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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. 472.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1859.

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ABSTRACT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year 1858, 1,169 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, £27,020 10s. 6d.

Annual Income, £58,388.

Policies in force, 8108, assuring £1,050,555.

Accumulated Fund, £151,807 12s.

Deaths during the year, 75, claims arising therefrom, including bonus, £10,200 18s. 6d., being less than that of the preceding year by £416 17s.

Since the commencement of the Company the amount paid to the Widows and other Representatives of deceased Members is £70,142 3s. 6d.

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The Bonus and Dividend of 25s. a Share on the Stock of the ALLIANCE BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY, declared at the Quinquennial Meeting of the Court of Proprietors held this day, will be in course of payment on MONDAY, the 11th instant, and every following day (Saturdays excepted) at the office of the Company, Bartholomew Lane, from 11 to 3 o'clock. F. A. ENGELBACH, Actuary and Secretary.
ALLIANCE OFFICE, 6th April, 1859.

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ABSTRACT OF PROSPECTUS.

It has been for some years past a matter of notoriety that British and Irish linen manufacturers, and also manufacturers of hempen goods, have materially suffered from a deficient supply of flax and hemp. This state of deficient supply arises from the fact that the cultivation of flax in Great Britain has materially decreased instead of increased with the growing requirements of our linen manufactures. Our national commercial statistics show that, out of 150,000 tons of flax annually consumed in the United Kingdom, not more than 50,000 tons are of home growth. In addition to this enormous importation of flax for our linen manufactures, we have also imported hundreds of thousands of quarters of linseed every year for home consumption.

The linen manufacturers of the United Kingdom have declared that they are ready to take any quantity which can be grown at home, and at such prices as will be more remunerative to the agriculturist than the usual produce of his lands.

The promoters of the National Flax Company are prepared to prove to the agriculturists of this country that no more profitable crop can be cultivated than that of flax, whenever their system of retortories, and improved mechanical treatment of flax fibre, shall be adopted in the localities of its growth. The main feature of the company's plan is, that it will take the trouble of preparing the flax for market entirely off the hands of the grower, by becoming the purchasers of the crop, and thus leaving the grower entirely free from the hazards of bad harvesting weather, and at the same time ensuring him a certain handsome profitable return for all the flax he can produce and deliver to the company's depots and retortories. The company's operations will also embrace the whole of the requisite process of preparing the flax and similar fibrous substances ready for the spinner.

The system of preparation adopted by this company is the subject of a patent, the invention of Mr. George Albenor Cator, a gentleman who has made the cultivation of flax and its preparation for the spinner his especial study for many years past, he having fully demonstrated the great economy of labour and the very great improvement in the quality of the flax fibre, which is the result of his improved system of flax preparation. The system will be found fully detailed in the "Explanatory Pamphlet on Flax Cultivation and Preparation," to be had free from the Secretary of the company and its agents; in which will also be found an exposition of the great importance of the home cultivation of flax, as insuring a regular supply of raw material to the very important national manufactures of linen and hempen goods; half-stuff for paper-makers; and the importance of the seed for linseed oil and oil-cake.

As an example of the intended operations of the company, the following is quoted from the full prospectus of the company:—

By retortories will be understood establishments where the preparation of flax-fibre from the raw plant for the spinner and manufacturer will be carried out through all its stages. It is estimated that two retortories, on the scale proposed as the base of operations, will require eight patent machines, and, if constantly at work for (say) 300 days in the year, will produce annually 1,200 tons of flax-fibre, 7,500 quarters of linseed, and 900 tons of tows; and allowing £50 per ton to be obtained for the flax-fibre, 50*s.* per quarter for the linseed, and £5 per ton for the tows, there is a gross yield of £85,500.

Assuming that it will take as much as ten tons of flax-straw unseeded to produce one ton of flax-fibre, at a cost of 4*l.* per ton, and 18*s.* per ton of fibre for all expenses, the total outlay will be 60,000*l.*, leaving a balance to be divided of 15,000*l.*, or nearly 30 per cent. upon 55,000*l.* (the cost of the buildings, plant, and machinery, together with a sufficient working capital for two retortories), which is wholly irrespective of the dividend that may be expected from licence dues from other retortories; and as the operations of the company are extended, the dividends will be in proportion.

The peculiar advantages of Selby, in Yorkshire, and the surrounding flax-growing districts, have decided the company on establishing their first retortory in that neighbourhood.

A prospective enterprise of this company being the cultivation of flax on reclaimable lands, of which in the United Kingdom there are some millions of acres, it is considered the company may beneficially turn its attention to the acquisition, in due course, of an available property in such lands.

The National Flax Company will, by increasing the cultivation of flax in the present growing districts, tend to encourage the population of other parts of the country to acquire the requisite knowledge of an industrial resource by which their local labour will become more profitable, and

land of greater value. Again, the fast-extending application of the power-loom to flax fibre will greatly increase the demand for flax. All considered, the circumstances of the times combine to establish the present enterprise as the nucleus of a new branch of business, and a most valuable auxiliary to the farming and manufacturing producers of the United Kingdom, and one which is well calculated to still further develop her prosperity.

Copies of the prospectus, and all further information, may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, 193, Gresham-house, City.

