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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. 471.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1859.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED.. FIVEPENCE.  
Stampd..... Sixpence.

## FOR MUTUAL ASSURANCE. METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

No. 3, PRINCES STREET, BANK, E.C.

ESTABLISHED 1835.

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Economical management, no paid agents being employed,  
and no commission allowed.  
The application of the whole of the profits to the reduction  
of the premiums of members of five years' standing or  
upwards.

The guarantee of an accumulated fund exceeding £840,000.  
A gross annual income, £140,000.  
During its existence the Society has paid in claims, with-  
out a single instance of dispute, nearly £500,000.  
And has returned to members in reduction of their annual  
premiums, £390,000.

The sums assured by existing policies exceed £3,000,000.  
For the year ending the 4th of April, 1859, an abatement  
has been declared at the rate of 51 per cent.  
Persons desirous of becoming members of this Society  
would find it advantageous to lodge their proposals on or  
before the 5th April next.

Prospectuses and full particulars may be obtained on  
application to  
March 1, 1859.

HENRY MARSHAL, Actuary.

## THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE ASSUR- ANCE SOCIETY.

142, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

CAPITAL—HALF-A-MILLION.

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The International Society has been established since 1837,  
for effecting every description of Life Assurance, Immediate  
and Deferred Annuities, Endowments, &c., at rates afford-  
ing the most equitable adjustment of every contingency to  
the corresponding risk.

Profits divided Quinquennially.  
Stamps on Life Assurance Policies paid by the Society.  
Loans granted in connexion with Life Assurance.  
Half the Premiums may remain on Loan, or the With-  
drawal made.  
Thirty days of grace allowed for Payment of Premiums.  
Prospectuses and every information may be obtained from  
the Chairman, at the Chief Office, 142, Strand.

### DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK.

FIVE PER CENT. on sums for fixed periods  
or at seven days' notice, or Three per Cent. at CALL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON, Chairman.

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Offices, 6, Cannon-street West, E.C.

## IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

1, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.—Instituted 1820.

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Newman Smith, Esq.

SECURITY.—The assured are protected by a guarantee  
fund of upwards of a million and a half sterling from the  
liabilities attaching to mutual assurance.

PROFITS.—Four-fifths, or eighty per cent. of the profits  
are assigned to Policies every fifth year. The assured are  
entitled to participate after payment of one premium.

CLAIMS.—The Company has disbursed in payment of  
claims and additions upwards of £1,500,000.

Proposals for insurances may be made at the Chief Office,  
as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to  
any of the agents throughout the Kingdom.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

## MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

25, PALL MALL, LONDON.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

At the SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on  
the 25th November, 1858, it was shown that on the 30th  
June last—

The Number of Policies in force was ..... 6,083  
The Amount Insured was ..... £2,551,136 0s. 6d.  
The Annual Income was nearly ..... £120,000

The new policies issued during the last 5 years are as  
follows:—

5,411 Policies for £2,599,658, yielding £110,624 in Premiums,  
showing an average yearly amount of new business of more  
than **HALF A MILLION STERLING.**

The Society has paid claims on 1,002 Policies, assuring  
£420,044 since its establishment in 1841.

Assurances are effected at home or abroad on healthy  
lives at as moderate rates as the most recent data will  
allow.

INDIA.—Officers in the Army and civilians proceeding to  
India may insure their lives on the most favourable terms,  
and every possible facility is afforded for the transaction of  
business in India.

INVALID LIVES assured on scientifically constructed  
tables based on extensive data, and a reduction in the pre-  
mium is made when the causes for an increased rate of pre-  
mium have ceased.

Policies issued free of stamp duty and every charge but  
the premiums.

In the event of death during the days of grace, the risk  
binding on the Society if premium paid before the days of  
grace expire.

Every information may be obtained at the chief office, or  
on application to any of the Society's agents.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

### ACCIDENTS ARE OF DAILY OCCURRENCE.

Insurance data show that ONE PERSON in every FIF-  
TEEN is more or less injured by Accident yearly.

An Annual Payment of £3 secures  
A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK  
IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, OR

£1,000 IN CASE OF DEATH FROM  
ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,  
By a Policy in the

## RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Which has already paid in compensation for Accidents  
£37,000.

Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had at the  
Company's Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations,  
where, also, Railway Accidents alone may be insured  
against by the Journey or year.

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company,  
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Loans granted at moderate rates.  
Particulars of CHARLES W. ROE, Secretary.  
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## NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

48, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON.

FOR MUTUAL ASSURANCE ON LIVES,  
ANNUITIES, &c.

ESTABLISHED DECEMBER, 1835.

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England.

SOLICITOR—Septimus Davidson, Esq.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—Charles Ansell, Esq., F.R.S.

### MUTUAL ASSURANCE WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.

On the 20th November last the total number of Policies  
issued was 21,633.

The amount of Capital was £1,621,550 11s. 11d.

Amount paid for Claims arising from death, and Bonuses  
accrued thereon, £809,646 14s. 4d.

The gross Annual Income arising from  
Premiums on 15,262 existing Policies is  
Annual abatement on the 20th November,  
1857, to be continued for the five years  
ending in 1862.....

£247,603 1 1  
50,112 0 0

Add Interest on invested Capital.....

£197,584 1 1  
60,850 7 1

Total net annual income.....

£207,431 8 2

The present number of Members is 12,647.  
At the Quinquennial Division of Profits  
made up to the 20th November, 1857, the  
computed value of assurances in Class

IX was.....  
Assets in Class IX.....

£1,000,000 15 6  
1,315,125 0 5

Surplus or Profit.....

£315,084 3 11

The effect of the successful operation of the Society dur-  
ing the whole period of its existence may be best exhibited  
by recapitulating the declared surpluses at the four investi-  
gations made up to this time.

For the 7 years ending 1842 the surplus was... £32,074 11 5  
" 5 " 1847 " " 80,122 8 2  
" 5 " 1852 " " 272,061 18 4  
" 5 " 1857 " " 315,084 3 11

Members whose premiums fall due on the 1st April are  
reminded that the same must be paid within 30 days from  
that date.

The Prospectus, with the last Report of the Directors, and  
with illustrations of the profits for the five years ending the  
20th November, 1857, may be had on application, by which  
it will be seen that the reductions on the premiums range  
from 11 per cent. to 98 per cent., and that in one instance  
the premium is extinct. Instances of the bonuses are also  
shown.

March, 1859.

JOSEPH MARSH, Secretary.

## THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1830.

OFFICES—No. 1, Dale-street, Liverpool; and 20 and 21,  
Poultry, London.

LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS UNLIMITED.

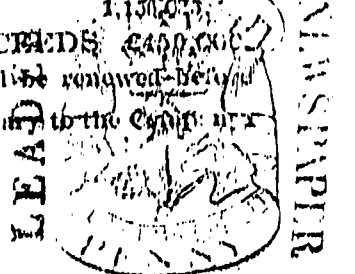
INVESTED FUNDS . . . £1,150,000

### PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY:

Year.	Fire Premiums.	Life Premiums.	Invested Funds.
1848	35,472	10,840	388,000
1853	113,012	40,128	628,878
1858	270,038	121,411	1,150,000

THE ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS £400,000

Policies expiring on Lady-Day should be renewed before  
9th April.  
SWINTON BOULT, Secretary to the Company.



INSTITUTED IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE,  
A.D. 1714.

### UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY, FIRE AND LIFE.

OFFICES—81, Cornhill, and 70, Baker-street, London; and  
in Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Dublin, Hamburg, Ber-  
lin, and Berne.

**RECEIPTS for FIRE INSURANCES** falling  
DUE at LADY-DAY are NOW READY at the Head  
Offices, and with the respective Agents in the Country.  
Fire and Life Insurances effected at equitable rates.  
WM. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

**THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL  
REPORT, CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET,** to  
31st December last, as laid before the Members of THE

### MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

at the General Meeting on Wednesday, 16th February, 1859,  
is now printed, and may be had on a written or personal  
application at the Society's Office, 39, King-street, Cheap-  
side, E.C. To the Report and Accounts is appended a list  
of Bonuses paid on the Claims of the year 1858.  
CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES,  
39, King-street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

### BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

32, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

### ABSTRACT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year 1858, 1,160 Proposals for Assurance were  
received, amounting to £274,150, from which 981 Policies  
were issued, assuring £220,220.

Annual Premiums upon the new business of the year,  
£7,020 19s. 5d.

Annual Income, £58,388.

Policies in force, 8108, assuring £1,650,555.

Accumulated Fund, £151,807 12s.

Deaths during the year, 75; claims arising therefrom, in-  
cluding bonus, £16,269 18s. 6d., being less than that of the  
preceding year by £446 17s.

Since the commencement of the Company the amount paid  
to the Widows and other Representatives of deceased Mem-  
bers is £79,142 3s. 9d. JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

### LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, 700,000L.

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BOROUGH, ARARAT, and BALLARAT.

DRAFTS of the Australian Colonies negotiated and sent  
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By order of the Court,  
G. M. BELL, Secretary.

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—Linimentum Saponis—A Red Canella Bark—Otto of  
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# THE LEADER.

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## Review of the Week.

THE battle has been fought out; no quarter has been given or asked: after seven days' conflict the hereditary opponents of Reform have gone down before the prowess of the younger and more daring spirit of the age—Progress. A majority of thirty-nine has defeated the Ministerial measure on the second reading, Lord John Russell's resolution being carried without a division. The consequences, as far as the present Ministry is concerned, will be seen in a few hours; resignation or dissolution. The latter part of the debate was carried on with a spirit and openness on the side of the Government worthy of the question at issue. After listening to the lavish advice and suggestions of the leading men of all parties in the House, Sir John Pakington and Lord Stanley both pledged the Ministry to accept the carrying of Lord John Russell's amendment as a vote of want of confidence; but both reserved to Government the right of appealing from the verdict to the country at large—a right which, without doubt, they are at liberty to exercise, if, upon a nearer view of the matter, they expect to gain anything by taking such a course.

Perhaps the speech of Sir James Graham, delivered on Monday evening, went nearest of any that has been made to lay down the sort of Reform Bill which the country is desirous to see carried. Sir James frankly admits that the old Whig notion of finality is untenable. The Reform Bill of 1832 he justly looks upon as a very successful experiment, but nothing more; and he sees clearly that it is dangerous as well as unreasonable to withhold a considerable reduction of the borough franchise. The working classes are not what they were when the question of Reform was disposed of a quarter of a century ago, and Sir James has the honesty not to deny this great fact; these classes, he says, have earned the right to a share in the power of making the laws of the nation, under which they live. An effective extension of the franchise must be provided, and a rating or municipal suffrage,—that is, a lengthened residence of three years, and uninterrupted payment of rates for two and a half years—would, he is of opinion, be a safe basis. Who are the people who would be enfranchised? The people who pay the interest on the whole national debt. "On the ground of taxation, therefore," he says, "they are entitled to that right—on the ground of ancient usage they are entitled to that right—and on the ground of proved character and conduct, such as the Chancellor of the Exchequer allows to exist on their part—growing intelligence, increase of numbers—regard this question how we will, I come back to the conclusion that a considerable increase of the working classes in the election of members for seats in boroughs is most expedient and most just." Even the desire for the ballot—against which he himself retains his old objections—he frankly admits, has made rapid progress; and he scouts the scheme of voting-papers proposed instead, as open to all the evils of secret voting, without any of the advantages anticipated from the operation of the ballot. Sir James Graham's view of the position of the Reform question, in

fact, is precisely that of the great body of intelligent men who are demanding the recognition of their right of enfranchisement, and precisely that which will guide the majority of electors at the hustings, should the Government call upon them to exercise their functions.

The result of Thursday night's debate, though it takes nobody by surprise, has given rise to numerous suppositions as to the course which Ministers will take on Monday night. Of course, it is only a waste of words to dwell upon surmises and suppositions which the events of a few hours may prove to be erroneous; the belief, however, that Ministers will resign rather than go to the country gains support from the fact that, after an interview of two hours' duration between Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, yesterday, a Cabinet Council was held, and at its conclusion Lord Derby proceeded direct to Buckingham Palace, where he had an audience of the Queen.

Overborne by the absorbing interest of the Reform debate, the other Parliamentary business of the week appears tame; it has not been without importance, however. Lord John Russell's Bankruptcy Bill, which has the support of both the commercial and legal interests, has gone into committee with the Lord Chancellor's Bill on the same subject. Out of the discussion and comparison of the two bills ought to come a really good measure for the remedy of long-admitted evils in the present system of adjudication in Bankruptcy and Insolvency cases. Another important subject has been dealt with in the House of Lords; this is a bill for doing away with the necessity for a unanimity of jurors in civil cases. The result of the division on the motion for the second reading of the bill marks the wholesome dread felt by the Legislature at meddling with a system which has acted well, upon the whole, for many centuries. In Scotland a different system is employed, and, in civil cases, a verdict of nine out of twelve jurymen is taken after a deliberation of six hours. Mr. Dunlop has a bill before the House for reducing the time of deliberation to three hours, and the second reading passed without opposition, the change being favoured by both Scotch and English lawyers.

The course of Sir John Trelawny's Church-rates' Total Abolition Bill appears likely to be somewhat diverted. Lord John Russell has taken the measure in hand, and has proposed a string of amendments, the effect of which will be to do away with the simplicity of the original measure. Lord John's anxiety is to provide for certain vested interests, rent-charges, and so forth. The first amendment provides, moreover, that the bill, if passed, shall not come into operation before the 1st of January, 1861.

Sir Henry Storks is not falling short of the promises which he made at the outset of his Lord High Commissionership; he is dealing with the Ionians after the fashion of his namesake in the fable. Having deprived the people of their Parliament for six months, he has appointed a commission, with himself at the head, to inquire into all the public departments, with a view to discover what changes can be effected within the law.

A little difficulty is looming in the distance of Sierra Leone, where there is a growing desire for

representative institutions, which has pronounced itself in a memorial to the Secretary for the Colonies, praying for a commission of inquiry. This proceeding appears to have been received with very bad grace by the "official" party at Sierra Leone, who are said to have taken very offensive measures for putting down any expression of the public opinion. The affair, of which we shall, no doubt, soon hear more, will demand the immediate attention of the in-coming Colonial Secretary.

The news from India confirms the intelligence brought by all the late mails, that the work of pacification in Oude has been very completely done. A telegram from Calcutta gives the number of the cannons and other arms that have been seized, or delivered up to the British authorities, and it gives also the number of the forts dismantled—a formidable list. Nana Sahib and his companion, the Begum, are still in Nepal, uncaptured. Tantia Topce also continues to evade pursuit. In Central India a considerable number of rebels, including four generals and several other officers, have surrendered themselves to one of the Native Princes. In Bengal and in the North-Western Provinces, all is quiet. The most important part of the news, however, refers to the financial straits to which the Governor-General is reduced; for many a long year this will be the great difficulty in the path of the Imperial Government of India.

At home, the revenue for the quarter, though showing a decrease of somewhat over 800,000Z. on account of the remitted income-tax, bears witness to the general prosperity of the country, as tested by its consuming power. In the Customs, in the Excise, and in the Post-office, there is an increase; and, but for the loss of the income-tax, the nation's accounts would have shown an increase of some two millions on the year's income.

On the Continent, of course, the chief subject of interest is the approaching Congress for the discussion and possible settlement of the Italian difficulty. An opinion is generally entertained that the end of April will find the representatives of the Five Powers at their work. Meantime, speculation is alive on the subject of the representation of England; Lord Malmesbury was supposed to have taken upon himself that important office; but the recent defeat of Ministers with its contingent results may, even while we write, have taken the matter out of the hands of Lord Derby's Government. One of the acts of Lord Malmesbury (supposing him to have ceased to be Foreign Secretary) has had an important result. He appears to have called upon the Sardinian Government to declare that it has no intention of attacking Austria; and Count Cavour has published his answer: it is to the effect that, "if Austria will, for the future, abstain from acts of aggression against Piedmont, Sardinia will give the assurance asked." We believe that the present temper of the Sardinian people is suggested by that "if."

The most remarkable occurrence of the week has been the sudden change of weather. On Tuesday we observed ants, drawn to the surface of the ground by the warmth of the sun: on Wednesday we saw the country about London covered with three or four inches of hard-frozen snow! It is the complete realisation of Thompson's description of early Spring.

## Home Intelligence.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 21.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS a petition in favour of the ballot was presented by Lord CAMPBELL, from Taunton. His lordship was inclined to support the prayer. Though satisfied with the present system of voting he did not view the ballot with alarm.

## THE STATE OF EUROPE.

Lord CLARENDON, in moving for the instructions given to Lord Cowley in his recent mission to Vienna, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as to the results of that mission, and for some statement on the present condition of European affairs. The mission of Lord Cowley had been fully appreciated, for the Emperor of Austria had expressed his willingness to withdraw his troops from the Legations simultaneously with France, and had declared that he had no intention of invading Piedmont, but was ready with France and Europe to make representations to the Papal Government to modify admitted evils. He thought that, as a preliminary step to the meeting of the Congress, a reduction of military armaments ought to be made imperative.—The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that in undertaking his late mission to Vienna, Lord Cowley had been fettered by no conditions; everything had been left to his own discretion. The result, however, had been to place the question on such a footing that a pacific solution of all the points in dispute might be anticipated, and an amicable termination of all the pending controversies was hoped for within the lapse of another month. It was not, however, yet agreed what details the Congress should discuss. As the question so nearly concerned the social and political condition of Italy, he considered that the Italian States, one and all, should have the means of speaking on the subject. Although a disarmament was not agreed to, both Austria and Piedmont had declared that they would abstain from all hostilities.

The Vexatious Indictments Bill and the Evidence by Commission Bill passed through committee. The Railway Tickets Transfer Bill was read a second time. The Companies' Act (1859) Bill, the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill, and Oaths Act Amendment Bill were read a third time and passed.

Their lordships adjourned at five minutes to seven o'clock.

## VOTE OF WANT OF CONFIDENCE.

IN the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. O. STANLEY said that after the statement of the Attorney-General for Ireland, the adoption of Lord John Russell's resolution must be considered tantamount to a vote of want of confidence in the ministry; he therefore announced his intention to withdraw the resolution in that sense of which he had given notice.

## THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. D. GRIFFITH put his question as to the spirit in which Government will receive the adoption of Lord John Russell's resolution.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought he had reason to complain of the licence taken in the proposition of a question, which transcended the fair bounds of inquiry as addressed to ministers, whose measure was still under discussion. At the proper time he should be ready to explain and justify the policy of the Government.

## THE ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Mr. E. JAMES supported the resolution proposed by Lord J. Russell, commenting upon the insufficiency of the ministerial measure. The various franchises created under the bill, while adding considerably to the aggregate mass of the constituency, would in reality give occasion for an extensive manufacture of votes, which might be converted to the worst purposes of faction. Tracing the results of the vote which the house was now called upon to give, he declared, amidst great laughter and loud cheers, that although the present bill could not pass, and the existing Government had forfeited public confidence, yet that no administration which Lord John Russell could form would enjoy a larger share of support, if its members were merely nominated out of the Whig "stud-book."—Mr. BEAUMONT, although a supporter of Lord Palmerston, should, without hesitation, but with regret, vote with the Government. The resolution was, in his opinion, an ingenious and well worded trap; it did not raise the question of reform sincerely, and upon this ground he should vote against it.—Lord ELCHO, after replying to some comments by Mr. James upon the letter of Lord Grey, addressed to him (Lord Elcho), observed, that the Government had done wrong in undertaking the reform question at all, and found much to disapprove of in this bill. He nevertheless refused to support an amendment which he considered to be so obviously prompted by merely factious motives.—Mr. ELLIOT objected to the bill, which he could not

support, considering it imperfect and one-sided.—Colonel SMYTH admitted that the bill was objectionable in some respects. As it might, however, be amended in committee, and was brought forward by a Government which had deserved confidence, he should vote for the second reading.—Mr. J. LOCKE consented to adopt the amendment, though believing that it did not go half far enough.—Lord A. V. TEMPEST supported the bill.—Mr. M. MILNES remarked that the debate on the bill, as it proceeded, developed one satisfactory result, namely, that parties on all sides of the house were almost unanimously in favour of reform. He proceeded to set forth the principles on which, in his opinion, that reform should be based. The popular masses were, he believed, not very enthusiastic on the subject. There was, nevertheless, a general demand for a more considerable extension of the franchise, with which he thought it at once just and expedient to comply. He intended to vote for the resolution, as accomplishing their object more satisfactorily than the bill brought in by the Government.—Sir J. GRAHAM said he wished not to see the day when it became necessary to reconsider the fundamental principles of the constitution. The measure of 1832 produced an immense change; it had been called a bloodless revolution: it took power from the aristocracy and gave it to the middle classes, its object being to blend property and numbers. Since that period we had enjoyed better legislation, more prosperity, and less civil discord than at any other period of equal duration. Upon the whole, therefore, the experiment had been successful, and he had hoped that it would have been a final one. In this he had been disappointed, and the object of all Reformers should be, when change was required, to prevent the necessity, if possible, of further alterations. In this bill three principles were contained—namely, identity of suffrage, electoral districts, and voting papers. It seemed as if the bill—too clever by half—had been framed so as to obtain support from every quarter of the House. Identity of suffrage was the key-stone of the measure, with electoral districts and voting papers as collateral arrangements. These, he maintained, bordered upon, and could with slight change be converted into the chief "points" of the democratic charter, equal electoral districts, manhood suffrage, and vote by ballot. Sir J. Graham then explained the part he had taken in framing the resolution before the House. Lord John Russell, who with himself were the only remaining members of that House who had served on the committee which prepared the Reform Act of 1832, had conferred with him respecting the present measure when first laid on the table. They both were prepared to vote against the second reading if a direct negative were required, but concurred in thinking that the capital defects of the bill could be set forth in a resolution of the means suggested for remedying them. This had been done; the proposition lay before the legislature, who would exercise their discretion in accepting or rejecting it; but if accepted, the responsibility rested with the Government of modifying their measure in accordance with the principles so established, and which he thought would render the bill safe, sufficient, and acceptable alike to the House and the country. The right honourable baronet then criticised in succession the different provisions of the ministerial measure, showing how inadequately they fulfilled the essential conditions of a real reform bill. The bill had been called by the Colonial Secretary a "middle class" bill, and it appeared to be supposed that the middle classes might in their selfishness support it. This expectation would, he believed, be disappointed, and he was assured that the time had come for recognising the rights of the industrial classes. Reverting to details, he objected to the proposed voting papers, as presenting a near approximation to the ballot, a system to which he still maintained his antagonism, though confessing that the demand for it was rapidly spreading among the public. To the lodger franchise he also entertained serious objections, as comprehending a floating and irresponsible class of the population; and if the minimum of rental was reduced, as had been suggested, to 4s. per week, bringing about something very closely approximating to universal suffrage. Passing on to future contingencies, the right hon. baronet declared—"If the Government do not think it consistent with their honour to take this resolution and proceed with the bill, and if they desire to appeal to the country, advising the Sovereign to exercise her prerogative for that purpose, I shall be found most unwilling to take any factious course which might impede them in that proceeding. (Hear, hear.) But I say this, that a day of heavy reckoning will come in the next Parliament, and within my memory no such responsibility was ever incurred by any executive Government. (Cries of "Hear.") These considerations are theirs; our consideration is fearlessly and untimidly to do our duty in this House. (Cheers.) I should have thought that the carrying of the resolution would have been regarded as a milder course than the rejection of the

bill on the second reading; but if a sense of honour and duty should lead the Government to consider the resolution as equal to the rejection of their measure, and they should act accordingly, they must meet their fate. (Cheers.) I have not, and I am sure they will admit it, taken any factious course in opposition to them. (Hear, hear.) I have not desired their overthrow, and I do not now desire it; but if they think fit to meet their fate they must encounter all the danger as well as all the difficulties. (Hear.) Our course, however, is plain. We must do our duty, while we remain here the representatives of the people of this country, to that noble people whom we represent. (Cheers.) We shall be ready at all times to give an account of the manner in which we have acted, and, for my part, I cannot hesitate both to support this resolution, and, if necessary, to vote against the second reading of the bill. (Cheers.)—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON rose (at eleven o'clock), and made a very spirited reply. He complained of the course taken by Lord J. Russell in raising a debate upon an abstract resolution, instead of meeting the bill with a direct negative. He had taken some pains to ascertain from the highest authority, how far the noble lord's proceedings were consistent with the usual practice of the House, and he had no hesitation in declaring that they were irregular and unparliamentary. The right hon. baronet proceeded to comment upon the objections which had been made to the bill, saying—"We are told by the opposite side of the House that we ought to accept this resolution and to go on with the bill. The last time we heard this was on Friday evening last from the noble viscount, and I am sorry to say that that opinion was expressed by the noble viscount in (I can speak of it in no other terms) a tone of arrogance (loud cheers) altogether unusual between gentlemen who sit opposite to each other in this House. (Renewed cheers.) In that tone the noble viscount presumed to tell us that we should take a course which he must know perfectly well no gentleman would condescend to take (cheers), and he must know equally well that if it had been offered to himself in such a tone, he would have rejected and spurned it with indignation. (Loud cheers.) The noble lord went on to say what I heard with the greatest astonishment and disapprobation. I refer to what he said as to the possibility of a dissolution of Parliament. (Cheers.) I could regard that part of his speech as being nothing less than an attack upon the prerogative of the Crown. (Cheers.) The noble viscount said, 'You shall not dissolve Parliament. We, the House of Commons, will prevent you. You cannot dissolve Parliament without the concurrence of the House of Commons, and that concurrence shall be refused.' (Cheers.) I say that was language I should not have expected to hear from a statesman of the noble viscount's long experience and standing. I can look upon that language in no other light than as wanting in due respect to the Crown (Opposition cries of 'Oh, oh!') and as a violation of one of the most acknowledged prerogatives of the Crown. (Cheers.) Under what pretence, and for what reason, did the noble viscount use such expressions? I beg to say that the Government have never threatened Parliament with a dissolution. (Oh, oh!) I challenge a contradiction of that statement. We are not responsible for what is said out of doors. We have not presumed to threaten Parliament in any way whatever. All that we have said is this—that in the event of any defeat in this House which should make it impossible for us consistently with our own honour to proceed with the bill, it will be our duty, as it always is the duty of every Government in similar circumstances, to tender to the Crown such advice as we may think most consistent with our own dignity." The right hon. baronet added that ministers were ready in committee to discuss any amendments, but would not consent to be fettered by a preliminary resolution, proposed in an unusual way, and for a factious purpose. Sir J. Pakington commented upon the recent deterioration in the character and conduct of public men, observing that for many years all motives of public interest had been subordinated to party intrigues, and that too many instances had occurred, of which he contended the present discussion furnished an example, in which advantage was taken of the circumstances of the hour to bring forward motions merely designed to disconcert or eject the administration. The right hon. baronet then adverted to the details of the measure, and added, "The resolution of the noble lord I cannot help regarding as characterised by a spirit of unfairness (hear, hear), and I feel sanguine with respect to its rejection. (Hear, hear.) The House of Commons is, I am sure, desirous, now that this question of reform has been broached, that it should be settled. (Hear, hear.) I hope, therefore, hon. members will deal candidly with the proposal in reference to it, which the Government have made. The motion of the noble lord I can attribute only to the persuasion upon his part that he durst not meet the



bill fairly and boldly (hear, hear), and I trust that the House and the country will not misunderstand the issue which he has raised. The question is not whether we shall have this bill, or agree to this factious resolution; it is whether the House of Commons shall fairly grapple with this difficult subject—whether we shall go in a fair spirit into committee—whether the House shall accept what is good in the bill and amend what may be bad—whether we shall arrive at a settlement of the question on principles safe, moderate, and temperate, or fling it abroad to wait a settlement hereafter by other parties in a spirit not of safe Conservative reform, but a wild democratic innovation?" (Hear, hear.)—Mr. GLADSTONE having moved the adjournment of the debate, Sir G. GREY, referring to the statement that the resolution now under discussion was unparalleled and irregular, denied that allegation, and appealed to the Speaker to corroborate his opinion on that point.—After some explanations from Sir J. PAKINGTON, the SPEAKER ruled that the resolution was perfectly in order.

Sir F. C. LEWIS, remarking that the debate had already lasted five nights, hoped that the House might be allowed to come to a division on Tuesday evening. Urgent remonstrances against this premature close of the discussion were interposed by many hon. members, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER intimated that no objection would be raised against the prolongation of the debate. The remaining orders were then proceeded with; certain bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at five minutes to one o'clock.

Tuesday, March 29.

In the HOUSE of LORDS, Lord MALMESBURY made a further explanation respecting the Congress on Italian affairs, the object of which was to show that Russia does not deserve all the credit for having proposed that such a Congress should be held.

#### JURIES IN CIVIL CAUSES.

Lord CAMPBELL, in moving the second reading, observed that this bill applied solely to civil cases. He brought forward several instances to prove that the unanimity of juries was not in former times imperative, but that the opinion of a majority was binding on the minority, a custom still in force among grand juries, and among their lordships in their judicial capacity. He proceeded to dwell on the hardships which one wrong-headed jurymen could inflict on the others, and the injury and expense to the suitors. He thought that the jury on retiring should be supplied with refreshments, and after they had been confined a certain number of hours that the decision of a majority of nine should be sufficient for a verdict. There was a growing tendency among juries to disagree, and he thought that if we expected unanimity we might as well abolish trial by jury altogether.—Lord LYNCHURST opposed the second reading of the bill because its object was to change one of the fundamental laws of the kingdom. The proposed alteration would affect a law which had existed for the last 500 years, and which, with one or two exceptions, had been admired and applauded by all our most eminent lawyers. This bill originated from a trial relating to a railway accident, which involved a question of such nicety that five juries who had tried the question could come to no decision upon it. His lordship, speaking of Lord Campbell's facetious address to one of these juries, said—"My noble and learned friend, as your lordships are aware, is very fond of introducing a little pleasantry into the proceedings of courts of justice, with the view to relieve their dullness. (A laugh.) Upon the occasion to which I allude the jury were brought into court in the morning. They were wretched, haggard, pale, and exhausted; and then it was my noble and learned friend made a statement which he has in substance repeated this evening, and gave a history of the law with respect to the unanimity of juries. He told them that, according to ancient tradition, at assizes, if a jury differed, the judge ordered them to be taken round the circuit in a cart, and then thrown into the next ditch. (A laugh.) Of course my noble and learned friend knew that would produce some laughter. In that, however, the jury so circumstanced could hardly be expected to join. But he assuaged their feelings with soft words; they had been confined all night, and he said, "You have suffered great inconvenience, and therefore I will discharge you." I have thought it necessary, my lords, to examine a little into the accuracy of the statement made by my noble and learned friend on that occasion, and I have to state that there is no instance to be found in the judicial history of this country in which a jury have been carried round a circuit in a cart, much less of their having been afterwards shot into a ditch." Lord LYNCHURST then showed that Lord Campbell had misinterpreted and entirely misconceived the meaning of the ancient statute; and with regard to the proposed alteration in the law, said, that if this change was effected there would be a material increase in the number of new trials and of

the expenses of litigation, and it would stifle that discussion which was the very basis on which unanimity of juries was founded.—The bill was supported by Earl GRANVILLE, Lord CRANWORTH, and Lord KINGSDOWN, and opposed by the Lord CHANCELLOR and Lord WENSLEYDALE. On a division there appeared—Contents, 7; non-contents, 23—16. The bill is thus lost.

Their lordships adjourned at a quarter to ten.

In the HOUSE of COMMONS, Mr. DISRAELI made an intimation which appeared to give satisfaction, that the debate might be again adjourned, on the understanding that it be brought to a conclusion on Thursday.

Sir J. TRELAWNY postponed progress with his Church-rate Bill till Tuesday next.

#### THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate was resumed by Mr. GLADSTONE, who observed that, with the exception of official speakers, every member on either side who had addressed the house on the subject of reform appeared to be in perfect concurrence with one another, within very narrow shades of difference. This coincidence of opinion, on which he remarked in detail, seemed to hold out the prospect of a ready and satisfactory solution of the question. With regard to Mr. Bright, he said:—"I could not help being struck with what fell from my hon. friend the member for Birmingham upon this subject. He selected in the course of his speech, one address from those which had preceded his own for commendation, [and three—shall I say for anathema or for censure?] The speech which he commended was the speech of a county member on this side of the House—I mean the hon. member for Dorset—a gentleman I believe, of unsuspected orthodoxy in his political creed. (A laugh.) The speeches which were censured by my hon. friend—the speeches which he said filled him with alarm—were the declarations of three right hon. friends sitting on the other side of the House. (Hear, hear.) He was alarmed at the speech of the right hon. gentleman the member for Stroud; he did not say for what particular reason, but I concluded because he regarded my right hon. friend as a disorderly person upon the present occasion. (A laugh.) He was alarmed with the speech of my right hon. friend the member for South Wilts, because, I suppose, my right hon. friend gently suggested in one portion of his excellent address that that chamber in the mind of my hon. friend the member for Birmingham which ought to be supplied with a certain reverence for ancient traditions is less well furnished than all the rest of that remarkable structure. (Cheers and laughter.) Then, Sir, the hon. member, still adhering to his own side of the House, censured likewise the sagacious letter of my right hon. friend the member for Coventry. There the reason, I think, was plain enough; because, my right hon. friend, whose hospitalities are proverbial, in that letter promised to his constituents a magnificent banquet of reform, where the viand was dressed in every possible shape, but concluded by expressing his regret that on account of the state of public opinion they could not just yet sit down. (Cheers and laughter.) The truth is, Sir, there is no substantial difference of opinion traceable to differences in this House between political parties upon this great and transcendent subject; and therefore it is to me a matter of deep regret, that when there is such union of sentiment upon the question at issue, we should be ranged in hostile debate (cheers), with a division before us which must tend to estrange from one another, those who are not separated by clear, broad, conscientious differences of opinion, and by whose united efforts alone, this great subject can be brought to a satisfactory settlement." (Continued cheering.) Mr. Gladstone observed that he dissented from the resolution as inconsistent with the spirit, though not with the letter of the rules and precedents of the House. But if it were a factious resolution, it would also be an injudicious one; for some of the principal supporters of the motion have also avowed their intention of supporting the second reading of the bill. The attack made upon Lord John Russell by the Solicitor-General, he attributed to the compulsion under which the ablest speakers sometimes find themselves of saying what they had not intended. With regard to the bill, the difficulties of the Government arose from the errors they had committed in framing their measure, and which they would have avoided if they had adopted the propositions suggested by Mr. Walpole and Mr. Henley. He felt, nevertheless, that the ministry—partly as the originators of the bill, partly as happening to be already in office, and partly because all other parties had failed in their attempts to solve the problem—were entitled to claim much forbearance from the House when endeavouring to contrive a satisfactory scheme of representative reform. Illustrating this conclusion by reference to the successive bills that had been introduced or promised on this subject during the past ten years, the right hon

member submitted that no unnecessary obstacle should now be placed in the way of the present measure. If the resolution were carried, it had become manifest that the bill would be defeated. Yet while agreeing with everything that had been said against it, he still thought that the measure contained some acceptable provisions, and ought to be considered in committee. Among others, he approved of the proposed redistribution of seats, which of itself comprised the most important element of every reform bill. Any comprehensive disfranchisement of small boroughs would prove fatal to the carriage of the bill; and if carried, would prove injurious to the character of the House. By small constituencies, and even from nomination boroughs, members were returned whose presence in the Legislature was necessary for the diversity and the completeness of representation. This apparent paradox was, he declared, only one on paper. In practice it disappeared, and, by way of proof, cited the examples of Pelham, Chatham, Fox, Pitt, Canning, and Peel, all of whom had obtained ingress to Parliament through the medium of nomination boroughs. These places, indeed, had often proved the nursery-ground of statesmen. Reverting to the resolution, he observed that every object it was intended to obtain would be far more effectually ensured during the discussions in committee. The objectionable features of the bill—the uniformity of franchise, the disfranchisement of the borough freeholders, and the transfer of votes from counties to boroughs—were doomed by general assent. These objects would be accomplished if the resolution were negatived; but if, on the contrary, it passed, there was too great probability that no reform bill at all would be proceeded with, and the whole question hung up for years as an object for prolonged and perhaps dangerous agitation. Of Mr. Stanley's threatened motion of want of confidence, the right hon. gentleman remarked:—"A hostile attack on the Government has recently been started, but of all the compliments paid to the Government, I know none that can compete with the act of the hon. member for Beaumaris (Mr. O. Stanley). He produced a notice of motion announcing that in a certain contingency he would move a vote of want of confidence. He gave that notice in one parliamentary sitting, and withdrew it the next (cheers); certainly a very short life."

