Anglo-American diplomacy.

Amongst other circumstances favourable to such an expectation was the fact of his being married to an American lady. No surprise was excited when he took Washington on his way to Central America, for, although it is out of the route geographically, it seemed quite in the right path diplomatically. That he should call to confer with Mr. BUCHANAN and Lord NAPIER was the most natural circumstance possible. But Sir WILLIAM OUSELEY has remained so long in Washington that he may be said to have taken up his residence there; and our letters from that quarter express some surprise at the unexplained delay. What can keep him so long? His destination was understood to be Central America, not Washington. Is he accredited to the capital of the United States? It looks like it; and yet the supposition is almost unintelligible.

If he is, what can be his mission? Already we have a Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington—one of the ablest men in our diplomatic service; one of the most high-minded

whom we have sent on important missions; one of the most popular with the Americans. People are beginning to ask whether Lord NAPIER is being *superseded*; and the Americans imagine that they can discern in his countenance an appearance of displeasure. Indeed, he is known to have publicly expressed his disapproval, phrasing his regret at the rejection of the terms which he had arranged with the United States Government in a manner which implies censure upon his own Government. In truth, the situation has become not a little complicated.

If Lord NAPIER has been superseded, *de facto*, though not in form, the act is the more remarkable on the part of our Government, since he was decidedly succeeding in his progress to a settlement of the differences between the two countries. Why cut him short before he had accomplished a work which was prospering so well in his hands?

WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IN CHINA.

FOR once, we have a war upon our hands which may be directed to a distinct and useful purpose. It would be superfluous to reopen the question of its justice and necessity, that point having been decided constitutionally on the hustings and in Parliament. We may assume that the Government has done well in directing an expedition against Canton, to be followed up, probably, by further operations along the coast and in the interior. We may also take it for granted that these demonstrations will be successful, although it is to be hoped that our commanders will not despise the superiority in warlike arts acquired by the Chinese since the date of the last attack upon Canton. The reduction of that city may not be very difficult, but to hold it would require a large force, while to advance upon Peking would be to fight our way through a Holland of streams, canals, and embankments—a country of *canaux, canards, et canaille*. Reserving these military considerations, however, we would point to the duty imposed on Lord PALMERSTON of rendering this Chinese war of real benefit to the commerce of the community and also to that of China itself; for in this instance our success might be the means of conferring a great and permanent blessing upon the race against whose Government we have appealed to arms. Hitherto the British trade with China has been restricted to within not more than one-third of that which might be established by enterprise, under a fair system of tariff, and with free communications inland. We have, then, not only to secure ingress at the ports, but to break through the mountain barrier which shuts off from the sea the principal portions of that immense and prolific area. From one point on the coast, indicated by the port of Shanghai, a vast water-way penetrates the interior, and sweeps through one province after another for nearly a thousand miles, and on that Oriental Mississippi our mercantile flag is unknown. Moreover, the Grand Canal and the minor rivers communicating with the western and northern divisions of the empire, are closed against the direct traffic of Europe, as well as all the other river inlets. If we are to employ an expensive squadron and a large land force in obtaining 'redress,' it is not extravagant, we think, to insist that our merchants and manufacturers shall be placed in a more advantageous position, in relation to China, after the war than before it. It may be true that they have not hitherto worked the Chinese market even to its available extent, and that they have neglected to compete with China upon her own territory by adapting their exports to the tastes, wants, and means of the community; yet, if we are in the presence of a jealous restrictive system, guarded by double and treble tariffs, some of which are levied at the seaports, and others in the interior, we surely need not seek beyond this fact for at least one powerful reason explanatory of the limited commercial intercourse between Great Britain and China.

What does China export? There are seventy items on her tariff list—tea, silk, tobacco, drugs, dyes, spices, glass, hardware, ivory, and fanciful manufactures. Her import tariff specifies eighty-seven items. Of the exports, only two—building

materials and coins of all kinds—are free of duty; of the imports there are three—coin and precious metals, and grain of all descriptions, including rice. It will be observed how these exceptions are likely to act in a country producing so much grain and so greedy of gold and silver. It should be explained, perhaps, that the Chinese standard of value is represented by the tael of ten mace, of ten cordonin, of ten cash, of ten chow, or six shillings English, the duties being paid in Sycee silver, and such foreign coins as are alloyed being reduced to pure silver. Thus three shillings import duty are levied on every piece of fine Irish or Scotch linen, and upon other qualities, as well as those mixed with silk or cotton, five per cent. *ad valorem*, the value being calculated upon the highest price offered by one out of two or three merchants in Canton, Shanghai, Foochow, and Ningpo, the only ports, it will be remembered, which are open under treaty rights to European commerce. Upon woollen blankets the Chinese Custom House levies six shillings each, on narrow bunting rather more than a penny a yard, on camlet holland tenpence per measure of a hundred and forty-one English inches, on sail-cloth three shillings per piece of from thirty to forty yards. The export duties are not exorbitant. The following are examples:—On a hundred and thirty-three pounds' weight of tea, fifteen shillings; on the same quantity of tobacco, one shilling and twopence; vermilion, eighteen shillings; white lead, one shilling and sixpence; camphor, nine shillings; oil of cinnamon, thirty shillings; ivory manufactures, thirty shillings; linen and canvas, six shillings. Upon the same weight of gold and silver manufactures, rough silk of every quality, organzine of every kind, ribbons, thread, and manufactured tortoiseshell, the export duty is sixty shillings, while that on piece goods, satin, velvet, and crape, is as much as seventy-two shillings.

Now, the trade of the West has to struggle with complicated difficulties in China, while that of Russia is taking possession of her inland markets. We may therefore inquire at this point what effect has been produced upon our commerce by the gradual and steady *rapprochement* of the Russian and Chinese Governments. Russia is not admitted, it is true, to the five ports opened by the treaty of 1842 to the Western powers, and her proposal of participation was rejected, four years ago, on the ground that she already enjoyed a *monopoly of the inland commerce* through Kiachta. But the Court of St. Petersburg, having determined to obtain a maritime influence in that quarter of the world, does not desist from its efforts, but establishes a naval force near Canton, and continues, from the Amoor, to introduce its influence into Corea. Great Britain has no right to be jealous of these proceedings or to oppose them; but we may fairly claim from our Government that, while rival nations assiduously foster the interests of their commercial classes, nothing shall be neglected which may enlarge the market for our own commodities. No doubt the Russians have to contend, on their land route, against obstacles created by the climate; but how many English readers are aware that, in less than forty days, an order transmitted from the Emperor's Cabinet at St. Petersburg may be acted upon by an admiral in Castrics Bay, and at the mouth of the Amoor? Travelling in immense caravans the deserts of Chamso and the southern provinces of the empire, Russian piece-goods have driven all others out of the prodigious markets of Kiang-Si and Che-Kiang. Fifteen years ago the commerce transacted at Kiachta between the two empires was estimated at a hundred and five millions of francs. So that, while the Chinese Government looks through a grating upon the trade of the West, it opens its land frontier to the ponderous traffic of the North.

We do not complain so much of the Five-Ports' tariff, if it were systematically and equitably levied, nor can we, perhaps, insist that the Emperor shall abandon the local inland dues of the empire, although some modification in this respect seem desirable. But it is surely time to break through the exclusive system of China, and demand free and safe ingress to the interior. The Chinese may build junks and send them up the Thames to London; British commerce claims similar rights in China, and we do not think any national purpose will be served by the operations now in view unless something approaching a reciprocity of this kind be established. It is in no way our fault that the Chinese are not a nation addicted to maritime enterprise; but it is the fault of their Government that English goods are not exposed for sale in all their markets.

CROMWELL AND CHARLES STUART.

TORYISM deserts its trenches even before its adversaries open their first parallels. The QUEEN gives up praying Heaven to avert from England the guilt of the blood shed at Whitehall even before the general public take any hostile notice of the old service for the 30th of January. A Drawing-room is to be held on the anniversary of the day when CHARLES I. was put to death, and there is to be merry-making instead of mourning in the Palace of St. James's. How effectually that veteran radical, old Time, saps the ancient prejudices of the Conservatives! Trace the change from the days of the Restoration, when the body of England's greatest and most real sovereign was hanged in chains, to the day when the second son of 'the martyr' was driven from his palace. Trace events a little further, and we have the grandson of the martyr set aside by Parliament in looking out for a new line of kings. We have his great grandson (once the Young Pretender) dying at Rome, a childless, neglected old man, with our lion and unicorn glittering over his bed; and 'last scene of all,' Cardinal YORK (legitimate HENRY IX. of England), obliged to leave Italy when invaded by BONAPARTE, and afterwards pensioned by his royal cousin GEORGE III. So end the descendants of CHARLES THE MARTYR. On the other hand, our young men were taught in school-books that CROMWELL was a bloodthirsty usurper, and that CHARLES, with some errors, was a saint. CARLYLE disturbed that creed by his 'elucidations' of CROMWELL's speeches; but still the Protector was refused a statue. How oddly we treat our history! we make a compromise of extremes: the two great adversaries are alike insulted: we refuse the Republican a statue, and we dance upon the grave of the King. Remembering the old tie between Church and King, and how CHARLES shed torrents of blood to force Bishops on Scotland, it is, perhaps, the greatest change of all to find the Bishop of LONDON at an Indian meeting last week, praising the old Puritan soldiery of CROMWELL, simply adding, that he would 'say nothing either way as to their politics.' A Bishop will 'say nothing' as to the policy of cutting off a king's head. Truly, 'the whirligig of Time brings about its revenges.'

It is worth while to note that the *Times* is wrong in speaking of Queen VICTORIA as a representative of the family of CHARLES I. She belongs to a rival branch of the family. No blood of the decapitated king is in her veins; she is descended from his sister. The Orleanists might as logically mourn the Revolution of 1830 as Queen VICTORIA the fall of that branch of the STUART family whose successive crimes caused the change of succession to the other branch, of which she is the direct descendant.

THE SPANISH DANCERS.

EUROPE evidently misunderstands Spain. Some politicians disregard her because she will not play even the tenth fiddle in the European concert—others appear to study the web of Madrid politics with the perseverance of ROBERT BRUCE's spider. In truth, both are wrong. We should hand over Spanish affairs to our theatrical critic, and were it not that the noted Spanish dancer is an unexceptionably 'proper' lady, we should suggest *Pereza Nena on a Throne* as an interlude on that European stage where LOUIS NAPOLEON does leading tragedy, FERDINAND of Naples the melodramatic 'villain,' and LEOPOLD of Belgium the heavy father. We should name our own Court for genteel sentimental comedy, only that there is a real happy family life behind the curtain, and the only theatrical point is 'no money returned.'