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4 Salt Spoons (gilt bowls)	0 6 8	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 14 0
1 Mustard Spoon do.	0 18 0	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 6
1 Pair Sugar Tongs do.	0 3 6	0 5 6	0 6 0	0 7 0
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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE Ministerial statements of Monday evening were pretty much like what had been expected. The movements of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, with the subsequent unexplanatory explanation of Lord Derby, on the previous Friday, may have led a few persons to suppose that resignation was contemplated; but even in the absence of positive intelligence, the general impression, at the end of last week, was that Ministers would fulfil their threat of dissolving the present unmanageable House of Commons. To what end they have determined upon taking this extreme course, is a puzzle, if the act is any other than one of vengeance towards the Liberal majority. Neither Lord Derby nor Mr. Disraeli can be so blind to the political aspect of the country at the present moment as to suppose that any accession whatever to the Tory ranks will result from an appeal to the hustings. What that appeal will do is, clearly, to throw the responsibility of a new Reform Bill upon the Liberal party; and we have very strong evidence of the intention of Lord Derby and his colleagues to drop the question, in the address issued to his constituents by Mr. Disraeli, in which the subject of Reform is not even alluded to.

The speeches of the Premier and of the leader of the House of Commons, though substantially the same as to the fact of the Ministerial determination, were very different in tone. Lord Derby went in for an animated attack on both Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston. Lord John Russell he pictured as a man of plots and stratagems—an arch-conspirator, in fact, against the peace and quiet of all Cabinets in which he finds himself not included. Mr. Disraeli took a more temperate view of the course of events, and even admitted that his Government had met with much frank and disinterested assistance from the other side of the House; still, he branded the Liberal idea of Reform as revolutionary, and threatening to the Constitution—a conclusion which Mr. Bright need hardly have taken the trouble to protest against.

One point in Lord Derby's speech of Monday evening has led to a stirring and important passage at arms between Lord Palmerston and the representatives of the Ministry in the Lower House. Lord Derby flatly accused Lord Palmerston of disputing the right of the Crown to dissolve Parliament at any time; and the answer returned by Lord Palmerston sets the fact of there being no absolute necessity for a dissolution at the present time in a very clear light. No man in his senses, Lord Palmerston said, would think of disputing the royal prerogative of dissolving Parliament at any time of the year; but as such a course is only

taken by advice of the Ministers charged with the conduct of public affairs, those Ministers are called upon to consult the needs of the public service before advising the Crown to exercise its prerogative in the dissolution of Parliament. That is what Lord Palmerston meant when he said, "The advisers of the Crown cannot take that course without the consent of the House of Commons"—of the House of Commons which would have to accelerate all its movements, and make itself a party to the arrangement, in fact, before the public business could be placed in such a position as to suffer no injury from the stoppage and delay arising from its dissolution. For his own part, Lord Palmerston is glad that Ministers have thrown down the gauntlet; and he has addressed his friends at Tiverton in this spirit. As for Reform, he is anxious that nobody should run away with the idea that he and Lord John Russell are as one on that subject; he entirely concurs with his "noble friend" as to a reduction of the county and borough franchise, and a transfer of seats; but, "with regard to the particular elements of his bill," Lord Palmerston says, "I can only say that upon those points I retain the opinions which I have upon former occasions expressed."

In his address to the electors of the City of London, Lord John Russell has laid down the basis of the Reform Bill which he is prepared to stand by. It is a moderate measure of parliamentary reform. He is ready to reduce the borough franchise to 6*l*. of annual value, and the county franchise to 10*l*. The ballot he is still against, but he says "that is a question which must be decided by the growth and maturity of public opinion." But why does Lord John Russell for ever linger in the rear of public opinion? Why consent to be the drag upon the wheel of progress? The ultimate adoption of the ballot is inevitable; no man foresees better than Lord John Russell the course of public opinion; but no man seems to be so little prepared to act in harmony with it.

Sir James Graham looks into the future with a steadier eye, and determines upon a bolder course of action. His address to the electors of Carlisle sets the real issue of the present election clearly before his own constituency and before the country; it is, in his own brief and emphatic language, "Reform or no reform; a Liberal policy, or tame submission to Lord Derby."

Spurred on by the desire to get away to their constituencies, the members of the House have been actively clearing up whatever business cannot be conveniently thrown overboard, or put off till next session. The Indian Loan Bill, read a first time in the Lords on Tuesday afternoon, is so advanced, that the royal assent will be given to it on Monday next. Wednesday evening saw large sums of necessary money voted with very little superfluous talk. Even Mr. Spooner withdrew the notice of his annual motion on the May-

nooth grant; nobody of importance, in fact, held his ground in the face of the general desire to "get away," except Mr. Berkeley, who has a notice on the subject of the ballot for Tuesday next. As the ballot will form one of the principal items of the reform programme of many a Liberal borough constituency, of course Mr. Berkeley is quite right not to give way.

The statement made by Lord Campbell in the House of Lords on Tuesday, with reference to the new Divorce Court, demands to be noticed. So great is the increase of business in this Court, he says, that the present judges are quite unable to discharge it. Several changes in its mode of procedure, he adds, are urgently called for, and the Lord Chancellor agreed with him.