"Ostendunt terris hæc fata, neque ultra esse sinent." The writer from whom I quote says of his hero, that 'his enemies fled when they saw his burnished armour gleaming in the shade.' My hon. friend (and he is the gentleman who has accomplished the feat) fled when he saw his own armour." (Cheers and laughter.) Having thematter in their own hands, Mr. Gladstone thought that the House would act wisely in keeping it there, and in settling this great question would be left at liberty to address themselves to other demands upon their time and care. "I consider this," said he, "a golden opportunity of settling the question; but if we let it slip, can any man predict what will be the result? (Hear, hear.) Are we to have this question agitated year after year? (Hear, hear.) After the number of miscarriages, it is impossible but that the character of Parliament will suffer if every alternate year we are to have a promise of a reform bill, and in every other year find a bill introduced and brought before the country to occupy the House with the discussion of great organic changes. With all our strength—and I believe no assembly in the world can transact the same amount of business—yet, with all that strength, such is the vastness of our concerns, such the accumulation of territories, such the diversities of interests among the subjects of the Queen, that with all our capacity the business must fall into arrears. It would be most unfortunate and most injurious—nay, nothing less than disgraceful—if our action was to be paralysed, not because of any weakness, but because we were occupied with this question year after year. The constant recurrence of this question would be a proof of an unhealthy state of the public mind. Even an individual cannot be constantly watching his health without injuring it. It would have a most unwholesome effect if the attention of the country were to be constantly directed to an alteration of our institutions, instead of doing our duty here. I feel it my duty to give that vote which may lead to a settlement of the question. I agree with my hon. friend the member for Birmingham that we ought to approach this question in a spirit of trust in the people (hear, hear); and I would entreat him not to use his influence to delay the settlement. In the vote which I shall give, I shall vote without regard to the Government, without regard to party. (Hear, hear.) I trust, in the remarks I have made, I have given no offence to any one. I shall vote in the negative of the resolution, because I believe by that vote we shall best discharge the duty incumbent on us as chief amongst the guardians of the British constitution and of the welfare of the British people." (Loud cheers.)—Mr. MONMOUTH, in supporting the resolutions, contended that they related not to isolated points,

but to the fundamental principles of the bill. The bill was altogether experimental, and would prolong instead of terminating the agitation on the question.—Mr. ROBERT PALMER disliked the bill in many particulars, and preferred the scheme of reform suggested by Mr. Walpole. Regarding the resolution, however, as a mere party move, he intended to vote against it.—Mr. WESTHEAD opposed the bill, which he believed would injuriously disturb the existing balance of parties.—Major EDWARDS accepted the bill as conferring a great boon on the country, by enfranchising at least 300,000 persons who at present were denied electoral privileges.—Mr. COLLIER was ready to support the resolution irrespective of all consequences. The bill was regarded in the country as a sham and delusion. The public were quiet, not because they were apathetic, but because they relied on its rejection by the house.—Sir J. WALSH opposed the resolution.—Mr. O. STANLEY explained the reason which had induced him to give notice of a vote of censure, which he had subsequently withdrawn upon the announcement made by Mr. White-side, that if the present amendment was carried it would be regarded as equivalent to a vote of censure by the Government.—Mr. K. MACAULAY contended that the bill effectually threw open the franchise to every class of the community. He also approved of the measure upon its broad principle.—Mr. MELLOR alluding to the speech just delivered, noticed that one member had at last been found who seemed to approve of the bill in its entirety. He retorted on the Government members the charges of disunion and faction which they had flung out against that, the opposition, side of the house, and declared his resolve to support the amendment.—Mr. HARDY commented upon the conduct of the opposition in "burking" a measure in which there were avowedly many provisions for extending the franchise and improving the system of representation. Reform bills which Lord J. Russell himself brought in contained propositions of disfranchisement quite as large as that he so much censured in the present measure. The amendment by which it had been encountered was, he argued, indirect and disingenuous, and he proceeded to point out the inconsistent nature of the arguments advanced in its support. If the success of the resolution enabled its concoctors to form a ministry he prophesied that before long they would be assailed by their own supporters with propositions for sweeping reforms, and obliged to shelter themselves under the protection of their Conservative antagonists.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD characterised the bill as a delusion, and entered into the history of the former Reform Act, to show that the proposed disfranchisement of the borough freeholders was inconsistent with the spirit and intention of that enactment. Only a single member had ventured to approve the bill, though many professed their intention of voting for the second reading. He was prepared to support the resolution, even at the sacrifice of the bill, though he did not see why that sacrifice should be incurred, even if the amendment was carried.—On the motion of Mr. DU CANE, the debate, after some remonstrance against a premature close of the discussion, was again adjourned. The House adjourned at a quarter before one o'clock.

Wednesday, March 30.

#### TRIAL BY JURY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. DUNLOP, in moving the second reading of the bill, explained its object, which was to reduce the time of deliberation of juries in Scotland, when nine jurors agreed, before a verdict could be received from the majority, from six hours, according to the existing law, to three hours. He observed that the question was totally distinct from that of the bill which had been thrown out in the House of Lords on the preceding night, verdicts of the majority being receivable in Scotland in both criminal and civil cases.—The LORD ADVOCATE cordially assented to the proposed change.—No opposition was offered to the bill, but a short debate ensued, in which the English jury law came incidentally under discussion, and several English members expressed their regret that the House had been deprived of an opportunity of considering the question of the unanimity of juries by the decision of the Lords.—The bill was read a second time.

The Law Ascertainment Bill also passed the stage of second reading, on the motion of Mr. DUNLOP.

#### THE BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee, expressing a wish that the Government bill, which had passed the other House, should be referred to the same Committee.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL entirely agreed to the course proposed, and had no objection to referring the other bill, which had come down from the Lords, and had been read a first time, to the same Committee.—After some discussion as to whether the Committee should take evidence, the motion was agreed to.

The Admiralty Court Bill and the Charitable Uses Bill were respectively read a second time.

The House went into committee on the Markets (Ireland) Bill, and passed several clauses.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

Thursday, March 31.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the third reading of the Indictable Offences Bill was, on the motion of Lord CAMPBELL, postponed, and the Railway Transfer Ticket Bill passed through Committee.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of the Manslaughter Bill, explained that the object of the bill was to enable coroners to admit persons in certain cases charged with manslaughter to bail. The bill was read a second time.

The Vexatious Indictments Bill and the Evidence by Commission Bill were both read a third time and passed.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in reply to Mr. BRADY, Mr. S. ESTCOURT stated that a bill for the reform of the City of London Corporation was being prepared, and would be introduced after Easter.

Lord ELCHO, in a few remarks upon his speech on Monday, gave (as he intended) an opportunity to the Solicitor-General to explain certain expressions he had used in reference to Lord J. Russell—namely, "political aggrandisement and private advantage," which some friends of Lord John, he said, thought were injurious to his personal honour and private character; with which explanation Lord John was perfectly satisfied.

#### THE REFORM BILL.

After a conversation of very confused and indeterminate character respecting the duration of the pending discussion, the adjourned debate on the Reform Bill was resumed by Mr. DU CANE, who claimed much credit to the Government for having taken in hand, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, the settlement of the controversy respecting Parliamentary Reform. In this endeavour the administration, he submitted, had fairly succeeded, at any rate in so far as to merit the only concession which they asked from the House—namely, permission to have their bill considered in committee. The question could be settled in no other way than by a compromise, and among the various propositions introduced in former sessions, or indicated in the course of the present debate, the measure brought forward by the Government was, he maintained, on the whole most acceptable to the country. The resolution of Lord John Russell was, he thought, vexatious and vague; and he trusted that the House would not, by adopting it, frustrate the chance now offered of passing a Reform Bill in the present session, with the inevitable result of leaving the question open until the time for compromise had passed away.—Sir R. PEEL remarked upon the bewildering conflict of opinion which had been expressed on different sides of the House respecting the bill under debate. He cited many passages from speeches that had been delivered in the course of the discussion, accompanying his quotations with a running commentary, which afforded much amusement to the House. Contending that the resolution now proposed was perfectly regular and parliamentary, he declared (and the declaration was received with cheers, in which Lord John Russell joined), that its adoption would be immediately followed by the introduction of another bill better calculated to satisfy the country. He was indeed prepared to wait, even for three years, in the hope of obtaining at last a better measure than the crude and undigested scheme of the Government. Whatever dissonances might have existed in times past among the Liberal party, they were now united at a moment of crisis, for an object in which they considered the gravest interests of the empire were involved.

—Mr. GASKELL said he regretted that the Government had introduced a Reform Bill, which, he believed, had not been called for. The Ministry, he was persuaded, had brought in their bill rather in fulfilment of pledges than in accordance with their convictions. But whether the bill were good or bad, susceptible of amendment or deserving total rejection, he exhorted the House to negative the resolution of Lord John Russell.—Mr. SLANEY said, the disfranchisement of the borough freeholders, however, and some other features of the bill, appeared to him very objectionable, and he should therefore support the resolution.—Mr. EARTON also disapproved of many details in the bill, but feeling anxious to secure an early settlement of the question, consented to vote against the resolution.—Mr. CORBETT declared his intention to vote for the second reading of the bill.—Mr. COLLINS opposed the resolution, believing it to be designed not to amend the bill, but to destroy the Ministry.—Mr. WESTERN supported the resolution, which was opposed by Mr. W. N. HODGSON.—Mr. WYVILL thought the bill good enough to be mended in committee, and consented to support the second reading.—Mr. HUDSON characterised the resolution as a cry and claptrap. He defended the bill, which he said was attacked merely in a scramble for place by men who, while calling themselves reformers, were practically frustrating all endeavours to obtain reform.

—Mr. WALTER commented upon the disagreeable character of the alternative placed before the House, and stated the reasons which induced him to vote against the second reading of the bill, and to abstain from voting for the resolution. The distinctive principle of the bill was the identity of the suffrage; but there had been a confusion between identity and equality of suffrage. After pointing out provisions in the bill to which he objected, he observed that the Government were about to devolve upon the House the duty of making a Reform Bill, which he did not think a proper course of proceeding. There were two distinct modes of effecting the object of extending the suffrage—either by lowering the qualification for the suffrage or by a process of selection,—and the question was whether it was not better to raise the people to the suffrage, by putting it within the reach of the industrious working man. The whole question of the suffrage was a serious and difficult one, and he did not see on what ground, if the franchise were reduced below 10<sup>l</sup>, they could stop short of household suffrage. He should be sorry, he said, if the result of this discussion should be the resignation of the Ministry; he saw no reason why they should not withdraw this bill and bring in another.—Mr. GREENALL opposed the amendment.—Mr. GILPIN said he should vote for the resolution. The bill was no Reform Bill at all, and if he were asked whether he would have this bill or nothing, he would say he would prefer nothing. He did not wish, however, to see a change of Government, and should not join in any vote of censure upon the general policy of the present administration.—Mr. HENLEY said he had listened with great attention to the whole of the debate, and if he had heard anything to shake his opinion he should not hesitate to say so. This was, in his opinion, a very large measure,—large in itself and in the principle it contained. He proceeded to analyse the bill with great minuteness of criticism, stating his objections to it. In considering the amendment, which was the real question before the House, he observed that the first part of the resolution was met by the clauses brought forward by the Government; and the last part was as vague as possible, so much so that no human being could assign any definite meaning to it. Then, what did the Government say? If he interpreted it rightly, they had said as much as they could be expected to say, and as much as would relieve the House from any difficulty in voting for the second reading of the bill. He was ready to go into committee upon it, and he hoped, when it got there, the opinions of the House would have their weight with the Government, and that the bill would be put into a shape that would satisfy the more moderate people—all would not be satisfied with any measure. He concluded with a strong denunciation of all changes that would assimilate our mixed constitution to that of America on the one hand, or that of France on the other.—Mr. ROEBUCK described the changes which the House of Commons had undergone since its first establishment, tracing the steps of its progress until it had become practically the ruling power of the State. The last stage was accomplished in the Reform Act of 1832. They were about to reform the Reform Act, and the questions were—what was it that required reform, and what were the means to attain that end? One great blemish in the Reform Act of 1832 was the exclusion from power of the working classes. Those classes had since been increasing in intelligence, showing themselves worthy of participating in power with the other classes, and the two great objects of any Reform Bill were, to extend the suffrage to the working classes, and to regulate the distribution of the electoral bodies. Did the bill of the Government attain either end? He believed that it would be anything but satisfactory to the working classes; but he believed, in opposition to Mr. Bright, that good could be got from the bill. Was it best to leave the bill in the hands of the present Ministers, or take the chance of transferring it to Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell? The former he could not regard as a reformer, while the latter was fettered by party ties, and had long been accustomed to look upon power as an appanage of Whig statesmen. On the whole, he preferred the present Government, and would vote for the second reading, if they undertook not to throw up the bill, should certain extensions, including a £6 borough franchise, be carried in committee. On that assurance, he did not see why the present amendment need be pressed, as the House would have the measure in their own hands, and might mould it as they pleased.—A number of members rose from below the gangway, but Mr. DISRAELI rose also, and was greeted with loud cheers from a house rapidly becoming crowded in every corner. Almost his first sentence elicited a burst of applause from the benches behind him, which was continued at intervals. He said that after reiterated pledges given by successive ministers, for the introduction of a Reform Bill, no measure had ever before been matured to the stage of second reading. In this bill three great



principles were comprised; first, to enlarge the constituent body; secondly, to give representation to the large populations which had grown up since the first Reform Act; and, thirdly, the maintenance of the present thorough system of representation in the country. Apart from these principles, every proposition in the bill belonged merely to matters of detail. To every one of them he promised a candid consideration in committee, though declining to pledge the Government beforehand to the course they might adopt should certain changes be effected in the measure. Adverting to Lord John Russell's resolution, he insisted that it touched no questions but those of detail, which its supporters sought to prevent even coming under discussion. Two objections to the bill were raised in this amendment, one relating to the disfranchisement of borough freeholders, the other enforcing a lower minimum of the borough suffrage. On the former point he urged that no disfranchisement was contemplated in the measure, while Lord John Russell had himself proposed in bills brought in during previous sessions to disfranchise considerable bodies of the electorate. On the suffrage question Mr. Disraeli described the propositions offered by different governments or suggested by independent members since 1832. In 1854 the Whig ministry had prepared a bill in which the county franchise was reduced to the precise tariff—namely, a 10*l.* occupation franchise—which the members of that administration so heavily censured in the present measure. In the resolution no scheme of reform was indicated; but in the speech of Sir J. Graham, who was one of its avowed authors, a programme was very definitely drawn out, in which an extensive redistribution of seats, the disfranchisement of a large number of small boroughs, a municipal suffrage, and vote by ballot, were all included. "If these," said the right hon. gentleman, "be the opinions of the right hon. member for Carlisle and the noble lord the member for London, practically speaking, I want to know what difference there is between their political system and that of the hon. member for Birmingham?" (Cheers.) The hon. member for Birmingham, speaking out of doors, and colouring more highly than he does in this assembly, and confessing as he always does with the frankness of his nature that he would take less than he asked, and asked somewhat more than he wishes, may in some points that I cannot recall to mind, exceed and excel the programme of the confederates ('Hear, and laughter'); but I have no doubt that the hon. member for Birmingham, as a practical man, has no objection to these conditions, and, for the purpose of obtaining these results, would not decline to act with the noble lord and the right hon. gentleman in any manner, and in any place. (Cheers.) As to the ulterior views of the hon. member for Birmingham, we know that they have been brought forward. The Throne has not always been spoken of, perhaps, by him with that reverence which I believe all Englishmen feel for it. (Cries of 'Oh, oh!' and cheers.) The House of Lords may, by chance, have been denounced as a public nuisance to the country. (Loud cheers.) The ecclesiastical establishments have not yet received disapprobation; but, although the noble lord and the right hon. gentleman may not be yet so advanced, or, if so advanced, may not yet choose to announce their opinions, we know that in all Cabinets there may be open questions (laughter and cheers), and, practically speaking, on the programme, I see no reason whatever why the hon. member for Birmingham should not be adopted as a trusted and honoured colleague of the right hon. gentleman and of the noble lord." (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Disraeli echoed the sentiment that there was no reason to fear the people. But if a democracy were established, it would in due season be followed by the evils of a democracy—in an impatience of public burdens, an aggravation of public expenditure, intemperate wars, and ignominious peace. These consequences would ensue if the principle were adopted that the working classes should be admitted to the franchise, not as individuals, but in a multitude. To avert such results, and yet afford the means by which the most industrious and meritorious of these classes could obtain electoral privileges, had been the objects of the Government when devising the various franchises contained in their bill. This end, he contended, had been attained by methods which would enable every man of industry and intelligence to obtain the suffrage. The uniformity of franchise, so much censured, he denied to exist: in fact, the measure comprised a greater variety of suffrages than had ever been included in any bill offered to Parliament. Vindicating in other particulars the Government bill, the right hon. member proceeded to examine the motives which had prompted the amendment by which it was met. He attributed no personal design to Lord J. Russell, but observed, "I am sure that the noble lord will not feel offended with me if I tell him that I think there is one quality in his character which has rather marred

than made his fortune. It is a sort of restlessness which will not brook that delay and that patience which are sometimes needed in our constitutional Government for the conduct of public affairs. (Hear, hear.) The moment that the noble lord is not in power he appears to me to live in an atmosphere of coalitions, combinations, *coups d'état*, and cunning resolutions. (Cheers and a laugh.) An appropriation clause may happen to every man once in his life. (Renewed cheers and laughter.) But there is only one man living of whom it can be said that in 1835 he overthrew the Government of Sir R. Peel upon an impracticable pretext; that in 1852 he overthrew the Government of Lord Derby with an objectless coalition; that in 1855 he overthrew the Government of Lord Aberdeen by a personal *coup d'état*; and that in 1857 he overthrew the Government of the member for Tiverton by a parliamentary manœuvre. (Cheers.) Now, I beg the noble lord at this moment to throw the vision of his memory for an instant back to the year 1852. He sat before me then, the head of a mighty host. He drew the fatal arrow that was to destroy our Government. He succeeded. He destroyed in breathless haste the Government of Lord Derby; but did he destroy anything else? Did he not destroy also the position of a great statesman? Did he not destroy almost the great historic party of which he was once the proud and honoured chief? (Cheers.) What has the noble lord done now; and what is the moment he has chosen for this party attack—an attack which it was not necessary to the vindication of his policy, or for the assertion of those principles which I believe he sincerely holds? What is the moment which the noble lord has chosen to precipitate this struggle? It is the most critical in the history of the affairs of this country that has existed for many years. The noble lord could not be ignorant of it. He knows that some weeks ago I came down and informed the House that important negotiations were pending. He has other means of information beyond the communications which are made to this House by the servants of the Crown. The noble lord, I doubt not, is well informed of the present state of foreign affairs. He could not have been unmindful of them even in that address on the introduction of his resolution, which, though it related merely to domestic subjects, furnished the noble lord with an opportunity to cast a sneer against that Minister to whom is entrusted at this moment the most awful responsibility that can be conceived. (Cheers.) At a moment when it was of vital importance that the authority of the Government should not be assailed—at a moment when, of all other men, the Minister for Foreign Affairs should not be held up to public scorn—the noble lord chooses such a moment for a party attack and a personal sneer. (Cheers.) Sir, I should not be acting with frankness to the House, if I concealed from it that the conduct of the noble lord has been most embarrassing to the Government. (Loud cheers.) I declare, upon my responsibility as a Minister, that the conduct of the noble lord has produced injurious effects upon the public service." (Renewed cheering.) Alluding, finally, to the position of the Ministry, the Chancellor of the Exchequer touched briefly upon the chief questions with which they had had to deal since their entrance upon office, during which period they had, he submitted, administered the affairs of the country sedulously and successfully. "The noble lord," said he, "has talked, and he always does talk, about a dissolution of the present Parliament. These are words that cannot escape my lips, and I must, with the permission of the House, refrain from touching upon such a theme. But I may be permitted to say, in answer to the noble lord, that, if in the course of time the present servants of the Queen find themselves upon the hustings before their constituents, I, for one, have that confidence in a great and generous nation that I believe at such an hour they will not forget the difficulties under which we undertook the administration of affairs, nor perhaps be altogether unmindful of what under such difficulties we have accomplished for their welfare. (Cheers.) It is by our conviction in the justice of the people of England, it is because we believe in the power of public opinion, that we have been sustained in this House during our arduous struggle, and are sustained, even at this moment, amid all the manœuvres of parliamentary intrigue, and all the machinations of party warfare. (The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheering.)

At a quarter to one, the SPEAKER having put the question, the House proceeded to a division. (The greatest excitement prevailed, and upwards of 600 members were present. At length the tellers made their appearance, and then there were cries of "Order, order!" and "Bar, bar!" As the tellers took their places, it was seen in an instant on which side the majority lay, and as they advanced to the table a vociferous cheer, in anticipation of the actual

result, rose from the Opposition side. The numbers were—

For the second reading of the bill ... 291  
For Lord J. Russell's resolution ..... 330

Majority for the resolution ..... 39

As the numbers were announced, the house again rang with a triumphant shout from the Opposition benches. It will be perceived by the division that 621 members were in attendance—a number unprecedented, except on an extraordinary occasion, such as this.

The Resolution was then put, when

Mr. WYLD moved as an amendment to add, "and that at any election of a member or members to serve in Parliament the votes shall be taken by ballot."

Mr. H. BERKELEY rose amidst much confusion; he declined to support the motion, as not being brought forward at a proper time and in a proper manner.

Mr. M. GIBSON and Mr. CLAY in vain endeavoured to be heard, and the latter moved the adjournment of the debate; but this motive was negatived, and the House divided upon Mr. Wyld's amendment, which was negatived by 328 to 98.

The Resolution was then agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to two o'clock, until Monday.

#### GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

At the Kingston Assizes on Monday, a case, "*Grenville v. Richardson and Wife*," was brought before the court, but it was not gone into, an arrangement having been effected between the parties. The plaintiff was Miss Pauline Granville, the daughter of the eminent physician in Curzon-street, and the defendant, Mr. Charles Richardson, was a solicitor. The action was brought to recover damages for a libel that had been published by his wife in certain letters and a printed pamphlet. In consequence of these libellous statements, a marriage that was in contemplation between the plaintiff and a gentleman of position had been broken off, and she was compelled to bring the action to vindicate her character. The defendants now admitted that the letters were written under a misapprehension, and not only expressed regret for having written them, but they were willing to submit to a verdict of £1,000 as compensation for any injury plaintiff might have suffered through them.

In the Rolls Court on Saturday was tried the case of *Bradbury and Evans v. Dickens and Wills*. The plaintiffs are the publishers and part proprietors of *Household Words*, and filed a bill against Mr. Charles Dickens and Mr. Wills for a dissolution of the partnership in that periodical. The present was an interlocutory motion to restrain Mr. Dickens from publishing an advertisement to the effect that *Household Words* would be discontinued after May next. For the plaintiffs, it was contended that however valuable Mr. Dickens's services as editor may have been, the periodical did not cease to exist on his secession, and that he had no right to damage its future prospects by announcing its discontinuance. Counsel for Mr. Dickens, argued that the title "*Household Words*," conducted by Charles Dickens," showed that the identity of the publication depended on Mr. Dickens being the editor, and that no future publication under the name *Household Words* could be regarded as a continuation of the same work. The Master of the Rolls said, "The property in a literary work is, I believe, confined to the mere title, and the title to this work is *Household Words*, and that is settled in a partnership; and accordingly that is part of the partnership assets, and that may be sold, such as it is, provided it has any existence. Now, I think, as I stated to Mr. Selwyn and to Mr. Hobhouse, that putting in the words 'by me,' or 'by the editor,' or 'by the authors,' which is another expression that may be used, after the word 'discontinued' in the fourth line of the address, and 'by him' or 'by the editor' after the word 'discontinued' in the last line of the address, would make the matter free from all cavil. Mr. Palmer presses on me very strongly that Mr. Dickens has no power to put an end to the work; but I am not clear that he has not. I am not clear that his mere retirement will not *ipso facto* annihilate it, and that it is not considered entirely and solely associated with his name, and that in point of fact the name, '*Household Words*,' would be literally worth nothing as soon as it is perfectly well known that he has nothing more to do with it. That one cannot tell till the result shall happen; but I am satisfied the statement that he has nothing more to do with it is properly represented by saying 'it is discontinued by me,' and that that does not impart the fact that it is discontinued absolutely and positively, because it merely asserts that he himself, so far as he has anything to do with it, has discontinued; and I think that is all that the plaintiff is entitled to

require. Accordingly, upon Mr. Dickens undertaking in the future advertisements to be published, to put those words in, or equivalent words, I will make no order at all upon this motion, but reserve the costs of it till I see what the result is when the partnership property comes to be disposed of."

At the Mansion House a deputation waited upon the Lord Mayor, to complain to him of the nuisance created in Bride-lane by the large number of betting men who congregate there daily, and choke up the thoroughfare. The Lord Mayor appeared to doubt whether the law gave him power to interfere; and after expressing his sympathy with the objects of the deputation, he said that he should take time to consider the matter.

Sir R. W. Carden has made his appearance at the Mansion House, to report that the money which had been contributed on behalf of Frances Johnston had been expended in providing a business for that person and her sister. He expressed a hope that those who had taken an interest in her case would become her customers.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, a trade assignee was chosen under the bankruptcy of Richard Bedford Allen, insurance broker, and underwriter at Lloyd's. The liabilities are widely estimated at from 20,000*l.* to 60,000*l.*, while the assets amount to only 700*l.* The bankrupt has absconded.

In the Divorce Court, on Wednesday, an application was made on behalf of Mr. Cherry, for an attachment to issue against Mrs. Cherry, who had refused to obey the decree of the Court ordering her to return to her husband. The Court issued an order calling upon her to comply with the decree within a week. In the event of her neglecting to do so an attachment will issue.

Edward Mortimer, "gentleman," of Russell-court, St. James's, and Thomas Robert Marshall, army clothier, Jermyn-street, were brought on warrant before Mr. Henry, at Bow-street Police-court, charged with illegally obtaining 400*l.* for the sale of a commission in the army. The prosecution is instituted by the War Office, and there is another party implicated, not yet in custody. Preliminary evidence sufficient to procure a remand was offered, and the case adjourned, permission to put in bail to the amount of 1,000*l.* each being granted.

Several men suspected to be a gang, or portion of a gang, of forgers and coiners were examined yesterday at Marlborough-street Police-court, on a charge of uttering forged bankers' cheques and having in their possession a large quantity of counterfeit coin. The names of those in custody are Foster, Wagner *alias* Curtis, Humphreys, and Branscock. Information received from a man employed by them to carry a forged cheque to the Union Branch Bank of London led to their apprehension and the seizure of a considerable amount of various denominations of base money. Mr. Beadon remanded the prisoners till Wednesday next.

#### CRIMINAL RECORD.

A FEARFUL tragedy was enacted at West Bromwich on the 25th ult. A miner, named John Corbett, who had parted from his wife after living with her six years, prompted by jealousy, sought an interview with her, when he cut her throat with a large knife, causing her immediate death, and then inflicted a fearful wound on his own throat, so that he is not expected to survive.

The *Halifax Courier* says that it is actually intended to present a testimonial to the man Hodgson, of Shipley, from whose shop was purchased the arsenic used in the lozenges which poisoned so many people in Bradford some months ago.

#### ACCIDENTS.

A DREADFUL fire occurred on the 25th ult. at Bury-lane Mill, near Leigh, Lancashire, belonging to Messrs. F. and R. Gill, manufacturers, by which three persons lost their lives, and others were injured, and property to the amount of about £100,000 was destroyed.

A fearful explosion occurred at the Hounslow powder mills of Messrs. Curtis and Harvey, on Wednesday. The precaution to prevent accident seemed to be perfect, and the origin of the disaster is a mystery. Six men were killed instantaneously, another died of his wounds soon after, and many are hurt, more or less seriously. Medical gentlemen arrived speedily to render aid to the wounded. The bodies of the killed were torn in pieces, and carried by the force of the explosion to a great distance. About 320 men, women, and boys were engaged in the various departments at the time, who rushed about in a frantic state of terror when the buildings blew up.

#### IRELAND.

The Marquis of Waterford has met with his death, in the prime of life by accident. The *Kilkenny Moderator* says:—"This melancholy event took

place on Tuesday afternoon, while hunting with his own hounds. In leaping a small fence, not much more than two feet high, the marquis's horse missed its hind-legs on the bank and dropped his fore-legs into a small cut on the other side, which threw the animal on its knees, so that his lordship was thrown off on his head, apparently without much force or violence. He lay on his face, his hunting-cap having a dent in the top, but there was no cut or bruise on the head; he never after spoke. He lived about ten minutes. Death resulted from concussion of the brain. The marquis dying without any issue, his vast estates descend to his brother, the Rev. Lord John Beresford, who holds a large living in the arch-diocese of Armagh."

At Belfast the grand jury have found true bills against all the accused in the Phoenix club cases.

The vacant judgeship of the Landed Estates Court, it is said, will be conferred upon Mr. Conway Dobbs, the member for the borough of Carrickfergus. The place was offered in the first instance to Mr. Jonathan Henn, Q.C., chairman of the county of Donegal, but was refused by that able lawyer on the ground of advanced age.

The *Weekly Register* publishes the names of the Irish members who intend to vote for the second reading of the Government Reform Bill. We find in the list such names as Mr. Brady, Mr. Maguire, and the O'Donoghue.

The trials of the Phoenix conspirators, are still going on at Tralee and Belfast. The adjourned assizes at Tralee began on Wednesday, and Daniel Sullivan was arraigned to take his trial for the second time. The court refused to postpone these political trials, and a good deal of argument was gone into about the legal composition of the jury. The Crown ordered fifteen jurors to stand aside, and the trial proceeded, with what result cannot yet be known. A batch of more than a dozen prisoners were put upon their trial, on Thursday, and in the absence of the Attorney-General the case against them was stated by Sir Thomas Staples. The witnesses called were informers, whose cross-examinations were prolonged and minute.

The visit of Signor Gavazzi to the town of Galway, where the population is almost exclusively of the Roman Catholic persuasion, has been followed by a very disgraceful outbreak of religious fanaticism, which at one time assumed a very alarming aspect, and it appears that up to yesterday the excitement had not altogether subsided.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, accompanied by the Select Committee of Woolwich Arsenal, went to Shoeburyness last week, and directed a course of experiments to test the merits of a fuse and improved shrapnel-shell, his recent inventions. The issue of the experiments was favourable. Some of the shells were fired from a 12-pounder Armstrong gun, over a range of 3,000 yards. The mere contact with the surface of the water on which it alighted caused the desired explosion of the shell.

An improvement has been made in the construction of the new French steam gunboats. After various trials it has been determined to cover the porthole with an iron shield. Even with this additional weight it is said that these boats will not draw more than three feet of water.

On Monday afternoon at Chatham, the remains of the late Captain R. H. Fry, 15th Regiment, were interred with military honours. Captain Fry only entered the service in 1854.

His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief will hold a levee at the Horse Guards at one o'clock on Thursday, the 7th inst.

On Tuesday the Duke of Cambridge reviewed the whole of the troops now quartered at Chatham. The total force on the ground numbered nearly 5,000 bayonets. The centre of the line was occupied by the three battalions of infantry, the first under the command of Colonel H. Jervis, the second under Col. R. N. Phillips, and the third under Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Fairclough. The corps of Royal and East India Engineers, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. G. Ross, occupied the left wing, and the Royal Marine Light Infantry, under T. O. C. Moore, were formed on the left. His Royal Highness seemed most pleased with the Royal Marines, the Chatham division being among the finest and best disciplined corps in the service. The marching of this battalion was excellent, the companies, which are very strong, coming up to the saluting post, like a solid wall. After the marching past of the troops, which occupied upwards of half-an-hour, the entire force were put through a variety of manœuvres by his Royal Highness, who ordered all the movements himself. One of the colonels made two or three mistakes in the movements of the day, which were quickly detected by the Duke, who on the first occasion rebuked the colonel before the whole of the troops, and on the second occasion addressed to the officer some exceedingly sharp observations, intimating to him that

he did not know his duty. After putting the troops through about 30 movements, which occupied three hours, his Royal Highness directed the whole of the commanding officers to be assembled before him on the ground, when he addressed Major-General Eyre, informing him that he was thoroughly satisfied with the well-disciplined state of the troops under his command. The 1st battalion had done exceedingly well; it appeared to be well-commanded and officered, and the men in every respect very efficient. He could not say the same of the 2nd battalion, which appeared to him to be ill-commanded. The 3rd battalion had done exceedingly well, but certainly not so well as the 1st battalion. The Royal Marines and the Royal Engineers were both excellent.

The new rifled Ordnance Department, at Woolwich for manufacturing Sir W. Armstrong's guns, will commence operations early in the month of May. Sir W. Armstrong, it is said, has expended upwards of 7,000*l.* on the initiatory experiments to test the efficiency of his invention.

The *Mersey*, 40, screw-frigate, Captain H. Caldwell, C.B., being fitted at Portsmouth, it is expected will shortly make a further trial of her powers under steam, with a coarser pitch of her screw, and also with less boiler power, &c.

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

##### FRANCE.

Count Cavour's arrival has been the great event of the week in Paris. He has had repeated interviews with the Emperor, the purport of which are kept a profound secret. We are told that he appears very well pleased, is in high spirits, and confident of success in the object of his visit. He has dined with the Emperor since his arrival *en tête à tête*; not even Prince Napoleon, much less M. Walewski, was present. That the latter should be dispensed with, say the Parisians, no one wonders: he is the occupant of the *Hôtel des Affaires Etrangères*, &c., but has really as little to do with any serious question of politics as the statue of Spartacus in the garden of the Tuileries. Count Cavour, it is believed in Paris, looks forward with confidence to war between France and Austria. The Marquis d'Azoglio, Sardinian minister to the Court of St. James's, has also been to Paris.

It has been asserted the Conferences on the affairs of the Danubian Principalities would assemble at Paris. Two sittings only will be held, all the Powers having agreed to recognise the election of Prince Couza.

Another fire has occurred in the forage stores at Vincennes, and damage done to the extent of 2,000 francs. "Cause of accident unknown," say the official reports.

The grand review of the troops occupying the first military division of the empire will, it is now said, be held on Sunday next.

The *Patrie* thinks the *Times* premature in announcing that M. Walewski and M. Drouyn de L'Huys are to be the plenipotentiaries for France in the forthcoming Congress. "If we are well informed," says this journal, "nothing has yet been decided upon the subject."

The *Patrie* states that the French Government has decided upon adding a fourth battalion to each of the hundred infantry regiments of the line—in other words, that the army is to be increased by 80,000 men. The review of the army of Paris is announced for to-morrow.

Viscount de Beaumont Vassy, formerly Prefect of the Aisne, and a master of requests in the Council of State, and the author of "*L'Histoire de mon Temps*," has been arrested on the double charge of having received money from a third party for the purpose of corrupting some clerks in the War-office, and of not having duly applied the funds so entrusted to him. He is now in Mazas prison.

A clerk in Rothschild's house was arrested the other day on a charge of having embezzled a sum of 100,000 fr. While being examined in the office of the Commissary of Police, he contrived to stab himself with a knife in two places, and he now lies in a hopeless state.

The Austrian Government has refused Baden-Baden, we hear, as the seat of the proposed Congress. The French Government leaves the choice of the town to Austria, reserving only the condition that it must be in communication with Paris by railway and telegraph.

Another Paris correspondent says, that the reported creation of an additional battalion to the 100 regiments of infantry in France turns out to be a mere re-arrangement of the existing forces, the additional battalion being made up of companies taken out of the other three—a practice adopted when the troops are intended for active service.



The French Government have just advertised for a large quantity of brandy, to be delivered on or before the 27th April.

The *Dresden Journal* states that the Five Powers may be regarded as having agreed to the preliminaries of the approaching Congress. The day of assembling will probably be the 30th inst., but the place of meeting is not yet settled.