The most recent scene in the Spanish drama teaches us that there is a Cortes. Our study of Spain has been so occasional—we had heard so much of 'the favourite,' and of unexpected turns in the chances of winning, that we had hastily imagined the Palace a kind of Spanish Derby. We were mistaken; the ministry of Admiral ARMERO has resigned, because defeated in the election of Speaker. Why, this is like England—Lord JOHN himself could not do the thing better. The 'aside' part of the play is, however, the best. The Queen herself had supported the defeated candidate; she gave ARMERO a decree to dissolve the Cortes, and then, worked on during the night by some of the Absolutist party, she recoiled the decree, and accepted ARMERO's resignation. The successful candidate in the Cortes is BRAVO MURILLO, and the leader of the successful section is SARTORIUS, the minister who, in 1854, escaped in disguise from a

revolution he had most wantonly provoked. What will the Vicalvarist generals who overthrew this man four years ago say now to his return? What ESPARTERO, who at the head of the national party seconded the mutineers, will say, is not of much importance. True, he is honest, but the only honest man in Spain is he whose good faith puts all the rest to shame, as the only great Spanish book is that which ridicules all the rest. When the late Minister was retiring, he denounced to his face the King (titular Consort) as the head of the Absolutist intrigues. These intrigues are the one check on the Queen's wish to reign without a Cortes. If Spain tolerates or upholds a despotism, the logic of facts and of family right is with her cousin MONTEMOLIN, and ISABELLA, the facile and devout, has no wish to take a pension in exchange for her Palace. That people may see some difference between her and the other Pretender, she keeps a Cortes in Madrid—but she may find that she is playing with edged tools. The Carlist party is cunning and unscrupulous, and, with its aides in the Palace, can afford to wait and watch occasion. Opposed to the Princess of the Asturias, the Legitimist Infant of Spain has a new emphasis in his title.

What quaint jokes, like bits out of *Tristram Shandy*, one finds in the *Court Circular* of Madrid! The little girl called a Princess gets a name derived from the Immaculate Conception, and by a curiously illogical process, her birth is the occasion of a decree giving donations to all 'legitimate' children born on the same day. Cross the Atlantic to see the very black joke of slaves landed in Cuba by the bribed concurrence of Spanish Governors. We send Dr. LIVINGSTONE to the interior of Africa to persuade the inner tribes and kings to give up slave-dealing—why not send him to the capital of that 'advanced part of Africa' north of the Mediterranean? Is not the unfortunate Spaniard a man and a brother? It is wrong to judge of the people by the thick-lipped, low-browed ISABELLA. Is not the capacity of the race proved by PEREA NENA? And if Spanish soldiers and generals now-a-days are nothing better than policemen skulking down the Palace areas, must we not try to remember the middle ages, when the Spanish infantry was a power in Europe? But this would lead us too far: and a society for missionaries to Madrid savours too much, perhaps, of the profitless enthusiasm of Exeter Hall.

FRUGAL MARRIAGES.

No sooner does any public meeting upon the greatest of our social evils initiate a discussion upon the best means of checking or exterminating what is erroneously called the vice of great cities (for the country in this respect is not pure), than a hundred letter-writers are sure to spring up under various signatures in the newspapers, advocating the subject of frugal marriages. The very phrase involves a contradiction in terms, for marriages are in the abstract luxuries of existence, and the quality of absolute frugality cannot be logically conceded to them. Marriages may be relatively frugal, that is to say, one marriage may be more prudent and economically arranged than another, depending upon the standard of living existing in the mind of the persons interested; but it proves very little in the cause of hymeneal propagandism for each individual to parade his standard before the eyes of the world, saying, "See what I have done, or can do, and cannot you do likewise?" The standard of a clerk—even in 'one of the first houses of business in the City'—is not, and can never be, the standard of the younger son of a nobleman; and if comparisons are invited, the clerk will be outdone in marriage upon small means by the porter in the same establishment, who will again yield to the Whitechapel bird-catcher, who will in his turn give way to the Dorsetshire labourer, who must yield the palm to the peasant of Connemara, the discoverer and practiser of the lowest standard of all.

Perhaps the letter in the *Times* of the 15th inst., signed 'Another Happy Man,' has excited the most attention, because of the details which the writer enters into, showing how he, his wife, and infant child, and two servants, contrive to live upon 220l. 6s. per annum. The first item, 'baker,' gives them about two pounds of bread per day, which, for five persons, scarcely seems sufficient. The 'butcher and fishmonger' are very moderate—about nine shillings per week—and their household seems to consume nearly the same value in beer during the year as it does in bread. The cheesemonger's account will seemingly allow about one half-pound of butter per week, which, for five persons, is economy of the most stringent kind. The greengrocer's

account nearly balances the baker's, which rather goes to show a vegetarian tendency. The grocer's allowance can give no puddings, and only weak tea, and little of that. Passing over the other items, such as coals, rent, taxes, &c. &c., we come to another class of expenses. Washing is put down at the very moderate figure of 3l. 7s. 2d. per annum, or about twopence per day, which may be accounted for, in some measure, by the fact that they live in the country, a few miles down on a line of railway. Bearing this in mind, it is rather difficult to reconcile so much household economy with the very liberal, not to say extravagant, amount (in comparison) allowed for dress. Carrying out our friend's standard of living rigidly in all its ramifications, we should say that forty pounds a year is too much to allow for the dress of himself, wife, and infant child. We hope the mother is not allowed to revel in crinoline, and the child in purple velvet mantles up that cheerful, clayey country lane which always leads to your villa from a railway station. Such elegances would certainly be thrown away in such a neighbourhood, if they did not have a revolutionary effect upon the two servants, liberally supplied with greens, but pining each upon a one-fifth share each week in half a pound of butter, and a one-fifth share each day in two pounds of bread. The twenty pounds a year allowed for 'church and charity' rather indicate a desire to make a sensation without, by a pinching economy within.

So much for 'Another Happy Man,' and a dozen writers might come forward, each with his little personal narrative, in the same way, and leave the great question exactly where he found it. There is no doubt that much of the vice and misery that exist at the present day is the result of a weak desire for display—a morbid passion for outdoing your neighbour in all the showy externals of ornamental respectability. 'Another Happy Man,' by his own showing, does not seem to be entirely free from this feeling, for a rigid economist might point out a field for no inconsiderable annual saving, even in his carefully regulated expenditure. Persons who are incapable of acting upon the salutary principle of self-restraint, are not likely to be better members of society when married than when single. Unfortunately for those who advocate marriage as the only cure for the 'social evil,' those who know anything of casinos, night-houses, supper-rooms, wine-shops, and the top of the Haymarket, know that married men form no inconsiderable proportion of the permanent patrons of such places. And even in the records of private vice, with which the public may be regaled in a newspaper that contains in the same columns an advertisement of indecent photographs and an account of a DUGDALE prosecution, it is not always the single man and the single woman who figure as the hero and heroine, but more frequently those who, according to no mean authority, are supposed to have given hostages to society for their good behaviour.

With three hundred thousand paupers, depending at the present time upon the slender charity of our parochial system, it cannot be asserted that marriages have not been plentiful enough of late. Before Sir BENJAMIN BRODIE made that notable speech at the late Birmingham 'Social Science' meeting, it would have been well if he had pondered over this alarming fact, and not given utterance to the opinion that it was the duty of all persons to get married at the youngest possible age, and without the slightest inquietude as to their means of support. Such an opinion coming from a younger professional man would have seemed to savour of the selfish hungering after the profits of the 'night-bell,' rather than of a desire to benefit his fellow-creatures. The unpaid vice of the country and the paid vice of the town, are not to be overthrown by such platform palliatives—nor, we fear, even by a leaf from the Housekeeper's Book of a mercantile clerk, exhibiting a minimum of washing, and a maximum of 'Church and Charity.'

REVIVAL OF THE SLAVE TRADE.—The committee of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce appointed 'to consider the French plans of obtaining colonial labourers from Africa,' have presented a report to the Council, in which they show how the people of England have been frustrated in the hope of putting an end to the traffic in human beings, condemned by the Congresses of Vienna and Verona, by special treaties with France herself, and with most of the African chiefs on the slave coast, and to put down which we have armed our cruisers and expended vast treasures both of life and money. They refer more especially to the design on the part of the French Government to introduce African labourers into her colonies, and to the resumption of the slave-trade at Lagos.

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 new number of the *Edinburgh Review* has a good article on 'Tom Brown's Schooldays.' While doing full justice to its great and peculiar merits as a picture of life, the writer points out its serious imperfections as a manual of doctrine. These defects have been too much overlooked in the general, and for the most part just, praise bestowed on the 'Old Boy's' delightful story. As, however, the book is not simply a novel of the season, but the manifesto of a school, and is largely recommended and read for the sake of the moral as well as the story, it is the more important that its short-comings should be signalized. The main faults of the book are a misrepresentation of Dr. ARNOLD's character as a teacher, and an extravagant admiration of his system. This must be the result of looking at the master and his work through the distorting medium of class sympathies, as we possess the most ample materials for forming a truthful and impartial estimate of both. Dr. ARNOLD is represented by 'An Old Boy,' if not directly, at all events by implication, as a simple, massive character, fond of athletic exercises, and full of impulsive energy and unconscious strength; while in reality he was one of the most intensely conscious, scrupulous, delicate-minded, and excitable of men. Then with regard to his system at Rugby, there is no doubt that he directly raised the tone and amended the discipline of the school, and indirectly improved, in the direction where it most needed improvement, the public-school teaching of the country. But his noble virtues were crossed by striking defects of character, and these defects were of a kind that peculiarly unfitted him for giving boys a strong and healthy training at the most critical period of their lives. Take for example his total want of humour, and the undue importance he habitually attached to trifles, noted in the following passage:—

The great standing charge which Dr. Arnold brought against public school boys was the want of what he delighted to call 'moral thoughtfulness'; a phrase, which to those who remember its employment at the universities by the solemn array of Rugby præpostors, is associated with a most ludicrous recollection of old heads set upon young shoulders, and completely puzzled by their position. Such, however, was far from being Dr. Arnold's estimate of this cardinal virtue. To make his boys morally thoughtful was for him the substance of the law and the prophets. The total want of humour which characterized him prevented him from seeing that much of what he considered 'awful wickedness,' was mere fun, and that it was far less desirable than possible to turn boys into men before their time. It seems to have been his serious wish to bring boys to see a duty in every act of their lives, and to imitate his own habit of referring the most trifling matters to the most awful principles. There is a class of persons on whom it is extremely easy to produce this result. An imaginative, sensitive boy of sixteen is more open to these than to almost any other impressions. When Dr. Arnold was himself of that age he was at college, amongst grown-up men, and he did not therefore know how boys at that time of life naturally feel upon such subjects. It is an age when sensibilities of all sorts want the bridle as more than the spur; for a lad is then first distinctly conscious of the degree in which his capacities will soon exceed the limits of the position in which he finds himself. Like a young horse who has no load and no rider, he begins, from mere wantonness, to rear, to kick, and to think that the stout cobs who carry middle-aged gentlemen, and the sleek horses who draw prosaic carriages so quietly along the smooth roads, do not show in their daily labour half so much strength or resource as he does when he flings out his heels or rolls on the grass. If a touch of melancholy (as is so often the case) mingles with this stirring of the blood, it often takes the form of impatience at the puerility of school life. The lad wishes to make grand speeches in Parliament, to lead the storming party up a breach, to write poems which shall throw Shakspeare into the shade, to invent machines which shall supersede railroads and steamships. When a youth of this stamp hears from such a man as Arnold the sort of half truths which he communicated to his sixth form boys, he receives them as the very fulfilment of his dreams. He is told that the moral welfare here and hereafter of some four hundred boys depends, in a great degree, on his exertions. His master, the object of his idolatry, delegates to him the combined authority of the priest and the prophet. If there is evil in the house he is to hate it, to preach to it, and finally, to take a cane and thrash it in the name of the Lord—an exercise which gratifies the old Adam, while it gives a grim satisfaction to the new. All the objects and incidents around him acquire a sort of new signification, and satisfy at once his love for theory, and his dread of seeing his theory confuted by facts. He never ties his shoes without asserting a principle; when he puts on his hat he 'sounds himself' on an eternal truth. How can *arma virumque* be trivial; how can football be puerile; how can it be a vulgar incident to lick your sag for not toasting your sausages, when every motion of the tongue, hand, or foot involves the idea of the *πολις*, and asserts the identity of the Christian Church with the Christian State? Conversely, who can be so hardy as to deny the truth of the theory in the face of the fact? Sceptics and quibblers can never disconnect the civil and religious functions of life, whilst members of parliament swear on the true faith of a Christian, and the præpostors of Rugby brandish their canes and cry silence.