On Thursday evening Lord Palmerston gave notice that on the next night he would interrogate the Government as to the position which England is to hold at the approaching Congress. This is a very wholesome proceeding. The country knows little or nothing of the recent acts of its diplomats, and if it were blindly to leave them unquestioned, it might, before long, find itself committed to a course which it might condemn and even execrate. The fact that there has been a rumour afloat, to the effect that England has pledged herself to Austria to guarantee her in the possession of Lombardy and Venice, is in itself a sufficient warrant for calling upon Ministers to give an account of the policy they are pursuing.

Such doubts and suspicions hang about the whole subject that, at the early part of the present week, it seemed anything but certain that the Congress would ever assemble. One of the latest, and by far the gravest of the difficulties that beset the course of the Congress, was said to be the refusal of the French Emperor to sign any protocol in which the treaties of 1815 shall be alluded to. This is, in all probability, an enormous exaggeration, if it is not altogether a fabrication of the pro-war party in Paris. But there is one simple and undeniable fact, which looks like a proof that the Emperor of France is determined to ruin Austria, if not in the open battle-field, by the no less exhaustive process of a forced expenditure far and away beyond her means. Already the excessive cost of the Austrian war preparations are telling fatally upon her exchequer. A begging petition has been sent round to all the Italian Princes for pecuniary assistance, all the Exchanges of Europe being closed against the thriftless insolvent. The cruel game of the Emperor of France takes new spirit from the sight of the poor Austrian Emperor's distress. Day by day, with ever-increasing energy, the preparations, both naval and military, are pushed forward. A letter from Paris, dated Thursday evening, gives a truly formidable account of the forces assembled in the country about Lyons. "France," says the writer, "even on the eve of the great march on Moscow, never set in motion such an overwhelming mass of improved artillery, such enthusiastic legions, fresh from Crimean and Algerine triumphs, such horse, foot, and dragoons, as are now marshalled between the Rhone and the Alps." If all this is so, it is well that England should be clearly informed as to the course to which she is to be pledged by her Ministers, and on Monday or Tuesday evening next they have promised to explain themselves, fully and completely.

Home Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, April 4.

IN the HOUSE OF LORDS there was a large attendance of peers to hear the statement of ministers. The Lord Chancellor took his seat at five o'clock.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS.

The EARL OF DERBY recalled to the memory of their lordships that on the preceding Thursday night the House of Commons had, after a debate of seven nights, characterised by the greatest ability and courtesy on both sides, adopted the Resolution of Lord John Russell, and pronounced a decision adverse to the bill introduced by the Government for amending the representation of the people. There were, in consequence of this decision, but two alternatives left for himself and colleagues,—either to resign office, or to dissolve the present Parliament and appeal to the country. It had been suggested, both by their friends and by their enemies, that another course was open to the Government, but such a course would not have been respectful to the House of Commons, nor in unison with constitutional practice. Besides, it was impossible for her Majesty's Government to conceal from themselves that the vote of the House of Commons was equivalent to a vote of want of confidence, and he thought the Government would have laid themselves open to a charge of indifference, if they took no notice of such a decision. Before stating the course which the Government intended to pursue, he begged their lordships to remember the circumstances under which he had accepted office, and the difficulties with which he had had to contend. The present distracted state of parties in the House of Commons rendered it almost impossible to administer the affairs of the nation. He excepted, indeed, the Conservative party from this censure, whose unwavering, cordial, and generous support he had received for so many years, and then proceeded to enumerate the various political achievements of Lord John Russell. "I desire," said Lord Derby, "to speak of the noble lord with all that respect and esteem which I unfeignedly feel for his many valuable and statesmanlike qualities. I am not slow to recognise the advantages which he has conferred on the country, or the service which in his time he has rendered in Parliament. To the question of parliamentary reform he has been constantly attached, but attached, I think I may say less with the affection of a parent anxious for the advantages and prosperity of his offspring, than with the somewhat jealous and exacting affection of a lover. I have spoken of his high and distinguished qualities; but there is in that noble lord a restless energy and an insatiable craving for being always doing something—a determination that everything shall be done by himself, or not done at all—an indomitable perseverance in business, which can hardly find sufficient scope for its energies and activity in the discharge of official duties, but which, when out of office, renders him to such a degree restless, that he cannot be for a moment satisfied unless he is seeking to do some injury to the cause of those who are opposed to him. The noble lord has had the singular fortune—I do not know whether I may call it the good fortune—of overthrowing more successive Governments than any other man (laughter), and he has had the still more singular fortune of once overthrowing the Government of which he himself was a member." (Hear, hear.) The consequence of such conduct (the Premier continued) was, that hardly a year now passed without a Ministerial crisis, and if the system were persevered in it would put an end to all Government, for it inflicted injury at home and damaged the influence of the country abroad. In accepting office, he had endeavoured to carry on the Government, not by embittering, but by conciliating all parties, until a party should be formed capable of carrying out a fixed and definite policy. One of the questions bequeathed to him by the late Government was the *dannosa hereditas* of Parliamentary Reform. He had in consequence introduced a bill to meet that question. The way that bill had been received was well known to their lordships. It had not been suffered to be read a second time, and to be amended in committee, but had been met by a Resolution, which, according to some authorities, was contrary to parliamentary practice, and had been swamped without discussion. Had the bill been proceeded with in committee, he and his colleagues were prepared to vindicate its principles, as well as to consider proposed alterations, which, if admissible, no false pride would have prevented them from accepting. An opportunity had thus been given to the House of Commons to settle this question, but they had preferred the interests of party to the interests of the country. "Amongst those who professed that they had no intention