## AUSTRIA.

It is not yet known who will represent Austria at the Congress. Count Hartig is spoken of. The Count, who, some sixteen or eighteen years ago, was Stadtholder of Lombardy, is a very able man, and knows Italy and her ailments well. The probability, however, is that Count Buol will himself attend the Congress. Although Austria has promised to attend the Congress, she is not inclined to think peace will be maintained, and consequently continues her armaments. There are now, or will be by the end of the month, thirty-five regiments of the line in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom.

It is said that General Hess is doing all in his power to divert Francis Joseph from war. "If we have to fight against Italy and France," he is declared to have said on a recent occasion, "we are inevitably lost. If we have allies, the war will become general, and then who can tell where it will stop?" The Emperor does not, it seems, pay much heed to the marshal, and is still ardently in favour of showing his strength. War, then, seems inevitable, despite all the efforts of mediators.

We learn from Venice that information had just reached that city that the colonel of a Hungarian regiment had been tried by court-martial, and sentenced to be shot at Verona, for having attempted to persuade his regiment not to fight against the Italians. The sentence, we regret to add, was immediately carried into effect.

A Vienna letter, in the *Lloyd* of Pesth, states that Austria has addressed a note to Piedmont, demanding the extradition of the Venetians who have been received there contrary to treaties.

Letters from Piacenza announce that on the 25th ult., 1,200 Austrians, with 50 cannons, 150 barrels of resin, and a great quantity of Congreve rockets, arrived there. The church has been converted into a flour magazine.

The *Opinione* states that the Austrians have occupied two villages, Reggiolo and Volo, belonging to the duchy of Modena.

## SARDINIA.

With regard to the sudden visit of Count Cavour to Paris, a correspondent at Turin writes—"I am assured that the President of the Council intended to protest in his Majesty's name against the humiliating and unjust exclusion of Sardinia from a Congress, which is the direct consequence of the maxims laid down in that of Paris. Victor Emmanuel has written a most energetic protest, and has not concealed his indignation. When Count de Cavour left it was his intention to be back in Turin on Tuesday, the 29th ult.

A later despatch informs us, upon "unquestionable authority," that Sardinia will be admitted to the congress.

## TUSCANY.

At Florence there is great excitement. The *Tuscan Monitor* of the 23rd ult. suspends the little liberty of the press that was left, and re-establishes the censorship. There was a talk of Baldasseroni's resignation and that of the other ministers; but it seems there is repentance and fear in the Pitti Palace. The new Minister of Public Instruction, Martini, demands the admission into the Government of two liberal chiefs, one of them being Lucchesi, they say. Landucci continues to be the soul of the reaction in the Austrian sense. Now that the freedom of the press is suspended, Tuscany will of course be inundated with secret publications.

The report is current that the Grand Duke has published a new manifesto, but its contents are not yet known.

## BELGIUM.

The Chamber of Representatives has terminated the discussion of the war budget for 1860, and has voted all the credits, to the amount of \$2,213,500 francs. The majority was 56 against 8; the number of representatives who did not vote having been six.

## NAPLES.

There is no fresh intelligence with regard to the health of the king. A letter of the 19th ult. says:—"He continues in a most wretched state, and I am assured on good authority, that he cannot live more than three months. His death is looked forward to with dread by his Government in the present critical state of affairs. In the case of war between France and Austria, a Murat occupation of Naples might ensue, a result much to be deprecated. In case of peace there might be a modification of the absolutist system. Meanwhile all things stagnate, and commerce is at an end."

## IONIAN ISLANDS.

The Lord High Commissioner has appointed a commission with the concurrence of the Senate, to inquire into all public departments, for the purpose of effecting such improvements as could be legally done by the Government. The commission was to meet for the first time on the 18th inst.

## PORTUGAL.

The latest advices inform us that the new ministry had only brought forward in the Cortes a bill to authorise the continuation of the State receipts and expenditure until the budget can be discussed and voted. The Ministerial explanations seem to have been satisfactory, and little doubt was entertained of the approval of the money bills. The Cortes is likely to close on the 2nd of April. It is believed that the railway will be put up to public competition.

Senor Fontes, it is said, will be Minister of Public Works, and Pimental will be Minister of the Interior.

Prince George of Saxony is shortly expected at Lisbon, to marry the Infanta.

The postal convention between England and Portugal is in course of final adjustment.

## GERMANY.

Among other reports, one has been circulated that the Congress will be assembled in the Grand Duchy of Baden.

From Frankfort we have the following dispatch, which we are told is "official":—"The federal assembly has voted supplies for arming the federal fortresses with necessary artillery. The *Ober-Post-ants-Zeitung* contains news from Stuttgart to the effect that Prince Frederick of Wurtemberg has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the 8th Federal Corps d'Armée."

## BAVARIA.

The *Munich Gazette* publishes officially the application of M. Von der Pfordten for his dismissal from the post of President of the Bavarian Ministry. The closing of the Chambers took place on Saturday. The Diet approved of all the bills which had been submitted to it. In the closing speech, the Government promised to take into consideration the wishes expressed by the Chambers; and stated that the demand relative to the liberty of the press had been sent to the Council of State.

## TURKEY.

On the 18th of March the Sultan reviewed a body of 6,000 men who are about to march for Roumelia. All the troops had been newly equipped. Three of the principals in the massacre of Djeddah have arrived at Constantinople, whither they had been sent to undergo their sentence. One of them, the Caimakan, or governor of the place, had formerly been attached to the household of the Sultan, and for that reason, although he and the two others were condemned to death, the commissions preferred sending them for the Sultan to decide on their fate. The illness of Ali Pacha, the Grand Vizier, caused serious disquietude to his friends.

## CANADA.

News from Toronto to the 18th ult. has been received. In the Canadian Parliament on the 17th, Mr. Buchanan's motion, that the House do not go into committee on the new tariff of the Inspector-General, was lost by a majority of thirteen. Mr. Buchanan's motion was looked on as a motion of want of confidence in the Administration. It is now probable that the new tariff will be passed with slight modifications. The Inspector-General stated that, when in committee, he would be willing to consider the propriety of deferring the operation of the new tariff for such a time as would enable the Upper Canada merchants to obtain their goods from the place of growth. This announcement, as well as the result on Mr. Buchanan's amendment, was received with loud cheers.

## AMERICA.

The *Jura* arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, with New York advices to the 15th ultimo.

A meeting of the Democratic Republican electors was held at Tammany-hall, New York, on the 14th, when resolutions favourable to the acquisition of Cuba were adopted.

The grand jury at Washington had examined witnesses in the Sickles case.

Louis Bene, a gentleman attached to the Prussian Legation, had committed suicide by shooting himself. He left a statement, alleging that he was apprehensive that he was troubled with disease of the heart, and a failure to receive remittances from Texas, where he owned large estates, impelled him to the act of self-destruction.

The *New York Herald* says:—"The financial officers of the Post-office department have submitted a statement to the President, by which it appears that the deficit in that branch of the public service amounts to six millions of dollars instead of three, as heretofore supposed, and that the department is at

this time six months in arrears. The President has this statement under consideration, and will, it is stated, on the 15th, indicate whether, in his opinion, an extra session of Congress is to be called."

A resolution was pending in the New York Legislature, authorising an additional canal loan of 3,500,000 dollars.

The Bremen has arrived at Southampton, with dates from New York to the 19th March. The political news is unimportant; the question of an extra session of Congress was still undecided.

The American Minister in China states that an extensive trade in Coolies is carried on between China and Cuba. The Coolies are entrapped and barbarously treated.

Sickles' trial for murder was to commence on the 22nd ult.

## MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 9th ult. state that a battle had been fought near Cordova, and the left wing of Miramon's army was completely routed by the liberals. Miramon lost 100 men killed, three cannon, 300 muskets, and a large quantity of ammunition. General Degollado was preparing to march on the capital with 10,000 men. The liberals had captured Guanajuato and Aguas Calientes.

A Washington telegram says:—"It is credibly ascertained that both England and France disclaim any other intention in sending naval forces to the coast of Mexico than to procure due reparation for wrongs to British and French subjects, and that it is not their purpose to take sides with or favour either of the contending Mexican governments. There is reason to believe the American Government is not apprehensive that anything will be done by them in conflict with the Munroe doctrine, or to shape the political institutions of that country."

The last advices from Vera Cruz communicate an order, addressed to the authorities at that port, by Senor Ocampo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, instructing them to set apart, and under no circumstances whatever to use, the moneys assigned to English and French subjects. Senor Ocampo had also issued a circular referring to the demands lately made by the English and French naval commanders. Their stipulation that agents nominated by the English and French creditors should be empowered to supervise the proceedings of the custom-houses, and to have free access to all books and other documents, was absolutely refused by the Mexican Government, upon the ground of its humiliating character. The minister states that President Juarez has been made aware of the irregularities which have occurred in the payments to the foreign creditors, affirms his anxious wish to satisfy all just claims, and declares that, in so far as his administration is concerned, these irregularities shall no longer be permitted. The intervention of the British naval forces has at once been productive of the good results anticipated.

## WEST INDIES.

## CUBA.

News from Havannah to the 9th ult. informs us that General William Walker, the filibuster, had arrived there, en route for Aspinwall and California.

## MOROCCO.

The *Gibraltar Chronicle* of the 19th ult. says:—"We learn from Tangier that the seven Spanish prisoners had been delivered over by the Moorish authorities to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires, and that salutes of 21 guns had been exchanged between the Spanish war steamer in Tangier Bay and the Moorish batteries. It is reported, too, that the differences which have for some time past formed the subject of discussion between the two governments, including the Mehilla boundary question, are in a fair way of being adjusted. The son of the Emperor of Morocco, after escorting the Spaniards to the environs of Tangiers, returned with his troops into the interior."

## WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Letters from Sierra Leone speak in strong terms of arbitrary measures which are being adopted to stifle public opinion in that colony. Some time ago several hundred of the inhabitants addressed a memorial to Sir E. B. Lytton, describing the grievances from which they suffered, and praying for a Commission of Inquiry and the establishment of representative institutions. It is stated that the officials are not content with getting up a counter memorial, but have adopted unjustifiable means to intimidate their opponents. Many of the poorer classes of the memorialists have been required to appear in the police court, and there severely censured by the magistrate; while attempts have been made to induce others to disavow their signatures, or to declare that they were appended in ignorance of the con-

tents of the memorial. Matters have arrived at such a pass that the intervention of the Secretary of State appears to be imperatively called for.

#### CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE Dane arrived on Monday, with Cape news to February 21. At the Cape prosperity was general. Peace had been maintained along the frontier. A communication had, however, just been received from Natal that war had broken out between Umballi, chief of the Imponda Messa tribe, and the Bacas. The former had lost about fifty men, and Umballi was making large preparations to retaliate.

There was a rumour that the citizens of the republic beyond the Vaal river intended the destruction of the chief Mahura and the stations of Moffat—the centres of those great preparations to which the attention of the world has so recently been drawn by Dr. Livingstone and other missionaries.

The first turf of a railroad from Cape Town to Wellington was to be cut by the end of March or beginning of April. A company had also been formed at Atala for the construction of a railway from D'Urban, and that was likely to be finished within the year; if so, it will be the first railroad in South Africa. Parliament was summoned for March 16.

The smallpox had disappeared as an epidemic from Cape Town.

The shipment of horses to India was proceeding rapidly.

The Rev. L. Lewis Grant was about to print a grammar of the Zulu language.

Three more Arab dhows, fitted only for the slave trade, had been captured and destroyed on the Mozambique coast, by the Lyra; and Captain Oldfield had been complimented by the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court on his vigilance and success in repressing this odious traffic.

Mr. C. R. Bigley, master's assistant of her Majesty's ship Triton, Lieutenant-Commander Barton, entered St. Helena on Sunday, the 27th February, in charge of a brigantine, name unknown, captured off Killongu, on the West Coast of Africa, lat. 4° 32' S., long. 10° 52' E. The Triton was at anchor when the brigantine was first discovered standing in shore; she altered her course immediately, and stood to sea. The Triton got up steam, and chasing all night, came up with her at 7 a.m. No colours were exhibited or papers produced. She was fully equipped for the slave trade, and had on board dollars to the value of 300*l*. Her captain came passenger, but was not likely to oppose condemnation.

The assets in sixteen banks at the Cape amount to 2,732,156*l*.

#### AUSTRALIA.

THE parliament of Victoria rose on the 17th of December, for the Christmas holidays, and re-assembled on the 11th of the following January. It was at first expected that the session would be a very brief one, and that after the rapid despatch of some necessary business, a dissolution would prepare the way for a new parliament, elected on the basis of the reform bill recently enacted. Several causes had conspired to disappoint this expectation. The opposition lose no opportunity of importing into the debates of the Assembly the most extraneous and irritating topics.

Of the labour market the *Melbourne Argus* says: "Every week the report from the labour offices in town is, that the demand is dull, and that many many more men are offering their services than are immediately required."

In railway affairs, the event of the month had been the opening of the first portion of the main line from Melbourne to Sandhurst. On the 13th of January this and the line to Williamstown were formally opened by the governor, accompanied by the members of Parliament, the city corporation, government officials, and some 3,000 persons.

The *Argus* reports that the gold market has been, as is usual at this season of the year, dull. Production has been at its lowest ebb, and the quantities disposed of by the miners have been small as compared with the general averages of previous years.

#### CHINA.

THE overland mail has brought us intelligence from Hong Kong to the 15th February, at which date Lord Elgin was at Canton. His lordship appears now fully alive to the necessity of quelling the war faction, and our troops have been constantly on the move, visiting the various villages in the neighbourhood of Canton. An expedition has just returned from Fayune, and another is projected on a grander scale, to explore the western branch of the Canton river as far as practicable. As to Lord Elgin's future movements little is known. Some say he will accompany the expedition up the Canton river along with Baron Gros, and then await the arrival of the new ambassador here; others affirm that he

will shortly return to Shanghai, and there be joined by Mr. Bruce. Meanwhile, such a force is being organised for the north as will most probably be required to make the Chinese fulfil the treaty of Tientsin.

Great surprise has been occasioned at Shanghai by Lord Malmesbury's dispatch regarding the trade with Japan. No vessel left for Japan before the 25th of October, and his lordship's dispatch is dated the 24th of November, when the latest date from Shanghai was the 20th of September.

#### COCHIN CHINA.

THE *Nord* contains a letter from Marseilles announcing the receipt of accounts from Cochin China to the 30th January. The admiral had left with the flotilla to commence operations in the South, and it was said that he intended to attack Saigon, a town which is considered as the granary of Cochin China, on account of the large trade in rice carried on from it to China. Hué was to be besieged as soon as the expected reinforcements had arrived.

#### THE NEW FRENCH COMMERCIAL CREDIT SOCIETY.

THE inauguration of the subscription for the new "General Society of Industrial and Commercial Credit," at Paris, may render interesting some details respecting the objects of the undertaking. The duration of the society is fixed in the statutes at thirty years. The society is authorised to discount commercial bills payable in France and abroad, to make advances on warrants for goods, issued in conformity with the law of the 28th of May, 1858, and on commercial instruments generally; to make advances on French funds and the shares and bonds of industrial undertakings to the extent of two-thirds of the value in the market; but these loans are not to be for a longer period than ninety days, nor to exceed in amount one-fifth of the paid-up capital plus one-half of the reserved fund. Advances may be made to French industrial companies for a period of six months, with a like limitation as to the aggregate amount. The society may make and receive payments of all kinds at home and abroad, open accounts current, and execute commission business in stocks and shares. Subject to the authorisation of the Minister of Finance, it may open for account of third parties subscriptions to public loans and industrial undertakings. As an important feature we notice that the society may receive, in the shape of current accounts, a sum equal to 150 per cent. of its paid-up capital and reserved fund, and may allow interest upon such balances, the aggregate amount of which may be extended, with the approbation of the Government. The aggregate of deposits, bills current, and paper in circulation bearing the society's endorsement is never to exceed six times the amount of paid-up capital and reserved fund. The capital is fixed at 60,000,000*fr*, or 2,400,000*l*, in 120,000 shares of 500*fr*, or 20*l* each. In the first instance, 80,000 shares, representing 1,600,000*l*, are to be issued, and, until these shall have been taken up and the first payment of 5*l* per share made thereupon, the society will not be definitively constituted. The liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount of the shares held. The directors are to be twenty-two in number, and the President is to be named by the Emperor.

THE EXILES.—The third party of the Neapolitan exiles arrived at Bristol on Saturday. They met with a reception equally enthusiastic with that which was accorded to their fellow exiles who had preceded them. A public meeting is to be held in the Bolton Town hall, on the 5th inst. to raise a fund for the relief of the unfortunate Neapolitans.

JOHN HUNTER.—The remains of Hunter, the physiologist, after reposing since 1793 in the vaults of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, were on Monday re-interred within the precincts of Westminster Abbey, on the north side of the nave, at the feet of Ben Jonson. The re-interment took place immediately after the afternoon service. The trustees of the Museum, the president and council of the College of Physicians, the president and council of the College of Surgeons, and several of the most eminent members of the medical profession, proceeded with the Dean of Westminster to the Jerusalem Chamber, where a procession was formed, which, as the organ pealed forth the "Dead March" in "Saul," proceeded to the north transept, where the remains were lying, and returned with them to the grave, into which they were lowered without any additional church ceremony. Among those present were Professor Owen, Professor Ferguson, Mr. Hephburn, Mr. Alexander, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Mr. J. M. Arnett, Mr. Luke, Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Coulson, Mr. J. F. Clarke, &c.

#### ANOTHER NILE EXPEDITION.

A letter from Marseilles states that a fresh expedition has been organised for discovering the source of the Nile. The expedition is conducted by M. Miani, a Venetian, who has lived at Cairo for the last ten years. He is a member of the Geographical Society of Paris, and the author of a map of the valley of the Nile. He has carefully studied the various difficulties attending his perilous enterprise. He came to France two months since to complete the *matériel* and the *personnel* of his expedition. The Emperor Napoleon authorised the Minister of War to deliver to M. Miani the arms and ammunition necessary for his escort. The director of the arsenal of Marseilles has consequently forwarded 100 flint muskets and 3,000 cartridges to Alexandria. The expedition is composed of the Parisian painter Dumas; Captain Peyhous, of the French commercial navy, whose mission is to make observations and fix the degrees of latitude and longitude, and to construct boats to traverse the lakes which the expedition may meet; of M. Poussel, of Avignon, secretary to the expedition, a physician, a naturalist and a chemist, who are now in Egypt. The expedition will fix its head-quarters at Kartoum, in Upper Egypt, a town in which about a dozen natives of Marseilles and Genoa reside. M. Miani is supplied with a formidable *matériel*, and his escort is to be numerous. He takes with him a quantity of French trinkets, to present to the chiefs of Arab tribes or to African princes, or for traffic. M. Miani's expedition has a double character—first scientific, and next commercial. M. Miani has already contracted with merchants in Paris for the delivery of elephants' teeth, gold dust, copper, coral, indigo, and lion, panther, leopard, and tiger skins, which are of great value in Paris. The members of the Miani expedition are armed with Minié rifles which kill at 1,000 yards, and with sabres similar to those of the Chasseurs de Vincennes, which fit to the rifles. They are likewise furnished with cuirasses and metallic masks, to protect them from the bite of poisonous insects. They also carry with them a supply of frightful masks calculated to terrify the most savage tribes. The members of the expedition, who will feed themselves as they can, and chiefly by the chase, will traverse Nubia, Sennaar, and Abyssinia. They expect to go far beyond the Equator, and to ascertain whether such a tribe of Negroes exists as the Niam-Niam; and, if they find protection, they will traverse Africa through its entire length, and come out on the coast opposite Zanzibar.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—The high stewardship of the University of Oxford, rendered vacant by the death of the Earl of Devon, has been conferred by the Chancellor (the Earl of Derby) upon the Earl of Carnarvon, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. His lordship was educated at Christ Church and graduated in 1852, when he took a first class in classics.

ELECTION ITEMS.—Sir M. F. F. Berkeley resigns for Gloucester, writing:—"My legal advisers inform me that, as I claim an existing peerage, I ought not to allow myself to be elected a member of the House of Commons. I feel that I have no alternative but to request the Reformers of Gloucester to choose another candidate."—At a meeting of the electors of Nottingham, it was resolved that communications should be addressed to the following gentlemen, with a view of obtaining one of them to be nominated at the next election for the borough.—Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. George Moore, and Mr. Layard.—It is said that, in the event of a dissolution, the friends of Sir John Young mean to return him as the representative for the county of Cavan.—Mr. Loftus T. Wigram, M.P., has formally notified his intention of resigning his seat for Cambridge University. The friends of Mr. Selwyn, Q.C., and Mr. Beresford Hope, have been actively canvassing for some days past.—There are five candidates in the field for the representation of Limerick city.—Major Gavan, Messrs. F. W. Russell, James Spaight, John Ball, and Henry O'Shea.—Major Windsor Parker has issued an address to the electors of West Suffolk, in which he states himself to be a conservative, and sincerely devoted to the interests of agriculture.—There are already three candidates in the field for Aylesbury. The conservatives are Mr. T. T. Bernard, the sitting member, and Captain R. Brine, R.E.; and Sir Richard Bethell, who has represented the borough for some years will start in the liberal interest. It is anticipated that Mr. T. Vernon Wentworth will also take the field in opposition to Captain Brine.—In the event of a dissolution the Conservatives of South Lancashire intend to bring forward the Hon. Augustus Egerton second son of the late Earl of Ellesmere, as a candidate, in opposition to Mr. John Pemberton Heywood.—Mr. Vincent Scully is to start again for the representation of the county of Cork.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE COURT.**—Her Majesty's stay at Osborne has at length terminated, and the Court returned to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday morning. The royal family continue in good health. On Wednesday evening the Queen and the Prince Consort were present at the performance of "King Henry the Fifth," at the Princess's Theatre; and on Thursday, her Majesty had a dinner-party. Among the guests were the Earl and Countess of Delawarr and the Earl of Malmesbury.

**NEW PEERS AND BARONETS.**—It is very natural and very legitimate of Lord Derby, before resigning office, to recommend to the Queen certain gentlemen of his own party for elevation to the peerage. The three new peers are, Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar, in Monmouthshire, a kind of chieftain of the Welsh Marches. The second is Mr. Egerton, of Tatton, in Cheshire, who, after the decision in the House of Lords upon the celebrated Will cause, divided the Bridgewater property with Lord Alford. He, too, is a man of large property, and a staunch Conservative. The third is Colonel George Wyndham, of Petworth, in Sussex. It would be superfluous to enlarge upon the territorial dignities and wealth of the Egremont family, or the manner in which they have devolved upon their present possessor. Not a word can be said against any of the gentlemen upon whom Lord Derby's choice has fallen. There will also be a promotion of Lord Derby's followers to the rank of the baronetcy; but the names are not yet announced.—*Times*.

**GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held yesterday at the King's Cross Station, for the purpose of considering several bills promoted by the company, and which are now pending in Parliament. E. B. Denison, Esq., M.P., the chairman of the Board of Directors, presided. The meeting was very thinly attended. The proceedings having been opened from the chair, the Bill No. I. was read *in extenso*. A discussion ensued, out of which a kind of infant storm made its voice heard, fully sustaining the characteristics of Great Northern annual hurricanes. The chairman interposed to keep the dissentients in order, and said that he had lived long enough to disregard the personal abuse that had been heaped upon him during the time he had been a director of the Great Northern Railway. An hon. proprietor observed, "I dare say: you have the impudence of 'Old Nick.'" (Laughter, and cries of "Order, order.") A little quiet having been restored, after a lengthened debate the bill was adopted, as were also the remaining ones, with the exception of three, which were not so perfect as the directors desire to make them.

**THE DE BEAUMONT VASSY AFFAIR.**—The judge of Instruction, M. Rohault de Fleury, is charged with the investigation of the case of Viscount de Beaumont Vassy, charged with swindling on a great scale. The *Journal De Havre* relates an amusing episode of this scandalous affair, which, though it reads like a chapter of "Robert Macaire," is really true. There lives in the Rue Richelieu a M. Babin, who lets out for hire masquerade and court dresses, of which he has the largest collection in Paris. About ten days ago an unknown individual came to his warehouse and selected the costume of a French general, which, on his paying the usual deposit was lent to him. Immediately after this simple event the review of the Imperial Guard was announced, and then a horrible idea, suddenly flashed across the conscientious mind of M. Babin. "Good God," said he to himself, "I have lent a general's uniform to a man whom I do not know. What if he should go to the Tuileries under false colours, and join the Emperor's Staff unobserved; what if he should be a conspirator!" M. Babin went straightway to the nearest commissary of police, to whom he confided his misgivings. An inquiry was set on foot, the result of which was that the false general was arrested just as he was stepping out of a board-room where Viscount de Beaumont Vassy was presiding over a general meeting of a newly-formed saltpetre company founded by himself. The meeting had been convoked for the ticklish purpose of voting a "call." In the very nick of time the "general" presented himself, and, addressing the chairman, said he was commissioned by the Minister at War to congratulate him upon the brilliant prospects of the company, and he begged at the same time to hand in his own subscription of 10,000*fr.* The Havre journal suggests that M. de Beaumont Vassy must be out of his mind, because his wife showed to the officers who came to arrest him, papers showing that she had an income of 80,000*fr.* a year. The argument is not conclusive. The wife of a Councillor of State has been arrested on some charge connected with this affair, and she is at this moment in the prison of St. Lazare.

The Earl of Minto is gradually improving in health after his recent severe illness.

**BANKERS' HALF HOLIDAY.**—A further very numerous meeting of gentlemen holding leading positions in the several London banks was held in the rooms of the Early Closing Association on Monday, in furtherance of the above object. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, the names of several important firms were given in, in addition to the influential list of houses who had previously expressed themselves as favourable to the banks closing on Saturday at two o'clock. It was also announced that some other leading firms, who had not signed the memorial had verbally expressed themselves as approving of the memorial.

**ROADS IN INDIA.**—The number of roads opened for traffic in the several Presidencies of India since the year 1848 is as follows, viz.:—In Madras, number of first-class roads, 13; length in miles, 2,222; number of miles constructed since 1848, 684; cost of construction and repair since 1848, 36,26,673 rupees; second and third class roads—number of miles constructed since 1848, 3,709½; cost, 52,46,944 rupees; canals, 512 miles; cost, 25,71,960 rupees. In Bombay, first-class roads, 188 miles; cost of construction, 14,72,995 rupees; second and third class roads, 3,721 miles; cost, 23,02,709 rupees. In Scinde, 1,929½ miles of first-class roads, cost, 1,51,569 rupees; and of second and third class roads, 1,835½ miles; cost, 1,97,425 rupees; canals, 223 miles; cost, 2,21,089 rupees. In Bengal, 64 miles of first-class roads; cost, 10,98,993 rupees; and 389 miles of second-class roads; cost, 4,46,472 rupees; second and third class roads, 3,853 miles; cost, 12,33,776 rupees; canals, 12 miles; at a cost of 79,572 rupees. In the Punjab, 1,141 miles of first-class roads; cost, 95,95,877 rupees; and second and third class roads, 9,285 miles; cost, 23,20,196 rupees.

## FACTS AND SCRAPS.

The Prince of Wales, on St. Patrick's Day, visited the Irish friars of St. Isidore, and the members of the Irish college at St. Agatha, wearing a large bunch of shamrock in his button hole. The Prince left the friars a handsome present. Archbishop Cullen attended the Prince to the door upon his departure.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Purves, were present in the House of Commons during part of the debate on Tuesday.

A grand fancy dress ball will be given at the Palace in May, in honour of the visit of the Prince and Princess Frederick William of Prussia.

The *Ceylon Times* understands "that Sir Charles McCarthy will be the bearer of 'Lankas' gift' to the Princess Frederick William. It will consist of a richly worked silver box, mounted on an elegantly carved ebony pedestal, and surmounted by a gold elephant. Beside the elephant will be placed bracelets set with the choicest pearls from the Aripoo Fishery."

The Right Hon. the Speaker will hold his second levee for the present session on Saturday next.

Last week a monument was erected in the south aisle of the choir of the cathedral at York, in memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the 33rd Regiment of Foot who fell during the Crimean war.

Lord Edward Cavendish, Lord Richard Grosvenor, and the Hon. E. Ashley were at Washington when the last letters were received. They purposed leaving for New Orleans, and afterwards would visit Cuba and California.

The Countess of Harrowby expired this week, in Grosvenor-square. Her Ladyship was married in 1823, to the Earl of Harrowby, by whom she leaves surviving issue Viscount Sandon, M.P.

During the absence of the Queen from town a number of workmen have been employed in renovating the grand hall of Buckingham Palace, portions of the staircase, and the picture-gallery.

Alexander Dumas is already turning his Eastern travels to account. "Episodes of the Wars of the Caucasus" is the title of the novel in which they are embodied. The work seems to be of the usual *feuilleton* kind, with the customary number of short lines and long exclamations, such as we always find in this sort of fiction out of breath.

The Rev. Mr. Binney has been lecturing in Melbourne and its suburbs with great success.

A meeting has been held at Delhi, at which it was resolved to erect "a plain and handsome monument in the Delhi Churchyard over the remains of the victims of the massacre of May, 1857, which have been recovered and there interred."

The *Calcutta Phoenix* reports that the ex-King of Oude will shortly be released from confinement, and permitted to return to his house in Garden Reach. The premises are being refitted for his reception.

With the close of spring (says the *Friend of China*) the Bishop of Victoria leaves Hong Kong on a voyage to Japan. His lordship proposes to remain for a considerable period, procuring materials for a report on the capabilities of that little known field for the introduction of Christian missionaries.

The amount subscribed towards the gift to Burns's nieces, the Misses Begg, as advertised in the Ayr papers, is upwards of 560*l.*

Several French officers have been sent to Moldavia and Wallachia to drill the Roumans.

The private view of the French Exhibition will be given on Saturday.

Mr. Hayne, of Exmouth, has died, leaving the Devon and Exeter Hospital a legacy of 15,000*l.*, and large sums to the Blind, and Deaf and Dumb Institutions of Exeter.

Among other additions to the South Kensington Museum, there have been lately acquired several interesting specimens from the Museum of the Collegio Romano.

The Young Men's Christian Association is endeavouring to obtain the commodious premises now known as the Whittington Club, in order to make it the central institution, the large hall being well adapted for special Sunday services.

His Excellency Mr. Reed, late Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to China, has arrived in Paris.

The chief of a band of gipsies encamped near Indianapolis offers the hand of his daughter, with a dowry of 10,000 dollars, to any respectable man that will marry her.

The Rev. Dr. Cumming, of the Scotch Church, London, is to preach at the Oratoire, Paris, on the afternoon of Sunday next. Several gentlemen, we are told, have agreed to act as office-bearers, whatever that may be.

The Duke de Larochefoucauld has had a bad fall from his horse; an arm is broken, and he is otherwise seriously injured.

Prince Alexis Soltykoff, a Russian nobleman well known in English society, died suddenly at Paris, on Friday, of apoplexy.

Last summer, says the *Globe*, when the Emperor visited Count Walewski, at his villa of Etioles, he saluted his eldest boy with the title of Count d'Etioles. His Majesty did not know that it was Rachel's son whom he addressed, but the boy keeps the title, and still forms one of the family circle, as all Paris knows.

The International Congress on Telegraphs which met last year at Berne, is to meet this year at Paris, at the request of the French Government.

**THE CRINOLINE NUISANCE.**—The rustling of crinoline the other evening in the House of Commons was so noisy, perhaps owing to the bad and stiff quality of the cranks, levers, pulleys, and double joints, &c., used in this machinery, that the members thought that it was a storm of rain, and looked up in inquiry and doubt, till they were reassured as to the fact by a bevy of beauties just depositing themselves in their seats.—*Court Journal*.

Yesterday the Duchess of Kent left Frogmore Lodge, for St. James's Palace. Her Royal Highness afterwards paid her Majesty a visit at Buckingham Palace.

The Abyssinians received a few days back by the Emperor are the same that a short time back had an audience of the Pope, to lay their homage at his feet as converts to the Roman Catholic church. They are still accompanied by the Abbé Sapeto, acting as their interpreter, and who has been for twenty years a missionary in their country.

Donati's comet, which created such a sensation last autumn, is now stated by the French scientific journals to have two tails. The second one was not remarked by the observers of Paris.

The Recordership of Norwich, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. M. Prendergast, Q.C., has been conferred upon Mr. P. F. O'Malley, Q.C. The emolument of the office is less than 100*l.* per annum.

The Doon has been in such a swollen state, that few salmon have been killed, although there is a great appearance of numbers. Lord Ailsa killed several fine salmon last week at Cassillis with the rod, one weighing 11½ lbs.

It is announced that M. Meyerbeer's new opera, to be called the *Pardon de Placemel*, will positively be produced at the Opera Comique to-night.

"The Prince of Wales," says a letter from Rome of the 26th ult., "continues to enjoy excellent health, and to visit with unshaking interest the treasures of art and archaeology with which Rome abounds. His royal highness has derived the greatest gratification from the contemplation of the Colosseum by moonlight."

The Earl of Sefton and Sir George Wombwell will shortly leave town for Rome and the Italian States.

## LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &amp;c.

## LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

It is not merely the fact that we are arrived at that lull in publishing matters which precedes the great doings in May and the opening of the London season; but it is plain that the absorbing interest which is excited by matters altogether non-literary has produced an unnatural scarcity of those topics to which this article is usually addressed. Precluded by a sense of propriety from commenting upon matters of mere personal interest upon the one hand, and by the utter absence of specific facts on the other, our condition is only to be paralleled by that miserable dilemma in which the children of Israel found themselves when they were required to make bricks without straw, and were not even allowed a scanty modicum of chaff for a substitute.

Perhaps the most interesting event of the week—though it is certainly one which will be cared for in a very limited circle only—has been the commencement of the sale of the Libri MSS. at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's Rooms, in Wellington-street. To the uninitiated observer, strolling in accidentally to wile away an hour over the sale, in the expectation of watching the fluctuating biddings and the eagerness of the bidders, it would be a disappointment to find the whole matter in the hands of some twelve or fifteen very ordinary-looking personages, disposing of the whole business in a very calm, unconcerned, and undemonstrative manner. No excitement, no anxiety, none of that eager covetousness which distinguishes a sale which is attended by wealthy buyers, by the amateurs themselves, and where the conclusion of a vehement struggle for the mastery is greeted by a round of applause. In point of fact, almost the only attendants at the Libri sale are dealers, with commissions, of course, from great collectors and national collections, and these gentlemen very naturally get the matter over with as little trouble and excitement to themselves as possible. The truth is, that at all these sales the intervention of an agent is absolutely necessary; for, independently of the fact that they have a better understanding among themselves than outside buyers can possibly have, they are invaluable in keeping secret the identity of the actual purchaser, which is a point of infinite importance. Were it known, for instance, that the British Museum or the Bibliotheque had determined upon having a book, the price might be run up against them to a ruinous extent. In spite, however of the secrecy preserved, we believe that the British Museum and Sir Thomas Phillips have been the great purchasers in the first four days' sale. During the early part of the first day, the prices ranged ridiculously low; but an influx of orders from the country and abroad made a great change in the aspect of affairs, and it is now thought that the entire collection will not fetch much less than £8,000. Among the lots, which excited the greatest amount of competition we may notice a vellum MS. of the venerable Bede's Commentary on St. Mark, which fetched 124*l.*; a splendid manuscript of the Epistles and lesser works of St. Cyprian, belonging to the eighth century, which brought 170*l.*; a paper Dante, 58*l.*; a fine Greek manuscript of the Evangelists, with various readings, 174*l.*; an Armenian vellum copy of the Evangelists, with illuminated calendar and letters, 90*l.*; a Latin Gospel on vellum, with a preface of Hieronymus, 150*l.*; an illuminated Gospel, 100*l.*; a MS. of an unpublished work of Galileo, entitled "De Mundi Sphæra cum Figuris," in his own handwriting, 101*l.* (this was purchased for the British Museum); a Hebrew MS. on the Pascal Feast, with Spanish illuminations, 108*l.* The sale will not be concluded until next Tuesday.