It is curious to see how even now the 'Old Boy' is under the charm. In any one but a Rugboean the importance which he attaches to the merest trifles would be quite unintelligible. He finds as many morals in a boxing match as Mr. Ruskin does in the twist of a gargoyle's tail, or the shape of a wallflower's root. It asserts the great truth, that life is all a battle, that it is our great business to fight, and so forth; in short, it is one of a hundred excuses for taking up the cry—In the name of the prophet, Figs. 'Floreat pugilatus' by all means, but leave the gloves to depend on their natural charms, and far be the day when these will not be enough to teach English boys the final cause of their fists.

Again, of the injurious tendency of such minute and morbid morality, he says:—

In practice it is impossible and undesirable not to look upon a very large proportion of human actions as indifferent. Men have only a limited amount of time and strength at their disposal. 'Life,' it has been nobly said, 'is not long enough for scruples.' We ought to direct our view to the weightier matters of the law, and leave the mint and cummin to take care of themselves. An ingenious person may make his acceptance or refusal of an invitation depend upon his view of the source of moral obligation, but he had much better not, for he will either solve his problem wrongly after all, or else he will waste upon it far more time than it is worth. The

temptation to act thus is particularly strong upon boys and unmarried women. They have nothing to do which is at once important and open to doubt. That a boy at school ought to learn his lesson, that a grown-up daughter ought to nurse her mother if she is ill, or teach her little brothers to read, or at any rate to dress as well as she can, and play on the piano, are self-evident truths, and therefore there is no conscientious effort to be good, no assertion of a cherished principle in acting accordingly; and thus the craving after the exercise of an important discretion has to satisfy itself on trifles. Nothing is easier than to get up mock important business by linking small results to great principles. A præpostor's cane, which is a penny cane and nothing more, may hit or miss, as it happens. Turn it into the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, and you may well argue for an hour about unsheathing it. Such practices are very unwholesome. They not only stimulate a diseased consciousness, but they are pretty sure to deaden the feelings of a hard nature, and to upset the balance of a soft one.

A full and eloquent sketch of the life and labours of BOSSUET, and a brief but instructive account of a most curious and unknown subject—'The Hawkers' Literature of France,' are the remaining literary articles of interest in the number.

The current number of the *Quarterly Review* is solid and instructive, but dull and difficult to read. The elaborate description of 'Woolwich Arsenal and its Manufacturing Establishment,' and of the 'Difficulties of Railway Engineering,' though interesting to the scientific, will most probably be passed over by the general reader. They are, however, about the best papers in the number. 'The Historic Peerage' may attract those who are fond of the noble science of heraldry, and have a passion for blue blood, but few besides will peruse faithfully to the end such a bewildering catalogue of noble names. The 'Sense of Pain in Man and Animals' is a diffuse and imperfect account of a most interesting subject. It is marked, too, by a weak and morbid, almost maudlin tone, that is singularly out of harmony with the character and usual spirit of the *Quarterly*, the time-bound champion and representative of English sports and country life. "The sports of the field," says the sensitive writer, "come distinctly under the denomination of cruelty when the creatures are neither destroyed because they are themselves destructive, nor because they are required for food." He is still more intolerant of the 'gentle craft.' "Whatever may be argued in favour of shooting," he indignantly adds, "angling with a worm, or any species of live bait, is absolute atrocity."

The two chief literary articles of the *British Quarterly* are 'John Gower and his Works,' and 'De Foe.' The former is a good account of a poet whose writings hold an important position in English Literature, and had a decided influence in the development of the language, but which are, and will remain to all but students, unknown. The writer says little of GOWER's language, a most important subject in the discussion of his works. The number contains a very readable scientific paper 'On Meteoric Stars and Comets.'

The *London Quarterly*, in an article on 'Homer and his Translators,' gives far higher praise to Professor NEWMAN's recent attempt to render the sounding hexameters of the 'old man eloquent' into unrhymed English verse, or rather into unrhythmical English lines, than we should be disposed to endorse. Professor NEWMAN, with a fine sense of the niceties of language, has no ear for music, at least, for the music of English verse, and is therefore unfitted for the task he has attempted. The 'Waldenses,' and 'Religion in Germany,' are interesting articles, the latter giving some personal reminiscences of the recent Conference of the Evangelical Alliance at Berlin.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ART.

The Political Economy of Art. By John Ruskin, M.A. Smith, Elder, and Co. MR. RUSKIN is not a master of Political Economy, regarded strictly as a science. He has read none of its text-books except that of Adam Smith, twenty years ago. This he explains in his preface, so that he stands clear from any charge of arrogant controversy. His views are his own, worked out apart from those of former writers. Therefore this book, incorporating the substance of two lectures delivered at Manchester, is so far empirical, in that it is the essay of an artist on a subject which he has deeply meditated without following its history, or seeking to evolve from known theories and disquisitions a new set of hypotheses. Mr. Ruskin does not here affect to be original; he states his opinions whether or not they resemble those of men who have gone before him. The three treatises are suggestive, not canonical. Against a part of the doctrine announced the most fearless thinkers will protest; by the least candid, many of the points most emphatically urged must be accepted. Mr. Ruskin, it is true, leaps into his argument, after balancing himself upon a paradox; but, with keen and forcible rhetoric, he has dignified the truth of the merest truism, and demonstrated, so that no reader can misunderstand it, the personal and essential interest which every individual in the commonwealth has in the study of political economy. We said he opened with a paradox—this is, that poverty is contemptible. He does not mean the poverty which the wise and good have honoured, but he seems to mean it, and his preamble is, therefore, a surprise. Perhaps it fascinated the attention of a Manchester audience, among whom Diogenes never had a reputation for virtue; but Mr. Ruskin is right, if we consider what it is he despises as poverty, and what he venerates as wealth. With less felicity he explains away, in supplementary paragraphs, his praise of the patriarchal principle. The idea propounded is one which was never more loudly enforced, and never more unlikely to become popular than at the present day. Society throughout the world is seeking its release under an exactly opposite law. However, Mr. Ruskin does not linger among abstract dialectics; he ramifies speedily into detail and illustration, and through these passages of practical philosophy we have followed him with scarcely mingled pleasure. At times, his didactics have a tone so peremptory that they would appear to rebuke the very doubts they suggest, and yet it may be denied by political economists not less devoted to the welfare of art and society than

Mr. Ruskin, that the glass-cutters' trade should be abolished, in order that all glass ware may be moulded, so as to economize human labour. Upon the same principle, he would destroy the lapidary's art, seeing that diamonds and rubies, the hardest substances in nature, are cut 'into shapes that mean nothing,' while sandstone and freestone may be chiselled 'into shapes that mean something.' Possibly the Italians have wasted much genius upon mosaic pictures; but are we to narrow the energies of art within a circle occupied alone by the sculptor, the architect, and the painter? We shall then cut off a hundred fruitful branches, and the results will not be, perhaps, more abundant or so immortal. Mr. Ruskin despises the jeweller and exalts the goldsmith; but we are not inclined to controvert him when he enters a protest so wholesome against the practice, adopted in so many households, of melting down every salver, cup, and spoon, once in every generation, to keep pace with the fashion. There will never be a true goldsmith's art in the country while this barbarism remains in vogue. No artist will dream over designs for an urn that will go to the melting-pot in a few years, or at the next wedding in its possessor's family. He will content himself, as Mr. Ruskin suggests, with distorting the model of a flower into a handle, and burnishing a griffin's grimace into a corner ornament. We have among us no Francia, no Ghirlandajo, no Verocchio, no Ghiberto, and partly for the reason stated. The manufacture of plate is the work of artisans. It is mere manipulation from printed designs. But Mr. Ruskin directs himself to topics even more familiar. His argument on fashionable dress will be read and admired, and will not influence the habits of the reader. The beauty of fashion is too powerful to be overcome by a lecture, although the lecturer is Mr. Ruskin. The silken circle is not to be penetrated; every founce is a fortress, every flower in the hair an amulet, and a cloud of lace, catching all the reproaches of political economy, refracts and distorts them into sympathetic sophisms. Mr. Ruskin has a solemn and touching page on this matter, and asks a young girl to remember that a spot of blood may be upon her white raiment, and the grass of graves in the garland on her head; but he will not persuade her. However, that is no reason why he should fail to preach. Compare his picture of Verona, jeweltinted and glowing, with the common-sense politics taught to the majority, and the truth will be apparent that, having disdained the study of the economists, Mr. Ruskin is ignorant of the laws that govern the minds of his contemporaries. Still his has been a noble and will not be an unprofitable work, and this book, daring and empirical as it is, glances keenly at principles, of which some are among the articles of ancient codes, while others are evolving slowly to the light.

A YEAR IN BENGAL.

The Timely Retreat; or, a Year in Bengal before the Mutinies. By Two Sisters. 2 vols. Bentley.