to destroy the bill (said Lord Derby) stood pre-eminent the noble lord, Viscount Palmerston, now, I believe by courtesy, the leader of the opposition. I must refer to that advice which the noble lord considered it consistent with his position to offer, and consistent with our honour to listen to—namely; that we should be permitted neither to retire nor to dissolve, nor yet to withdraw the bill; but that we should be condemned to keep our places, and to do his bidding. My lords, I believe he said, to do 'our' bidding. I should be glad to know whose bidding he referred to? (Cheers.) Was it the bidding of the noble viscount, who preferred a 20% county franchise to a 10% one, and who was a very late, and not an enthusiastic, convert to any reduction below 10% in the boroughs? Was it the bidding of the noble lord, the member for the City of London? Was it the bidding of the right hon. baronet (Sir J. Graham), who admitted that he had assisted the noble lord in the concoction of this precious amendment? (Laughter and cheers.) But, my lords, whose bidding was it? Whose slaves were we to be? Were we to be servants of the noble viscount, of the noble lord, of the right hon. baronet, or of the member for Birmingham? (Cheers.) 'Our bidding!' Why, if the motley and heterogeneous assembly which calls itself the opposition in the House of Commons had been asked to tell us what they meant by "our bidding," there would probably not be five and twenty members who would agree as to what injunction should be laid upon their submissive, humble slaves, her Majesty's Government. (Loud cheers.) It is hardly necessary for me to say that so long as we have the honour to serve her Majesty as the responsible and constitutional ministers of the Crown, and so long as we are honoured with her confidence, we do no one's bidding but the bidding of our Sovereign, the bidding of our own conscience, and of our own honour. (Loud cheers.) 'You shall not retire from office!' Why, my lords, how does the noble viscount intend to prevent us from retiring, if we think fit? I grant you that the noble viscount's words have perhaps another meaning. He may have intended to say, "You cannot resign your office, because if you do, it is impossible to find a minister to succeed you." I may perhaps, therefore, have put a wrong meaning upon the noble viscount's words; and, if so, I humbly apologise to him. But the noble viscount went a little further, and said that Parliament would not permit us to resign, and would not allow Parliament to be dissolved. I should like to know where the noble viscount found that doctrine. I had always thought that it was the prerogative of the Crown to say whether and when Parliament should be dissolved." (Hear, hear.) He would not disguise from the House the difficulty in which the Cabinet was placed by the refusal of the second reading of the bill. There were but two courses open to them,—the first was to dissolve Parliament, and the second to tender their resignation to her Majesty. Considering, however, the present grave condition of European affairs, and the domestic interests of the country, he had deemed it his duty to recommend to her Majesty as early a dissolution of Parliament as was consistent with the public service. Her Majesty had consented to this proposal, and he looked with confidence to the appeal about to be made to the country. The Ministers, he considered, had redeemed their promise by the introduction of the bill, and held themselves free on that ground. He was not afraid to go to the hustings on this question, for the measure, which had been by the decision of the other House deferred to another session, was a large and liberal measure; much mischief had been done by that decision, and no principle produced on which a future Reform Bill could be based. Lord Derby concluded in these words:—"My Lords, I say that we do not appeal to the country on the subject of parliamentary reform—still less upon the question of the particular provisions of the Government bill; we appeal to them on a much larger and broader basis. We appeal to them to know whether the present state of the House of Commons, split up as it is into hundreds almost of petty parties, neither of them strong enough to conduct the business of the country, but each of them capable of obstructing that business—whether such a state of things will continue to receive the support and countenance of the people? (Cheers.) We appeal to them as men who are conscious of having faithfully and honestly endeavoured to discharge the important duties which have been entrusted to us by our Sovereign—we appeal to them to know whether they will withhold that confidence which the Sovereign has been pleased to renew, and whether they will entrust the preparation of measures of parliamentary reform, if such measures are to be introduced, to those who have approached the subject in a calm and deliberate spirit, and in a moderate and temperate tone, or whether they will entrust the preparation of such measures, and the carrying of them through Parliament, to men who entertain the wild and visionary scheme prepared by the hon. member for

Birmingham, or the hardly less dangerous or less democratic scheme shadowed forth by the right hon. baronet the member for Carlisle, who assisted in concocting the resolution of the noble lord the member for London. (Hear.) We appeal to them further to know whether as lovers—as all Englishmen are lovers—of fair-play and plain straightforward conduct, they will sanction the overthrow of a ministry who were honestly and faithfully endeavouring to discharge their duty, not in pursuance of any expressed difference of opinion on the part of a majority of the House of Commons—not as the result of a fair parliamentary opposition, but in consequence of the success—the undeserved though possibly the anticipated success—of what I will venture to call an ingenious manœuvre." (Hear.)—Earl GRANVILLE confessed that the days of party government, in the old acceptance of the term, were passed away. He nevertheless contended that no administration could properly fulfil their duties if they did not possess a policy, and enjoy the confidence of a majority in the House of Commons. There was, he maintained, nothing in the information before the House which justified the assertion that peace would be endangered if the present administration were forced to resign. Respecting the Reform Bill, he observed that its principles had been objected to by two former colleagues of the Government, condemned by a majority of the Commons; and now, it appeared, abandoned by its own authors. The course adopted by the ministry, though involving a serious responsibility, was, he admitted, perfectly legitimate and constitutional. He wished at the same time to know on what precise issues the appeal to the country was to be rested.—The subject then dropped. Some further business was disposed of, and their lordships adjourned.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, the Speaker took the chair at four o'clock, and several questions on public business were asked and replied to by ministers.

THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, moving, as a matter of form, that the House do adjourn, announced that, after the vote of the House on Thursday evening, it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with their bill to amend the representation of the people, or to propose any other measure with the same object. He protested against the doctrine that the question of parliamentary reform was the appanage of any individual, or the privilege of any particular party. It was in the power of the Government to deal with this or any other public question in the manner which they deemed most expedient for the public welfare, or most conducive to the public interests. The question of parliamentary reform, he observed, might be viewed in two lights—conservative and revolutionary. Those who regarded it, like the Government, in the first point of view, would wish, in any change, to preserve the present character of the House of Commons, as representing various interests; those who looked at it in the other light would attempt to change its character, and make it the representative of the voice of the numerical majority. After adverting to the motives which had on former occasions of the sort prevented them from taking any positive step, and which, he observed, arose from three sources—first, the manifest disunion among the Liberal party; secondly, the critical state of affairs in Europe; and, thirdly, the wish to fulfil their promise to introduce a Reform Bill—Mr. Disraeli remarked that the vote of Thursday, being proposed and accepted as a vote of censure, admitted of no compromise or delay. He acknowledged the forbearance which the House, and especially the opposition, had exercised towards the Government, and himself personally, when attempting to conduct public affairs under the disadvantageous circumstances of their position. Recurring to the vote, he contended that it had been brought forward by leaders who advocated a contrary policy, and supported by a majority whose union ceased from the moment that the result was proclaimed. That vote was, he believed, prejudicial to the honour of Parliament and injurious to the interests of the country. Finally, he stated that, as the ministry did not believe that they had forfeited the confidence of the country, they had advised her Majesty to dissolve Parliament at the earliest period which the time required for the completion of some indispensable business, such as the passing of continuance bills and votes of money on account, would permit.—Lord PALMERSTON said he was sure he expressed the general feeling of the House in acknowledging the courtesy and fairness of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He did not consider the last vote as one of censure; as such he would not have supported it; it was only an expression of the feeling of the House upon a measure, or parts of a measure, before it. His opinion was, that if the Government felt it their duty to retain their office, they should either have withdrawn the bill or altered it in committee, so as to adapt it to the opinion of the House, and he did

not think that to pursue either course would be any disparagement to political honour. He did not offer any obstacle to their carrying out the advice they had given to her Majesty, but he thought it was very unwise advice. The question that would be put to the country was, not what men should be in office, but what should be the Reform Bill to be brought in by the Government. If he were to attempt to prophesy the result, he should say that the Parliament which the present Government would call together would be far more likely than the present to decide that power ought to be transferred to other hands. He entreated them to take the earliest moment to dissolve Parliament; great embarrassment and inconvenience would result from delay.—Mr. BRIGHT felt with many members that the course adopted by the Government would lead to a large amount of personal inconvenience; but, under all the circumstances of the case, it was impossible for him to come to any other conclusion than that the Government had taken the constitutional course they were bound to take. But while he applauded the course they had taken, he protested against the attempt of Mr. Disraeli to get up a little political capital by representing that the country had the option between his own measure, conservative in its character, and one that was revolutionary. It was very odd, he remarked, that his conservative bill should have had more determined opponents on his own side of the House than on the other. He (Mr. Bright) was not afraid of the tribunal before which the Government were about to bring this question. Any measure of reform he should propose would be in the lines of that of 1832; if that would be revolutionary, he did not understand the meaning of the term. He warned the members of the Government, when they went to the hustings, against making such a charge as this; if they did so, they must take the consequences. He should like to go to this election in a spirit of calmness, and, the Government giving all the figures, to discuss the question fairly.—Lord J. RUSSELL defended his resolution both as to its principle and its terms. He denied that by introducing it he in the slightest degree compromised the interests of peace, inquiring why the Government had brought forward their bill if the discussion which it was sure to provoke was so dangerous. The appeal to the country on the question was, he thought, very injudicious. The present Parliament was quite competent to deal with the subject; and the ministry ought, he thought, to have exhausted every means of passing a satisfactory measure before resorting to the extreme proceeding of a dissolution. Lord John then indicated the provisions of the Reform Bill of which he should have approved, which included a 10% franchise in the counties, and a 6% in boroughs, the introduction of several of what were called "fancy franchises," the preservation of the votes enjoyed by the freemen, and a large admission of the working-classes to electoral privileges. The question relating to the disfranchisement of small boroughs and redistribution of seats ought, he considered, to be dealt with in a separate measure. His proposition was to withdraw twenty-six members from that number of the least populous boroughs now returning two representatives. These, with the four vacancies already existing, would give thirty seats for the larger centres of population. To the ballot he still retained his objection, and should vote against every proposal for introducing that system in any scheme of reform.