We should be at a loss to pronounce upon the most compact book which has appeared during the week. With scarce an exception, they have been of a slight or ephemeral character—pamphlets, novels, and the like. Perhaps the most curious is that of a little brochure published by

Messrs. Kent and Co., a monograph on rabbit-cooking, by an English gourmet. This amateur of the timid inhabitant of the warren gives no less than one hundred and twenty-four distinct ways of cooking rabbits!

Next week we have forthcoming a new novel by the talented author of "It is Never too Late to Mend." We understand that *this time* Mr. Reade will be really original, and will give a practical answer to those contumers who assert that he is obliged to trade upon borrowed capital. The name of this coming book is a proof that he has not lost his predilection for proverbial titles; it is, "Love Me Little, Love Me Long," and is intended to illustrate the lesson which Davie Gellatly gave to young Waverley, that the passions of young men are like blazing straw, and that which burns not so brightly hath more enduring heat.—

"Young man's wrath is like light straw on fire,  
Heard ye so merrily the little bird sing;  
But like white-hot steel is the old man's ire,  
And the throstle-cock's head is under his wing."

Another candidate for fame in the field of fiction is Mr. H. F. Chorley, who has ridden many tournaments in the lists of literature before this; though (sooth to say) he has always been worsted hitherto. Mr. Chorley is said to have chosen for this new venture "the wrongs of the women in the higher classes." As it may be fairly presumed that he never would have undertaken such a subject without a proper knowledge of the subject, some amount of success may be at last expected.

Among other announcements are a volume of poems by Mr. Garnett, of the British Museum Library, called "To, and other Poems." Mr. Garnett has already earned some laurels by a little unpretending volume, entitled "Primula" (Hardwicke), which made its appearance anonymously last year, and attracted some notice. He is the son of Garnett, the linguist, also formerly of the British Museum.

A posthumous work of Hugh Miller's is also immediately forthcoming, entitled, "A Sketch-book of Popular Geology," consisting of lectures delivered at the Philosophic Institute of Edinburgh, and with a preface by his widow, herself no mean geologist. Messrs. A. and C. Black, of Edinburgh, will produce, on the 1st of May, the first volume of a new edition of Waverley, with most of the old engravings, and at a price reduced much below the last forty-eight volume edition.

It is pleasing to find that all gratitude is not yet extinct in the world. Lady Bulwer, grateful to Mr. Woodley, the proprietor and editor of the *Somerset County Gazette*, for his zealous advocacy of her rights during her late incarceration in an asylum, has presented her champion with a magnificent silver inkstand. May he never have occasion to use it in her service again!

The *Bookseller*, among other items of interesting intelligence, informs us that Mr. Edwards, formerly of the British Museum Library, more lately Chief Librarian of the Manchester Free Library, and the author of the great work on Libraries, lately published by Mr. Trübner, has taken to trade by joining the firm of Dunnill and Palmer, in Manchester.

Our French notes of novelties are but meagre. M. August Aubrey has published an interesting paper on the trial and execution of Ravallac, the murderer of Henri Quatre, as part of his series called "Le Tresor des piéces rares et inédites." There is a new *Gazette des Beaux Arts*, started under the editorship of M. Charles Blanc, the brother of M. Louis Blanc, and now (we believe) employed in the engraving department of the Bibliotheque Imperiale. It is now in its sixth number, and, from the specimens we have seen, is, both as to matter and illustrations, second to nothing of the kind that has ever been attempted.

We have to correct an error in stating that Mr. Baynes, the author of the masterly essays we lately reviewed, is an American. The Scotch are too proud to own him to allow this error to pass uncorrected.

## AMERICAN LITERATURE.

*Trübner's Biographical Guide to American Literature; a classed list of books published in the United States of America during the last forty years. With Bibliographical Introduction, Notes, and Alphabetical Index.* Compiled and edited by Nicholas Trübner.

Trübner and Co.

[CONCLUDED.]

Periodical literature, independent of such publications as more properly come under the denomination of newspapers, forms another class, and the names of the journals which it embraces fill seven pages. Indeed, newspapers and periodicals devoted to literature and science may very justly be called the foster parents of American literature, and, therefore, in a work like the present, they claim for themselves a careful and accurate classification. The first newspaper, or news-placard, as its originators designated it, which appeared in America, was printed at Boston, in 1689; but the first regular issue of it was in the autumn of the following year. This "News-placard" is one of the greatest of bibliographical curiosities, only a single copy of it being known, preserved in our State-paper Office, at Whitehall. It was rigidly suppressed, as it "came out contrary to law, and contained reflections of very high nature." By *high*, as applied in the language of the Circumlocution Office of that day, we presume we are to understand *offensive* to the Government, at the time quite sufficient ground for suppressing any newspaper at home. Freedom of the press was thus nipped in the bud, and it was not till fourteen years afterwards, in 1704, that the postmaster of Boston, John Campbell, produced the *Boston News Letter*, which is, properly speaking, the parent of American newspapers. That journal continued in existence till 1776, and its success called into being two rivals in 1719—the *Boston Gazette* and the *American Weekly Mercurie*—all three issued weekly, and the latter at Philadelphia. In 1754 Boston issued four weekly newspapers, representing the opinions of the New Englanders, the politicians from whom sprang "the Tea-party," to whom the declaration of American independence, in 1776 is mainly due. Pennsylvania and New York, also, each had two weekly papers in 1754, but it was not till after that declaration that the freedom of the press called into being a host of newspapers, and even in the first year of independence no less than thirty-four weekly newspapers were published in the young republic. In 1801 the number had increased to something like two hundred, several of which were issued daily. In the year 1810 the official report gives a total of three hundred and fifty-nine, of which twenty-seven were daily papers; and in 1850, the date of the last official statement, quoted in the volume, these had increased to two thousand eight hundred, with an annual circulation of between four and five hundred millions of copies. Since then it is estimated that the number of newspapers published in the United States is little less than four thousand.

Habits of thought once acquired by a people seldom lose their original nationality. We quite agree with the opening passage of Mr. Trübner's prolegomena:—

"The literature of a people takes its impress from their peculiar habits of thought, or it would not be national but universal. In no case is this more evident than in that of England, in all classes of which there is the unmistakable practical Anglo-Saxon sense as its chief characteristic. If we wish to understand these habits of thought of any nation, we must carefully study the gradual forms in which they have been developed, beginning with their beginning, and tracing them down to our own times. The coronation oath, which Dunstan prepared for the Anglo-Saxon king, is still, but slightly altered, the coronation oath of the sovereigns of England; and in casting the eye over the six volumes of Anglo-Saxon charters, collected by the late Mr. J. M. Kemble, one is forced to admit that, allowing for altered circumstances, the Anglo-Saxon mind of the tenth century bears a strong affinity to that of the Englishman of the nineteenth. If this be so with regard to English literature, how much more necessary is the knowledge of the sources which have served to form the habits of thought of the people of the United States of America, who, in little more than half a century,



have not only become our rivals, but our equals in literary composition, and in all the developments of science, in which vigour of mind and careful training of the intellect are the great and essential qualifications, if we would form a just estimate of Anglo-American literature."

We have never seen a work on the national literature of a people more carefully compiled than the present, and the bibliographical prolegomena deserve attentive perusal by all who would study either the political or the literary history of the great republic of the west. These prolegomena furnish lists of all bibliographical books relating to America, and of all bibliographical books printed in America, including periodicals, catalogues, hand-books, and works devoted to special branches of literature, accompanied by analytical and literary notes, abounding in curious and important information. Of the great work of Beristain de Souza, the *Bibliotheca Hispano-Americana Septentrional*, printed at Mexico, in 1816-19, of which we believe not more than a dozen copies are known to exist, and which in America is valued at an almost fabulous price, the title pages and contents of all three volumes are set forth with minute accuracy, and a specimen of the author's style given. There is no copy of the work in the British Museum, and of the only two that we know of in this country, one has been kindly placed in our hands for a few days, which enables us to state that without a constant reference to the pages of "Beristain" no satisfactory history of New Spain can ever make its appearance; for the many revolutions which have succeeded one another so rapidly in that unhappy country have caused the destruction of numerous manuscripts and documents, which are only to be traced through the pages of this indefatigable compiler, whose work consists of 3,687 biographical and bibliographical notices, the latter particularly valuable to the future historian.

We started by saying that the literature of a colony may properly be said to belong to that of the parent state. A portion of the bibliographical introduction to Mr. Trübner's volume is occupied by an elaborate and valuable essay as a contribution towards a history of American literature, by Mr. Benjamin Moran, Assistant-Secretary to the American Legation, with whose views on the whole we coincide; for though he divides American literature into two colonial and two national periods, he admits that as an independent literature it only takes its rise about the period of the revolution. The first of the former he calls "the first colonial period," dating from 1639 to 1700. At first the Pilgrim Fathers and their immediate successors, from 1620 to 1639, were satisfied to circulate their sermons, prayers, moral essays, and polemical writings in manuscript, or to send them over to the mother country to be printed; and it was not till 1638 that Mr. Glover, a Nonconformist minister, ordered a small printing press and types from England. Its earliest production appeared in 1639, entitled "The Freeman's Oath," printed by Stephen Daye, a native of London, in January of that year. This American Caxton, however, was not as clever as his old and honoured namesake, the first printer of music in England, who lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and whose motto was, "Arise for it is Daye." Stephen Daye seems to have ignored that motto, and was not only a bad hand at case, but a slow one to boot; for the "Bay Psalm Book," the first book ever printed in America, did not appear till a year later. Other publications of a religious nature followed, amongst which a translation of the Bible into the language of the aborigines is every way the most important. This translation was made by "the reverend and pious John Eliot, the indefatigable and faithful minister of Ripon," as he is called by Lensden, and was printed at Cambridge, in Massachusetts, in 1661-3, and reprinted in 1680-5. Both editions are of considerable rarity, and the latter led to the establishment of "twenty-four Red Indian churches in Boston, over which twenty-four Red Indian ministers" presided, to whom the celebrated John Lensden dedicated his Hebrew and English Psalters, in 1688.

Mr. Moran commences "the second colonial period" with the year 1700, and carries it down to the declaration of independence in 1776. The philosophical writings of Jonathan Edwards, Colden's History of the Five (Indian) Nations, Prince's History of New England, Church's History of King Philip's War, and Ralph's History of England during the reigns of William and

Mary and Queen Anne, are the chief productions by the English colonists of the period; for Benjamin Franklin properly belongs to that which follows. "The first American, or national, period," boasts of Jefferson's Rights of British America, as the transition literary structure of the time; of the writings of Dwight, Bellamy, Hopkins, and Bishop White; of Franklin and Washington; and one of the first professional writers, who followed literature as an exclusive calling, was Charles Brockden Brown, the father of the American novel, who, we believe, still lives in the land which his writings have so long adorned, and which are enumerated at page 425 of Mr. Trübner's volume. His first book dates back to some sixty-five years ago, so that he may fairly be looked upon as the oldest of American living authors. The force of example worked wonders, and gradually, up to the year 1820, authors by profession increased in number and activity; but it is from that year that, properly speaking, the literature of the United States became a nationality.

Mr. Moran's "second American period" is, of course, the most interesting, and we avail ourselves of the following curious statistics to call attention to the necessity of more strenuous exertions on the part of authors on both sides of the Atlantic to bring about the establishment of an international copyright:—

"In the infancy of American publishing, 500 copies were a good edition. From 1827 to 1837, the ordinary sale of a successful book was from 1,000 to 1,500 copies, whereas now 1,500 of any book can be disposed of; and it is not uncommon to print 10,000 copies. The sale of Washington Irving's works is by hundreds of thousands. Small editions are, in fact, the exception, and immense editions of good English works are quite common. There have been sold in the United States, in five years, 80,000 volumes of the octavo edition of the 'Modern British Essayists'; 60,000 volumes of Macaulay's 'Miscellanies,' in three volumes; 100,000 copies of Grace Aguilar's works, in two years; more than 50,000 copies of Murray's 'Encyclopædia of Geography'; 10,000 copies of McCulloch's 'Commercial Dictionary'; and 10,000 copies of Alexander Smith's Poems, in a few months. The American sale of Thackeray's works is quadruple that of England; Dickens's have sold by millions of volumes. 'Bleak House' alone sold to the amount of 250,000 copies in complete volumes, magazines, and newspapers. A recent work of Bulwer's reached about two-thirds of that number; and more than 100,000 copies of 'Jane Eyre' have been disposed of."

We have no means of calculating the sale of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Wide, Wide World," "Queechy," and other books of this class, in England. All we know is, that everybody read those we have named, and that the authors on the other side of the Atlantic were not benefited a single cent. by such sale, any more than the English authors, mentioned in the paragraph we have quoted, received one farthing for permission to reprint their works in America. Without an international law of copyright, the great intellects of both hemispheres are plundered with impunity; yet surely, if for no longer duration, during a man's lifetime he should, at least, be allowed to derive some beneficial result from the productions of his brain, whether merely reprinted or translated in a foreign country.

This essay of Mr. Moran's is followed by an account of "the Public Libraries of the United States," by Mr. Edwards, formerly employed in the British Museum, and who is now established in business as a bookseller at Manchester. It is sufficiently interesting, no doubt, to the American reader, and though it contains accounts of some libraries which are no longer in existence, it is valuable as a record of local and national exertions on the part of the United States to collect all that can conduce to the spread of knowledge, whenever an opportunity presents itself for adding to the literary resources of the country, by the dispersion of libraries and collections of books in the various countries of the eastern hemisphere.

The rise and progress of the Astor Free Library, arising out of the bequest of a successful German immigrant merchant, will be read with much interest; but our limits will not allow us to do more than refer the reader to it. It occupies four pages, from 122 to 125 of the introductory portion; yet, whilst talking of the Astor Library we may take the opportunity of stating that a catalogue of it is now in the course of publication, under the care of Mr. Cogswell, the librarian, of which two volumes

have appeared; but which, by the fatality which seems to attend the compilation of all catalogues of national libraries, does certainly not deserve much commendation for the care bestowed upon its accuracy. The fact is, that in all vast catalogues it is necessary to employ a staff of cataloguers. It is, therefore, the more necessary that the final supervision should be intrusted to competent hands, if we would not verify the proverb of "too many cooks."

Mr. Trübner deserves all praise for having produced a work every way satisfactory. No one who takes an interest in the subject of which it treats can dispense with it; and we have no doubt that booksellers in this country will learn to consider it necessary to them as a shop manual, and only second in importance for the purposes of their trade to the London Catalogue itself. That a foreigner and a London bookseller should have accomplished what Americans themselves have failed to do, is most creditable to the compiler. The volume contains 149 pages of introductory matter, containing by far the best record of American literary history yet published; and 521 pages of classed lists of books, to which an alphabetical index of 33 pages is added. This alphabetical index alone may claim to be one of the most valuable aids for enabling the student of literary history to form a just and perfect estimate of the great and rising importance of Anglo-American literature, the youngest and most untrammelled of all which illustrate the gradual development of the human mind.

#### THE NEW QUARTERLY.

*Bentley's Quarterly Review*.—No. I. March, 1859.

R. Bentley, London.

A new Quarterly Review, in these days of weekly and daily criticism, when the world seems to have taken irrevocably to condensation, brevity, and the faith as it is in "fresh-and-fresh" in all that constitutes its moral and material fare, is a venturesome and almost startling enterprise. Already we have no less than half-a-dozen of these thirty-six pound mortars, fashioned on the old approved model, and worked by veteran hands; and just as we were beginning to be persuaded that the whole science of literary warfare was changed, and that everything in future was to be effected by the multiplication of lighter and handier weapons,—lo, there appears to the confusion of all *tirailleurs*, sharpshooters, and adepts in rifle practice, an Armstrong gun of pretensions, threatening to eclipse all that has been, that is, or that shall be.

Mr. Bentley is the founder of this fiery and formidable-looking implement of destruction to unreal reputations in the field of art and learning. Who its inventor may be does not ostensibly appear, though babbling rumour whispers audibly an historic name, which just now happens to be owned by one of our most promising and ambitious youths of quality. It is no part of our function, indeed, to look behind the mask of anonymity, nor shall we ever be found forgetful of the courtesies and amenities of literary life. But when a new journal undertakes to teach the world a more excellent way of thinking in matters of criticism than any it knew before, it is not unreasonable that people should ask, as the folks do in a Scot's kirk, when an unexpected stranger ascends the pulpit, "Who expatiates to-day?" as well as the other and more important question, "What does it go for?"

Judging from the general tone and tenour of the articles in the first number, we are led to the belief that a certain fixed and definite purpose has been set before them by the principal contributors. Though nowhere avowed in the formal manner of a confession of political and religious faith, the tendency of the more serious dissertations is unambiguously, and their meaning anything but esoteric. The opening paper is upon the subject of Parliamentary Reform, written before the world knew the intentions of Lord Derby's Cabinet, and, as it now turns out, before they knew themselves what they were actually to propose. The apprehensions of the writer have been curiously falsified by the bill eventually produced.

Parliament has neither been asked to amputate one of its honourable limbs, nor even the majority of its withered toes; and far from a swamping measure of suffrage extension, we have had nothing more radical offered than a proposal to enfranchise ten pound occupiers in counties, and twenty pound lodgers in towns. The inability to prophesy, how-

ever, what a Cabinet like the present were likely to do on such a question, is a very venial fault in any speculative writer. What is of greater significance in the article before us is the historic retrospect of party combinations during the last five-and-twenty years. According to the reviewer, Peelism was a blunder *ab initio*. It was merely an elaborate scheme of unprecedentedly slow suicide. The instincts of self-preservation were benumbed by the substitution of Conservatism for wholesome and invigorating Toryism. The traditional standards, whereon had for generations been defiantly emblazoned the inherent right of the noble, the wealthy, the anointed, and the highly educated, to rule over the rest of the community, was lowered by Sir Robert Peel, and an ever-shifting and always indefinite banner, of blended and chequered hues, set up in its stead. As a device for getting into office, the contrivance is admitted to have been admirable and complete; but as a mode of permanently keeping together or guiding a great party in the state, it was fatuous and fatal. How strangely has this train of thought been verified by what we have seen passing before our eyes, during the last few weeks, by the final disintegration of the Conservative party under the leadership of Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby!

Another article, and one of still more marked ability, is that devoted to an analytical description of Northern Italy under the Austrians. It is, perhaps, as fair and candid a statement of the case in mitigation of damages, where the cause of the defendant is admittedly hopeless, as could well be.

In a variety of important particulars the state of Lombardy is shown to be far less unhappy than that of the other portions of the Peninsula, which are governed by native princes and ministers. Commercial and municipal privileges exist in a higher degree; justice, if not always obtainable, is, at all events, not bought and sold; education, both in the higher and lower branches, is well provided for; the poor have medical care when they are sick, and abundant food and work when they are in health; the highways are kept in good order, and highway-men or brigands are comparatively unknown. All this confessedly is outweighed in the estimation of the upper and middle classes, by the fact that they have no voice either in the legislative or administrative government of their country, and by the sight daily of foreign garrisons in all their principal towns. Nothing which the Germans could do would, it is frankly owned, appease the inveterate discontent their armed occupation of the country keeps alive, and the best alleviation, we are assured, would be the erection of the Milanese into a separate state, with an Austrian arch-duke for sovereign. The writer forgets his own previous confession, that where the system of Imperial puppetism has already been tried in Italy, it has signally failed.

There is a pleasant and scholar-like critique on Mr. Gladstone's "Homer;" and a very well written, but very depreciatory essay on the novels of Sir Bulwer Lytton. Also a paper on the condition and prospects of art in England, containing nothing original or striking, but, nevertheless, well deserving a perusal. In this, as, indeed, throughout the whole of the articles, the predominant tone is perceptible; and questions of taste in church architecture are treated in the same manner, and tinged with the same colouring as reform of parliament or the politics of Italy. Let us, in our turn, be candid, and say, as we can, with unqualified sincerity, that we hail with satisfaction the unfurling of an oriflamme of thorough-going Toryism in Church and State; and so long as it is borne in knightly hands and sustained by honourably frank, earnest, and accomplished defenders of the antique faith that is in them, we shall always be proud to break a lance with them in the open field. It is quite refreshing to find learned and able men, who really have such opinions, and who will stand for them, when challenged, like men.

#### ROUND THE SOFA.

*Round the Sofa.* By the author of "Mary Barton," "Life of Charlotte Brontë," &c.

London: Sampson, Low, Son, and Co. Good writing is a rare gift now-a-days. There is no lack of smart writers, of brilliant essayists, of spasmodic romancists—but good writers are few in number and far between. In these days of express trains, and shilling novels, and penny papers, it cannot well be otherwise. We have little time to think, less still to read, and almost

none at all to write; as Balzac said, we are like the boa-constrictors, who gorge one day and vomit the next. Style, we fancy, like everything else, is regulated by the universal laws of demand and supply; and if the supply of good writing has fallen off, we suppose the demand has decreased equally. Still, without engaging in useless lamentations about the degeneracy of the age, we are at liberty to regret this decay in the power of composition.

There is a poetry about prose, as well as about rhyme. There is a beauty about the mere order and composition of a simple sentence, which to trained ears has the melody of music. To us, therefore, as to all others who remain faithful to that sweet rhythm worship, each new offering at the shrine of our falling faith is doubly welcome, by reason of its very scarceness.

On this account, if on no other, we always look forward with pleasure to any work that comes from the author of "Mary Barton." Here, at least, we are certain of good English. We have no fear of slip-slop sentences—of fantastic torturings of speech, of turbid and confused imagery. The language is always clear, and pure, and sparkling, like the water of a mountain rill. It is the work, not of a bad journeyman, but of an artist in writing; and the love of the true artist for his work can be traced in the composition. Every word has its own place, and knows and keeps it. There is no fine writing in "Round the Sofa." The very excellence of the style is proved by the fact that we are at a loss to pick out pieces for quotation; where all is so good it is difficult to make a choice. We cannot, however, refrain from quoting a passage from the charming tale of "Lady Ludlow," in which that most delightful of grand old ladies is speaking about flowers:—

"Attar of roses, again, she disliked. She said it reminded her of the city and of merchants' wives, over rich, over heavy, in its perfume; and Lilies of the Valley somehow fell under the same condemnation. They were most graceful and elegant to look at (my lady was quite candid about this); flower, leaf, colour—everything was refined about them but the smell; that was too strong. But the great hereditary faculty on which my lady piqued herself, and with reason—for I never met with any other person who possessed it—was the power she had of perceiving the delicious odour arising from a bed of strawberries in the late autumn, when the leaves were all fading and dying. 'Bacon's Essays' was one of the few books that lay about in my lady's rooms; and if you took it up and opened it carelessly, it was sure to fall apart at his 'Essay on Gardens.' 'Listen,' her ladyship would say, 'to what that great philosopher and statesman says: 'Next to that (he is speaking of violets, my dear) is the musk rose,' of which you remember the great bush at the corner of the south wall, just by the blue drawing-room windows. That is the old musk rose—Shakespeare's musk rose—which is dying out through the kingdom now. But, to return to my Lord Bacon: 'Then the strawberry-leaves dying, with a most excellent cordial smell.' Now, the Hanbury's can always smell this excellent cordial odour, and very delicious and refreshing it is. . . . My dear, remember that you try if you can smell the scent of dying strawberry-leaves in this next autumn. You have some of Ursula Hanbury's blood in you, and that gives you a chance.'"

The very delicacy of this description (which of itself is evidence enough that these stories are written by a woman's hand) stands out in brighter contrast when compared with the works of other modern authoresses. It is a positive relief to come upon writing like this, after wading through volumes of such works as "Queechy" and "Amy Herbert," and the whole of that race of which the "Heir of Radclyffe" is the crown and glory. It is like a draught of good clear ale to a stomach surfeited with ginger-beer and lemonade.

There is one other speciality of all the writings of the popular author, to which we cannot help alluding. We leave to them none of that mixture of religion and romance, which is the bane of our modern literature. There is no attempt to enforce the doctrine of justification by faith, through a dialogue between the angelic heroine and her earnest lover. We are ashamed to own, that about these stories there is no high moral purpose, no endeavour to solve problems, which all the wisdom of mankind has hitherto failed in solving; no startling hulla-balloo, as if the existence of evil was a recent and novel discovery. There is, however, something different, and, to our minds, better than all this,

Throughout these volumes, as indeed, throughout every work of the writer, there breathes a spirit of friendly feeling, of simple good-will, and tolerant faith, which works its own way silently.

"Round the Sofa" is not one of those works which, in the technical phraseology of the religious world, are termed "good books," but it is one of those books which it is good to read.

"Round the Sofa" is a collection of stories, familiar ere now, we doubt not, to many of our readers in the columns of "Household Words." The whole of the first volume is occupied by the story of "Lady Ludlow," which, if we are not mistaken, has been expanded and improved since its original appearance. Of the others, the "Poor Clare," a weird north-country story, and the "Half Brothers," seem to be new to us. Even if we wished it, it would be scarcely possible to tell in a few words the thread of any of these stories. You might as well try to give a pencil sketch to a few strokes of a Dutch painting. To all our readers we can most sincerely recommend these volumes as worth reading for the stories alone, and almost, if not better, worth reading for the sake of the writing itself.

#### THE BERTRAMS.

*The Bertrams* 3 vols. By Anthony Trollope.

Chapman and Hall.

MR. TROLLOPE has not diminished his reputation by "The Bertrams;" neither will he have increased it. There is the same amount of acute and sarcastic perception of life and character as distinguishes his former productions, but "The Bertrams" wants something of the originality, the freshness, the probability, which are to be found, for instance, in his "Barchester Towers." The two characters which stand out in the strongest relief are George Bertram and Caroline Waddington, his cousin. The first is a young man of plain exterior, but of cultivated and fastidious mind, of high and ultra-romantic principles of honour and disinterestedness, and passionately attached to Caroline Waddington. The lady is beautiful, accomplished, high-spirited, and wayward, but with a touch, and but a touch, of worldliness. She, too, is secretly attached to George Bertram. The uncle, a money-getting millionaire, on whom his nephew and his grand-daughter are to a certain extent dependent, is desirous of seeing them married, in order that he may leave them heirs to his vast wealth. A series of misunderstandings arise between the young people, and an estrangement ensues, which results in Caroline Waddington giving her hand, but not her heart, to Sir Henry Harcourt, an ambitious but rising barrister, who has been tempted to marry by the hope of coming in for the reversion of the wealthy uncle's money-bags. The ill-starred union soon proves a source of bitter discomfort to husband and wife. The mutual love between Caroline and George becomes known to each other when too late. This, when known, arouses the jealousy of Sir Henry; re-creation ensues, the wife is insulted beyond female endurance, and she quits her husband's roof never to return. The uncle, when on his death bed, sends for his nephew; but although his wealth might become his nephew's property, for one word of spoken affection, his nephew, although nearly penniless, stubbornly refuses to speak that word, and the old man dies leaving the bulk of his riches to endow a hospital. Sir Henry, hopelessly embarrassed in his circumstances, finding his position in society, his prospects, his wife, and his chance of inheriting the uncle's wealth, utterly lost, commits suicide by shooting himself. After four years of decent sorrow the cousins come together in the bonds of matrimony. These may be regarded as the main characters and the main incidents. There are several episodes of no very inferior interest; one in particular—the loves of a young clergyman, Arthur Wilkinson, and Adela Gauntlet—which contrasts agreeably with the love passages in the life of the hero and heroine. Mr. Trollope has in this work afforded another specimen of his keen perception of character, of his knowledge of life, and of his mastery over the strongest passion that finds place in the human breast. But his pen is dipped slightly in gall; his views of life are prone to the satiric, and sometimes, when he draws the character of a class, the portrait can only be regarded as that of an individual. We will give an extract to illustrate our position. The young clergyman, Arthur Wilkinson, has been presented to a living, vacated



by the death of his father, by its noble patron, who stipulates that out of the income of 500*l.* he shall pay over yearly to his mother 350*l.* Arthur Wilkinson, somewhat tired of the bargain, and the domination exercised by his mother at the vicarage, gives notice that, as he is about to marry, he will require the vicarage for his occupation. The indignant mother, who has been accustomed to regard herself as the "vicar elect," fires up at the proposition, and determines to make an appeal to the noble patron in person. She makes her way to Bower Lodge, and has a reception which entirely destroys her hopes, and which we cannot bring ourselves to believe a true portrait of an English nobleman. Then, again, we have the following portrait of a travelling English gentleman:—

"Let us go into some church on the Continent—in Italy, we will say—where the walls of the churches still boast of the great works of the great masters. Look at that man standing on the very altar-steps while the priest is saying mass; look at his grey shooting-coat, his thick shoes, his wide-awake hat stuck under one arm, and his stick under the other, while he holds his opera-glass to his eyes. How he shuffles about to get the best point of sight, quite indifferent as to clergy or laity! All that bell-ringing, incense-flinging, and breast-striking is nothing to him: he has paid dearly to be brought thither; he has paid the guide, who is kneeling a little behind him; he is going to pay the sacristan who attends him; he is quite ready to pay the priest himself, if the priest would only signify his wish that way; but he has come there to see that fresco, and see it he will: respecting that he will soon know more than either the priest or his worshippers. Perhaps some servant of the church, coming to him with submissive, almost suppliant gestures, begs him to step back just for one moment. The lover of art glares at him with insulted look, and hardly deigns to notice him further: he merely turns his eye to his Murray, puts his hat down on the altar-steps, and goes on studying his subject. All the world—German, Frenchman, Italian, Spaniard—all men of all nations know that that ugly grey shooting-coat must contain an Englishman. He cares for no one. If any one upsets him, he can do much towards righting himself: and if more be wanted, has he not Lord Malmesbury or Lord Clarendon at his back? But what would this Englishman say if his place of worship were disturbed by some wandering Italian."

Is this a true picture of a class, or even of an individual? Is it not rather the portrait of some artistic "Snob," not of the travelling English gentleman? What we have indicated as possible blemishes many will be inclined to view as positive beauties. The work itself will be widely and approvingly read, and lastingly appreciated.

## MAGAZINES.

**BLACKWOOD.**—"A Cruise in Japanese Waters" is continued, and forms Part IV. of the series, which is not yet ended. The description and adventures are given in a lively style. "The Luck of Ladysmede" progresses, and the story is conducted from the second to the fourth chapter of Part II, with spirit and vigour. "A Winter Journey" takes the reader to Paris, Lyons, Nice, Genoa, Leghorn, and Florence, in an agreeable manner. There is also a second part to "The Turks in Kalafat," which it appears concludes the subject. Mr. Kaye's "Christianity in India" supplies matter for a good paper. A political article, curiously entitled "A dissolving view of money and the franchise," sets forth that the electors in twenty years, from 1832 to 1851, increased fully one-sixth faster than the population. What then? Mr. Elliot's novel of "Adam Bede" commands an elaborate review. The number closes with an astute article on "The New Reform Bill"—in which the Ministry are counselled not to resign.

**FRASER.**—"Holmby House" continues with spirit for two chapters more. The author of "Guy Livingstone" contributes four chapters of a new tale, called "Sword and Gown." There is a clever essay on "Malignity and Trickery," and an interesting one on "The Court of Russia a hundred years ago." Dr. Brown's "Horæ Subsecivæ" affords occasion for a philosophical essay on sectarianism. Some pleasant advice to travellers is given in a paper entitled "Hints for Vagabonds." The consideration of "Prussian Dinners" also leads to some judicious suggestions on the philosophy of the table. The remaining papers treat of the Eastern Pyrenees, the death of Mr. Wm. Jno. Broderip, and the recent writers on reform;—all pleasant and instructive reading.

**TITAN.**—A very fair number, varied in its contents. "A Strange Life" gives the biography of the widow of Adolph von Lutzow, which has recently

been written in German by Ludmilla von Assing. William Smith, the author of "Thorndale," comes in for a castigation—not very severe, however—in which the critic is cruel only in order to be kind. "Getting On" gets on for three more chapters. It is followed by a translation of Victor Hugo's "Handsome Pécobin." The paper entitled "Marriage Under Difficulties" lays bare some of the barbarism that yet underlies our civilisation. The usual extracts from new books agreeably enough close the number.

**JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE.**—contains, with its usual records of insanity, a psychological study of King Lear, a very eloquent and thoughtful paper, in which the writer very justly combats Mr. Hallam's criticism, which falsely ascribes the greatness of Lear's intellectual manifestation to his madness; on the contrary, his madness merely indicates his former greatness, the wrecks of which only it presents.

**LADY'S TREASURY.**—contains a great variety of articles of fair average merit, and is embellished with a profusion of engravings, including those relating to the fashions.

**LE FOLLET.**—has also its usual quota of light amusing articles, and four fashionable engravings, in which the costumes are more than usually pleasing.

**ROUTLEDGE'S SHAKESPEARE.** Part 37.—This number contains the greater portion of "The Winter's Tale." The woodcuts have much character, and make us prefer Mr. Gilbert in comic rather than tragic illustrations. There are one or two acute interpretations of the text; as in that of—"I'll keep my stables where I lodge my wife."

**THE VIRGINIANS.** By W. M. Thackeray. No. 18.—This story improves as it grows towards its conclusion; and this number contains some scenes of London life in the last century, which, we may pay them the high compliment of saying, read like Goldsmith's. The author is certainly most successful when he exposes fools, rogues, and demireps.

**AMATEUR'S MAGAZINE.** has now arrived at the seventh number, and presents an agreeable variety of articles—among them a centenary poem on Burns, rather too declamatory.

**CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.**—The subjects of the number are important and well treated; the more elaborate papers are those on "Richard Baxter," "Assyrian History," and "The History of Methodism in England." There are also good papers on "Dr. Ichabod Nichols," "Siam," "The Condition of the free coloured people of the United States," "Franklin," and "The old Rhode Island question." The review of current literature appears to be impartial and just.

**UNIVERSAL REVIEW** has arrived at the second number, and has the merit of treating of the literature published up to the date of its issue. Thus we find Mr. Kaye's "Christianity in India," "Lord John Russell's 'Life of Fox,' Eliot's and Trollope's novels, Mill on 'Liberty,' 'Sir William Hamilton's Lectures,' and other works reviewed in satisfactory detail. The leading article is on "Anglo-Roman and Anglo-Saxon History;"—the result of much reading, and very carefully compiled, and is founded upon the new views brought forward by Mr. Hyde Clarke, in his treatise on the Application of Topographical Nomenclature of Anglo-Saxon History.

**THE GALLERY OF NATURE.**—The new edition of this work still progresses satisfactorily.

**A POPULAR HISTORY OF ENGLAND,** by Charles Knight.—THE COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.—(Blackie and Son.)—No. 39 of the former, and Parts 17 and 18 of the latter, maintain the character of the respective publications. Mr. Knight's history takes down the subject to the death of Queen Anne in 1714, and is illustrated with portraits of De Foe, Bishops Burnet and Berkeley, and embellished with engravings of Utrecht and Tournay.

**ENGLISH CYCLOPEDIA OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,** conducted by Charles Knight. Part III. carries on the work to nearly the end of the letter A, the last article being the word Axiom. The different papers are written with great care and full elaboration of the subject-matter.

**WORKS OF THE REV. SYDNEY SMITH.**—Part IV. gives, with other articles, those from the *Edinburgh Review* on "Prisons," "The Persecuting Bishops," "The Game Laws," "America, and Captain Rock."

**ADVENTURES IN TEXAS.**—This forms an agreeable number of the "The Tales from Blackwood."

**KELLY'S RAILWAY GUIDE.**—For April. This readiest of Railway Guides contains every month an amount of new matter.

**Personal Narrative of Military Travel and Adventure in Turkey and Persia; comprising a brief Sketch of the Chequered Life of the Author.** By Robert Macdonald. Adam and Charles Black.

The son of poor but honest parents, of the clan of Macdonald, the author of this little book was born in the year 1804, at Bonnie-view on the Braes of Gask,

close to the banks of the river Earn, in Perthshire. After some time, he sailed for China, and on his return home having enlisted into the Rifle Brigade, was at length made serjeant, and was ultimately appointed with his brother to particular service in Persia. His remarks on what he saw are shrewd and clever, and his descriptions appear to be correct. But of course his range of observation was limited by his position, and he regards things military with an eye of especial favour, and gives but a poor account of the military discipline of the modern Persians. The influence of Russia in Central Asia excites his indignation. On his return home, he got implicated in the Chartist Riots in the Bull-ring, at Birmingham; he was tried and acquitted. But the result injured his prospects in life; ill health supervened, and he is now in adversity. We trust that this publication will be of use to him. It is throughout marked with good sense, and should ensure some patronage to the author.