Of the two sisters who passed a year in Bengal, one, to all appearance, is responsible for this narration, and it is impossible to read five pages from her pen without discovering the presence of a spirited lady, naturally and habitually a satirist, to whom Anglo-Indians will not be grateful for her report upon their every-day manners. Her book contains no new information on India; to have attempted didacticism, indeed, would have been bold on the part of Rosalind or Madeline, who, during their twelvemonth's stay, danced with light dragoons, cantered about Meerut or Mussooree, and planned picnics in the jungle, but saw little of the natives except as servants, and only qualified themselves to gossip about the English in India. The volumes, therefore, must be described as presenting a series of dashing sketches, often frivolous but also often characteristic, of life among the civilian and military classes of Europeans in Bengal and the North-West; and although a suspicion may arise that the sparkling flow of the lady's reminiscence is somewhat shallow, her diary may be commended as lively, entertaining, and not un-suggestive. Her testimony is freely given, and we can hardly suspect her of doing injustice to herself, however careful she may be to record the levities of her friends. Miss Madeline and Miss Rosalind Wallace Dunlop belong, by birth, to Anglo-Indian society; they have grown up, in England, among Hindoo bronzes, preserved snakes, and japan, and it was not surprising that, upon emerging from the tenderness of girlhood, they should think of 'running out to take a peep at Keith and the country,' Keith being an official brother at a North-West station. Consequently, as we admiringly learn, they procured in Paris 'an outfit of unparalleled elegance,' and made themselves ready to laugh at all persons and things from one winter to another. With a hundred and six dresses in convoy, they embarked for Madras, and after ridiculing not a few of the passengers in their note-books and portfolios, reached Madras in an amiable frame of mind. Through the cool darkness of the early Indian spring, they passed up marble steps, between marble columns, and rows of the swarthy white-robed figures that first signalize Hindostan to a European eye; but an abrupt transition brings Calcutta upon the scene, and the lady artists are delighted with its palatial beauty, by the gentlemen on 'splendid Arabs,' languid ladies with 'the newest possible Paris bonnets on,' pretty pale children 'in fairy equipages,' graceful girls in 'the hats you saw a month or two ago in Rotten Row.' The account of Calcutta manners and 'jargon,' though exaggerated, is amusing, as well as the unmerciful caricature of the griffs, written, it must be remembered, by two young travellers whose griffinage had scarcely begun. But the self-complacency of Madeline and Rosalind becomes intrusive when, after referring to the pistols they carried, and the doubts expressed by Calcutta gentlemen of their return to England within their allotted holiday, they assure us that those sceptics 'little knew the iron wills of the people they were speaking to.'

Fairly started towards the North-West, the sisters describe the arrangements on the Grand Trunk Road, which appear to be more complete than on many similar lines of highway in Europe. What we are told of the country amounts to a yawn over 'the long tracts of white dust,' and Allahabad, Benares, and Cawnpore slit across the page with far more rapidity than the common places. We know not that we have reached Cawnpore until we are leaving it, so that we must warn the reader not to be disappointed

if he find that *A Year in Bengal* leaves Bengal very much out of the question. At length the sisters are located at Meerut, in 'Keith's house,' with its 'huge dark rooms, from which all light was carefully excluded,' the punkah ceaselessly swinging, and people flitting to and fro in snowy garments. Two recently arrived young ladies from England seem to have produced an agitation at Meerut; and Rosalind and Madeline assure us that the cherry-coloured bows on their white shoes became the subject of a general controversy, some admiring, some approving, others endeavouring to be judicial in their enunciations of art principles and on the harmony of tints and shades. Scarcely can the scent of orange-blossoms and Indian jessamine dispel the odour of the dullest country quarters, so sedulously do the two sisters labour to represent Indian society as the climax of small-talk, fashion, and flippancy. It would be difficult to enumerate the 'frightful,' 'terrible,' 'dreadful,' 'awful' details at which these ladies make merry. They appear to find it an especially fascinating task to elaborate pretty sarcasms upon the junior officers on the station at 'the far-off city.' It was pleasant to them, but we question the importance of such observations, even in a 'description of every-day Anglo-Indian life,' addressed to 'a wide class of readers.' However, one of the sisters, who seems to be the principal composer of the work, sounds a frequent defiance, and is particularly careful to relate how, during a canter with an obstinate pony, she was wont to give him 'a good cut over the nose,' and 'finish' by breaking her whip over his back. All this may be very agreeable; but we doubt whether the assistant collector at Meerut will sigh to meet again with the diarist who compares his face to a cluster of codlin apples. Possibly, these journals were intended for private perusal; if so, they might have been judiciously corrected before publication. When we are solicited to admire Madeline or Rosalind, in her bearskin jacket and emu plume, it is pleasant to acquiesce, especially as the young lady pencils herself in so many attitudes, and points to the ankles shown below the Granvillaise petticoat; but we hope the gentleman quoted as Mr. Thayer of the 'thin legs' is not named as literally as by the Speaker, and that Miss May and Miss Dernton are not actual persons who may be offended by the familiarities of these intrepid narrators. 'Our amiable little friend Mr. Wren,' who hung from a tree 'like a golden fleece, by his coat tails,' will probably be anxious, in future, to avoid young visitors from England who sketch and keep journals.

Occasionally, the writer quits her Anglo-Indian circles, and explores the jungle, prettily pictures the hill-villages, dips her pencil into gold and crimson for a few pages of word-painting concerning sunsets and glowing landscapes, notices the garlanded cottage doors, and the Puharrie peasants lounging under their eaves with garlands of marigolds and necklaces, while their women toil in the fields. In the valley of the Dhoon, 'everything seemed home-like—fields of grain, well watered and cultivated, and hedgerows like England, save that most of them consisted of roses, now in all their pride of crimson blossoms.' Of the products of this territory we have a hint upon which we would gladly see our importers act. The tea of India is not consumed in this country to anything like the extent which would be possible were that branch of trade fairly and regularly developed. The Dhoon tea 'has a most peculiar flavour, exceedingly disagreeable at first, but after you acquire a taste for it, you can drink no other. It is so strong that Keith often said it was not tea at all, but a revivifying fluid, under the influence of which he could encounter great fatigue.' This gentleman 'believed he had found perfection when he first drank the Dhoon tea,' so that it is *not* invariably 'exceedingly disagreeable at first.'

At Delhi they saw the Kootub, and from its summit admired the ruins that lie around, memorials, it might be believed, of some architectural enchantment of ancient days. Within the capital itself, not yet the focus of rebellion, great manufactories were at work, producing gold and silver embroidery, and the floss-silk renowned throughout Asia, employing 'whole colonies of artists' and a legion of jewellers. 'The Delhi natives are very rude, and we were told that it was wrong for ladies to go about unguarded.'

As a light view of Anglo-Indian society in Bengal in time of peace, this book has its interest, although the writers have not been disciplined to a discreet use of their pens. Scarcely any contrast could be more striking than that suggested by the languor and luxury of every-day manners at a European station in the upper country, and the universal burst of horror which drove the Christian population that escaped the sword within their fortresses or to the sea, and changed Cawnpore from a station to which not a descriptive line is here devoted into the theatre of a crime by which the world itself has been startled. We should mention that the 'two sisters' have illustrated their narrative with some very clever sketches of groups and scenes.

ANECDOTES OF COURT FOOLS.

The History of Court Fools. By Dr. Doran.

Bentley

ANCIENT monarchs traced their lineage to the gods, and modern monarchs style themselves sacred, so that Dr. Doran is justified in attributing a heavenly origin to the Court Fool. In a very quaint and racy apologue, he sets forth this part of the history as a prelude to a disquisition on folly in general, on antique and legendary fools, on the fool by right of office, and on female fools. The wife of Seneca kept Harpaste, who became blind without knowing it; Joanne, queen of Charles I. of France, maintained Artaude du Puy, whose garments were rich and costly; Margaret, granddaughter of Charles the Bold, was proud of her special *folle-in-waiting*; and Queen Catherine de Medici had a lady jester, although she sometimes resented a joke, as was proved by the grief which overtook Mademoiselle de Limeuil, who smarted bodily for one of her too courageous satires. Nor was the court of the fourth Henry without an attendant in this capacity, whose office it was to laugh the Huguenots out of their creed. Don John of Austria was audacious enough to present his feminine fool at the French court, and Louis XIV. was much pleased by her society. Dr. Doran seems to have missed the Russian princess, who is said to have been compelled, after condemnation for treason, to purchase her life by grinning and jesting to gratify the levity and malice of the Empress.

In the East, court fools were an ancient institution; probably they originated in that quarter of the world. It was Bahalul who wore the cap and bells for Haroun Alraschid, and who, when the caliph made him governor of all the bears, wolves, foxes, apes, and asses in the realm, replied, "It is too much for me; I am not ambitious enough to desire to rule all your highness's subjects." He was in his way the antetype of Chicot, the hero in two of the Dumas novels. But he was eclipsed by Ebn Oaz, who was ordered by Haroun 'to make some excuse which should be more offensive than the crime it was to extenuate,' and who obeyed in that peculiar manner which moved all Asia and many generations to laughter. We will leave the story, however, in Dr. Doran's chapter, only adding that he is right in asserting the claims of the East to be regarded as the birthplace of almost every deeply ludicrous incident recorded in the literature of the West. First, dark Indian faces smiled at them; then they brought many beams into Greek and Roman eyes, next they reappeared under a hundred various disguises in Europe, and now whatever has escaped the dull compilers of jocular manuals falls into the hand of the farce writer. But the official fool was also known in the New World, at the court of Montezuma, who rejoiced in his collection of human monsters, albinos, cripples, dwarfs, simpletons, and 'other freaks and caprices of nature;' but this potentate was no rival to him of Monomotapa, the peer of the Emperor Gallienus, who never stirred abroad with less than five hundred fools in his train.

Shakspeare presented many examples of the gentry who, like the dogs in the court kennel, were governed by whips and rods, instruments with which, as we have seen, Catherine de Medici sometimes disgraced the lady jesters of her time. They were not allowed, either in the King's palace or in great households, to pass a certain limit in the licence of their jokes or songs. William the Conqueror kept a famous fool from Bayeux, and another surnamed Berdic who amassed prodigious opulence, and became 'the lord of three towns and five carucates of land.' Rufus was a fool to his own professional jester; Matilda, wife of Henry I., loved a melodious jocular. Longchamp, the Picard prelate, chancellor of William the First, who was so proud that he sealed public acts with his own signet seal, instead of the great seal of England, had a retinue of fools who were also flatterers. The sort of joking affected by King John was illustrated when he caused Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Norwich, to be clothed in a ponderous sacerdotal cope of lead and left to die of famine; but Piculph, his jester, was a merry fellow, and received a landed estate and something like a title of nobility. Master Henry, ornament of the court of Henry III., was declared in a Cornish satire to have 'the legs of a goat, the thighs of a sparrow, the sides of a boar, a hare's mouth, a dog's nose, the teeth and cheeks of a mule, a calf's face, a bull's head, and the complexion of a Moor.' Fools prospered at all times at the court of France, the earliest mentioned by Flögel being Jean, attached to the train of Charles the Simple:—

This good fellow's influence was so great, that Charles once remarked to him, he thought they had better change places. As Jean did not look well pleased at the proposal, Charles asked him if he were not content at the idea of being a king. "Oh, content enough," was the reply; "but I should be exceedingly ashamed at having such a fool." It was this fool who once tried his master's nerve, by rushing into his room one morning, with the exclamation, "Oh, Sire, such news! four thousand men have risen in the city." "What!" cried the startled King; "with what intention have they risen?" "Well," said Jean, placing his finger on his nose, "probably with the intention of lying down again at bedtime."

