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The Leader.

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,

AND
RECORD OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, BANKS, RAILWAYS, MINES, SHIPPING, &c.

VOL. X. No. 467.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1859.

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THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

A CHANGE has come over the spirit of the Ministerial dream. The fair omens that, even up to the end of last week, seemed to shed the light of promise upon Lord Derby's political path, retreat into silence and darkness. The country has waited patiently upon the convenience of a Government for which it has certainly not an ardent admiration; it gave to Lord Derby's cabinet the fairest possible chance of establishing itself as a strong and good Executive, asking scarcely more than one thing in return—a Reform Bill that should worthily deal with the almost universally admitted defects of our present representative system. Lord Derby has neglected his opportunity, thrown away his chance of popularity, and the penalty may be the overthrow of his power. Whatever hopes the country had indulged on the subject of a liberal measure of Reform coming from a Government whose supporters have been unceasingly proclaiming its ability and desire to deal with the question in a large and final spirit, have been much deteriorated by the measure introduced by Mr. Disraeli on Monday evening. But we have treated of this matter so much at large elsewhere, that it is unnecessary to discuss the subject here. Lord Derby has had to pay for his own slight accession to the demand for Reform by the secession of two members of his Cabinet—Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley. The bill stands for its second reading on the 21st, and before that time arrives the country will have pronounced upon it. In the meantime, too, a meeting of the whole Liberal party in the House of Commons is to be convened by Lord John Russell, for consultation on the course which he and the party are to take.

Lord Palmerston not having thrown any difficulties in the way of the First Lord of the Admiralty on Friday evening last, that important official proceeded to make his statement on the Navy Estimates. His account of the state of his department was a frank and straightforward one. Great efforts have been made of late years to develop our steam navy, and these efforts have not been made without a good deal of expense. Last year our Naval Estimates were 8,851,000*l.*; for the year 1859-60 they will be a million higher. The necessity for an increased expenditure, on account of the present state of Europe, was recognised by all sides of the House. Fifteen line-of-battle ships are to be immediately added to the fleet, which at present numbers 33 sail; and by the end of next year is to be brought up to 44 sail. The recognition of another fact, also, helped to get Sir John Pakington his additional million without opposi-

tion—namely, that, in the present condition of the country, to secure the national defences without impressment or conscription, the market price must be given for labour—the fundamental requisite in war *matériel*.

In the cases brought before the House by Mr. Duncombe, with reference to the arrangement under which Jews are admitted into Parliament, and by Mr. Collier, with reference to the payment of voters' expenses, we see the inevitable results of compromised settlements. They are no settlements at all, but constant whets to the appetite for conclusive settlement. Mr. Duncombe proposes an arrangement which would very satisfactorily dispose of the question of admitting Jews into Parliament by resolution, by simply converting the resolution of the House into a standing order. So well was Mr. Duncombe backed, that, in spite of the opposition of Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Disraeli, the House agreed to refer the matter to a Select Committee named by Mr. Walpole. Mr. Collier's bill, if passed, will have the effect of reversing the provisions of the bill passed last session, legalising the payment of voters' expenses, and which certainly opened a wide door for a certain kind of bribery and corruption.

Mr. Locke King's bill, relating to the real estates of persons dying intestate, was calculated to carry terror into the souls of eldest sons, who look upon the law of primogeniture as the foundation of all earthly comfort and security. But great numbers of people in the land regard this same law as little other than barbarous, and think it a scandal to the Christian feeling of any community. The general belief among the people, as pointed out by General Thompson, is that "primogeniture and entail are kept up in order to make one stout representative of an aristocratic family, and to give him influence to assist the rest to a living in the public offices." It is useless, however, to tell landowners that the measure presented by Mr. Locke King left to them all their present powers of entail; they fear the "thin point of the wedge," and will not permit the law of succession to be touched, for fear that it might tumble to pieces—from their knowledge of its rottenness possibly. The bill was lost by a majority of 291 to 76.

With regard to foreign affairs, it is plain that a change has taken place in the aspect of things during the week, though it is too much to say that that change is for the better. It appears to be certain that the French Emperor has given the word for the evacuation of Rome; but the fact is accompanied on all sides by doubts and suspicions as to the precise object had in view. The mere withdrawal of the French and Austrian troops from

Rome and from the Legations, does nothing towards settling the difficulties felt rather than defined, but, nevertheless, really existing between the Governments of France and Austria. Mr. Disraeli's answer to Lord Palmerston, on Friday night last, was founded merely upon inference, as the further explanations of Lord Malmesbury made manifest; the English Government plainly knows nothing as to the future course of the French and Austrian Governments, and nothing has transpired to throw light upon the proceedings of Lord Cowley. A pretty general belief is that his mission has been nearly, if not entirely, fruitless. As to the intentions of the Emperor Napoleon, they are inscrutable; and as to the Emperor of Austria, reports—coming by way of Paris, it must be observed—describe him as being "in a state of petulant humour and overbearing impatience of control." The work of warlike preparations is pushed forward unceasingly, and the Austrian newspapers have assumed a thoroughly warlike tone. On the subject of the illegal treaty arrangements subsisting between Austria and Naples, Modena, Tuscany, Rome and Parma, the *Austrian Gazette* says, "God has given us a certain advantage in our treaties with Italy, and the devil may take it from us if he can!" If this, in any degree, represents the temper of the Austrian Government, the chances of peace are obviously not great. At the present moment the peace of Europe seems to depend upon the wills of two men: a word from either, and the first gun may sound the beginning of a war that may last for years, and change the social and political condition of half Europe.

The news which has reached us in anticipation of the Bombay mail is highly satisfactory. The war in Oude is over; Lord Clyde has fought his last battle, and retired to the hills at Simla to recruit his health, previously to returning to England. His last engagement was on the frontiers of Nepal, into which country Nana Sahib, in company with the Begum, has managed to escape. Sir Jung Bahadoor has pledged himself, however, to give an account of these notorious fugitives, and there is room to hope that justice may yet be done upon the Cawnpore murderer. Sir Hugh Rose assumes the chief command; and, at the time the news left India, was making great preparations for effectually subduing the Rohillas. The flying game played by Tantia Topce appears to be nearly played out. Not a mail comes in but we have news of his having been once more "overtaken" and beaten. Brigadier Holmes has mauled his forces and sent him flying towards the Punjaub, where dangers will surround him more thickly than any through which he has hitherto succeeded in threading his

adventurous way. His luck will be astonishing indeed if, before long, he is not "accounted for."

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.—Rooms have been taken for this Association at 5, Cavendish-square, which will be open every Monday for members. The meeting for reading papers is the second Monday. There are thirty candidates for ballot at the next meeting.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.—The elections of the Members of the Corps Législatif, like the election of the Emperor himself, are conducted on the principle of universal suffrage and vote by ballot; and we may learn from the Indre election what is the working in France of those two institutions, which certainly have a strange knack of coming to grief wherever they are employed. The French authorities have a very simple plan for mitigating the evil tendency of any ingredient of democracy which their operation might infuse. In the first place, only one candidate is allowed to stand; or, at least, if any one else issues an address, his placards are torn down by the police, and no one is permitted to circulate his handbills. This security for the wisdom of the popular choice would seem of itself to be sufficient; but the Emperor's Government has been annoyed by so many inconvenient accidents at the polling-booth that the further precaution is taken of publicly informing the people in the market-place that any one who votes against the Government candidate will be condemned for the rest of life to ventilate his electoral scruples in the salubrious atmosphere of Cayenne. But peasants are perverse, and words are weak weapons when compared to deeds; and therefore, to avoid the possibility of mistake, when the day of election comes, the Mayor first proclaims by beat of drum that nobody's "bulletins" are valid except those of the Government candidate, and then marches the docile electors to the poll between the Garde Champêtre on one side and the Commissary of Police on the other. Such, if the Indre election is a fair sample, is the popular working of universal suffrage—such the independent purity of vote by ballot, under the shadow of a throne which professes to repose without misgiving upon both.—*Continental Review.*

THE PRINCE NAPOLEON AND THE REPUBLICANS.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The Legislative Body is divided into seven bureaux or standing committees, each being represented in debate by two commissioners, and all, or nearly all, of these 14 commissioners are instructed to demand, when the Budget comes on for discussion, the suppression of the new Ministerial department of Algeria, of which Prince Napoleon is the head; and this demand, though it may not be officially set forth, is certainly occasioned by the action of the Prince on the great question of the day, and in order to mark the strong reprobation with which the Legislative Chamber expresses the genuine sentiments and opinions of the country. Now, if his Imperial Highness be sincere in the doctrines which he does not hesitate to advocate in the Imperial residence, and, so to say, in the presence of the Imperial Throne itself—if he be really the republican and leveller he would represent himself,—why, in the name of "Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality," does he allow himself to be addressed as an Imperial Prince, and with the rank and precedence which such an exalted station gives a right to? Why does so simple a citizen tenant a residence bearing the twofold taint of Royalty, and Imperialism like the Palais Royal? Why has this "man of the people" sought the hand of a Royal Princess, the daughter of the most ancient reigning house in Europe? Why does he maintain all the State ceremonial—chamberlains, secretaires des commandements, equeries, and the other appurtenances of a Prince of the Blood? And, lastly, the taxpayer will ask, why, oh! why, does the Imperial Republican accept a dotation of a million of francs from the national budget, paid on no other account than from his relation to the Sovereign who rules France? Certainly I would not uphold or approve the doctrines of those who, in the time of the National Assembly, occupied places on the declivities of the mountain, near the summit of which his Imperial Highness so long had a place; but it would be unjust not to admit that many of them have proved by their acts their sincerity of belief in their wild theories. Some have returned to the obscurity out of which the Revolution of February drew them; others are eating the bread of exile; not a few have passed away for ever; but the proof those old associates have given of the sincerity of their convictions half redeems the reprobation pronounced by society on them. If Prince Napoleon be the ultra-democrat his partisans, apparently on his own authority, believe him, he must make the sacrifices his former colleagues have done before the world will give him credit for his faith."

Home Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 28.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CLARENDON asked the Foreign Secretary for the exact information which the Government had received in relation to the withdrawal of the French and Austrian troops from the Papal dominions.—Lord MALMESBURY believed that the Papal Government had made its request to the French and Austrian Governments of its own accord. Their troops would vacate the Papal territories, as they had no right to occupy them after the Pope's request that they should withdraw. He had received assurances from both France and Austria that they would evacuate the Papal States when requested by the Pope, and he did not think that either would attempt to remain after the request of the Papal Government for their withdrawal. In answer to Lord BROUGHAM, he observed that the French Government had stated that the preparation of warlike stores and armaments in France was merely to fill up the deficiencies of former times.

DEBTOR AND CREDITOR BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved that the Debtor and Creditor bill be read a second time.—Lord CAMPBELL moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

After an animated discussion, in which Lord Cranworth, Lord Brougham, Lord Overstone, and Lord Wensleydale spoke in favour of a Select Committee, the LORD CHANCELLOR stated that if the bill were referred to a Select Committee it would not pass this session. The bill was then read a second time.

Their Lordships adjourned at a quarter to eight.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. EDWIN JAMES took the oaths and his seat for Marylebone.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

The orders of the day having been postponed, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER moved for leave to bring in a bill "to amend the laws relating to the representation of England and Wales, and to facilitate the registration and voting of electors." Contending that the antecedents of the Conservative administration rendered them on the whole best fitted to deal with the question of representative reform, Mr. Disraeli observed that the advocates of that reform were divided into two categories. First came the school to which her Majesty's present Ministers belonged, who wished to apply to the condition of the country in 1859 the principles established in 1832. In the second rank he placed the school of politicians who believed that representation ought to be regulated entirely upon the basis of population. There were, however, other tests of representative value than could be derived from mere population, or even from wealth and property. London alone contained more inhabitants and was assessed to a larger amount of annual value than the whole of Scotland; and yet in the most sweeping reform it was never suggested to endow the metropolis with an equal number of representatives to that enjoyed by the Scotch counties and boroughs. He enunciated as an established proposition that members of Parliament represented not only the numbers, property, and intelligence of their actual constituencies, as measured by numbers and wealth, but the moral influence and local interests appertaining to special and sometimes scattered and diminutive bodies of electors. On this principle, which he exemplified by reference to the present state of various county and borough constituencies, he argued that the most appropriate reform of the existing system would not be arrived at by conceding additional members to the large towns. In Durham, in the West Riding, in Lancashire, and many other county districts, a large body of electors returned fewer members to Parliament than were allotted to a much more restricted constituency, enjoying borough franchise within the same topographical limits. If the population test were adopted, an extensive disfranchisement of boroughs must ensue, compensated by a considerable increase in the county representation. If that test, again, were accepted, the House would be filled with members belonging to the great landlord interests and the great manufacturing and monetary interests, and would constitute an assemblage of members possessing no doubt character, wealth, and intelligence, but not constituting, in its real significance, a House of Commons, as expounding the opinions and representing the interests of every class in the community, and exercising, as the correlative of such universality of representation, the due amount of parliamentary control over the executive government. Upon this population principle a theoretical perfection of the representative system might be attained, but the practical result might be to establish in England, as on the Continent, a something approaching to a bureaucratic

despotism. The change which it would be his duty to recommend would not, therefore, rest upon the principle of population, nor upon that of property joined with population. Mr. Disraeli proceeded to discuss the question of the franchise in boroughs and in counties. It was proposed not to alter the limit of the borough franchise, but to introduce into boroughs a new kind of franchise, founded upon personal property, and to give a vote to persons having property to the amount of 10*l.* a year in the Funds, Bank Stock, and East India Stock; a person having 60*l.* in a savings bank would, under the bill, be an elector for the borough in which he resided, as well as the recipients of pensions in the naval, military, and civil services amounting to 20*l.* a year. Dwellers in a portion of a house, whose aggregate rent was 20*l.* a year, would likewise have a vote. The suffrage would also be conferred upon graduates of the Universities, ministers of religion, members of the legal profession, and of the medical body, and certain schoolmasters. In considering the county franchise, he reviewed the controversy respecting the Chandos clause in the Act of 1832. To restore the county constituency to its natural state, and bring about a general content, the Government proposed to recognise the principle of identity of suffrage between the counties and the towns. They proposed that Boundary Commissioners should visit the boroughs in England, re-arrange them, and adapt them to the altered circumstances of the times; their appointment would be delegated to the Enclosure Commissioners. The effect of giving to counties a 10*l.* franchise would be, according to the estimate of the Government, to add to the county constituency 200,000. The system of registration would also be assimilated, by enacting that the claims of county voters were to be returned to the clerk of the peace by the overseers in every parish. To facilitate voting it was proposed to establish polling places in every parish containing not less than 200 voters, grouping for that purpose places of less magnitude and defraying the expenses out of the county rates. Voters who found it inconvenient to go to the poll were also to be allowed to give their suffrage by means of polling papers, on the same principle which was established in the case of the election of poor-law guardians. All forgery of these voting papers, or personation of voters, would be made punishable as a misdemeanour. A complete representation did not depend upon the electoral body; it depended upon whether the different interests of the country were adequately represented. Discarding the principle of population, and accepting as a truth that the function of that House was to represent, not the voice of a numerical majority or the influence of a predominant property, but the various interests of the country, the Government had felt it to be their duty to see whether there were interests not represented, and whether the general representation of the country could be matured and completed; and they proposed to add four members to the West Riding of Yorkshire, two to South Lancashire, and two to Middlesex; and that the following towns should be represented:—Hartlepool, Birkenhead, West Bromwich and Wednesbury, Burnley and Stalybridge, Croydon and Gravesend. Assuming that, in the opinion of the House, its numbers ought not to be increased, means must be found for the representation of these interests. It was proposed that several places now sending two members to Parliament should hereafter return only one each (the names being loudly called for, Mr. Disraeli, with a manifestation of reluctance, read the list, as follows):—Honiton, Thetford, Totness, Harwich, Evesham, Wells, Richmond, Marlborough, Leominster, Lymington, Ludlow, Andover, Knarborough, Tewkesbury, and Maldon. Mr. Disraeli concluded a speech of three hours and a quarter in the following words:—"Having described as clearly as I could the principle provisions of our bill to the House, I shall say no more. I believe that this is a measure wise, prudent, and adequate to the occasion. I earnestly hope the House may adopt it. I believe, sir, it is a Conservative measure, using that epithet in no limited or partial sense, but in the highest and holiest interpretation of which it is capable. I can say sincerely that those who framed this measure are men who reverence the past, who are proud of the present, and who are confident of the future. Such as it is, I now submit it for the consideration of the House of Commons, convinced that they will deal with it as becomes the representatives of a wise and an understanding people." The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving for leave to bring in the bill.—Mr. BAXTER considered the scheme unfair to the people of Scotland, and not calculated to meet the fair claims of the country; and moved as an amendment, "That it is expedient to consider the laws relating to the representation of the people in England and Wales, and Scotland and Ireland, not separately, but in one measure."—Cursory remarks were made by several members upon the Government measure, objections were raised, and various explanations were sought; the amendment was generally opposed, and ultimately withdrawn.—Mr.

W. J. Fox complained that nothing was done for the enfranchisement of the working classes.—Lord J. Russell objected to the proposal for depriving the 40s. freeholders, when resident in boroughs, of their votes for the county. This, he observed, would strike off 90,000 or 100,000 from the present number of the county constituencies. Little or nothing also was done for the working classes, who had lately improved so much in education, intelligence, and general fitness for the franchise.—Mr. ROEBUCK censured the bill, as effecting a change in the wrong direction. It was a measure of disfranchisement rather than enfranchisement, and would entail upon its authors the certain withdrawal of that support which they had hitherto received from the independent Liberal party.—Mr. BRIGHT said this bill was proposed in obedience to the call of the great body of the unenfranchised, yet all the working classes, toiling and paying taxes, if they were outcasts in 1832, must be outcasts still. The new franchises were, he said, absurd; they seemed intended merely to make it appear that something was given. He insisted upon the dissatisfaction that would be created by the withdrawal of their county vote from occupiers in towns. It would have been better, he thought, if Mr. Disraeli had adhered to the ancient maxims of his party, or to have adopted a measure of his opponents, than to have introduced a bill which must create anger and disgust throughout the country, which would disturb everything and settle nothing.—Mr. DRUMMOND professed not to understand the bill.—Lord PALMERSTON suggested that a sufficient interval should be allowed for full consideration before the second reading.—Mr. E. JAMES was assured that the measure would not fulfil the just requirements of the country.—Mr. BENTINCK thought the Reform Act of 1832 a most one-sided and iniquitous measure, which it had become necessary to remodel. He would not touch upon the bill just presented, but remark that Mr. Bright's project, which had been so extensively promulgated throughout the country, was framed in the spirit of a leveller and communist.—Mr. P. O. BRIEN inquired whether Ireland was to be totally ignored in the project of reform.—Mr. ROUPELL was altogether disappointed in the measure, and at a future stage would give it his energetic opposition.—After some further debate, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made a general reply to questions, and repelled successfully some of the objections of Lord J. Russell and Mr. Bright. Leave was then given to introduce the bill, the second reading of which was fixed for Wednesday the 21st.

On the motion of the Solicitor-General, the Title to Landed Estates Bill and the Registry of Landed Estates Bill were read a second time. The Report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to. The Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill passed through committee.

Other bills were advanced a stage, and after some further business the House adjourned at half-past eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, March 1.

VENETIOUS INDICTMENTS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CAMPBELL, in moving that this bill be read a second time, observed that the object of the measure was that persons should not be indicted for conspiracy, or obtaining money under false pretences, and similar offences, until an investigation had been instituted before a magistrate.—Lord WENSLEYDALE thought the bill highly objectionable and unconstitutional.—The LORD CHANCELLOR approved the bill in every respect, but thought it did not go far enough.—Lord CRANWORTH spoke in favour of the second reading.—Lord BROUGHAM supported the bill and cited some strange instances of the mistakes which had been perpetrated under the present system.

Their Lordships adjourned at half-past six o'clock. In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Mr. S. FITZGERALD stated that it was intended for the future that there should be a special training for persons appointed to consular offices in Japan, who would be instructed in Japanese.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Mr. WALPOLE took the opportunity of making personal explanations as to his reasons for leaving the administration. When he was asked by Lord Derby to form a part of his Government, he wished to decline the offer; but Lord Derby allowed him to join on condition that if he differed with the Cabinet in respect to the Reform Bill he should be permitted to retire, and it was in consequence of such difference that he was no longer a member of the Cabinet. He admitted that it was obligatory upon the Government to bring forward a measure of reform; but as soon as he learned the nature of the measure they proposed he had no other alternative than to resign. On the 27th of January he addressed a letter to his lordship (which he read to the House), assigning the reason why he left office—that he found it impossible to sanction the policy of the Government on the subject of Reform. In the great difficulties with which the administration was then surrounded

in respect to our foreign relations, Lord Derby requested him to withhold the avowal of his intention for the present, and he consented, provided he should be allowed to retire before the Reform Bill was actually announced.—Mr. HENLEY followed with some explanations of nearly similar tone, on his own account. He was prepared for a considerable reduction in the borough franchise, but considered the identity of the franchise in counties and towns approaching fraud with serious peril, and tending towards revolution. With these serious differences of opinion between himself and the majority of the cabinet he felt that his retirement from office was indispensable.

New writs were moved for North Wilts, in the room of Mr. S. Estcourt; for West Sussex, in the room of the Earl of March; for North Northumberland, in the room of Lord Lovain; and for Tewkesbury, in the room of Mr. F. Lygon, the vacating members having respectively accepted office as Secretary of State for the Home Department, President of the Poor Law Board, President of the Board of Trade, and Lord of the Admiralty.

STATE OF THE SHIPPING INTEREST.

Mr. LINDSAY called attention to the present condition of the shipping interest, and moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of certain burthens and restrictions affecting merchant shipping. Citing many returns to show the distressed condition of the mercantile marine, and the smaller comparative share which it has for many years enjoyed in the expansion of commercial intercourse, the great portion falling into the hands of foreigners, the hon. member declared that he had no intention to impugn the policy of free trade. Nor did he insist on reciprocity, which, though very useful if it could be obtained, was a question that must be left to foreign governments. There were, however, many grievances and burthens of home origin which seriously injured the shipping interest. Among these he enumerated the light dues, harbour dues, passing tolls, pilotage charges, and the timber duties; some regulations under the Merchant Shipping Act, and some other imposts and restrictions, respecting which he asked the House to authorise a full inquiry by the medium of a select committee.—The motion was seconded by Mr. LIDDELL, who urged the depressed condition of the shipping trade, and that, although nominally free, it was restricted at home and abroad.—Mr. CRAWFORD moved to extend the inquiry to the operation of the Merchant Shipping Acts and the Passengers' Acts.—This amendment was seconded by Mr. COLLIER.—Mr. HORSFALL complained that other countries had not treated us, in respect to our shipping trade, with the reciprocity to which our liberal measures had entitled us.—Mr. LABOUCHERE insisted upon the success which had followed the repeal of the Navigation Laws as justifying the free trade policy. He acknowledged that there was distress in our shipping trade, but the distress was not peculiar to this country.—Sir S. NORTHGOTE observed that a case had been shown for the grant of a committee, especially since, on both sides of the House, a reversal of our present policy was not called for. The Government were prepared to do all in their power to lighten the burdens of shipowners.—After some remarks from Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Clay, Mr. Ingham, and Mr. Ridley, Mr. CARDWELL expressed his approval of the motion. Inquiry, if it did not remove distress, would clear away misapprehension.—Mr. HENLEY commented upon various points connected with the shipping business, which might, he thought, be usefully investigated by the select committee. After some further discussion the motion was agreed to.

Mr. M'MANON obtained leave to bring in a bill to secure a right of appeal in criminal cases, Mr. DILLYNN, to introduce a bill for the better regulation of endowed schools; and, Mr. BOVILL for two bills, one to amend the law relating to petitions of right, and the other to enable the judges to appoint commissioners within ten miles of London, and in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, to administer oaths in common law.

The House adjourned at a quarter-past twelve o'clock.

Wednesday, March 2.

REAL ESTATE INTEREST.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Mr. LOCKE KING moved the second reading of the Real Estate Intestacy Bill.—Lord W. GRAHAM moved as an amendment that the bill should be read a second time that day six months. The change in the law of succession to landed property which it effected might appear insignificant, but he contended that it would lead to other enactments, and ultimately abrogate the whole law of primogeniture.—Mr. MALLON supported the bill.—Mr. HENLEY, in opposing the bill, insisted that it would have a cruel effect upon the lower classes of landowners.—Sir G. LEWIS observed that the effect of the proposed alteration of the law would not be limited to cottage property; it would completely alter the whole custom of the country with respect to the devolution of landed property. It was therefore

necessary to consider not only the economical, but the political consequences of the division of such property, and the abolition of the idea of an "heir at law." Much might be said as to the convenience of a system of a division of landed property; but, looking to the connexion of our custom of landed tenures with the constitution, he could not consent to the bill.—Mr. M. MILNES supported the measure.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL enumerated various points which appeared to have been overlooked, showing, he observed, the small degree of consideration given to the measure. Those who proposed so grave and important an alteration of the law were bound to show that there was a strong desire for a change of the law, that the law occasioned hardship, and that the proposed change was consistent with expediency and sound policy. He stated reasons for concluding that the parties interested in this subject were satisfied with the law as it stood; and he argued from its operation that, unless in exceptional cases, it inflicted no practical hardship. In discussing the last point, he remarked that the existing law had produced a state of social circumstances justifying the law, which harmonised with an hereditary monarchy and an hereditary peerage; tended to keep up a class distinct from the aristocracy of mere wealth and that produced by successful commercial enterprise; favoured the agriculture of the country; and kept families together by a headship, while it stimulated younger brothers to emulation and parents to exertion, in order to make provision for the younger branches of the family. In pointing out the evils that would result from the proposed change, he urged that it would be impossible to stop there; the Legislature must go further, and perhaps fulfil the predictions of Count de Montalembert.—Mr. LOWE remarked that this was not a question of great public policy; the question was, when the law had to make a will for a man, what kind of will, standing in his place, it ought to make for him. The views of the landed interest, he maintained, ought not to decide the question, any more than those of the commercial or any other interest. It ought to make such a will as the man himself, supposing him to be a good, prudent, and wise man, would have made; and he contended that our present law did not make such a will for the distribution of landed property.—Lord H. VANE contended that it would be unwise to introduce an alteration of the law.—Mr. HOPE argued that the change of the law would, in the course of years, convert the holders of small freehold estates into mere squatters.—General THOMPSON and Mr. EWART spoke in favour of the bill, which was opposed by Mr. WHITESIDE.—Mr. WALTER called attention to extracts from the Code Napoleon, and, believing that this measure would lay a foundation for the introduction of something like the Code Napoleon, he solemnly warned the House against its adoption.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the passing of this measure would be a legislative declaration that it was the duty of every honest and wise man to divide his real estate by will among his children.—Lord PALMERSTON said he objected to this measure upon every possible ground. The proposition was at variance with the habits, customs, and feelings of the people of this country, and incompatible with the maintenance of a constitutional monarchy, which required a landed aristocracy, titled or untitled. It was nothing to say that an option was given; if a great constitutional principle was involved, it should not be left to such a contingency.—The House divided.—For the second reading, 76; for the amendment, 271; majority, 195. The bill was consequently rejected.

The Newspapers, &c. Bill was read a second time.

CONVEYANCE OF VOTERS BILL.

The second reading of this bill, by which candidates at elections are prohibited from paying the expenses of conveying voters to the poll, but with provision for increasing the number of polling places, was moved by Mr. COLLIER.—Mr. HUNT considered that it would be merely waste of time to discuss the bill while a general measure for parliamentary reform was before the House. He moved that the debate should be adjourned.—Mr. HEADLAND urged its prosecution, because that measure may never come on for discussion.—Mr. COLLIER expressed his determination to press the bill, since dissolution is probable.—Lord PALMERSTON thought the bill should be proceeded with.—Mr. JAMES referred, in support of the bill, to the expense of cabs and polling places. In the late election he paid 400*l.* for polling places no better than apple-stalls.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL supported the bill because it provides for an increase of polling places.—Sir JOHN PARNFORTH objected to it as a partial measure on a subject which should be considered as a whole.—The House divided on an amendment by Mr. STEWART, and the motion was carried by 172 to 159.

The Recreation Grounds Bill was read a second time. The Medical Act Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.—The House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

Thursday, March 3.

PUBLIC OFFICERS AT HONG KONG.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Earl GREY asked Her Majesty's Government for an explanation of a recent trial at Hong Kong.—Lord CARNARVON stated that the trial was a fraction of a much larger case, and declined to express an opinion on a part until the whole was decided.

Lord BROUGHAM entered into an explanation of a former speech of his relating to warlike preparations in France, which he declared had been misrepresented.

EDUCATION—INDIA.

The Duke of ARGYLE postponed *sine die* the question of which he had given notice respecting education in India.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH deprecated all discussion upon the subject in the present position of Indian affairs.—Lord DERBY stated that the Indian Government had been called upon to report on the question of education. He thought it would be better to postpone a discussion on so delicate a subject until they received that report.—Their Lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

THE STADE DUES.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. S. FITZGERALD stated that the notice for the termination of the Treaty of 1844, in reference to the Stade Dues, between the United Kingdom and Hanover, was given to the Hanoverian Government on the 14th of August last, and that the notice had not, in fact, been withdrawn.

THE JEWISH OATH.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, prefacing his motion by a resolution setting forth that "Whereas the House had, upon two previous occasions, resolved, That any person professing the Jewish religion may henceforth, in taking the oath prescribed in an Act to entitle him to sit and vote in this House, omit the words 'and I make this declaration upon the true faith of a Christian,'" moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide that the foregoing resolution might be made a standing order. The hon. member commented upon the unsatisfactory state in which the question had been left by the compromise effected last year, and pointed out the inconveniences which might, under many possible contingencies, arise, if the admission of a Jew member to his seat were left dependent upon the passing of a resolution that required to be formally renewed every session.—Mr. NEWDEGATE moved, as an amendment, a resolution that it be a standing order, "That no resolution, under the provisions of the Act 21st and 22d Victoria, cap. 49, shall be moved in this House, unless at least one day's notice of such resolution shall have been previously given in the votes." He observed that the two resolutions referred to had been hastily adopted, and that it was due to the character of the House not to act in this matter with precipitancy.—Mr. MALINS, concurring in the object which Mr. Duncombe had in view, pointed out the practical difficulties in the way of the course he proposed to take, which was calculated to renew painful conflicts.—After a few words from Mr. BENTINCK, who supported the amendment; and from Mr. BYNG and Mr. CONINGHAM, in favour of the bill, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the matter was left in a position which rendered legislation expedient. He regretted that the subject was again opened for controversy, and wished that some means of permanently settling the question could be devised less calculated to challenge opposition than the bill now brought forward. The amendment proposed by Mr. Newdegate seemed to him also highly objectionable.—Sir G. GREY denied that there had been any compact not to reopen the subject. His doubt was whether it was worth while to go to the House of Lords to ask its concurrence in the conversion of the resolution into a standing order of this House.—Ultimately, the amendment was withdrawn, and the original motion, with Mr. DUNCOMBE's consent, was negatived.—Mr. WALPOLE suggested that, instead of bringing in a bill at once, the subject should be referred to a select committee, with the view of framing a carefully considered and acceptable measure.

THE TIMBER DUTIES.

Mr. MITCHELL moved a resolution, that the duties on foreign and colonial wood should be repealed, urging as grounds for the repeal, that this tax upon a raw material was contrary to the policy initiated by Sir Robert Peel; that it was most unequal, and that it pressed severely and unfairly upon the ship-building trade.—Mr. FENWICK seconded the motion.—Sir S. NORTHCOTE submitted that the motion was premature. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had not yet brought forward his budget, the financial position of the country was unascertained, and it was, he maintained, inexpedient to fetter the Government by expressing an abstract condemnation of any particular tax. He proceeded to advance reasons for concluding that, if the duties were repealed, the home consumers would be little, if at all, benefited, but the whole sum lost to the Exchequer, which

amounted to nearly 600,000*l.* a year, would go into the pockets of the foreign producers.—Mr. WILSON on principle declined to vote for any repeal of taxation until it was shown that the money could be spared without leaving a deficiency in the public revenue.—Mr. HUDSON supported the motion.—Mr. LABOUCHERE believed that if timber could be cheapened it would benefit greatly many interests; but he could not vote for an abstract resolution for the repeal of a tax until he had heard the financial statement of the Government.—Lord H. VANE suggested the addition of words to the resolution limiting its effects.—Mr. MITCHELL proposed to add, at the end of the resolution, "as soon as the revenue admits of it."—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said this addition made the resolution still more objectionable, as it pledged the House to repeal these duties, which he should be happy to see repealed, but it was not in his power to hold out any expectation of his being able to abandon them.—The House divided upon the motion as amended, which was negatived by 133 to 77.

SALE OF SPIRITS IN SCOTLAND.

Lord MELGUND moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the laws regulating the sale and consumption of exciseable liquors in Scotland. The Act, called Forbes Mackenzie's, he observed, seemed to have very much the character of those severe sumptuary laws which defeated their own object; from some of its provisions, much of the evil of which he complained appeared to arise, and he thought their operation was a fair subject of Parliamentary investigation. He read statistics of drunkenness in different towns in Scotland, and statements as to the stimulus which the Act had given to the illicit trade in spirituous liquors, to the consumption of such liquors, and to the demoralisation consequent upon excess. He was ready, he said, to leave the appointment of the committee to the Committee of Selection, or any impartial body.—Sir A. AGNEW moved, as an amendment, an Address to Her Majesty, to appoint a Royal Commission to carry out the said inquiry.—This amendment was seconded by Mr. FINLAY.—Sir G. GREY supported the original motion, as did Mr. C. BRUCE.—The LORD ADVOCATE stated that, in the opinion of the Government, the inquiry would be best conducted by a Royal commission. He hoped that the House would consent to adopt that course.—After some remarks by Sir E. COLEBROOKE, Mr. WILSON contended that the inquiry by means of a commission would be attended with many inconveniences and enormous expense.—Mr. HARDY showed cause for believing that, on the whole, a commission was the best medium for the proposed investigation.—Mr. BAXTER, Lord J. STUART, Mr. E. ELLICE, Lord DUNCAN, and Mr. KINNAIRD spoke in favor of a commission.—The amended motion for the appointment of a Royal commission was agreed to.

WEST INDIES.

Mr. BUXTON moved for a select committee to inquire into the condition of the West Indies, and the best means of promoting immigration into them. He denied that the distressed state of the islands could be attributed to the emancipation of the negroes. All the misfortunes of the planters could be traced to other sources. The supply of labour was, however, the question of chief importance, and on this point he urged the advisability of inquiry, with the view of discovering the quarter from whence and the means by which this supply could be best provided. The hon. member criticised the system of immigration as at present established, objecting to many of the arrangements now in force, and contending that the whole expense incurred in importing labourers should be defrayed by the planters.—Sir E. B. LYTON briefly related the history and progress of the immigration system, which had largely promoted the prosperity of the West Indies, and from which he was convinced no Government would consent to depart. The complaints of mortality among the immigrants, whether on board the passage-vessels or in the colonies, were, he insisted, grounded on exaggerated or distorted statements, and were entirely disproved by the actual facts, into which a searching investigation had been instituted. Assenting to the proposed inquiry, he suggested that the question should be allowed to stand over for a little while, until some papers now in preparation were laid before Parliament.—Mr. LABOUCHERE said he could express almost a complete coincidence of opinion with Sir E. Lyton, and he hoped Mr. Buxton would not invite the House to enter upon an unnecessary and, it might be, a mischievous inquiry, which would be exceedingly offensive to many persons in the British West Indies. The question whether free labour can compete with slave labour had been successfully resolved in our colonies.—After some remarks by Mr. CROSSLEY, Mr. C. FORRESCU, and Mr. EWING, Mr. BUXTON withdrew his motion.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE obtained leave to introduce a

bill to repeal the 32nd section of the County Courts' Act, and make further provision in lieu thereof.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this bill, Mr. B. HOPE said he was bound to enter his protest against this bill, and to give it an undying and undeviating opposition. All the women of England were opposed to this bill. He moved that the bill be read a third time that day six months.

The House divided:—For the third reading, 137; against it, 89; majority, 48.

The House adjourned at a quarter to two.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

In the Court of Divorce this week, Lord Chief Justice Cockburn gave judgment in the divorce suit "Robinson v. Lane." His lordship, in the course of a very elaborate and eloquent judgment, went through the whole of the circumstances of this extraordinary case, analysing with great care the diary of Mrs. Robinson, and concluding by saying that the evidence grounded on that document was not sufficient to justify the Court in pronouncing a sentence of divorce, and that therefore the petition of Mr. Robinson must be dismissed.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Oak and Snow, of the Blandford Bank, was held, with a view to annul the bankruptcy; a dividend of 4*s.* 4*d.* has been paid already, and it was said that it would probably be annulled on a composition of 6*s.*

An action was tried on Saturday in the Court of Exchequer which throws a little additional light on the manufacture of that mysterious liquid called London milk. The plaintiff was a cow-keeper, and the action was brought to recover the amount of a milk score owing by the defendant. The alleged reason for non-payment was the doubtful quality of the milk supplied by the plaintiff. Mr. Mabbs, the defendant, on the authority of the lactometer, went so far as to state there was a proportion of four-sevenths water. Mr. Baron Bramwell, with much *naïveté*, inquired of a witness—"Do they ever sell pure milk at the milk shops?" a query which savours strongly of judicial simplicity. The jury decided ultimately in favor of the plaintiff's claim, thereby negating the allegation that the milk was watered, as described by the defendant, and disregarding the scientific testimony of the lactometer.