**On Geological Survey: an Address.** By Hyde Clarke, D.C.L. *Geologist Magazine Office.*

This Address was delivered before the Geologists' Association, on Tuesday, the 8th February last. The association, we find, has provided for the admission of women as members; and, according to this address, appears to be in a fair way to prosper. As the system which it is intended to promote becomes organised, the reports of its proceedings will be published in the local journals. Important facts, also, will be included in a yearly report. There are many districts in which the formation of this society will be welcomed as a great scientific benefit.

**Robert Burns: a Centenary Song, and other Lyrics.** By Gerald Massey. 4to. W. Kent and Co.

Mr. MASSEY was one of the candidates for the Crystal Palace prize; and, we suppose, to vindicate his claims, has published his poem. It is full of beauty and sweetness, but it is needlessly fantastic; and is not so constructed as to answer the purpose of public recitation. Whatever its merits, therefore, the judges could not avoid rejecting it; but those merits they acknowledged by proposing it for publication. Mr. Massey has added a few other pieces of various excellence, to make a volume.

**Petronilla, and other Poems.** By Frederick George Lee. Bosworth and Harrison.

THESE poems are decidedly good. The author's muse is sincere and earnest, and abounds in description. His religious feelings are strong. There are some lyrics, too, remarkable both for power of thought and language. The versification is varied and skilful, and the diction polished yet vigorous.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

**Moore's Irish Melodies.** Nos. 6 and 7. Longman & Co. **Boswell's Life of Johnson.** Part II. Edited by John W. Cooper, LL.D., F.R.S. John Murray.

**Lord Byron's Poetical Works.** Part III. John Murray.

**Rose Coloured Spectacles.** By Mary and Elizabeth Kirby. James Blackwood.

**Fankwee; or the Sun Jacinto in the Seas of India, China and Japan.** By W. Maxwell Wood, M.D. U.S.N. Sampson, Low, Son & Co.

**The Old Plantation, and what I Gathered there in an Autumn Month.** By James Hungerford, of Maryland. Sampson, Low, Son & Co.

**Opportunities for Industry, and the Safe Investments of Capital; or a Thousand Chances to Make Money.** By Edwin F. Freedly. Sampson, Low & Co.

**Routledge's Illustrated Natural History.** By the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.L.S., &c. Part I. April. Routledge & Co.

**Sketch Book of Popular Geology.** By Hugh Miller, Edinburgh. Thomas Constable.

**The Sanitary Condition of the Army.** By the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P. John Chapman.

**A Tale for the Pharisees.** By the Author of Dives and Lazarus. Judd & Glass.

**False and True.** By the Hon. Lena Eden. J. Booth.

**Retrograde Legislation in Bankruptcy.** By E. D. Holroyd, &c., &c. Stevens & Norton.

**Tales from their Earliest Period to the Present Time.** A Lecture, by Major Godfrey Rhodes at United Service Institution. W. Clowes & Sons.

**The Congregational Hymn and Tune Book.** By the Rev. R. R. Chope, B.A. Bristol, J. Wright & Co.

**3 Eclogues pour Piano.** Par Stephen Heller, Nos. 1, 2 & 3. Schott & Co., 159 Regent street.

**Life's Foreshadowings.** A Novel. 3 vols. Hurst & Blackett.

**Moore's Melodies.** No. VIII. For the Pianoforte. Longman and Co.

**The Journal of Mental Science.** No. XXIX. Longman and Co.

**The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore.** Part I. Longman and Co.

**The Works of the Rev. Sydney Smith.** Part IV. Longman and Co.

**Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.** No. DXXII. Edinburgh: W. Blackwood and Sons.

**Tales from Blackwood.** No. 13: "Adventures in Texas." W. Blackwood and Sons.

**A Journey Due North.** By George Augustus Sala. 2nd edition. Richard Bentley.

**The Last of the Cavaliers.** 3 vols. Richard Bentley.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, April 1st.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer had a consultation which extended over two hours this (Friday) morning with the Earl of Derby, at his residence in St. James's-square. At twelve o'clock they proceeded together to Downing-street, where a Cabinet Council was held at the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Cabinet rose at half-past two o'clock.

The Earl of Derby immediately after proceeded to the Palace, where he had an audience of the Queen.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.—FRIDAY.

#### SALE OF GAS.

Lord REDESDALE laid on the table a bill to regulate the sale of gas.

The bill was read a first time.

#### EDUCATION IN INDIA.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether any instructions had been sent to the Earl of Elgin to negotiate with the Chinese Government respecting the admission of British salt into that empire, and also whether any communication had been received by him on the subject? The noble lord also inquired whether any instructions had been given to the Hon. F. Bruce, her Majesty's ambassador at Peking, directing him to press this matter on the attention of the Chinese Government.

The Earl of MALMESBURY said no instructions had been given to the Earl of Elgin; but the Hon. Mr. Bruce, previous to his departure to Peking, had had his attention drawn to the subject, in order that he might press the matter on the attention of the Chinese Government.

### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Earl of DERBY, in moving the adjournment of the House, said he trusted that his silence would not be misconstrued, with reference to the vote of last evening, and that their lordships would not suppose him wanting a due sense of the importance of their present position. On the contrary, he considered he should best consider the convenience of the public; and best show his conviction of the importance of the present state of affairs by postponing for the present any reference to the course the Government had deemed it their duty to pursue. He had, in consequence of the vote of last night, thought it advisable to hold a consultation with his colleagues that morning, and he had since had an interview with her Majesty. He had not the sanction of her Majesty to make any communication to their lordships with reference to the course the Government intended to adopt. He thought, however, as the House of Commons stood adjourned until Monday next, that he should be acting in a manner most conducive to the public advantage, by postponing, until that evening, any explanation with regard to the course the Government intended to pursue. On that evening, however, he should be in a position to give their lordships a full explanation of the advice which he and his colleagues had tendered to her Majesty, and the course they intended to follow.

Their lordships then adjourned.

### FRANCE.

We have no further intelligence in the Paris papers of this (Friday) morning, with regard to the Congress. The meagre information afforded by Lord Malmesbury's speech continues to be the latest, and the fullest that is known. It is observed that since the *Moniteur* did not think it necessary, when it announced the consecutive adhesion of the different great Powers to the idea of congress, to make any allusion to conditions, although it is now known that some of them did make reserves, it may be that differences may yet exist of such importance as to render the meeting of the Congress doubtful after all.

A Paris correspondent of the *Independance* of Brussels writes:—"The Congress will, without a doubt, meet at Baden-Baden. Count Walewski has announced the fact to several members of the diplomatic corps, adding that he is to represent France on the occasion."

The *Patrie*, on the authority of an Amsterdam journal, speaks of a sanguinary collision between the Papal troops and the populace at Forli. Several lives were lost, it is said, and a great many people wounded.

Count Cavour left Paris on Wednesday evening. He has gone to Turin, and not to London.

### CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, April 9th.  
Monday, open at 9; Tuesday to Friday, open at 10. Admission, 1s.; Children under 12, 6d.  
Saturday, open at 10. Vocal and Instrumental Concert at 2-30.  
Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children 1s.  
ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, ORCHESTRAL BAND, and GREAT ORGAN daily.  
Collection of Autograph Letters of Eminent Men, in the Centre Transept.  
Sunday, open at 1-30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

### ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Kean as Manager.)  
On Monday, and during the week, will be presented Shakespeare's historical play of KING HENRY THE FIFTH. The play will be repeated every evening until the 10th of April.

### ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessees—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)  
Monday, and during the week will be performed the Comedietta, by Mark Lemon, Esq., entitled FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, H. Wigan, G. Cooke, F. Charles, E. Cooke, H. Cooper, Mesdames Cottrell, Hughes, Bromley, Mrs. Emden, and Miss Wyndham.  
After which THE PORTER'S KNOT. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, G. Vining, W. Gordon, H. Wigan, H. Cooper, J. and H. White; and Mesdames Hughes and Leigh Murray.  
To conclude with THE OBJECT OF INTEREST. Characters by Messrs. G. Cooke, H. Wigan, F. Charles, Miss Cottrell, Mrs. Leigh Murray, and Mrs. Emden.  
Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

### THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)  
The New Comedy every night, and last week but one of the engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews.  
Monday, April 4th, and during the week, to commence at 7, with (second time) the New and Original Comedy, entitled EVERYBODY'S FRIEND. Mr. Featherley, Mr. Charles Mathews; Icebrook, Mr. Compton; Major Wellington de Boots, Mr. Buckstone; Mrs. Featherley, Mrs. Charles Mathews; Mrs. Major de Boots, Mrs. Wilkins; and Mrs. Swandown, Miss Reynolds. After which, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, for the last three nights, THE CRITIC. Puff and Sir Fretful Plagiarist, Mr. Charles Mathews; Tilburina, Mrs. Charles Mathews.  
On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, after the New Comedy, USED UP. Sir Charles Coldstream, Mr. Charles Mathews. Concluding every evening with A BALLET.  
Stage-manager, Mr. Chippendale.

### ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)  
Immense Success of New Play, New Farce, and of the Delepiere Family, whose extraordinary concerted and solo performances on the violin have excited an equal amount of wonder and approval.  
On Tuesday, April 5th, and rest of the week, Mr. E. Falconer's new and highly successful Play of FRANCESCA; A DREAM OF VENICE. Messrs. E. Falconer, H. Vandenhoff, Barret, G. Murray, Fitzjames, J. Neville, and Mrs. Charles Young, Mrs. Weston, &c. To be followed by A MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT. By Jules, Julietta, and Julia Delepiere. And conclude with the New Farce of HUSBANDS BEWARE. Mrs. Weston, Miss Kate Saxon, Mr. S. Calhaem.  
On Monday, April 4th, for the Benefit of Mr. F. Kingsbury, the Opera of MARITANA, in which Miss Clara St. Casse will make her first appearance in English Opera. Prices as usual.  
Doors to open at half-past six: to commence at seven.  
Box-office open from eleven to two.

### ST. JAMES'S HALL.

Madame LOLA MONTEZ (Countess of Landsfeld) will give her POPULAR SERIES OF FOUR LECTURES, on the Evenings of April 7, 8, 14, and 15: Thursday 7th, Subject, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CHARACTER; Friday 8th, EUROPEANS IN THE NEW WORLD. Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight. Carriages ordered at a quarter past Nine. Stalls, 5s.; Reserved (Balcony) Seats, 3s.; Unreserved, 1s.; may be obtained at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street; Cramer and Beale's, 201, Regent-street; Hammond's, 214, Regent-street; Keith, 48, Cheapside; and at St. James's Hall ticket office, 28, Piccadilly.

### CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

#### ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS will resume their Popular Entertainment on Monday evening, April 11, at the St. James's Hall, to be repeated Every Evening at Eight, and Saturday mornings at Three o'clock.  
Admission, 1s.; Area, 2s.; Reserved Seats, 3s. To be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

### ST. JAMES'S HALL.

#### THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION;

Conductor M. BENEDICT.—WEDNESDAY, April 6, at Eight, MENDELSSOHN'S "LORELEY," including the "Ave Maria" (which will be repeated by general desire), and for the first time in public, TWO MARCHES, composed by Mendelssohn for a Military Band at Dusseldorf; also, Mr. Lindsay Sloper's new Cantata, "THE BIRTH-DAY" (first time of performance). Principal Vocalists:—Madame Catherine Hayes, Madame Anna Bishop, Miss Dolby, and Mr. Tennant. Band and Choir of 100 performers. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d.; Sofa Stalls, 10s. 6d. each.—At all the principal Music sellers, and St. James's Hall Ticket Office, 28, Piccadilly, W.

### ADELAIDE ROOMS,

#### LOWTHER ARCADE.

MISS MARGARET COOPER will give, at the above Rooms, on Monday, 4th April, for one night only, her new successful Drawing-Room Entertainment, entitled SKITS AND SKETCHES—PAST AND PRESENT, in which she will be assisted by Mr. J. B. Dale, the favourite Comedian. Pianiste, Miss Poncioni.  
Tickets may be obtained at any of the principal Libraries.

### A FANCY FAIR.

A FANCY FAIR, in support of the DISPENSARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, 26, Margaret-street, Regent-street, will be held at the HANOVER SQUARE ROOMS, ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH AND 29TH, under the following distinguished patronage:—  
The Duchess of Beaufort. Viscountess Dillon.  
The Duchess of Sutherland. Lady Broke.  
The Marchioness of Stafford. Lady Constance Grosvenor.  
The Countess of Clarendon. Lady Lyndhurst.  
The Countess of Derby. Lady Louisa Pakenham.  
The Countess of Granville. Lady Ibbetson.  
The Countess of Longford. Hon. Miss Copley.

The Committee of Management, in announcing a Fancy Fair in aid of the Charity, earnestly solicit assistance to enable them to bring the undertaking to a successful issue. In their anxiety to meet the demands made upon them, they have incurred liabilities to the extent of £400, but they trust that the result of this appeal will enable them to liquidate the debt, and greatly extend the usefulness of the Charity.

Ladies who would kindly hold Stalls, or join the Ladies' Committee, are invited to communicate with the Secretary, at the Dispensary, by whom articles for sale will be thankfully received.

### MR. JOHN BENNETT'S

#### LECTURE ON WOMEN AND WATCH- WORK.

April 1st, Newbury; 4th, Hampstead; 7th, Crosby Hall; 11th, Bethnal Green. The Lecture will be illustrated by a great variety of Models and Diagrams, and Specimens of Clocks and Watches.  
Syllabuses can be had at the Watch Manufactory, 65, Cheapside.

### ORATIONS BY MR. T. MASON JONES.

#### WILLIS'S ROOMS.

This day, Saturday, April 2nd, at half-past three o'clock. "Milton, the Patriot, Statesman, Prose Writer, and Poet."  
Monday evening next, April 4th, at half-past eight, "Grattan, and the Wits and Orators of the Irish Parliament."  
Stalls (numbered), 5s.; Reserved Seats, 3s.; Back Seats, 1s. May be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

### INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS,

PORTLAND GALLERY, 316, REGENT STREET, W.  
Opposite the Polytechnic.

The TWELFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the WORKS of LIVING PAINTERS is NOW OPEN, from 9 till dusk. Admission, One Shilling; Catalogues, Sixpence.  
BELL SMITH, Secretary.

### FRENCH EXHIBITION,

#### 120, PALL MALL.

The SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PICTURES the Contributions of Artists of the FRENCH and FLEMISH SCHOOLS, will be OPEN TO THE PUBLIC on Monday, April 4th. Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d. each. From 9 till dusk.

### MAN AND HIS HABITS.

THIS day, at Three and half-past Eight, DR. KAHN will deliver Lectures at his unrivalled and original Museum, 3, Tichborne-street, facing the Haymarket.  
SYLLABUS.—Ideal of Self-love and Social—The Philosophy and Physiology of Marriage—Happy and Unhappy Unions—Whom and when to marry—The Great Social Evil, its real Cure—Philanthropists and their Schemes—New Views of Men and Things—Dangers of Youth—Rocks of Advanced Age—The true Glory of Middle Age—My Memoirs—Much in Little.  
The Museum is open daily (for Gentlemen only) from Twelve till Five and from Seven till Ten. Explanation of the Models every half-hour. Admission One Shilling, including Handbook: to which is appended the *SHOALS AND QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH*. By JOSEPH KAHN, M.D., Graduate in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, of the Imperial University of Vienna, &c.; free by post for twelve stamps, direct from the author; 17, Harley-street, Cavendish-square.

ALDERMAN ANDREWS.—Richard Andrews died at Southampton, yesterday, after a lingering and painful illness. He was originally a journeyman blacksmith in a Hampshire village, and became the largest coachmaker in the south of England. He worked for the Queen and a large number of the nobility, and sent carriages to all parts of the world. He was three times successively mayor of Southampton, and was distinguished for his munificent hospitality. No distinguished man or member of the aristocracy, whether Whig or Tory, ever came to Southampton without visiting the Radical coachmaker. He was uneducated, but gifted with remarkable shrewdness. He employed constantly upwards of 100 workmen, to whom he was a kind and considerate master, and by whom he is much regretted.



**SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE LEADER."**  
**ONE GUINEA PER YEAR,**  
 UNSTAMPED, PREPAID.  
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**No. III. MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETIES**  
 WILL APPEAR IN OUR NEXT.

**NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

**OFFICE,**

**NO. 18, CATHERINE-STREET,**  
**STRAND, W.C.,**

The commodious premises formerly occupied by the  
**MORNING HERALD.**

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 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 REFORM DEBATE.

The majority of thirty-nine against Ministers has proved to be larger than anyone perhaps expected. On all hands it is felt to be conclusive of the fate of the measure, and of the Cabinet, at least as it has been hitherto constituted. At the end of a seven nights' debate, Mr. Disraeli gravely reiterated his opinion that the town franchise could not, with safety, be lowered. A majority, in the fullest House there has been for many years, has emphatically declared that some change in that direction must be made. False as the promise may prove to popular hope, it is fatal to Mr. Disraeli as an official leader. He must, for the present, retire from the post he has filled with so much credit and courage during the last twelve months. If that were all, the vacancy might easily be filled up, as we have already hinted, were Mr. Gladstone disposed to undertake the task of preparing a new bill. General Peel and Lord Salisbury are, as is well known, anxious to resign; and their places might without much difficulty be filled by more acceptable and useful men. We doubt, however, if any attempt of the sort will be made, unless in the event of a failure to form a Government, by one or other of the Whig Oppositions. Up to the present hour the gangway between them has certainly not been bridged, and we have no reason to think that at present it will be. The difficulty does not consist, as is commonly imagined, in the personal rivalry of Lord Palmerston and J. Russell, but in the mutual repugnance of their respective adherence to one another, and in the incompatibility of their political views. Assuming that Lord Derby will not, without some further justification, advise the Queen to dissolve Parliament, he must, we think, inform the House of Lords on Monday night, that he has tendered his resignation, and that he has advised the Queen to confide the task of forming a new Administration to Lord John Russell. But how that veteran cabinet maker is to secure a sufficient amount of support in the present Parliament, we own ourselves at a loss to conjecture. Sooner or later, the other two sections will infallibly unite to crush him; and crush him they easily will, unless he makes up his mind promptly and unmistakeably to play out for the support of the people.

The opinion we have expressed regarding the temper and the character of the present House of Commons, has been painfully verified by the debate which has been prolonged to an extent so unusual. Nobody can regard it as wanting in ability. There have been many clever speeches made on either side; and some have been pre-eminently distinguished by logical and rhetorical power. But throughout there has been manifested an utter absence of faith in great principles, loyalty to high traditions, or generous confidence in the people. From first to last it has been obviously a cold and selfish game of parties and individuals, calculating the odds and playing for power. Lord John Russell set a bad example at the outset, and too closely has it been followed. Sitting below the gangway, and surrounded by the only men in the Liberal party who command, to any extent, the confidence of the many out of doors, he might have taken up a position which would have placed him at the head, for the rest of his life, of the temperate but earnest friends of progress. He ought to have known, that from the moment he made himself inevitable as a Liberal minister, every intriguing and reactionary Whig of the Grey and Clarendon school would be at his beck, and ready to do his bidding. But instead of saying out plainly what he deemed essential to any satisfactory Reform Bill, either as regards the suffrage or redistribution of seats, Lord John contented himself with making a speech which, if the printers had prefixed to it the name of Sir Charles Wood, or Sir Cornwall Lewis, nobody would have read with surprise. There may have been some degree of policy, though we confess we doubt it, in framing his resolution vaguely as to the franchise: but there could be nothing but imprudence and impolicy in bringing it forward without one hearty or thorough-going phrase in favour of expanded privileges, and rights too long withheld. A chill caught in the morning is seldom shaken off during the day; and the benumbing effects of Lord John's temporising prologue have been felt throughout the whole of the drama subsequently enacted. Out of doors the consequences have been still more palpable. There has not been a sentence of cordial or genial sympathy in the aim of the amendment, in any public journal of weight or influence. In terms, more or less sarcastic, it has been treated as a well-manufactured drag-net to catch votes, in order that by the weight of the cargo the wily steersman might be enabled to run down a lighter boat. But the personal game to be achieved has been far more obvious than any certainty of advantage to the popular cause; the people have looked on, during the struggle, with indifference, and learnt its result without emotion.

It was not until after a week's experience of the consequences of this mode of proceeding, nor until after it had been turned to damaging account by Lord Palmerston that Lord John's co-laborer in the production of the resolution attempted to repair the mischief. But Sir James Graham, though a marvellously clever administrator and political critic, is not the man to infuse confidence into a party. Every Government would be glad to have the use of his pen and his tongue; but who, either in or out of office, cares a farthing for what Sir James Graham calls his opinion? Like the woman of Samaria, he has had many of them, and that in such quick succession that nobody can tell if the one that he now professes to have is really his or not. For want of a better, however, the weathercock member for Carlisle was put up to declare that by a further extension of suffrage in towns he and his noble friend meant the present municipal franchise, which comes pretty nearly to the same thing, in most places, as a 62. rating; for, under the Small Tenements Act the greater proportion of 32. and 42. tenements are rated in the name of the landlord, and their occupants, therefore, could not be counted, in general, as an element of increase. What is worse is the condition of three years' continuous residence, and two years and a half payment of rates. We very much doubt if, in country towns, this supplementary suffrage would add 20 per cent., on an average, to the constituencies: in London, and other large cities, it would virtually amount to no addition at all. This, after a week's cogitation, is the upshot of the grand move, for sake of which the Cabinet, if not the country, is to be turned upside down. Mr. Walpole had already intimated that he would have no objection to go thus far; and

Lord Palmerston and his friends, as well as Mr. Gladstone and those who follow his lead, were all long since committed to a 62. franchise by the bill of 1854. Finally, it is apparent, from the speeches made by Sir Bulwer Lytton, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Sir John Pakington, that an influential section of the Cabinet would have no insuperable qualm about going thus far, provided only they had been driven into it quietly in Committee, and not kicked into it before the second reading. The unanimity, in fact, which prevails in the present House in favour of doing as little as possible, is quite edifying; and so little scope do the ascertainable differences between rival parties, on the score of the suffrage, afford for argument or display, that in the speech of Mr. Horsman, as in those of several other members, no allusion whatever was made to the subject.

Unquestionably, the two most remarkable exhibitions of intellectual courage and adroitness, were those of Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone. Both are evidently playing against Lord John Russell for the leadership of the House of Commons. The former could hardly have found a decent excuse for refusing to follow "his noble friend, the member for the City of London," in a general demonstration in favour of reform. But having agreed to vote for the motion, in order to save the mark with the Woburn Whigs, and the wavering Radical, the next thing to be done was to damage the proceeding as much as possible, with a view to conciliate the bulk of the Tories. The arrogant and insolent tone in which Lord Palmerston addressed those who happen to sit on the Treasury bench, did not provoke the same resentment from the mass of the country gentlemen who sit behind them. Nor was it intended to do so; on the contrary, the whole drift of his lordship's speech was more conservative by some degrees than Lord John's; and as it was a great deal better conceived and delivered, it was far more acceptable to them. They could not fail to remember, that it was he, after all, who had broken up the Cabinet of 1852, on the morrow of its producing something like a good bill; that he had quitted the Cabinet of 1854, sooner than consent to a better one; and that he had himself been the head of a Cabinet subsequently for three years, which had contrived to exist without having any bill at all. No one except Mr. Gladstone could have a chance for the lead of such a House as the present, after such a speech from Lord Palmerston. The member for the University felt that he must bid something still higher in the way of resistance to change, and he resolved, accordingly, to become the champion of nomination boroughs. It is all very well for people to say, how could so clever a man think of taking up with such antiquated notions? For our part, we see nothing strange whatever in it. Mr. Gladstone sees, that after the courses of bleeding and purging it has gone through—first under the hands of Sir Robert Peel, and more lately under those of Doctor Disraeli and his assistants—Toryism, if it is to live at all, must have some marrow put into its bones. It has gone on conforming and conceding, throwing up and giving out, until it has hardly a leg to stand upon. Any amount of unpopularity with the unfranchised many, or of antagonism with another sect of the privileged few, would be better than this. There are besides, as Mr. Gladstone well knows, great and powerful influences in Church and State, in country and town, in camp and Court, which only need a resolute and eloquent champion to rally them around the old flag of Toryism. We believe this to be Mr. Gladstone's purpose, and if he adheres to it we believe he will succeed.

But as for Reform, let the people be assured that nothing worth having will be granted by the present House of Commons. If Reform there is to be, it must be carried out of doors.

### THE RUSSO-FRENCH ALLIANCE.

WHATEVER may be thought of Russian strategy, it is impossible to dispute the diplomatic skill. During the latter portion of last year the influence of the Czar was used successfully to stimulate French and Sardinian ambition at the expense of Austria. General encouragement was held out to both with a lavish hand, and when some difficulty was made about the matrimonial alliance between the House of Buonaparte and that of Savoy, the Grand Duke Constantine did not disdain to become special attorney in the matrimonial suit, which, under his auspices, was

speedily brought to a close. Having once committed the would-be belligerents, however, to a contest with Austria, backed by the German powers, the zeal of Russia gradually waxed cold. Whatever her expectations or secret demands may have been, she was, or affected to be, indifferent about exacting their concession; and during the space of nearly two months the Court of St. Petersburg has assumed a provoking air of placid impartiality between the eager expostulations, on the one hand, against the rupture of treaties, and the still more eager remonstrances that have been heard against abandoning Italy after all the high promises that had been made. Sooner than be stale-mated, Louis Napoleon has evidently preferred giving Russia her own terms as the price of active and ostensible co-operation. What they are we know not; but that they have been conceded it is impossible to doubt. While Lord Cowley was at Vienna endeavouring to accommodate matters, unsuspected negotiations were proceeding between Paris and St. Petersburg, the first result of which is already avowed to be a congress on Italian Affairs, in which the five great Powers and all the Italian governments are to be represented. What schemes may be produced when the proposed conference meets, we shall know in due time. But we may be well assured that if a pacific settlement be sincerely contemplated by the confederates, Muscovite interests will not have been overlooked.

Meanwhile, Count Cavour has been in Paris, where he has been *fêted* and caressed by the simple-minded monarch who dwells in that capital of fascination. The journals are full of comments on his visit, and his countenance has been watched as though it were an European barometer. On the evening of his arrival, we are told, "the index of the mind within" pointed low, and touched even the point of "stormy," but during his visit the Savoyard quicksilver rose steadily; and when he left, the hand fluctuated gently between "changeable" and "fair." Of course, all sorts of circumstantial-looking conjectures are hazarded, as to the reassuring tenour of the French Emperor's talk with the Piedmontese minister. We pay no attention to any of them. Both parties to the ominous *tête-à-tête* have too deep an interest in secrecy to render any partial disclosures credible. As for the Congress, the best we can hope for is, that it may turn out a solemn farce, and avowedly accomplish nothing. With the remembrance of what sort of international settlements and rearrangements have been perpetrated by similar assemblages, we can only pray that, as England is to be represented in the one now impending, nothing may come of it that will bind this country to recognise the thralldom and misrule of the Peninsula. We are not answerable for war, should it occur, nor shall we be partakers therein. But a new distribution of territory by the Overbearing Powers of Europe, would only be a re-enactment of the sins of the Congress of Vienna, and from complicity in such sins we desire to be kept free.

#### MODERN LEGISLATION.

"I BELIEVE," said Mr. Gladstone, "no assembly in the world transacts business to the extent which this House does." Yet he admits, while he praises the exertions of Parliament, that it cannot keep abreast of the mass of business which is continually falling into arrear. In a somewhat similar spirit, Sir James Graham and others praise the House for its careful legislation, and boast that, since 1832 at least, it has paid the greatest attention to the public interests, and taken especial care of the welfare of the lower classes. We have not the slightest intention of questioning the fussy zeal of right honourable and honourable gentlemen; but when they blow their own trumpets they generally make very discordant music, which finds no echo in the souls of other men. We have not the smallest doubt that the Edwards, the Henrys, and the James's, in their time, were as well convinced as Sir James Graham and Mr. Gladstone now are, that they laboured efficaciously, as well as zealously, for the good of the nation, especially the poorer classes. When they made laws regulating the length of shoe-points and the wages of labourers, enjoining the use of woollens for burial shrouds, and forbidding men to feed spirits, they sincerely thought they were providing for the public welfare, and fortifying the true faith of the people. Succeeding generations have pronounced a very different opinion; and both Mr.

Gladstone and Sir James, when they reflect on the matter, will find more reason to fear condemnation than approval from after generations.

The House may transact immense masses of business. We know that, on the average, it makes some 120 new laws every year, and that it has formed a statute-book for the regulation of our conduct so vast that nobody can read it through, and so confused and contradictory that nobody can comprehend it. There are houses in the City and other places, which, like the Commons, or like Messrs. Gordon and Davidson, do an immense mass of business, which ends something like the statute-book, in vast confusion. We make no question, therefore, of the activity of the House of Commons; we see that, besides passing so many laws, it discusses many which it does not pass; that it plants numerous inquiries which never produce fruit; and enters into debates still more numerous, which end in sorrow and grief. Sir James Graham, however, claims for the modern House of Commons a great superiority over its predecessors, and it might well be superior to them—framers of the corn-laws, of the Six Acts, of the suspension of cash payments, and great heaps of incongruous enactments—without deserving the approbation of the present or future generations. As part of the public challenged for admiration by Mr. Gladstone and Sir James, we beg leave to show cause why we deny their plea.

No one can doubt—at least, we cannot, for we have continually insisted on its existence—the great comparative prosperity, order, and moral as well as physical well-being of our really glorious community; but we cannot give the House of Commons the smallest credit for this. We know that it affects to make the nation great and happy, and it probably believes, as it affects this—and the result is, to a great extent, attained—that it is really the instrument which accomplishes it. But the House and the public have long ago given up the idea that it can by its measures provide, or in any degree improve, the means of providing the national subsistence. All this great and indispensable work, except in some minor details, the House trusts, and it must trust, to the uncontrolled and unimpeded self-interest of individuals. Its great merit, indeed, in modern times—that for which, we believe, Sir James Graham really praises it—is, that it has abolished many important enactments, beginning in 1842, which interfered with the business of individuals. As long as it went on abolishing the acts of its predecessors—removing impediments to the free exercise of self-interest and unrestricted competition—it did many great and successive good deeds. To that course, however, it was forced; first, by the deficiency of the revenue to meet the outlay it had ordained, and afterwards by public opinion, in conjunction with the necessity which the removal of one restriction created for the removal of others. Sir James Graham is the last man to forget that the commercial reforms which Sir Robert Peel began in 1842 were dictated by the deficiency of the revenue through three consecutive years, and the last man to ignore the fact, that they created a necessity to continue in the same career. The great assistance, then, which the House of Commons has given to the progress and the welfare of the nation, consists in abolishing noxious laws, and removing impediments out of the way of individual exertion.

While it was doing this little good, it was very actively employed in doing a great deal of public evil. We will touch only lightly on a few examples. In 1843 the total national expenditure (an evil wholly of the Commons' creation) was 51,139,513*l.*; in 1857, it was 66,019,958*l.* Last year, too, it was upwards of 66,000,000*l.*; so that since it began to do a little good by abolishing commercial restrictions, it has added 15,000,000*l.* a year to its wasteful expenditure. Every tax ordained or continued, as we now know practically, from the beneficial effects of abolishing taxation, inflicts on the community a vast deal more injury than is represented by the sum it takes from the people. Yet, in the face of this experience, the House of Commons has gone on year by year increasing the expenditure, and continuing unnecessarily the evils of increasing and enormous taxation.

About coeval with the reform of the Parliament, railways, the splendid triumph of modern art, came into notice. The people everywhere began to build them. How did the Commons promote the admirable work? It threw all kinds of obstacles in the way, and fettered the enterprise with nu-

merous conditions, the offspring of the most intolerable ignorance. Mr. Gladstone was himself the great agent for establishing the noxious regulations of a maximum rate of profit. The House taxed the enterprise enormously, for granting its consent to accomplish so great and good a work, and helped to make that which is an honour to this age and nation only ruin to thousands of individuals who promoted it. The result of the ignorant and selfish interference of the Government is to distort and mar a conspicuous growth of natural society. We are aware of a necessity to apply to the House to get permission to take land, &c., but while it should have been the business of the Legislature, to do away with this necessity in cases where the public convenience ought to override the monopoly established by the legislature, the House of Commons did very frequently obstruct the enterprise, and very often sacrifice the public good to enrich individuals. In the whole history of our Legislature, through times of the darkest ignorance, nothing more systematically erroneous, mischievous, and corrupt than the conduct of the House of Commons, in reference to the construction of railways, is to be found. The legislative absurdities of the James's, and the legislative follies of the ignorant Edwards and Henrys, will appear to the next generation to be far overtopped by the conduct of the legislators of our days, in reference to this noble work.

We will refer now to only one more illustration. There cannot be the shadow of a doubt that every individual entering into voluntary engagements has a full right to determine for himself how far he will go. In the old spirit of opposition to trade, however, which animated alike the aristocracy, the Legislature and the judges, because they one and all felt that it was a power superior to them, it had been settled that if an old man with 10,000*l.* lent 1,000*l.* to an active young man to assist him in his business, on the natural condition that he should share the advantages, the law held the old man responsible for all the engagements of the young one, to the extent of his whole fortune. In the progress of trade, this principle was found so obnoxious, alike to common sense and useful action, that it was continually, by voluntary agreements of various kinds, set aside. Such agreements became so numerous as to make the legal guarantee of responsibility to the full extent of means a farce or a snare; and the occasions were so many on which the Legislature was called on to overrule it, that it was at length obliged to sanction the principle of limited liability. How has it worked out the principle? We answer, that a greater mass of incongruity than the several joint-stock companies' acts, including banks, which are all founded on the principle of limited liability, including the Act for enabling the Board of Trade to grant charters, the Act for expressly establishing limited liability, the winding-up Acts, and all the many modern Acts connected with this one subject, is not to be found even in our incongruous statute book. All these Acts, and many more of a similar character, have been passed under the full light of modern knowledge, which has shown that legislation never interferes with trade without injuring the commonwealth, and while acknowledging the conviction that this light is a light from Heaven, and can not lead astray. The habits, however, which the House inherits with its forms from remote ages, are more powerful than the convictions of reason; and it has increased and multiplied, in the nineteenth century, restrictions on business, all which, in the eighteenth century, were demonstrated to be invariably mischievous. It has done this evil, too, with the words of assent on its lips to the doctrines of free trade, and while glorying in the greatest success it ever achieved, from allowing them for a time to prevail over its old and evil habits.

To show the erroneousness of Sir James Graham's laudation, and the injuriousness of the activity of which Mr. Gladstone boasts, we could multiply illustrations; but we content ourselves with asking the attention of thoughtful men to these few.

#### STREET VIEW OF ITALY.—No. IV.

##### PAPAL STATES.

THE famous Lord Chesterfield summed up his impressions of a tour through France some four-score years ago, by the remark that in that country he had observed all those symptoms which



are wont to preface great changes and revolutions. We have often wished that the prophecy had been as explicit as it was correct. We should much like to know what those symptoms were on which that cynic Solomon founded his diagnosis. We presume, however, that, *mutatis mutandis*, the symptoms of a nation's dissolution must be much the same as that of an individual's bankruptcy. When customers begin to fall off and bankers to look coldly—when clerks' wages are over due and the office rent is in arrears—when creditors call and are put off from day to day—when cheques are returned and no business is done, and the books are no longer posted, you may conclude, without much danger of error, that the end of that house or business is at hand.