The "King of the Ribalds" was the terror of the salaried fool, for he was Rod in waiting, and sometimes gratified the proud ladies of the court by flogging impertinent pages. The pages themselves, however, were permitted great licence, as when they tortured poor Caillette:—

The court pages, say the biographers, could do as they pleased with Caillette, and on one occasion they nailed him by the ear to a beam. The poor fool thought he was condemned to remain there for life. On being discovered by some police authority, he was questioned; but he only replied that he did not know who had fixed him there. The pages were confronted with him, but each declared in turn, "I had nothing to do with it," and each time, Caillette added, "And I had nothing to do with it either." The alleged offence was, that the fool had cut off a page's aiguillettes and attached them to his person in the guise of a tail.

Another Caillette was 'jester against his will,' of noble mien, tall, graceful, and a man of genius:—

The Count de Saint-Vallier was sentenced to death for alleged complicity in the treason of the Constable against his country. Caillette exerted himself with unexampled vigour to procure the release of his old patron, for he had obtained from Diane a promise that she would reward him for succeeding in the rescue of her father from a terrible death, by kissing him in the presence of the whole court of France. It was into that presence that he proudly brought, at last, the pardon which his prayers, and still more his ingenuity, had wrested from the King; but at that moment poison was slaying him, and it was only as the dying fool drew his last breath that Diane stooped to kiss him, and thereby gave sweetness to bitter death. He died in a condition of ecstacy.

The celebrated Triboulet was a monster. Brusquet was a master of indelicacy, and the brutality of his jests was the delight of the Hôtel de Cluny, when the Guises revelled there; of the Russian court fools a majority were idiots in the service of savages. Concerning the German and Spanish fools, Dr. Doran has chapters of the most admirable gossip. From Italy he brings an anecdote of Alboin's fool:—

This fool's name, or nickname, was Fagotto. He was short, fat, and bald; and he was the challenger of Bertoldo. When the King acceded to his request, and ordered the duel of the two fools to take place, he remarked to Fagotto, "Now, proceed; but take heed not to resemble Benevento, who went out to shear, and came home shorn."

Fagotto replied with a pompous boast, and then turning on his rival, assailed him with a species of amenities like those that used to pass between carnival fools on the Paris Boulevards, and before which every decent person fled. From this contest Bertoldo issued triumphant; but the King again taxed his wit by ordering him to demonstrate in what way, as he had asserted, the daylight was whiter than milk, and stimulated him to success by promising him the bastinado if he failed.

Bertoldo is said to have proved his assertion by a simple process. Having access everywhere, he entered the King's bedchamber at night, and closing all the blinds, placed a pail of milk in the middle of the room. Alboin rising in the dark, over-

threw the pail, and then calling lustily for daylight, Bertoldo let the same in upon him, with the remark, that if the milk had been clearer than daylight, he would have seen the former without the aid of the latter. Whereupon Alboin rubbed his shins, shook his head, and supposed his philosophy was wrong.

Quotations might be multiplied from this attractive and anecdotal volume; but that readers will send for Dr. Doran's last work is so much a matter of course that it only remains for us to pronounce the *History of Court Fools* the best of his productions.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPUBLICATIONS.

THE seventh volume of Mr. Peter Cunningham's edition of *The Letters of Horace Walpole* has this week been published by Mr. Bentley. The portraits are those of Madame Du Deffand, the Duchess de Choiseul, the Duchess of Kingston, the Young Pretender, and the Duchess of Albany. Several of the letters, hitherto unedited, are very characteristic of Walpole's epistolary style.

In the *Illustrated Library*, Mr. Bohn has published *The Odyssey of Homer*, translated by Alexander Pope, to which are added the *Battle of the Frogs and Mice*, by Parnell, and the *Hymns*, by Chapman and others, with the entire series of Flaxman's wonderful and exquisite designs. The Rev. J. S. Watson contributes to this remarkable volume a number of 'Observations and Brief Notes.' Flaxman was the one artist who fittingly illustrated the poems of Homer.

To the *Scientific Library* two additions have been made. The one is the second volume of Dr. Carpenter's *Zoology*, revised by Mr. Dallas, with a copious index; the other a first volume of *An Index of Dates*, comprehending the principal events in the history of the world to the present period, by Mr. J. Willoughby Rosse. It serves as an index to the enlarged edition of Blair's chronological tables, and is likely to be of use to the historical student, as well as for general reference.

Mr. Bohn has also published a seventh edition of Sturm's well-known *Morning Communion with God; or, Devotional Meditations for every Day in the Year*, translated from the German by Mr. N. Johnstone.

Mrs. Gore's clever novel, *The Banker's Wife; or, Court and City*, which, in 1843, was dedicated to Sir John Dean Paul, has been re-published under the author's revision, by Messrs. Knight and Son. Mrs. Gore makes no allusion to her late banker and trustee further than to justify herself for having cancelled the dedication.

Mr. Hodgson sends us another of the Dumas series, *Forty-five Guardsmen*, in which Diana de Monsoreau, Chicot the Jester, and other of his marvellous characters reappear.

A cheap edition of Mr. William Howitt's *Boy's Adventures in the Wilds of Australia*, illustrated by Harvey, has been published by Messrs. Arthur Hall and Co., and claims attention before school-days recommence.

The Rev. James White will add to his wide popularity by *Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott*, a volume of biography just published by Mr. Routledge. The 'lives' appear to have been originally constructed as lectures, and are, in style and matter, all that could be desired.

The Playground; or, the Boys' Book of Games, by Mr. George Forrest, also published by Mr. Routledge, is a volume for scholars out of school-time, and will enable them to make the most of their holidays.

Captain Clayton's '*Ubique*;' or, *English Country Quarters and Eastern Bivouac*, published by Mr. Skeet, may here be mentioned as a brisk and florid narrative of every-day incidents in a soldier's life. Captain Clayton might have selected a more attractive and intelligible title for his volume.

In *The Heirs of the Homestead*, by the author of 'Orphan Upton,' published by Messrs. Heaton and Pwettress—two distinct firms—will be found a well-drawn picture of life in the worsted districts of Yorkshire twenty years ago. There is reality in every touch, and this confers upon the story a very marked character.

Christian Errors Inferred Arguments, published by Messrs. Hamilton, Adams, and Co., is a volume of which it suffices to mention the title. The author distributes his discourse into seven dialogues, 'suggested by the Burnett Treatises, the Evangelical Alliance Prize Essay, and other Apologetics.'

Professor Miller has written for the Scottish Temperance League a little volume entitled *Alcohol, its Place and Power*. It is directed against the use of potent liquors.

Mr. W. Adam, well known as the author of 'The Gem of the Peak,' has published with Messrs. J. and C. Mozley an excellent little manual, *First Lessons in Geology*, with a special article on the toadstones of Derbyshire, and a glossary, explanatory of geological terms and their derivations, accompanied by sections and a general diagram of the strata.

The Arts.

THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE —MR. KEAN AND THE COURT—A NEW DRAMA AT THE ADELPHI.

WE who take more interest in the notes of PICCOLOMINI than in the nominations of PALMERSTON—who look on unmoved at the rocking of thrones and the crashing of dynasties, but tremble for the success of our favourite in his or her first essay of a new part—we, in short, to whom matters theatrical are the great affairs of life (and we are by no means a small or unimportant body), have had great excitement during the past week. All persons mixing in theatrical circles must have heard that the manner in which the so-called Festival Performances have been got up has created a coolness between the Court and Mr. CHARLES KEAN, the heretofore favourite Master of the Revels. This coolness has been ascribed to many causes, and long-winded stories have been manufactured by *gobemouques* and circulated

through organs which never pretend to original information on dramatic affairs. The real truth is simply this, that Mr. KEAN, looking at his former position with the Court, and the position he has long held with the public, declined to submit to the management of any person—declined, in fact, in common parlance, to 'play second fiddle'—unless at the express wish of the Court. This was a stipulation that Mr. MITCHELL, the entrepreneur, could not avail himself of, the fact being, not as was originally supposed, that Mr. MITCHELL was a Master of the Revels engaged by the Court to gather together the most eminent professional artistes for the amusement of its foreign guests, but simply a bold speculator who had had the luck to induce a certain number of Royal personages and Serene Highnesses to come and be gazed at by a high-price-paying mob, and who wished to provide for them, in their turn, some little amusement, in the shape of a well-acted play. After Mr. KEAN's refusal, Mr. PHELPS was next applied to, and the tragedy of *Macbeth*, which was selected for the first representation on Tuesday night, was performed entirely by members of the SADLERS WELLS company, with the exception of the characters of *Lady Macbeth* and *Macduff*, which were respectively sustained by Miss HELEN FAUCIT and Mr. HOWE. The house, which was very prettily decorated, was filled, but not to excess, and the audience, apparently frozen by the presence of Royalty, were apathetic and undemonstrative.

The five long acts were gone through solemnly and drearily in a silence broken only by the reception given to the two principal artists, and by few and far between rounds of applause. The Royal visitors, arriving at the most inopportune moment, during Mr. PHELPS's delivery of the Dagger soliloquy, were greeted with enthusiastic curiosity at its termination, settled themselves into their places, and bore themselves with a patient resignation which should have been instructive to the many-headed. At the conclusion of the play the National Anthem was sung; and with the appearance of the KEELEYS in *Twice Killed* commenced the only enjoyable portion of the evening.

A very different scene was at the same time taking place at the PRINCESS's, where a most numerous and brilliant audience had assembled, determined to show Mr. KEAN that his spirited conduct throughout this affair had been properly appreciated, and to countenance him by their presence and support. The stalls, dress circle, and private boxes were filled with well-known faces, Guardsmen, *littérateurs*, 'swells,' and all those whom the regular playgoer meets with on the first night of a new piece and on all important theatrical occasions. At the conclusion of *Hamlet*, Mr. KEAN was twice summoned before the curtain, and on the second occasion he delivered the following most felicitous and diplomatic address:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is not my custom ever to address an audience except on the concluding night of a season; but I fear that on the present occasion, were I not to respond to so remarkable an ebullition of public feeling as that which you have exhibited towards me this evening, my silence might be wrongly interpreted. I am deeply sensible of your kindness, and beg you to accept my heartfelt thanks. It would be affectation in me to pretend not to understand the motives which have influenced this particular excitement, and it is another instance, in addition to the many I have already received, that when a public man acts in a conscientious and upright manner the public will always afford him their sympathy and support. Throughout my life I have coveted the verdict of public opinion, professionally and socially, and this evening impresses on me a most gratifying conviction that my wishes are realized."

The author of *The Poor Strollers*, the new drama at the ADELPHI, has shown himself an adept in the art of literary tailoring. Mr. WEBSTER's part fits him like a coat, and the entire piece, with its copied characters, borrowed effects, and forcibly feeble dialogue, smacks strongly of 'cabbage.' The success of the production—and it was unequivocally successful—further proves what we have long suspected, that the ADELPHI audiences are, as a whole, utterly incapable of judgment or appreciation; they have themselves fixed a standard of excellence, and imagine that whatever is offered to them in their favourite temple must be good. Mr. WEBSTER's performance was, of course, careful and artistic, so was Mr. SELBY's, so would have been Mr. WRIGHT's had he but reflected that he is not supposed to see any audience before him, and that therefore his winks, 'gag,' and grimaces had better be suppressed.