A miscellaneous conversation ensued, in which Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. HORSMAN, Mr. DEEDS, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and many other members took part.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the prorogation would probably take place about the time he should have moved the adjournment for the holidays. He said there was no foundation for the statement that the ministry had contemplated resignation, and he denied that he had stated that the opposition to the bill, had endangered the peace of Europe.

The motion for adjournment was withdrawn.

EAST INDIA LOAN BILL.

Lord STANLEY, in moving the third reading of the India Loan Bill, entered into various details respecting the previous loans which had been raised for Indian purposes, either at home or in Hindostan; the deficiencies in the Indian Exchequer caused by the late revolt; and the financial exigencies for which provision had to be made. In the year 1857-8 the deficiency was estimated at nine millions, and in 1858-9 at thirteen millions. These were met by loans already contracted. During the ensuing year one million increase was anticipated in the revenues from taxation, and a large saving would, it was hoped, be accomplished by the release of many regiments now on service in the country. Lord Canning had taken steps to raise a further loan in Calcutta, and had computed that four, or four and a half millions more would suffice to meet the requirements of the coming financial year. There was, however, no intention of asking any larger borrowing

powers than were included in the bill on the table, during the continuance of the present Parliament.—Mr. V. SMITH complained that no improvement had been effected in the management of Indian financial affairs.—Mr. VANSITTART, Mr. CRAWFORD, Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, Sir C. WOOD, Colonel SYKES, and other members, having followed with remarks upon the financial and political state of India, the bill was read a third time and passed.

Some other business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, April 5.

In the HOUSE of LORDS the Duke of MARLBOROUGH withdrew his Church-rate Bill.

THE DIVORCE COURT.

Lord CAMPBELL called the attention of the House to the insufficient number of the judges in the Divorce Court, and objected to the mode of procedure of the Court, which was, he thought, open to abuses.—The LORD CHANCELLOR agreed with Lord Campbell about the deficient number of judges of the Divorce Court, and characterised it as a mistake in the formation of the Court. He had heard from the Judge-Ordinary of that Court that it was impossible to carry on the present business of the Court without assistance. In his opinion the judges of the Divorce Court ought to be increased in number.—After a few words from Lord CRANWORTH the subject dropped.

THE INDIAN LOAN BILL.

The bill was brought up from the Commons and read a first time.—The Earl of DERBY stated that when the bill was brought forward for second reading on Thursday he should move the suspension of standing orders, with the view of passing the measure through all its remaining stages, that it might receive the royal assent before the departure of the India mail of Saturday next, the 9th instant.

The Recreation Grounds Bill was read a second time. The Patent Inventions (Munitions of War) Bill passed through Committee; and the Manslaughter Bill was read a third time and passed.

Their lordships adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

In the HOUSE of COMMONS, Mr. H. BERKELEY announced that on Tuesday next he should bring forward a motion on the subject of the ballot.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved that Government orders of the day should have precedence of other business on every evening during the remainder of the session.

The motion was carried, after some remonstrances from Mr. SPOONER, who complained that he was thus deprived of the opportunity to move his resolution for the withdrawal of the grant to Maynooth.

Orders of the day take precedence of Notices of Motions on this and all subsequent days until the end of the session.

Mr. SPOONER, with a bad grace, complaining of hard measure received from the Government, withdrew his motion on the subject of the College of Maynooth (which stood first on the list of notices) for the present session.

The motion, after a short conversation, was agreed to.

Mr. H. BERKELEY stated that, in default of better opportunity, he should introduce his ballot resolution as an amendment on the motion for going into committee of supply.

Mr. DILLWYN, on behalf of Sir J. Trelawny, postponed the Church-rates Bill, and Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD postponed the Roman Catholic Oaths Bill, until next session.

VOTE OF THANKS TO LORD CANNING AND THE INDIAN ARMY.

Replying to Mr. V. Smith, Lord STANLEY stated that on Monday next he should move a vote of thanks to Lord Canning and other Indian functionaries and officers for their services during the late revolt.

The discussion in committee of the Superannuation Bill was then resumed, and the remaining clauses passed after some considerable discussion.

The Public Offices Extension Bill, and the Indemnity Bill, were read a third time and passed.

GALWAY AND AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. HORSEFALL, in moving for some correspondence, called attention to the subject of the intended mail service between Galway and America. This service, he complained, had been assigned to a particular line of steamers, the Galway Packet Line, without the usual advertisement for public tenders.—Sir S. NORTHGOTE explained the reasons which had induced the Government to waive some of the ordinary conditions when granting the contract for a postal service with America to the company in question.—Considerable discussion followed, in which the merits of the Galway Packet Line, and the conduct of the Government in granting the subsidy for the postal service, were canvassed at much length, chiefly by the Irish members. The subject at last dropped, the papers moved for having been ordered.