From the moment we entered the Papal State to the hour we left it, this sort of premonitory foretaste of bankruptcy weighed upon us. There was bankruptcy in the half-cultivated field—bankruptcy in the tumble-down towns—bankruptcy in the ragged garbs and careworn faces of the people—bankruptcy in the very air you breathe. The road from Siena to Rome is, at the best of times, a dismal one. It is one of the chief, if not the most important, of the Papal post routes, traversed yearly by thousands of wealthy travellers. There is every inducement for that moderate amount of enterprise and speculation which the presence of travellers produces elsewhere, even in the most stationary countries; but the dull, stagnant oppression of Roman misgovernment overpowers all symptoms of life and energy. The road, which, like all the highways of Italy, owes its existence to the rule of the first Napoleon, is good enough in an engineering point of view, but falling into decay from long neglect, and want of repair. The inns are a sort of cross-breed between a hovel and a barrack, combining the native dirt of an Italian Albergo with the discomfort of a German Wirth's Haus and the exorbitant charges of a Germain-street hotel. The whole country is bare and dreary. The peasants, whom you meet at rare intervals, have a sort of bandit look; and all alike beg, with a sort of scowl by no means exhilarating to a nervous traveller. Ever and anon you pass by some roadside heap of stones, where the wooden cross on the summit of the pile warns you that on the spot you are treading, some scene of murder and bloodshed occurred, not too long ago for the cross to have fallen into pieces. From time to time, too, a patrol of mounted dragoons comes by and inspires unpleasant recollections of Adelphi melodramas, which are by no means so cheerful on a barren and desolate moor as in the shrine sacred to Wright and Bedford. We know not, however, whether the towns themselves are not more depressing than the open country. We looked in vain along the whole route for any trace of a house having been built, or even repaired, since the last time—more than ten years before—that we had travelled over the same road. The streets seemed, if possible, dirtier, the houses more dilapidated, and the inhabitants more squalid than of old. Indeed, throughout the whole Roman States, we should think the race of masons and carpenters must be extinct. The only trade that flourishes, or rather keeps in existence, is the priesthood. Every man in sight, so statistical authorities inform us, is a priest. For our own part, we should be quite ready to believe that there were more priests than laymen.

It was at Rome especially that this mystery of the priesthood pressed most heavily on our enquiring minds. How can so many priests find means of livelihood? and how can they find any conceivable occupation? were questions to which we could never obtain a satisfactory reply. To our latter query, the only approximate solution we could obtain from one well informed on these matters, was that in the small convents and churches surrounding the Eternal City each day was certain to be the "Festa" of some saint or martyr, or other, and that the priests walk out in troops to this particular shrine, whichever it may be, and having said a few prayers, return home again, managing in this way to kill a little time, to gain a small amount of appetite, and to contribute somewhat to their future welfare, killing thus, in fact, three birds with one stone—two temporal and one spiritual. More dull, listless, and unintellectual faces than those of nine-tenths of the Roman priesthood, it is impossible to conceive.

You can tell at once the young English proselytes, whom you meet now and then in the streets, by the brightness of their looks, and, let us add, the cleanness of their hands. Any man may become a Roman Catholic, but it takes three generations at least to acquire the proper peculiar Papal dirt which distinguishes the true believers. We were told a story, on good authority, which, whether it be true or not, illustrates that state of bondage to ceremonial rules and clerical etiquette, which forms one of the especial banes of priestcraft in Rome. A cardinal is never to be seen on foot. Like the Queen of Spain, he is not supposed to possess legs. The other day, one of the youngest of the Roman cardinals had to perform early morning service at a church not a minute's walk from his house. The annoyance of having to ascend and descend and wait for his carriage was so great, that he at last resolved on the startling innovation of walking to the church in question. Before many days he was summonsed by the Pope himself, and rebuked for his breach of decorum. On remonstrating, he was informed by the Holy Father that there was nothing, either in this world or the next, he could not grant to his prayer, but that to allow a cardinal to walk on foot, was a power not conceded even to the successor of St. Peter. After all, perhaps the Pope was right. Who knows but the old riddle of Majesty, stripped of its externals, might not apply to a cardinal without his purple stockings?

The most striking sight, however, in all Rome, to our eyes, was the presence of the French troops. You came on them at every turn, in knots of two or three together—seldom alone—never by any chance in company with Italians. Every hour almost you heard the sharp rattatat of the French drums, and the sound of their quick brisk march. In the Forum, by the Arch of Titus, beneath the Colosseum itself, they were always being exercised and drilled, and as you looked at them, however unclassical your mind might be, you could hardly help recalling the old days when Rome was invaded by the barbarian Gauls. The French army is an anomaly in that dead, silent city. They can hardly, we think, have a pleasant time of it there. The Romans, to do them justice, have manliness enough to show their dislike of the foreign occupation. The French, socially speaking, are tabooed. At the public balls, no Italian lady dances with the French officers. With the exception of the houses of a few of the Roman princes, who have married foreigners and become de-nationalised, they are said to be admitted to no native society at all. What, however, struck us most was the extent to which this feeling was shared by the common people. During the Carnival the Corso was crowded with French soldiers. Everywhere there was the greatest good humour and merriment, but the presence of the French was obviously ignored. Nobody insulted them—nobody pelted them. There were no nosegays thrown at them. They were simply passed over with a silence more expressive than the most vehement vituperation.

Indeed, the traces of French violence are too fresh for the Romans to forget. The miserable saplings which replace the fine old trees of the Villa Borghese, tell where the invading forces were stationed. The new gateway hard by "San Pietro in Montorio," reminds one of the old gate, that was battered down by the French guns, when the breach was effected. In the walls of the city itself you can still see the imbedded cannon balls.

However, to do the French justice, the outward aspect of Rome has improved beneath their rule—the streets are brighter and cleaner, the shops more luxurious, and the roads near the town better kept. Not having the feelings of an Italian, it is impossible not to feel some satisfaction at the security given to order and tranquillity by their presence. It will be an evil day for the shopkeepers and houseowners of Rome when the Imperial legions march out of the city. Nevertheless, the very fact that we observed some hundreds of fresh troops enter the city at the very time when Louis Napoleon was boasting of his desire to withdraw his armies, confirmed us in the belief, which we hold from other reasons, that the evacuation of Rome is likely to be contemporaneous with the Greek Calends.

## MILL ON POLITICAL LIBERTY.

THE public is much indebted to Mr. Mill for having opened a discussion on "the nature and limits of the power which can be legitimately exercised by society," whether organised into a state or a mere aggregation "over the individual." His purpose is nothing less than to investigate the principles of all corporate authority, the very basis of political society. This subject, he correctly says, "is hardly ever discussed in general terms;" but it profoundly influences the practical controversies of the age by its latent presence, and is likely soon to make itself recognised as the vital question of the future. "There is no political act in which it is not involved," and "the new conditions" in which "it now presents itself," especially the growing demands of the democracy, make it peculiarly interesting to all the aristocratic and Conservative part of society. By it, and in its presumed interest, and not by the democracy which only seeks to share the political power already organised, without elaborately inquiring into its origin, is the discussion begun. Now, by this party it is painfully perceived that the majority can be unjustly tyrannical. Till now it was usually, though silently, assumed that the select few, which has been called the upper ten thousand, could neither be unjust nor tyrannical, and to all its commands, embodied into laws, the majority was required to pay implicit obedience. Now, arms are required to defeat the claims of the multitude to political power, and they are sought in the principles on which the authority of the mass can be legitimately exercised over the individual. The change in the direction of general thought makes the subject on which Mr. Mill provokes discussion, which is at all times important, embracing all our social duties, now peculiarly interesting.

In the present confused condition of parties and ordinary political principles, when society is actually without leaders, we find another strong reason for now going back with Mr. Mill to the natural source of all political organisation—the power of society over the individual. First principles must at some time be discussed—nay, they ought at all times to be so much discussed as to be recognised and followed as the only safe guides whenever a multiplicity of details, and many new and conflicting opinions makes an old policy no longer practicable, and the new policy required is neither defined nor known. We propose, therefore, in one or two articles to advert in some detail to Mr. Mill's book, and the great subject he treats of, trusting that while we do our duty to the public by speaking fearlessly, and with all our knowledge, on this great and exclusively secular subject, we shall treat him with the deference due to his great works and his great reputation.

Those who are familiar with his writings will be aware that the work on Liberty only continues and completes a train of thought expressed at the close of his work on Political Economy. On this subject, therefore, he is justly considered as an authority. He is continually referred to, and is said to have hazarded a great reputation by condescending at the same time to instruct the public in the practical question of Parliamentary Reform. For this attempt we honour him much; for it is the duty of those who, like him, have acquired influence by their writings, to help in guiding the public right in a time of doubt and difficulty.

By Conservative writers he is quoted as an authority against the claim of every man to an equal share of representation, and his double influence as an abstract thinker and a practical politician increases the necessity for subjecting his work to a rigid scrutiny. Before following him, Liberals and Conservatives should be convinced that he is worthy to lead. We propose, in the first instance, therefore, to lay before our readers one or two examples of the eccentricity, at least, if not the error of his conclusions, and shall afterwards examine more closely the abstract principles from which the conclusions are deduced.

If we were not well aware that the most profound speculative thinkers of modern times, when they have directed their attention to society from the French economists to Mr. Mill, have naturally, and almost necessarily been much interested, not to say engrossed, by some one great and important, though temporary circumstance, we should be surprised that Mr. Mill, like the gentlemen who congregate at clubs and impart their fears and errors to one another, should be in the least alarmed at the growing ascendancy of society, by reason of its

mass, over all separate classes, cliques, and individuals; that he should mistrust mankind and join in the modern cry against the tyranny of majorities. A large part of his book—all the historical illustrations of the persecutions with which ignorance and passion have pursued the wisest of men, and with which ignorance and passion now follow certain peculiarities of opinion and behaviour—is occupied by an endeavour to show that the mass of mankind cannot trust, and ought not to trust one another. The greater portion of society, especially in our country, where Mr. Mill has taught us that property in the soil is unfortunately not established on principles favourable to the populace, is certainly now much debased, and therefore, from the ascendancy of the multitude, and its supremacy, which there are no possible means, apparently, of preventing, he anticipates, as the fate of society, the prevalence of “low, grovelling, dull, sensual mediocrity.” Passing over the abstract principle, that the mass ever has predominated, and must, more and more as it increases, predominate over the individual, and that we cannot alter the condition of society, be it what it may, which this may bring about, the fact is, that the vile passions and extreme ignorance to which Mr. Mill refers were, in past times, the characteristics of individuals; they were embodied in the laws, and our present superiority—distinguished as intellectual greatness, and contempt for mere “sensual mediocrity”—has been at least accompanied by a continually increasing power in the mass over individualism. Successive improvements have originated outside the halls of legislation, not with the legislator, though he has given effect to the public voice. Public opinion, not a Charlemagne or a Napoleon, now leads and governs. From the progress already made we are entitled to expect, in the future, a continual increase of knowledge, a continual growth of intellectual power, and a continual elevation of the whole society, from the increasing predominancy of the mass over individualism, at which Mr. Mill and others are so much alarmed. Intellectual power belongs more to society than individuals; it is inherited from generation to generation; it increases with mankind—as observers and communication are increased—while appetites and passions are always exclusively individual, and are certainly modified, if we may not say lessened and improved, by increasing knowledge. At the very least, Mr. Mill has no ground whatever, either in principle or fact, for that general mistrust of the great multitude, because there is in England an aristocracy and a mob—which is the striking characteristic of his book.

We are more surprised at Mr. Mill's assertion, at p. 171, that “the principle of individual liberty is not involved in free trade”—“neither is it in most of the questions which arise in respect to the limits of that doctrine,” than we are at his adopting the temporary alarm of a class as one great principle of a philosophical speculation. For Mr. Mill, in his “Principles of Political Economy,” has told us that “the production of wealth has necessary conditions;” that “the laws which determine it are not of human institution;” and that “labour is requisite to production.” The production of wealth implies the whole subsistence of society, and by labour this is gained and all life sustained. To the general result, as Mr. Mill is well aware, one species of labour—that of the merchant, that of the literary man, that of the agriculturist, or that of the manufacturer—is as necessary as another. If one be prohibited, another dies out; if one be interfered with, another is deranged. The labour of the trader, therefore, is not only essential to procure his own subsistence—it is essential to the well being of society. Yet Mr. Mill says, to interfere with his business does not involve the principle of individual liberty. It interferes with individual life; it impedes the trader or the labourer in procuring the means of subsistence; and Mr. Mill tells us, at page 58, that “men might as well be imprisoned as excluded from the means of earning their bread.” In proportion as trade has been set free, and individuals have been enabled to buy and sell what they like, where they like, and with whom they like, the wealth of many individuals in England has been increased, the life of society has been much enlarged, and even more improved. To have prevented this would have been equally a wrong to the individuals and to society. His notion that industry or trade “is a part of conduct which society is competent to restrain,” may ex-

plain why he took no active part in the great movement to get rid of the corn laws; but it will no more recommend his philosophical doctrines to popular favour than his avowed confidence in a select few, and his mistrust of the bulk of society.

To notice another passage in Mr. Mill's book, we must begin by reminding our readers that towards 1830, the combined effects of the corn laws, of paying wages out of poor rates, and of sentimental mismanagement in parishes, had made pauperism equally unbearable and ruinous to the ratepayers and the rate recipients. Half the evil consequences of that deplorable system are not yet outgrown, and the vicious habits engendered by the policy, followed to 1842, continue to degrade the people. To remedy some of the alarming evils of pauperism, and yet preserve the corn laws, in 1834 an exceptional authority, only justified by this extreme case, was established, to which great powers were given. With some variations in form and name, the Poor Law Board has now been twenty-four years in existence. When it began its administration, “the amount of poor rates levied” was 8,606,501*l.*, and the amount expended on the relief of the poor was 6,790,800*l.* In 1857, the former item was 8,139,003*l.*, and the amount expended on the relief of the poor was 5,898,756*l.* Under the latter head, in the interval, a great increase of management charges, and a new expenditure for medical relief, are included. In the interval, too, the number of paupers, by the abolition of the corn laws, has decreased very considerably, so that the result of the labours of the Board is to expend almost as much money in 1857 as in 1834, to relieve a much smaller number of paupers. Through the whole of its career this Board has been involved in squabbles, so that ultimately, and on the whole, it has increased contention, and, in relation to the amount of pauperism, has increased taxation; yet this exceptional establishment is described by Mr. Mill, in the teeth of these facts, “in its general conception,” page 206, as a model of excellence, only defective apparently because “its powers of administrative coercion and subordinate legislation” have been “owing to the state of opinion very scantily exercised.”

Mr. Mill, in the name of liberty, approves of laws “to forbid marriage, unless the parties can show that they have the means of supporting a family.” But the sole means of supporting every family, and every state, is—industry; and if those who wish to marry have brains and limbs, why should other persons doubt their means of getting subsistence? One of the strongest stimuli to sustained industry, is the desire to provide for a family, and that stimulus these laws will not allow to come into existence. In the complicated condition of modern society, it is impossible for any legislature to know, before hand, the means by which an industrious couple may honestly acquire an abundant subsistence for themselves and their offspring. This is their business and their duty, and it is a gross invasion of their liberty for other men, whether called the State or society, to prevent them marrying till others are satisfied that they are able to obtain the means of subsistence for themselves and their children. In like manner, Mr. Mill would have “the State require and compel the education, up to a certain standard, of every human being born its citizen.” Now, the chief end of all education must be, first, to enable the educated being to procure the means of subsistence. Every species of instruction must be subordinate to this. Mr. Mill, consequently, would make the State, in making it responsible for the general education, responsible for providing the whole subsistence of the people. He would make life itself depend on State regulations. Such conclusions will not recommend Mr. Mill, as an authority, to the multitude; and we shall show, in another article, why he should not be followed by the thinking few.

THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS IN PARIS.—The report for 1858 by the Committee of these Schools for the children of their poor fellow-countrymen has just been published. The condition of the schools appear to be very good. Much of the money for their support comes from English persons who are in Paris only on short visits. A new master and mistress have very recently been obtained from two of the best normal schools in London. The supporters of the schools have spent a good deal of money in trying to put them on a better basis in every way than hitherto. The schools deserve encouragement, and do credit to the patrons.

## Original Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF “THE LEADER.”

SIR—If I refer to what you said some months ago, it is really a compliment, as it shows that I do not consider your words as fleeting shadows. My reason, however, is, that I was laid up by illness when you published them, and have only lately read them.

On August 21, 1858, you had an article headed “The Confessional.” It was chiefly on the dispute in the diocese of Oxford, with which I, as a Catholic, have nothing to do. But, incidentally, and I am sure unintentionally, you have misrepresented both the practice, the opinions, and the feelings of Catholics; and on this I must beg you to allow me to explain.

Your words are—

“What is it to the world—provided the husband consents, or considers it his duty, or his interest, not to object—that the Roman Catholic priest, in the discharge of the powers of his priestly office, chooses to question wives or maidens on matters respecting which no one else would dare to allude to, and to demand plain and ample answers on pain of refusing absolution? Persons of a different creed are entitled to do no more than to hold an opinion on these practices. Certainly no one has a right to dictate to the Roman Catholic layman, or to the Roman Catholic priest, what acts or sayings shall or shall not constitute the Roman Catholic creed.”

“In the case of the Roman Catholic, the master of the house and family, especially of the female portion of it, is there when the priest walks in. The depository of family secrets, even of the most intimate relations between husband and wife, carries the real sway; this is notorious, and needs no confirmation. The secret of this power is the confessional. It is true that the Roman Catholic priest, in defence of the confessional, asserts that the Roman Catholic woman has a safeguard in the Roman Catholic religion able to shield her mind from contamination when questioned on matters which would call a blush to the cheek of the veriest harlot even to name.”

From this I infer that you suppose—

1. That “family secrets” are told by Roman Catholics in confession.
2. That the priest is able to use what he thus learns to influence families.
3. That he is allowed to put to his penitents, especially his female penitents, “questions on matters which would call a blush to the cheek of the veriest harlot to name.”

Allow me to assure you, that all, or any of these things, would be utterly abhorred by all Catholics.

1. It is a common notion among Protestants, that confession, as practised by Catholics, means giving an account of our whole lives. In fact, Catholics are bound to confess nothing beyond those things of which our consciences accuse them as grievous sins; and though they are allowed to confess smaller sins, yet nothing except a sin, greater or less, can be matter of confession at all. Neither are they allowed to confess other people's sins, but only each his own; and if, in doing this, it is necessary to refer to any other person, they are not allowed to mention his or her name, or to say any more about him than is necessary to make their own confession intelligible. Need I say that most of the things which a person of delicate feelings would dislike to mention, are not sins at all; but things either right, or at least indifferent. No one of such actions can be alluded to in confession. Again, as to making known family secrets, the obligation of each person to keep strictly to his own sins, prevents their being explained. For instance, a merchant confesses, “I joined with another person to commit such and such a dishonest action.” Who the other person was, or who was the victim of the injustice, the penitent is forbidden to state and the priest to ask.

Again, not only is every one at liberty to choose or to change, at discretion, his or her own confessor, but when chosen, there is nothing to prevent his going to a stranger on any one or more occasions, at his own discretion. He is not obliged to state his name, or any more of his circumstances than is necessary to make his confession intelligible. This is not a theoretical right, but one daily practised. Let any of your readers go to the church in Farm-street, Berkeley-square, or again to the Oratory at Brompton, on any Saturday afternoon or evening (the chief time for confessions), and he will see how easily a stranger may confess without the priest, who hears his confession, having any suspicion who he is.

Owing to these and many other practical safeguards, I have no hesitation in saying, that the practical result is, that less of the secrets of a Catholic family are known (through the confessional) to



any priest, than are known, in case of every family in the aristocracy or middle classes, to the family solicitor, and, in most of them, to the family doctor.

But suppose family secrets to be known, how are they used? This is prevented by what we call the "seal of confession." No priest is allowed, under any circumstances, or for any reason, to mention anything he has heard in confession to any one; or even to refer to it in any way to the person himself who made the confession. So strictly is this observed, that if you wish your confessor to speak to you on any matter, or do anything about it, he will say, "Speak to me about it out of confession." How then can he be made "master of the family" by anything he has heard in confession. Do not suppose this is a mere rule. So strictly is it observed, that I not only never heard of one instance in which it was violated, but I never heard of one in which its violation was so much as suspected. If your experience of life leads you to infer that practically the confidence placed in solicitors and medical men is equally safe, I can only say that your experience has been more fortunate than mine. How this effect is secured, I am not sure that I can make a Protestnat fully understand. The result is enough, and of the result there is no doubt. Still you will see some of the causes of it. One is, that every priest knows that his violating this "seal" in the minutest particular would consign him to damnation, and would, meanwhile, be his absolute, hopeless, and irretrievable ruin in this world.

Now as to the indecent questions which you believe to be put to women. It is a dream, and a very foul one. The rule of the Church is, that priests must risk anything rather than say what may suggest to any one man, woman, or child, any one polluting idea. It is true, that if a person's sins have been against purity, they must be confessed, and it is often very painful. But, however disagreeable, I do not imagine that the pollution is in the confession, but in the commission. Even then no question can be asked, except such as may be necessary to make the confession intelligible. The practical result is, that no pure person is questioned at all on such subjects, and that any questions put to an impure person are limited to those strictly necessary to make intelligible what has been confessed.

You may say, "Confession must lead to such questions." But, sir, it is far from safe for those who have no knowledge of the practical working of any system to assume that they know better what its results must be, than those who daily live in it know what they are.

My object is not to defend on belief a practice, but to state what it is. I say, then, that you are mistaken when you suppose that Catholics admit that, in the confessional, questions are put (either to man or woman) which have a natural tendency to pollute; but that we assert that "the Roman Catholic woman has a safeguard in the Roman Catholic religion to shield her mind from being contaminated by them." We neither assert nor admit anything of the sort. What we say is, that we have a security in the Roman Catholic religion, and in the system of our priests' education, and in the rules of the confessional, not that such questions shall not do harm, but that they shall not be asked.

Excuse the length of this letter; I do not think your intelligent readers will complain of it. Nothing more strikes thinking men than the extreme ignorance of men in the same country, the same community, the same city, as to each other's modes of thinking and acting. Your readers are chiefly Protestants. My experience convinces me that most of them know no more of our real ways of thinking and acting, in regard to religion, than if we or they were Indians or Chinese. Perhaps many of us may be equally ignorant of theirs. A lamentable fact; for this mutual ignorance is obviously the stronghold of bigotry. You, sir, are a foe to bigotry. You are, therefore, concerned to give each of us an opportunity of stating for ourselves what we really do think and hold.

I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

A ROMAN CATHOLIC HUSBAND  
AND FATHER.

[The article referred to appeared some months since, and we are not desirous to revive the distressing subject; nor do we think a newspaper the place for such discussions. We, however, insert the foregoing temperate and apparently conscientious letter, as it is our duty, as well as our pleasure, to do, as far as possible, justice to all honest opinions and statements. That this statement can at all alter the opinions and the feeling on the evils that in some cases undoubtedly attend the Roman Catholic confessional, we do not imagine. Our article was written in reference to a particular case, and the subject is of too great political and social importance to be confined to a personal controversy.]

## GERMANY.

March 30th.

THE proceedings in the Prussian and Bavarian representative assemblies are quite overlooked by the general public, entirely absorbed in the war question. The Prussian Upper House have displayed their hostility to the liberal ministry. Their first move was an opposition to the proposed modification of the Game-laws. The move was unsuccessful, and has only tended to lower the feudalists in public estimation. Ministers have been defeated in their endeavours to bring all the railways into the hands of the Government. The dispute between the King of Bavaria and his House of Representatives, has reached such a height, that it may be regarded as a constitutional conflict. If the King refuses to give ear to the addresses of the representatives, expressive of want of confidence in his ministers, but retains his unpopular advisers or agents, it will be tantamount to an assumption of despotic power. Whether the Ministers will continue to face a unanimously hostile assembly remains to be seen. Important as this dispute is, it excites no interest here, that is to say, amongst the great body of the people. The war, and that alone, is the topic of conversation, and in proportion as the Tuileries become peaceably inclined, the German courts grow warlike, more particularly the lesser ones, the boldest of all being Hanover, which, after giving Louis Napoleon a good round of abuse, votes one million of thalers extra for war contingencies. The million is, it is said, to be expended in fortifying Geestemünde. The prohibition of the exportation of horses, although not unpopular among the townspeople, who think it evinces patriotism and unity among the crowned heads of Germany, is not much in favour with the rural population of the Zollverein States, a chief source of whose yearly income is thereby cut off. It has been widely reported that the Zollverein has been led to this step in consequence of large purchases having been effected by the French Government; but from inquiries which I have made amongst dealers, I am inclined to doubt the truth of this statement.

This prohibition, which, confined to the Zollverein countries, was not more inimical to France than to Austria, Mecklenburg, Holstein, Lauenburg, and the Hanse Towns, which are not members of the Zollverein, is now likely to lead to fresh complications; for the Bavarian Government, in their prohibitory orders, except Austria from the prohibition—thus making Bavaria, with Austria, a direct party in the conflict, and affronting France by aiming the prohibitory measure expressly at her. Disunion is thus produced in Germany itself, and the surmise I expressed in my last letter is likely to be verified before the time anticipated. Bavaria can surely not imagine that such a bold and defiant step will meet the approval of Prussia. Northern Germany is by no means so warlike as Austria and Bavaria. In the north are the chief seaports, and the most wealth and greatest progress: there, too, is a certain degree of liberty, which helps a little to render the people indifferent to Louis Napoleon's death, and the revolution consequent thereupon, both of which must come some day or the other. They know that a war would not be disagreeable to Austria and Bavaria—that is, the Governments, not the people. A war might possibly prevent the expected revolution, and therefore Austria's boldness.

Notwithstanding the rumours of peace which, by the way, do not take any hold upon the public mind, the preparations for war are still going on with great activity, more particularly in Austria. Last week there was a complete razzia made upon the Vienna papers. Six morning and four evening papers were confiscated. None are allowed to give the least information with reference to the warlike preparations on the part of Austria. At the same time, the most violent tirades are permitted against Louis Napoleon and the French nation. This evinces no desire for peace on the side of Austria; indeed, a peace, such as it is just now, is almost as bad as war to the government who cannot maintain such an enormous force without pressing still heavier upon the people, and making them thus riper still for revolution. One of two evils—war or revolt—and Austria naturally prefers the former.

THE CONGRESS.—The *Times* has the following:—"It is now stated that the Congress will be held at Baden-Baden, instead of at Aix-la-Chapelle, France, having objected to Aix as being within the territory of Prussia, one of the powers to be represented at the Congress. It is said that Count Walewski, assisted by M. Drouyn de L'Huys, will represent France, and that England will be represented by Lord Malnesbury, assisted, as Second Commissioner, by Lord Cowley." A telegram from Berlin, however, tells us that the European Congress will assemble at Mannheim, and that it is understood that it will meet this month. The *Memorial Diplomatique*, an Austrian organ, names Geneva as the place of meeting.

## Fine Arts.

ON Monday evening a pleasing conversation took place, as announced, at the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, in Edward-street, Portman-square. The amphitheatre of the lecture-room has been boarded over, and for the time transferred into a picture gallery. The popular President of the Institute, Mr. Jacob Bell, has lent, as we have already informed our readers, some sixty or seventy valuable pictures for exhibition. These comprise a number of Sir Edwin Landseer's, Mr. Frith's "Derby Day," Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," with works by Egg, Stone, Elmore, Ward, and other academicians. To the "Bibliomania," No. 39 in the catalogue, but undignified by any critical notice there, our attention has been particularly drawn by an eminent critic, whose opinion of this work, by a comparatively unknown artist, is that it is a marvel of power and originality. Sir Edwin Landseer's school-slave, with the sketch on it for his "Larder Invaded," is an interesting relic. By the display of this artist's master-pieces also, a real boon has been conferred upon the Marylebone public, for which Mr. Bell is entitled to their thanks. That this gentlemen is a wag, we must own and prove—though the reader of the quotation may be apt to say *de te fabula*—by a passage from the preface to his descriptive catalogue.

This catalogue, he says, "will serve to correct some erroneous statements which have been circulated respecting several of the pictures. The critiques of works of art, by which the taste and opinion of the public are much influenced, are sometimes written without special knowledge respecting the several subjects described. It is necessary to say something; and where the history of the scene depicted is but imperfectly known and understood, the author may find it necessary to draw upon his imagination for his facts, or to take a random shot at what he supposes to have been the intention of the artist. For example, in a critique on a picture by Sir E. Landseer, some years ago, representing a hare and a weasel, it was remarked:—'We think the rabbit is too much like a hare, and we never saw a ferret of that colour.'" We fancy the public are slow to rely upon such criticisms as the above, and we hardly think it is a specimen unless it be a unique one [which is perhaps an Hibernicism].

The joke is, however, a good one, and we enjoyed it, as we fancy the reader will. The relative value as guides, of professional or amateur critics, we need hardly inform Mr. Bell, has been a thousand times discussed in fine art circles, but is not yet settled. We have tried both with advantage—both without; but we should be delighted to welcome to our columns one who combines so evidently as Mr. Bell the quality of smart writing with that of excellent taste.

## Theatres and Entertainments.

### PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

A WORTHY and enduring capital was placed upon the column of Mr. Kean's scenic triumphs on the occasion of the production, for his benefit, on Monday evening last, of "King Henry the Fifth." The public are now so familiar with the enthusiastic prodigality which has characterised the Shakespearean revivals of this management that the readers of THE LEADER will hardly thank us for a retrospective review of them. It is, again, so very hard to settle satisfactorily within these little bounds, if at all, whether the perfection of embellishment consistent with good taste has long been past, is but now reached, has still to be achieved, or is even a jack-a-lantern, luring men away from real truth and beauty, that we will rather remind the reader of these moot points than impertinently pound him with ex-cathedra judgments, or nail him to unprofitable discussion. He will be more obliged to us for reporting the novelties presented by the Princess's version of the play, the treatment of which at Sadler's Wells Theatre we justly eulogised not long ago. We are on no very delicate ground here, for Mr. Kean, by his selection for the most part of different points from those chosen by Mr. Phelps for special illustration, has placed all comparisons, except manifestly uncalled for personal ones, out of the question. The great curiosity of the "revival" is the substitution of the muse, Clio—impersonated by Mrs. Charles Kean—for the traditional Father Time of the *dramatis personæ* in the character of Chorus. Instead of Mr. Henry Marston, whose irreproachable elocution we marked at Sadler's Wells, we had in Mrs. Kean, on Monday, a no less excellent pilot through the piece, which the introduction of the part would almost seem to indicate as intended for a pageant; and, like all present, we could not but sympathise with the satisfaction expressed in the managerial manifesto, that "thus an opportunity was offered to that lady which

the play does not otherwise supply, of participating in this, the concluding revival of her husband's management." To the siege of Harfleur, in the second act, which was one of the great features of the play at Islington, the same prominence was given in Oxford-street, and with an excess in illusory splendour proportionate to the difference between the resources of the two establishments. Amidst a hurricane of trumpet-calls (which are, by the way, too liberally laid on through the play, in accordance with ancient custom and the directions of the text), a most imposing and numerous array of knights and men-at-arms, as correctly costumed and as perfectly grouped as the skill of all the talents concerned could contrive, enact the ascent of a breach in the embattled walls. Warlike engines, of whose power the cool old chroniclers themselves spoke fearfully, hurl fiery carcasses into the place. The walls crumble and the breach enlarges under a fire of artillery, which we are even now not prepared to call imitative. The glittering host of bill men and archers surge upon the defences, which the active French repair with gabions. King Harry, in a superb harness and embroidered surcoat, animates his men in person, among the heaps of dead and dying that strew the slopes of this mediæval Malakoff. At last, as the excitement of the delighted audience is beginning to yield to an undeniably real atmosphere of gunpowder, the white flag is hung out, and the English enter the town as the act-drop falls. A more vivid sensation we never saw produced by scenic illusion; and the most vociferous call for the manager—who, doubtless weary, by no means courted the compliment—was, of course, the result. The next marvel of the night is a beautiful pair of tableaux, depicting the occupations of the rival hosts on the battle eve; but here the interference with the text is open to exception. The next scene is a well-painted moonlight view of the English position. Then follows the famous address of the monarch to his worn and weary host, which produced its usual electrifying effect upon the audience, and evoked the most accurately fictitious enthusiasm from the troops, whose grouping and demonstrations were wonders of stage drilling and artistical arrangement. And now we come to the greatest wonder of the night—the reception of Henry by the citizens of London on his return. The scene represents the embattled gatehouse on the Surrey side of old London Bridge; and the authority for much of the scenic detail is a Latin chronicle now in the British Museum, written by a monkish field-chaplain who was with the army from its embarkation to its triumphal return. We are here indebted to Mr. Kean and his assistants for even a more perfect commentary upon the quaint old illumination, and other drawings of such pageants, with which all are familiar, than they gave us in King Richard II. "A greater assembly," says the chronicler, "or a nobler spectacle, was not recollected to have been ever before in London;" and we may add that since the days of Thespis, a more noble spectacle has never been seen upon the stage. The ample scene is alive with a busy, curious mob, the broad colouring of whose holiday gear is so chosen and disposed as to comfort and support the eye of the spectator against the blaze of gaslight. The walls of the adjacent buildings and the rigging of the vessels bristle with spectators, and each turret and bartizan of the edifice on the bridge is peopled with a host of angel-children clothed in white, intoning beautiful strains of welcome, composed by old *trouvères* of the fourteenth century. Forth from the Bridge-house come the corporation with keys and their insignia. Then a company of droll little angels (their white gowns all about their heels), bearing boughs of olive and laurel; then a troop of dusky Eastern pandours; then a bevy of winged glee-maidens, beating tambourines. The troops arrive, and are forced by their friends in the crowd to break their ranks. Some groups are formed by happy meetings, and some by sorrowing relatives of those who will never come back. At length Henry himself appears; and the delight of the people knows no bounds. They rend the air with welcome, surround the King; and those who cannot kiss his hand content themselves with the housing of the steed. A splendid peal of bells, no puny carillonade, but a full grown "triple bob," forms a running bass to the shouts of the commons, and alternate with a beautiful old carol well-known to the readers of Chappell and Wekerlin. At last, as the press permits the monarch and his steed to near the archway, a golden shower falls around him, and the limits of theatrical invention being here set for the present, the drop scene falls, the audience take up the shouts, and the dismounted sovereign, after much boisterous invitation, comes simply forward to receive the frenzied applause of the modern Londoners. The wooing of Catherine in Act V. offers, of course, the best of opportunities for the display of Mr. Charles Kean's powers, and he availed himself of it with great success, delighting his

hearers no less by his polished delineation of the lion in love, than he did by his martial bearing on the scene of warlike action. We need hardly say, that a crowded and fashionable company, numbering many known for their devotion to the art and their admiration of the artist in his private and public relations, were collected to do him honour. And here, as we may not perhaps have occasion to report another of his managerial ovations, let us join in what is, no doubt, the universal expression of sympathy with the closing paragraphs of Mr. Kean's address on the occasion, which run as follows:—

"As the term of my management is now drawing to a close, I may, perhaps, be permitted, in a few words, to express my thanks for the support and encouragement I have received. While endeavouring, to the best of my ability and judgment, to uphold the interests of the drama in its most exalted form, I may conscientiously assert, that I have been animated by no selfish or commercial spirit. An enthusiast in the art to which my life has been devoted, I have always entertained a deeply-rooted conviction that the plan I have pursued for many seasons, might, in due time, under fostering care, render the stage productive of much benefit to society at large. Impressed with a belief that the genius of Shakespeare soars above all rivalry, that he is the most marvellous writer the world has ever known, and that his works contain stores of wisdom, intellectual and moral, I cannot but hope that one who has toiled for so many years, in admiring sincerity, to spread abroad amongst the multitude these invaluable gems, may, at least, be considered as an honest labourer, adding his mite to the great cause of civilisation and educational progress.

"After nine years of unremitting exertion as actor and director, the constant strain of mind and body warns me to retreat from a combined duty which I find beyond my strength, and in the exercise of which neither zeal, nor devotion, nor consequent success, can continue to beguile me into a belief that the end will compensate for the many attendant troubles and anxieties. It would have been impossible, on my part, to gratify my enthusiastic wishes in the illustration of Shakespeare, had not my previous career as an actor placed me in a position of comparative independence with regard to speculative disappointment. Wonderful as have been the yearly receipts, yet the vast sums expended—sums, I have every reason to believe, not to be paralleled in any theatre of the same capability throughout the world—make it advisable that I should now retire from the self-imposed responsibility of management, involving such a perilous outlay; and the more especially, as a building so restricted in size as the Princess's renders any adequate return utterly hopeless.

"My earnest aim has been to promote the well-being of my profession; and if, in any degree, I have attained so desirable an object, I trust I may not be deemed presumptuous in cherishing the belief, that my arduous struggle has won for me the honourable reward of public approval."