X.

MR. LEIGH HUNT'S NEW PLAY.

ALL who have observed, during the last few weeks, that a new play by Mr. LEIGH HUNT has been announced at the bottom of the LYCEUM playbills for speedy production, have known that, whenever the first night arrived, they would be gratified by seeing what is now but seldom seen on our stage—an original play written by a genuine English author, and combining the gaiety of immortal youth with the kindly knowledge and meditation of more than half a century of service in all that can delight and ennoble humanity. They knew that wit and fancy, that humour and poetry, would go together in a union of love; and that the sparkle of animal spirits which would brighten the whole would scintillate from the surface of underlying depths of thought and feeling. Many of them remembered the production of the *Legend of Florence* at COVENT GARDEN in 1840; and took it for a happy augury that the success then achieved was just about the time of the QUEEN's marriage, while this, the second of the poet's acted dramas, is produced in the sunshine of the nuptials of the QUEEN's eldest daughter. If we cannot entirely get rid of superstition from our imperfect human clay, let us be glad that it sometimes assumes a genial as well as a sullen aspect.

Wednesday night, then, was a great night at the LYCEUM, and *Lovers' Amazements*, or *How will it End?* was fairly started for a prosperous run. The story may be briefly told. The *Chevalier de Torsey*, a soldier of the Parliamentary forces during the wars of the Fronde, is captured by Captain *De la Rousse*, of the army of the Fronde; but, as he is about to visit his mistress (the *Countess de Montelais*), *De la Rousse* allows him to depart, on his giving his word that he will return with his ransom, and in company with the lady, whom the captain, in his airy gallantry, would fain see. He does see her, and

finds that she is one of his former sweethearts, whom he had flirted with for a time, and soon forgotten. He gives *De Torsey* a packet of her letters to him. The lover fights with and wounds *De la Rousse* for his sarcastic bearing towards the lady, and resolves to break off with the lady herself on account of her first love—a sin in his estimation which is aggravated by her having given him a false impression on the subject. A friend of the *Countess*—one *Louise de la Motte*, a sister of charity—afterwards hands to the *Countess* another packet of letters, which in fact are none other than certain love letters addressed to herself in former years by *De Torsey*; and these enable the lady to return the bitter reproofs of her estranged admirer with tenfold force, on the ground that he has arrogated to his own sex a right which he passionately denies to hers. They part; and the interest of the audience is now awakened on behalf of *De la Rousse*, who is attended, during the sickness consequent on his wound, by *Louise*. She is veiled, and therefore he does not detect in her an old flame of his who, like many another, has long ceased to be thought of. But, after a little charming coquetry on her part, pleasantly dashed with railery, she unveils; and the foppish soldier, made thoughtful and sincere by suffering, feels for the first time a genuine passion. He learns from *Louise* that *De Torsey* and the *Countess* have quarrelled; and he resolves, by means of 'some glorious, lovely lie,' to bring them together again. This is effected; and the piece concludes with the happy reuniting of the two pairs of lovers.

Such is the outline of the story, and exquisitely is it filled up in the three acts of which the drama consists. The four characters are amply sufficient to sustain the interest at its full height throughout; and the imbroglia is just complex enough to pique the spectators' curiosity, without, as in the plays of French origin, being so ingeniously overwrought as to fatigue the audience in the endeavour to follow it. The story moves on with a quick, elastic step, passing easily from situation to situation, and developing the characters of the lovers as they might be developed in real life, by the gradual influence of the events. The old, gay, ruffling, fighting, love-making days of the true Chevaliers are brought back with the hand of a master, and of one who has a peculiar genius for apprehending the airy and volatile spirit of those vanished times. The sunshine of the south lies basking over the whole production, as over the broad plains where the grape ripens for the vintage of the bright and buoyant champagne. The very pathos is touched with golden glories of poetry, as tearful eyes with light. The beautiful dialogue between the two ladies on the divine unspoken language of music is one of the many exquisite bits of deep yet delicate feeling which are scattered through the drama, and which heighten while they relieve the rollicking animal spirits of *De la Rousse*. Yet, from our remembrance of *Lovers' Amazements* as it was published some years ago in a periodical work, we are inclined to ask whether more of these tender and thoughtful passages have not been omitted in the representation. We feel sure that such is the case; and we cannot but regret it, as the intention of the play is somewhat marred by the excisions. Notwithstanding the brilliant levity of *De la Rousse*, Mr. HUNT has evidently written this play with a deep and humane purpose. As in the *Legend of Florence*, he seeks to bring about a more equal, just, and generous treatment of women by the rougher half of humanity. This is a feeling which at length—thank Heaven!—is being recognized by society, as we see by the legislation now just coming into force; and no one has worked to that end longer or more constantly than LEIGH HUNT.

Mr. DILLON, who acted the part of *De la Rousse*, was seen to more advantage than in tragic parts. If he missed the delicate shades and subtleties of the character, he played with force, gaiety, and animal spirits. Mr. SHORE creditably sustained the difficult part of *De Torsey*. Mrs. DILLON was painstaking as *Louise de la Motte*; and Mrs. MELLON (Miss WOOLGAR) played the haughty yet forgiving *Countess* with point and pathos. We would suggest, however, to the last-named lady, that she is sometimes not sufficiently clear in her articulation.

On the fall of the curtain, the author was loudly called for, and appeared, led on by Mr. DILLON. It was a touchingly beautiful sight to behold the hero of a hundred fights for liberty and humanity when the century was but young—the friend of SHELLEY and KEATS—the adorer of familiar things with glorious associations—the poet, essayist, wit, and politician—receiving the heartfelt acknowledgments of men, several of whom were not born till he was middle-aged, but who are all the freer for his fearless pen, and the richer for the inheritance of his genius.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"ON Wednesday," writes a correspondent in Paris, "I was present at a general rehearsal of a new piece in three acts by SCRIBE, entitled *Feu Lionel*, at the THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS. The most important character is confided to RÉGNIER, who plays a lawyer's clerk with a finish and *entrain* not to be surpassed. The whole cast is excellent; DELAUNAY, MONROSE, GOR, Mademoiselle DUBOIS, Mademoiselle BROHAN. A female speculator makes a most original character. There are some situations in the piece of a very novel and amusing design, and of wit, arising out of those situations, more than the usual proportion." The piece is to be produced on Saturday (to-day).

ALEXANDRE DUMAS the Younger's new play, *Le Fils Naturel*, has achieved an immense success at the GYMNASÉ. "Nevertheless," says an accomplished critic, M. DE BELLOY, "moving, curious, real, excellent as it is, it has no more relation to the dramatic art of SHAKESPEARE and MOLIÈRE than photography, or mechanics; and if this is the sort of dramatic art which the present and the coming generations are destined to enjoy, *je me console aisément de n'être plus jeune*."

Germaine, a drama taken from EDMOND ABOUT's remarkable story, is shortly to be produced at the GAIÉTÉ; and we hear with pleasure that the brilliant author of *Tolla* is hard at work on a play for the VAUDEVILLE, which is to bear the curious and suggestive title of *L'Impasse*. By the way, MM. BARRIÈRE and CAPENDU's *Fausse Bonne Femme*, written as a sort of pendant to the *Faux Bonhomme*, has been a positive failure at the VAUDEVILLE, although it still holds its place in the bills. The most eminent Parisian critics unanimously condemn it for the laboured and wire-drawn cynicism of the writing, and the defective artifice of the plot; and the audiences, by their indifference, appear to resent the attempt to make a second coup out of the first palpable hit.

FIRE.—A fire of an alarming character broke out last Sunday, at the Old Lodge, in the county of Surrey, the property of W. Kinnaird Gibbons, Esq. The fire was first discovered by the man in charge of the cattle, by whom an alarm was raised at four A.M., at which hour two large wheat stacks were burning, and four others were soon ignited. Every possible effort was made by the workmen to extinguish the flames, and no damage was done to any of the farm buildings or stock.

THE MANCHESTER COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION.—The thirteenth, and in all probability the final, annual meeting of the Manchester Commercial Association was held on Monday, Mr. Turner, M.P., presiding. The body was originally formed by separation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, owing to some disagreements during the Free-trade struggle. It is now about to reunite with that body.

THE SURREY GARDENS COMPANY.—It was resolved, at an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company, held on Tuesday in the Music Hall of the gardens, that the affairs of the corporation be wound up voluntarily under the Joint-Stock Company Act, 1856.

INDIA AND THE OPIUM TRADE.—A meeting of the inhabitants of St. Pancras, on the subject of the opium trade, was held on Tuesday evening. It concluded with the adoption of a resolution regretting the cultivation of opium in India for sale in China.

THE REGIS SCHEME.—A batch of M. Regis's African emigrants, recently arrived at Martinique, made an attempt to escape; and a plot to the same end among some of the other African labourers has also been discovered.

A RUSSIAN FLEET IN THE ANTILLES.—The people of St. Thomas's, at the last dates, were momentarily looking out for the arrival of a Russian fleet, and conjecture was busy as to its object.

REFORM MEETINGS have been held during the week at many of the most important towns of England.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

HADDEN.—On the 19th inst., at Old Park House, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the wife of Alexander Hadden, Esq.: a daughter.

PRESTON.—On the 19th inst., at Beeston Hall, Norfolk, Lady Preston: a son.

WATTS.—On the 19th inst., in Conduit-street, Hanover-square, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Montague Watts: a son.

MARRIAGES.

CRIPPS—BLACKBURN.—On the 21st Nov., at Ferozepore, A. W. Cripps, Esq., Lieut. and Adj. 17th Punjab Infantry, to Caroline Mary Anne, third daughter of Joseph Blackburn, Esq., of Cape Town, South Africa.

LEATHES—PETT.—On the 5th Dec. last, at Byculla Church, Bombay, Charles E. Stanger Leathes, Esq., Bombay, to Emilia Louisa, eldest daughter of Alfred Pett, Esq., M.D., of Upper Avenue-road, Regent's-park

DEATHS.

DREW.—On Sunday, the 10th instant, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, of exhaustion, brought on by long suffering from disease of the chest, Samuel Drew, Esq., aged 77, most deeply and deservedly regretted by all who knew him.

GROOM.—At Lucknow, on the 21st Oct., 1857, from a wound received on the 5th of that month, Lieut. William Tate Groom, of the 1st Madras Fusiliers, eldest son of the late Richard Groom, Esq., Solicitor to the India Board, aged 26.

HARDY.—On the 17th Nov., before Lucknow, Whaley N. Hardy, Captain in H.M.'s Royal Artillery, third son of the late Edmund Hardy, Colonel in the H.E.I.C. Bombay Artillery.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, January 22.