The case of Black v. Elliott, at the Newcastle assizes, occupied the Court for nearly three days. The plaintiff, who was a farmer, had bought from the defendant, a chemist, a certain composition to be used for dipping sheep. After the sheep had been dipped, a great flood came on, and washed the stuff out of their fleeces into the grass, and from eating this, the sheep, to the number of 700, died. Mr. Justice Willes, in summing up, said the verdict of the jury must be founded upon whether this was a reasonable and fit composition to be used according to the directions upon the packages. If they thought the loss of the sheep could be reasonably attributed to no other cause, then their verdict must be for the plaintiff; but if the plaintiff had not made out this, then their verdict must be for the defendant. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £1,400.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Tuesday, Alfred Skeen and Archibald Freeman, who failed in June last, as timber brokers, were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour. A point of law had been raised on their behalf, that they had voluntarily made disclosure under bankruptcy, and that this could not be brought against them. It was shown, however, that they had not done so until the criminal prosecution had been commenced. The testimony of a number of witnesses to character was urged in mitigation of punishment, but the Chief Baron remarked on the frequent worthlessness of such statements, one of the parties in the present instance having "to his eternal disgrace," said that, notwithstanding the transaction, he should think as well of the prisoners as before.—William Roberts, who was charged with the murder of John Brady, at Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, was placed at the bar; but there being no doubt of the insanity of the prisoner, the Court ordered him to be placed in safe custody.—Alfred Skeen and Archibald Freeman, convicted at a previous session of appropriating a warrant for a cargo of timber, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour for twelve months.—Anne Collyer, the servant who was charged with setting fire to the dwelling-house of her master Charles Mellor, he being therein at the time, was found not guilty.

In the Bankruptcy Court on Thursday, the first sitting was held for proof of debts and choice of assignees in the case of James Parsell, whose frauds have lately attracted attention.—In the case of the Hastings Old Bank, a further dividend of 2*s.* in the pound, making 17*s.* paid, will shortly be announced.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

On Saturday Edward Esdaile and Hugh Cameron, of British Bank fame, were liberated from the Queen's Prison, their term of punishment having expired. The creditors under the bankruptcy of Cameron have been paid in full, and there will be a large surplus. The whole of the bank directors are now at large, Humphrey Brown's twelve months having been shortened on the ground of ill-health, and Richard Hartley Kennedy, the ex-alderman, having obtained his liberty by the payment of 5,000*l.* to the assignees, and by the powerful intercession of his friends.

In the Andover murder case, we are told that forty witnesses were subpoenaed; the Grand Jury, however, have ignored the bill against Banks and his wife.

An inquest has been held at Limehouse on the body of George Washer, who had gone on the 20th ultimo to the house of James Dunmore, and, whilst in a state of intoxication, made some statement regarding Dunmore's wife, which excited an attack. In the scuffle that ensued, the deceased was struck on the head with some instrument by Mrs. Dunmore, and died instantly. A verdict of "Manslaughter" was returned against the wife. The woman was committed for trial and the man discharged.

IRELAND.

MARTIN FALLON, one of the Phoenix clubbites, was convicted at the Westmeath Assizes on Friday, of being connected with illegal societies, the pass-words of which were found upon him, and was sentenced, on Saturday, to seven years' penal servitude.

The prospect of speedily mounting the scarlet hat has not rendered Archbishop Cullen unmindful of the welfare of his old flock in the diocese of Dublin. In his Lenten pastoral just issued, and which professes to be the regulations to be observed by the faithful in the approaching season of fast, the most rev. prelate, having disposed of the egg, butter, and fleshmeat portion of the new rules, proceeds briefly to denounce Ribandism and Freemasonry, the polka and proselytism, as the monster evils of modern society.

ACCIDENTS.

A FIRE, attended with the most distressing results, took place in Marylebone, on Saturday morning. The scene of the catastrophe was an eating-house in Great James-street, occupied by Mr. Reeves. After the cook and two children had been rescued, some one burst open the front door. This had the double effect of setting fire to the machine and of increasing the strength of the conflagration which was raging within. The result was that the fire-escape conductor, who had Mr. Reeves in his arms, fell to the ground and sustained serious injuries. But this was not the worst of the calamity. Before further assistance could be rendered, the whole of the building fell in, and occasioned the destruction of Mr. Reeves, three of his children, and the nurse. At the inquest on the bodies of the victims, the jury found a verdict of "Accidental death," praised the fire-escape man, but imputed remissness to the police.

On Saturday a terrible accident occurred on the London and North-Western line, between Rugby and Leamington. As the train was passing a curve at "express" speed, the engine and tender became detached, and rushed down an embankment into a ploughed field. The driver and an engineer named Pilkington were killed on the spot, and many of the passengers were seriously injured. The stoker also was so much hurt that he died immediately after he had been conveyed to the infirmary.

The Royal English mail steamer, Prince Frederick William, ran foul of Calais pier on entering the harbour on Saturday. Three passengers perished, the victims of their eagerness to disembark. All the other passengers, together with the Indian and usual mails, were landed in safety.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

CAPTAIN NORTON, the inventor of several improvements in missiles, has completed the experiments which he has undertaken for the purpose of testing his inventions. Captain Norton states that he is quite prepared to set fire to any line-of-battle ship by means of one of his shells, and that a succession of them poured into the hull of any vessel would burn her to the water's-edge in a few minutes. As soon as a Government commission has been appointed Captain Norton's missiles will be subjected to a variety of tests.

Captain A. F. Kynaston has been ordered by the Admiralty to fit the screw steam frigate *Termagant* with his lifeboat hooks.

We are informed that in consequence of recent experiments made at L'Orient, as well as at Vincennes, the upper tier of guns in all French ships of war are to be rifled.

The *Mechanics' Magazine* has an exceedingly interesting paper on the Armstrong gun, and the advantages to be derived from its use. With regard to naval warfare the writer says:—We may at once reduce the weight of our naval guns by nearly three-fourths without impairing their range or aim. This would enormously increase the facility of handling them, and therefore leave us free to greatly reduce the number of men employed to work them. Another advantage might be gained in the use of certain guns, particularly the bow-chase guns on board ship. It is always a matter of great difficulty to give such a form to the ship that the muzzles of these may, when the guns are run out, project sufficiently far to carry the fire of the explosion clear of the vessel. With the long, slight Armstrong gun this difficulty would not be experienced; but, on the other hand, the Armstrong shell is not to be compared, for destructive effect, with the round shells now used in the navy. Nor does the Armstrong projectile penetrate thick iron plates, as some suppose; and this is probably one reason why both the French and English Governments are just now so anxious for the construction of iron-plated ships of war, if such can be successfully devised. That the Admiralty have the means of penetrating iron plates we are prepared confidently to state; but the Armstrong gun is not the gun they would use for the purpose. As for the Napoleon field-piece, of which the Emperor has 200 already completed for the Imperial Guard, we do not believe it will at all approach the Armstrong piece in merit of any kind. It is merely a two-grooved four-pounder-bore piece, with round shell, made to fit the grooves.

On Tuesday, the three battalions of infantry at Chatham garrison, the battalion of Royal Marine Light Infantry, and the corps of Royal and East India Engineers now at head-quarters were marched from their respective quarters to Chatham Lines for the purpose of going through the manoeuvres of a brigade field-day. The battalions numbering 5,000 men, were reviewed by Major-General Eyre. It is intended to have these brigade field-days at very frequent intervals during the fine weather.

Sir Charles Shaw has again written to the journals upon the merits of his rifle battery, which is unquestionably an important invention. He says—"That Armstrong's guns and those constructing at Vincennes will revolutionize the whole system of sea and siege warfare there can be no doubt; but as to fights on land it can be easily shown that the lighter arm of destruction, the more efficacious will it be. The French piece of artillery, with which they are now practising at Vincennes, weighs about 2,500 lbs., and is said to require six men. It can at 2,000 yards put 20 musket balls in a target six feet square. My Enfield rifle battery, which consists of 24 barrels, weighs not quite 200 lbs.; it can at about 2,000 yards put in a target of the same size 20 balls; consequently 10 of them, weighing in all 2,000 lbs., with four men each, would put 200 balls—that is, in effect 10 to 1, and men 4 to 6. Some change in the formation of soldiers must take place, but it seems hard to say how armies are in future to be manoeuvred."

Capt. Caffin, C.B., Naval Director-General of Artillery, on Tuesday visited Woolwich, to make arrangements for carrying out the new principle proposed for the armament of the fleet. A special committee has been appointed, of which the following names have transpired, namely:—Sir Thomas Hastings, Sir John Burgoyne, Bart., Sir Howard Douglas, Bart., Captain Caffin to act as secretary to the committee. Sir William Armstrong, having inspected the old Lancaster shell factory, which is well fitted with machinery necessary for his requirements, is taken over that establishment.

On Thursday a telegraphic despatch from the Admiralty was received in Chatham Dock-yard, directing nearly 300 additional shipwrights and other artisans to be immediately taken on in that establishment. The whole of the men employed in the dockyard are also to work early and late, by task work, in order to complete those vessels of war now on the stocks. The general opinion is that Government is in receipt of unfavourable news from the Continent.

The newly invented breech-loading percussion gun, which has been perfected by Mr. Warry, the armourer to the 3rd battalion, at Chatham, was yesterday subjected to another trial at Brompton-barracks, for the purpose of testing this new piece of ordnance when used in firing shell. The model gun was on this occasion loaded with one of Captain Norton's newly invented "liquid fire" rifle shells. Captain Norton directed a stout plank to be erected at the end of the range for the shell to strike against. On the signal being given, the gun was fired, the first shell striking the board, against which it burst, scattering the "liquid fire" for some distance. The results were most satisfactory.

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

It is said that the overbearing disposition and extraordinary political views displayed by the Prince Napoleon are creating great distrust and alarm in Paris, since his influence with the Emperor is considered far too great. An "animated conversation"—or, in plain terms, a quarrel—took place on Sunday between the Prince and M. de Persigny, who declared that the Prince's principles and language were mischievous, not merely to the Imperial Government, but to society at large, and if carried out would infallibly lead to the ruin of the best interests of the country. The conversation lasted some time, and still in the same animated tone. "It is certain," says the *Times*, "that, if polled to-morrow, the whole of the French people, excepting, perhaps, a minute minority, would be found on the side of M. de Persigny, and against the Prince."

The debate of Friday in the English Parliament, and particularly the speeches of Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli, have produced the best effect in Paris. Persons attached to the Imperial Government speak of that debate in terms of admiration, and some who were lukewarm about the English alliance seem now taken with a strong affection for it.

It is said that the last report from the Inspector-General of Gendarmery represents public opinion in the departments as being still opposed to war. The chances of peace or war are still the same. The great, perhaps the greatest, chance for peace is in the decided disinclination for war which exists throughout France in all classes, except, perhaps, the army, and there principally among the regimental officers, who naturally want promotion. Among the higher officers there is very little or no desire for war. It is certain that this feeling among the population at large surprises, irritates, and embarrasses the Emperor. At Paris the circulation of rumours and incessant issue of pamphlets seem designed, in the absence of any possibility of free discussion, to prevent the public from settling to their legitimate pursuits, and the private advices from well-informed persons convey nothing of a reassuring character as to the opinions entertained of the Emperor's designs.

The communication made by Cardinal Antonelli to the two Ambassadors has created much displeasure in Paris, where it seems to be looked upon as an Austrian snare. The argument is that Austria has only to withdraw across the Po, and could quickly return in case of the revolutionary outbreak.

The *Constitutionnel* says:—"We learn that, in consequence of the communication addressed by Cardinal Antonelli to the French Ambassador at Rome, the Emperor has ordered the immediate evacuation by our troops of the Pontifical City. A message received here to-day announces, as it is asserted, that the French corps d'armée had been forthwith withdrawn to Civita Vecchia, there to await the transport vessels which will convey the troops back to France."

The *Salut Public* of Lyons says:—"All the growing crops in this neighbourhood being favoured by the unusually mild temperature, present the most satisfactory appearance. The corn fields and meadows are beautifully green, and colzas will very soon be in flower. Large flocks of birds of passage are already returning."

The electric cable between France and England has been again broken, and despatches between Paris and London have to be transmitted *via* Ostend.

The Paris correspondent of the *Herald* says:—"There are at present 240 of the new rifled 4-pounders 'parked' at Toulon and Lyons. These guns, as I have already told you, throw an 8-pound conical shot. They are not provided with two grooves, as alleged by the *Mechanics' Magazine*, but with six."

A report is current in Paris that Austria has made counter-proposals to Lord Cowley, which had been supported by Prussia. It is asserted that the vessels had left which were to convey the troops back to France.

AUSTRIA.

Austria has received the replies of the minor German Governments on the Italian question. Some declare their perfect consent to the hope of an eventual alliance; others remark that a joint application of Austria and Prussia at the Diet would undoubtedly lead to a united action of Germany.

On the 21st Feb. died at Milan, Emilio Dandolo, who, in 1848, fought with some distinction at Lombardy, and afterwards wrote a good book on the campaign. His funeral took place on the 22nd, and was attended by ten thousand persons, amongst

whom were a great many ladies, several of high rank. The Prefect of Police begged the people to disperse; but they declared they would accompany the bier to the cemetery. The civil governor of Milan, Baron Burger, now came up, and renewed his request, that the people would disperse. It was in vain, and the vast throng increased; and having laid the tri-coloured cockade of Italy on the coffin, they burst into one loud shout of "Italy for ever!" It was repeated on every side, and the cry was taken up along the whole road. And then arose other shouts of "Freedom for ever!" A few speeches were delivered, in which mention was made of young Dandolo's gallant deeds against the troops of the foreigner in Lombardy, Venice, and Rome. After that, the crowd broke up by degrees, without committing any excess. In consequence of this popular demonstration, numerous arrests have taken place, but several persons succeeded in escaping. The prisoners were conducted to the Castle, and delivered over to a military commission.

A farmer near Pavia, who had denounced some refugees, has been clandestinely assassinated.

The works of fortification along the Ticino, at Pavia, and at the environs, are carried on actively. General Gyulai and staff have arrived at Milan.

Letters from Lombardy speak in painful terms of the distress prevailing amongst the great bulk of the smaller landowners. It is on the cultivation of the mulberry-tree and the production of raw silk that they chiefly depend for support. But so exhausted are they by the relentless taxation of the Austrians that thousands of them are obliged to cut down, as a means of present subsistence, their mulberry-trees. The dreadful significance of this will be appreciated by all who know the country and the time the mulberry-tree takes in coming to perfection. The consequence is that the animosity and hatred of the rural population towards the Austrians are fast becoming as great as they are in the mural population. In fact the whole country pants for an opportunity of rising. The sons of the richer proprietors are emigrating to Piedmont, where they are entering, even as private soldiers, the ranks of the Piedmontese army.

Lord Cowley arrived at Vienna on Sunday; and had an interview with the Emperor on Tuesday; the next day a grand banquet was given at court in his honour. His departure for Paris is announced to take place this day (Saturday).

We find the following statement of the objects of Lord Cowley's mission, in a Turin letter:—"Lord Cowley was to inform Count Buol, in a semi-official way, of the bases on which England is prepared to assist in establishing peace. As regards the Papal States, Austria is to join France in requesting Pío Nono to accept the reforms as traced out in the memorial presented by Count Cavour at the time of the Congress of Paris; the separate treaties concluded by her with the Italian governments, and which are derogatory to their independence, are to be considered null and void; liberal governments are to be formed in each Italian province upon the bases of the statutes promulgated in 1848; and Austria is to grant to Lombardy and Venice a government largely infused with the representative element, and almost independent, under the Archduke Maximilian, to be created Viceroy."

PRUSSIA.

On Wednesday, the Ministry, urged by the repeated proposals of several states of the Zollverein, decided upon proposing to the Zollverein resolutions prohibiting the exportation of horses on all the frontiers, without exception.

A telegram from Berlin in the *Nord*, dated February the 27th, states that the projected mission of Prince Frederick William of Prussia to Vienna has been abandoned.

The baptism of the infant Prince will take place on the 5th of March—a day distinguished in the Protestant Church of Germany by the denomination of Friedrich. On the 6th, her Royal Highness the Princess Frederick William will be churched in the Dom of Berlin.

The Prussian princess alluded to as the probable bride elect of the Prince of Wales, is Princess Alexandrine, daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia, and niece to the Prince Regent. The Princess is the foster child of the Queen of Prussia, her parents having been legally divorced at a time when she needed all the tender care of a mother. She is now staying at Rome with her royal guardian, whither, if reports are to be trusted, the Prince of Wales has not resorted without some definite hopes of meeting this most intimate friend of his sister.

PAPAL STATES.

The *Moniteur* announces that on the 22nd ult. Cardinal Antonelli announced to the ambassadors of France and Austria that the Pope considers his own power sufficient to warrant the security of his throne, and consequently was ready to enter into

arrangements with the two Powers for the simultaneous evacuation of his territory by the French and Austrian army with the least possible delay. The Roman Government, it is said, has already taken measures for organising an army of 20,000 Swiss, and that a negotiation between Queen Christiana and the Papal Government for Spain, to place at the disposal of the Pope two regiments of infantry and one of artillery, to be paid by him, is on the eve of conclusion. A regiment of Swiss Catholics is to be raised. The native Roman army consists of about 15,000 men.

SARDINIA.

The congratulatory address which the King has received from the National Guard testifies strongly to the wish of the people for a war undertaken to liberate the remainder of Italy. A letter of the 24th inst. informs us that preparations are being made on a large scale for the defence both of Genoa and the Gulf of Spezzia. A great number of deserters arrive daily at Genoa, coming from the frontier. They are almost all from the Duchies, and are immediately sent to Turin. The deserters from Lombardy and Venetia arrive from the other side, and are more numerous. In execution of the law concerning the loan, the official *Piedmontese Gazette* publishes a decree, by which the Minister of Finance is authorised to alienate by public subscription $1\frac{1}{2}$ million francs of the Five per Cent. Rente at the price of 79.

A despatch from Turin says that a public subscription, to cover the loan, has been opened at the Bank. A large number of persons have subscribed, and it is certain that the whole loan will be covered, if not exceeded.

NAPLES.

A letter from Naples, dated Feb. 22, says, "The King still continues at Bari, and the *Journal* is silent as to the state of his health, from which I infer that it is in a very uncertain and unsatisfactory state. A very general impression prevails that the King's health is in a much more precarious state than has been imagined. That his legs have been much swollen is, I believe, undeniable. A person writing from Bari says:—'Since his illness, his Majesty has not been able to occupy himself much with public affairs. His nervous system is so shattered that he weeps when spoken to.'"

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople to the 23rd February state that the appointment of the Minister of Finance has been revoked. A convention has been signed for the purpose of forming a new bank in London. Sir Henry Bulwer has remitted a note to the Porte, in which he claims the fulfilment of the promise made by the Humayoun. It is believed that Sir Henry was acting in concert with France. There is a violent agitation in the Epirus and in Thessaly. The Divan and the Greek Patriarch are engaged in a dispute on the subject of reforms in ecclesiastical matters.

SERVIA.

The Porte has declared its disavowal of the manifesto of Prince Milosch, in which he asserts his authority as an hereditary ruler.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

Since the last news, Prince Couza has relinquished his project of uniting the assemblies of Wallachia and Moldavia at Fokschani. It is, however, his intention to address to the Great Powers a petition in favour of the union of the Principalities.

The French Consul at Bucharest is reported to have arrived in Paris on leave of absence. It is very probable that his journey has a good deal to do with the approaching conference on the double election of Colonel Couza.

THE GERMAN DIET.

The speeches recently delivered in the Hanoverian Chambers were fiery and energetic. Most of the orators evidently delighted in allusion to Waterloo, and the strong ingredient of Hanoverian troops then and there fighting under the command of the Duke of Wellington. The First Chamber has unanimously adopted the resolution of the Second Chamber, that Government should be requested to use its influence with the Federal Diet, if necessary, to repel with united Federal power, any attacks on Austria or other German States.

Bavaria has intimated her intention of requesting the Frankfort Diet to arm and provision the fortresses of the Confederation in readiness for war. These places are, Mayence, Ulm, Rastatt, Landau, Luxemburg, and Gomersheim, which have been erected for the purpose of protecting Germany against the French.

The whole reserve of the army of Wurtemberg, forming altogether a force of about 30,000 men, has received instructions to hold itself in readiness.

SPAIN.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 22nd ult., M. Rivoro strongly opposed the item of 3,000,000 reals for Queen Christina, on the ground that the allowance to her Majesty, having been formally suppressed in 1854, could not be legally renewed. The Chamber,

on a division, voted the allowance by 196 votes to 14.

Some journals having published a telegraphic despatch, announcing that an alliance offensive and defensive has been entered into between Spain, France, and England, for the defence of the Isle of Cuba, the semi-official *Hojas* says:—"We have reasons for asserting that this despatch is false."

Letters of the 23rd mention that the corn question had for some days previously occupied the whole of the Spanish Deputies. In consequence of the extreme dearth of every article of food, foreign grain was allowed to enter Spanish ports during a part of last year, but that after that period vessels laden with corn have only been admitted on condition of proving that they had shipped their cargoes before they could have known the decree prohibiting its introduction. Two conferences have already taken place at Madrid between the members of the Cortes, who are divided into Prohibitionists and Free-traders. At their meeting the Free-traders spoke eloquently, and M. Olozaga proposed the formation of a Commission to come to an understanding with the Government with the view of reforming the Customs' tariff, and thus securing to Spain a more regular supply of cheap food. The Commission was named, with M. Olozaga for President, and had a conference of two hours with the Minister of Commerce, who promised that the Government would soon prepare a bill, and propose it to the Cortes, having for its object the admission of foreign corn at a duty sufficient to protect the agricultural interest of Spain.

PORTUGAL.

A telegram received on Thursday informs us that at Lisbon the question of a concordat has been finally settled, and the right of nomination has been vested in the Holy See. The Chamber of Deputies are discussing the railway contract. A violent speech has been made against Sir M. Peto by one of the deputies. It is expected that Sir M. Peto's proposals will be adopted.

CANADA.

The Queen's decision in favour of Ottawa as the seat of the Government of Canada was carried in the Legislative Assembly on the 11th ult., by a majority of five.

A telegraphic despatch from Toronto of the 13th says:—"The parliamentary debate on the Governor's speech closed this morning, and all the clauses of the address in reply thereto were carried by majorities ranging from five to fifty. The address was presented to the Governor to-day."

AMERICA.

By the Asia we have New York intelligence to the 16th ult. On the 11th October the American brigantine Rufus Soule, from Matanzas for the African coast, was boarded by the British steamer Viper—searched and burned. The American flag was flying at the time. There is little doubt that she was a slaver.

At Washington it is reported that Lord Lyons will remain in the country for a few months only, when he will be succeeded by Sir William Gore Ouseley.

The Secretary of the Interior has asked Congress for an appropriation of 20,000 dollars for taking the census of Kansas, with a view to its admission into the Union.

In the House of Representatives on the 12th ult. the bill for the admission of Oregon into the Union passed. Another State is now added to the Confederation, another sovereignty established on the Pacific, and two more votes added to the Democratic side of the Senate Chamber, as a reinforcement against possible Republican increase hereafter.

The Cuban question was still under discussion in Congress. President Buchanan was called on to the window of the White House on the night of the 13th to speak on the subject of the admission of Oregon into the Union, which was being celebrated. He said he sincerely congratulated them upon the advent of another sovereign State into the glorious confederacy of the Republic. Extension was in future the policy of their country, and cowards alone feared and opposed it. Vice-President Breckenridge, having been called upon to say something about Cuba, remarked that they talked much and did too little. When England wished to do a thing she did it, and talked afterwards. If the island of Cuba, instead of being placed at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, lay at the opening of the British Channel, England would have it in ten days. He was in favour of the acquisition of Cuba.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says that he has reason to believe that evidence exists which will convict a Democratic member of Congress of having demanded 400 dollars of a claimant before he would report a certain bill from his committee. The case will be investigated.

The screw-steamer New York, arrived at Southampton on Tuesday, with mails of the 19th ult., from New York.

President Buchanan sent an important Message to Congress on the 18th, calling upon them to give him powers to use the army and navy to protect American citizens and property on the Isthmus transit routes. The following are the most important parts of the Message:—

"In my annual Messages, both of December, 1857, and December, 1858, I state that the Executive Government of this country, in its intercourse with foreign nations, is limited to the employment of diplomacy alone. Where this fails it can proceed no further. It cannot legitimately resort to force without the direct authority of Congress, except in resisting and repelling hostile attacks.

"It would have no authority to enter the territories of Nicaragua even to prevent the destruction of the transit, and protect the lives and property of our own citizens on their passage. It is true that on a sudden emergency of this character the President would direct any armed force in the vicinity to march to their relief, but, in doing this, he would act upon his own responsibility.

"Under these circumstances, I earnestly recommended to Congress the passing of an act authorising the President, under such restrictions as they may deem proper, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the transit from being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, and in protecting the lives and property of American citizens travelling thereupon, requiring at the same time that these forces shall be withdrawn the moment the danger shall have passed away. Without such a provision, our citizens will be constantly exposed to interference in their progress and to lawless violence. A similar necessity exists for the passing of such an act for the protection of the Panama and Tehuantepec routes.

"Another subject equally important commanded the attention of the Senate at the last session of Congress. The republics south of the United States on this continent have, unfortunately, been in a state of revolution and civil war ever since they achieved their independence. As one or the other party has prevailed and obtained possession of their ports open to foreign commerce, they have seized and confiscated American vessels and their cargoes in an arbitrary and lawless manner, and exacted money from American citizens by forced loans and other violent proceedings, to enable them to carry on hostilities. The Executive Government of Great Britain, France, and other countries, possessing the war-making power, can promptly employ the necessary means to enforce immediate redress for similar outrages upon their subjects. Not so the Executive Government of the United States. If the President orders a vessel of war to any of these ports to demand prompt redress for outrages committed, the offending parties are well aware that in case of refusal the commander could do no more than remonstrate. He can resort to no hostile act. The question must then be referred to diplomacy, and in many cases adequate redress can never be obtained—thus American citizens are deprived of the same protection under the flag of their country which the subjects of other nations enjoy.

"I, therefore, earnestly recommend to Congress, on whom the responsibility exclusively rests, to pass a law before their adjournment, conferring on the President the power to protect the lives and property of American citizens in the cases which I have indicated, under such restrictions and conditions as they may deem advisable."

The Message was debated in the Senate, but no action taken in reference to it.

A despatch from Washington announces that information had been received by the Government of the intention of England to carry out the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty in accordance with the American views of their requirements.

On the 17th February a grand ball was given at Washington in honour of Lord Napier, who was about to leave for England; 1,200 persons were present.

MEXICO.

We have advices from Vera Cruz to the 9th ult. Zuloaga abdicated in favour of Miramon on the 2nd ult., when the latter was installed as President. Miramon had re-arrested the political prisoners liberated by Robles, and dismissed all the officers engaged in deposing Zuloaga. He had also suppressed the forced loan of 1,000,000 ordered by Robles. Miramon was about to march on Vera Cruz with a force of 5,000 men, Zuloaga acting as President *ad interim*. The brother of Miramon had been defeated at Zacatecas.

Degollado was threatening the capital with a force of 4,000 reorganised troops. The capture of Mazatlan by the Liberals is confirmed. The commanders of the French and English fleets had succeeded in enforcing their demand at Vera Cruz. The high system of duties was to be restored forthwith, and two-thirds of the revenue secured to England

and France. The American Consul had promptly acted against this interference, and Juarez was greatly embarrassed by it. The merchants had protested against the decree, and begged Juarez to annul it. Juarez threw the responsibility of it on the Anglo-French Governments.

BRAZIL.

By the Tamar, which arrived at Lisbon on the 28th ult. we have news from Rio to the 7th ult. There is no political news. The minister and the fleet of the United States have left Montevideo for Paraguay. The President, Lopez, has accepted the mediation of the Brazilian government.

M. Urquiza, accompanied by Guido, has departed for Paraguay, whither the ministers of France and Sardinia had also gone.

The Jesuits have been expelled from Montevideo.

VENEZUELA.

Advices from Venezuela to January 8, received at Havannah, state that the new constitution had received the sanction of the Executive. The Convention had under deliberation two bills, one granting General Castro a life pension of 3,000 dollars yearly, and the other the title of eminent citizen, with the pay of 3,600 dollars and a present of a sword. The nomination of General Castro as President of the Republic until the next election was also ratified. The country is represented as somewhat disorganised owing to the machinations of Monagas and others.

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES.

By the arrival at Southampton of the Atrato, we have files of the *Panama Star and Herald* to the 8th of February.

CHILI.

The revolution in Chili continued to spread, and had entirely paralysed business. The revolutionists have taken possession of Copiapo, the Government were obliged to declare the port of Caldera blockaded, and the whole Republic, except Chiloe and Valdivia, was under martial law. Little intelligence can be gleaned from the Chili newspapers, but, from what can be learned from private sources, the revolution was likely to be general throughout the country, and to lead to much bloodshed.

The ruins of the late conflagration at Valparaiso were being cleared away gradually, and improvements were going forward.

URUGUAY.

The greater part of the American fleet had arrived at Montevideo, in which port they were placed in quarantine, on account of having touched at Rio Janeiro.

PERU.

Dissatisfaction is spreading, and every day tends more to endanger the government of Castilla. We are likely very soon to hear of a general outbreak. The French minister at Lima, on account of the arbitrary imprisonment of a French subject, M. Pablo Durbin, has hauled down his flag and withdrawn the ministerial arms from his door, and gone on board the frigate *Andromède*, lying in the bay of Callao. The doors and windows which created such a row have at length been landed and taken to Lima and Chorilla. Don Jesus Elias, son of Don Domingo, was imprisoned, but afterwards released on condition that he would leave the country.

BOLIVIA.

Bolivia is in a very disturbed state. General Cordova had advanced with a force on La Paz, and President Linares had retired to Cochabamba with his army.

ECUADOR.

Ecuador was getting more deeply involved with Peru, the squadron of the latter country having left Puna and anchored in front of the city of Guayaquil, with the intention, doubtless, of bombarding, should the slightest affront be offered, to which effect the commander of the fleet had notified the governor of the town.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

A TERRIFIC storm passed over the islands on the 19th of December, during which a deluge of rain fell, completely flooding the country. In Nuuanu most of the dwellings were submerged, and many bridges swept away.

The French have made an official announcement of their assumption of sovereignty over Clipperton Island. The island is small, but covered with guano.

WEST INDIES.

The Atrato arrived at Southampton on Thursday with the West India mails. Her news from Jamaica is to the 11th February.

JAMAICA.

The news is very unimportant. The Executive Committee were engaged in making arrangements for carrying into effect the provision made last session, for establishing steam communication between the island and the United States. This com-

munication was calculated on as tending in a very material degree to increase the trade of the colony.

BARBADOES.

The House of Assembly met on the 8th, but no business of importance was transacted. The market continued over-stocked with breadstuffs, and no prospect of higher rates; a little produce of the new crop was coming into market, but in small quantities. The crop was generally expected to commence throughout the island this month.

DEMERARA.

The Court of Policy had a meeting on the 4th ult., at which the bill to encourage immigration from China was read and passed. The provisions of this ordinance refer chiefly to the introduction of female Chinese. In some of the country districts of Demerara the heavy rains have partially injured the cane plants, and destroyed the provisions of the farmers.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE Athens arrived at Plymouth on Sunday with news from the Cape to the 21st January.

The trade of the colony continues prosperous. The election for the House of Assembly at Cape Town terminated in favour of J. D. Thompson, S. Solomon, M. J. Louir, and P. J. Kotze.

Arrangements are nearly completed for commencing the railroad from Cape Town to Wellington. The Government selection of Fort Knokke as a terminus being objected to, another survey was to be made.

Great dissatisfaction is expressed at the inactivity of the Cape immigration commissioners in England.

The Free State is peaceful.

British Caffraria is being gradually settled down by farmers from the eastern districts and German immigrants.

A bitter quarrel of two years' duration between the Council and the Governor of Natal has come to a crisis. The Council refused to pass the estimates, and was dissolved. The Governor is accused of being too lenient to the natives, and the colonists of being tyrannical.

The 59th Regiment, from China, arrived at Table Bay on the 17th of January, its numerical strength on landing being 618; more than 150 being sick; 20 died on board from dysentery.

STEAM NAVIES IN CONTINENTAL WARS.

THE article entitled "La Marine à Vapeur dans les Guerres Continentales," which has just appeared in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, with the signature of "M. V. de Mars," is attributed to the Prince de Joinville, and is a very able production. The writer commences with a general view of the services rendered by the steam navies of England and France during the Crimean war. He next proceeds to examine what would have been the use of a French fleet in a war with Austria before the introduction of steam. Trieste and Ragusa might have been blockaded, a few thousand tons of sugar would have had to be sent a roundabout way into Austria at a large expense, and the Austrian Lloyds would have been obliged to suspend its lines of packet-boats; that would have been about the whole amount of mischief done to Austria by a fleet. But how stands the case now? France has transformed most of her sailing vessels into screw steamers; her old frigates have been turned into steam transports, and there exists a flotilla of screw corvettes which can aid materially in carrying men, horses, and stores. The author now supposes 50,000 men to be embarked with a full complement of horses, and this large force to be hovering on the enemy's coast. What can the latter do? How can he foresee where this force is likely to land? Shall he concentrate his forces on the most probable point? The French may select another, and then this concentration is useless. Or, else, shall he detach an army strong enough to beat 50,000 Frenchmen to each of the menaced points? No European Power is in a condition to do that. The writer passes under review the different Powers with which France might possibly have to contend in her present state of full equipment. Prussia and Austria are dismissed at once as unable to cope with the navy of France. Russia, it is stated, is in the same case at present. As regards England, the author devotes many pages to this first-rate maritime Power, by no means underrating all the advantages she possesses, but remarking at the same time that the introduction of steam into warfare tends to deprive maritime wars of their naval character, and to give them a military one, so that the navies of different nations will soon be organised on a uniform plan. England is well aware of this, since she is about to create a permanent Channel fleet, and to extend the number of her coast volunteers and continuous service men. If the Continental Powers resolve upon arming their fleets on a military plan, England must give up her old traditions and follow their example. Now, in a continental war there are two cases possible—either England is the ally of one or more maritime Powers, and then the weight of her alliance is decisive; or

else she is at war with one or more maritime Powers of the Continent, and in that case she can only acquire an ascendancy over them by ruining their navies. Then, of course, she can do them infinite mischief by ravaging their coasts, but not by a military invasion; she could only carry on a war of annoyance by a multiplicity of partial expeditions; all her army could be called upon to do would be to occupy some fortified position under the guns of her ships. But this is only a possible, and not a probable case. England, in engaging in a continental war, would probably ensure the services of some allies, whose armies would then derive immense advantages from her fleets. The conclusion at which the author of the article arrives is, that naval forces will henceforth become indispensable elements in future continental wars.

THE FATE OF M. ADOLPHE SCHLAGINTWEIT.

A VERY full meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday evening at Burlington-house, Sir Roderick I. Murchison, President, in the chair.

Among the papers read was a despatch from Captain Henry Strachey respecting the measures taken by the Indian Government to ascertain the fate of M. Adolphe Schlagintweit, communicated by the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P., F.R.G.S.

Adolphe Schlagintweit crossed the Para-Lassa Pass from India to Tibet on the 31st May, 1857.