We were never of the hyperbolic crew who have lavished their indiscriminate but seemingly not auriferous praise upon Mr. Kean, till the very well of plain English has run dry; but we do believe, that as actor and stage director, on the grounds he puts forward, as well as on others which he does not, Mr. Kean is well entitled to the boon he asks with so much grace and modesty.

On Saturday, April 9th, Miss Edith Heraud will read, in conjunction with Mr. Henry Nicholls, the Mendelssohn version of "Antigone," at the Crystal Palace. She will support the part of the heroine.

The great success which attended the performance of Mendelssohn's "Ave Maria," by the Vocal Association, has rendered it again necessary to repeat the work, with the whole of the Finale to the Opera of "Loreley," on Wednesday evening next, April 6th. "Two Marches," composed for a military band at Düsseldorf by Mendelssohn, and a new Cantata, "The Birth-day," by Mr. Lindsay Sloper (both for the first time in public), will be the additional attractions of the evening's performance. The band and choir, under the direction of M. Benedict, will number 400 performers.

Mr. F. Penny the very accommodating keeper of the free list at the Lyceum Theatre, takes his benefit on Tuesday next, the 5th instant, when we trust his numerous friends will respond to his claims on their support.

POCKET CHESS AND DRAUGHTS.—A simple and useful combination of these games has been submitted to us. A flat box, four inches square, contains a folding board; also flat chessmen, the characters stamped in gold on dark purple and white grounds, the reverse forming draughts. It goes easily in the pocket; will serve in lieu of better apparatus, or aid the working out of problems, while playing, by duplication of sets. Any address can be reached, per book post; and the whole requires but seven stamps. So that it is not surprising that its success is great.

## CHIPS.

Miss Victoria Balfe has, it is reported, been engaged by Mr. E. T. Smith for his Italian Opera. The part chosen for her first appearance at Drury Lane is that of "La Sonnambula;" the *Elvino* will be Signor Mongini. Meyerbeer's new opera is, *on dit*, to be produced at Paris this evening. It has been thoroughly rehearsed and has been ready for representation for some days. It is called "Le Pardon de Ploërmel." The Breton "Pardon" is a countryside festival of a character partly religious and partly secular. We learn from a well-informed contemporary that the libretto of Messrs. Carré and Jules Barbier is rich in the devotional, legendary, fanciful, and fantastic attributes. The overture, which is an echo of the current events in the work, is interwoven with a Hymn to the Virgin, sung behind the scenes, which is again repeated in the last act. A "berceuse" for the heroine, a grand intrata for the tenor Hoël, and the trio finale with "clochette" accompaniment, are the items of the first act. In the second act the "Shadow" air, based on a delicious waltz movement, will alone make the fortune of the opera. A buffa aria, sung by Corentin; a fine duo between the latter and Hoël; and the trio finale amidst the storm, are the attractions in the second act. In the last division of the "Pardon" are songs of the hunter, of the mower, a paternoster as a quatuor, a romance by Hoël, and a duo between him and Dinorah, and finally the chorus of the "Pardon," terminating the work. The Imperial Théâtre de l'Opéra Comique will find another "Etoile du Nord" in the "Pardon de Ploërmel," and musical Europe another masterpiece from Meyerbeer.

Mr. Howard Paul has left for Paris, there to seek materials for a new entertainment. We have reason to know that such apparently flimsy [though from their vitality they may not be called ephemeral] productions as Woodin's Carpet Bag, Albert Smith's Overland and China, Howard Paul's Patchwork, and the German Reed's entertainment give much more trouble to authors than many a heavy drama and light comedy, that the few men of admitted fitness to compose them are very shy indeed of commissions. There is no reason why the French market, which so copiously supplies the dramatic character market, should not yield treasures also to the caricaturist. Mrs. Howard Paul is, we hear, about to appear in her favourite part of *Sims Reeve*, at the Britannia Theatre, where the great tenor having triumphed in person, his "double" is sure to be appreciated.

Mr. Lemon has just sold an elaborate line-engraving of Webster's picture, "Punch," to the Glasgow Art-Union, which will be a sure source of gratification to the numberless subscribers of that body.

## THE REVENUE RETURNS.

THE Returns exhibit a net decrease of 809,712*l.*, on the quarter, and of 2,404,229*l.*, on the year ending March 31. For the quarter, the Customs show an increase of 25,943*l.*, which arises on tea, wine, and tobacco. In the Excise there is a decrease of 64,000*l.*, attributable to diminished receipts for spirits in England and Ireland. Stamps exhibit an improvement of 9,426*l.* In Taxes, the small increase of 3,967*l.*, is owing to the number of new houses. The decrease of 907,601*l.*, in Property and Income Tax, arises entirely from the reduced rates of duty. The Post-office shows an increase of 125,000*l.* Under the head of Crown Lands there is an increase of 2,600*l.*; and under Miscellaneous, a decrease of 6,047*l.*

For the year, we find in Customs an increase of 1,008,839*l.*, owing to a large increase in the receipts of duty upon sugar and tobacco; also an increase upon corn, currants, silk manufactures, and other articles. In Excise, there is an increase of 77,000*l.*; a decrease of 4,902,528*l.* in the Property and Income Tax necessarily results from the reduced rates of 280,000. The increase of 3,386*l.* in Crown Lands, and of 529,057*l.* under the head Miscellaneous, are casual variations.

The *Times* remarks:—"Where taxes have been removed and others laid on it is impossible to draw any conclusion from the whole year's revenue; but, taking those branches which have not been affected by recent legislation, we may say that the expenditure of the country on luxuries has increased, and consequently the people may be supposed to be prosperous. The large increased receipts on sugar, tobacco, and other articles of foreign production far more than compensate the decline in the consumption of spirits. Trade may not have that feverish excitement of three years since, but the national prosperity seems to be on a firmer basis; the industrial classes are well employed, and the present political apathy, in spite of a great question and the most stimulating oratory, is a proof that our laws are just, and our commercial system a sound one."



## INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

## COTTON IN INDIA—MANCHESTER AND COLONEL SYKES.

The subject of cotton in India has been again brought before the Society of Arts, with Mr. J. B. Smith, M.P., in the chair, to represent Manchester, and Colonel Sykes, M.P., to abuse Manchester and to whitewash the old Company. The staunch sepoy-like adhesion to the old company, whose salt he ate, gains our respect for the gallant Colonel, though it cannot induce people to submit to the military dictation to which he strives to subject them. At the same time it must be owned that the Colonel himself is losing ground, as well as the cause which he has espoused. A quarter of a century ago he was esteemed the most distinguished authority on Indian statistics, and now some of the younger Indians have nearly persuaded the public that he knows nothing of the greater part of India, and little even of Madras, as it is at present. By the time that Sir Charles Trevelyan's term of office has expired, the Colonel will not even know Madras as the most lagging presidency in India.

Cotton was too grave a matter, apparently, to raise Colonel Sykes's ire; but in fact cotton is the keystone of his political system, for he holds that it was the unfounded misrepresentations of the cotton lords, and the credulity of the ignorant public of England, which have led to the downfall of his beloved Company, and the old régime. He was present, consequently, impelled by a spirit of gallantry to meet the foe, and his achievements contribute in no small degree to the interest of the occasion.

The paper itself was the production of Dr. Forbes Watson, the worthy successor of Dr. Royle, who holds the important office of Reporter on the Products of India—an office which does great credit to the Government of India, and which, unfortunately, is not provided for our other colonies, or in reference to national interests generally. Yet there is one man, Mr. P. L. Simmonds, who has by his own labours kept alive this department in England, and who, at the meeting in question, was the only unofficial authority; for his short temporary employment in the Economical Museum at South Kensington is at an end. The paper of Dr. Forbes Watson, although he carefully disclaimed for it an official character, is, in fact, a part of his official labours, and will be followed by like communications. While possessing all the scientific information, which can be required, Dr. Watson is far from treating the subject as a mere matter of botanical science, but he brings to it all the resources of a practical man, and it becomes in his hands an important political disquisition. This constitutes the real value of the paper, which will be found a useful contribution to the progress of the cotton question.

Moderate in his views, and yet independent in the assertion of them, this deliberate expression of opinion by Dr. Watson must have weight with the Government of India. The place too, for its utterance was well chosen; for the Society of Arts, by means of its journal and its strong parliamentary committee, exercises great influence, although sometimes there are no members of parliament at its meetings, and seldom more than half a score. The society also puts forward a claim to be considered the constituted embodiment of colonial interests, in which capacity it has of late years made its strength better felt. The paper of Dr. Watson may be easily summarised. He first showed that the extent of cotton growing soil in India is, practically speaking, beyond the limits of demand; he then proved that India already raises 2,400,000,000 pounds of cotton, or twice the crop of the United States; it is next demonstrated that cotton can be raised and delivered in India at the rate of 2½d. to 2½d. per pound, while in the United States the cost is 3d. to 3½d.; and he goes on to lay down the facts that in those districts where the cotton can by natural means reach the coast for export, the export has enormously extended, and that in those districts where good means of transport are deficient the export is stationary, or the expense too great to allow of transport to the coast.

He consequently narrows the whole question of

a full export of cotton from India to that of a reduction of the transport charges to such a rate as to allow of the safe and profitable export of the cotton crop. He states unhesitatingly that the cost of carriage in the Marhatta district amounts to from 4d. to 7d. per ton per mile—a sufficient proof of the poverty of the country, and a reason for it. And here we may pause to consider one fact mentioned by Dr. Watson. The cotton traffic from Berar to Bombay was opened by Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, and rapidly advanced, but in 1846 it became stationary, 180,000 bullocks being employed, and the traffic admitting of no more. Some might suppose that 360,000 bullocks might be made use of, but the number is effectually limited by the minimum of food on portions of the route, and the duration of the season during which that food can be obtained, which is a short one. This natural limit exists wherever there is a bullock traffic or a mule traffic, a llama traffic, as in Peru, or a traffic on goats' backs, as over the Hindoo Kōsh. In poor countries, too, the rates of traffic will always be found high on account of the poverty of the country. Thus, while in England hundreds of thousands of tons are carried at from three farthings to a penny per ton per mile, there are parts of Ireland paying from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per ton per mile; and reckoning the value of money, there are many parts of India where the rates are effectively higher. The first step in progress is to suppress pack animals, and to apply the power of the beasts more effectually in draught; but to work carts there must be continuous roads, and every stream must be bridged or ferried; there must be no breaks.

Dr. Watson unhesitatingly adheres to the doctrine that railways must be the chief means employed to open up the cotton districts, and this after full consideration of the assertions that railways suitable for high speeds are unsuitable for India, and that tramways should be cheaply laid, or the want supplied by roads or canals. Looking to the fact that so much of the soil of India is soil possessing no stones for the construction of roads, but in the rains turning into deep mud, Dr. Watson affirms that well constructed railways are essential for India; but although such a railway is capable of being worked at a high speed, and might be so worked for passenger traffic, yet for cotton traffic it could be worked cheaply and slowly. He, therefore, advocates the immediate completion of the railways and the extension of a line to Dharwar.

Although not actually expressed, Dr. Watson's facts suggest a stinging commentary on the conduct of the late Government of India, in keeping the country without roads, bridges, or railways. Colonel Sykes considered it in this light, and in his wrath arose to defend the Company and assail the cotton men. He affirmed that the growth of cotton had nothing to do with land tenures, the administration of justice, the treatment of English settlers, or the Government of India; and in his usual statistical style affirmed that it was a mere question of the price paid to the grower for the cotton. He tauntingly observed to Mr. Smith, that if the Manchester men wanted cotton, it was no business of the Government to help them; they should not call on Jupiter, but put their own shoulders to the wheel; they should go to India; pay the ryots a good price for cotton, and buy it of them. If they did this, they would get cotton in abundance. The Company had been abused for not giving facilities to English settlers, and not allowing them to have land, whereas it is now abundantly proved that they can get land on very moderate terms. The Colonel was furious at the requirement of the settlers to have the land in fee-simple. Notwithstanding all the allegations that had been made, when indigo was wanted Englishmen got into India somehow (the Colonel forgets to state how), and have supplied the whole world with indigo, the same with sugar, the same with rice, with the dye, teak, and jute.

These assertions the Colonel made with as much coolness and boldness as if Dr. Watson's facts and figures were not before him, and as if in their place he had some column of his own favourite figures.

The hour was late, and nobody chose to answer Colonel Sykes, and Sir Erskine Perry and their accustomed antagonists were not present; but the answer would have been an easy one. The indigo, the sugar, the rice, and the jute are chiefly brought down the Ganges, which the Company did not make, and were not able altogether to spoil, though they have allowed some of the channels to be closed; or the products were shipped from the sea coast. Thus the real facts, instead of confirming the Colonel's view, support Dr. Watson's, for he too showed that the cotton of Guzerat Broach, &c., on the coast, having free access to the market, had been largely exported; on the other hand, those districts which depended on the Company for roads could not get their produce to the shipping port.

As to the Manchester men going into the heart of the country, and buying cotton, the price already is sufficiently remunerative on the spot, for 2,400,000,000 lbs. are yearly grown, but the Manchester men cannot bring the cotton away. Mr. Brice stated, on the same evening, that when he went to Dharwar there were no roads, and when he had bought cotton, and stored it in ruined temples, he could not get it away. That fertile country was in such a miserable state that he had to walk about "with his bag of rupees on his back, and to travel many hundreds of miles, with no resting-place except the ground." Such is the India governed by Colonel Sykes and his co-directors.

## NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE state of Indian finance has been a prominent topic for consideration within the last few days. There is now a growing suspicion that, after all the mystery and mystification which has been indulged in, Indian finance is in no better condition than any other department of the late Company's administration, if much better than that of Turkey or Morocco. There is also a strong determination evinced to obtain correct information on the subject by commission of inquiry, and then to apply to India the same measures of finance which economic science recommends, and which have proved successful in England and the United States.

The pressure on the railway market rather affects particular companies than the general mass of shares; but, on the whole, there is a great increase of investment in such securities among the public generally.

Several new companies, for various purposes, are in progress, and India is looked to as the great field for the employment of capital.

Many exertions are made by private individuals connected with India to obtain further capital for investments in tea, coffee, and cotton.

A proposition is now under the consideration of Lord Stanley for introducing into India the cinchona trees, from which quinine is obtained, the vanilla plant, and the cocoa, the cultivation of which have not been attended to in India. The Hollanders are making great exertions to introduce the cinchona into Java, and have brought over a great many young trees.

We regret to see that the Indian Government has done nothing for introducing the alpaca into India, while Australia and the Cape have made considerable exertions.

Mr. Swain, a railway engineer, has found excellent clay for stone pottery in Bengal. He proposes to make telegraph insulators, paving-tiles, verandah tiles, copings for bridges and walls, jars, &c.

The Scinde Railway Company held a meeting on Tuesday, when a very favourable report was given of the progress of the several undertakings. The calls during the next year will be very limited. The beginning of the steam trains on the Indus was referred to with satisfaction.

A new company has been formed, under the Limited Liability Act, at Rungpore. The capital is only £1,000, and the shares are £5 each. The shareholders are chiefly natives. The object is to export country produce to different parts of Bengal.

A very useful measure has been adopted by the Bombay Government. The Bombay Steam Navigation Company has been deprived of the contract for carrying the mails between Bombay and Kurrachee. It received £750 monthly; but the work has now increased, and the Company demanded £1,000,

without any consideration for the increase of passengers and freight. The Bombay Government will now run mail steamers, and there will, consequently, be a competition on the route.

We are sorry to see that the Bombay Government propose to put a tax on the importation of ice, which has hitherto been free. Ice is a necessary of life in hot climates, and is in most such countries untaxed.

Among the remarkable features of the present advancement of India is the condition of the press. Not only are the old papers doing well and being greatly improved, but publications are springing up all over India.

A publication called the *Engineer's Journal*, which has now been issued at Calcutta for about a year, not only contains valuable professional matter, but has now succeeded in obtaining 600 subscribers,—a number not only large in itself, but showing how great is the demand for such class information, arising from the great increase of railway and other establishments, and the zeal which influences the military and other government engineers. These facts afford good augury for the material progress of India; for among the first requisites of civilisation are the application of those mechanical expedients by which time is economised and labour abridged.

At Allahabad a new paper has been started, called the *New Times*. As Allahabad is a growing place, through the increase of steam navigation and the provision of railway transit, good encouragement for the adventure is expected.

The *Delhi Gazette* has been fully re-established, the establishment rebuilt, and a circulation has been obtained greater than ever.

The *Punjabee* has, however, ceased to exist, but that arises from the editor having obtained new employment on another paper.

In Calcutta itself a new daily paper is to be started, called the *Indian Herald*. The price is to be cheaper than the existing papers, for it will be published at 6s. a month, or about 2½d. a number. There are already three daily papers.

Another new paper about to be started in Calcutta is the *Anglo-Indian*, for Eurasians.

It is strange there is not one newspaper yet published in the Hill towns, though these will become the seats of the independent English press, which will do so much for the regeneration of India.

It is gratifying to see that the growth of vernacular literature is proceeding. This is another step to that great measure of the adoption of the English language for India, which has already been advocated by some natives. The more useful information can be extended, the greater will be the demand for access to a printed literature, which can alone supply the requirements of the reader. Thus as Welsh schooling and Welsh books create a demand for English, so will Bengalee or Tamul. In Bengalee there have lately been published a short "History of India," by Kedarnath Banerjee; an "Introduction to Natural Philosophy," and a "Manual of Ancient History," by Bhuden Mukerjee, of the Hooghly Normal Schools; "Lessons on Objects," by Ramgali Nyagaratna, of the same schools; a "History of India," by Nilmani Boysak, all being based on English works. "Sushil Upakhyan," is a work of fiction, to bring the subject of female education and social improvement before the natives, many of whom, who cannot read, like to be read to. The Vernacular Literary Society last year sold 25,000 copies of its publications.

The Chief Justice of Bengal complains very strongly of the state of administration of the law without his jurisdiction. The Chief Justice at Madras considers that much of the greater prosperity and greater safety to life and property, which in his opinion exists in the Presidency towns, is to be attributed to the existence and constitution of the Supreme Courts. The *Friend of India* observes that notwithstanding these facts, the Government will not extend the jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts, as if unwilling to extend "greater safety to life and property" beyond the Presidency towns. One great value of the Supreme Courts is, that they train natives as grand jurors, jurors and witnesses.

There is no reason why the towns on the East Indian Railway, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the Madras Railway should not have the benefit of Assizes of the Supreme Court. Such a measure would get over most of the difficulties of the Sudder Court.

There is Poonah, for instance, where there is a large English population, and which can now be reached by train in six hours from Bombay. Why cannot it have a Recorder and three Assizes?

The Indigo Planters' Association have strongly remonstrated against the present administration of what may be called justice in Bengal, and have memorialised the Legislative Council to take effective measures for a reform of the existing courts, and for

the establishment of new courts, with properly qualified judges, on a different mode, and so as to supersede the necessity of such an appellate system as now exists. This is the time the Government chooses for abolishing that great improvement—the honorary magistracies.

There were no less than seven hundred candidates for Moonsiffships at Calcutta at the last period fixed for examination. As, however, has happened before now, the examination papers had been stolen by some of the clever candidates, so that they were able to prepare the answers. The examiner this time adjourned the examination. We believe there is little doubt remaining among those who have attended to the subject, that most of the paper examinations of natives are delusions.

Some discussion has taken place on a remark of Mr. Augustus St. John, that Hindoos display remarkable aptitude for the acquisition of English, and when they have been carefully taught, speak it without the slightest Asiatic accent. The *Hurkaru* ridicules this assertion, but the *Friend of India* confirms it.

Great complaints are being made of the rise of local taxes in the Indian cities; but these are required for improvements, and with the progress now being made, and the increased wealth of the country, the taxation can, in most cases, be well afforded.

Captain Baillie, the executive engineer at Jhansee, is greatly improving that town. He is employing a large number of women, widows of men killed during the siege. He is removing all unsightly buildings.

#### LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

CALCUTTA news to the 22nd February, and Madras journals of the 1st ult., have come to hand. The chief point of interest in the Calcutta news is the state of the money market.

It is rumoured that the banks are not only declining to make advances on Government paper, but that they are, in some instances, calling upon parties to redeem the paper which they hold. A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was numerously attended. A letter to the financial secretary was adopted, in which several suggestions are made as to the best mode of raising money in India. In reply a *Gazette Extraordinary* was published, notifying "for general information, the financial measures which have been resolved upon, in order to provide means for carrying on the public service for the coming year 1859-60." After giving a detailed account of the loans of the last few years, the Governor-General in Council announces that five crores of rupees are required for the coming year, and to raise this sum a loan at 5½ per cent. interest is to be opened on the 1st of May next. A new issue of Treasury bills will commence from the same date, "bearing interest at the rate of 2½ per centum per diem." As Government assures the public that "no further loan will be opened during the year"—provided the amount be raised—it may restore confidence, and produce the required amount. The Governor-General, however, does not feel very sanguine on this point, as he hints that if the amount be not forthcoming, recourse will be had to England; and then, if instructions to that effect be issued by the home Government, another loan carrying a higher rate of interest will be opened in India.

Colonel Horsford has entered Nepal, and on the 10th February encountered the Nana and the Begum, took all their guns, and drove them further into the interior, and according to one (unconfirmed) account, captured the Begum.

Tantia Topee, when last heard of, was still in Bikaner, but moving southward. He was travelling at his usual tremendous pace. Colonel Showers, the most active of the four active Brigadiers in pursuit, recently reported officially that, whatever his own pace, Tantia could always outstrip him by thirty miles a day.

Mr. Montgomery has left Oude for Lahore, and has been succeeded by Mr. Wingfield. Sir John Lawrence has been allowed fifteen months' sick leave, a notice which seems to imply that he will return to his appointment.

The military movements reported in the Calcutta papers were made known to us by the last Bombay advices.

The trial of the Nawab of Furruckabad was to commence on the 14th ult. The commissioners appointed to try him are—Mr. Batten, judge of Cawnpore; Mr. Ross, judge of Futteyghur; and Mr. Wynward, judge of Shahjehanpore.

#### TANTIA TOPEE.

Mr. W. H. Russell says:—"As to Tantia Topee, he has rendered himself invisible. Our Generals are all waiting anxiously for his reappearance, as each is 'sure of him this time.' Even these gallant officers' forms are becoming indistinct to the gaze of

dier Bonner 'is supposed to be near Nagpore with his column; Brigadier Showers was 'probably near, or at Koochan,' in Joudpore, to-day; Colonel the outer world. Thus, by latest accounts, Brigadier Holmes has vanished 'in the direction of Soojamghur;' but it is hoped that some of the many columns may precipitate Tantia, now held in solution, somewhere or other to the east of the Bikaner district and jungles, and kill him. As to 'dispersing his followers' the most venturesome brigadier now seems to think he will not be credited if he says the deed is done. They have been utterly dispersed so often—they have so frequently thrown away their arms and hid in the jungles—nay, they have been so often reduced to starvation, which has not affected their next appearance or much diminished their numbers, that till I see a telegram which contains the news 'Tantia Topee and his chiefs are killed or taken,' I shall not be satisfied that we have put an end to his extraordinary career. As to despatches, 'hoping to intercept him,' or to overtake him, or announcing that he and his are in hopeless plight—incredulous odi."

#### THE KING OF OUDE.

An Indian letter says:—"The king remains in a dubious condition, scarcely a prisoner, and yet not free, at Calcutta. There is not, I understand, the shadow of a shade of evidence to connect him with the rebellion. It is universally admitted that it was owing to his influence no outbreak took place at the time of the annexation; against which he never ceased, indeed, to protest, but which he sought to overthrow by peaceful means—by petition, embassy, and the mission of members of his family to England, of whom two met with an untimely death. The king has firmly refused up to this time to accept any allowance from our Government, as by so doing he would admit that he was our pensioner, and would acquiesce in the act of annexation. He is living on his capital, and on jewels and treasure brought away from Lucknow, and he is in the habit, from time to time, of sending precious stones and money to the female members of his family at Lucknow. All these, as well as his letters, pass through the hands of the Chief Commissioner, but I do not believe that the letters which are sent unsealed are exposed to very close scrutiny. It is time that England should adopt some decided step as to the status and fortunes of the King of Oude, on whom this mutiny has fallen most heavily."

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN AUSTRALIA.—In South Australia one of the species of sugar-producing plants has been cultivated with considerable success. The agriculturist who has turned his attention to this plant may hereafter be regarded as one of the best friends of the colony. The introduction of wheat into Spanish America was not more beneficial to that continent than the sugar plant may prove to be in Australia. We do not expect that in its present state, or for some years to come, Australia will ever be regarded as an extensive sugar-producing colony, able to compete with the West India islands, or a part of the southern States of America. The scarcity and high price of labour constitute a difficulty which will not be readily overcome; but the fact having been clearly demonstrated of the suitability of the soil and climate of the country for the growth of sugar is, nevertheless, one of considerable importance to the future of these colonies. We learn from one of our contemporaries at Adelaide that Mr. Duncan, who has had the advantage of a West India experience as a sugar-planter, is of opinion that the plant will not at present pay for the purpose of sugar manufacturing, in consequence of the high price of labour. The "holcus" is not, however, merely useful as a plant from which to extract sugar, but it is of great value as food for cattle and horses. Cattle are extremely fond of it, and they will eat plant, stalk, leaves, and flower without any preparation, and the plant is exceedingly nutritive and fattening to stock of all kinds. The result of the experiments which have been made show that the plant is about twice as productive as a haycrop, that it grows without much trouble on a soil of moderately good quality, and very little seed is required; the grain from four heads is said to be sufficient to sow an acre of land. The climate of Australia, which is at certain seasons of the year hot and dry, is not well suited to the production of heavy grass crops, or of those rich pasturages which are to be met with in many parts of this country. This peculiarity of the climate does not, however, appear to exercise any injurious effect upon the holcus, or sugar plant.—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette*.

THE SUEZ CANAL.—Advices have been received from Alexandria, which announce that the Viceroy has rejected the written application of M. de Lessops for permission to commence the work of the Suez Canal, and that Mr. Lieantbeg, the engineer-in-chief, has tendered his resignation.



## COMMERCIAL.

## GOLD AND THE FRANCHISE.

WHEN the City writer of the *Times* can find no other subject for discussion than the ancient platitudes of Sir Archibald Alison anent the currency, the writer of commercial leaders in this journal may, without departing from propriety, refer to the bearing of the supposed decline in the value of gold on the asserted extension of the electoral franchise. In truth, the great suspension of all speculative business, from political uncertainties, including much new enterprise, leaves as little to be said in the public journals on commerce as on agriculture or manufacture, and confines commercial writers necessarily to a dry record of the prices and amounts of securities and of goods sold. In finding a vent at Glasgow for the suppressed energies of a London journalist, the writer in the *Times* has been so eager to get at Sir Archibald, that he has overlooked objects that lie much nearer the City. The exaggerated views indeed of the old advocate of issuing promises to pay that are never to be paid, deserve all the castigation they receive from the *Times*. To propose a legislative interference to prevent the honest redemption of an obligation is one of the expediences, as contradistinguished from right, which short-sighted politicians, in and out of Parliament, continually advocate. Another of them is establishing in England an exclusively gold standard, and establishing in India an exclusively silver standard; prohibiting in each country all debts, however contracted, and whatever the parties to them may desire, to be paid in any other metal than the one arbitrarily chosen by ignorant expediency. A third of these expediences permits men in Scotland and Ireland to issue promises to pay for 1*l.*, and prohibits them in England for a less sum than 5*l.* And a fourth expediency is to lay the growing trade of banking under foolish restrictions, while the advocates of the measure had their mouths full of boasts of their love of free trade. We cannot, therefore, in echoing the *Times*' censure of Sir Archibald's gross exaggerations, both of the relative condition of France and England, formerly and now, and of the effects of a forced issue of paper, fail to record our opinion, that the City writer in that journal is as much in error, in defending the mass of absurd restrictions passed in 1844, as Sir Archibald in his currency notions, and a great deal more inconsistent. The latter has always been a gloomy Tory; the former is at once a Restrictionist and a Free Trader. The errors of both concern speculative legislation rather than commerce; but the value of gold, to which we have referred and are about again to refer, is a great element of commerce, and just now it has, in the debates of Parliament, found, in a different direction, a very important practical application. It was asserted by Lord Elcho, that the fall in the value of gold was leading to a reduction in the standard of the franchise, and admitting continually a lower class of people to enjoy it. He quoted the *Scotsman*, to show that what was a 10*l.* franchise in 1832 was now equal to a franchise of 7*l.* 10*s.*, and that this change was the consequence of a reduction in the value of gold. The discussion originated in this part of our paper some time ago, therefore has now a very important practical bearing, which justifies us in resuming it. In direct opposition to Lord Elcho and the *Scotsman*, however, Sir James Graham asserted that the "number of electors is gradually diminishing." On this account we first ask the attention of our readers to the doubtful fact of the electoral body increasing or decreasing.

First, let it be remembered that this increase or decrease must be in proportion to the whole population; and the population of Great Britain was, in 1831, according to the census, 16,564,138. Augmenting it by one per cent. to bring it to 1832, it was then 16,729,779. At present, taking 3,120,000 for the population of Scotland, on the authority of the statistical abstract, and 19,630,000 for the population of England and Wales, on the authority of the Registrar-General, the total is 22,750,000. Since 1832, therefore, the population has increased 36 per cent. According to Mr. McCulloch (*Statistics of the British Empire*), the number of

electors in 1832 in Great Britain was 720,784, and the number at present, according to Paper No. 140 of the present session, is 1,072,963; the electors, therefore, have increased in the interval 49 per cent., or more than the population. When the difficulties of a first registration, the changes subsequently made in the rate-paying classes, and the exertions of the paid agents of the different parties to secure supporters, are remembered, a great part of this increase will be attributed to those causes rather than to a reduction in the standard of enfranchisement. Accordingly, by a return made in 1842-3, we find the number of electors in Great Britain had then increased to 941,782, or 32 per cent. At that period the population may be estimated at 19,000,000. Between 1842 and 1859, therefore, the population of Great Britain has increased 19 per cent., and the electors have increased only 14 per cent. These facts negative both the assertions, that there has been a continual decrease of electors in relation to population, since the Reform Act of 1842 was passed, though there has been such a decline of late years; and the assertion that the increase of electors, which was much greater in proportion in the early part of the period than in the latter, is owing to the gold discoveries lowering the 10*l.* rate of enfranchisement.

Let us now look at the relative numbers of county and borough voters at the two periods:—

	County Voters.	Borough Voters.
1832.....	403,494.....	317,290
1838-9.....	571,601.....	501,362
Increase.....	168,207	184,072

Thus, in the interval, the county population, which is comparatively stationary—the population of some counties latterly having actually declined—has had an increase in electors of 42 per cent., while the borough population, to which the increase in the whole empire is nearly confined, has increased only 58 per cent. On looking to a classified return of the electors for 1846, we find that in that year the county voters were 561,329, or within 10,272 of their present number, while the borough voters, then 383,144, were 118,218 short of the present number. We have not the means of ascertaining exactly the increase of the borough population in the interval, but we are certain that it has been much more than 30 per cent. By these figures, too, we are brought to the conclusion, that since 1842, or 1846, the increase in the number of voters in the boroughs has not been equal to the increase of population in the boroughs. The opinion of Lord Elcho and the *Scotsman*, that the alteration in the value of gold has lowered the rate of enfranchisement, and so admitted a greater number of the lower classes to the enjoyment of the franchise, has no foundation, for there is no such increase in the number of 10*l.* voters since the quantity of gold was largely increased.

Some allowance should be made for the decrease of freemen, by death and otherwise, included in the number of registered electors, and one or two boroughs at present disfranchised; but these deductions would not much alter the general conclusion, that the increase of borough electors, in latter years, has not, on the whole, kept pace with the increase of population.

We know there are some cases in which the electors have increased, in proportion, faster than the population. Edinburgh, however, is not one of these. According to "Dod's Parliamentary Companion" for 1845, its population was then 133,692, and the registered electors 5,346; in 1857, however, the population was, according to the same authority, 160,302, and the registered electors 6,230, the population having increased in the interval 20 per cent., and the electors only 17. But the population was the number according to the census of 1851; the number of electors was given according to the latest official return, or for five years at least subsequently. In Edinburgh itself, then, there had been no increase of electors, as the *Scotsman* imagines to be caused by the depreciation of gold. In Glasgow, however, the population, in 1845, is put down by Dod at 257,592, and the registered electors at 8,241. In 1857 the population is put down

at 329,097, the amount in 1851, and the elector registered at 15,502. On this showing the population had increased less than 30 per cent., and the electors nearly 90. So Finsbury, according to Dod, shows, between 1845 and 1857, an increase of only 22 per cent. in population, and 70 per cent. in registered electors. These cases, however, may give us a clue to the relative general increase of population and electors, and to the mistake of Lord Elcho. Both these are cases in which the population is increasing very rapidly, and the increase is, in the main, of the middle classes. In Finsbury, and probably in Glasgow, the bulk of the new dwellings are above the value of 10*l.* Each of them would give the inhabitant a vote. The increase of voters in the new population is, therefore, large in proportion to the whole population. Moreover it is great every year, and the registered electors are annually recorded; while no efforts are made in the respectable publication quoted to ascertain the increase of population year by year. The number ascertained at the last census, or the population of 1851, is put down in the book as the population in 1857, both of Finsbury and Glasgow. Of other places a like statement is made, though year by year the population increases very rapidly. Such facts, probably, lead Lord Elcho and the *Scotsman* to suppose a greater increase of electors than population, which they ascribe to the depreciation of gold; but the case of Edinburgh itself shows how unfounded is the supposition.

The observation of the journal reiterated in Parliament by Lord Elcho, brings under notice a very important distinction, which is worthy of attention. There can be no doubt, as they imply, that the bulk of the town population pay higher rent, or more money, in proportion, for their dwellings now than in 1832. But if this were the result of a general appreciation of prices, in consequence of a continual fall in the value of the precious metals, as is alleged, and notably of a very large fall in latter years, it would make itself perceptible in other things as well as rent—in the produce of land, in wheat, cotton, and sugar, and in manufactures, as well as in the rent of land and in the rent of buildings. The fact, however, is that there is no tendency to a rise in the price of commodities the produce of labour, while there is a continual tendency to a rise in the price (rent) of monopolised land. This is not confined to England. We read continually in American papers and books of the great increase in the value of land in New York, Boston, Cincinnati, &c., &c., by which the Van Ransselaers, the Astors, the Abbots, the Longworths, have become millionnaires. They were the fortunate holders or wise purchasers of plots of ground, which, must, from their position, be required for the dwellings of an increasing population; and which are now let or sold by the square yard, in these new cities, at prices almost equal to the sums given for land in Glasgow or London.

Clearly, as population increases, favourable positions—on the banks of the Clyde or the Mersey, bordering the Frith of Forth or the Bristol Channel, on the Hudson or the Ohio, wherever men do and must congregate to carry on business and get a living—will command a continually increasing quantity of the produce of labour. The rent in such places—rent wherever the land is already occupied and population increases—must continually increase; and the fortunate holders of such a monopoly are continually enriched by the labour of other men. As population increases, knowledge is increased, skill is increased; and as labour becomes more skilful, commodities of all kinds are obtained at a less cost. As the price of them falls, more and more of them must be and is given by the producers to the owners of the soil. Hence, as the price of clothing, of provisions, of what are called luxuries, but are really necessities—such as tea, sugar, coffee, &c., &c.—falls, or they are obtained by less labour and at less cost, the labourer is enabled still to live and give more for his dwelling; and hence a greater sum is paid for the rent of houses now than formerly. As the *Scotsman* says, the house that did let for 10*l.* now lets for 13*l.*; or the accommodation that did

give the franchise cannot now be obtained for 10%, and the process is not enfranchising, but disfranchising. If more persons than gave the 10% in 1832 can now give the 13%, this is due to those wonderful inventions which have reduced the cost of all human productions, and to the free trade forced on a reluctant Legislature, which has permitted labour to increase to a vast extent the means of subsistence and the enjoyments of all. The increase of gold is merely one compensatory part of the great system.