The funds remain at about 95. It was confidently asserted that the Bank directors would alter the rate of discount to 4 per cent. this last Thursday, and the state of the money market would seem to justify such a step; but the numerous new schemes, Brazilian, Indian, Australian, and Cape of Good Hope railways, that are being announced every day, must make the directors, even against their own interests, exceedingly careful not to give too much play to the speculators. The arrivals of gold have been numerous and heavy, and the bullion will be probably fourteen millions by this week's return. The French market is watched with anxiety, as the suppression of two journals, and the strong language employed by the Emperor's adherents on the subject of refugees in England, has frightened the French speculators more than ours. Foreign stocks are at the same prices as last week. Joint Stock Banks have improved in value; the meetings that have taken place, with but one exception, show the different establishments to be in a very healthy condition. In French railways there has been a disposition to sell. East Indians guaranteed are firm, excepting some of the smaller shares that stood at very high premiums. Victor Emmanuel Loan is at a discount of two per cent., and the whole business, it is feared by some, will prove a job. There has been a new Brazilian railway—Bahia-and-Sao-Francisco—announced this week, under distinguished patronage—the Rothschilds and Mr. Weguolin; the application for shares has been considerable. Grand Trunk of Canadas and Great Western of Canadas are slightly firmer. In the home railway market amongst the heavy shares there has been but little doing. Great Westerns are about one per cent lower; Brighton stock is lower; Caledonian, that will divide 5 per cent. and carry over a good sum, has improved; Dovers, and York and North are also very firm; Great Northern stock, also the A and B of above line, is in demand; Berwicks are 98½, and well held. Foreign Mining Shares are not much in demand, United Mexicans being flatter; Mariquitas, Cobre Copper, and St. John del Rey have been dealt in. Amongst the

British mines, the Bassets, Mary Anne, Trelawny, Herodsfoot, Wheal Edward, Wheal Kitty, West Seaton, have been bought.

In miscellaneous adventures, North British Australasian, Scottish Investment, Australasian Agricultural, and Peel Rivers have been asked for. Next Monday, the wedding-day of the Princess Royal, will be a close holiday in the City.

Blackburn, 94 9/8; Caledonian, 91 1/2, 91 3/4; Chester and Holyhead, 38, 40; Eastern Counties, 62 1/2, 63 1/2; Great Northern, 104, 105; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 102, 104; Great Western, 59 1/2, 60 1/2; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 93 1/2, 94 1/2; London and Blackwall, 6 1/2, 6 3/4; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 110, 112; London and North-Western, 101, 101 1/2; London and South-Western, 98 1/2, 99 1/2; Midland, 94 1/2, 94 3/4; North-Eastern (Berwick), 98, 99; South-Eastern (Dover), 75, 75 1/2; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6 1/2, 7; Dutch Rhenish, 3 1/2, 3 3/4 dis.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 27 1/2, 28; Great Central of France, —; Great Luxembourg, 7 1/2, 8; Northern of France, 37 1/2, 38 1/2; Paris and Lyons, 34 1/2, 34 3/4; Royal Danish, 16, 18; Royal Swedish 1 1/2, 1 3/4; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8 1/2.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, January 22.

WHEAT has declined 1s., and Barley is more difficult to sell, both for malting and grinding. The low price of the latter prevents the expected rise in the price of Oats, and all branches of the trade have been remarkably dull during the whole week.

Runs of red English Wheat, are quoted at 45s. to 48s.; fine Stralsund and Hamburg, 48s. to 50s., Holstein, 46s., Rhein red, 46s., White French, 50s., Taganrog Ghirka, 45s. to 47s., Odessa Ghirka, 46s. to 48s., all 496 lbs. Odessa Barley, 24s., Turkish, 23s., per 400 lbs. French malting, 35s. to 36s., per 420 lbs. Archangel Oats, 22s. 6d., Swedish, 24s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. fine 28s. Norfolk Flour, 32s. per sack, French 4 marks, 38s. 6d., fine French, 37s., D'Arblays, 39s. 6d. to 40s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	222	224	224	225	226	.....
3 per Cent. Red.....	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	95	94 1/2	95 1/2
3 per Cent. Con. An.	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2
Consols for Account	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
New 3 per Cent. An.	95	94 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
New 2 1/2 per Cent. An.	.....	.....	79 1/2	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860	1 16	1 16	2 1-16	1 16	17 1/2	.....
India Stock.....	224	.....	221	221	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	15 p	12 p	17 p	.....	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	.....	12 p	.....	14 p	13 p	13 p
Ex. Bills, £1000	21 p	26 p	26 p	22 p	22 p	22 p
Ditto, £500	22 p	26 p	26 p	22 p	19 p	22 p
Ditto, Small	26 p	26 p	26 p	22 p	19 p	22 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds.....	102	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	96	Russian Bonds, 5 per
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	.....	Cents
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	.....	.....
Dutch 2 1/2 per Cents.....	65	Russian 4 1/2 per Cents....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	99 1/2	Spanish.....
Ecuador Bonds .....	.....	Spanish Committee Cer-
Mexican Account	20 1/2	of Coup. not fun.
Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cents....	78 1/2	Turkish 6 per Cents.....
Portuguese 3 per Cents. 44	.....	Turkish New, 4 ditto....
		Venezuela 4 1/2 per Cents..

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 19.

BANKRUPTS.—JOSEPH HANSON, Halifax, Yorkshire, grocer and shopkeeper—WILLIAM WEEKS, jun., South Cery, Gloucestershire, builder—ELISHA LADBROOK, Ardleigh, Essex, wheelwright and blacksmith—HENRY BEARD-SHAW, Bank Chambers, Lothbury, stock and share broker—JOHN MARSHALL, Angel-court, City, underwriter—ALEXANDER REID, Southall, dealer in potatoes and other vegetables—JAMES PACKWOOD, Wollaston, Northamptonshire, draper and tailor—UTRICK VIPOND, Alston, Cumberland, flour miller—CHARLES EXLEY (and not Exley, as before advertised), Wakefield, Yorkshire, cornfactor—JAMES HUSSELL and WILLIAM THOMAS SPRINGFORD, Bristol, soap and candle manufacturers—FREDERICK ELLIS, Hatherleigh, Devonshire, chemist, druggist, and spirit merchant—ALEXANDER GLENNIE, Friday-street, Cheapside, sewed muslin warehouseman and commission agent—WILLIAM WATKIN, Churchstroke, Shropshire, miller and flour dealer—WILSON CHILTON, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, ship builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. REID, Glasgow, merchant—J. M'CALL, Glasgow, iron merchant—J. ALLEN, Airdrie, brewer—C. DOLLE, Dundee, merchant—J. LOGAN, Glasgow, clerk—G. CAMPBELL, Glasgow, boot and shoe manufacturer—R. and J. BLACKWOOD, Kilmarnock, worsted spinners—J. MILN, Dundee, flax spinner—MILL and WALKER, Arbroath, flax spinners—W. CURR and Co., Arbroath, flax spinners.

Friday, January 22.

BANKRUPTS.—HENRY BOSWELL PALMER, Bermondsey, wool dealer—GEORGE SEARBY, Great Queen-street, Westminster, shipowner—GEORGE MABBUTT RICHARDS, Northampton, grocer—THOMAS TAYLOR, Birmingham, paper dealer—JAMES SALTER, otherwise SHARMAN, Wortham, blacksmith—WILLIAM JERIN ELWIN, Dartford, grocer—WILLIAM PARKINSON, Bradford, spinner—HENRY LUBERTSON, Leeds, woollen cloth merchant—SAMUEL HURCOMB, Littledean, Gloucestershire, grocer—JOSEPH ROTHSCHILD, Bristol, jeweller—ROBERT BUCKLEY, Royton, cotton spinner—LEONARD FLINTOFF BROWN, Manchester, chemist—JAMES NORTON, Macclesfield, silk dyer—JAMES SHARPLES, Manchester, licensed victualler—JONATHAN WAITE, Yeading, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer—JOSEPH SMITH and Co., Bradford, worsted spinners—THOMAS ARBUTHNOT BROWN Broughton, Bristol, corn merchant—FREDERICK ELLIS, Hatherleigh, Devonshire, chemist—WILLIAM MALCOLM WATKINSON and HENRY FOWLER DICKINS, Kidderminster, woolstaplers—THOMAS WESTWOOD OSBOERNE, Birmingham, carriage manufacturer—LANCLOTT KIRKUP, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, holler maker—CHARLES DAVIS and EDWARD DAVIS, Whitby, Cheshire, soap manufacturers—ALEXANDER MCGREGOR, Liverpool, corn and ship broker—THOMAS ELLIS BATES, Horns'Ferry, Kennington, licensed victualler—HENRY HOLMES WOODFALL and LOWEN GIMBER, Aldermanbury, stationers—THOMAS FROGATT and WILLIAM FROGATT, Copster-hill, Oldham, cotton spinners—THOMAS LAMB, Manchester, grocer.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

—Her MAJESTY the QUEEN has graciously signified her intention of honouring with her presence a SERIES of FOUR FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES, intended to be presented at the period of the approaching NUPTIALS of her Royal Highness the PRINCESS ROYAL with his Royal Highness the Prince FREDERICK WILLIAM of PRUSSIA.

The Programme will comprise the following Entertainments:—

THE FOURTH FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE,

Friday, Jan. 29.

AN ENGLISH COMEDY,

By Mr. Buckstone's Company of the Haymarket Theatre. And an AFTERPIECE, In which Mr. Wright and Members of the Adelphi Company will perform.

THIS DAY (Saturday), Jan. 23,

LA SONNAMBULA.

Madlle. Piccolomini (her First Appearance in that character).

Sannier, Signor Belletti, and Giuglini,

And the Principal Artistes of Her Majesty's Theatre. And a FESTIVAL CANTATA, composed by Mr. Howard Glover, the words by John Oxenford, Esq. Conductor, Signor Ardit.

To conclude with a DIVERTISSEMENT ALLEGORIQUE, By M. Masso. The scenery by Mr. C. Marshall. The dresses under the superintendence of Madlle. Copera. Iris, Madlle. Clevel (her First Appearance in England); L'Hyménée, Madlle. Morlacchi; and Flora, Mdma. Pasquale.

The 'National Anthem' will be sung after the Comedy. No person admitted into the pit except in evening dress. Applications for boxes, to be made at the Box-office at the Theatre, and at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. Gallery, 3s.

The doors will be opened at half-past six, and each representation will commence at half-past seven o'clock.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

EXTRA PERFORMANCES on Tuesday, January 26, Thursday, January 28, and on Saturday, January 30.

On Tuesday, January 26, will be repeated Bellini's opera LA SONNAMBULA. Amina, Madlle. Piccolomini; Lisa, Madlle. Sannier; Il Conte Rodolfo, Signor Belletti; and Elvino, Signor Giuglini. Conductor, Signor Ardit.

The holders of box and stall tickets will be allowed to view the Boxes and the Ante-room recently arranged for Her Majesty and her august visitors on the occasion of the Festival Performances.

The State Festival Decorations will be retained.