The last documentary evidence consists of his letter to Harkishu from Chang-Chenmo of Ladak, dated the 14th June, with a postscript, stating that it was not sent till the 24th, and one or two notes, for sundry payments, of the latter date. These documents were brought from Ladak by the Chuprassies, who joined Harkishu at Khardong of Garzha on the 20th of July, from whose statements it appears that before they left the Moonshee, Mohamed Hasan had deserted, taking the ponies, some money, and other articles belonging to M. Schlagintweit, but was overtaken, and the property recovered. Harkishu gathered from Captain Montgomerie, F.R.G.S., of the Trigonometrical Survey, and his native doctor, that they were in Ladak during the summer when he left. From the locality of his last despatch, Chang-Chenmo, it is inferred that he crossed the Turkish water-parting to the east of the Kara Korum Pass—perhaps to Sugat, on the head of the Kara Kash, and thence followed the route taken by his brothers the previous year, towards Kilian and Khoten. It seems that he had laid in a stock of merchandise to facilitate his journey by trading. From another source, the Bholiyas of Jwar, the information serves to show that he had reached the margin of an inhabited country at the foot of the mountains; left his camp to reconnoitre, and, in his absence, the guide absconded with most of the baggage and cattle towards Yarkend. Being thus left helpless, M. Schlagintweit sent to the Yanadar of Le for assistance in men, cattle, provisions, &c., whether for the purpose of penetrating into Turkistan, or returning to Ladak, remains undetermined. The next accounts are derived from merchant travellers from Ladak, from whom it appears that he had passed the winter of 1857-58 on the border of Khoten, and that on his arrival the provinces of Kuskghar and Yarkend were in a disturbed state from one of the periodical invasions of the Turks. It is unlikely that he would remain more than one winter here, or that if still in the locality he would not have opened communication with Ladak and India; probably, therefore, he took the opportunity of the temporary subversion of Chinese authority to enter Khoten or Yarkend, as to go far or remain there. He could hardly avoid the notice of the insurgent Turks, who, though contrary to their natural impulse, might, in the actual conjuncture, welcome him as an enemy to the Chinese, and the love of travel and enterprise might prompt M. Schlagintweit to offer himself in that capacity. In either case, when the Chinese got the upper hand, they would first regain possession of their southern frontier towards Ladak, and he would probably retire with the invading Turks through Kashgur into Khokand, with which our relations have been very slight, although wholly amicable, and on the strength of them he might meet a friendly reception there; on the other hand, the Khokandis are on bad terms with all their neighbours, including the Russians, who are steadily encroaching on their north-west frontier, and this would add to his difficulties in leaving their country again.

The ways out of Khokand are E. to Ali and S.E. to Kaslighar, both completely stopped by the Chinese; S. to Badakshan and Cabul, but physically and politically most difficult; S.W. to Samarkand and Bukhara, and W. to Khiva, both probably hostile to Khokand, and certainly so to the British. A European, and especially an English traveller, would find safety there only from Russian protection.

Lastly, to the Russian outposts on the N.W. and North Fort Aralsk, near the Araland Ak-majed on the Sir (Jaxartes), where most probably he has proceeded, as he would then be in a civilised world. It would be futile to discuss the chances of his ultimate escape, hanging as they do on the caprices of the vilest barbarians of Central Asia.

A discussion having ensued, the meeting was adjourned to the 14th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and her family continue in good health at Buckingham Palace. The second levee this season was held on Wednesday; it was not so numerously attended as the last. On Thursday, the Queen held a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace, at which she received the seals of office from the out-going ministers; and their successors kissed hands upon their appointment. The Queen honoured the performances at the Royal English Opera and the Olympic Theatre with her presence this week. Her Majesty has signified her intention of holding a Chapter of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle at Buckingham Palace on Monday next, for the purpose of investing the Marquis of Ailsa with the insignia of the order.

LORDS PALMERSTON AND JOHN RUSSELL.—We find the following in a morning journal of yesterday—We have the best authority for stating that an important movement has taken place amongst the leaders of the Liberal party. Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell have agreed to lay aside their little differences, and go warmly in against the Government Reform Bill. The questions now to be determined are, whether a meeting on the new measure is to be called, and which of the noble lords is to convene it. If it be held at Lord John's, it is understood that Lord Palmerston will attend.

SIGNOR FARINI'S PAMPHLET.—The letter of Farini to Lord John Russell on the Italian question has just been published, and tends to show how fruitless will be every effort to pacify Italy, and, through her, Europe, so long as Austria remains in Lombardy and Venice. Farini hopes that the old sound common sense of England, and her sympathy with all oppressed nations, will induce her to join France in the effort to secure against every eventuality the cause of Italian progression.

COMMON COUNCIL.—At a special Court on Thursday a motion to oppose the Sale of Grain Bill was agreed to. A long discussion on the proposed lunatic asylum then took place, and a motion to rescind the resolution of the Court of January 22, 1858, as far as regarded the cost of erecting the asylum by a county rate, and that it be paid out of the city's cash, was carried, with an addition to the effect that such expenditure should be entirely under the control of the Common Council.

DIRECT COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.—It is a curious circumstance, and one well worthy of notice, that the two last direct commissions obtained in the army by examination have been conferred on the eldest sons of the senior physician, Dr. Golding, and senior surgeon, Mr. Dancock, of the Charing-cross Hospital; the former commission was competed for in September of last year, and the latter in February of the present one.

NEW CHURCH AT TWICKENHAM.—At a meeting held at the residence of Rear-Admiral Sir H. L. Baker, Bart., at Richmond, a committee was formed for the purpose of taking immediate steps to secure the erection of a church on the site set apart by the Conservative Land Society, on the St. Margaret's Estate, at the corner of the St. Margaret's drive and Ailsa-road, at the entrance of the Richmond-road. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee:—Sir H. L. Baker, Lord H. Cholmondeley, Rear-Admiral Bethune, Major Ditmas, Capt. C. Egerton, R.N., Rev. T. D. Hales, Capt. Heaslop, R.N., Rev. T. G. Hough, Mr. F. A. McGeachy, Capt. the Hon. F. Maude, R.N., Mr. Henry Pownall, General Powney, Mr. J. M. Strachan, Rear-Admiral Trotter, and Mr. Morgan Yeatman, the latter of whom, with Capt. Maude, to act as honorary secretaries. The following gentlemen have consented to act as trustees, viz.:—Lord H. Cholmondeley, Rev. Edward Hoare, Mr. H. Pownall, Mr. C. J. Bevan, and the Hon. Capt. Maude. The necessity for the erection of this edifice is becoming more and more urgent, especially since the occupation of Lord Kilmorey's mansion, sold by the society to the Royal Naval Female School, the residents in which alone form the nucleus of a congregation.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.—484,202L. was the total expense of the metropolitan police force last year. One chief magistrate (the Lord Mayor *pro tem.*) receives 1,500L. a-year; 22 magistrates, 1,200L. each; and 23 clerks, salaries from 75L. to 500L. a-year; 11,270L. was derived from fines last year. The editor of the *Police Gazette* receives a stipend of 100L. a-year. The police force includes 18 superintendents, 143 inspectors, 623 sergeants, and 5,355 common constables, making a total force of 6,139 men.

THE LAST PLOT.—A Paris letter says:—All the French newspapers state that the Princess Mathilde paid a visit to the Prefect of Police a day or two since to inspect some old records. I have reason to think that the object of her visit was very different from the one alleged. About ten days ago a person clad in the Imperial livery presented himself at one of the railway stations, and asked for three boxes which the Princess expected by a train that had just come in, and which would be directed "To be left till called for." He was told that two boxes only had arrived, and took the two away. The next day the missing box arrived. The railway clerks at once sent it off to the Princess Mathilde's residence. The hall-porter, on being told of the other two boxes, said he knew nothing about them. The Princess being informed of the message from the railway, the box was opened in her presence, and was found to contain a quantity of bombs, rather smaller than those used by Orsini, but of precisely the same character. I am not sure whether it was on that evening or the next that the Emperor went to the Opera Comique. It was observed that most extraordinary precautions were taken on this occasion. Two squadrons of cavalry, a force quite unprecedented as a guard of honour for an ordinary visit to a theatre, were stationed on the Boulevards, and all the approaches to the theatre were kept clear to an extent altogether unusual. The reason for these precautions is now evident. There can scarcely be a doubt that the Princess Mathilde went to the police-office for reasons connected with the alarming discovery above alluded to. With regard to the above story, the Paris correspondent of the *Globe* observes:—I perceive in the *Express* a magnificent *canard* about three boxes of Orsini's bombs "of a smaller dimension," delivered as railway parcels, and addressed to Princess Mathilde. That duck is very lame in all its bearings. If there had been any truth in it, the *Express* would have been seized.

ADVANTAGES OF A MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT.—It appears that the attempt of the liquidators of the London and Eastern Banking Corporation to obtain possession of the 16,000L. settled by the notorious Mr. Stephens upon his wife, and of which his confederate, Colonel Waugh, was one of the trustees, together with his father-in-law, Mr. John Carnac Morris, has wholly failed. The settlement was effected only a short time previous to the discovery that Waugh and Stephens had obtained for their own use the whole of the funds of the bank, and had reduced to ruin all who had embarked in it; but Stephens's transactions were carried on partly in the shape of loans to himself, and partly by the ordinary working of a drawing account; and the Vice-Chancellor has decided that the property which constituted the settlement cannot, as regards its mode of acquirement, be sufficiently traced to admit of its being recovered for the victims of that establishment. In addition to the 16,000L., 4,000L. was settled by Mr. Carnac Morris, and the result therefore is, that Mr. Stephens, at the conclusion of the present chapter of his career, virtually finds himself with an inalienable provision of 20,000L. Looking at the fact that he commenced his operations in the financial world fresh from the duties of an army assistant-surgeon, and that the creation and destruction of the bank was the work of only three years, his success must have realised his best hopes. Colonel Waugh is fully believed to have exercised corresponding care for the protection of Mrs. Waugh and his family, and as the creditors of the bank are not inclined to add to their losses the expense of hunting him down and bringing him to justice, and the Government have apparently determined to let all such cases for the future enjoy immunity, a spectacle is thus presented to the world of triumphant audacity which for completeness has rarely been paralleled. That under the present state of the law the example will find numerous imitators must be fully expected. Among the causes of insolvency during the crisis of 1857, there were many which showed that the marriage settlement system constituted the chief inducement and reliance of the adventurers by whom our commerce was being ruined, and one of the great objections to the practice of winding up "under inspection" has consisted in the way in which for obvious reasons accountants, solicitors, and creditors have passed over those contrivances. That they will be still more widely carried out during future periods of speculation can scarcely be doubted, after the encouraging instances now furnished. A reform of the Bankruptcy Court may, perhaps, supply some check; but there can be no real remedy until the morality of the trading classes shall have advanced to a point to enable them to recognise that the indulgent creditors who connive at such transactions are almost as guilty as the plausible charlatans of whom they allow themselves to be the dupes.—*Times*.

EAST INDIA HOUSE.—Her Majesty has been pleased, on the recommendation of Lord Stanley, to approve the appointment of Sir Robert N. O. Hamilton, Bart., as Provisional Member of the Council.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

PERHAPS, since the days of the "Great Unknown," no literary secret has been so well and jealously kept as the authorship of the celebrated "Vestiges of the Creation." At least twenty names have been mentioned, and the supporters of each have exhibited as much tenacity about the matter as the disputants respecting the identity of "Junius," the "Man with the Iron Mask," the "Last of the Stuarts," the father of Caspar Hauser, or the murderer of Eliza Grimwood. Lord Brougham, a Cornish baronet (whose name we, at the moment, forget), Lady King (Byron's daughter Ada),—why enumerate the list? The general favourite, however, with the reading public has been Mr. Robert Chambers; and this theory received great support from the confession of Mr. Page, the geologist, at a lecture delivered in Glasgow some years since. This gentleman was for many years in the employ of Messrs. Chambers, and he declared that he had been desired by Mr. Robert Chambers to revise the proof-sheets of the "Vestiges." This was certainly "warm" upon the secret; but recent disclosures have served to prove that it is possible to seem very near the solution of a secret and yet be as far off as ever. The death of the late Dr. George Combe has at length unveiled the mystery, and it is now no longer concealed that he was the real author of this book. Why the mystery existed at all we are at a loss to conceive. We are quite aware that some of the conclusions to which its arguments pointed were distasteful to those who believe that the Books of Moses were written to teach geognosy to mankind; instead of the wisdom of the Egyptians; but it cannot be denied that the scientific facts (as far as they were facts) were fairly stated, and we cannot believe that the avowal of authorship would have at all harmed a man whose position was so firmly placed, and whose merit so well established as that of Dr. George Combe. One thing to be said is, that the "Vestiges" was not a great work in itself: it was rather a suggestive pamphlet, in which a reflective mind threw out certain suggestions without being willing to give them the authority of a good name, but yet held to be worthy of consideration. Some such reason as this may have induced Dr. George Combe to withhold his name until his "right ear" was beyond all hearing of "the false or just."

The *quidnuncs* of the clubs are too busily engaged in discussing the prospects of the Government Reform Bill, and the coming struggles of great politicians, to care much for a petty literary squabble. All lovers of decency will, however, not regret to hear that the much talked of storm in the Garrick Club is at length allayed; that Achilles Thackeray no longer broods in his tent; that there is to be a mutual withdrawal of offensive expressions; every one pays his own costs, and Mr. Edmund Yates is to be restored to the full enjoyment of his privileges as a member of the club. So, at least, it is reported, and we hope truly so.

Bentley's new *Quarterly*, a few novels, and a book of travel or so, form nearly all the literary issues of the week. The first is well thought of, and has as likely a look as it is well possible for any "Quarterly" nowadays to wear. As we have before observed, however, these trimestral great guns of literature have, generally speaking, to reserve their shot until the object has been removed far out of sight—that is to say, until the fate of the book has long since been pronounced upon by the public, the dailies, and the weeklies, and the book, if successful, is a long way on towards the second edition.

Another important work has been added to the valuable series published under the sanction of the Master of the Rolls. It is the first of three volumes illustrative of the history of the City of London, and is known to antiquarians under the title of the "Liber Albus"—one of the greatest treasures in the library of Guildhall, so rich in stores of civic architectural lore. This will be followed by the "Liber Customarum" and the "Liber Horn" in one volume, and the third volume is certain translated passages, a glossary, and index. Whilst recording our admiration of the

scheme so well carried out under the sanction of the Master of the Rolls, we cannot help observing that we do not think he has acted wisely in following the custom which the publishing trade have hitherto found to be commercially wise—namely, that he refuses to submit these productions to the review of the journals. The simple consequence of this is, that they are reviewed only in a few of the greater literary journals, and that the public is deprived of the best means of getting information about an undertaking which they would be very ready to support. The cost saved by this refusal is very slight, and must be altogether disproportionate to the injury done to the undertaking.

Of general literary news we have to note that Prescott's great work, the "History of Philip the Second," will be concluded by his Secretary, John Foster Kirk, whose name (so far as we are aware) is unknown in American letters, and yet believed to be fully competent to the task. It is a curious fact, that but a very few days after Mr. Prescott's death, a work appeared from the pen of a Mr. R. A. Wilson, intended to disprove the historical accuracy of Mr. Prescott's "History of the Conquest of Mexico." We have not yet seen this book, but it is said to display great knowledge of the facts, and to contain a searching examination into Mr. Prescott's statements. Remembering, as we do, that this is not the first time that the veracity of the Spanish accounts of that conquest have been seriously doubted, we shall not be surprised to find that there is much matter in Mr. Wilson's argument; and if they prove (as they are said to go far towards doing) that no such person as Diaz ever lived, and that the despatches of Cortez were all forged by the priests, their historical value will certainly be considerable.

From France, we hear of a new journal founded by M. Jourdan, one of the *rédacteurs* of the *Siècle*. It is to be called *Le Causeur*, and is to gossip about everything but the one tabooed subject in France—politics. The *Critic* supplies one or two interesting *on dits* concerning the literary world of Paris:—

"Take as a mere piece of gossip that which follows. M. Mirès has purchased for the *Constitutionnel* a romance by De Lamartine. The work has not been completely paid for. The financier has advanced to the poet 60,000 francs; if, next New Year's Day, this sum is not reimbursed to the financier by the poet, the romance will be definitely acquired to the journal, and will be published immediately.—Dumas has returned to Paris, with money, jokes, and the experience of travel; and the wits have an interest in his capital. He gave a dinner of course, and in his courtyard, for 700 covers—a very Barmecidal dinner. There was Potage à l'Antony, Pâté Mousquetaire, Roti à la Don Juan de Marana, Poulet à la Monte-Cristo, Punch à la Romulus. These are mere samples of the bill of fare."

Undoubtedly a great writer as a romancer, when will M. Dumas cease to pose himself *en pailasse*?

MODERN HISTORY OF NAPLES.

Modern History of Naples. By Pietro Colletta; translated by S. Horner. Constable.

THE annals of Southern Italy under the sway of the House of Bourbon are full of peculiar interest at the present time. Though full of pretensions to the right divine of absolutism, that sway is but of comparatively recent origin, and like its kindred régime in France it has during the last sixty years been subjected to every vicissitude of obloquy, repudiation, and overthrow. Founded originally in conquest by *coup de main*, in 1734, when the King of Spain sent his second son, a youth of nineteen, as nominal head of a powerful expedition to surprise and seize the territories then governed by a viceroy of Austria, it remained during the latter half of the last century unchanged and unmolested, the condition of the people gradually degenerating more and more into one of mere animal existence; and the internal economy of the state becoming every day more thoroughly decrepid and despicable. The shock of the French Revolution could hardly be said to have been felt by the wholly uneducated and disfranchised bulk of the community. By the listless and luxurious

court it was viewed as from afar with curious horror rather than sympathetic alarm. The imbecile King was incapable of comprehending how the blood-red meteor that appeared over Paris could, in the course of its destined orbit, approach Naples; and his courageous but wicked queen was slow in appreciating the danger to remote royalty which the establishment of democratic liberty and fraternity in France really portended. When, however, the news of the death of Louis XVI. arrived, the court was convulsed with emotions of indignation, fear, and revenge. Liberal opinions had theoretically for some time prevailed among the upper classes of society, many of whom were distinguished by their cultivation of science and literature; but the insignificance of whose numbers, and whose total want of political power, had rendered them hitherto objects of little, if any, jealousy to their royal rulers. In the crisis of affairs which arose in 1793, these two elements were unavoidably brought into deadly collision. Inspired by the masculine energy of Queen Caroline the Neapolitan Government proposed to Sardinia and Venice the formation of an Italian League, which all the states south of the Alps should be invited to join, and whose united armies, governed by a national council of war, should defend the Peninsula against French invasion, and thus co-operate effectively with the Princes of Germany, England, and Russia, in their crusade against Republican France. The Venetians hesitated; the King of Sardinia agreed; but ere many weeks had elapsed Admiral La Touche, at the head of a French fleet, entered the Bay of Naples, and without firing a shot, extorted from the pusillanimity of the King and his advisers, a renunciation of the national confederacy. While the French squadron lay in the harbour, many distinguished persons showed its officers hospitality, and interchanged with them private hopes, if not vows, for the spread of the new opinions. When La Touche was gone the rage and resentment of the Court fell upon all who had so offended. The gaols were filled with the best and noblest members of society; and an inquisitorial Junta with unlimited power was nominated to try, and punish them. This may be termed the first political proscription on account of opinions under the Bourbon régime at Naples; how frequently and how fatally the precedent then established has been followed we too well know.

At the period in question Pietro Colletta, a young man of good parts and attainments, was pursuing his studies at the military college with a view to qualify himself for the artillery, which service he entered in 1796, being then in his twenty-second year. War with France was then carrying on in such fashion as the ill-paid, and worse disciplined, Neapolitan forces were capable of. Under the guidance of the Austrian general, Mack, they crossed the frontiers and occupied Rome, whence a small French corps thought it prudent to retreat. As soon as they had been reinforced, however, the latter assumed the offensive, and Mack fell back precipitately towards the Abruzzi, and was ultimately driven from post to post by the advancing columns of Championnet, until the latter at length arrived within sight of the city of Vesuvius. The King and his ministers, instead of organising the defence of the capital, or availing themselves of the popular feeling readily aroused against an invading army, thought only of their personal safety. The British minister, Sir William Hamilton, and his too-celebrated wife, strove to dissuade them from abandoning their posts; and Nelson, whose fleet lay in the roadstead, urged manlier counsels, but in vain. Colletta, who was an eye-witness of the scenes that followed, thus depicts the sordid baseness of the Bourbon Court:—

"The King, having determined on his departure, hastened the preparations, which were made secretly, as for flight; but concealment was useless, for it was soon known that the royal family and the ministers were meditating their escape, and that the base satellites of despotism were preparing other means for their own flight or concealment. While the last hopes of resisting the enemy or reorganising the army and government were vanishing before

these signs of fear, a bold and faithful counsellor, whose name has not been recorded, remonstrated with the King upon the error and mischief of his flight; but all he could obtain was a promise that the fact should be concealed from the people, in order not to damp the warlike ardour of the provinces, or the hatred of the French. Letters and messengers were accordingly dispatched to assure them that the King was preparing to annihilate the enemy, who, aided by treachery, and venturing into the heart of the kingdom, in the midst of fortresses and a population in arms, would find the punishment he deserved for his temerity. The credulous people trusted implicitly in these words, and redoubled their ardour and endeavours to oppose the French. Suddenly, on the morning of the 21st Dec., a number of ships which had weighed anchor in the night from the port were seen navigating the bay, and upon the largest vessel (which was English) the King and the royal family were embarked, as could be perceived by her flag. At the same time an edict was placarded on the walls of the city, proclaiming that the King had left for Sicily, and had appointed the Commander-in-Chief, Prince Francesco Pignatelli, regent, but that he intended shortly to return with a powerful army. As soon as the King had departed, the secret history of his flight was divulged. Ferdinand had carried off the jewels and treasures of the crown, as well as the most valuable of the antiquities, and works of art in the museums, besides all that remained in bar or coin in the mint and banks—in short, a booty of twenty millions of ducats, belonging to the State treasure, leaving the unhappy nation engaged in a foreign and domestic war, without law or guidance, destitute and insecure. The ships were detained three days in the bay by contrary winds, and during that time the municipality, the magistrates, the barons, and the people sent deputies to the King, promising, if he would return, to use every effort against the enemy, and secure him the victory by their numbers and determination. But Ferdinand declared his resolution to be irrevocable, and the ministers repeated the same in less courteous terms. The loyal feelings of the people were changed by this conduct; the magistrates retired from public office, either from indignation or to secure their own safety; those who loved quiet waited events in fear and trembling; the hopes of the innovators were rising, while the rabble—the only party actively engaged—daily committed worse excesses.

Naples, after a brief resistance, opened its gates to the French; and Championnet, whose instructions from the Directory savoured as much of political propagandism as of military conquest, resolved to signalise his success by calling into existence another democratic daughter of France. On the day of his triumphal entry he visited the shrine of St. Januarius, and made votive offerings of great splendour to the miracle-working saint. On the following day he proclaimed in his own name, as General-in-Chief of the French army, the establishment of the Parthenopean Republic. By subsequent decrees, feudalism was abolished, certain rich monasteries were suppressed, many judicial changes were introduced, and a vast sum in treasure, besides numerous objects of antiquity and art, highly prized by the nation, were declared to be appropriated to France. From such beginnings what could have been expected? A number of upright and patriotic men, who had studied liberty in books, and talked to one another in salons and libraries, until they fancied they understood all about its workings in practice, were placed at the head of the administration; and for the most part no set of men ever laboured more assiduously, more patiently, or more disinterestedly to infuse life and vigour into the system imposed upon their country *a la mode* by Championnet. But their efforts were in vain. The provinces, enraged at new taxes, which they not unjustly ascribed to French dictation, became the prey to guerilla warfare. Every brigand called himself a partisan of nationality, and affected to hold a commission from the fugitive King to effect his restoration. Many, like Fra Diavolo, actually received royal authority to act against the invaders and republican subverters of the throne. After some months the French troops became unpopular in Naples itself; and when at last they withdrew, their departure was hailed with general satisfaction.

Left to itself, the republic, which had never had any root in the convictions or feelings of the community at large, perished without a struggle. Nelson brought back the Bourbons in triumph, and, swayed by the arts and witcheries of Lady Hamilton, lent himself to the perpetration of those hideous deeds of cruel and cowardly vengeance

that have cast an irredeemable stain upon his memory.

We have not space to follow the historian through his narrative of the oppressions and rapacities of the restored Bourbons; and of their second expulsion by the troops of Napoleon to make way, first for his brother Joseph, and then for his brother-in-law, Murat. Colletta, who served under the latter with distinction, speaks enthusiastically of the personal qualities of Joachim, which endeared him to those around him, and rendered him at one time highly popular amongst his involuntary subjects. The hard necessity of his position as a tributary of the French Empire drove him by degrees into errors and inconsistencies, and ultimately into faults that deserve a graver epithet under the obloquy of which he finally fell. Once more the old régime was rehabilitated by the decrees of Vienna; and once more the loathing with which its benighted sway was regarded, and the inextinguishable longings after freedom in the breasts of the educated classes broke forth in 1821, when the Constitution was proclaimed. Ferdinand dissembled, took the constitutional oath, fled to Laybach, where he signed an engagement to put down the new representative institutions he had sworn to maintain, and returned to his capital to execute the most ruthless retribution which tyranny could devise, under the protection of an Austrian army. Colletta, whose only sin had been that he had served the sanguinary despot too faithfully in suppression of revolt in Sicily, was condemned to a perpetual imprisonment in exile at Spielberg, for having held office for a few weeks under the constitutional government. He was after a time permitted to reside in Tuscany, where he composed the present work, and died in 1831.

We cannot commend the style of the translation, the slovenliness of which often mars the pleasure which the work is otherwise calculated to afford. Colletta was a man of observation and of action rather than of ideas; but his contribution to modern Italian history is one of unquestionable value.

NEW ZEALAND AND ITS COLONIZATION.

New Zealand and its Colonization. By William Swainson. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THE history of all colonies and dependencies is pretty much alike. First comes the energetic man—the circumnavigator, or the wandering mariner, who lands upon the strange island or continent, and deals with the simple natives to considerable personal advantage. Next comes the missionary, armed with tracts, accordions, Bibles, and cauliflower seeds, who effects a lodgment in the name of a parochial religion and a bigotted civilisation. Close upon the heels of the theological pioneer there follows Mammon, in the shape of a trading company; and large dividends are paid to antipodean shareholders by jockeying the aborigines out of their landed birthright. At this point the white man generally introduces the fire-water; and it is then discovered what an inferior, contemptible race of heathen savages we have undertaken to improve. They feed upon baked monkeys—the nasty beasts!—and they never heard of pale-ale, and the registered palotot! It is difficult to conceive why such creatures were born. They positively worship walking-sticks, and prize tenpenny nails; and their gods are so hideous (as the enlightened traveller remarks) that the children yell at them, and go into fits. This may have been their condition for centuries before we luckily found them out, and we must pursue our mission vigorously to make up for lost time. The savage objects to be robbed, except under the thin veil of exchange; and when the shoe of the Anglo-Saxon mission gives him too tight a pinch, the calumet of peace is extinguished in the heathen council chamber, and the tomahawk is once more polished up for the logic of war. The first homeward mail takes accounts of a native insurrection, or a collision with the rebellious aborigines, and the colonial minister runs his jewelled fingers through his wig, and puts it to Parliament whether this state of things should be. Some financial reformer, who has the weakness to resist a war of extermination on the ground of inhumanity and reckless expense, is very quickly silenced by the British pluck of the House. An under-secretary gets up with a paper, which he says “he holds in his hand” (not in his

teeth), and produces a national ecstacy of avareicious delight by announcing that the colony has given undoubted indications of coal. The financial reformer by this time must feel excessively small, as he hears on all sides the triumphant shout of “Coal!” Fleet and army at once receive instructions to go ahead, and the buccaniers of progress steal another jewel for the Crown. These jewels (like many other luxuries pertaining to the Crown) are costly things; and while our merchants are congratulating themselves upon the possession of another “market” for their goods, and the office-holders are singing over the victory we have achieved in conquering prodigious right of trade, the general tax-payer is hardly made aware that the cost of colonial maintenance amounts to nearly 50 per cent. of the gross export commerce, which that expenditure is supposed to create and protect.

This is, in substance, a faithful account of many a British colony, and what it leads to; and the present volume can tell us little more.

The Maories of New Zealand may have been an exceedingly intelligent race; the first Governor—Captain Hobson—may have been a wise and humane man, but bad systems and false principles cannot work good through any individuals; and war, bloodshed, and cruel injustice are sure to spring from such seed.

Mr. Swainson, who was fifteen years her Majesty's Attorney-General for New Zealand, speaks up nobly in defence of the now fast-expiring native population, and gives us much interesting and useful information about their division and tenure of land, and their civilised respect for privileges, boundaries, and rights.

We conclude our notice with a short extract relating to the earliest English government of the colony.

The duties which devolved on the Local Government in founding the Colony of New Zealand, arduous as it would have been under any circumstances, had to be performed amidst the angry opposition of an irritated community; and the most strenuous efforts were made, not only by land claimants in the north, and by the disappointed settlers in the south, but by a powerful English Joint-stock Association, to effect Governor Hobson's recall. Almost alone—looking in vain for despatches from home—failing in health—surrounded by angry opponents and assailed by the bitterest abuse—uncertain whether his proceedings would be approved by the Ministers of the Crown—the last few months of Captain Hobson's life were passed in a state of painful and harassing suspense. Had he lived but a few weeks longer, he would have been cheered by the knowledge that his general administration of the affairs of New Zealand was approved by her Majesty's Government: that his selection of the site of the capital had received the sanction of the Crown, and that in all his transactions with the New Zealand Company he might rely upon the support of her Majesty's Government against the “exaggerated pretensions” of that Company and their agents. Removed beyond the reach of praise and blame, none will now deny that, in founding a British Colony in New Zealand, Captain Hobson had a novel and arduous duty to perform—that he laboured honestly and assiduously to discharge it, and that his services entitled him to the favourable consideration of his country. And if the native inhabitants of these islands shall escape the fate which has hitherto attended uncivilised tribes when brought into the vicinity of civilised men, they will owe something to the inflexible sense of justice of their first Governor, who, while living, enjoyed their esteem and gained their confidence, and whose paternal government is still held by them in respectful remembrance. “Mother Victoria,” wrote one of their greatest chiefs, addressing her Majesty after Governor Hobson's death,—“my subject is a Governor for us and for the strangers of this island. Let him be a good man. Look out for a good man: a man of judgment. Let not a troubler come here. Let not a boy come here, or one pulled up. Let him be a good man, as the Governor who has just died.” There is much in Mr. Swainson's book that will interest many persons.

FACTS, FAILURES, AND FRAUDS.

Facts, Failures, and Frauds. By D. Morier Evans. London: Groombridge and Sons.

We cannot regard the present volume as a creditable or satisfactory performance. Its title is is enticing—and that is all. It tells us nothing which we can rely upon as being free from error that we did not know before.

The author, or compiler, if we mistake not, has

had ample opportunities of studying the subject upon which he professes to write, and yet he does little more than throw together, without even common editorial revision, the reports of trials, civil and criminal, connected with the most prominent frauds of the last ten years. We want no "money-article" writer of long standing to come from the depths of the City and parade that information before us, which we already possess on our newspaper file, under the taking heading of "revelations, financial, mercantile, criminal."

It is no "revelation" to trot out the threadbare, well-used, and perhaps ill-used figure of Mr. George Hudson, M.P., and tell us, at this time of the day, that he paid dividends out of capital, and had a good deal to do with our early railway system. There is no mystery about the high level bridge at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the docks at Sunderland, and the seemingly permanent membership of Parliament, to which they seem to have given rise. There is no mystery about the disastrous chairmanship of the Eastern Counties Railway, and the first committee of investigation in the matter of the York, Newcastle, and Berwick line, of which Mr. Horatio Love, the present chairman of the Eastern Counties Railway, was the mover and originator. What mystery there may have been in Mr. George Hudson's great influence with members of Parliament and others, in whose hands rested the granting or refusing of railway bills, Mr. Evans is unable to clear up any more than the least experienced City man amongst us.

It is no "revelation" to tell us once more the familiar story of Walter Watts, the felonious clerk in the Globe Insurance Office, who turned theatrical manager at the Olympic and the Marylebone Theatres, and general man about town, with the money of his employers. It is a "revelation" however, to inform us that he abstracted *seven hundred thousand pounds* (sic p. 78) from the banker's balances of the company before he was detected, as Mr. Evans, or his publishers, will probably find before the volume reaches a second edition. As some little unwillingness was shown by the Directors to make public the exact amount of their loss, and the result of the examination which they empowered Mr. Coleman, the accountant, to make of their books, it may be that our author is determined to arrive at an unknown quantity, by starting from a known quantity of almost fabulous amount. When the contradiction comes, as come it must, we do not think the company will own to a loss exceeding the sum of *seventy thousand pounds*.

Considering the recent disclosures in the Court of Bankruptcy and elsewhere, in *re* the late banking firm of Messrs. Strahan, Paul and Bates, it is no "revelation" to tell us that they broke their backs as proprietors of the Mostyn Collieries, where they lost upwards of one hundred thousand pounds, and as creditors of the Messrs. Gandills, contractors, who to drain, some lake (it must have been lake Bullion), drained them of four hundred thousand pounds. That Messrs. Strahan, Paul and Bates, were convicted and sentenced to penal servitude for fraudulently disposing of property held in trust, is a fact that is known to every junior clerk and warehouse boy in the City.

What we should term the helter-skelter transactions of Messrs. Overland and Co.—we beg pardon, Messrs. Overend and Co.—with Davidson and Gordon, and Joseph Windle Cole, receive no new lights from the pen and experience of our mysterious City historian. He can only tell us that a great swindle was effected, which we knew before, and then pass on to fresh fields and pastures new.

These fresh fields and fresh performers are the late Mr. John Sadleir, M.P., and the Tipperary Bank; the Royal British Bank, with its originators and its destroyers; the Crystal Palace Company, and their forging transfer clerk, William James Robson; the Great Northern Railway, and Mr. Leopold Redpath; the bullion robbery on the South Eastern Railway, with Pierce, Agar, and Burgess, and "Jim the Penman;" and finally the London and Eastern, or, as it should be called the Kensington and Dorset Clay Banking Company, and the bold, fraudulent transactions connected with it of Colonel Petrie Waugh.

We are told by Mr. Evans, in his "revelations," that Mr. Sadleir committed suicide, and that the Tipperary Bank stopped payment; that the British Bank closed its doors under the *incubi* of an Ironworks, and a ship owner-debtor-member-of-Parliament director; that Mr. W. J. Robson stole something a little under thirty thousand pounds from

the Crystal Palace Company, and Mr. Leopold Redpath six times that amount from the Great Northern Railway; and that Colonel Petrie Waugh is striking the light guitar somewhere in the Pyrenees, having abstracted the whole of the paid-up capital of the London and Eastern Bank.

If readers of City histories wish to have the already published but scattered details of these notorious "facts, failures, and frauds," collected in one volume, they will do well to purchase Mr. Evans's book; but if they look for any fresh information upon these cases, drawn from long personal observation, gathered by great industry, or derived from peculiar and private sources, they will be grievously disappointed.

THE THREE PATHS.

The Three Paths. By Herbert Grey, M.A. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

MR. GREY writes well, and when he has had more experience he will write better. He belongs to a school, we suspect, that places itself beyond criticism. It is the transcendental—the super-sentimental—the æsthetic—or something of that sort; the school that loves to make reflexions on life, rather than to depict life. To our taste this school wants manliness; and yet there are unmistakeable evidences that Mr. Grey thinks and writes in a manly style, whenever he is inclined to shake off the trammels of those teachers to whose teaching he has evidently relinquished his literary idiosyncrasy. He eschews old names and fames, deposes them ruthlessly from their pedestals, to elevate more modern immortals to their vacated places. Take this sentence as a key to Mr. Grey's mental bias:—"May we not rejoice that, as painters, moralists, and satirists, Fielding and Smollett are replaced by Thackeray and Dickens?" To this dictum we modestly beg to demur. We confess to a settled preference for those founders of three-fourths of the novel-writing race of the present generation. It is difficult to discover the connexion between the title and the execution. Where the "three paths" are to be found we are at a loss to understand; or, if they are to be found, we cannot understand to what they were meant to lead. But "The Three Paths" is, nevertheless, a good novel—the production of a scholar and a refined man, and its perusal will yield both pleasure and profit.

THE MAGAZINES.

BLACKWOOD.—Excellent throughout the number. "Chalons, or the Camp," is a pendant to "Cherbourg"—the one a standing naval, the other a military, menace. The writer has looked at the matter from a national and liberal point of view, and in his graphic narrative has furnished the British public with materials of a suggestive and premonitory character. "Clothes and Scarcrows" may be studied with advantage by the "Brummels" of the minute. One part has our special approval; that in which the writer condemns the relic of original Scotch poverty and barbarism—the indecent "kilt." An Englishman parading *sans culottes* through the streets of London, would deservedly have to expiate this offence against public decency by a visit to the treadmill; why should Scotchmen be exempt from similar consequences, on the false and nonsensical plea of the "nationality of the costume?" If Scotchmen will show their semi-civilisation, let them at least confine their fancy to their own localities. The "Turks at Kalut" promises to be a very amusing article. The "Castes and Creeds of India" will assist to open the eyes of the British public to one, and not the least, of the difficulties of the India question. The "Luck of Ladysmere" is the commencement of an historical tale, very good as far as it goes. "Italy; her Nationality and Independence" is a compendium of the case of France v. Austria, and throws much light on the complications of the vexed question of Italian nationality. "Napoleon III. and Europe," is a trenchant and searching article on the future of France.

TITAN is determined this month to make the charge of heaviness impossible. The bulk of the articles are unmistakeably intended for light reading. This will create no objection on the part of the friends of this serial—on the contrary, we think it will prove a recommendation. But in what class of light reading must we place the vulgar and silly article, "All the Bitters Bit?"