Instead of the rise in rent admitting a lower class to the enjoyment of the franchise, it has tended to disfranchise those who did enjoy it. Had the rise in rent not been accompanied by a considerable reduction in the cost of all the necessities and comforts of life, the disfranchisement in boroughs would have been very great. Whether the *Scotsman* or *THE LEADER* however, be right in the effects of the gold discoveries on price,—whether the admitted rise in rent have tended to increase or diminish the number of electors,—the deduction is equally plain, that it is unpardonable in the Legislature to make the rights of the bulk of the community, involving its peace, depend on a fluctuating circumstance, like the rise or fall in the rent of houses. We are not about, however, in this part of our journal, to discuss the true principles of representation; we only wished to show that the theoretical conclusion adopted by some writers, of a great fall in the value of gold, has been adopted for a practical and injurious purpose,—that of opposing the extension of the franchise. Those who maintain it are in error; and are not justified in inferring a progressive enlargement of the franchise from such a cause, and in resisting the admission of a greater proportion of the lower classes to a share in the representation.

## MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

THE only perceptible effect of the defeat of the Ministers last night was a slight rise in the public securities. Consols closed generally at 95½, and to-day they were at 95¾, or ¼ better; but before the close of the market the rise was lost. The business done was very little, and the telegrams from Paris, bringing a further decline of the Three per Cents. there of 10c., our funds also declined. At the close of business the market was very heavy, the communications from the Continent, particularly those from Paris and Turin, being the reverse of assuring. One of the worst features of the times, in fact, is the incredulity of the public. They seem to have lost all faith in statesmen; and the more they profess, while their acts are closely scanned, the less they are believed. For them the condition is extremely unfortunate, for their power depends on the opinion of the public.

The last week's Bank returns having been favourable, showing, for the period of the quarter, only a small demand on the Bank, money is now easy; and the approaching payment of the dividends will make it easier for some time. What effect on it the demands for India and for Russia may have cannot at present be foreseen, but it is rather expected that the ease will not be of long duration. It is noticed as one favorable symptom that the Government deposits are large, and that the deficiency bills it will be obliged to issue for the payments of the dividends, will be only of a small amount. The Bank returns this week are also favourable.

The Revenue returns, published this morning, showing an increase in the Customs, stamps, taxes, and Post-office, and a decrease in the Excise and in the Property-tax, in the quarter just ended as compared to the corresponding quarter of 1858, are regarded as extremely satisfactory. They justify Mr. Disraeli's confidence in the growing resources of the country, and confirm the deductions of science, that in the Excise as in the Customs, 2 and 2 is not equal to 4. The decline in the Excise in the face of additional duties on spirits, shows that the smuggler has intervened, and turned the increase into his pocket. We know, at least, that stills are now found where stills were not hitherto known. Financiers, like other statesmen, seem slow to learn, and fancy there is no limit to taxation but their will. They continually find themselves mistaken.

The loss on the income-tax, caused by the reduction of the rate, is a subject of rejoicing, not of regret.

One noticeable feature in the share market, in the month now come to an end, is the little variation in Consols; they having stood at 95½ to ¾ at the beginning of March; and 95½ to ¾ at the close, while the bulk of the railway shares are 1, 2, or 3 per cent. higher at the close than at the beginning. The public securities, therefore, have been more affected by the war rumours and the prospects of loans than the shares of private companies.

The bulk of the gold imported in the week, or its equivalent, has been taken for the Continent, whence we are gathering silver, at a considerable expense, to send to India. Our present Mint regulations, therefore, compel the nation to bring gold from Australia, and with it buy silver on the Continent, in order to send it to India, when, if there were no such absurd and contradictory Mint regulations or enactments, the gold would naturally and necessarily flow from Australia direct to India. The State is now repeating, as to the precious metals, the very same error it formerly committed as to timber and coffee, and is forcing them to take two long sea voyages in order to reach the consumer, when one short sea voyage only is required.

The railway calls for April amount to £2,274,768.

### BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 30th day of March, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued.....	£33,404,950
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities ..	3,459,900
Gold Coin & Bullion	18,929,950
Silver Bullion .....	—
	£33,404,950
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital.....	£11,553,000
Reserve.....	3,658,339
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	9,346,914
Other Deposits.....	13,879,985
Seven Day and other Bills.....	744,853
	£42,183,091
	£42,183,091

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated March 31, 1859.

### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 29.

#### BANKRUPTS.

JAMES TRESSAM BURKE, Frederick's-place, Old Kent-road, hat manufacturer.  
WILLIAM CAVE, Ferry-road, Millwall, Middlesex, builder.  
THOMAS ANDREWS, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire, builder.  
JOSEPH STENTON, Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, corn dealer.  
JOSEPH FAULKNER, Liverpool, baker.  
JOHN FEARSON, Maryport, Cumberland, grocer.

Friday, April 1.

JONATHAN MORT HASLAM, Portwood, Stockport, cotton doubler.  
THOMAS DRUCE, Weymouth-street, Portland-place, butcher.  
JOHN FRAMPTON, Poole, butcher.  
MARMADUKE FOSTER, Bradford, bill broker.  
JAMES CAMP, Chesterfield, boot and shoe maker.  
WILLIAM BARNES, Uldale, Cumberlandshire, miller.  
RICHARD HAWKINS, Carmarthen, cattle dealer.  
JOHN MORGAN, Cardiff, cattle dealer.  
THOMAS HAYWOOD, Homerton, grocer.  
JOHN SHEPHERD, King's Lynn, Norfolk, tile manufacturer.  
GEORGE FREDERICK RUHL, Crutched Friars, merchant.  
THOMAS WOOD, Granville place, Bagnigge-wells-road, cowkeeper.  
BENJAMIN LONGRIDGE BARNETT, Gracechurch-street, shipowner.  
ROBERT FORD, High-street, Marylebone, grocer.  
WILLIAM AISHEN, Hanley Castle, near Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, baker.  
HERBERT REDGATE and JOHN REDGATE, Nottingham, lace manufacturers.

### GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

THE market reports from Liverpool in the course of the week, which announced the shipment of wheat to America, confirmed the statement we made last Friday of this extraordinary feature of trade. It entitles us to remind the reader, that this happening after the repeal of the corn-laws, helps to demonstrate that the blessings of that repeal are not even now half-known. But for a free importation here, there could have been no exportation. In such a case, too,

the one shilling duty which is yet paid on imports—corn not being bonded for duties—will interpose an obstacle to export, and be felt as an impediment to trade. Every day, then, brings to light more and more the advantages of freedom, and entitles its advocates to say, in all other cases as well as corn, let us have freedom—perfect freedom—and be assured that the issue—though we do not know beforehand what it will be—cannot be otherwise than beneficial. Partly in consequence of the condition of the foreign markets, and partly in consequence of the weather at home, the corn market was firm to day.

The Mincing Lane Markets, too, for coffee, sugar, and tea, were all firm; and there needs but continued peace to make all nations prosperous. In the city, as Mr. Disraeli said, the people are much more for peace than politics; and they are confirmed in their scepticism in the latter, and their faith in the former, by noticing how little is the effect which political changes—short of war and the apprehensions of war—have on the prosperity of nations.

There is evidently a strong disposition on the part of manufacturers and shippers to do more trade but they are deterred by the unsettled aspect of affairs abroad, and the political uncertainties at home. It is known that large continental orders are held back, because exporters and continental houses are afraid of the possibility of a rupture of the general peace. Should anything very favourable to a continuance of peace turn up in the course of the week, we may expect to have a busy time of it in our centres of manufacturing activity.

LIVERPOOL.—The cotton trade has been moderately brisk. In consequence of the advices from America an advance of about ¼d. per lb. on the rates of Friday has been effected.

MANCHESTER.—The main feature has been the slackness in the demand for India, and the apprehension that the market has been over supplied. The advices we have recently received do not confirm this feeling—though they indicate that quite as many goods have been poured into the markets as they can bear. If this is so then the uncompleted orders which are yet to be sent forward may cause some disturbance, but nothing, it is hoped, likely to prove either of a lasting or serious nature. In goods for the Eastern markets there is now much slackness of demand, but for cloths—such as printers' and long cloths, fit for the home and continental markets—rather more demand is felt. Prices have to some extent given way, and shippers have come forward with orders. The yarn market has been tolerably busy; this arises from continental orders which have been coming in ever since the intimation of a Congress transpired. Prices are getting firmer, the rise in raw cotton tending to strengthen the position of the spinners.

LEEDS.—The amount of business for the week has been rather below the average. The attendance of buyers was moderate, and the demand has slackened even for "light" and Paramatta mixtures. The general prospects of the trade are good, notwithstanding the temporary inactivity that has shown itself.

NOTTINGHAM.—The lace trade is not brisk. The hosiery trade is fairly employed.

LEICESTER.—Hosiery trade good in town and country districts.

BIRMINGHAM.—Trade pretty fair. The iron-making districts are well employed on railway orders.

COAL TRADE.—The trade is in a sound, but not very active condition.

Since our last remarks on the growing evil of strikes, there have been one or two additional disputes between employed and employers. All we can venture to suggest is, that temper and good sense will be allowed to have their fair weight, and then we shall not fear a satisfactory solution of the difficulties.

## HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS.

### REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening.

WE have had a quiet week in all descriptions of produce. No material variation in prices has occurred. The markets, however, appear to be affected by the uncertain state of affairs at home and abroad. Altogether, however, trade is in a sound condition.



**SUGAR.**—An improved tone is observable in this article; considerable public sales of foreign went off freely, on terms rather in favour of the seller; and the private business also established firm rates. —Refined: A fair business is doing for home trade on previous terms.—Molasses: Good Trinidad is sold at 17s. 6d.

**COFFEE.**—The Dutch Company's spring sale of 431,978 bags Java and Padang held at Rotterdam this morning, is reported by telegraph to have gone at prices above the recent valuations, and much above the previous sales; good ordinary quality having realised 37c., which, at the September sale went at 32c. to 32½c.; and at the spring sale last year at 27c. to 27½c. Little business is doing, owing to the difficulty in finding sellers; but 1,000 bags Native Ceylon, principally low and unclean quantities, are reported at 46s. to 52s. Grenada was disposed of at a decline proportionate to that re-established for Trinidad, ordinary to fair red selling at 40s. to 46s.; a small lot gray, 38s.

**TEA.**—The market remains firm—the trade have been occupied with the samples of the public sales. Exports from London, for the week ending 24th March, 624,623 lbs.

**PIMENTO.**—The market is quiet; 43 bags good middling sold by auction at 3½d.

**GINGER.**—55 barrels Jamaica sold at the previous value; ordinary and good ordinary, 77s. to 89s.; 124 cases Cochin of fresh import realised advanced rates—good bold, 113s. to 118s.; good, 106s. to 107s.; middling, 85s. to 91s. 103 cases were bought in at 87s. to 88s.; of 1,010 bags fair rough Bengal, the sound was bought in at 16s. 6d.; the damaged 200 bags sold, first class, 15s. 9d.

**CLOVES.**—Six casks Amboyna bought in at 5d. to 5½d.

**FRUIT.**—The market remains steady with moderate transactions. Currants ranged from 34s. to 39s., damaged 31s., at which a portion found buyers; 320 cases Sultana raisins were bought in at 50s. per cwt.

**SALTPETRE.**—The market is steady, but no transactions are reported in Bengal. 678 bags Bombay have, however, been sold; refraction 49½ per cent., at 33s. 6d., and 47½ at 34s.

**JUTE.**—A further reduction took place at the public sales to day, the common and middling qualities selling at 10s. to 20s. below last week's prices, at which, however, there was more disposition to buy; the finer sorts were principally taken in.

**HEMP.**—Manilla offered by auction was sold at 18½ to 18½ 5s.; fair bought in at 27½; Sunn nearly all sold at 18½ 2s. 6d.

**COIR GOODS.**—The public sales of yarn went off with less animation than in the previous week, but of 22,021 dholls (40 tons) and 339 bales Cochin offered, a good portion was taken off at the valuations to a little under; common to fair quality 25½ 10s. to 35½ 15s.; Cochin junk bought in at 25½ per ton.

**COCHINEAL.**—The public sales have gone off flatly, but without alteration in prices; Honduras sold, chiefly silver, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 11d.; Teneriffe, black, 3s. 10d. to 4s.; silver, 3s. 7d. to 3s. 8d.; ordinary bought in at 3s. 6d.

**TURMERIC.**—Bengal is still held above the offers, and 1,286 bags in auction were bought in at 18s. 6d.

**TALLOW.**—The market for Y. C. is quiet, but steady, at 53s. on the spot; same price for April, 52s. 9d. to 53s. April to June, and at 53s. 6d. October to December.

**OILS.**—Linseed is steady, and brings 28½ 15s. here, and 28½ 10s. in Hull. Rape—a large business has been done for future monthly deliveries at 42½, and 42½ 10s. for French refined. Olive continue at previous quotations. Cocoa Nut and Palm Oils remain at previous rates, without much offering or business doing. Linseed—the market is quiet, and there are sellers at former prices.

**CORN.**—The markets have been steady, with a tendency, if anything, to lower prices for foreign wheat of middling sorts. English flour sells well at full rates. Barley of all sorts about 1s. per quarter cheaper. Current prices are—wheat, Essex and Kent, White, 37s., 48s.; Red ditto, 34s. 6d., 44s.; Norfolk, 35s., 43s. Barley, malting, 33s.; distilling, 28s. 6d. Oats, feed, 19s., 24s. Potatoes 26s., 29s.; Scotch ditto, 20s., 24s.; Irish, 20s., 23s. Beans, 35s., 36s. 6d. Peas—New White, 40s., 40s. 6d.; Maplo, 42s., 45s.; Grey, 37s., 38s. Flour firm—Households, 33s., 34s.; Fine, 34s. 6d., 40s.; Norfolk, 26s., 27s.

**HOPS.**—Market firm at late prices. New Hops in demand at higher prices.

**HAY.**—Trade rather dull—Prime meadow, 72s., to 80s.; fine, 83s. 87s. Clover, old, 94s., 105s.; Straw, 24s., 28s.

**CATTLE.**—A fair supply; prices without variation.

MARK LANE.—FRIDAY.

The tone of the market to-day was quiet but

good. The home grown supply was not large, and the foreign imports this week are moderate.

**WHEAT.**—English, no variation on Monday's prices. English white, 42s., 48s. Red, 40s., 46s. Flour firm, from 30s. to 40s. Norfolk, 17s. 6d. per 280 lbs. French 30s., 34s.

## RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

On Monday, at the half-yearly meeting of the Wellington and Severn Junction Company, a satisfactory statement was made, and the Directors' report was adopted.

At a special meeting of the Wimbledon and Dorking and the Epsom and Leatherhead Companies, on Monday, a bill for providing a joint station at Epsom for their use, and for other purposes, was unanimously approved.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Scottish Central Railway, the Directors announced that in consequence of the unusually heavy charges of the six months, the dividend would be 5½ instead of 5½ per cent.

Official reports to the Board of Trade, on certain accidents which occurred on railways during the last eight months of the year 1858, are published. The following companies are inculpated by the report, so far as the accidents were the result of carelessness, negligence, or want of efficient arrangements,—the Birkenhead, Lancashire, and Cheshire Junction Railway Company, the Bristol and Exeter; the Chester and Holyhead, the Deeside, the Eastern Counties, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Great Western; Lincolnshire and Yorkshire; the Londonderry and Coleraine; the North-Western; the South-Western; the Midland; the Monklands; the North British; the North-Eastern; the North London; the North Union; the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton; the Rhymney; the South-Eastern; and the Waterford and Tramore. Judging from these reports, defective arrangements of all sorts—or, in other words, faults of omission—would appear to be rather the general rule than the exception on the railways of the United Kingdom.

Lord Redesdale has introduced a bill into the House of Lords, intitled "An Act for Preventing the abuse of Return Tickets on Railways." His lordship proposes that the fraudulent sale and transfer of excursion, double, or return tickets shall be punished with a fine, not exceeding (with costs) the sum of 5l.; and, in default of payment, imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two months.

A special meeting of the London and South Western Railway Company is called for the 7th inst., to consider a number of bills pending in Parliament, one of which authorises the company to "make new works and to raise further funds," whilst another authorises an amalgamation with, or a lease of, the Portsmouth Railway.

The third ordinary general meeting of the Bahia and San Francisco Railway Company is called for the 20th inst. The half-yearly interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum will be payable on the 14th.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Ottoman Railway proprietors, the chairman, Sir M. Stephenson, said that the line from Smyrna was making rapid progress, and that the Turkish Government took great interest in the carrying out of a regular system of railway communication. It was expected that the first section would be completed by the autumn. The accounts showed a total sum received of £204,584 4s. 10d., and the expenditure £175,158 8s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £29,425 16s. 8d. The report was agreed to unanimously.

The meeting of the Cape Town Railway and Dock Company took place on Thursday, Mr. Watson in the chair. The report, which stated that the contract with the Government had been much improved, and that the works would now be completed for 400,000l., was adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

A special Court of Common Council was held on Thursday, to consider a report of the improvement committee in reference to the memorial of the Metropolitan Railway Company, recommending that the corporation should take a direct interest in the undertaking to the extent of 20,000 shares, amounting to 200,000l., subject to the several conditions and guarantees contained in the report. The report having been read was opposed, which led to a long discussion, which was adjourned.

On Thursday a special meeting of the Great Western Company was held, for the purpose of taking into consideration various bills which are being prosecuted in Parliament. The Earl of Shelburn was in the chair. The number of bills which the advertisement set forth would be discussed was twelve; but the majority were postponed in consequence of their not being in a sufficiently forward state to be brought before the proprietors. The Chairman said that some of the bills had been post-

poned in consequence of their not being in such a forward stage before Parliament as to admit of their being brought under the consideration of a Wharfedale meeting. The number of bills in which they were interested was twelve; but Nos. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, and 12 had been postponed. The whole of the bills, with the exceptions mentioned, were sanctioned.

**LOMBARDO-VENETIAN.**—The traffic on the lines of this company for the week ending the 18th ultimo, presented the enormous increase of 28,700l., or 105 per cent., compared with the corresponding week of last year. Of this increase, about 3-7ths is estimated to have arisen from the transport of troops and munitions of war, and the remaining 4-7ths from ordinary sources. The aggregate increase since the 1st January is 116,000l.

**FRENCH RAILWAYS.**—According to an official document recently published, the Paris and Orleans Railway Company have already expended on various works 517,000,000f. There still remain 743,000,000f. to be expended on works now in progress, which, when completed, will form a total of 1,260,000,000f. expended by the Orleans Company on railways. The principal works on the new section of the Northern Railway, intended to shorten the distance between Paris and Creil, may now be looked on as terminated. The new line is 10½ miles shorter than the old, saving half-an-hour's time and about 2f. in the fare. Some of the works have been attended with considerable difficulty, particularly the viaduct of Chantilly, over the valley of the Nonette, which is built on piles, 2,200 in number, driven to a depth of nearly 60 feet in a most turfy soil. Another viaduct, that of Comelles, in the middle of the forest of Chantilly, is also raised on a similar foundation, the masonry being hollow in order to render the weight on the piles as light as possible. It is thought this new section will be opened to the public about the commencement of May.

**HONDURAS INTER-OCEANIC RAILWAY.**—A deputation had an interview with Sir John Pakington on Monday at the Admiralty, upon the subject of this railway. The deputation submitted the maps of the line and ports prepared by Colonel Stanton, the officer deputed by the Government to review the route, and represented that it was in the most direct line between this country and Australia, that the harbours, both on the Atlantic and Pacific, were spacious, accessible, and safe in all weathers, that the Bay of Fonseca is upwards of 3,000 miles nearer to Vancouver's Island than Valparaiso, 700 miles nearer than Panama to British Colombia, and in a healthy and well-provided locality. It was stated that a substantial contractor had tendered to construct the railway for 2,500,000l., and pending its construction to put through a sufficient road for the carriage of the mails at a moderate cost, within 12 months from the present time. This road would bring Great Britain within 18 days of the Pacific ocean, and within about 40 days of Australia. The line lay through the territories of the single friendly State, a treaty between which, and this country guarantees, under all circumstances, the safety of property and independence of the road.

**PORTUGUESE LINES.**—The last Peninsular mail brings word that the Minister of Public Works had intimated an intention to continue by contract the works upon the Lisbon line from Ponte d'Assoca to Santarem, and probably to Barquinha, without prejudice to the general contract for the lines which are to connect Lisbon with Oporto and the Spanish frontier, in respect to which the Ministers were expected shortly to bring forward a bill in the Cortes.

## JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

At the meeting of the British American Land Company, on Monday, the report and accounts, after some discussion, were adopted; and it appears that, although the directors are not in a position to declare a dividend, the value of the property is steadily and materially improving. The large increase upon the mortgage account is a favourable feature, since the proceeds must hereafter gradually become available. The important public works proceeding in the colony will prove of considerable advantage in enhancing the marketable nature of the land in some of the districts; while the whole, from the effect of the increase of settlers, who will bring it into use and cultivation, will eventually ensure a return commensurate with the capital which has been expended upon it.

At the meeting of the Linares Lead Mining Company the report was adopted unanimously. The accounts for the past half-year show a profit of 11,150l., out of which a dividend of 5s. per share has been declared. The general condition of the mine is considered to have improved. By the completion of the railway between Cordova and Seville, which is expected to take place in a few weeks, a saving in fuel and carriage is anticipated of more than 3,000l. a-year.

## SHARES AND STOCKS.

No. of Shares.			Name of Company.			London.		
No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.
84543	12	10	Ambergate, &c.	6	6 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Birkenhead, Lancashire, and	64	64	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Cheshire Junction	93 1/2	93 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter	84 1/2	84 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Caledonian	16	16	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead	60 3/4	60 3/4	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	East Anglian	47	47	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties	32	32	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, class A	15	15	Stock	100	100
28000	25	25	class B	92	93	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	East Kent	72 1/2	72 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	East Lancashire	27 1/2	27 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh and Glasgow	103 1/2	102 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee	86 1/2	86	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Great Northern	133	133	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	A stock	106	106	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	B stock	58 1/2	58 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western (L.)	87	87	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Great Western	112 1/2	112 1/2	Stock	100	100
18000	50	50	Lancaster and Carlisle	112 1/2	112 1/2	Stock	100	100
18000	16 1/2	14 1/2	Thirds	94 1/2	94 1/2	Stock	100	100
24000	16 1/2	15	New Thirds	67 1/2	68	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	113	112	Stock	100	100
48444	16	6	F. 16 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	Stock	100	100
87500	9	7	9 1/2 shares	92 1/2	92 1/2	Stock	100	100
11900	11 1/2	11 1/2	London and Blackwall	38 1/2	38 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	London, Brighton, and South C.	101	101 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	London and North Western	75 1/2	76	Stock	100	100
244000	12 1/2	7 1/2	Eighths	12	12	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	London and South Western	60 1/2	61	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln	3d	3d	Stock	100	100
50000	10	3	Metropolitan	60 1/2	58 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Midland	92 1/2	92 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Birmingham and Derby	14 1/2	14 1/2	Stock	100	100
20000	50	50	Midland Great Western (L.)	47 1/2	47	Stock	100	100
22220	25	25	Newport, Abr., and Hereford	77	76 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Norfolk	104	104	Stock	100	100
60000	50	3 1/2	Northern Counties Union	44 1/2	44 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	North British	34 1/2	34	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	North Eastern—Berwick	112	109	Stock	100	100
64115	25	16 1/2	G. N. E. Purchase	27	27	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Leeds	85	83	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	York	48	47	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	North London	39	40 1/2	Stock	100	100
168500	20	17 1/2	North Staffordshire	71	70 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolyn.	65 1/2	66	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Scottish Central	66 1/2	66	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Scottish N. Eastern Aberdeen Stk.	120	120	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Scottish Midland Stock	94	94	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Shropshire Union	23 1/2	23 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	South Devon	98	98	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	South Eastern	57 1/2	59	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	South Wales	140	140	Stock	100	100
27582	20	20	South Yorkshire and River Dun.	11	11	Stock	100	100
3273	20	18	Do do	91 1/2	91	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Vale of Neath					
LINES LEASED								
AT FIXED RENTALS								
Stock	100	100	Buckinghamshire	100	100	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Clydesdale Junction	104	104	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	E. Lincolnshire, guar. 6 per cent.	144	144	Stock	100	100
8000	50	50	Hull and Selby	111	111	Stock	100	100
43077	12 1/2	12 1/2	London and Greenwich	66	66	Stock	100	100
11130	20	20	Preference	120	120	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	London, Tilbury, and Southend	94	94	Stock	100	100
82500	5 1/2	5 1/2	Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock	23 1/2	23 1/2	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Midland Bradford	98	98	Stock	100	100
16862	50	50	Northern and Eastern, 5 per cent.	57 1/2	59	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Royston, Hitchin, and Shepreth	140	140	Stock	100	100
78750	12	12	South Staffordshire	11	11	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Wiltshire and Somerset	91 1/2	91	Stock	100	100
PREFERENCE SHARES.								
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter, 4 per cent.	97	97	Stock	100	100
Stock	100	100	Caledonian 10 1/2, 4 1/2 per cent.	105	100 1/2	Stock	100	100
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.								
48810	20 1/2	13	Great Western Canada New	8 1/2	8 1/2	Stock	100	100
100	all	all	Ditto Bonds 1876	105	105	Stock	100	100
100	all	all	Ditto 1873 without op.	105	105	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Ditto 5 1/2 p. ct., 1877, ditto	18	17 1/2	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Madras guar. 1/2 per cent.	10 1/2	10 1/2	Stock	100	100
50000	20	20	Ditto ditto 5 do	18 1/2	18 1/2	Stock	100	100
50000	20	20	Ditto 4 1/2 per cent. Extension	18 1/2	18 1/2	Stock	100	100
50000	20	20	Ditto Thirds ditto	18 1/2	18 1/2	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Ditto Fourths ditto	18 1/2	18 1/2	Stock	100	100
125000	20	20	Scinde	20 1/2	21	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Ditto	20 1/2	21	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Ditto New	20 1/2	21	Stock	100	100
25000	20	20	Ditto Punjab	20 1/2	21	Stock	100	100
30000	10	2s6d	Trinidad (limited) Scrip	par	par	Stock	100	100
MISCELLANEOUS.								
50000	10	10	Antwerp and Rotterdam	5 1/2	5 1/2	Stock	100	100
42500	5	5	Belgian Eastern Junction	1	1	Stock	100	100
82039	20	15	Dutch Rhenish	10	10 1/2	Stock	100	100
500000	20	20	Eastern of France	26	26 1/2	Stock	100	100
100000	20	20	Great Luxembourg Constituted	6 1/2	7	Stock	100	100
113392	4	4	Shares	8 1/2	8 1/2	Stock	100	100
26595	20	20	Obligations	37 1/2	37 1/2	Stock	100	100
400000	16	16	Namur and Liege	33 1/2	34	Stock	100	100
265000	20	20	Northern of France	55	53	Stock	100	100
300000	20	20	Paris and Lyons	7	5 1/2	Stock	100	100
27000	20	20	Paris and Orleans	9 1/2	9 1/2	Stock	100	100
83334	5	5	Royal Danish	6	6	Stock	100	100
31000	20	20	Royal Swedish	24 1/2	24	Stock	100	100
10	10	10	Sambre and Meuse	34	33 1/2	Stock	100	100
26757	8 1/2	8 1/2	5 1/2 per cent. Pref.	24 1/2	24	Stock	100	100
300000	20	20	West Flanders	34	33 1/2	Stock	100	100
Austrian Agricultural								
20000	25	19	Australian Agricultural	34	33 1/2	Stock	100	100
50000	10	all	Australian Royal Mail	250	250	Stock	100	100
350	1000	all	Atlantic Telegraph (Limited)	37	38	Stock	100	100
6000	50	all	British and Irish Mag. Tel. A.	21	21	Stock	100	100
3261	20	all	Do. B. 7 per cent. till 1862	15	15	Stock	100	100
11739	20	all	Do. C.	125	128	Stock	100	100
8915	100	32 1/2	Canada Land	15	15	Stock	100	100
200000	5	all	Crystal Palace	15	15	Stock	100	100
30000	5	all	Do. Preference	5	5 1/2	Stock	100	100
34364	9	all	Eur. and Amer. Steam (Limited)	103 1/2	103 1/2	Stock	100	100
80000	20	all	Eastern Steam	1	1	Stock	100	100
700000	St. 100	all	Electric Telegraph	1	1	Stock	100	100
40000	1	all	Electric Telegraph of Ireland	1	1	Stock	100	100
70000	5	all	English and Australian Copper	1	1	Stock	100	100
20000	10	10s	European and Indian Jn. Tel.	1	1	Stock	100	100
20000	15	14	General Steam Navigation	1	1	Stock	100	100
50000	20	5	London Discount	1	1	Stock	100	100
200000	4	all	London Gen. Omnibus Company	1	1	Stock	100	100
30000	10	all	Mediterranean Electric Telegraph	1	1	Stock	100	100
12000	10	all	Mediterranean Ex. Tel. (Limited)	1	1	Stock	100	100
30000	25	5	National Discount Company	1	1	Stock	100	100
188676	1	all	North British Australasian	1	1	Stock	100	100
25000	20	all	North of Europe Steam	1	1	Stock	100	100
50000	1	all	Oriental Gas	1	1	Stock	100	100
50000	1	15s	Do. "New Shares"	1	1	Stock	100	100
120000	5	all	Peel River Land and Min.	1	1	Stock		

ENGLISH STOCKS.		Fri.	ENGLISH STOCKS.		Fri.	FOREIGN STOCKS.		Fri.	FOREIGN STOCKS.		Fri.
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p. c. ½-year	..		India Loan Scrip	..		Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent	..		Russian Bonds, 1822, 5p. ct. in £ st	..	
3 per ct. Reduced Anns.	..		Do. Bonds, 4 per cent., 1000£	10		Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent	..		Do. Ditto ½ per cent.	..	
Do. for Opening	..		Ditto under 1000£	14		Ditto ½ per cent. 1858.	94½		Sardinian Bonds, 5 per cent.	..	
3 per cent. Consols Anns.	95½		Bank Stock for account Aug. 5	22½		Ditto 5 per cent., 1820 and 1830	..		Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent.	..	
Do. for Opening	..		3 p. ct. Cons. for account do	95½		Ditto 5 per cent., 1843	..		Ditto 3 per cent. Deferred	..	
New 3 per cent. Anns.	..		Do. for Opening do	..		Ditto ½ per cent. 1858	..		Ditto Passive Bonds	45	
Do. for Opening	..		India Stock, for account do	..		Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent.	..		Ditto Com. Cert. of Coupon not fd.	5	
New 3½ per cent. Anns.	..		Exchequer Bills, 2d. and 1¼d. p. day	..		Ditto Account	..		Turkish Scrip, 6 per cent.	93	
New 2½ per cent.	..		Do. 1000£	..		Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent.	..		Ditto 4 per cent. Guaranteed	..	
5 per cent.	..		Do. 500£	..		Ditto 3 per cent.	..		Venezuela 5 per cent.	..	
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1800	..		Do. Small	..		Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825	85		Ditto Deferred 2 per cent.	..	
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1850.	..		Do. Advertised 1½	..		Ditto 5 per cent. Bonds	..		[Divs. on above payable in London.]	..	
Do. exp. Jan. 5, 1800	..		Ditto Bonds, A 1858 3½ p. ct.	..		Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	..		Belgian Bonds ½ per cent.	..	
Do. " Jan. 5, 1880	..		Ditto under 1000£	..		Gronada Bonds, New Active, 2½ p. c.	19½		Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	65½	
Do. " April 5, 1885	..		Ditto B 1850	..		Ditto Deferred	..		Ditto 4 per cent. Certificates	..	
India Stock, 10½ per cent.	221		Ditto under 1000	..		Guatemala	..		Peruvian Dollar Bonds	..	
Do. Loan Debentures	98½					Mexican 3 per cent.	21½		PARIS.		
						Peruvian Bonds, ½ per cent.	..		French Rentes, ½ per cent.	68½	
						Ditto ½ per cent. (Uribarren)	..		Ditto 3 per cent.	..	
						Portuguese Bonds, 3 per cent., 1863	..				



A general meeting of the Canada Company took place on Thursday. The report stated that commercial difficulties prevailing in Canada throughout 1858, led to a great reduction in the sales of land, in the collections of money, and, in fact, under every head of the company's business. Since the commencement of the present year, however, there has been a large increase in the company's money collections, owing to the more favourable position of trade. The assets show a surplus beyond the amount of capital of £807,297, after providing for all liabilities. After some discussion the report was adopted.

The annual meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is called for the 27th inst., and that of the Oriental Bank Corporation for the 28th.

At an adjourned meeting of the London Assurance Corporation, a dividend of 35s. per share, free of income-tax, was declared for the half-year ending Lady-day, 1859.

At the 49th annual meeting of the North British Insurance Company, held at Edinburgh, the directors' report stated that the profit, amounting to 136,629l., realised since last septennial investigation, allowed the directors, after setting aside one-tenth as the proprietors' guarantee fund, to declare a bonus addition of 1l. 5s. per cent. per annum on every policy opened with the company on the participating scale prior to 31st December, 1858. The directors recommended the usual dividend of 8 per cent., leaving 53,145l. 6s. 10d. to be carried to the rest for the next year.

**THE CHINA TRADE.**—According to the latest China news, the export of tea from China to Great Britain is on a par with last year at the same period, but a very large deficiency will appear in the course of a month or two, when the very small supplies of the present season come to be placed against the large spring export of 1857-58. At this time last year no less than 320 chops of tea were stored in Canton, and there are now only nine. At Foochow the comparative export shows deficiency of 4,000,000lbs., while at Shanghai there is a deficiency of 8,000,000lbs. The balance is therefore made up by the Canton teas, nearly all of which have been already exported, whereas shipments had not commenced in February, 1858. To the United States there is an increase of 500,000 lbs. Silk export to Europe is about 5,000 bales in excess of last season, viz., 58,662 bales against 53,744 bales.

**THE NICARAGUAN SCHEME.**—"Although by the recent news from Europe certain extraordinary details are given relative to M. Belly's extravagant pretensions and stock jobbing schemes about the Nicaragua ship canal, the whole magnificent fabric must shortly fall to the ground. We have seen a letter from Mr. Baring, the great English financier, to a distinguished gentleman in this country, in which M. Belly's canal project is spoken of as visionary. Mr. Baring says that none of the English capitalists will touch such an impracticable thing. Our Government is assured that the Emperor Napoleon does not interest himself especially for M. Belly, or any one else, in the ship canal matter. Louis Napoleon desires simply to favour a great work, if practicable, which would be invaluable to the commerce of the world. Any wish to promote any particular French interest is disavowed."—*New York Herald*.

**FREE TRADE IN BELGIUM.**—The Belgian Customs Reform Association have had a meeting at Ghent, where the introduction of a more extensive system of free-trade was powerfully supported by several members, who were fully alive to the importance of the subject. This is a question which has never before found much favour at Ghent; and while those who are connected with the woollen trade at Verviers, and with the iron trade at Liège, have ever been conspicuous for their support of free-trade principles, those engaged in the cotton trade at Ghent—unlike their brethren in Lancashire—have on all occasions been alike distinguished for their maintenance of the Protectionist doctrines. The greater merit, therefore, is due to M. Corr Van der Maeren, the president of what should properly be called the Free-Trade Society, and not that for Customs Reform, for the manner in which he has laboured to make this question more thoroughly understood there—a task in which he has been ably seconded by M. Masson, of Verviers, and by other members of the association; and although there may have been less enthusiasm in the cause displayed at Ghent than these gentlemen have been accustomed to see in other places where the question was more congenial, they have good reason to be well satisfied with the progress they have made, which affords great encouragement for perseverance.

**PUBLIC HEALTH.**—The report of the Registrar-General shows a satisfactory state of the health of the metropolis. The deaths last week were 1,141, a number less by 34 than the previous week, and 216 less than the calculated average. The number of births was 1,942.

**THE IRON TRADE.**—The preliminary meeting of the members of the iron trade will be held during the week; but its near approach excites little interest, as it is generally understood to be the intention of the iron-masters not to interfere with existing rates. First-class iron is in good request; and although the mills and forges of those producing an inferior article have not been kept fully in gear, yet up to the present time there has not been much room to complain. There is a fair demand for merchant iron, and evidently more inquiry for railway iron. The pig-iron market is hardly so buoyant as it was, purchasers waiting to see the result of the deliberations of the trade at the forthcoming meeting.

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