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

Wednesday, April 6

In the HOUSE of COMMONS on the order for going into Committee of Supply, Lord PALMERSTON rose to make a personal explanation. Referring, in the guarded manner rendered necessary by the rules of the House, to a charge which, he said, had been made against him "in another place," on Monday, of unconstitutional conduct, in having questioned the prerogative of the Crown to dissolve Parliament, he denied that he had ever said anything that would bear that construction. He had only questioned the conduct of the Ministers in advising the Crown to dissolve Parliament in the existing state of things, it being possible that the House might desire to address the Crown to afford the House an opportunity to consider another Reform Bill, or even an address to her Majesty to dismiss her present Ministers. He utterly repudiated the charge, that he had held any doctrine in the slightest degree repugnant to the prerogative of the Crown or to the principles of the Constitution. He quite concurred in the determination of the House not to interfere in any way, but to leave with the ministry the entire responsibility for the step they had taken. Adverting to the question of reform, the noble lord added that he altogether agreed with the principles of the scheme indicated by Lord John Russell, although retaining the opinion he had previously expressed respecting the limits within which those principles should be practically carried out.—Sir J. PAKINGTON noticed the altered attitude which Lord Palmerston had assumed towards the Government. In his speech during the debate he had adopted a tone of menace, threatening to stop the supplies if they dared to attempt a dissolution. He rejoiced to find that this obstructive course was now abandoned. He insisted that the language used in another place (by Lord Derby) was not open to the criticism of Lord Palmerston; he (Sir John) had used, he said, similar terms in that House, and he repeated the opinion that the language used by Lord Palmerston in the late debate was not consistent with respect to the Crown. That language was threatening, and tended to impede the exercise of the prerogative.—Sir G. GREY considered that the doctrine of Sir J. Pakington would sacrifice the rights of that House. It might be the imperative duty of the House to interpose between advice given to the Crown, which was deemed injurious to the interests of the country, and an actual dissolution. He reminded ministers that they had prognosticated serious perils to the peace of Europe if their policy were hampered, and the House had therefore, he believed done wisely, in leaving on their shoulders the whole responsibility for the course they had adopted. The comments hazarded "elsewhere" upon Lord Palmerston's speech were, he considered, unprecedented and irregular.—Colonel FRENCR insisted that the Government had no right to dissolve except with the view of strengthening their position as regarded the special question on which they had been defeated.—Mr. MALINS contended that all responsibility for the dissolution lay with the opponents of her Majesty's ministers in the late discussion.—Sir G. C. LEWIS repudiated this responsibility, and maintained that the question laid before the country was not one of confidence in a particular ministry, but whether a particular reform bill was or was not to be accepted.—Mr. B. OSBORNE thought that the present Parliament had nothing further to do with reform, and made an inquiry regarding the appointment of Mr. Dobbs to the vacant office of Judge of the Irish Estates Courts.—Mr. S. ESTCOURT said, the Government did not complain of the course taken by the opposition since the late debate; but they could not help complaining of the tone employed by Lord Palmerston. The real question to be decided was, he declared, whether the business of the country was to be carried on by the present Government or transferred to another administration.—Mr. LINDSAY said, if the question had been a vote of confidence in the present ministers he should not have voted against them, considering that they had conducted business well.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY called attention to the fact that the sum voted and appropriated for naval services in the year ending the 31st of March, 1858, was 9,172,290*l.*, and the total expenditure, 9,962,839*l.*, and asked some explanation of the expenditure in excess, and what were the outstanding expenses of the China war?—Sir J. PAKINGTON deferred his reply until the House was in committee.

Lord NAAS explained, in reply to Mr. OSBORNE, the circumstances connected with the appointment of Mr. Dobbs.

Sir F. BARRING, with reference to the order which prohibited a direct allusion to proceedings in the House of Lords, suggested that if attacks were permitted there upon members in this House, the order, on principles of reciprocity, and of fairness and justice, ought no longer to exist. He called attention to the contract entered into by the Government for the conveyance of the mails between

England and Ireland, by which the Postmaster-General engaged to pay the contractors 105,900 out of the revenue of the Post-office, contrary to the provisions of the act 17th and 18th Victoria, cap. 94, observing that he concluded the violation of the Act to be not intentional, but the consequence of some blunder.—Sir S. Northcote admitted that it was owing to an oversight.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply, when votes were agreed to for paying off Exchequer Bonds and Bills, and of sums on account for the Civil Services, the Revenue Departments, and the Navy Estimates, after a discussion of a diversified and miscellaneous character; among other topics, touching upon the finances of the country, naval expenditure, the form of the estimates, Dover harbour, the naval defences and Channel squadron, and the conduct of the late Board of Admiralty in relation to the building of large ships and frigates, and to the protection of our coast, which was defended by Sir C. Wood at considerable length and with a profusion of details.—Sir J. PAKINGTON replied to this defence, and the debate continued until the time arrived for closing it.

The House adjourned at six o'clock.

Thursday, April 7.