FRASER.—The number opens with an admirable paper from the pen of Mr. Helps, entitled "War; an Essay and Conversation;" and in one, we are told, of a new series of his delightful "Friends in Council," the publication of which he has permitted to be anticipated. The subject is considered in the

same philosophical and interesting manner with which the readers of his former works are so well acquainted, and the conversation which follows the essay is brilliant and illustrative of the subject. The pages of *Fraser* have not, for a long time, been graced with so delightful a contribution. "The Shark" forms the subject of the natural history article this month, which is of average excellence. Captain Whyte Melville appears to us more at home in delineating the manners of our times than those of our ancestors; "Holmby House," nevertheless, goes on with spirit. An exceedingly witty, gossiping article on "Venice," the mysterious story of "Schloss, Eishausen," a review of "Muirhead's Life of Watt," and a learned paper on Greek literature, make up the number.

TAIT'S.—The articles are various in this number, and, of course, the leading one is upon Reform. It bases its urgency for a genuine reform in our representation on the extravagance and inefficiency of the present governing system, and makes out a strong case. It states that four millions of money have been wasted on the navy; and that a hundred thousand deaths a year take place for want of proper sanitary legislation. The other articles are miscellaneous and entertaining.

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW.—The most important article is that on the "Limits of Religious Thought," taking for its text Mr. Mansel's book; the most interesting is that on the "Times of King George III."—taking Walpole's "Journals," just published, as its basis. The article on the "Newspaper Editor" is scarcely uncoloured.

LE FOLET for March.—The fashions seems a little modified; but crinoline has the honour of a poem, showing its origin. The plates are as pretty and bright in colour as ever. Bonnets the same; cloaks longer.

THE VIRGINIANS. By W. M. Thackeray. No. 17.—In this number Harry's war achievements and George's love are developed, together with the performance of the tragedy, with success; and thus the lingering tale winds towards a conclusion.

DAVENPORT DUNN. By Charles Lever. Part XX.—This very life-like, spirited story is fast drawing to a conclusion. Some important events are revealed in this number; but we will not spoil the reader's pleasure by stating them.

KNIGHT'S POPULAR HISTORY OF ENGLAND. Part XXXVIII.—This number is occupied with Marlborough's Blenheim campaign, and the union with Scotland. The portraits are those of George I. and George II.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S JOURNAL. No. 13.—The dozen articles in this magazine are of average merit; some are of practical value, as that upon "The Training and Employment of Nurses," and "Fashion versus Health."

KINGSTON'S MAGAZINE FOR BOYS. No. 1.—This is a new candidate for the favour of Young England, issued by Messrs. Bosworth and Harrison. The editor is the author of several popular Christmas books, viz., "Mark Seaworth," "Manco," "Blue Jackets," &c., and has thus proved he is well calculated to cater for boys. It is very nicely illustrated by woodcuts, after designs by Harrison Weir, &c. The article on "Fancy Pigeons" will be highly popular.

WORKS OF THE REV. SIDNEY SMITH. Part III.—Contains several of the witty Reverend's contributions to the *Edinburgh Review*, and, amongst others, a celebrated one on "Anastasius."

THE ART JOURNAL for March.—The Engravings are excellent this month; comprising a Mother and Child, after Van Eycken; and a Landscape, after G. Achenbach. The sculpture illustration is Marshall's Statue of Jenner.

ROUTLEDGE'S SHAKESPEARE. Edited by H. Staunton. Parts XXXV. and XXXVI.—This double number contains the conclusion of "Lear," and the whole of "Coriolanus," with the usual amount of Notes and extracted Commentary. The Editor has bestowed the utmost care on the notes, fully feeling the responsibility of editing this tremendous play. The Artist's illustrations to "Coriolanus" are numerous, but not particularly characteristic, as in avoiding the hook-nosed idea of the Roman (vulgar enough), he has given rather a Grecian look to his hero.

The Woman Hater; or, True and Feigned Love; a dramatic Tale. By Captain A. F. Clarence.

G. Blackwood. UNDER this title we have a tale well imagined and artistically told, and certainly conveying a moral. Mordaunt, the hero, is introduced to the reader's notice, young, and in love, an enthusiastic admirer and believer in woman. Harriett Laurington, the object of his attachment from his earliest years (a beautiful creature, spoiled by education, and a worldly mother), engages herself to Mordaunt, though her heart is in the keeping of an unprincipled *roué* (Langley). Mr. Timothy Truman, Mordaunt's uncle, an eccentric but worthy old bachelor, undertakes to break off the

match, and gains the consent of his nephew to put in practice a scheme of his own. He accordingly, in a tête-à-tête with Mrs. Laurington, represents Mordaunt as utterly ruined by the failure of a bank, in which his whole fortune had been deposited. Mrs. Laurington is ultimately displayed in her true colours, but Harriett, having discovered the ruse, succeeds, by the aid of a well-timed and judicious letter, in confirming Mordaunt in his infatuation, who after many vicissitudes has an attack of brain fever, and recovers only to become a misanthrope and woman hater. The hero is surrounded by a number of well-marked characters, and passes through many interesting events; and doubtless there is sufficient incident, relieved by lively dialogue, to procure the work a considerable amount of popularity.

1. *Elementary Manual of Roman Antiquities.* By William Ramsay, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge; Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow. Richard Griffin and Co.

2. *A Manual of Latin Prosody.* By the same. Richard Griffin and Co.

THE first of these works is a careful, portable, and nicely illustrated abridgement of the author's "Manual of Roman Antiquities." It has some new matter in the chapter on agriculture, but with this exception and that of the woodcuts, which give it an advantage as a class book, it differs very slightly from the renowned work of Dr. Adam, of Edinburgh. To that learned and modest man, then, who called himself only a compiler, let us confess Professor Ramsay's great indebtedness. Our admiration for the ancient schoolmaster's diligence is increased, too, when we note how little the advancement of classical learning has enabled the modern Professor to add to the store which the former first opened to the English public in 1791.

The "Latin Prosody" is the second edition of a more original work, the fruit of much labour and research. The author's rules for determining the quantity of Latin words are learned, and his system of adopting, as authorities only, the poets of the Augustan age, is a second one. The book is, on the whole, beyond the depth of school boys; but it will be found valuable to all schoolmasters.

Here and There in London, by J. Ewing Ritchie.

W. Tweedie.

MR. RITCHIE is a pleasant sketch writer, not always rigidly accurate in some of his statistics, but possibly quite enough so for the ephemeral subjects which flow from his ready pen. His sketches of the "House of Commons from the Speaker's Gallery," a "Night with the Lords," and the "House of Commons," may pass with a qualified word of praise. As an old gallery man, the critic may venture to say that these somewhat well-worn subjects have been done much better in publications of the day. To give a specimen of Mr. Ritchie's want of absolute accuracy, we will just refer to what he says about the pay of the *Times* reporters. In page 58, the writer asserts, "The *Times* reporters are divided into three classes, none of whom get less than seven guineas a week." For the sake of *Times* reporters in particular, and reporting in general, we wish the writer were compelled to prove his words. Next, Mr. Ritchie is widely from the mark, when he says "that half-an-hour's 'turn' takes the reporter about an hour to write out at the office." An ordinary reporter would require at least three times that allowance of time, and then no grass would have grown at the heels of his pen. We note these trivial inaccuracies because, we find they are numerous, and because we wish to warn Mr. Ritchie against the modern error into which light writers deviate, of desiring to know too much. It is possible to be sufficiently descriptive without going into minute particulars, thereby laying ready writers open to correction and to criticism. With these remarks we recommend the book as being likely to afford a spare half hour of pleasant recreation.

The Wife and the Ward; or, a Life's Error. By Lieut.-Col. Edward Money. Routledge and Co.

THIS work hardly fulfils the expectation raised by its title. We have a very well-written Indian story at the outset; a deep interest is created by the masterly protraction of the husband, his truthful, though cold and calculating "wife," and the introduction of the lovely "ward." But this interest is cooled down and allowed to lose itself in the vagueness of the ending. We have a veritable history over again of Cawnpore and its hideous atrocities; and the story abruptly terminates with the destruction of the husband and the ward, who are made to form part of the boat-load of destroyed fugitives who were mercilessly butchered by Nana Sahib. It appears to us that Colonel Money has been diverted from the original purpose with which he commenced this tale by events that supervened unexpectedly, and that he brought his literary labours to a close in a form quite different from that which he designed to adopt. There are some capital descriptions of Indian life, and some admirable details of Anglo-Indian

character, for which Colonel Money appears to have personal knowledge and peculiar aptitude.

Palestine, Past and Present; with Biblical, Literary, and Scientific Notices. By Rev. Henry S. Osborn, A.M., with original illustrations and a new Map of Palestine, by the Author. N. Trübner and Co.

THIS is a carefully written, and beautifully printed work, richly illustrated with coloured engravings. Sometimes, however, our author's prejudices are amusing. He cannot conceal his antipathy to the Turk; and his statements, accordingly, of Mahomedanism are not to be trusted. This work contains a good account of the Druses, but no solution of the mysteries of their origin, towards which we may suggest there exist documents of which Mr. Osborn seems not to have been aware. His impressions of the mission were favourable; and his description of "Syrian beauty" is as fervent as it is exact, "Until lately," he says, "teaching young ladies was uncommon in Syria;"—this is no longer the case. Sidon, Tyre, Lebanon, and the mountain ranges, and the country between these sites and surrounding them, are described with apparent accuracy, and the usual antiquarian associations are carefully compiled. Mr. Osborn, however, does not present us with any original views of his own, or add to our information. Neither has he any hair-breadth escapes. A few squabbles with his servant are the only incidents in his book. Those who seek romantic adventure in a narrative of Eastern travel must look elsewhere.

On the history of Tyre, Mr. Osborn dwells with peculiar emphasis and interest. Here Hercules was first worshipped, and the island early received the appellation of "holy." One of its kings aided Solomon in building the temple at Jerusalem. In splendour, luxury, and beauty, it then exceeded any city in the world—Mr. Osborn adds, or any city since. Nebuchadnezzar (584) laid siege to it, for thirteen years, and then took it, having however greatly wasted his forces; and subsequently Alexander the Great completed its ruin. Nevertheless, it ultimately recovered, and rose again like a Phoenix from its ashes. It was next in the power of the Seleucidae, and then of the Romans, when it seems to have become entirely Christian, and to have boasted a magnificent cathedral. But, A.D. 638, it fell under Mohammedan rule. With this history Mr. Osborn tells us there are connected curious legends, which include mention of the deification and worshipping of dead men. Now, however, of its former incredible magnificence, only a few arches, and foundations, and heaps of massive columns and capital remain.

There is decided interest in these historical epitomes, of which there are several in this volume, and all treated with considerable elegance, tact and ingenious grouping of persons and events. Besides the magnificent engravings, illustrative of the text, there is a most elaborate map; and altogether the work constitutes one of the most handsome of books for a well furnished library.

Classic Records Reviewed or Deciphered. By Thomas de Quincey. (Stereotype Edition.)

James Hogg and Son

THE well-known essays of the eloquent opium-eater, on the Cæsars, the Theban sphinx, the Essenes and Aelius Lamia, form the contents of this volume, to which a permanent form is now given. The learned and curious nature of these disquisitions must always confine them to a select audience; but the popularity of the author's name will, nevertheless, assist the circulation. All who read them for the first time will be rewarded by the ingenuity and originality displayed.

Poems, by Frederick W. Wyon.

Smith, Elder and Co.

THIS volume is one of the tantalising sort. Here and there we find proofs of mental vigour, accompanied with spasms of poetic diction, then an entire blank, mere turgidity without metre or rhyme, but nowhere a complete poem, or any evidence that the author will ever achieve one. Mr. Wyon is, nevertheless, an ambitious writer, but he must submit to much discipline before he can write with sufficient correctness to command approbation.

Veterinary Medicines: their Actions and Uses; with a copious Appendix on the Diseases of the Domesticated Animals. By Finlay Dun, V.S. (Second Edition.)

Sutherland and Knox.

THIS excellent work has, on its reissue, received many additions and improvements. Every portion of it has been revised, and new and important practical matter has been introduced where expedient, and particularly in relation to such articles as arsenic, digitalis, lead, nux vomica, and valerian. To the chemical and pharmaceutical departments Dr. Murray Thomson has also accorded his assistance. The appendix noticed in the title is likewise a novel feature in this edition.

Failure of the Forbes MacKenzie Act. By James Stirling.

James Maclellan.

THE argument of this pamphlet is contained in its motto, namely, "That man takes a wrong course

that tries to dam up human nature." Mr. Stirling writes with philosophical discrimination, and is entitled to a hearing.

A History of England, from the Earliest Times to the Revolution, 1688. By David Hume. Abridged.

John Murray.

THIS is just the sort of work required by the historical student. The text of standard works in history is in general so well impressed on the memory, that subsequent productions, though more accurate, are seldom available substitutes for their predecessors. Then there is the labour of comparing and deciding between contradictory passages, and the doubt, after all, if the first wrong impression be thoroughly removed by the correction supplied in the work of a more recent inquirer. Now this inconvenience is suspended altogether by the editor incorporating in the present abridged edition of Hume the corrections and researches of later historians. Here are Froude, and Hallam, and Sharon Turner, all brought into relation with Hume; and the incorrect assertions of the latter substituted by the results of their investigations. So much has been done since the days of Hume in relation to the Saxon period of our chronicles, and in fixing the real political status of the Plantagenets and Tudors, in respect to their prerogatives, and the bearing of these on the case of Charles I., and the subsequent facts affecting the settlement of the English Constitution, as now established, that it is but sorry work to compel the student to get false notions on these points from the pages of Hume on the chance of his being disabused of his acquired prejudices by an after-examination of Palgrave, Lappenberg, and Kemble, and the writers we have already named. Besides the incorporations, notes and illustrations are inserted in smaller type, a list of authorities given, and discussions on disputed points, both historical and antiquarian, suggested.

The main history has also been continued from James II. to the present time. The continuation is compiled from Lord Mahon's history, and other good authorities, such as the "Historic Peerage of England," by the late Sir Harris Nicholas. We most heartily commend the work to public patronage.

Moore's Irish Melodies: with Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte. People's Edition, to be completed in Ten Numbers, at One Shilling each. Longman and Co.

BETTER late than never. Messrs. Longmans have, by their handsome re-issue of "Moore's Melodies," conferred upon amateurs of modest means a boon long sighed for. The excessively high price of the old edition (seven pounds ten shillings) has so restricted its circulation, that, though tens of thousands among us can sing the songs, there are comparatively few who have ever set eyes upon a complete copy of the score. We are ashamed to say that four numbers of the present edition, each containing from ten to thirteen airs, have accumulated upon our table unnoticed; but we are convinced that those of our readers who set sufficient store by the entire collection to consider it cheaply purchased for ten shillings will—if they have not already subscribed—at once hasten to make up their lee-way and regularly to take future parts as they come out. To speak to the merits of the airs or poetry would be superfluous. The merit of Stevenson's accompaniments has been questioned by critics; but they did well enough for Moore himself, who, they say, was the best singer of the melodies ever heard. If they have vexed the ears of a critic or two, they may set off that they have helped to cheer the hearts and moisten the eyes of almost millions.

Constable's Educational Series: Concise History of England, in Epochs. By J. Fraser Corkran, Esq. Thomas Constable and Co.

THIS work, which is accompanied with chronological tables and maps, is neatly compiled, and will be serviceable for the pupil, whose apprehension of his country's history it endeavours to assist by the division of the subject into epochs. It is saying much in favour of this compilation, that the chief fault we have to find with it is its brevity. The epochs, however, we may observe, favour the literary rather than the historical developments of national progress, and we think might be rendered both more exact and comprehensive.

The Formation and Progress of the Tiers Etat, or Third Estate, in France. By Augustin Thierry. Translated from the French by the Rev. Francis B. Wells. Two volumes in one.

Henry G. Bohn.

THIS well-known work, which narrates the manner in which the French people became recognised as an element of power in the composition of governmental forces, is here presented in an excellent translation, and under one cover, so as to be conveniently referred to when necessary. The reader will find it a reliable authority and valuable addition to an historical library.

EDUCATION.

1. *Reformatory and Ragged Schools; their Comparative Economy.* By Joseph Adshead.

Office of the Philanthropist.

2. *An English Education; what it means, and how it may be carried out.* By the Rev. George Iliff.

Bell and Daldy.

3. *A New Reformed System of National Education.* James Nisbet and Co.

4. *Endowed Schools of Ireland.* By Harriet Martineau.

Smith, Elder, and Co.

Of these brochures on education the last is of the most importance. It is reprinted from the *Daily News*, in the columns of which it appeared during the Parliamentary recess, for the purpose of awakening the attention of our legislators to the danger of the misapplication of Irish endowments. It is directed against the bigotry, cupidity, tyranny, and craft that threaten the establishment of what is called Irish Intermediate Education, as recommended in the Report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to inquire into the whole history and condition of the Endowed Schools of Ireland.

The "New Reformed System" is anonymous, but is set forth "for training the rising generation religiously, morally and practically, from infancy to maturity, by due encouragements and rewards." Objections, perhaps, may be taken to the principle; but the little work is the result of thirty years' experience in Sunday schools. Its aim is to promote adult training as well as infant teaching. The writer complains that, as a nation, we have laws to punish the guilty, but not any rules of rewarding the deserving. He likewise enters into minute details in respect to his plan, many of which merit attention.

The purpose of the Rev. Mr. Iliff is to render English education more attractive than at present. An English classical education is not sufficient, and in no way productive of the real practical talent for which England is distinguished. He prefers German, French, and English, to Greek and Latin; but he recommends a study of the Latin grammar. Many of his suggestions are very good. Among them is that of teaching children to write by beginning at once with smallhand.

Mr. Adshead's pamphlet consists of remarks on the Government Inspector's first report on reformatories, and on "the Industrial Schools Bill." These formed the argument of a paper read on Thursday, 13th October, 1858, at the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, Liverpool. One blot is adroitly hit in our present practice. The means for supporting Ragged Feeding Schools have been lately diminished. The Committee of Privy Council on Education, in its minute of June, 1856, granted a capitation aid of 50s. per annum, to these feeding schools. By a minute of December, 1857, they have taken it away. There is little prudence, we think, in this withdrawal of so beneficial an allowance. "It is mockery," says Mr. Alexander Thompson, of Banbury, "to offer a starving child training and instruction without first providing him with food. If you do so, the child feels in his heart that you really do not love him, and no eloquent arguments on the beauty and excellence of your instructions will persuade him that you truly desire his good. You must first supply his bodily wants before you can expect him to receive your mental instruction." Prevention, in all cases, is better than punishment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Among useful pamphlets, we may draw attention to a "Report read at the General Meeting of the Alleged Lunatics' Friend Society, held June, 1858;" also to "Eight Letters to the Right Honourable the Earl of Shaftesbury," by Edward Miall, on "the Fixed and the Voluntary Principles," which appeared last year in the *Nonconformist*; also to a "Plan for Collecting Sewage in London, and Removing it to the Country for Manure," by A. Ratepayer; and also to a clever little work on "Localized Movements; or, Muscular Exercises, combined with Mechanical Appliances, for the Treatment of Spinal Curvature and other Deformities," by Henry Heather Bigg, published by John Churchill. We likewise commend Mr. Robert Chambers's Review of "Western Central Africa," published by Effingham Wilson. "The Bombay Almanack for 1859" is published by Messrs. Algar and Street, and comprehends a wonderful quantity of local information.

No. 22 of the "Unitarian Pulpit" contains sermons by the Rev. George Harris, Henry Hawkes, B.A., and Thomas Madge. "A Plea for the Constitution," by John Austin, Esq., is published by John Murray. In the writer's opinion, there is no possible plan of Parliamentary Reform but must be mischievous. We have also a pamphlet on "The Ionian Islands in relation to Greece," by John Dunn Gardner, Esq., published at James Ridgway's. It contains "Suggestions for advancing our Trade with the Turkish countries of the Adriatic and the Danube." Another pamphlet, entitled "Redress of National Grievances," by Charles Enderby, F.R.S.,

is published at Richardson Brothers. It proposes a plan "whereby every man will obtain full and constant employment, with liberal support to the aged and infirm."

The fourteenth anniversary of the Athenæum Debating Society was celebrated on Wednesday evening by a *soirée* at the London Coffee-house, the Chamberlain of London in the chair. This is the chief debating society in the City, and meets at the Guildhall Coffee-house. Several Members of Parliament are enrolled among its members.

IMPERIAL EXPENSES.—The official civil list of the Emperor of the French is twenty-five millions. Louis Napoleon, besides this, dips into the revenues of the State domains, which until his accession had always been included in the civil list, and which he has taken care to include in the budget. These revenues amount to seven millions. The Emperor, in addition, has had placed at his disposal all the charitable funds (*fonds de secours*) of the different Ministerial departments, and which are considerable. Formerly these funds were distributed by the Ministers; they now serve for the private liberalities of the Emperor. We may estimate at a total of about thirty-five millions the sums which enter into the Imperial privy purse. Add to this one million to Prince Jerome, 200,000*fr.* to the Princess Mathilde, one million to Prince Napoleon, plus 800,000*fr.* extra this year, and we arrive at a fabulous sum, which quadruples the civil list of King Louis Philippe, and doubles that of the former Kings of France.

A CHARACTER.—His mind was of nature's choicest composition, but hurt partly by the dispensation of Providence—partly by unprofitable pondering. He was a man of unbounded humanity, fine affections, and capable of the purest friendship; a man too sensible to be happy, who thought too deeply to think to any purpose, and who spun the thread of affection so fine as to render it, at least to himself, unserviceable;—a character which in a crowd is unnoticed, because, like the minutiae of nature it requires nice observation to distinguish its exquisiteness; a character that to its intimates is ever amiable, because it will, even to the monopolizing inquietude to itself, endeavour to compass their tranquillity; a character to itself barely supportable, because corporeal nature cannot keep pace with its mental refinement.—*Kelly's Railway Guide.*

HUMAN HAIR.—The London market alone contains five tons of human hair. Blonde hair is the most demanded. Most of this comes from Germany, where it is gathered by a Dutch company. Fifteen years ago this was in the greatest demand, and brought 2*dols.* an ounce. Black hair is now preferred. It comes from France, principally from Brittany, and the southern departments. The French hair harvest amounts to nearly 100 tons a year, the price varying from 20 cents. to a dollar per head, according to weight and quality. The hair merchants attend fairs with a pack of ribbons, pins, and such small articles, which they exchange for hair.

THE MANNING OF THE NAVY.—At the monthly meeting of the Liverpool Mercantile Marine Association on Tuesday, the council called the attention of the members to the statement made by the commissioners on the manning of the navy, to the effect that there existed in the British merchant service elements of naval power which no other Government in the world enjoys, but that no sufficient organisation exists for securing to her Majesty the immediate command of these resources. After such an admission, the council deeply regretted that the proposed arrangements for the protection of the country from invasion, and for the union of the two services, were not of that comprehensive and enlarged character which were believed to be necessary for the advancement of those objects. It was intended to embody the views of the council on this subject in a petition to Parliament, which would shortly be laid before the general body of the association.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AMERICA.—The correspondence on the subject of the proposed Federal Union has been laid before the house. It does not appear that any real progress has been made in the matter. The Canadian Government brought the question before the Colonial Secretary and the governments of all the other provinces interested in the matter. The imperial Government was asked to authorise a meeting of colonial delegates to consider the question; but Sir E. B. Lytton declines to do so till he shall be assured of the willingness of the other provinces to entertain the question. From the provinces the replies show scarcely any progress. Newfoundland is the only one that declares its readiness to appoint a delegate so soon as the imperial Government shall have authorised a meeting of delegates. New Brunswick asked for time to consider the question; Prince Edward's Island merely acknowledges the communication; Nova Scotia says nothing definite.—*Canadian News.*

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, March 4th.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE Marriage Law Amendment Bill was brought up from the Commons; read a first time, and ordered to stand for second reading on Tuesday week.

Lord LINDHURST called attention to the proposal for removing the Royal Academy to Burlington-house, warmly approving of the conduct of that body and of its services.

The Earl of DERBY explained the conditions of the agreement between the Academy and the Board of Works. The actual space to be occupied by the Academy was yet undecided.

Lord WODEHOUSE asked whether any guarantee would be promised to the Transatlantic Telegraph Company.

The Earl DERBY replied that no unconditional guarantee had been given to the Company, but a conditional guarantee was made under which a rate of interest amounting to 8 per cent., would be assured on the capital expended, but contingent of the success of the enterprise and the continuation of the communication.

The Debtor and Creditor Bill passed the Committee, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. HARDY took the oaths and seat for Midhurst.

VOTE BY BALLOT.

Mr. H. BERKELEY intimated that in the event of the Reform Bill reaching a second reading he would move a resolution, to the effect that no measure by Parliamentary Reform could be satisfactory which did not include vote by ballot.

MR. BRIGHT'S BILL.

In reply to a question, Mr. BRIGHT said he would give ample notice if he brought in his Reform Bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said if the Government Reform Bill was read a second time he should introduce another Reform Bill for Scotland; and when that was read a second time a third bill for Ireland.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Mr. STAPLETON called attention to the Double Election in the principalities, with the view of eliciting the policy of Government.

Mr. FITZGERALD, on the part of the Government, must decline to enter upon the consideration of a question so complicated and unsettled. With respect to the election he would only say that such an election was not contemplated by the treaty of 1856. The British Government would not interfere in a question which ought to be left to the powers of Europe generally.

After a few words from Mr. ROEBUCK the matter dropped.

Lord A. CHURCHILL called attention to the unprotected position of our Australian colonies.

Sir C. NAPIER wished to have block-ships replaced by efficient ships and would make a motion to that effect.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said the colony was entitled to the fullest consideration. The naval protection had been greatly increased since he had been in office. With regard to a naval station in Australia, Government had that question in view. With reference to the block-ships, he denied they were as useless as represented; but he should be glad to see them superseded by more efficient vessels.

Viscount PALMERSTON thought no time ought to be lost in replacing the blockships with proper vessels.

Lord J. RUSSELL thought if the Colonies wished to defend their coast, they ought not to ask a distant people to tax themselves, but to pay the expense out of their own pockets.

A good deal more discussion took place, chiefly relative to the necessity of keeping up an efficient naval force.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of supply.

General PEEL made his statement. He proposed to ask for five cavalry regiments and sixteen infantry regiments less than had been on the establishment before the Indian mutiny. After making a long statement with reference to the comparative strength of the British and Indian armies, he said the number of men in the United Kingdom, including the embodied Militia, was 1,050,000, a number which he considered was quite sufficient for the protection of the country. Changes had been introduced, in order to make the army more efficient, and further changes were in contemplation, one of which was to make the soldier his own butcher and baker. The Armstrong gun was to be generally adopted, and the artillery further improved. The total of the estimates he stated at 11,508,000*l.*, against 11,577,755*l.* for last year, showing a reduction of 69,755*l.*, which would be made much larger by repayments from the Indian Government. The number of land forces to be voted exhibited a decrease of 7,480 men as compared with last year; the number was 122,055. We had also 105,002 men in India, including those in depot, making together a force of 227,057 men. He now asked for a vote of 122,055 men.

After a long discussion, the vote was agreed to. Several other votes were carried, and the House adjourned, after going through the other orders of the day.

LORD COWLEY'S MISSION.

The *Debates* of to-day indicate that the object of Lord Cowley's mission to Vienna is to induce Austria to

consent that, in lieu of her own treaties to maintain order in the smaller Italian states, there should be substituted an European guarantee.

MALTA.

The *Malta Times* reports orders received from England, to put the island and the fortress of Valetta in an immediate state of defence; these orders are being acted on, and the market on the lower Baracca is now being removed.

THE PAPAL STATES.

The *Moniteur* of this (Friday) morning says:—"The *Constitutionnel* has announced that the evacuation of the States of the Church by our troops has been ordered by the Emperor, and that the French *corps d'armée* has received orders to withdraw to Civita Vecchia. This news is at least premature."

The official *Vienna Gazette* of this day (Friday) contains the following:—"As soon as the notification in writing of Cardinal Antonelli shall arrive here, it is self-understood that the evacuation of the States of the Church by the Austrian troops will follow; because in this, as in the entry of the troops, the desire of the Holy Father is decisive."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Lord Alfred Hervey has offered himself for the representation of Bury, vacant by the elevation of his brother to the Marquisate of Bristol.—General Codrington has notified to the electors of Greenwich that he will retire in April next from Parliament. Mr. Angerstein is the only candidate in the field at present.—John Hardy, Esq., brother to the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, is canvassing the electors of Midhurst.—There is a rumour, says the *Cambridge Independent*, that Mr. Wigram, one of the University members, is about to retire, through ill-health.—The Earl of March, who has accepted the office of President of the Poor Law Board, has sent an address to his West Sussex constituents. The noble Lord defends the Reform Bill of Government, and says there is a total absence of excitement on the subject.—From Tewkesbury, we learn that the Hon. F. Lygon, appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty, is now occupied in canvassing the electors. It is said that Mr. Cox, barrister, the unsuccessful candidate for Tewkesbury at the last election, intends coming forward to contest the seat. This is one of the boroughs, which under the Government Reform Bill it is proposed to deprive of one of its members.

REFORM MEETING IN THE CITY.—A requisition is being signed to the Lord Mayor to convene a meeting in the Guildhall for the purpose of taking into consideration the Reform Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on Monday night by Mr. Disraeli. It is understood that the Lord Mayor is ready to accede to the wishes of the requisitionists, and it is probable that Friday, the 11th inst., will be the day fixed for the meeting.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The Registrar-General's returns state that the total deaths registered in the metropolitan districts, which in the previous week were 1,156, rose to 1,226 in the week that ended last Saturday. In the ten years, 1849-58, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week, was 1,223; but as the deaths in the present return occurred in a population which has increased, they can only be compared with the average raised in proportion to that increase, a correction which will make it 1,345. The public health is, therefore, at present, so far in a satisfactory state that the deaths were less by 119 than the number which the average rate of mortality for the end of February would have produced. Last week, the births of 991 boys and 949 girls, in all 1,940 children, were registered in London.

SOUTH AFRICA.—On Monday the Bishop of Cape Town delivered an address in Manchester on the commercial resources of South Africa. He spoke in very glowing language of the productions of that country, and described the efforts which were being made to civilise the Kaffirs.

CARDINAL WISEMAN ON ITALY.—This personage presided on Wednesday at the anniversary dinner of a charitable institution connected with the Roman Catholic Church. The Cardinal, in proposing the health of the Pope, referred to Lord Palmerston's speech of Friday evening, and expressed his surprise that the noble lord should have forgotten that, a year ago, the Pope, relying upon the fidelity of the Roman people, proposed that Austria and France should evacuate Rome.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, March 12th.

Monday, open at 9; Tuesday to Friday, open at 10.

Admission, 1s.; Children under 12, 6d.

Saturday, open at 10. **FOURTEENTH WINTER CONCERT** at 2.30.

Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children, 1s.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, ORCHESTRAL BAND,

and **GREAT ORGAN** daily.

The Crystal Palace Art-Union Works on view in the Sheffield Court. Subscription, One Guinea.

Sunday, open at 1.30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA,

COVENT GARDEN.

(Under the Management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison.)

Last week but one of the Season.

No performance on Wednesday, being Ash Wednesday.

The Pantomime for Five Nights only.

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, the last performances but two, Balfe's *SATANELLA*. Messrs. Weiss, G. Honey, St. Albyn, H. Corri, and W. Harrison; Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Susan Pyne, and Louisa Pyne.

Tuesday, last time but one, Balfe's *ROSE OF CASTILLE*.

Messrs. Weiss, G. Honey, St. Albyn, Bartleman, and W. Harrison; Miss Susan Pyne, Morrell, and Louisa Pyne.

Friday, first time, Auber's Opera *CROWN DIAMONDS*.

Messrs. G. Honey, H. Corri, St. Albyn, and W. Harrison; Miss Susan Pyne, and Miss Louisa Pyne.—Conductor, Alfred Mellon.

To conclude each evening with *LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD*. Messrs. W. H. Payne, H. Payne, F. Payne, Barnes, Clara Morgan, Mdle. Morlachi and Pasquale.

Doors open at Half-past Six. Commence at Seven.

Private Boxes, 1l. 1s. to 3l. 3s.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circle, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s. and 2s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA,

COVENT GARDEN.

(Under the management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison.)

Monday, March 14, for the Benefit of Mr. W. HARRISON, the last night but five of the Royal English Opera Season, on which occasion will be performed, for the first time in this Theatre, the English version of Flotow's popular Opera of *MARTHA*. Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Susan Pyne, Mr. F. Glover, Mr. G. Honey, Mr. H. Corri, and Mr. W. Harrison.

First time, A new Ballet of Action, *ROBERT and BERTRAND*. Mr. W. H. Payne, H. Payne, F. Payne, Clara Morgan, Mdle. Morlachi and Pasquale.

Private Boxes, 1l. 1s. to 3l. 3s.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circle, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s. and 2s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.

Tickets and places all taken at the Box-office, of Mr. Parsons, without any charge for booking.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

On Monday, to commence at 7 with the new Comic Drama of *THE YOUNG MOTHER*. Characters by Mr. Buckstone and Miss Emily Allen. After which, for this night only, and to commence at 8, the Comedy of *THE LOVE CHASE*, in which Miss Amy Sedgwick will appear as Constance, being positively the last night but two of her engagement, concluding with *JACK'S RETURN FROM CANTON*.

On Tuesday, last night but two, to commence at 7, with *AN UNEQUAL MATCH*, in which Miss Amy Sedgwick will sustain her original character of Hester. After which, last time but two, the Pantomime of *UNDINE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE SPIRIT OF THE WATERS*.

Wednesday, March 9th (Ash Wednesday) no performance.

On Thursday and Friday, positively for the last two nights, *AN UNEQUAL MATCH*, and the Pantomime.

On Saturday, the Benefit of Miss AMY SEDGWICK, when will be produced (never acted) a New Comedy, in three acts, entitled *THE WORLD AND THE STAGE*, in which Miss Amy Sedgwick will sustain an original character, and afterwards appear for the second and last time, as Juliana in *THE HONEYMOON*.

On Monday, March 14th, Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES MATHEWS will appear in a New Comedy, in three acts, being their second engagement here since their arrival from America.

Stage Manager, Mr. Chippendale.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.

(Lessee, Mr. E. T. Smith.)

Reduced Prices as usual.—Box-office open from ten till six.

The new Opera, *William and Susan*, having been received with the most enthusiastic approbation by crowded and fashionable audiences, will be repeated every evening till further notice.

200,000 persons having witnessed and expressed their admiration of the great Pantomime, the lessee considers further comment unnecessary.

Monday, March 7, and during the week (Ash Wednesday excepted), will be represented an original English Ballad Opera, entitled

WILLIAM AND SUSAN,

Founded on the favourite ballad of "Black-eyed Susan; or, All in the Downs," with the entirely new and elaborately beautiful scenery by the eminent artist, Beverley.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

William Mr. Haigh

Captain Cameron Mr. Rosenthal

Diokey Daisy Mr. Manvers

Susan Miss Lucette

Bella Primrose Miss Huddart

Admiral Mr. Morrow

The Words by Mr. T. H. REYNOLDS. The Music by Mr. J. H. TULLY.

A Band of upwards of 40 selected performers, and 50 Chorus.

To conclude with the grand pictorial Pantomime, entitled

ROBIN HOOD.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)

Extra attraction and great success.—Second Week of the Engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, and of the highly successful Comic Dramas of the *Leprachaun* and the *Hour at Seville*.

On Monday, March 7th, and during the week (except Wednesday) *THE FAIRY CIRCLE*. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, Messrs. Barrett, H. Vandenhoff, Fitz-James; Miss Weston, &c. After which *THE HOUR AT SEVILLE*, in which Mrs. Barney Williams will sustain eight characters; Mr. J. Rogers and Mrs. Charles Young will also appear. To be followed by *THE LEPRACHAUN*, or, Bad Luck's Good Luck with Good Looking After.

Phelim O'Donnell, Mr. Barney Williams. To conclude with a Ballet Divertissement. Miss Louisa Wright, Miss Jenny Lauri, Mr. John Lauri, and the Corps de Ballet.

Prices.—Private Boxes, 2l. 2s., 1l. 11s. 6d., 1l. 1s.; Stalls, 6s.; Dress Circle, 4s.; Upper Circle, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

Doors open at half-past 6, to commence at 7.

Box-office open from 11 till 5 daily.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Kean as Manager).

Last week but one of the Pantomime.

The Public is respectfully informed that Mr. and Mrs. C. KEAN's annual Benefit will take place on Monday, March the 28th, when will be produced the last Shakesperian revival under the existing management.

The following are the intermediate arrangements:

HAMLET, on Monday, March the 7th; on Monday, the 14th; and (last time) on Wednesday the 23rd.

LOUIS XI., on Tuesday, March the 8th; on Wednesday the 16th; on Monday the 21st, and (last time) on Friday the 25th.

MACBETH on Thursday, March the 10th; and on Thursday (last time) the 17th.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, on Friday, March the 11th; on Tuesday the 15th; on Friday the 18th; on Tuesday the 22nd; and on Thursday the 24th.