Applications to be made at the box-office at the Theatre. Prices:—Pit Stalls, 12s. 6d.; Boxes (to hold four persons), Pit and One Pair, 2l. 2s.; Grand Tier, 3l. 3s.; Two Pair, 25s.; Three Pair, 15s.; Gallery Boxes, 10s.; Pit, 3s. 6d.; Gallery Stalls, 3s. 6d.; and Gallery, 2s.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—181st Concert,

Polygraphic Hall, Strand.—ITALIAN OPERA NIGHTLY.—Morning Performance on Saturday, commencing at 3, evening at 8. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s. Seats can be had at Mr. Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street; and at the Hall.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC,

NAPLES, POMPEII, and VESUVIUS, EVERY NIGHT (except Saturday), at Eight, and Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, 25th, afternoons at Three. Places can be secured at the Box-office, Egyptian-hall, daily, between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY

OF SCIENCE, 3, Tichborne-street, facing the Haymarket. Programme for the Christmas Holidays:—GUENAL'S APPAREIL URANOGRAPHIQUE constantly in motion; LIVING OBJECTS in the large Oxy-Hydrogen Microscope; Hundreds of new Anatomical Models of a most interesting character. Lectures by Dr. KAHN, at 3 o'clock, on the Physiology of Digestion, and at 8, on the Physiology of Reproduction; and by Dr. SEXTON, at 1/2 past 1, on "The Air we Breathe;" at 4, on the Mysteries of the Human HAIR and BEARD; and at 9, on the Wonders of Electricity: all the Lectures illustrated by Brilliant Experiments, Dissolving Views of an entirely new character, &c. Open (for Gentlemen only) from 12 till 5, and from 7 till 10. Illustrated Handbook, Sixpence. Programme Gratis. Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures and a Programme sent post free on the receipt of 12 Stamps.

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REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION, FLATULENCY, AND BILIOUS COMPLAINTS.—The well-known properties of these Pills are too highly appreciated in all parts of the world to require any commendation—the test of years has proved their efficacy for bile, indigestion, flatulency, sick headache, nervousness, and debilitated constitutions. They invigorate the body, strengthen the faculties of the mind, and increase the appetite; old and young, rich and poor, resort to them when afflicted with any ailment, and none are disappointed in their effect upon the system. Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; and at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment, 244, Strand, London.

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"If progress is daily made in Medical Science by those whose duty it is to study the diseases to which the human flesh is heir, it would seem that improvements in Veterinary art quite keep pace with it, as is manifest on a visit to the well-known Horse Infirmary of Mr. Major, in Cockspur-street. Here incipient and chronic lameness is discovered and cured with a facility truly astonishing, while the efficacy of the remedies, and the quickness of their action, appear to have revolutionised the whole system of firing and blistering. Among the most recent proofs of the cure of spavins by Mr. Major, we may mention Cannobie, the winner of the Metropolitan, and second favourite for the Derby, and who is now as sound as his friends and backers could desire. And by the advertisement of Mr. Major's pamphlet in another column, we perceive that other equally miraculous cures are set forth, which place him at the head of the Veterinary art in London."—*Globe*, May 10, 1856.

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12 Dessert Forks.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Dessert Spoons.....	1 10 0	1 15 0	2 2 0	2 10 0
12 Tea Spoons.....	0 18 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	1 18 0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0
2 Sauce Ladles.....	0 7 0	0 8 6	0 10 6	0 16 0
1 Gravy Spoon.....	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 13 6	0 16 0
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 6
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 9
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs.....	0 3 0	0 3 9	0 4 0	0 7 0
1 Pair of Fish Carvers.....	1 4 0	1 7 6	1 12 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife.....	0 3 6	0 5 9	0 7 0	0 8 0
1 Soup Ladle.....	0 13 0	0 17 6	1 0 0	1 1 0
1 Sugar Sifter.....	0 4 0	0 4 9	0 5 9	0 8 6
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Age.	Without Profits.	With Profits.	Age.	Without Profits.	With Profits.
15	£1 11 0	£1 15 0	40	£2 18 10	£3 6 5
20	1 13 10	1 19 3	50	4 0 9	4 10 7
30	2 4 0	2 10 4	60	6 1 0	6 7 4

ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICE. TO SECURE THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS YEAR'S ENTRY, PROPOSALS MUST BE LODGED AT THE HEAD OFFICE, OR AT ANY OF THE SOCIETY'S AGENCIES, ON OR BEFORE 1ST MARCH.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE. THE WHOLE PROFITS DIVIDED AMONGST THE ASSURED.

THE SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY. INSTITUTED 1831.

INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT. The Fund accumulated from the Contributions of Members exceeds ONE MILLION STERLING. The Annual Revenue exceeds ONE HUNDRED and SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND POUNDS. The Amount of Existing Assurances exceeds FOUR MILLIONS AND THREE QUARTERS. The Amount paid to the Representatives of Deceased Members is upwards of Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds, of which One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds consisted of Bonus Additions. A Division of Profits is made every Three Years, the Division being at 1st March, 1859.

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FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

At a GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS, held at the BANKING-HOUSE of the COMPANY, in PRINCES-STREET, MANSION HOUSE, on THURSDAY, the 21st of JANUARY, 1858.

WILLIAM BIRD, Esq., Chairman. **GEORGE MEEK, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.**

DIRECTORS. William Bird, Esq.; William Blount, Esq.; Ald. Sir George Carroll; William Miller Christy, Esq.; Ald. Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P.; Philip William Flower, Esq.; George Holgate Foster, Esq.; Francis Bennett Goldney, Esq.; William Ormsby Gore, Esq.; Henry Grace, Esq.; William J. Lancaster, Esq.; Sir John M. Taggart, Bart.; George Meek, Esq.; Ambrose Moore, Esq.; John Timothy Oxley, Esq.; John Joseph Silva, Esq.; George Talyer, Esq.

THE MANAGER—George Pollard, Esq. **SOLICITORS—Messrs. Clarke and Morice.**

The following Report was presented:— The annexed accounts exhibit the position of the Bank on the 31st ultimo, and it will be seen that, after providing for all losses and charges, there remains a net profit of 83,567l. 9s., which the Directors have appropriated as follows, viz:—

£ s. d. 37,500 0 0 to a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum. 16,066 9 0 to the credit of the Guarantee Fund.

By the above addition and the accruing interest, the Guarantee Fund is raised to 187,014l. 9s. 1d., and the Directors feel very confident that this augmentation of their reserve will be satisfactory to the Shareholders, when viewed in connexion with the enlarged scale of the Bank's operations. The dividend and bonus, free from income-tax, will be payable on and after Friday, the 29th instant.

The following gentlemen, who retire in the order of rotation—viz., Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P., Ambrose Moore, Esq., William Bird, Esq., and John Timothy Oxley, Esq.—offer themselves for re-election; and the lamented death of Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P., having caused another vacancy at the Board, Donald Larnach, Esq., a duly qualified Shareholder, who has given the necessary notice, presents himself as a candidate for the vacant seat.

The Directors cannot allow this opportunity to pass without some expression of their high sense of the honourable character of their deceased friend and colleague, whose zealous exertions were never wanting when required to promote the interest of the Bank; and they feel assured that the Proprietors will participate in their regret for his loss.

The Shareholders have already been apprised by advertisement of the recent retirement from the Direction of Thomas Tilson, Esq., who having undertaken important public duties, has considered it necessary, much to the regret of his brother Directors, to resign his seat at the Board. An Extraordinary Meeting of Proprietors will be called for the 1st April next, to elect his successor.

The preceding Report having been read to the meeting by the Secretary, a dividend for the half-year ending the 31st December last, after the rate of 12½ per centum per annum, and a further division of 10s. per share out of the net profits of the year ending as above, were declared by the Chairman.

Resolved unanimously,—That the Report now read be received, and that it be printed for the use of the Shareholders. The following Directors having retired by rotation, were unanimously re-elected, viz:— Sir JAMES DUKE, Bart., M.P.; AMBROSE MOORE, Esq.; WILLIAM BIRD, Esq.; JOHN TIMOTHY OXLEY, Esq.; and DONALD LARNACH, Esq.,

was also unanimously elected a Director, in the place of Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P., deceased. It was then resolved unanimously,—That the best thanks of this Meeting be tendered to the Directors for their excellent general management, and especially for having made an addition to the Guarantee Fund.

Resolved unanimously,—That its thanks be also offered to Mr. Pollard for his valuable services in connexion with this Bank. (Signed) **WM. BIRD, Chairman.** Extracted from the Minutes, **JNO. WARDROPE, Secretary.**

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, THURSDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 1857. THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To capital paid up—viz., 60,000 shares at 10l. each	600,000	0	0
To amount due by the Bank	10,737,580	19	4
To amount of "The Guarantee Fund," 30th June, 1857	£108,421	13	7
To six months' interest on ditto, at 3l. per cent. per annum	2,520	0	6
To undivided profit for the last half-year	£9,240	10	3
To amount carried to profit and loss account	157,107	14	4
	100,354	13	7
	£11,674,883	13	0

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Exchequer Bills, India Bonds, and Government Stock	1,100,044	1	1
By cash, loans, bills discounted, and other securities	10,431,004	11	11
By building, furniture, &c., in Princes-street	£35,700	0	0
By ditto ditto ditto in Pall Mall	7,875	0	0
	43,575	0	0
	£11,674,883	13	0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1857.

	£	s.	d.
DR.			
To current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, bad debts, income-tax, &c.	40,959	1	0
To amount carried to profit and loss, new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due	41,829	3	1
To dividend account for the payment of half a year's dividend, at the rate of 12 per centum per annum, upon 600,000, amount of paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares	37,500	0	0
To ditto, for the payment of a bonus of 10s. per share	30,000	0	0
To amount carried to the Guarantee Fund	16,066	9	0
	£166,354	13	7
CR.			
By balance brought down	157,107	14	4
By undivided profit brought forward from the last half-year	9,246	19	3
	£166,354	13	7

THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK,
Established in 1836.
HEAD OFFICE:—PRINCES-STREET, MANSION HOUSE.
WESTERN BRANCH:—69, PALL-MALL.
Subscribed Capital, 3,000,000.
Paid-up Capital, 600,000.
Guarantee Fund, 187,014.

Accounts of parties are kept agreeably to the custom of London Bankers.
Parties keeping Banking Accounts with the Bank can at all times transfer to a deposit account such portion of their balance as they may not immediately require, upon which interest at the current rate of the day will be allowed.
Deposits are also received from parties not customers, either at call or for fixed periods, on interest at the market-rates.
The agency of joint-stock and other country and foreign banks undertaken on such terms as may be agreed upon.
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39, Throgmorton-street, Bank.
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DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.
Richard E. Arden, Esq. Rupert Ingleby, Esq.
Edward Bates, Esq. Saffery W. Johnson, Esq.
Professor Hall, M.A. Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq.
John Humphrey, Esq., Ald. Lewis Pocock, Esq.
PHYSICIAN.—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury-square.
SURGEON.—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's-place, Old Jewry.
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Age.	Premiums to Assure 100 <i>l.</i>		Whole Term.	
	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
20	£0 17 8	£0 19 9	£1 15 10	£1 11 10
30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

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