The *CORSICAN BROTHERS*, on Saturday, March the 12th; on Saturday the 19th; and with (last times) *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*, on Tuesday and Thursday the 22nd and 24th.

These plays will not be reproduced, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two representations only towards the termination of the Management in the latter part of the month of July.

THEATRE ROYAL SADLER'S WELLS

(Under the Management of Mr. Phelps.)

Monday and Tuesday, *VIRGINIUS*. Virginus, Mr. Phelps; Appius Claudius, Mr. Robinson; Claudius, Mr. C. Seyton; Dentatus, Mr. H. Marston; Numetorius, Mr. W. H. Ray; Icilius, Mr. F. Robinson; Lucius, Mr. T. C. Harris; Titus, Mr. J. Chester; Virginia, Mrs. C. Young; Servia, Miss Atkinson; and the *COMEDY OF ERRORS*.

Thursday and Friday, *HENRY VIII.* Henry VIII., Mr. F. Robinson; Cardinal Wolsey, Mr. Phelps; Buckingham, Mr. H. Marston; Queen Catherine, Miss Atkinson; Lady Denny, Mrs. H. Marston; and *STILL WATERS RUN DEEP*.

On Saturday, for the Benefit of Mr. PHELPS, *BRUTUS, OR THE FALL OF TARQUIN*. Brutus, Mr. Phelps; and *THE RIVALS*. Sir Anthony Absolute, Mr. Phelps.

On Ash Wednesday, March 9th, Mr. and Mrs. German Reed will give their Popular Illustrations for this night only.

Box Office open from Eleven till Three, under the direction of Mr. Austin.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessee—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)

Monday, and during the week (Wednesday excepted, being Ash Wednesday) will be performed *THE PORTER'S KNOT*. Characters by Messrs. G. Vining, F. Robson, G. Cooke, Mrs. Leigh Murray, and Miss Hughes.

To conclude with the New Extravaganza, founded on Lord Byron's poem of *MAZEPPA*. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, H. Wigan, F. Charles, H. Cooper, and L. Ball; Mesdames Wyndham, Hughes, Marston, Cottrell, Bromley, and W. S. Emden.

Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.

(Proprietor, Mr. John Douglass.)

First appearance of the celebrated Mr. KEAN BUCHANAN, who will appear every evening during the week with Miss Agnes Kemble.

Production of an entirely new Extravaganza.

Monday and Friday, *HAMLET*. Hamlet, Mr. Kean Buchanan; Queen, Miss Agnes Kemble.

On Tuesday and Thursday, *OTHELLO*. Othello, Mr. Kean Buchanan; Desdemona, Mrs. R. Honner; Emilia, Miss A. Kemble.

Mr. Sullivan's performances.

To conclude every evening with an entirely new Extravaganza, called *THE FORTY THIEVES*, with new scenery, appointments, and supported by Forty Women in beautiful Oriental costume.

On Ash Wednesday A GRAND CONCERT, and other entertainments.

BEETHOVEN.

MR. SIMS REEVES, M. WIENIAWSKI, and MR. CHARLES HALLE, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, March 7, at the

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS,

ST. JAMES'S HALL, on which occasion the Programme will be devoted to the works of Beethoven. For full particulars see Programme. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved, 1s.; at the Hall, 2s. Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse, and Co.'s; Cramer and Co.'s; Hammond's; and Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street. Ash Wednesday the Mozart selection will be repeated.

MOZART.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD, MR. SIMS REEVES, and M. SAINTON, on ASH WEDNESDAY, March 9. In

compliance with the very general demand, the Mozart Selection, which afforded so much satisfaction at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, on Feb. 21, will be repeated on this occasion. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 3s.; Unreserved, 1s.; at the Hall, 2s. Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse, and Co.'s; Hammond's; and Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street.

MR AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL.

Every evening (Saturday excepted) at the ST. JAMES'S HALL (Entrance in Piccadilly), in their Comic and Musical Drawing-room "Patchwork," unquestionably the most

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OFFICE.

NO. 18, CATHERINE-STREET,
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MORNING HERALD.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1859.

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 NEW REFORM BILL.

ALTHOUGH a week has not elapsed since the public have been put in possession of the Ministerial project of Reform, considerable way seems to be already made towards the formation of opinion regarding it. We should rather say, perhaps, towards the formation of opinions, for it can serve no purpose to overlook the indisputable fact that, for the same reasons, opposite parties will look upon the measure with different eyes, while upon the great bulk of the community it is hardly to be expected that it will produce any very serious impression at all. To talk about the general feeling on the subject would be idle. There is no general feeling. In the political condition of the outer millions, whom neither of the great aristocratic parties in the State are prepared to admit within the palisades of privilege, the passing or the rejection of the bill can make no difference. The parliamentary opponents of the Government may truly complain that neither the savings-bank franchise, or that which it is proposed to confer on weekly tenants of 20*l.* a year, alters appreciably the relative position of the wealthy and the working class; but the sarcastic *tu quoque* of Mr. Disraeli is unanswerable, when he asks the Whigs, what they have ever done in that direction? Let us be candid, however, in this matter, and own frankly that, constituted as Parliament now is, it is really not in the power of either party in office to carry any great or substantial measure of Reform, in the absence of great and substantial pressure from without. The self-interest of those who monopolise political power, is too intelligent and too strong. The Government of the greatest empire in the world is not a thing to be given up, or even shared, in obedience to any sentiment of mere political justice. Reasoning and argument, Parliamentary eloquence and statistical logic, are all very well in their way; they have accomplished many minor reforms, and will, no doubt, obtain for us a good many more; but they will never by themselves induce the oligarchy of wealth and rank, who live by administering the affairs of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, to forego any material portion of so pleasant and profitable a business. We all know that electoral reform, in the sense Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Bright desire it, implies a

revision of class accounts, and the admission of the hard-handed and hard-headed industry of the nation into partnership with the profits as well as the losses of empire; and some day or other, when the excluded many make up their minds to insist upon being admitted, admitted they will be. It need not, and, we trust, it will not be by what Mr. Henley has thought fit to call "an ugly rush." But it is useless to attempt to conceal from ourselves or others that, in the sense we have been speaking of, Parliamentary Reform can never become a practical question until the people themselves energetically and systematically take it in hand. We have had Whig biddings, Coalition biddings, and now we have Tory biddings on the subject; but all of them have been accompanied with the express or implied condition that they must not be understood as attempts to settle the question. They are rival plans for cutting down the thorn hedges, easing the swing-gates, darning the broken bye-roads here and there, widening some of the stiles, and erecting a moderate-sized bridge or two; but none of them has even professed to create for the public new rights of way, to open the preserves or the enclosures for the benefit of the neighbourhood, or in any way to modify permanently the ownership and control of the estate. When taken to task on this head, successive Ministers always alleged that where there was neither general excitement nor expectation on the subject, they had no power, even if they had the will, to accomplish any very material change. All the best men in the country, and even in Parliament itself, were convinced of the expediency of Catholic emancipation and the repeal of the corn-laws long before either of them had a chance of being carried. The danger of a civil war in Ireland was necessary to obtain the one, and the terror of famine was the only motive by which Sir Robert Peel could induce Parliament to concede the other. Most of us remember, in like manner, how the Reform Bill of 1832—short as it has fallen of what was required—was exacted from a reluctant court and aristocracy. The people were then thoroughly wound up to the point of insisting on what was at first refused; and if they were half as resolved or energetic to-morrow, Ministers, whether Whig or Tory, would instantly raise their biddings for popularity—if not to the full point required, at least to something greatly in advance of anything we have lately seen. But, until that day comes, it is useless to expect either of the hereditary parties who, from father to son, and from year to year, play against each other for the possession of power, to volunteer offers of concession which, amid apathy out of doors, and intense selfishness within, could have only one certain and summary result; namely, the eviction of their authors from office.

Restricting our inquiries, therefore, to the smaller aspect of the question, let us see how far the Derbyite proposals of Reform are likely to affect the condition or prospects of those sections of the community that seem to take an interest in their success or failure. And first of all, with regard to the Conservatives as a party. Ever since their accession to office last year, the opponents of ministers have counted confidently, that if even the Cabinet should agree to a measure of Reform, its production would infallibly cause the break up of their party. And in a certain literal signification the prophecy has so far come true, inasmuch as two of the Cabinet colleagues of Lord Derby have actually seceded, rather than share the responsibility of his extremely moderate bill. But, without any disparagement of the ability of Mr. Henley, or the amiability of Mr. Walpole, we may confidently say that the retirement of neither, or both, can materially weaken the stability of the administration. Mr. Walpole's manner, as deputy leader of the House, was never peculiarly felicitous. His earnest timidity and gloomy good humour did not rally support when needed, or ward off attack when threatened. As a legislator, his exploits were peculiarly ill-fated. His suggestion of a Militia Franchise has never been forgotten; his pertinacious and temporarily-successful advocacy of payments to voters for coming up to the poll has been already actually branded with censure by one of the clauses in the new Reform Bill, undoing the mischief he did last year; and his latest effort at statute-making on the Church Rate question is regarded on all hands as so unsatisfactory, that Government have been strongly advised to withdraw the bill. As for the right honourable member for Oxfordshire, he has been

far too knowing to commit himself to anything contestable during the twelve months he has filled the office of President of the Board of Trade. His habitual astuteness enables him to see further and more clearly than others the eventual consequences that may flow from even the qualified changes now proposed in the electoral system; and after the speech he made on Tuesday night, wherein he did not apparently try to mince matters, there were flutterings of hope at Cambridge House that the right honourable seceders might head a mutiny at the Carlton. But the unanimity with which the two hundred gentlemen met Lord Derby at Downing-street, and the enthusiasm with which they cheered his acceptance of battle on the main points of the bill, convince us that the premier understands his men, and what they are up to, better than his right honourable obstacles, who have relieved him of their presence. In a word, the Tory Reform Bill will not break up the Tory party; on the contrary, it is very likely to keep them together. After giving up Jewish Disabilities, Property Qualifications, Occasional Services, the compulsory principle of Church Rates, Imprisonment for Debt, and we know not what beside, something definite was really wanting to rally round, and battle for; and this, the project, propounded by Mr. Disraeli on Monday last, is well calculated to afford. The conferring the suffrage on all professional men in right of their callings, the reprieve given to nomination boroughs, and the proposal to adopt a system of voting papers in counties, along with multiplied polling places—but, above all, the resolution to make a stand on 10*l.* occupancy, for the sake of establishing a uniform franchise in county and town,—all this commends the bill to the support of the Conservative party.

The Whigs, on the other hand, naturally recur to their own biddings in 1852 and 1854. They demur altogether to the principle of uniformity now for the first time sought to be established, but on what ground, save that it is proposed by their opponents, does not very distinctly appear. They are fairly entitled to argue, indeed, that a 5*l.* occupation franchise in towns, and the transfer of fifty or sixty seats from obscure or decayed villages to populous counties and towns, was a more democratic offer than that made by Lord Derby. The present occupants of the Treasury Bench remember, however, with what little enthusiasm the bill of 1852 was received, and persuade themselves no doubt that they need not go so far, and yet fare no worse. There is among Conservatives a fixed belief that the 10*l.* constituencies in towns do not at heart desire any further expansion of the suffrage, and that if a dissolution, (as we think it will,) become necessary upon the bill, the boroughs they have resented, and the constituencies whose electoral limits they have sought to preserve, will show their gratitude by returning Government men next time. In this calculation we confess we believe them to be to some extent in error. Men do not act at a general election precisely as they talk when nothing particular is astir, and the squire or his lawyer takes it into his head to have a talk with him. If every one could act and vote individually, unswayed by sympathy, conference or example, a good many 10*l.* householders would probably be found voting for the continuance of their present electoral monopoly. But men do not live by calculation alone; and if anything like a counter project be put forward in a tangible, practical shape by the Whigs, the Tories will have to amend their present offer, or prepare to fight at considerable disadvantage. As yet, they insist that theirs is the only proposition which there is the slightest chance of carrying. Confessedly, it would add about half-a-million voters to the constituencies of England and Wales, and if the forfeited seats once belonging to Sudbury and St. Alban's be given, as they ought to be, to metropolitan or other populous towns, there would, added to those named in the bill, be an addition of nineteen real representatives to the House of Commons, instead of nineteen sham or corrupt ones. Should the House resolve to go into committee on the bill, there is one amendment which might usefully be made, and which, without infringing the arbitrary limit laid down as the basis of the occupation franchise, would add considerably to the number of voters in towns. We allude to the case of lodgers, who, if they pay 10*l.* a year in weekly or monthly sums, ought to be permitted to share in the privileges of electors. Eight shillings a week is, in reality, a much higher

test of qualification than 10*l.* a-year; and if the principle he once admitted, as it is by the bill, that the payment of rent in continuous periodical sums constitutes *prima facie* evidence of fitness to exercise the suffrage, there seems no reason why the aggregate amount should be fixed at 20*l.* instead of 10*l.*

We cannot suppose that the novelty of the voting-paper system will receive the sanction of the present House of Commons. When last debated in that assembly, as we not long since took occasion to observe, the preponderance of opinion was so strongly against it, that Lord Robert Cecil, by whom the project was brought forward, was advised not to go to a division. One of the best speeches made on that occasion against the plans was that of Lord Stanley. We may confidently count, therefore, on his abstention from supporting it, though it forms part of the Government scheme. Lord Stanley is not a man to vote for what he believes to be wrong, at the bidding of any set of men. He could never be induced, last session, to sanction the Corrupt Practices Extension Act; and, the other evening, he refused to vote with his party on the question of "Catholic Oaths." We are prepared, however, to see many modifications in committee of the bill, as lately promulgated. There are abundant precedents for such alteration. The Reform bill of 1832 was the third introduced on the subject by Lord John Russell within the space of less than twelve months. Each of his three bills differed materially from the other two, and one of the most important provisions of the one that ultimately passed, namely, the Chandos clause, was interpolated by a vote of the House, after a long and animated struggle. The two points on which Lord Derby has pledged himself to take issue, and on which, if he is beaten, he declares that he will dissolve Parliament; are the maintenance of the 10*l.* uniform franchise for town and county, and the transfer of the town, freeholds from counties to towns. On each of these, there will be much to say hereafter; but considering the lamentable laches of the Palmerstonians for years past, we doubt if much popular sympathy will follow them, should they seem to make use of their numerical power in Parliament, merely to obstruct the passing of their opponent's measure, without propounding a better one of their own. As we said at the beginning of these observations, the impending struggle in Parliament, is one rather for the ascendancy of party, than the satisfaction or contentment of the great body of the people; and the acts and motives of all who take part in it, will be weighed by the public accordingly.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

No measure of commercial reform was more sincerely and pertinaciously opposed than the repeal of the navigation laws; they were not enacted, like the corn laws, by a selfish class for its avowed and exclusive advantage. They were enacted by patriotic statesmen to benefit the public. They were sanctioned by the continued increase of our shipping in conjunction with them for nearly 200 years, and were regarded as the palladium of our naval greatness. They were eulogised by the father of political economy. He referred some of them to national animosity, but declared them all to be as "wise as if they had been dictated by the most deliberate wisdom." They could not, however, stand against the evidence of facts; and after several years' searching and patient investigation, they were wholly—even those which restricted our own coasting trade to our own shipping—from necessity abolished. There never was a fairer semblance of advantage to be obtained by restriction, and never, than by their ultimate failure, was the conviction made more certain that the principle is, in all cases, indefensible, and to act on it always injurious. On Tuesday evening the benefit accruing to the State from abolishing them was illustrated at considerable length by Mr. Lindsey, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Crawford, and others; and both sides of the House were unanimously of opinion that to restore these laws was impossible. If possible it would not be advantageous. Mr. Liddell, an occupant of the Treasury benches, and a great advocate of the shipping interest, is reported to have gone so far as to allege, in reference to the legislation concerning shipping subsequent to the repeal, that all such legislation was erroneous. We have in these present convictions another proof similar to that we have derived from the repeal of

the corn laws, and of the prohibition to establish joint-stock banks, of the extreme fallibility of the Legislature.

The present condition of the shipping interest, suffering, like a portion of the mercantile interest, from the great success and the too eager desire to get rich, prevailed in 1855, 1856, and part of 1857, could not, even by its most unscrupulous advocates, be referred to the repeal of the navigation laws. All which they could say against them was, that other nations had not abolished restrictive laws, and, in consequence, had not conferred equal advantages on our shipping to those which the abolition of our restrictive laws had conferred on other shipping, as well as on our own. It could not be denied that our shipping had increased and improved wonderfully since the abolition; it was merely asserted that the shipping of other countries had increased also, and in a greater per centage, though not in actual tonnage, than our shipping. A child of one year old, as Sir Stafford Northcote expressed, had become in a year 100 per cent. older, while his father, who was fifty years old, had only advanced 2 per cent. The great navy of Hanover, Norway, &c., has increased more per cent. than British shipping, having started from a much smaller figure. But the actual increase of the former is 200,000 tons, and of the latter 1,021,000 tons. It was explained, too, by Mr. Lindsey, that cotton from the United States, and timber from Norway, &c., was necessarily brought hither in the shipping of those countries, and our increased manufactures and our increased trade, the consequence in part of our freedom, in part of the general impulse trade has received from the great gold discoveries, have thus increased the shipping of all the world. The shipping of France and Spain, and other countries in which restrictions are still maintained, has increased, not, as the foolish men who yet demand reciprocal restrictions would infer, by reason of those restrictions, but in spite of them. So that now, we may say, all argument against free navigation is for ever at an end. The goodness of Providence, bringing into existence a great increase of the traffic between distant countries, coeval with our abolition of restrictions on commerce, has engraved the advantages of freedom so plainly in the facts of the material world, that it has already become a settled and irreversible conviction in our country, and must become a part of the mind of all nations.

The debate served to elicit some complaints of the condition of the shipping interest, and some explanation of its causes. It suffers from exorbitant exactions for light dues, compulsion to take pilots, the tax on timber, while there is no tax on foreign built and foreign owned ships, and form a heap of very contemptible regulations, with which some gentlemen thought it necessary to encumber it, after setting it free from the old restrictions. The Merchant Shipping and Passenger Acts, and the Act for compensating injuries—one of them a law containing 548 clauses, or about as much matter as would fill a Quarterly Review, was passed through a committee at one sitting—are found, as might be expected, and was said when they were passed would be the case, to be extremely injurious. They were accordingly referred to the committee for inquiring into passing bills, &c., appointed on the motion of Mr. Lindsey, and we hope that the well meaning, but presumptuous officials, who thought themselves greater statesmen than Cromwell, will have to undo their own work, as this generation has had to undo his work. We hear many complaints of the slowness of the multitude in comprehending and acting on the half truths which are unjustly dignified by the name of sanitary science, but their dulness is volatility, compared to the slowness with which members of the House of Commons, who are obliged to act on the principle of free trade, and boast of being freetraders, comprehend the principle and carry it out. The gentle Mr. Labouchere, the primurist, Mr. Cardwell; the heavy Tory, Mr. Henley, and others, while they recognise its advantages, must have some great interest to pamper and regulate; and so they took the mercantile marine under their especial care soon after they had been obliged to give up the navigation laws. From their proceedings the mercantile marine is suffering; and we have no doubt that the inquiries to be instituted into the effects of these new restrictions will end in abolishing them. Their injuriousness can be shown by one fact. To protect passengers the Legislature encumbered English shipping with

the Passengers' Act; but it could not subject foreign shipping to the same law. The consequence is, that the passengers meant to be protected go by the foreign ship—they lose all protection, and the English shipowner, who might be kept in order, loses the passenger traffic. Passengers and ship-owners are alike injured by a law intended only to secure the well-being of the former.

The claims now made by the shipowners for the remission of light dues, &c., involve some charges on the public; and Sir Stafford Northcote, with that familiarity with antiquity which distinguishes the men who make the laws for our modern and growing community, spoke of these as the sacrifice of the Consolidated Fund in the Temple of Concord. This is an "illustration," which, as the hon. gentleman said, is not an argument. The Consolidated Fund is merely another name for a portion of the taxes applied to particular purposes; and a much larger sum than is required to provide lights, and compensate all who must be compensated for the loss of passing tolls, &c., may be saved from the proceeds of taxation now applied to patronise and debase the mercantile navy. Very nearly 1,000,000*l.* a year goes to hire the services of a few steamers to carry letters, &c., and the expenditure on this head is every year increased. The *subventions*—to use a French word—which might have been plausible when steam was in its infancy, have now not the shadow of a justification. The service of the Post-office must undoubtedly be paid for; but 1,000,000*l.* a year for the carriage of letters seems to us chiefly destined to enrich the favoured companies on whom it confers a monopoly. They are enabled thereby to shut out competition; they treat passengers so much the worse; and the actual traffic required—which would pay all its cost and enrich all concerned in carrying it on—is curtailed or perverted by a misapplication of the public money. We can assure Sir Stafford Northcote that the shipping may be relieved without sacrificing that charming entity, the Consolidated Fund.

THE POLITICS OF NUMBERS.

ONE of the most curious fallacies that we find continually asserted by the opponents of Parliamentary reform, is that which assumes the working classes to be all alike, and imbued with opinions differing very considerably from those held by other portions of the community. The supporters of this fallacy argue, that if a number of working men, exceeding the middle class and aristocratic voters, were admitted to the suffrage, we should have an uniformity of representation, and one interest made to predominate over every other. Mr. Disraeli supported this view, when he declared that reducing the borough franchise to 5*l.* would give a "monotonous constituency of the same ideas, opinions and sentiments." It may be conceded that a household suffrage, which excludes lodgers, would produce less diversity than another scheme by which a large body of intelligent lodgers were admitted; but the fundamental assumption that the working classes are under the same influences and hold the same views, is radically unsound. If the question of diversity alone were concerned, a far more diversified House of Commons could be obtained by the votes of the working classes than by those of the smaller shopkeepers, who are much more under the influence of uniform ideas. The circumstances that operate upon the working classes are exceedingly various. In some trades occupation is intermittent; in others continuous. Some kinds of work are performed at home—others in factories or workshops. Some labour alone—others in company; some indoors, and some out. What can be more different than the position of the 600,000 men described in the last census as engaged in the higher class of mechanical and chemical arts, and that of the agricultural labourers, who are a much more numerous body? Why should the 185,000 tailors, described in the same document, agree in tastes and opinions with 150,000 coal miners?—or why should a quarter of a million flax and cotton spinners form a dead level of monotony with 300,000 workers in iron and steel?

Not only do the physical conditions of the working classes differ very widely, but they are necessarily brought under the influence of different sections of the aristocracy and middle class, by whom their feelings and opinions are modified. Those who have laboured for social progress

among the working classes know how difficult it is to get even a moderate portion of them to unite, and yet when there is any talk of their enfranchisement we find them spoken of as if they were perfectly agreed in objects of desire, and in the choice of particular representatives to carry them out. They themselves are conscious of the same diversity and conflict upon disputable matters that other classes feel, and hence they make similar provisions, and usually exclude political and religious discussions from their only important organisations—their trade societies. Robert Owen's career offers another illustration of this diversity; for while Chartist orators represented political change as the one thing needful, he and his followers repudiated an agitation for the suffrage, and were supported by a large body of working men in seeking to reform society exclusively by education and co-operation. Another portion of the fallacy which assumes working men to be all alike, is, that they would unite in electing democratic candidates. Such reasoners forget what took place during the excitements which preceded the Reform Bill, when the most popular chiefs were Sir Francis Burdett, Henry Brougham, of Brougham, Lord Cochrane, Sir Samuel Romilly, and Major Cartwright, of the Cartwrights of Northamptonshire.

It is not Parliamentary reform that will make England democratic; the people themselves are aristocratic, and there is more aristocratic feeling amongst the costermongers than in the House of Lords.

It is not wealth, it is not numbers, but enlightened opinion that should rule; and if the educated classes will exert themselves to promote the formation of opinion, they will find this task facilitated by a liberal political treatment of the working men.

Original Correspondence.

FRANCE.

Paris, Thursday, 6½ p.m.

PROSPECT OF PEACE.

THIS morning the *Moniteur* was anxiously scanned for confirmation of the rumour, which has received almost official circulation, that the French occupation of Rome was to cease immediately. The Official Journal of the Empire is mute; but ere many days be passed it will doubtless speak in tones and accents which will send joy to many homes in France, and revive confidence in the wisdom and peaceful policy of the Emperor. The name of Prince Napoleon has, from some cause or other, been put prominently forward as the advocate of war and as the enthusiastic partisan, at all risks, of Italian national independence. The reason for this conduct is very difficult to discover. His Imperial Highness has long passed the age of illusions; his portly mien ill consorts with romantic enthusiasm; and his physical frame and constitution are by no means fitted to endure the fatigues and hardships of actual war. The experience acquired in the Crimea would scarcely encourage people to hope much glory or profit from his Imperial Highness's campaigns in Lombardy; nor is it at all probable that his Cousin would venture to entrust supreme command into his hands, involving, as it would, the honour of France, and what is of infinitely more importance, the duration of the Imperial dynasty. That Prince Napoleon is seriously preoccupied with some particular idea, foreign to his general occupations and official duties, is positive. Ever since the autumn, capitalists have been anxiously waiting for the Prince's decision relative to the concession of the Algerian railways—works pregnant with the greatest advantage to France and her colony. But still no progress is made towards a solution, nor does there appear chance of there being any for some time to come; for when, the other day, an application was made by a person, in his intimacy, who figures in one of the demands for the concession, to have the matter decided, his Imperial Highness replied, requesting not to be spoken to on the subject, for he had other things to think of. Naturally enough, people want to know what the Prince-minister of Algeria can have to think of that is of more importance than the welfare and progress of the colony committed to his charge. There is another circumstance in the conduct of the Prince which has created great disquietude among the moneyed and moderate classes of society, and that is his constant coquetting with the advanced members of the revolutionary party—the reddest of the *rouges*. There is a certain ex-representative of the people under the Republic who became notorious for having toppled the President of the Assembly out of his *fauteuil*, and leapt

into his seat. Afterwards this gentleman became governor of Raincy, got mixed up in certain proceedings not necessary to name, was tried, by the High Court of Versailles I think, and condemned to imprisonment. When the Empire was voted, he wrote to the Emperor expressing his obedience to the decision of the people, and was consequently set free. Since then, this gentleman has graced your capital with his presence and has been a constant applicant to the Palais Royal for the concession of the Algerian railways. For a long time it was unsuccessful until he proposed to use his influence as a red republican, to induce political exiles from France—men whom he euphoniously termed *de-placés*—to settle down as colonists in Algeria. The proposition seems to have been well received, for towards the close of the year the individual referred to was sent on a confidential mission to Algeria, and has now returned to Paris to bask in the graces of the Palais Royal. It is, therefore, not surprising that people—remembering who this gentleman was, how he was the destroyer of regularly constituted authority—should take umbrage and alarm at seeing him received into the confidence of the Government. A very general conviction is growing up that the warlike penchants of the Prince are encouraged and flattered by certain parties who seek to use him for the creation of a wide-spread commotion, in order that, in the confusion, they may regain their lost power with its sweets and enjoyments.

There is another curious circumstance, which has contributed materially to cast ridicule and odium upon a war got up for the reconstitution of the nationalities. It has been asserted in influential quarters, although the necessary permission for publication has been refused, that in a case of this sort France herself does not come into court with clean hands—that she has appropriated in her geographical development certain provinces inhabited by nationalities distinct to her own. It has, therefore, been proposed, no doubt in perfect good faith, that, in order for France to be justified in her demand to Austria, for the restoration of Lombardo-Venetia to Italy, she ought to begin by restoring Corsica to Italy, which was only brought under French domination within the memory of many men still living, and for which the Italian national party propose their willingness to exchange Savoy, insisting upon the justice and wisdom of the restoration. How the Emperor would like to sacrifice possession of the cradle of his race to the doctrine of nationalities is not stated! Again, it is proposed that France should withdraw her army of occupation from Africa, and restore the province to the nations of Ishmael—that she should return back the Rhine-Provinces to Germany, whence Louis XIV. wrested them, and whose inhabitants are still German in language, habits of thought, and hopes—some of them not a century since carrying their hatred of French dominion to such an extent as to request in their wills to be buried with their faces downwards. In the north-eastern corner of France is the Flemish race, whose nationality is constituted in Belgium. In the south-western corner are the Basque races that belong to Spain. Avignon, the Comté de Venaissin, and the principality of Orange, have been brought under French dominion since the first revolution; and, with the jealousy pretended for the property of St. Peter's—which Central Italy is said to be—it is not surprising that some should propose to restore a city, in which the Popes so long dwelt, to their successor. Such is the inevitable conclusion, of the doctrine of nationalities honestly carried out, and its ridiculous, impracticable character is made apparent to the commonest understanding.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE NATION.

In whatever way the present crisis may terminate, I think the attitude and conduct of the nation, under extraordinary temptation and coercion, will command the respect, sympathy, and admiration of the world. They have evinced a clear and honorable perception of the value of public treaties and a hearty deference to the public law of Europe. An organ of the manufacturers says, in as strong terms as could be expected would be published—"For the sake of withdrawing certain Italian states from the too severe domination exercised by Austria, it will be necessary to violate the treaties of 1815, and those treaties have found in nearly all the Cabinets of Europe the strongest possible support." Now this is tantamount to telling the nation that if France violate these treaties she will incur the opposition of all Europe.

The invincible hostility of the manufacturing and intelligent classes to war for the gratification of Imperial ideologies is made day by day more apparent, and is manifested under a variety of forms. Public opinion, after nearly ten years suppression, is again making its influence felt, and would appear to have acquired additional force and authority from the long inaction to which it has been condemned. An unusual number of resignations have taken place among the Deputies to the Legislative Body,

not unaccompanied in some instances by contemptuous expressions for the office under the actual system. The Deputy for the Drôme said he had not time to attend to public affairs, thus placing a share in the government of the nation,—as M. de Morny told the Deputies, was reserved to them under the Constitution—at a very low estimate indeed. When it is remembered that the Deputies receive a very handsome remuneration for attending to the business of the nation—or at least pretending to do so—that these places are sinecures—that they are flattered in every way, and have many means of making perquisites opened to their cupidity—the voluntary resignation of these material advantages is very significant. It shows a wide spread apprehension of future danger which no present benefits will induce people to encounter, and a firm determination not to be associated, even in so remote a degree as a Deputy, in the eventual responsibility for the present war policy. When the adherents of power begin to "rat," their motives must be very powerful. Men rarely desert a prosperous cause which gives them wealth and rank.

The course taken by the public has astonished and perplexed the Government. People object to have their imaginations fired by visions of glory, and laugh at the chauvinistic appeals of the *Presse* and dynastic journals. They seem to think it extremely ridiculous, the figure they are made to appear by the bombastic and inflated verbiage of Imperial pamphleteers and speechmakers. They can see the hollowness and sham of the whole proceeding and much regret that those who assume to be representatives of France should assume the bullying tone and swagger of "mine ancient Pistol." The partisans of war are annoyed beyond all measure to find their appeals to bellicose propensities fall flat on the public ear, and produce no effect. The most servile law court in France would scarcely have the courage to doom men to Cayenne or Lambessa, because they do not throw up their caps and clamour for war,—being content to leave the question to the ineffable goodness and Providential wisdom of his Majesty. Nearly every day there is a meeting of the Cabinet Ministers, in the presence of the Emperor, the Prince Jerome, and the Prince Napoleon, and the ingenuity and resources of the Minister for the Interior are sadly tasked to devise means to dispel public apathy and to kindle a noble ardour for war.

The most significant intimation the Government have yet received of public opposition to the war, was given yesterday week by the senate—a very obedient body, composed of gentlemen who were nominated by the Emperor, and are paid some 1,200*l.* a year (each) for their services. The order of the day was to discuss first a Bill for increasing the annual allowance the Imperial Princes and Princesses to 88,000*l.*, secondly a Bill to vote Prince Napoleon £320,000 for his marriage expenses, and to set up housekeeping, and, lastly, in case of his death to provide £8,000 a year to his widow with a suitable dwelling. The speakers were the General Marquis de Castelbajac, Count de Casabianca, Count de ségur-d'Aguesseau, Cardinal Donnet, Count Lemer-cier, the President of the Council of State, and the Marquis de Boissy who married Byron's Countess. Guicciola. Yet in a body of what may be called pensioners of the Emperor—his mere nominees—two voted against the bills, while one of the Senators, said, he should have much pleasure in voting the allowance to Prince Napoleon's widow.

ELECTIONS IN FRANCE.

A curious illustration has recently been afforded how the Government here wield universal suffrage and vote by ballot to their own purpose. When the election took place of a deputy for the first electoral circumscription of the Department of the Indre, there were two candidates; one, M. Charlemagne, nominated by the Government, and the other M. De Lancosme-Brèves. The first was, of course, elected by the "active and oppressive interference of the Government." From a statement made by M. Ernest Picard, quoting from the letter of an elector, it appears that, "the voters were compelled to vote with open tickets, in the presence of a reinforcement of Gendarmerie; that public servants and workmen, in the employment of supporters of the Government candidate, were threatened with instant dismissal if they did not vote for M. Charlemagne; and these threats were openly uttered while the voting was going on. The writer of the letter had been placed under the police measure of General Safety, in consequence of his previously announced opposition to the Government candidate, and it was stated on the public place, by officials, that all who did not vote for M. Charlemagne would be subjected to the same persecution. The opponent to the Government candidate was not allowed to distribute his voting tickets; his addresses were torn down or pasted over by the orders of the authorities. In one commune the Mayor stood by the ballot-box to note, from inspection of the open tickets, for whom the voters gave their suffrages. This open

ballot was declared to be perfectly legal by the Council of State, if the electors preferred open voting. But the saddest thing of all was to hear the violation of the principles of the ballot and the gendarmerie of electors approved of by the Deputies because M. Baroche asserted that "the Indre was a department where hostile opinions, more or less open, were always ready to be manifested," so that every species of persecution is to be authorised towards those who may entertain opinions hostile to M. Baroche and his friends. An extraordinary revelation was also made by M. Picard, and which, as it could not be contradicted, was not noticed by the Government speakers. It was, that in consequence of the threats and acts under the measure of Public Safety, "ideas of exile and transportation preoccupy the minds of the population, and the masses are convinced that the measure produces a great number of victims." Wherefore M. Picard asked Government to publish a list of persons affected by the proceedings to secure Public Safety, which, of course, will not be done.

GERMANY.

March 2nd.

DIPLOMACY has been often enough ridiculed, and congresses have become a laughing-stock; but it is fortunate that wit alone does not guide nations, nor satire influence all statesmen. What would become of Europe if peace now depended upon popular feeling, or, as some term it, instinct? A new generation has arisen that knows not war; and, judging by the speeches made in one legislative assembly and another of Germany, all are eager for the exciting game. There really seems to be a desire to challenge Louis Napoleon out. Whether this war-cry is an instinct, or has been the work of Austria, to intimidate France with the show of a united Germany, it is hard to say. But loud as the Germans are in their defiance, they have their eyes fixed upon England as the guardian of their coasts. England's alliance is a necessity for the maintenance of the Confederation in a war with France. How long would Prussia, Hanover, Oldenburg, Mecklenburg, and the Hanse towns continue members of the Bund with a French fleet off every port,—if not in every port? It is the general opinion in Germany that England has always been, and always must be, the natural enemy of France, and upon this they reckon; but although Germany is undoubtedly England's most certain and natural ally, they cannot tell us what England has to gain by a war with France just now. The latter has neither colonies to conquer nor merchant vessels to capture: England has taken all the hap-pence of France, and now can only expect kicks—be they hard or gentle, nothing but kicks—and the worst kick of all would be the loss of our seamen; for, as our carrying trade would quietly be transferred to the neutral powers, who—and more especially the Americans—would be enabled thereby to offer such a rate of wages as would decoy almost every merchant sailor from our ports, England occupies now such an extraordinary position that she must have a war with all or war with none. France, on the other hand, has everything to gain, and little to lose by war; and well she knows that without England the Germanic Confederation would split on the first cannon shot. This is, however, far from being the opinion of the people or the press of the southern and central parts of Germany. All have faith in the adhesive properties of the Bund, and fancy a war with France would make a united and, finally, a happy family of all the German States—therefore, the bold speeches in Hanover, in Munich, and elsewhere. Besides the war discussion, the Prussian Marriage Act, as projected by the Ministers, is the only matter of public interest. This is the first measure of importance that the new ministry have brought forward. It is regarded as a token that they have resolved to follow quite another path to that of their predecessors, at least our very sanguine liberals view it in that light, but I think it is a measure of sheer necessity and nothing more. The old marriage law, independent of ecclesiastical jealousy or tyranny, had become quite useless for good, retaining at the same time great powers for evil, from the facility with which marriages could be contracted in other countries. I mentioned, in a former letter, that in some parts of Germany men were not permitted to marry unless they possessed a certain sum of money, or amount of property, or were twenty-five years of age; the consequence was, and still is, that instead of marriage the poorer classes remained satisfied with a betrothal, and "*Mein Brautigam*," was found to answer quite as well as "*Mein Mann*." A few years ago, if a couple wanted to get married, and were not permitted by their laws, or rather by their presumptuous authorities, to do so, they could walk quietly off to the office of the American consul, declare their intention of emigrating to the United States, and have the ceremony performed with more form and almost as much solemnity as by their own clergyman. This was at any rate the case at one seaport, and I suppose it was the same at others. The local authorities, jealous, perhaps, of the fees that the consul bagged by these wedlock transactions, made representation at Washington, and the consul was prohibited from marrying any more. The marriage laws of Germany are only a means of crushing all manly feeling out of the people; for as to keeping down population and preventing poverty thereby, the idea is as absurd as it is execrable. This projected Prussian law is, however, not only of importance in a social point of view. It will affect the relations which at present exist between the Church and State in Prussia. The Prussian Constitution insures to the Romish and Evangelical churches their independence, and the regulation of their own affairs; but, notwithstanding, the church was looked upon by the Government as a branch of the Civil Service, and treated as such. The late Ministry freed her from the influence of the Minister of Culture, who had come to be regarded as the head of the Church, and the connexion between Church and State was thus done away with. But it soon became apparent that the Church was making an anti-social use of her liberty, more especially in marriages, in which she was allowed to be sole arbitress, as regarded their propriety and validity. Marriages were refused as whim or conscience dictated, and the State was powerless. The projected law will remove this evil. The religious rite will still be the rule, and the civil ceremony will only be tolerated when the Church refuses to perform the ceremony, or when a couple have particular reasons for not requiring it.

Notwithstanding your depreciation of further allusion to the "Bradford Address," I hope you will allow the following extract from the *Weser Zeitung* of Saturday January 29th, 1859, to appear:—"Itzehoe, 27 Januar. Bei Beginn der heutigen Sitzung zeigte der Präsident an dass wiederum eine Reihe von Petitionen eingegangen seien. Es befinden sich darunter. Eine Adresse aus *Yorkshire in England*, dass die Sache Schleswigs nicht ausschliesslich in die Hand des Deutschen Bundes gelegt werden möge (*allgemeine Heiterkeit*)."

At the opening of this day's session, the President announced another batch of petitions. Among them an address from Yorkshire, in England, praying that the cause of Schleswig might not be left exclusively in the hands of the German Confederation.

The citizens of Germany who reside abroad may find the foregoing in the morning edition of the *Weser Zeitung* of January 29th. This paper bears a high character, and is widely circulated among the citizens of Germany who reside in the territories of Bremen, Hamburg, Hanover, Oldenburg, Brunswick, and neighbouring States.

MANNING THE NAVY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE LEADER."

SIR,—I have read with pleasure your remarks on "Manning the Navy," in *The Leader* of the 26th ult., and although it may be considered presumption in a sailor to reply thereto, I cannot resist the temptation to drop you a line on the subject. There are well-known difficulties in the way of getting good men for her Majesty's service, the whole of which are attributable to the overbearing treatment towards the men by the highest officers.

I could enumerate no end of instances. Methinks, sir, if you could get to see the ships' books of the Samarang, Camperdown, and the Queen, whilst those ships had a certain captain whose name I could communicate, you would wonder what it all meant by the number of R's placed against the names of sailors that had bolted. But, sir, "bad treatment" was the cause; and should these remarks cross the observation of certain naval men, they will well remember to what I allude, as well as the mutiny, and its origin, that broke out on board her Majesty's ship *Queen* about nine o'clock at night—during the time that this same captain had charge of her—whilst in Portsmouth Harbour, about which, I dare say, the Government of that day never heard one word. It is scarcely necessary to enter into these details, as it is too well known that when certain captains' names appear posted on the walls of our various seaport towns, wanting men—men, and good men, too, run to serve them, because they know, by *experience* and report, their man; whereas, on the other side of the question, there are others who are compelled to work their ships mostly by "supernumerary marines," because, on account of their bad name, they cannot get men to enter for their ships. I have known the Gypsy cutter to be sent from Portsmouth to Plymouth to fetch two men, which fact of itself will speak wonders of what a man (I beg pardon) a cap-

tain will do when hard up. Then, as to flogging! Why are men to be put to the gratings at the whim of a tyrant captain? why are they not tried as men? It may be argued, that a captain cannot flog when he pleases, but must first get the admiral's permission. Can't he? There is such a thing as foggy weather, and ships parting company and losing sight of each other! Then is the time to learn what a captain can do. There is a means of flogging a man at a moment's notice; for instance, bring his offence under the Mutiny Act—and what offence is it possible for a sailor to commit board-ship that will not rank under that fearful law?—which requires no notice for punishment. Then again, when punishment is going on, why summon every soul in the ship to witness a shipmate's degradation? It was that very circumstance alone that disgusted myself with the service, and I did not rest until I got out of it; and are there not thousands with the same feelings as myself? The mess arrangements require revising (certainly the new rule of serving out grog only once a day, instead of twice, is a good one), but there are many alterations required, both in the victualling as well as mess regulations, which I fear to enlarge upon, least you think me troublesome. Lastly, let men be treated kindly; let their pay approximate a little nearer the merchant service rate. Don't permit the slop account to swallow up nearly all a sailor's wages (for it is that which leads to so much thieving board-ship), and when in harbour, give them a little more liberty; and Jack, with all his faults, might be reformed and the State benefited.

H. V.

Fine Arts.

A PLEASANT hour or two may be passed at the Gallery beside the Haymarket Theatre, where the Society of Female Artists have opened their third exhibition. We have been hindered—not that we love the ladies and their works less, but that the demands of heavier matter have been more imperative—in our wish to notice it sooner; and we regret that we can now find room for but flying remarks, or a few among the interesting works that grace the walls.

None will deny the palm to Miss Margaret Gillies, whose "*Vivia Perpetua*" impresses the mind as well as the eye. The fine figure and beauteous up-turned face of the praying captive, lit up by a strong ray of light through her prison bars, are beautifully conceived and drawn; and the drawing and colouring leave nothing to be desired.

Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, an admirable colourist, exhibits five works of self-asserting vigour. Her "*Pifferari*," playing (as usual) before a shrine, and her "*Goatherd of the Campagna*," are so dashing and forcible everywhere but in the far too feminine faces, that the high finish of the latter seems inconsonant. On the other hand, this lady's "*Outcast*," a study of a man's head, is powerfully drawn, but his *coiffure*, matted to excess, is far too rugged.

Mrs. E. Dundas Murray, the fair and zealous secretary, shows an excellent eye and feeling for nature in her principal work, "*Holy Island during the Herring Season*." The peaks and turrets of the distant islet are cleverly tinted, but not warmed, with the cold ray of early morning. Crested breakers shiver naturally on the foreground beach. Fishing boats, each with its group of busy hands, sway listlessly "laying-to," or cross and recross one another in all directions, yet impelled by the same wind, in that admired and picturesque disorder which puzzles the landsman, and which the artist must have studied often and carefully to have reproduced so successfully. The same lady's "*Bam-borough Castle*" is a nicely composed, airy, and harmoniously coloured landscape, but must be seen at a fair and proper focal length, not peered into, as is the fate of many a meritorious, and, therefore, unappreciated work, on "private view" days.

Miss Louisa Rayner has some very promising pastels of old stonework, of which the Christchurch Gateway, at Canterbury, is the most attractive. Miss Florence Peel exhibits a singular "*Study from Nature*." She has taken a hint from Mr. Ruskin, and professes that "the study is an experiment whether, while working chiefly with a view to detail, it is absolutely necessary, as frequently asserted, to lose sight of general effect." The natural objects depicted are, a piece of limestone, or weather-worn quartz—we can hardly tell which,—a few wild flowers and ivy leaves, a tuft or two of grass, and a bunch of daisies, painted just as they might be posed by Nature herself. The enterprising artist has been successful in her delicate and tasteful copy of the vegetable productions, but the "general effect" is marred by the shapeless lump of nondescript mineral round which they are grouped.

Miss Blake has a meritorious scene, "*In the*

Campagna." The pose of the women chatting at the well is easy; they are well drawn; their drapery is adorned with decision, and the distance is well handled. We look upon this lady's "Glacier of Rosenlaui from the Grand Scheideck," as a masterly work, but have no space to detail its many merits. It is worth study by such as have not revelled in Alpine scenery, and will charm those whose memories it may quicken. "Wild Flowers," by Ellen Cantelo, is a sweet morsel. The "Study from Nature," by a Norwich amateur (K.P.S.), much thought of in that good city, is a very well-finished bit of still life in a larger, composed of pot, pan, platter, baskets, and dead game. Miss Yetts has a "Path in a Wood," in which the chequered shade is well and promisingly managed. It is hard to imagine whence the Honourable Mrs. Monckton Mills found her authority for the portrait of a shrivelled little old lady, entitled "Marie Antoinette in the Conciergerie." Miss Florence Claxton's satirical Progresses of "the Old Maid" and "the Old Bachelor" are almost painfully truthful. We were arrested on our tour and charmed by the striking truth of the unpretending "Grisedale Beck" of Miss Georgina Hibbert. Mrs. Rimer's "Roses" (212) show taste and freedom of handling, though we cannot admire her background. Mrs. Blaine's imposing "Colossi at Thebes," and Mrs. Needham's copy of Turner (208), (the latter sold for 105*l.*), will both of them challenge observation, as will several meritorious copies from olden masters, of which that by Miss Babbs (212), after Francia, is perhaps the most striking. But the curiosities in chief of the Gallery must be allowed to be the mystical production of Mrs. Wilkinson, of Hampstead. This lady, whose name is a household word among those who interest themselves in the so-called "spiritual movement," has, we presume, in the flower pieces, 240 and 245, entitled "From Dreamland," attempted to depict those spirit-world flowers, in outlining which, *on dit*, her pencil has been guided by unseen hands. Our curiosity is now piqued to know whether the elves of the loo table—the Lures of the new belief—who suggested the comet-petalled convolvulus, dictated also its blue and golden sheen.

On Monday evening, the Ceramic Curator, at South Kensington, gave his second lecture. He discoursed learnedly and pleasantly on Chinese and European porcelain, explaining and illustrating by specimens the chemistry, technology, and characteristics of Chinese, Japanese, Eggshell, Crackling, Dresden, Berlin, Chelsea, Derby, and Worcester wares. He told us how the mania for old China raged far more fiercely in Canton than in May Fair; fragments even of renowned manufactures being set in frames as ornaments and heirlooms by enthusiastic mandarins. He showed specimens of the priceless and now inimitable "pea-green," the secret of which is lost to Europeans; and a simple plate out of a service made for Catherine of Russia. Nearly all the latter was burnt at Moscow, and the rescued portion, after being sold, and travelling through various European cabinets, had ultimately, with the one exception now at Kensington, been reacquired by the Russian royal family.

The demonstration in Parliament with reference to Lord John Manners' selection of Mr. Gilbert Scott (the author of a Lombard Gothic design) to be the architect for the new Government offices, is satisfactory, as showing that a certain number of members, of no small consideration, may be relied upon to keep watch against fine art jobbery, *in excelsis*. That the noble lord is to blame for his choice is the deliberate opinion of those most competent to judge; not because he declines to give the commission to the first prizemen—for all competitors were aware that Government, in their conditions, reserve to themselves freedom from such obligation—but, because he has selected a gentleman who, though he has been concerned in planning highly ornamental churches, cannot be considered a first-rate designer of buildings whose utility is a primary consideration, or a sufficient master of the art of labour economy for this present occasion. If the principle of competition was to be deviated from—as was always intended in this instance—the ultimate choice should have fallen upon some person eminent in both these respects; and of such there are several in the profession more eligible than Mr. Scott. That a captivating draughtsman need not be a good architect we have already proved to our cost at Westminster. That the Gothic style, beautiful though it is on paper and in outside form, is neither economical of money, space, or light, is, we fancy, clear enough in the case of the great New Palace failure at Westminster. Without waste of time or words, we may clearly tell our readers that the Gothic is not the proper style for the new Government offices; and even if it were, Mr. Scott is not the best man by several degrees who could have been selected to plan and carry them out. The sentimentalism about the dominant style of the neighbourhood may be fair in talk, but is an inadequate excuse for Lord Manners'

ukase. Mr. Scott's position in his profession as a practical architect—church building excepted—entitled him to no more consideration than was shown to the first prizemen. He should have been paid his honorarium; his drawing should, like those of others, have been appropriated; and he should have been forced into competition with a limited number of high-class men, recognised by their compeers as such. Sir Benjamin Hall's original idea was of this kind; and in the first instance he obtained a vote of 1,200*l.* for division among a dozen of the best architects. That my lord is willing to accept the responsibility of his choice will be no consolation to us, should Mr. Scott turn out to be a second Barry. Should the day of responsibility ever arrive, the noble lord may either be out of office or may simply deride the taxpaying complainants for having trusted him. He and his friends may very safely indulge in their bravado about their acceptance of moral responsibility. Lives there the man, out of a certain charmed circle, who can place this moral responsibility for the parliament-house bungle upon the right shoulders? or if placed there, would it gall them? And, if it did, would any suffering of theirs restore us our hundreds of thousands? The only sufferer is the poor deluded Bull, who pays for all. The votaries of Gothicism go so far as to threaten the Vandals of opposition with the arrest of the whole business, if complacency is not maintained. Let it be arrested by all means. We pant not to see the grand officials luxuriating in the splendid mansions that are ever so glorious in the drawings, and are to figure in the accounts by and bye. The transfer of the Indian establishment to Downing-street is not so very pressing. If the acceptance of a particular architect is the sole condition of public office consolidation, which all admit to be desirable, the public, who have waited so long, can just contrive, perhaps, to wait a little longer.

On Saturday last was held one of the series of *conversazioni* of the "Artists' Society," at Langham chambers, Portland-place. The object of the *soirée* being to submit for mutual criticism the works of the members, we are not justified in more than casual references. The public will probably in due time be in a position to judge for themselves of many works we had the pleasure of seeing on that occasion; but we cannot but notice a charming picture by Mr. Smallfield, entitled "First Love," and depicting a young lad helping a very young maiden over a stile. The expression of the figure is good, and the accessories beautifully painted. A more ambitious work, by Mr. Calderon, leads us to imagine that his name will soon be better known to the public. Its subject is some French peasants discovering their lost child in the hands of a travelling showman. Mr. Lewis exhibited one or two pictures, evincing a great feeling for light; Messrs. Raven, Moore, Oakes, and Hall, some excellent landscapes. The water-colours of Duncan, Mole, and others were much admired. If succeeding *conversazioni* furnish such promise as that of Saturday, we cannot but augur well for the Society and its constituent members.

We can give but a cursory notice of the "dress *conversazione*," of the Artists' and Amateurs' Society, held at Willis's Rooms on Thursday evening. A number of most interesting works in oil and water—some exhibited by their authors, some by collectors—were disposed round this noted resort of the *beau monde*, and a goodly company of ladies and gentlemen were gathered to be admired and to admire. As we cannot pretend to speak in any kind of order of the collection, we must recite our notes as we jotted them down in the room. Mr. Louis Haghe had a noble portfolio of powerful sketches, among which some Continental cathedrals, and especially a chapel in St. Peter's at Rome, were remarkable. Mr. J. F. Lewis showed an Oriental "Kibab Shop" in oils—two pictures in one—rich in all his well-known qualities; Mr. Cattermole a monkish water-color in his best manner; Mr. S. Read a careful and forcible Gothic gateway; and Mr. W. J. Johnson a very delicate Mediterranean picture. Mr. J. H. Mole had several captivating water-colors of high finish. His "Gipsies" and "Boys Fishing at Highgate" were attractive; and the sweet feeling of "The Grandfather" teaching the young idea of an infant to walk was notable, as well as its exquisite finish. "The Letter Reader," a French boudoir study of a female, was an exquisite specimen of the school, by Mons. Trayer. A little landscape, subject unknown to us, by F. H. Huntington, was no less meritorious a gem than a small sea-side bit with numerous figures, and a well-treated perspective by A. Willmore. Mr. H. Brittan Willis had a portfolio of so-called sketches (we should term them studies), mostly rustic: the farmyard, mare and foal, and an old flea-bitten grey horse, being perhaps the cleverest. The same artist showed an important cattle piece. Mr. H. Moore (a Pre-Raphaelite brother) attracted all by his "Swiss Haymakers," a splendid picture, in which a

pair of oxen, yoked to the haycart, were well conceived and executed. Mr. Earle's "Sleeping Dog," was a true and charming specimen of the master's power. Mr. Cornelius Pearson's portfolio of water-colours was, as was Mr. McKewan's, a centre of attraction; and the former artist's beautiful, though pale, drawing of Snowdon, taking in a wide expanse of mountain scenery, and skilfully depicting a showery effect, was admired, as it deserved to be. A glade of great beauty, by H. Jutsum, refreshed us with its cool stream and chequered shade; and Mr. G. Lowthian's wonderful water-colours, "The Gothic Rock—Lydslep" and "Hastings Cliff" astonished us, painted, as we are credibly informed they are, stone by stone, from nature, with truly photographic accuracy. E. W. Cooke had two very small works: one of them of covetable quality; and Mr. F. Powell, an artist of whom outsiders have hitherto heard little, but will hear more, a magnificent water-color landscape. Here we had mountain range, boiling river, and valley vegetation all truthfully studied, and all steeped in orange hues of wondrous richness. We had well-nigh forgotten the most striking and delicious Pre-Raphaelite picture by Mr. H. B. Moore, which shows a thicket foreground of young blackberry-gatherers and a superb blue ocean distance. Nor can we close our remarks without a word in memory of F. B. Forge, the fine quality of whose seven or eight works here exhibited only added to our regret that he had all too soon been taken away. We are glad to watch the progress of this and kindred associations. It seems to us that they not merely give the pleasure of reunion to artists and amateurs, but that, by allowing fair field as well to their members as to judges, they may, in course of time, have a salutary effect upon the sometimes thoughtless and sometimes unfairly prejudiced "hanging" authorities at the recognised public exhibitions.

Since publishing our notice of the British Institution Exhibition, we have seen some of the rejected pictures, which are not only far better than many of those admitted, but considerably above the average merit of the works exhibited this year. Of course, in the case of societies whose managers are artists, we must expect that they will give a preference to their own productions, and, perhaps, some favour to their friends may even be excused, though not excusable; but, from an institution whose committee is non-professional, both artists and the public would reasonably expect something like impartial justice in the admission or rejection of pictures. The exigencies of hanging may sometimes involve the exclusion of a good painting, and if the bad ones were all in bad places, no one would have a right to complain; but when it is evident at a glance that there are many pictures in good places which have escaped adverse criticism solely on the ground that they were hopelessly bad and their authors incorrigible, it is distressing to find that good ones have been sent away to make room for them. We have no wish to impute unworthy motives to the directors; perhaps they may imagine that bad pictures, like the Spanish ladies' ugly duennas, enhance the attractions of their companions. Most probably it is their judgment which has been in error; but, at all events, it appears that mistakes have been committed which, besides being an injustice to painters, have tended to lower the Institution in public estimation, by rendering its exhibition less attractive than it ought to have been. We mention the subject in the hope that in future greater care will be taken in selecting the pictures.

The Tasmanians have lately been getting up an Art Exhibition at Hobart-town, which appears to have been conceived in a liberal spirit, and very creditably carried out. It was originated by a few private gentlemen, without any view to profit, was opened by the Governor of the colony, and continued for six weeks. The expenses were paid by the sale of season tickets, and, as soon as a sufficient number of these had been sold to cover the outlay, the exhibition was thrown open to the public free of charge. It is stated to have been completely successful. The collection consisted of 260 pictures, mostly by modern painters; with specimens of statuary, bronze, &c. Among the artists' names we noticed that of the late Mr. Glover, a water colorist, in whose works the colony is rich, he having died there, and a large collection of his works having been disposed of by auction after his decease.

Visit of a London Exquisite to his Maiden Aunts in the Country. Illustrated by Theo.

W. Kent and Co. We are glad we refrained from too hastily noticing this bound volume of etchings. It has been for a month before us, and we were at first not impressed in its favour. But having now found time and taken heart to go carefully through the five-and-twenty plates, we are able to pronounce conscientiously that the designer, who, we have heard, is a

lady fair, possesses a richly comic fancy, and a considerable degree of manual dexterity which may be carried farther yet. The etchings are large, and in a style now somewhat out of fashion, though thirty years ago it was much in vogue and practised by many book illustrators of repute. They are crowded with detail, and tell their story well. Whoever "Theo" may be, he or she has earned our thanks for an hour or two of a wet afternoon most pleasantly beguiled by the aid of "The Exquisite's Visit."

Theatres and Entertainments.

COVENT GARDEN OPERA.

HER Majesty and some of the Royal children were twice at Covent Garden Opera last week, and also on Tuesday evening, to hear Wallace's "Maritana."

Such a rush to hear Mr Balfe's "Satanella" and "Rose of Castille," as they are admirably given here, has followed the opening of Parliament and the consequent influx of company into town, that there seems to be no chance of our having "Rip van Winkle" during the present season; unless perhaps it be performed for the benefit of Mr. Harrison on Saturday the 19th, the closing night.

EXETER HALL.

On Friday week Handel's "Solomon" was given in a much mutilated form, by the Sacred Harmonic Society; and from the very faint demonstrations of sympathy vouchsafed by the audience, it is not likely to be repeated often. It was composed, not in Handel's best days, about ten years before his death, and with few exceptions is weak by comparison with many other of his works. Several of the choruses are however fine; and that called "Shake the dome," in the third act, is magnificently descriptive. The vocalists were Mesdames Catharine Hayes and Weiss, Miss Dolby, and Mr. Montem Smith; but the solos, with the exception of Madam Hayes' "Shall I see my infant gored" (the appeal of the true mother to King Solomon), were insufficient to rouse the audience from their apathy. We never heard an oratorio "go" so flatly within these walls.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

The production of a nautical opera at this theatre, so immediately after the First Lord of the Admiralty had officially turned public attention to the necessity of strengthening our wooden walls, may be considered a capital piece of manager-craft. That the lessee had not made a false calculation, was shown by the thunders of applause that welcomed the nautical effects in the new three-act ballad opera of "William and Susan," which Mr. Reynoldson, the librettist, and Mr. Tully, the composer, have jointly concocted from that old favorite, "Black-eyed Susan." We should not at all wonder if some wiseacre London correspondents of the smaller French papers were to inform their subscribers that the Derby administration had taken this means of rousing the flagging ardour of the British islanders. The leading incident of Jerrold's famous play has been extracted whole, but that writer's excellent dialogue has—on copyright considerations, of course—been carefully eschewed. Act I, opens with a spirited chorus of longshore folk, looking out for the channel fleet, headed by Mr. Manvers as a comic flower-seller, *Dicky Daisy*, who sings a lively solo to a polka tune. They have not long to gaze; for an immense and excellently-constructed model of a frigate under sail heaves in sight as the scene changes to "Susan's cottage." Here the heroine, represented by a fair-haired beauty, Miss Lucette, who has a pleasing manner and a slight voice, was encored in a nice ballad on "Spring Time," and sang a nicely-harmonised trio with *Bella Primrose* (Miss Huddart) and *Dicky*. In the next act *Captain Cameron*, the *Crosstree* of the original, (Mr. Rosenthal) created a sensation, and gained an *encore* for a thoroughly Balfour ballad, "Mong High-born Maids;" and in the fourth, in which *William* (Mr. Haigh) made his appearance, the enthusiasm of the house was roused by Mr. Beverley's beautiful painting of the fleet riding at anchor. The act closed most successfully with a spirited hornpipe, danced to admiration by four and twenty female tars; and when the latter were upset in a general "scrimmage," as the curtain fell, the delight of the audience knew no bounds. The second act maintained the promise of the first. The meeting of *William* and *Susan* gave room for a nice duo; and the song, "All lovers are horrible creatures," sung by Miss Huddart, is a composition of genius. The "Flying Dutchman" chorus, a good composition of a good school, was exceedingly well given; and Mr. Haigh sang a chorally-accompanied solo, "The Boatmen of the Downs," very finely. The third act, the insult to *Susan*, and *William's* assault on the Captain, bring on a concerted finale, written with care, and very creditably executed. In the third act, the musical court-martial by which *William* is tried and sentenced,

was comically sad and sadly comical; but this, we suppose, could hardly be helped. Mr. Haigh, who pleaded guilty, sang a fine piece of declamation, "In the bleak mid-watch," in his best style, and produced some of those beautiful tones his voice is known to possess. The duet "And oft, yes, oft," which follows, is simple and expressive; and the finale, in which all welcome *William's* pardon in the most joyous strain of the opera, was the signal for much genuine applause, and a hearty call for the singers and the composer. The style of Mr. Tully's compositions is unpretending and pure. There are some nice melodies and effects in *William and Susan*, and the composer was well seconded by the band and chorus. The former were sometimes too loud, a defect which will be soon cured; but the latter were good, especially considering the large present demand for choral talent elsewhere, and that this *troupe* must, in a measure, have been extemporised. They were well drilled, and effective in action to a degree. They talked in a roystering full-flavoured way, which highly delighted the enthusiasts of the pit and gallery, about "splicing the main brace," and hitched up their duck inexpressibles most orthodoxly. To conclude, a great number of dramatic connoisseurs, as well as a houseful of nobodies, seemed unanimous in a verdict of success, which we have no hesitation in recording.

HAYMARKET.

On Monday a one-act piece, condensed by Mr. Selby from a French three-act drama, was produced, in order to introduce a young *débutante*, Miss Ellen Allen. The name of the "Young Mother" is bestowed on the little drama, because the young heroine has to stand in that relation to a rather troublesome family, consisting of a sentimental sister, a loose, vagabondish brother, and a herd of lesser troubles. She has the consolation, however, of a warm suitor and supporter in a lover, whom Buckstone personates with all his usual unction of amiable grotesqueness. The piece is poor in every way, and depends too much on a sentimental feeling to win any very cordial sympathy from a Haymarket half-price. The young lady has capacities which, when ripened by experience and practice, will make her an actress, though hardly of the premier class. At present her appearance is somewhat premature, although we augur her future success.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

On Monday evening a new piece, by Mr. Falconer, was produced at this house, under the title of "Leprachaun; or, Bad Luck's Good Luck with Good Looking After." As every one as naturally inquires *in limine* what is a "Leprachaun?" as they did on the occasion of a former novelty at this theatre what was a "Cagot?" we may inform them that the "Leprachaun" is a bogie or brownie, who, according to an Irish tradition, has the "Open Sesame" to stores of hidden treasure, to which he will at times introduce those whom in his elfin caprice he may chance to favour, or who may extract his secret from him by the stick. The hero of the comedy, *Phelim O'Donnell* (Mr. Barney Williams), an Hiberno-Spanish Legionary, is in continual contact during the piece—of which it would be hardly interesting, after it has won its way, to give a lengthy analysis—with a miserly curmudgeon, whom he insists upon mistaking for a Leprachaun, and to whom, according to the orthodox receipt, he constantly applies the *argumentum Baculinum*. Several situations of this character were rattled through with such vivacity by Mr. Williams, who had nearly the whole of the piece to himself, that a vote in favour of the management was carried without dissent.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC CHIEFS.

Mr. Falconer has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams. His "Leprachaun," noticed above, with "An Hour at Seville," and "Ireland as it was," in which these favourites delight a public of their own, have drawn good houses through the week. The Coburg Grand Ducal opera of "Diana de Soulange" will, it is reported, be produced in England by the Pyne and Harrison company. The noble composer has recently tried his hand, with success, at a drama, which has created, according to German correspondence, no slight sensation. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan have been playing at the Adelphi, in "Still Waters Run Deep," with success. We have once or twice alluded, under the head of music, to an alteration in the concert pitch, which has been under discussion at Paris. Mr. Belioz certainly out-Herods all that we ever heard of musical fanaticism. If report speaks truth (as it generally does not), this composer proposes an enactment of pains and penalties against all who shall knowingly tamper with the standard of tone, when it shall have been once established!

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

The selection of Monday last was a happy medium between the popular and the scientific, partaking somewhat of both characters. The first part was entirely from the works of Haydn, and comprised at least two most attractive pieces. We are inclined

to give the palm to the performance of the beautiful trio in G major, for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello, which was admirably played by Messrs. Lindsay Sloper, Ries, and Piatti. The motett, again, "The Arm of the Lord," sung in the purest taste by Madame Enderssohn, Miss Palmer, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. Santley, worthily closed the Haydn section, and was a relief after the "Wanderer"—an over long canzonet, which was, however, faithfully rendered by Miss Palmer. Less interesting was the opening quartet, containing variations on "God save the Emperor," though skilfully played by Mr. H. Blagrove, Herr Ries, Herr Schreuss, and Signor Piatti, of whom the second displayed immense feeling when it came to his instrument to take up the theme. Madame Enderssohn gave "She never told her Love" with such taste and feeling, as to secure a spirited demand for its repetition.

The distinguishing feature of the "Weber" part of the entertainment was also a trio. Mr. Lindsay Sloper, Mr. R. S. Pratten, and Signor Piatti discoursed eloquently on pianoforte, flute, and violoncello in the trio in G minor; Mr. Benedict and Mr. Lindsay Sloper charmed us in a chamber duet; and in the popular "Oberon" quartet, "Over the Dark Blue Waters," Misses Stabbach and Palmer, and Messrs. W. Cooper and Santley left nothing to be desired. We have never heard the latter gentleman sing better; but we cannot say, conscientiously, that we were fascinated with the solos allotted to him.

We are glad to infer that Mr. Sims Reeves is recovering from his painful illness, as we observe he is announced, as is M. Wieniawski (violin), for the popular concert on Monday next.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS interesting and progressive society, whose doings it gives us pleasure to record, gave a well-attended "dress concert" on Wednesday. The repetition of "The May Queen," of which we gave a full notice on a previous occasion, and the production of an "Ave Maria," written for his unfinished work, the "Loreley" by Mendelssohn, were the features of the evening. We were pleased, but not surprised, to note an improvement in the execution of the former delightful work, to which the society have paid wise attention since our former remarks were penned. It bids fair to take rank among the glories of English music, and its frequent repetition will conduce to yet greater perfection in the choral portions. The new "Loreley" fragment followed Mr. Benedict's characteristic overture to "The Tempest," at the opening of the second part. With the *finale* to the first act, which was allotted to Madame Catherine Hayes, and a chorus, the public are already, to some extent, familiar, it having been performed to large audiences at the St. Martin's and Surrey Music Halls; but the "Ave Maria" is a novelty, having never before been given in public. We are not bold enough to report its perfect execution at present, though Mr. Benedict has exerted himself much to secure that desirable end. But the uncertainty that was observable, due to the comparatively short acquaintance of the executants with the difficult music, must, of course, be allowed for. The character of the "Ave Maria" is, however, so sweet, so picturesque, and, in parts, so impressive, that the delighted audience insisted upon an *encore*. Among the minor pieces of excellence may be mentioned the fine drinking duo, "Se Bevium," from the "Seraglio," that wonderful opera composed by Mozart in his boyhood; and the Beethoven overture, at the commencement of the performance.

On the 23rd inst, the Vocal Association will sing the "Acis and Galatea" of Handel, with Mesdames Catherine Hayes and Enderssohn and Miss Stabbach as soloists.

OHIO MINSTRELS, ADELAIDE ROOMS.

WHILE their Christy—our brethren are so delighting the volatile crowd at Paris: that Jules Janin has, on dit, devoted whole columns to the rise and progress of Ethiopian Minstrelsy—the Ohio *troupe*, who are domiciled at the above rooms, of course come in for a share of that popular favour which will devote itself to serenaders, and which the Exodus of the Christy choir left for a short time without an object. Their repertory is of the usual character, and they have attained, by long practice, such perfection in several of their solos and concerted pieces, as to find vast favour with their patrons. On a recent occasion, during a flying visit we were not half so gratified [for we wanted to move on] to hear several *encores* as the captivated votaries of Nigger melody who were there to make a night of it.

OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL.—Meetings of the Parliamentary Reform Committee and the Westminster Reform Society have carried strong resolutions condemnatory of the Government bill. We are informed that the Westminster public meeting will be held next Wednesday, at St. Martin's Hall.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

THE following is a brief outline of the contents of the above important measure, introduced on Monday in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

AS TO THE FRANCHISE.

No one is disfranchised. Every existing right is reserved.

In little more than a page of print the future rights of voting are defined.

The 40s. freehold remains on its old basis.

The franchise derived from the ownership of copyholds, lifeholds, and long leaseholds, is reduced from 10l. per annum to 5l. per annum.

The occupation franchise is fixed at one uniform rate for counties and boroughs, of 10l. yearly value.

New franchises are created in favour of—

Lodgers, or occupiers of part of any house, whether furnished or unfurnished, at the rate of 8s. per week, or 20l. per annum.

Persons in the receipt of an income from personal property invested in Government funds or annuity, East India Stock, or Bank Stock of of £10 per annum; or in receipt of a pension or superannuation allowance for services rendered in any department of the army, navy, or civil service, and not on active service, of £20 per annum.

Depositors in a savings bank to the extent of £60.

And certain educational qualifications are created, including—

Graduates.

Clergy of the Church of England.

Ministers of all other denominations.

Barristers, pleaders, and conveyancers.

Solicitors and proctors.

Medical men.

Certified schoolmasters.

The future rights of voting are to be exercised in all cases for the county or borough, as the case may be, where, in the case of a qualification arising out of lands or tenements, the property is situate, or where, in all other cases, the voter shall reside.

In the case of ownership or occupation of lands or tenements the same length of possession is required as by the existing law. In the new creations of the franchise twelve months' occupation of the apartments, or possession of the income or deposit, and in the two latter cases twelve months' residence, also, is necessary before registration.

The law requiring payment of poor rates by the occupiers, hitherto in force only in boroughs is extended to £10 occupiers in counties.

The occupation franchise is extended to all descriptions of real property, whether a building is or is not included in the occupation.

An important provision is introduced to prevent the fictitious creation of votes, so that no more than two voters can be registered in respect of any freehold, copyhold, or leasehold interest in the same premises, unless the property shall have come by descent, &c., to more than that number, or shall belong to a greater number *bona fide* engaged as partners carrying on business upon the premises.

The effect of this provision, while it will not limit the fair exercise of the privilege of voting by persons who are really entitled, will prevent the undue splitting of property solely for the purpose of creating fictitious votes.

Payment of assessed taxes is no longer required as a condition to registration. This condition has hitherto pressed solely upon the higher class of occupiers, of £20 and upwards, while those occupying £10 and under £20 have been subject only to the condition requiring payment of poor rates. The effect of the repeal is simply to place all occupiers on an equal footing.

Though no one is disfranchised, all persons in the actual service of the Government in dockyards or factories connected with the army and navy are disqualified from voting while so employed, and for one month after leaving the service.

AS TO REGISTRATION.

Hitherto every county voter, as well owner as occupier, has been compelled to claim before the 20th July.

Occupiers in boroughs were placed upon the lists by the overseers without claim, freemen by the town clerk. Persons omitted had a power of claiming at a later period.

The bill assimilates the borough and county system.

It requires the overseer to put on the lists the names of all owners and occupiers who possess the required qualification in his parish, whether they claim or not. This can easily be done with a little care and trouble. No doubt there will still be some omissions. It is probable there will be some improper insertions, but in the main the plan will be a great improvement upon the present system, and will ensure a tolerably complete register.

That some such system is needed is proved by the

fact that between the years 1851 and 1856, notwithstanding the growth of population and the increase of wealth, there has been a decaying county register to the extent of 45,000 votes, arising solely from the omissions to claim and the absence of any machinery for placing the names of persons on the register without claiming.

A concurrent right of claiming is, however, still reserved to the owners and occupiers, if they think fit to avail themselves of it; and in addition to this, if, upon publication of the lists on the 24th of July, any name should appear to be omitted, or incorrectly described, or any person wishes to amend his qualification or his residence, he will have the power to do so by sending in a supplemental claim before the 24th August.

Lodgers must send in an annual claim, and claimants in respect of the other new franchises must send in a claim in the first instance, but with these exceptions the operation of the registration system will be almost self-working.

The days upon which the several stages in the process of registration are to be completed are made more uniform and intelligible, as follows:—

Precepts to be issued ... May 24.

Qualifying year to end ... June 24.

Lists to be published by overseer ... July 24.

Supplemental lists and lists of objections Aug. 24.

Poor rate to be paid before 24th June,

which became due before ... Dec. 25.

Register to be completed by clerk of

peace by ... Dec. 31.

The register of voters will be in force from the commencement to the end of the year, instead of from the last day of November.

The proceedings before the revising barrister are simplified and improved. At present the whole scope and operation of the law is to make the process of registration as difficult as possible. The revising barrister's process is confined within narrow and prescribed bounds, and technical difficulties arrest the claimant at every turn. The policy of this bill is to make registration to the *bona fide* voter as easy as possible, and to protect him from vexatious or unnecessary objections.

Overseers, as well as any other person, objecting to a voter, are required to state the grounds of objection.

Power is given to the revising barrister to receive evidence by affidavit.

To amend the statement of the qualification or any other error in all cases where he is satisfied there was no intention to mislead.

Power is given to summon witnesses before the revising barrister, which does not now exist, and his power to give costs is enlarged from 20s. to 5l., so as to discourage as much as possible frivolous claims and vexatious objections.

The register of voters is also more adapted to the purposes for which it is required.

The clerk of the peace, in addition to the present register, is to make out a voting register according to the residences of the voters, separating the out-voters or non-residents into a distinct list: thus the voters will not be required to vote henceforth in the district in which their qualification is situate, which may be, and often is, at a great distance from where they reside, but will vote at the polling place appointed for the parish in which they live. The out-voters will be at liberty to vote at any polling place.

Great facilities are provided to voters to poll:

1. By an increase in the number of polling places.

2. By voting papers.

At present a vast proportion of the registered voters never vote at all, owing to the necessity for personal attendance, and the great distance apart at which the polling places are fixed. This will be felt a still greater evil in proportion as the franchise is extended.

The magistrates at the Michaelmas quarter sessions are required to appoint the future polling places for the counties, and to provide a separate polling place for every parish in which there shall be not less than 200 resident electors; and a polling place for every group of parishes not having that number in any one of them at some central and convenient place where 200 can be brought together.

It will be unnecessary to erect booths for this purpose. A convenient room can in all cases be hired, or the police stations belonging to the county may be made so, unless the magistrates provide suitable places belonging to the county. It is provided that the charge for hiring these rooms for polling places shall be defrayed out of the county rate.

This will not be any boon to the candidates, as may at first be supposed. Additional polling places are indispensable. If found by the county they will cost very little. If charged to the candidate the expense will be very great, while he will, in any case, have to provide the additional staff in the shape of poll-clerks, &c., and to pay a larger amount to the returning officer for his staff, rendered necessary by the increased number of polling places, which will

far more than counterbalance the advantage he will receive by having the places in which the poll is to be taken provided for him by the county free.

2. Voting papers.

These are to be issued by the returning officer, upon application in writing by or on behalf of the voters. They are to be sent by post by that officer as prepaid registered letters, directed to the voters at the address given in the application, and are to be returned direct to the returning officer in the same way. Proof of transmission each way is thus secured. The forms contain clear instructions for filling up the voting papers, which must be signed by the voter in the presence of two witnesses, one of whom must be a householder, who are to sign their names, residences, and descriptions.

The voting papers are to be opened on the day of polling by a deputy specially appointed for the purpose in the presence of the candidates or their agents, and the votes are to be recorded from them, and no voting paper is to be rejected for informality, if it is properly signed and witnessed, and contains the surname of the candidate.

The expense of issuing the voting papers is to form part of the election expenses of the candidates.

These increased facilities for voting render travelling expenses unnecessary, and the payment of them is therefore declared to be an illegal act, under the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act.

The right of voting by voting papers is extended to the Universities.

Important provisions are introduced for the enlargement of the boundaries of boroughs which have outgrown their limits.

No one will deny the fairness of the principle that the population substantially forming part of the town should vote for the town with which its interests, feelings, and sympathies are identified; but in many instances a large proportion of the inhabitants of populous boroughs, residing beyond the parliamentary limits, have no votes except for the county, with which they are altogether unconnected, and have no voice in the election for the borough, to which they really belong.

It is therefore provided that the Enclosure Commission shall forthwith appoint special commissioners to visit every borough, and inspect the boundaries and the location of the inhabitants, and before the 1st of January next report to the Home Secretary whether any and what enlargement of the boundaries is necessary, for the purpose of including within the area of boroughs the population really belonging to them, with a view to the introduction of a boundary bill next session.

The bill concludes with the usual temporary provisions, and the schedules contain the names of the disfranchised and enfranchised boroughs, and the new divisions of South Lancashire, the West Riding, and Middlesex, and the various forms applicable to the new machinery created by the Act, which appear to be admirably adapted by their simplicity to effect the objects intended.

THE MINISTRY.—In consequence of the difference with their colleagues on the subject of the new Reform Bill, Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley have resigned their offices. Mr. Sotherton Estcourt succeeds Mr. Walpole at the Home Office, while Lord March will fill the post of the former at the Poor Law Board. Lord Donoughmore, now Vice-President of the Board of Trade, will succeed Mr. Henley in that department; and Lord Lovaine, recently a lay Lord of the Admiralty, will replace Lord Donoughmore. Mr. F. Lygon, M.P. for Tewkesbury, succeeds Lord Lovaine at the Admiralty. Lord Henry Gordon Lennox has resigned his Lordship of the Treasury. He will be succeeded by Mr. Peter Blackburn, M.P. for Stirlingshire.

The Chinese insurgents are thus described in a letter from a member of Lord Elgin's expedition:—"The low estimate some of us had formed of the rebels turned out quite correct on a closer inspection. I had an opportunity of visiting some of their chiefs, both at Nankin and Woohoo. I was quite disgusted with their disreputable and disorderly appearance. Their pretensions to Christianity are of the shallowest description, and they do not possess even a superficial knowledge of its tenets, much less of its practice. They are polygamists, opium-smokers, and the only Bible example they seem to follow is that of the Israelites in the conquest of Canaan. The whole country has been laid in ruins by them, the women carried off, the men pressed into their service, and fire and bloodshed mark their track everywhere. They seem, however, to be on their last legs. The apathetic Imperialists are gradually closing in upon them, and any other Government but that effete system which goes by the name in China would crush the whole thing in a week. They asked us to sell them arms, and we had secret applications for opium. They live on the peasantry, whom they squeeze, and are blood-suckers who must be got rid of, if we intend to establish a healthy circulation, so essential to trade."

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

PUBLIC WORKS IN INDIA.

ALTHOUGH we have spoken with satisfaction of Lord Stanley's statement, it has not been from personal gratification, but after fair, impartial consideration of the measures proposed by him, and with full reservation of many points in which we have disagreed from him. It will however be seen that the policy advocated, almost singly, by the LEADER, agrees in the main with that now announced by the President of the Council, and which is in course of being carried out in India. At the time we took up the cause of Indian progress, not only had it no exponent, but then, as now, the organs of the Indian officials were opposed to it; and although their party is a failing one they still maintain their opinions. The *Saturday Review*, the organ of a strong body in the India House, has lately taken a very moderate course, and shows signs of adhering to Lord Stanley; but in a new periodical, called the *Universal Review*, the standard of opposition is again raised. True it is, the party no longer governs India, and has lost the power of initiating measures, but it still possesses that of obstruction, and it means to do all it can to impede the progress of the new administration. The fate of the East India Company is beyond redemption, but the old policy of narrow monopoly is nursed, and its partisans view with bitter and envious feeling the development of the new system which they had vainly hoped would have been nothing more than a fresh edition of the stereotype forms. Thus they look with pain on the comparison which cannot fail to be instituted between the results of the two systems, and they earnestly endeavour to dwarf and warp the new to the dimensions of the old one.

The present, therefore, is a period when any well-meaning Government deserves support, for the efforts of the opposing party are strong. It is this party which arrogates to itself whatever of glory belongs to the administration of India, while that is really due to a few men, who either were never members of the mandarin hierarchy, or who had emancipated themselves from its shackles. What was there in common between the heaven-born and Wellesley, Wellington, Cornwallis, Munro, Bentinck, Napier, and Dalhousie? and how little claim has it to demand the enumeration of Clive, Warren Hastings, Outram, the Lawrences, or Trevelyan, among its members? Among the greatest administrators in India we find the despised soldiers of the Company's service, some non-Indians of the Queen's service, some belonging to the still lower rank of the medical profession, some belonging to the quasi pariahs of the uncovenanted, some to the class styled "interlopers." The real Indians have all the best berths—but have they all the best men? Certainly not; and at this moment, in the real government of India, they have but a small share, and in the future they will have less, for they will sink to the rank of Treasury clerks, while the governors of India, instead of being taken from the caste of the heaven-born sons of Scotch directors, will be selected from the great men of the empire, or from those who will be raised to that supremacy.

The temptation is very great to some of the old military to join the ranks of the privileged, and claim the mysterious right of being exclusive authorities upon India; but the old prejudice of the mandarin class exercises its fatal influence, and many a soldier bethinks himself of the time he spent in the cold shade—how his fellows, with the rank of lieutenants or majors, are governing kingdoms and principalities, recognised with scant courtesy as officials of the Government of India—liable to be stripped of their authority, superseded by civil servants, and sent back to serve as subalterns (as poor Hodson was), or, if more fortunate, to come home like Edwards, to be dipped in the waters of popularity, and rendered invulnerable against presidency cliques. Look at the career of Outram; look at Havelock, with the reputation of a general, for years left without scope for his abilities, while the progress of India is cramped because a few civilians draw immense salaries, and do not object to performing the duties of more

clerks. Who are the men now governing our frontier, from Cachar right round to the Punjab, under the name of commissioners or superintendents, but the non-elect? There are some nice staff appointments—there are some nice jobs in the Indian armies, but there is not a man of energy and ability in its ranks who does not know that the resources of India are cramped for want of the mental and moral means of promoting their development. Hence military and medical officers have been found demanding and supporting railways, works of irrigation, canals, tea and coffee plantations, steamboats, and mines; pointing out the countries available for settlement, and urging upon the Home and Indian Governments plan after plan for the regeneration of India.

To attain this development of India, whether for military or civil purposes, public works must be carried out and the means of transport provided. Whether it be a bale of cotton or a battalion of infantry, the work to be performed is the same. The mandarins have kept India without roads, because they found it without roads, and profess that roads are unnecessary in a level country in the dry season, and incapable of being rendered useful in the rainy season. Thus a bale of cotton, which is cheaply grown, and of which the sale price at Manchester is high, cannot profitably be raised, because the cost of transport from India to England is so enormous; yet a halfpenny a pound is a handsome sea-freight, and another halfpenny would pay for a thousand miles of land carriage; while it costs more in India to carry a bale of cotton a hundred miles than it does in the United States to carry it a thousand. When the revolt broke out, the means of transport from Calcutta to the north-west were not equal to those of England in the wars of the Roses. There was only one road in India, and bullock trains, as used in Spain, afforded the main transport, officers being posted on in small squads. The thousand miles of railway which ought to have been opened would, in four-and-twenty hours, have placed troops, guns, and equipage in the heart of India. The energies of an English regiment are now dissipated in wasteful marches, with an army of camp followers—moving with less expedition than Edward I. in his border wars. In another country the improvement of the roads would be the first remedy; but in India railways are the best resource, because they facilitate the making of roads. The population of India is vast, but the supply of effective labour is limited in many districts; and there are at this time vast regions suffering from the want of labourers, notwithstanding the advance in wages.

How can this be otherwise? Ten miles a day is a high rate for the movement of a coolie, for though he may descend winding streams with ease, in a boat, he cannot ascend them with rapidity, for there are no towing paths; and in transporting labourers a thousand miles (which is considered but a short distance in India), three or four months will be consumed. Thus the resources of the country are wasted, the populous districts suffer from want of encouragement and from the low rate of remuneration for labour, as Ireland formerly did. The thinly-peopled districts are insufficiently supplied with laborers, and a large portion of the population is rendered profitless while on the way to employment. Look, too, at the condition of a large part of the agricultural population, employed in sowing or harvesting part of the year, and for the remainder wandering about the country with their beasts of burthen as brinjaries. When a large part of the population is employed in carrying, a country is commonly in a low condition, for production is diminished, and the fruits of the soil, and labour of the men and animals are spent on the operations of transport. Thus, neither is the carrying well done, nor is husbandry well tended. It is not an economy of the means of production which is effected by employing the spare time of men and animals in transport, but a positive discouragement of industry. Many a time is the brinjary detained by weather abroad, and his beasts are dying on the road, when he ought to be at home

attending to the cultivation of the soil. Economy is however effected, when, as in England or in the Netherlands, the spare time of the husbandman's men, beasts, and wagons is employed in furnishing local transport, and produces food for the carriers.

If India is to be well governed she must have railways. Troops should be able to reach every part of the country by one forced march at the end of a railway journey, and though one day's forced march can be made, be it remembered that two become difficult, and three impossible, for the speed is already slackened, and the best part of the regiment left behind. With railways penetrating the country there would be no post out of reach of the hill garrisons, and the native police, well administered by English officers and sergeants, could hold good on any occasion till the arrival of a hill detachment. With railways the police will be kept well inspected and efficient. With railways the officers administering the government will reach every part of the country, and bring a constant inspection to view its condition; whereas now there is no governor who can know fairly the state of the whole of his province.

To supply these requisites, what are called the grand trunk lines of railway are utterly inadequate. In Bengal they are not enough when helped by the increased supply of steamers on the river and the transport on the Great Trunk road; but in the Dekkan, where such aids do not exist and railways would afford the most efficient means of transport, the railways must be carried out to English or American extent, and at the earliest possible date, before adequate accommodation can be obtained. In England a railway is ballasted from a district 200 miles west, coaled from 250 miles north, its rails brought from 450 miles north-west, and its engines made 250 miles north-west; the stone comes from 500 miles north, and the sleepers, if not sea-borne, are brought as far. In India, more particularly in Bengal, materials have to be carried as far, and from want of the means of transport, railway works are now delayed. The site of the railway may afford neither stone, lime, nor fuel; sand is brought from forests hundreds of miles away, and stone cannot be used, for it is beyond transport. At this time the forests of the Himalayas and Terai are being cut by English contractors, to afford timber for the distant railways. The labourers have to be collected and trained, and, as new works arise, they must be removed to the scene of employment. Thus railways enable railways to be made, as they assist the construction of other public works, and they are, in this day, the first instruments of industrial progress, to say nothing more.

The Indian Government must give guarantees for a time, because it has let slip the golden occasion for doing without guarantees; but under liberal and judicious management, substitutes for imperial guarantees may be provided. The cities of India should be allowed to guarantee public works, as those of France and Canada and also the Irish baronies have been permitted to do. They should be allowed to subscribe shares and debentures. The Government of India should make advances of loans, as the Government did of Exchequer Bill loans to Ireland, to encourage enterprise there. Wherever a railway passes through waste land, it should receive a grant of the alternate sections, on the American system, and where it passes through zemindary or other settled land, it should be allowed to take a portion of the increased value of the land created by the railway. The small import duties on railway materials should be abolished, every burthen be removed, and every encouragement be afforded, and in a few years no guarantee from the general Government would be required.

NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE Indian community have seen, with satisfaction, that the direction of our diplomatic relations with Persia has been placed in the department of Lord Stanley. It was time something was done, for Persia has been long neglected, and French and Russian intrigue have had full scope. The French

are now very busy supplying drill officers to Persia, as they used to do to Mysore, and latterly to Lahore. Some may view with satisfaction that French intrigue in Persia matches Russian, but those who know the far-reaching nature of French intrigues in the East do not look with particular satisfaction on the state of affairs in Persia, which enables France to get a footing on one side of India, as the Cochinchina expedition will on the other. France has now an interest in China and Japan, and we have established a precedent for her interference in Egypt, for she will certainly claim the right of sending troops to Cochinchina through Egypt, as we exercised the privilege of sending to India during the late revolt. The passage of troops to India from England through Suez has, however, been lately suspended.

We think it would be a very useful measure for promoting a knowledge of Persia, if our Government would allow officers acquainted with Persian to return home through Persia, giving them extended leave, and a small grant for expenses, and so likewise on the return. Thus we should always have both in India and England a considerable body of men acquainted with the country, ready to give advice to the authorities, and to be employed on any staff mission. A thousand a year would supply twenty officers, and would be cheaply spent.

The telegraph on Thursday reported—"Rebellion no longer exists in Oude." "Lord Clyde is indisposed, and proceeds to Simla for the season." Proceeds to Simla! How much and how little is there in those words? Why not proceed to Delhi, Lucknow, or Calcutta? Because they are the cities of the plague. Why to the hills? Because the hills have the climate of England. Now Lord Clyde can get there, why not Lord Clyde's soldiers? Because Lord Clyde can afford to travel by dawk; but as there is no railway to any of the hill stations in Bengal, Lord Clyde's soldiers must die by thousands in the pestiferous garrisons of the tropical climates.

Mr. Mangles was examined before Mr. Ewart's Committee on Thursday.

There are now in Calcutta no less than twenty English barristers and seventy attorneys, in consequence of the large accession of numbers.

In Calcutta, as the number of Englishwomen has considerably increased of late, a home is to be founded for those of good character out of employment.

The extension of English law in India is being seriously considered.

Great dissensions prevail in Bengal between the converts and the missionaries. The former complain of the overbearing tyranny of the missionaries, who monopolise all patronage, get possession of the funds, and refuse to admit the co-operation of their black brethren. The Rev. Lal Biharee Day, a free church convert, has lately preached a sermon at Calcutta, affirming that the unchristian position of the missionaries is one of the principal causes of the non-success of missions.

Last week a lot of Neilgherry coffee was sold in Mincing-lane.

Notwithstanding the extension of coffee planting in Mysore, Wynaad, Coorg, the Neilgherries, and Shevaroyas, we notice that there was lately a shipment of coffee from Ceylon to Madras. Under the old system of monopolistic administration, Madras used to send out coolies to the English planters in Ceylon, while the growth of coffee on the spot was neglected; but now coffee planting is extending in the Madras presidency, and will furnish a large export trade. The planters, however, complain bitterly of the land tenures, as compared with Ceylon and other colonies. They are constantly liable, after planting waste land, to have claimants start up and harass them with fictitious titles.

Measures are now in progress for improving the navigation of the Sunderbunds. Channel Creek has been surveyed and buoyed, and orders have been given to clear away the trees, which now cumber the banks of the smaller branches. With the help of the Mutlah Railway and these improvements, the neglected districts of the Sunderbunds may, at length, receive attention.

The Khoja Mahomedan Company of Bombay, for carrying on a commission agency in England and Bombay, is making progress towards its establishment. The Khojas wish to raise themselves to an equality of enterprise with the Parsees.

At this time the Bank of Bengal has only 32,000l. private deposits, although it has the treasury business and the issue of notes.

The state of drunkenness in Calcutta, and some other cities, is exciting attention, and there are demands for an increase of spirit duties and license duties as a means of raising municipal revenue.

In Bombay the assessment of house property for municipal purposes is a shilling in the pound for 1859.

In Calcutta, under the late system of government, a host of writers and copyists was employed.

The writers are being superseded by the Government printing press, and Captain Young, of the Engineers, has proposed to have maps and plans photographed, so as to get over the tardy and laborious copying in his department. To give some notion of the state of business under the old régime in Calcutta, we may observe that there are still nearly 6,000 peons employed; that is to say, 5,968 persons employed as ticket porters, messengers, and footmen in the Government offices, with salaries ranging from 8s. to 18s. per month. In consequence of the rise of prices, Government has been obliged to raise the rate of pay, which is now from 12s. to 20s. per month. The sooner the number can be reduced by employing over-house telegraphs, as in London, Paris, and New York, the better.

A nabob, descendant of Tippoo Sultan, has petitioned the Insolvent Debtors' Court in Calcutta. His debts are £12,596, his property nothing, and his allowance £1,200 a year.

We are sorry to learn that during the two years of the revolt, the Asiatic Society of Bengal has lost thirty-four members, has elected only two, and has now no more than ninety-three paying members.

INDIA.

Advices have been received from Calcutta to the 22nd January. On the 26th December, Lord Clyde took the fort of Burgudiah, and on the 29th he succeeded in overtaking the Begum's army, which he drove across the Raptce. Ten minor chiefs and a large number of Sepoys laid down their arms. Amongst the chiefs were Melindee Hoosein and the Nawab of Furruckabad. The latter has been sent to Cawnpore to be tried, and it is to be hoped he will meet the fate he so richly deserves.

The last of the Oude rebels, the Begum, the Nana, and about 15,000 Sepoys, are now at the mercy of the Nepaulese, and it remains to be seen what kind of treatment they will receive at the hands of Jung Bahadoor. That potentate, it would appear, is not on the best terms with our Government. It is said that Lord Canning declines to accede to certain proposals for enlarging his territory.

Our engineers are employed in demolishing forts and clearing roads through Oude. The principal stations which are to have European garrisons are Lucknow, Fyzabad, Gondah, Roy, Bareilly, and Seetapore.

Her Majesty's 10th, 84th, 32nd, and 78th Regiments, and the Military Train, are under orders to return to England. The gallant naval brigade of the Pearl was expected in Calcutta the first week in January, and the Governor-General had greeted them from Allahabad with a complimentary general order.

Lord Clyde, it is believed, will not remain another hot season in India, and Sir Hugh Rose and General Mansfield are both mentioned to succeed him. The vacancies in the north-west will be filled up as follows:—Lieutenant-Governor of the North-western Provinces, Mr. Edmonstone. Ditto of Punjab, Mr. Montgomery. Commissioner of Oude, Mr. Wingfield. Resident at Indore, Colonel Ramsay. Ditto at Katmandhoo, Brigadier Colin Mackenzie. The foreign secretary's place in Calcutta is to be filled by Colonel Durand.

The bodies of the individuals missing from the crew of the ship Sutlej have been recovered. Mr. Pereira, a merchant who had shipped 50 chests of indigo on board the vessel, bought the hull for 1,800 rupees, and has succeeded in recovering some 30 chests of his indigo. The community as usual has come forward most liberally with subscriptions for the crew, and 6,000 rupees have been already collected.

The steamers are crowded with people going home, and will continue to be so, more especially if, as rumour has it, furloughs are to be issued in March.

By a telegram dated Suez, Feb. 21, we have some later intelligence:—A general order had been issued, containing the announcement, by Lord Clyde that the campaign in which the troops under his command have been engaged is closed, and that rebellion no longer exists in Oude. Jung Bahadoor is stated to have issued a proclamation to the effect that he will surrender to the British Government all insurgents found within his territory. Sir Hugh Rose is making active preparation for finally subduing the Rohillas.

Another telegram states that the Nepaulese have applied for British troops to enter Nepal, and that Horsford's brigade has accordingly been pushed across the Raptce. Lord Clyde is indisposed, and proceeds to Simla for the season.

From Central India we learn that Tantia Topce's rear guard was overtaken by the force under Brigadier Holmes, at Seokur, on the 21st of January. The rebel loss was 100 killed, besides a number of horses and 500 stand of arms. Tantia Topce was making for Boockanor or Joudhpore on the 26th of January; columns were in hot pursuit under the several com-

mands of Brigadiers Honner, Parke, Holmes, Showers, and Michel.

THE PARDONED SEPOYS.

The correspondent of the *Times* thus describes the prevailing opinion among these men:—"Seven hundred Sepoys have come in under the amnesty. They all, when questioned, tell the same story. They say they have thrown their stake and lost, and they now expect to be re-employed by the Company. When told that this is out of the question, they reply, 'Oh, that is to-day's talk; by and by you will be attacked by the Nepaulese, or the Sikhs, or somebody, and then you must employ us.' And so they march off quite cheerful to their villages, where they have all lands, and where they are generally very successful cultivators. It is a strange country. Numbers of the bravest men in the new police levies are Sepoys who have fought against us, been beaten, grown huge beards, and are now fighting on our side."

CHINA.

LORD ELGIN returned to Shanghai on the 1st inst., after a successful expedition up the Yang-tze-Kiang as far as Hankow, in lat. 30° 33' N., long. 114° 13' E. During his stay there the river fell so much that the Furious and Cruiser were unable to make their way down, and had to be left behind at Kin-kiang, near the mouth of the Poyang lake, some 460 miles from Shanghai. There they will have to remain till next spring.

At Nankin the expedition was fired upon by the Chinese rebels who occupied the forts, and Lord Elgin had a narrow escape from a round shot; the forts were engaged and silenced in half-an-hour. Hankow is a fine city, containing a million of inhabitants. Lord Elgin paid a visit of state to Kewan, the governor of two provinces, and the expedition returned to Shanghai.

At Canton fresh disturbances have taken place. On the 8th Jan. a body of our troops, 700 strong, were out exercising, some miles from Canton, near a village called Shek-tsing, and on their return were fired upon by a party of Braves. A few Chinese were killed, and our troops returned slowly towards Canton, followed for some distance by the Braves. There was no loss of life on our side. After three days spent in organising an expedition the village was attacked by our gunboats and troops about 2,000 strong. There were two heavy batteries defending the approaches, but a simultaneous attack on both sides carried the place without loss. The batteries and village were destroyed, and some fifty or sixty of the Braves killed. From documents which have been intercepted lately, it appears that the Braves are not acting from mere hatred to foreigners, but are encouraged by the high authorities at Peking.

THE CITY OF HANKOW.

The following description is by a gentleman who accompanied Lord Elgin's expedition:—

"Hankow possesses singular advantages as a mercantile emporium. To judge from the number of junks we saw there, a brisk junk trade must even now be carried on above it. The productions of Hunan, among which are tea, coal, iron, indigo, oil; those of Tez'huen, of which sugar, insect wax, copper, tin, lead, drugs, tobacco, are some of the items; and the cotton, hemp, flax, and silk of Hupeh itself—all collect there, besides furs from the Thibetian provinces, porcelain from Kiangsi, and many minor productions. There is an air of real business in the streets, which are comparatively clean and spacious, and in the shops, which are handsome and well supplied. It must be remembered that Hankow is only beginning to recover from a conflagration by which, two years ago, it was utterly and entirely destroyed. This vitality is a hopeful symptom, and there can be no doubt that the people would only be too glad to see Europeans settle themselves there for the purposes of trade. This is, at present, almost the only point at which we could hope to find any great demand for our home manufactures. No one knows better than yourself the nature of the competition against which our merchants and manufacturers will have to contend, and they cannot be too careful in considering the peculiar requirements of the trade, and in commencing operations with caution and judgment. I was surprised at the quantity of European goods I saw at Hankow; some of the shops were entirely devoted to the sale of articles of foreign manufacture, as their sign-boards stated. At one moment a label with 'extra superfine ladies' habit cloth' upon it met your eye; at another you made acquaintance with 'Duncan Brown, manufacturer, Dundee,' or 'Manchester,' in a large blue stamp, attracted your notice. I do not, however, enter into details upon this subject—although I took some trouble to obtain them—partly because I am not satisfied with the reliable nature of my information, and partly because there will be plenty of time before the river is opened, to go more at large into the question."

COMMERCIAL.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.—INTEREST ON DEPOSITS.

It is of great importance to avoid mistakes as to the source of the success of the London joint-stock banks, and therefore we must endeavour to show the incorrectness of a statement made last week by our respected contemporary, the *Economist*. "The great feature," it said, "which distinguished the business of these banks from the private banks and the Bank of England was the practice which they introduced for the first time into London of allowing interest on the deposits, and at the same time without (as is the case with country banks generally, which allow interest) charging a commission for business done. They, however, made a distinction between the balance of accounts currently operated upon from day to day, and deposits placed with them for specified periods of time. That these banks, in thus modelling their business, supplied a great want in the business of London is best shown by the wonderful success which has attended their operations."

Now, in opposition to one part of the statement, we must mention that as early as 1645 "the goldsmiths or bankers of London began to receive the rents of gentlemen's estates, and to allow them, and others who put money into their hands, some interest for it if it remained but a single month in their hands, or even a lesser time. This was a great allurements for people to put money into their hands, which would bear interest till the day they wanted it."—(*Annals of Commerce*, 1645.) "In 1665, the money," it is recorded, "came so fast into the hands of bankers in London from people to whom they paid a moderate interest for the same, that all the public demands fell short of employing their whole cash. This made them run into the business of lending money on private pawns," &c.—(*Ibid.*) So in 1670, "we read of men, as soon as they can make up 50*l.* or 100*l.*, sending it to the goldsmith 'or banker,' who allowed interest for a time to people who brought their money to them."—(*Ibid.*) The Bank of England adopted the same practice; and in 1698, soon after it was established, it was recommended that the Bank should be restrained by law from allowing interest on running cash, for the case of having 3 or 4 per cent. was supposed to be a continual bar to industry. Again, in 1703, "the Bank borrowed a large sum, bearing interest, in order to keep up its credit."—(*Ibid.*) Although the Bank of England—after all other companies composed of more than six persons were prohibited from borrowing money on interest for less than six months—ceased to pay interest on deposits, no person can suppose that this practice ceased altogether amongst private banks in London. In fact, from that period till our own time, bankers in London have taken in money on sale, and have used it to discount bills; so that the practice, described by our contemporary as "introduced into the metropolis for the first time" by the joint-stock banks, has existed more or less for upwards of two centuries. Never since that time has it ceased to be avowed by the Scotch banks and the provincial banks of England, and never has it ceased to be the practice of discounting bankers and others in London. What the joint-stock banks really did in this respect was to avow their intention to allow interest on deposits and to allow it on small sums, such as the private banker would not think of receiving on such a condition.

That the practice till they were established was only carried on almost secretly, and on a small scale, was one of the most injurious consequences of the Bank monopoly; and the great success of the joint-stock banks was undoubtedly partly due to the rivalry they introduced of that enormous establishment.

At the same time that the joint-stock banks allowed interest on small sums deposited with them, they also announced the intention of allowing interest on current accounts, and of transacting banking business on commission for those persons who might desire to have the advantage of banking without always possessing a sufficient sum on hand to make keeping their accounts remunerating to a banker. By these means—allowing deposits on small

sums, allowing interest on running accounts when the deposits were large, and transacting banking business for a regular charge—they extended, in a manner totally unprecedented for its rapidity, the business of banking. Not hundreds, but thousands of people in the metropolis have since then been induced to keep a banking account who never before thought of it. The partial freedom, of which their establishment was the consequence—for our banking business is yet but partially free—called into life an immense mass of new transactions. They took nothing from private banks, but probably increased their business. Their competition certainly made the private banker more cautious; and, with the exception of the dishonest proceedings of Sir J. D. Paul and Co., since they were established, there have been no failures amongst the London banks like those of the Rowland Stephenson and Poles of former periods. Banking accommodation was urgently wanted in the metropolis, where it was far less than in Scotland. They supplied the want, but not by first introducing the practice of allowing interest on deposits, though they continued and extended this old practice; and the small extension of freedom by which they were allowed to exist has been as advantageous to the public as to the banks themselves.

Differing from our contemporary on the historical point mentioned, we must express our cordial acquiescence in his opinion that the practice of allowing interest on deposits has not fostered unwise speculation. The joint-stock banks are under no obligation to take money which they do not want, or to allow interest on money when they cannot use it. The managers of them are persons intimately acquainted with all the means of employing capital to advantage, and they can, as we have already stated, procure a considerable profit on an aggregate of small sums, which the individual owners could not possibly get. By at all times affording a ready means of obtaining interest for money, though occasionally the rate be low, individuals are prevented from engaging in unwise speculations, or investing their spare cash in bubble companies. The success of these banks—continued now for several years, and to the latest period, through some times of severe trial, like those of 1847 and 1857—is as complete a proof as can be required, that they have conducted their own business ably, and have not lent themselves to encourage unwise speculations. The bank which did that to the greatest extent was the Western Bank of Glasgow, which had a large paid-up capital, a great multitude of rich proprietors to fall back on, and consequently had reckless managers. Between it and the London joint-stock banks the chief difference is found in the management. All equally allowed interest on deposits, but the latter had only a small capital paid up, and relied for success exclusively on their integrity and careful conduct.

This brief history supplies another illustration which has hitherto escaped notice, and which, in fact, is only brought clearly to light by the success of the joint-stock banks, of the vast injury which the legislature unthinkingly inflicted on the nation by the monopoly it gave to the Bank of England. When the Bank was thoroughly assured against competition by the law, money naturally became redundant in its coffers, and being, as its whole history shows, as greedy of gain as any trader, while it erroneously believed that it would increase its wealth by refusing its customers any share of its profits, it refused to allow interest on deposits. It departed—driven to this course by its monopoly—from the old and really natural and just practice of bankers. We now are thoroughly convinced by the instructive example of the joint-stock banks, that its monopoly and its policy were as injurious to its own interests as to the interests of the nation. The growth of wealth was impeded; and as on it depends the increase of population, the monopoly stilled to some extent the continual growth of society. We now see clearly, as minor consequences, that the monopoly impeded the stability

of trade, and fostered amongst traders excessive greediness and impolicy, like those of the Bank.

TRADE OF JANUARY.

The trade of the first month of 1859 answers all expectations. The value of the exports exceeded those of 1858 by 2,371,823*l.*, and those of 1857 by 535,318*l.*, the increase being spread over the bulk of the articles exported, but especially great in the cotton and woollen manufactures. Most of the articles imported, too, have increased. But the only index we have to the total is the shipping entered with cargoes, which was 546,761 tons in January, 1859, against 463,975 tons in January, 1858, and 472,535 tons in January, 1857. Our trade appears, accordingly, to have fully recovered from the late convulsion, and to promise a great extension in 1859. Other countries must be in a similar condition, and all, therefore, may naturally be peculiarly sensitive to any political event which interrupts this pleasant prospect. Sovereigns and politicians of all kinds should be careful what they do, for they cannot disturb the prosperity of society without endangering their own existence.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

At a meeting of the East Kent Railway Company on Monday, a report was presented and carried, setting forth that the traffic receipts up to December, 1858, were 9,320*l.*, leaving, after deducting expenses, a balance of 1,458*l.* It was also stated that the entire line would be opened on the 1st of October, 1860, and it was proposed to alter the title of the line to the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Mid-Kent Railway Company, a dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share for the half-year was declared.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the London, Tilbury, and Southend Extension, was held on Monday. The report was adopted, and after a short discussion, the resolution empowering the directors to raise the 10,000*l.* upon debentures, for improvements on the line, was carried without opposition.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Railway Co., Mr. Pearson entered into a long explanation of the great advantages which would accrue from the establishment of this line, not only to the general public, but to those railway companies who had expressed their willingness to support the undertaking. The report was adopted, accompanied by a resolution to the effect that the directors be authorised to proceed with the bill for deviating the line, or for the bill to abandon the undertaking, as they might find it expedient after the 16th March.

At the half-yearly meetings of the following companies, dividends were declared as under:—Boston and Sleaford, 2*s.* 6*d.*; North and South Western Junction, 3*s.* 3*d.*; Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester, 4*s.*; South Yorkshire and River Don, 4 per cent. upon guaranteed shares and 2½ upon ordinary stock; Whitelaven and Furness, 5½ per cent. on the preference shares, and 3*s.* on the original shares; Whitehaven Junction, 10*s.* per share; Warrington and Stockport, 3½ per cent.; Norfolk, 3*s.* 6*d.* per cent.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Ceylon Railway Company is called for the 17th instant, to give powers to the directors with reference to the receipt of money in anticipation of calls, and on other points.

PROJECTED RAILWAY.—The prospectus of the Isle of Wight Railway and Telegraph Company is issued. This railway is intended for the accommodation of the towns and villages of Ryde, Brading, Sandown, Shanklin, and Ventnor, on the eastern side of the island. It will be about 10 miles in length, and is to be economically constructed, with a single line of rails. The capital is fixed at 75,000*l.* in shares of 10*l.* each, with a deposit of 1*l.* of which one moiety is to be returned in the event of the Act not being obtained.

FRENCH RAILWAYS.—The works for the construction of the terminus of the Vincennes Railway have been commenced near the Place de la Bastille. The houses at the entrance of the Rue de Lyons are being taken down to make way for the construction of the viaduct for the Vincennes Railway. The rails have been placed along the entire line on the new railway in process of construction between

Marseilles and Toulon, and it is expected that a locomotive may pass over it on the 15th of March. The opening of it to the public is fixed for the month of April. A company has offered to continue the railway from Toulon to Nice. In that case the distance from Toulon to Nice may be accomplished in seven hours. The construction of the branch railway from St. Lo to the great line from Caen to Cherbourg is making great progress. There are now more than 600 men employed at it. The works of the bridge over the Rhine which is to connect the Strasburg Railway with that of Baden are being continued without interruption.

ROMAN RAILWAYS.—M. Mirès has arrived in Paris from Rome, where he has been staying for the last three months, to superintend the works of his Roman railways. It is stated that the line from Civita Vecchia to Rome will be opened to the public by the end of March, or at farthest, by the beginning of April. It is announced very positively that visitors to Rome at Easter will enjoy the benefit of the railway. The realisation of this expectation must depend very much upon the question of peace or war.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

At a meeting of the Thames Haven Dock Company on Monday, after a lengthened conversation, a committee of four shareholders was appointed to confer with the directors, to investigate the accounts, and to report upon the future course of operations.

The report of the Crystal Palace Gas Company, read at their meeting on Tuesday, showed the affairs of the concern to be improving. A dividend of 6 per cent. was agreed to.

At the meeting of the Thames Tunnel proprietors the Chairman went into a statement of the company's accounts, and said that last year had been very much the same in all respects with the preceding one, with the exception of a slight falling-off in the tolls to the amount of £30.

At a meeting of the Submarine Telegraph Company on Wednesday a dividend was declared for the past half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

A general court of the Canada Company is called for the 30th inst.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Alliance Bank is called for the 21st inst., at Paris.

The report presented at the meeting of the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company was received as satisfactory, and in addition to the interest declared at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, a bonus of 1s. per share was announced. One-half of the bonus will be paid to the shareholders, and the remainder will be applied to increase the paid capital of the shares, making 18s. per share paid up, on which interest will in future be discharged. The total income from premiums for the year 1858 is 22,434l., against 16,931l. in 1857, being an increase of 32 per cent. The benefit of this description of insurance is strikingly illustrated by the number of claims made and adjusted, the compensation in each case varying from a few shillings to the larger amount of hundreds of pounds. The discussion was of a favourable character, the leading incidents of the report eliciting an encouraging commentary.

On Wednesday the meeting of the Oriental Inland Steam Company was held, when the Board reported the dispatch of two trains of barges to India, for use on the Indus. The whole of the new shares have been taken up, so that the Company can extend its operations; and it is to be hoped they will begin on the Godavery, as they promise.

An extraordinary general meeting of the St. George Assurance Company is called for the 12th inst., to consider a proposal for embodying with this company the London and Continental Assurance Society.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Economic Life Assurance Society is called for the 19th instant, to declare a bonus, and on other business.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Travellers and Marine Insurance Company is to be held on the 14th instant, to confirm an agreement for the purchase of the business of the Marine and General Travellers' Insurance Society.

The London District Telegraph Company notify that they are now prepared to arrange for the supply of private wires between branch establishments in the metropolis.

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

THE Colonial markets in the week have been generally firm, without any speculative business. Tea has been on the whole rather active, and sales have been effected at full prices, which is consistent with the comparatively short supply in bond and small arrivals. It may be expected, in consequence of late intelligence from China, that the price should slightly advance. Coffee too, has

brought full prices; the imports and the stock in bond being comparatively small. Sugar has not shown any tendency to rise, the imports in the two first months of the year having been, according to Messrs. Toneman and Rouse, 53,000 tons against 46,700 tons in the same period of 1858. But the prospects for this article, in consequence of the prosperity of the manufacturing districts, are good. We may add, that almost all the markets have a somewhat more cheerful aspect. According to Messrs. T. J. and J. Powell, the demand for leather and hides is extremely good, and the market for them is in a most satisfactory state. The details of the markets to-day will be found further on.

There has been no change of importance in our markets. Trade in all its branches continues to be affected by the uncertainty that still prevails with respect to the intentions of several of the European powers. Nothing, of course, can be done with safety until the question of peace or war is placed beyond doubt. At the beginning of the week the feeling was generally hopeful, in consequence of the statements of Ministers on Friday, but manufacturers and merchants have since then looked at those statements narrowly,—contrasted them with counter statements from abroad, and have come to the conclusion generally that Mr. Disraeli's assurances must be received with a prudent degree of caution. The result of this, is to check business and to prevent manufacturers from making goods to any extent, except in those cases where orders are in course of execution for the India and China markets. We understand considerable orders were sent here from the Continent, but they have been recalled because of the doubt which everywhere prevails.

LIVERPOOL.—The market for cotton has been steady; the demand has been very good, and the price has shown a tendency to advance. This buoyancy in price has the effect of checking purchases; because buyers think that the advance cannot be maintained.

MANCHESTER.—It is highly satisfactory to be able to state that the latest advices assure the manufacturers and the exporters that the large supplies already sent forward to India, and the large unexecuted orders on hand will not glut the Indian markets. From the best informed commercial houses in India we learn that the markets are in an active and an healthy state, and that prices are generally advancing. For 6 and 7 shirtings an advance of 4d. to 6d. per piece has been secured. Yarns also are reported to be in better demand, and large sales have been made for delivery and for arrival. These statements have kept up the active appearance of our markets, and have served to maintain prices firmly. If manufacturers had large stocks on hand, they could dispose of them without difficulty; but they are obliged to restrict their business, for the best reason, that they have no goods to sell. We cannot report any very decided improvement in the trade for our home market. Business may be said to be fair, but not large. Long cloths and T cloths are in good demand. In yarns a fair business has been transacted, and orders from Germany have been given out on the speculation that peace will not be broken. The most active demand has been felt in printing cloths. Yarns suited to the German markets have slightly improved.

LEEDS.—It is satisfactory to state that though business is not very large or very brisk the general tone of the trade is firm. Buyers have been rather numerous, and have purchased freely. Mixtures and fabrics suitable for spring and summer have met with ready sale.

BRADFORD.—The trade in wool, especially combing wools, is not active, and prices have given way slightly where sales were pressed. For nails and shorts there is but a dull sale. In worsted yarns no change of importance is to be noted. Several large orders have been given out, and it is expected, as contracts end, new contracts will be entered into at a small reduction. We are glad to state that goods for the foreign market are more inquired for. Export houses are making contracts with spinners. The steady demand for pieces still continues, and all kinds of goods suitable for the season meet with ready sale. Fancy goods are slack of demand. The shipping houses are comparatively inactive, owing, of course, to Continental complications.

THE IRON TRADE.—The hardware trade appears to be tolerably employed; but in this, as in other of our manufactures, production and consumption are affected by the appearances of affairs abroad. The iron trade continues brisk, especially in reference to railway materials, many large orders for which, to be sent away, are in course of execution.

NOTTINGHAM AND LEICESTER.—The hosiery trade continues active, but not quite so active as for some weeks past. The lace trade shows a shade, and but a shade of improvement. We have again to regret that further dissensions between operatives and employers have shown themselves. We will not attempt to enter into the merits of the disputes, but content ourselves with hoping that good sense and forbearance on both sides will soon find a solution of existing difficulties.

MONEY MARKET AND STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

ANOTHER week of apprehensions, though to-day they are somewhat allayed, has kept the Stock and Share Market dull and inanimate. The abundance of money and the general prosperity indicate the necessity of a considerable rise in all kinds of securities, and only political apprehensions prevent it. In this, all the holders

of such property are deeply interested, and they can but feel aggrieved and angry at those who inflict on them loss and suffering. To-day, hopes of continued peace were somewhat revived in spite of the contradiction given by the *Moniteur* to a statement that the French troops had withdrawn from the Legation. Information from Vienna stated that the Austrian Government had declared its willingness to withdraw its troops from the Pope's dominions whenever the Holy Father requested it. Consistently with this statement, the French funds came better to day, the 3 per cent. rentes were reported at 68f., having risen from 67f. 70c. At the same time those who attend the money market more especially noticed that the Austrian exchanges came worse to day, and come worse and worse every day, and they speak of the hopes of peace as fallacious. They pointed also to the statement that the army of Italy is to be immediately put on a war footing, and refused to believe that the state of things was improved. The dealers in the funds took a more cheerful view, and Consols rose from 95½ to 95¾, at which figure the regular market closed. Business, however, was by no means animated.

Money is temporarily in demand on account of the 4th being a day when many bills fall due, and 2½ was the customary rate for the best bills. There is no reason, however, to believe that the increased demand and the rise in the rate will be permanent.

The Stock Exchange witnessed to-day an unusual and graceful ceremony. James Hutchinson, Esq., who was for a long and troublesome period Chairman of the Committee for General Purposes, lately retired from this office, and to-day the members of the Stock Exchange presented him with a very handsome piece of plate, as a testimony of his long and valuable services. It is a valuable *épergne*, bearing an inscription to this effect, and the date of the presentation. Mr. Corthorne, as the organ of the subscribers, in presenting it, addressed Mr. Hutchinson in very appropriate terms, commemorating his services, and expressing the gratitude of the body for the vigour with which he had fulfilled very arduous duties. Old recollections came forcibly to many minds, and feelings seldom recognised in the Exchange made themselves visible in many countenances. Mr. Hutchinson himself was so affected that he could hardly command appropriate language to express his satisfaction at such a high appreciation of his services.

There has been an importation of gold in the week to the extent of 164,000l., and we may expect that the Bank of England, which is not getting bills to discount, will have a further increase of bullion and reserve.

A memorial has been presented to the Treasury, calling attention to the fact that Cape (or South African) wine pays a duty of 2s. 10d. per gallon, while other wines pay 5s. 9d.—a bounty or subsidy equal to 20l. per 108 gallons in favour of the Cape grower; and praying for the removal of this injustice in any way the Chancellor of the Exchequer may think fit.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 2nd day of March, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued.....	£33,593,400
Government Debt £11,015,100	
Other Securities ..	3,450,900
Gold Coin & Bullion 19,118,490	
Silver Bullion	£33,593,400
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital.....	£14,533,000
Reserve.....	3,047,580
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	8,315,005
Other Deposits.....	13,955,003
Seven Day and other Bills.....	758,787
£41,220,504	
	£41,220,504
M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.	
Dated March 3, 1859.	

THE PARIS MAILS.—It is stated that the negotiations for the acceleration of the day mail between London and Paris, and for its conveyance *via* Boulogne, are still in progress. Nothing definite, however, seems to have been concluded, although the low-water landing at Boulogne is in course of construction, and the short cut on the railway from St. Denis to Creil is on the point of being completed. It is said the French postal authorities and the parties under whose superintendence the conveyance of the mails is carried out are favourable to the change, and that the only difficulty proceeds from our own postal authorities, who hesitate to take the initiative in the matter. There seems no doubt that the alteration would effect a great improvement in the international mail service, and while the saving in distance and time by the Boulogne route is incontestable, the late accident at Calais is sufficient to prove, not that the Calais route is unsafe or dangerous otherwise than under very exceptional circumstances, but that on some such occasions it is so, even with westerly winds, and therefore does not possess any special advantage to compensate the unquestioned superiority of the other route so far as the day mail is concerned.

HOME, COLONIAL, & FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening.

THE recent explanations in Parliament on the question of peace or war, caused, at the commencement of the week, some revival of inquiries in those markets that are more immediately affected by the state of affairs on the Continent; but the more hopeful feeling has subsided without resulting in any extension of business worthy of remark. Trade, therefore, moves but slowly onward, retaining, at the same time, the same indications of stability that have characterised it for some time past. The home demand for nearly all the primary articles of consumption, although not active, is quite as good as could be expected, seeing that it represents the bare requirements of the immediate period; and except from the Continent of Europe, the accounts from abroad are far from unsatisfactory or unpromising, in a commercial point of view.

CORN.—The condition of the English wheat at Mark-Lane having somewhat improved, prices have become less irregular, and purchases are made with less reserve; but trade is still dull, and the improvement, if any, is merely in tone. Quotations remain about the same as in the preceding week. Foreign imports have been limited, and very confidently held, but buyers have been equally scarce. The more approved grades of flour have been rather more saleable without change in value. The supplies of this article at the railway stores are large, and until they are moderate, little, if any, improvement in the market can be expected. Choice malting barley is scarce and firm. Scotch samples met a fair demand at prior quotations. Sweet grinding qualities from Odessa and the Danube are purchased in moderate quantity. No change whatever has occurred in malt. Beans are in some cases rather cheaper, but choice qualities bring former terms. English oats are scarce, Scotch and foreign in moderate supply. The demand is not over good, but prices tolerably firm.

Arrivals.

	English.	Foreign.
Wheat (quarters).....	6,857	644
Barley ".....	5,650	2,912
Malt ".....	24,432	—
Oats ".....	11,589	12,287
Beans ".....	1,685	5
Peas ".....	276	50
Flour (barrels).....	—	105
" (sacks).....	16,959	3,793
<i>London Averages.</i>		
Wheat (quarters).....	2,655	44 7
Barley ".....	1,167	33 11
Oats ".....	1,643	25 1
Beans ".....	278	30 4
Peas ".....	241	38 10

SEEDS.—The arrivals of linseed this week are 14,200 qrs., which have met a steady demand at 55s. for Bombay, and 51s. to 53s. for Calcutta. A cargo of 4,500 qrs. Marfanople now at Falmouth has been sold at 52s. 9d. delivered U.K. For fine sound rape there is a good inquiry. Calcutta brings 50s. to 51s. per qr.; Bombay Guzerat is worth 62s. on the spot, and further considerable sales for arrival have been made at 61s.; Ferozepore and Scinde quoted at 40s. to 50s. as to quality; Sesame, Teel, and Gingelly are neglected—brown and black, 44s. to 50s., and white, 52s. to 57s. Poppy sells at 50s.; Niger, 36s. 6d. to 37s. 6d. per qr. Cotton seed, 57. to 57. 10s. per ton. Red clover seed is more freely offered, and secondary sorts are cheaper, whilst choice white has realised the high price of 90s. to 100s.; trefoil is rather dearer.

OIL CAKE of every description is firmly held, but the business doing is very limited.

HOPS.—For all choice qualities the demand continues active, and prices are still tending upwards. Inferior samples find a steady sale at quite late rates.

LIVE STOCK.—The supplies at market this week have been limited, and on Monday higher prices were obtained for the best breeds of sheep, and quotations were firm for all other descriptions of stock. On Thursday the trade was dull, but prices were generally sustained. The following were the numbers on offer and the current quotations:—

Monday.			
Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
3,595	10,450	103	420
4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d.
860	5,050	180	200
4s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	4s. 4d. to 6s.	3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d.

PROVISIONS.—The dead meat markets have been moderately supplied, and trade about steady. Beef, 3s. to 4s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 4s. to 4s. 8d.; pork, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per stone by the carcass.

HAY AND STRAW are dull of sale. Meadow hay, 55s. to 90s.; clover, 75s. to 100s.; straw, 24s. to 20s. per load.

SUGAR.—The variations in prices continue very considerable, but the market lacks animation. Good refining qualities command very full prices. West India sugars, of which the quantity available is very small, are firm in value, and Barbadoes is again 6d. to 1s. dearer. Fine strong foreign Muscovadoes are also dearer. On the other hand, low brown descriptions remain without improvement; and white Benares must be quoted fully 6d. cheaper. Floating cargoes have not engaged much attention, but the inquiry within the last day or two has been slightly better. Several arrivals have taken place, but there is no apparent disposition to hurry them on the market; and stocks, although approximating more nearly to those of

last year than they recently did, have not materially increased. The transactions have included Barbadoes, low and superior yellow, at 40s. 6d. to 47s. 6d.; Mauritius from 38s. 6d. to 39s.; yellow, 39s. 6d. to 44s.; grainy, 43s. 6d. to 48.; Bengal grainy, 45s. to 47s. 6d.; Benares, 43s. 6d. to 45s. 6d.; grainy Madras, 42s. 47s.; soft brown ditto, 33s. 6d. to 36s.; Cossipore, 46s. to 45s. 6d.; Cuba Muscovadoes, low to fine yellow, 40s. to 46s. 6d.; Clayed Cuba, brown, 38s. 6d. to 40s.; yellow, 40s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; florets, 46s.; white, 51s.; Siam brown, 31s. 6d.; white 43s. to 47s. per cwt. A floating cargo of Pernambuco, sold for Bristol at 24s. 6d. per cwt.; and one for the Continent at 23s.; Refined goods were purchased in limited quantity only, but quotations are steady. Brown samples 52s. 6d. per cwt.

COFFEE.—Supplies are brought forward sparingly, and although arrivals are now taking place, full, and in some instances stiffer, prices are exacted, the demand being moderately good. Plantation Ceylon sells at 68s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. for middling to good middling, and 80s. to 82s. for fine marks; superior bold picked Native Ceylon being 56s. to 56s. 6d.; good ordinary, 50s. to 51s. The Continental advices continue favourable. There were no shipments for England during the last mail from Ceylon.

TEA.—The China advices of short shipments, and firm prices have imparted additional strength to this market. Common Congous have realised 1s. 13d., which is 1 per lb. advance. Public sales of 21,000 pkgs. passed off with fair spirit at very full prices for all but some parcels of scented teas (offered "with all faults"), which sold rather cheaply. At the close to-day the market was firm, but quiet.

COCOA is cheaper, with a limited demand, the supplies having increased.

RICE is firmly held, but the dealings are quite of a retail character. Moulmein sells at 8s., Rangoon at 7s. 9d., and Ballam 8s.; but to-day some low Bassein and Rangoon were taken in at public sale at 6s. 6d. per cwt., there being an apparent disinclination to bid.

SALTPETRE.—Since the receipt of the Calcutta letters, advising lower prices and increased engagements, the market has been flat, and to sell in quantity lower prices would have to be taken. Holders do not, however, press sales, and quotations are, therefore, nominally unaltered.

SPICES continue in steady request for export. Cloves are 3d. dearer; fair Zanzibar selling at 33d. to 34d.; nutmegs and mace bring late rates. Pepper is firm in value. Cassia lignea has declined 3s. per cwt.; for second pile, 90s.; and for first, 94s., having been accepted.

HEMP, &c.—Russian hemp is quoted 307. 5s. to 307. 10s., which is dearer, the market being affected chiefly by the high price of flax. Manila hemp is more inquired for. Jute sells steadily at late rates. Common to very fine, 157. to 247.

COTTON.—The demand has improved, partly from the more hopeful view taken of politics in the early part of the week, and partly from the favorable accounts from Calcutta subsequently. The markets are also strengthened by the more moderate arrivals at Liverpool, where, as well as in London, a better business has been concluded, at rather stiffer prices.

WOOL.—At the colonial sales now in progress the competition is somewhat better, and prices may now be quoted 3d. to 1d. higher than at the commencement.

DYES.—With larger supplies on offer, cochineal has declined 1d. per lb., and the market is dull at the reduction. Indigo is firm, but inactive. Lac dyes are rather more saleable, on former terms.

SHELLAC is again dearer. Garnet sold at 83s., and D. C. orange at 87s. per cwt.

METALS.—The market looked rather more promising at the beginning of the week; but the result shows continued inactivity in most departments. Scotch pig iron closed to-day at 50s. 3d. to 50s. 6d. In the United States the price is much above the rates current here, and some talk of a probable reaction. For Banca tin 1327. and for Straits 1317. are still paid. Lead is firmly held. Spelter is still depressed, and to-day 217. 7s. 6d. was accepted on the spot. Copper, although inactive, is firm, and a good opinion is generally entertained of the prospective of the market.

TOBACCO.—The monthly circulars of the various firms report a quiet market, with steady prices, and refer to the probability of a short make of strips.

LEATHER.—The trade, according to Messrs. Streetfield, Lawrence, and Mortmore's circulars, continues moderately active, and prices firm, with supplies by no means in excess of the demand.

OILS.—Linseed is offered at 29s. 9d., but there are few buyers over 20s. 6d. Rape is still in limited request at 41s., for brown, and 44s. 6d. to 45s. for foreign refined. The demand for Olive runs principally on the lower qualities, and Mogadore oil is sold to a fair extent at 437.; Spanish is quoted at 477. to 487.; Gallipoli, 487. 10s. to 497. Business has been done in cargoes, now shipping or afloat, at 477., cost freight and insurance to the Baltic. Cocoa nut is firmly held, but is quiet; Cochin, 427. 10s. to 437. 10s.; Ceylon, 417. Fine Lagos Palm is purchasable at 437. 10s. to 447., several arrivals having taken place. Sporm oil has advanced to 1007. for Colonial. Palo San and Cod are now in second hands, 377. demanded for the former and 347. paid for the latter.

WHALEBINS are nominally unaltered.

TURPENTINE.—There have been no arrivals of rough, 11s. to 11s. 6d. the nearest price. Spirit again dearer, 44s. 6d. paid for American.

TALLOW.—Very little business has been transacted during the week. The demand has been unusually small for this time of year, and our market has been drooping

in consequence. The price at St. Petersburg is still too high to encourage sales for the autumn, for which there has been a little inquiry at 52s. The market closes flat; at 52s. 3d. spot; 52s. to 52s. 3d. April-June; and 52s. 3d. and 52s. October, December. The public sales yesterday went off very sluggishly. Australian beef 51s.; Odessa at 51s. 9d. to 52s. 3d. St. Petersburg letters to 12-24 ultimo, state, market flat, with rather more inclination to sell; 500 casks done; 168 10 down, August, for Ukraine, 170 demanded May-June. Town tallow, 53s. 6d.; rough fats, 2s. 9d.; melted stuff, 40s.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 1.

BANKRUPTS.

SAMUEL HINDER, Jun. Salisbury, auctioneer.
CHARLES WOOLVERTON, West Smithfield, City, iron-monger.
CHARLES HENRY JOSEPH, Strand, licensed victualler.
JOHN WEBB, Reading, butcher.
JOHN JAMES MESSER, Upper King-street, Commercial-road East, optician.
HENRY EATON WOODRUFF, Nottingham, lace manufacturer.
THOMAS SWIFT, Sheffield, grocer.
EDWARD HOYLES, Coningsby, Lincolnshire, grocer.
JOHN WINSTANLEY, CHARLES HOUGHTON, and GEORGE RAPER HARVEY, Liverpool, comb manufacturers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

JOHN NEIL, Glasgow, spirit dealer.
SAUL SOLOMON ASHER, Edinburgh, fruit merchant.
JAMES BULLOCK, Kirkintilloch, grocer.
DAVID REE, Dundee, grocer.
SIR JOHN MALCOLM, Bart., Balbedie and Grange, Fifeshire.
SAMUEL HENDERSON, Holmfield, Kirkintilloch, bleacher.

BANKRUPTS.

Friday, March 4.

WILLIAM IVERY HAYS, Freeman's-court, Cheap-side, printer.
GEORGE WOMERSLEY, Derby, hatter.
GEORGE BULLOCK PORTUS, Liverpool, apothecary.
WILLIAM FOWLER, Bradford, grocer.
JOSEPH REDSHAW, Bermondsey, leather dresser.
FRANCIS FOLKARD, East Bergholt, Suffolk, builder.
JAMES DAVID JONES, Fleet-street, eating-house keeper.
GEORGE FRANCIS COOKE, Wouldham, Chelsea, lime merchant.
RICHARD WILLIAMS, Dudley, Worcestershire, shoe manufacturer.
JAMES HUBBARD SKEELES, Liverpool, boot and shoe dealer.
THOMAS CROW, Berwick-upon-Tweed, painter.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

JAMES BAIRD, Glasgow, merchant.
WILLIAM M'WILLIAM, Cairn, Wigtownshire, farmer.
JOHN KING, Cardross, Dumbartonshire, innkeeper.

BRITISH TRADE WITH SARDINIA.—nearly twenty years ago, the number of British vessels annually arriving at Genoa from British dominions could not be reckoned at more than 100 to 120; most of them of small tonnage. Steamers now arrive from London and Liverpool with considerable regularity, generally about two or three a-month, each steamer bringing from 800 to 1,000 tons of merchandise, at very high freights. The import from Great Britain of iron (wrought and pig) and coals and coke has greatly increased of late years, especially since so many railways have been made in Piedmont. The figures given above present several noteworthy points. They show, in the first place, a greatly increased substitution of steam for sailing power in the British merchant service—as far, at least, as the port of Genoa is concerned. In 1854 the tonnage of sailing vessels coming to that port was nearly 11,000 tons larger than in 1858; but in 1858 the tonnage of the steamers that arrived there was 19,650 tons more than in 1854. One also observes the tendency to the employment of large steamers, the 54 of 1858 being more than 2½ times the tonnage of the 28 of 1854. The increase in the trade in British bottoms between British ports and Genoa is shown to have been steady and considerable during the last five years. In 1854 it amounted to 61,124 tons, and in 1858 to 69,884, showing an increase of 8,760 tons in four years. The high figure of 68,500 tons, to which the tonnage jumped in 1855, is doubtless to be attributed to the war, that being the year in which the Sardinian troops went to the Crimea. The increase in the number and tonnage of Sardinian vessels arriving from British ports has also been very considerable of late.

BANK OF TURKEY.—It is stated that the statutes for the proposed bank are now under consideration at Constantinople, and that the undertaking will most probably be brought before the public in about a month or two. No doubt appears to exist with regard to the required capital of 1,000,0007. being immediately subscribed. One half is to be taken at Constantinople, and the applications there have far exceeded that amount.

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JOINT-STOCK BANKS.						JOINT-STOCK BANKS.					
No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.	No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.
			£	£ s. d.					£	£ s. d.	
22500	20% per cent.	Australasia	40	40 0 0	..	20000	0% per cent.	National Bank	50	25 0 0	..
10000	7% per cent.	Bank of Egypt	25	25 0 0	25½	25000	20% per cent.	New South Wales	20	20 0 0	46½
6000	5% per cent.	Bank of London	100	50 0 0	47	50400	12% per cent.	Oriental Bank Corporation	25	25 0 0	21½
20000	0% per cent.	British North American	50	50 0 0	..	25000	..	Ottoman Bank	20	20 0 0	..
32200	0% per cent.	Char. of India, Australia, and China ..	20	10 0 0	1d*	20000	14% per cent.	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	..
4300	5% per cent.	City Bank	100	50 0 0	63	4000	14% per cent.	" New	10	10 0 0	..
20000	0% per cent.	Colonial	100	25 0 0	..	12000	0% per cent.	Ionian Bank	25	25 0 0	..
25000	0% per cent.	Commerical of London	100	20 0 0	..	12000	12% per cent.	South Australia	25	25 0 0	..
25000	0% per cent.	Eng. Scot. and Aust. Chartered	20	20 0 0	10½*	4000	..	" New	25	12 10 0	..
35000	0% per cent.	London Chartered Bank of Australia ..	20	20 0 0	22½	32000	10% per cent.	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0	63½
20000	12% per cent.	London and County	50	20 0 0	..	8000	20% per cent.	" New	15	3 0 0	..
30000	22½% per cent.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	32	100000	..	Union of Edinburgh	50	10 0 0	..
50000	14% per cent.	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	48½	00000	15% per cent.	Union of London	100	50 0 0	..
10000	10% per cent.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	..	3000	3% per cent.	Unity Mutual Bank	100	50 0 0	19d
25000	10% per cent.	" New	20	10 0 0	..	4000	3% per cent.	Western of London	100	50 0 0	..

* Ex Dividend, or ex. New.

THE LESSEPS SCHEME.—A Paris letter says:—"The precious enterprise of M. Lesseps is already declared to be in little better than an insolvent state. There is no probability that the works will commence in the early part of this year, as promised; still less that they will ever be pushed forward with a view to completion. It is even said that the enterprise is upon the point of being altogether abandoned, and a compromise effected with the shareholders. But this is energetically denied by the supporters of the scheme. An immense sum has, it seems, been spent in preliminary expenses, such as advertising, dinners, poetry, &c.; so that, if the concern were suddenly wound up, M. de Lesseps might perhaps find himself in possession of a tolerably fat oyster, but the unfortunate shareholders would have nothing but the shells."

PORT OF LONDON.—In the general business of the port during the past week there has been no alteration. The number of ships reported inward was 113, and those cleared outward amounted to 105, including 11 in ballast. Of those now on the berth loading outward fifty-two are for the Australian colonies, eight for China, two for San Francisco, and one for Vancouver's Island. The actual exports of British goods continue light.

SAVINGS BANKS.—At the annual general meeting just held of the principal City savings-bank, the London Provident Institution, Moorfields, it was stated that, although the pecuniary pressure of the close of 1857 extended into the first six weeks of 1858, so that during that period the money withdrawn exceeded the receipts by more than £18,000, the whole of this large decrease was recovered within the following seven weeks, while subsequently (with but three exceptions) every succeeding week of the year has exhibited a surplus. The total receipt of the year has been £283,849, and the total of repayments £227,145, showing increase of capital, £56,704; 5,382 accounts have been closed, and 6,759 opened. The actual number of accounts open at the close of the year was 50,294, exceeding by 1,076 the largest number of accounts the bank had ever before had open at any one time. That excess has since increased to 2,085, and the bank's present number of customers is 51,303. The total capital at the end of 1857 was £884,841; at the end of 1858 it was £941,546. It is now £978,396.

THE NEW INDIAN LOAN.—Private telegrams from India state that the new loan which has been opened is to be in Treasury Bonds, analogous to our Exchequer Bills, and having twelve months to run. They will be for 100 rupees each, with an interest of a quarter of an anna per day (equivalent to about 5½ per cent.), and will be renewable for another twelve months at the option of the taker.

COMMERCIAL MORALITY IN FRANCE.—The trial of several managers of the Paris cab company has recently been concluded, after various examinations, extending over nearly a whole week. The prisoners were accused of fraudulent practices in connexion with that association, paying dividends out of capital, entering into ruinous contracts for their own personal advantage, &c. An immense mass of evidence was produced substantiating many of the charges brought forward; but the details present no special interest for the public. The company seems to have been as ill-managed ever since its establishment as the Docks Napoleon, of famous memory. Nothing but a series of blunders and of frauds marks its history. The Directors first began by building workshops, infinitely more spacious and more costly than they required. They laid out 10,000,000f. in the purchase of land, though they could have saved the greater part of this vast sum by renting the ground they required. Then, when shareholders grew suspicious of the company's financial position, and asked for information, they could obtain nothing but evasive and unsatisfactory replies. At a general meeting which took place on one occasion, a holder of shares asked the chairman some questions bearing on this subject, and was put down. Another shareholder was even more scurvily treated, for he was actually turned out of the room. And so matters went on from bad to worse, one manager succeeding another, and the financial position of the company every day becoming more confused and obscure. It was only when it was discovered that actual fraud had been committed that the affair came before the police tribunal. The various delinquents were let off very lightly. Six were altogether acquitted; two were condemned to a year's imprisonment and twenty-five francs fine; and the remaining two were sentenced to even more insignificant punishment. The case is another illustration of the terribly low state of morality which prevails among the speculative members of the French commercial world. Rapacity and unscrupulousness seem to be the characteristics of one-half of the men engaged in the direction of associated enterprise. They stop at nothing in order to grow rich at once—fleecing the innocent shareholders as long as the operation is possible, and then absconding.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—The returns for the month of January are published. The indications presented corroborate the impression that, should designs tending to political conflagration be checked, the present year may yet be one of extraordinary commercial prosperity. The aggregate exports last month were £9,593,423, being £2,371,823, or 32 per cent., more than in January last year—when, though the value of money had fallen to 4 per cent., mercantile affairs were in a state of collapse—and £535,318, or nearly 6 per cent., more than in January, 1857. Of the increase of £2,371,823, shown by the comparison with 1858, cotton goods alone figure for £966,603, and one-half of this increase is in the Indian trade, the "British East Indies" having taken £1,065,139 of "cottons," against £550,272, in the corresponding month of last year, and £509,235 in 1857. Symptoms of revival in the American trade will be remarked with satisfaction. The exports of "railway iron" are now distinctly classified in the Board of Trade returns, as the importance of this branch of commerce demands.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Gallery of Nature.* Part V. W. and R. Chambers.
- Trübner's Bibliographical Guide to American Literature.* Compiled and edited by Nicholas Trübner. Trübner and Co.
- The Amateur's Magazine.* No. 6. Piper, Stephenson and Co.
- Fraser's Magazine.* No. CCCLI. J. W. Parker and Son.
- Le Follet Journal du Grand Monde.* No. 149. Paris, 69 Boulevard. W. Martin.
- The Virginians.* No. 17. Bradbury and Evans.
- Charles Knight's History of England.* No. 38. Bradbury and Evans.
- The English Cyclopædia.* Part 2. Bradbury and Evans.
- Blackwood's Magazine.* No. 521. W. Blackwood.
- Titan.* No. 168. Edinburgh, Hogg and Son.
- Bentley's Quarterly Review.* No. 1. March 1859. R. Bentley.
- The Englishman's Journal.* No. 13, Vol. III. Piper, Stephenson and Co.
- Knight's Magazine for Boys.* No. 1. Bosworth and Harrison.
- The National Magazine.* Part XXIX. Kent and Co.
- The Eclectic.* for March. Ward and Co.
- Tales from "Blackwood."* No. 12. W. Blackwood and Son.
- Kelly's Railway Guide.* for March. Kelly and Co.
- The Art Journal.* No. 51. James W. Virtue.
- The Weekly Magazine.* Part I. Ward and Lock.
- Revue Britannique.* Fevrier, 1859. Paris, Au Bureau de la Revue, Rue Neuve, St. Augustin, 60.
- Italy: its Condition; Great Britain: its Policy.* By Lord John Russell, M.P. James Ridgway.
- Tait's Edinburgh Magazine.* No. 303, Vol. XXVI. Edinburgh, Sutherland and Knox.
- Sir Gilbert.* A Novel. R. Bentley.
- Life of Charles James Fox.* By the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, M.P. R. Bentley.
- Memoirs to Illustrate the History of my Time.* By F. Guizot. Vol. II. R. Bentley.
- Moor's Irish Melodies.* By M. W. Balfe. No. 1. J. A. Novello.
- Town Swamps and Social Bridges.* By George Godwin, F.R.S. Routledge and Co.
- Davenport Dunn.* No. 20. Chapman and Hall.
- The Church Distinguished.* By Caleb Webb. Houlstone and Wright.
- Art, Artists; or Industry in England.* By Théophile Silvestre. Bradbury and Evans.
- Rival Rhymes in Honour of Burns.* By Ben Novato. Routledge and Co.
- Lyre Anglicana.* A Poem, in four parts. By Courtly Gridley. J. Unwin, Gresham Press.
- The New Testament.* Translated from Griesbach's Text by Samuel Sharpe. Fourth Edition. A. Hall, Virtue and Co.
- Routledge's Shakespeare.* Edited by H. Staunton. Parts XXXV. and XXXVI. Routledge and Co.
- Historical Gleanings at Home and Abroad.* By John Francis Jamieson. T. C. Newby.
- A Journal of the First French Embassy to China, 1698—1700.* Translated by Saxe Bannister, M.A. T. C. Newby.
- Studies from the Great Masters.* Engraved and Printed in Colours by William Dickes. Parts I. to V. Hamilton, Adams and Co.
- Parliamentary Reform.* An Essay, by Walter Bagshot. Chapman and Hall.
- A Telegraph half-way to America; why is it not Used?* Effingham Wilson.
- The Works of the Rev. Sydney Smith.* Part III. Longman and Co.
- On the Modifications which the Ships of the Royal Navy have undergone during the present Century, &c.* By E. J. Reed. Robertson, Brown, and Co.
- Lectures on the History of Literature, Ancient and Modern.* From the German of Frederick Schlegel. H. G. Bohn.
- An Index of Dates.* By J. Willoughby Rosse. In 2 Vols. Vol. II. K—Z. H. G. Bohn.
- Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn, F.R.S.* Edited from original MSS. by William Bray, F.A.S. H. G. Bohn.

SPIRIT OF THE FRENCH ARMY.—"We have repeatedly heard the story told among French troops, how men who entered the army in a blouse died marshals. Marshal Michael Ney, the ideal of every French soldier, and King Murat, were generally the chief characters in their narratives. It is but natural, then, that the French soldier should argue, 'We are as brave men as those with whom the great Emperor led our eagles to glory; give us the same opportunities for distinction as were so repeatedly given to them, and we will show what we can do.' But in none of the troops was such a spirit displayed as among the French non-commissioned officers. We remember being witness at Marseilles of the most exciting scenes when the soldiers were embarking for the Crimea. Sergeants and corporals were ready to give up their stripes and serve again as privates, if they might be allowed to join a battalion serving before Sebastopol; and in an estaminet on the port we saw a corporal offer his comrade his entire fortune of 2,000 francs, if he could only manage an exchange with him. And these 2,000 francs had not been lightly earned; they had been the price paid him for serving as a substitute during six years of harassing Algerian warfare. The troops knew perfectly well what awaited them before Sebastopol; they heard the stories of their comrades who returned as invalids; they knew of all the privations the besieging army had to endure, and that it would cost many a bloody sacrifice before the banners of France would wave over this haughty fortress. And yet this sure prospect of privation, want, and dangers of every description did not in any way damp the ardour of these warlike non-commissioned officers and privates. They wanted to try their chance on the field of battle, and thought they could become officers more rapidly under the Russian fire than in the garrison towns of France. At Kertch we had many opportunities of conversing with sergeants of that brilliant corps, the Chasseurs d'Afrique, and they repeatedly told us, in all seriousness, that they were quite certain of becoming generals some day or another. A friend of ours, again, formed the acquaintance, in 1848, of a young man who was bugler in the Chasseurs, and the pure type of the ambitious French soldier, who was quite confident of becoming a general. A few years later our friend met him in Algiers a sergeant-major, and in the spring of 1855 he returned wounded from the Crimea, as lieutenant *en premier*. Our friend saw him in Paris, and he said, laughingly, 'Six more years of war like the last, and I am safe to be a colonel. *Vive Napoleon!—vive la guerre!*' And some dozen chasseurs and voltigeurs, standing by, joined in the shout, and told one another that this officer, who already wore the cross of the Legion of Honour, and intended to be a colonel within six years, was only an *enfant de troupe*, and had first served as a bugler. Such scenes truly characterise the spirit of the army, and we can form a better opinion of it from such than by attending formal reviews, or watching the manoeuvres on the exercising-ground."—*Wrazall's "Armies."*

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12 Dessert Spoons do.	1 7 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	2 14 0
12 Tea Spoons do.	0 16 0	1 4 0	1 7 0	1 16 0
2 Sauce Ladles do.	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 13 0
1 Gravy Spoon do.	0 7 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 13 0
4 Salt Spoons (gilt bowls) do.	0 6 8	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 14 0
1 Mustard Spoon do.	0 1 8	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 6
1 Pair Sugar Tongs do.	0 3 6	0 5 6	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Pair Fish Carvers do.	1 0 0	1 10 0	1 14 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife do.	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Soup Ladle do.	0 12 0	0 16 0	0 17 6	1 0 0
6 Egg Spoons (gilt) do.	0 10 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0

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British Medical Journal, Feb. 12, 1859.

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