EAST INDIA LOAN BILL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS on the motion for the second reading of this bill, Lord DERBY said that the House would look on this bill as a grant on account, which it was necessary to obtain before the dissolution of Parliament, but that a further sum of £5,000,000 would be required. He informed the House that a day of thanksgiving for our successes in India was about to be appointed, and that a vote of thanks was to be given to Lord Clyde and the officers and troops under his command. He explained, in answer to Lord ELLENBOROUGH, that the question of railway deposits was one not of revenue, but of account. He then proceeded to detail the steps which had been taken to reduce the enormous military expenditure. The number of Europeans of all arms in India was 112,000, to which a native army of about 320,000, inclusive of police, was joined. The native army at the present moment exceeded by 50,000 men the native army which existed before the mutiny. Orders had been sent out to reduce as far as possible the native troops, and to prohibit new levies. Of the eighty-five regiments of Queen's troops ten were to be sent home; but this could not be done at once, as it would be attended with great expense, and would derange the estimates by increasing the expenditure for troops in this country. He would not express an opinion on the number of European troops necessary for a peace establishment, but if, as had been proposed, 80,000 Europeans and a native force of 200,000 were to be kept up, it would require an expenditure of at least 15,000,000*l.* a-year,—a sum which the revenue of India could not be expected to pay; and therefore a great reduction of those numbers would be necessary. The reductions which were about to be made would be a cessation of extensive field operations and extraordinary commands, a diminution of the native army and of the British troops in India. This would require great caution, and must not be done in too great haste, as it would be necessary for some time to keep a large force in India.—The Duke of ARGYLL wished to have the principle strongly and at once enunciated, that under no circumstances should the British exchequer be made responsible for Indian debts. This he insisted upon, as a measure of justice both to England and India; the creditors of the Government in Hindostan having, as he observed, lent their money exclusively upon the credit of the local government, obtained a correspondingly high rate of interest in consequence.—Lord ELLENBOROUGH entirely agreed with the Duke of Argyll on the question of guarantees, not so much as regarded England as for the injury it would inflict on India. In an exceptional case, like this Loan Bill, however, it might be advisable to extend the protection of a guarantee. It had been stated that the sum of 40,000,000*l.* had been guaranteed for railroads, and charged on the revenue of India. He protested against such a system as that, for it had saddled the Government of India with a dead loss of 8,000,000*l.* All the present financial difficulties arose out of those railroads, and he trusted that the Government would put an end to the present state of things. He regretted that the Government, while they were about it, had not asked for more money, for in finance, as in war, time was everything. He thought the Home Government had some reason to complain of a want of foresight in the management of the Indian finances, and in some measure the Governor-General was responsible. He suggested that 100,000 persons should be struck off the roll of the native troops. The European force, however, ought to be double what it was before the mutiny. He informed the House that a fund had been set apart by the Act of 1833 to accumulate for

the purpose of paying off the Indian stock; that fund had now reached the sum of £4,700,000, and he suggested that the British Government should guarantee interest upon that stock, and thereby they would at once set free the whole of that sum for the present exigency. The real difficulties of the case were to be met, not merely by lightening taxation, but by good government, in order to render the people content, and so to dispense with the presence of a large military force.—After some further remarks from the Earl of ALBEMARLE, the Earl of DONOUGHMORE, and Lord MONTEAGLE, the bill was read a second time, and the standing orders being dispensed with, was afterwards carried through the remaining stages and passed.

The Patents for Inventions (Munitions of War) Bill and the Common Rights (War Department) Bill were read a third time and passed.

Their lordships then adjourned at half-past eight.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS Lord PALMERSTON announced that on Friday night he should call attention to the state of our foreign relations, and ask her Majesty's ministers to explain the precise position to be held by England as mediator or negotiator in the pending discussion at Paris, or in the future Congress to be held elsewhere, with respect to the affairs of Italy and Europe in general.

The Lords' amendments to the Manor Courts (Ireland) Bill were considered and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up, and on the vote of 2,000,000*l.* to pay off Exchequer Bonds, Sir G. LEWIS inquired whether the Bonds were to be actually paid off or renewed.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was intended to pay them off definitively.—The report was agreed to.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, when votes on account for the remaining Navy Estimates and the Army Estimates were agreed to, after discussion, in which the policy of sending out to India batteries of the Royal Artillery was canvassed.

The Lords' Amendments of the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill were considered, and in part agreed to. The Tramways (Ireland) Bill and the Superannuation Bill were read a third time and passed, after a short conversation on the subject of the latter bill. Certain other bills were read a second time, and the Poor Relief (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill was withdrawn.

NEWSPAPERS, ETC., BILL.

In Committee on the Newspapers, &c., Bill, Mr. ESTCOURT suggested that the bill should be abandoned for the present session, undertaking, on the part of the Government, that the subject should be considered, and a bill be brought in in the ensuing session.—Mr. AYRTON assented, and the bill was virtually withdrawn.

The Combination of Workmen Bill passed through Committee.

THE IRISH YACHT CLUB.

Mr. COGAN called attention to a letter from the Admiralty to the Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland, dated the 26th of June, 1858, withdrawing the privilege of wearing the White Ensign from that Club, although granted them by Royal Warrant, dated the 6th of February, 1832, and confirmed by letters of the Admiralty of the 30th of July, 1849, and the 29th of April, 1853, and ratified by vote of the House of Commons the 29th of July, 1853; and moved for copies of papers and documents.—After a short conversation, in which Lord BURGHLEY, Mr. LYON, Sir J. GRAHAM, Lord LOVINE, and Colonel FRENCH took part the motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past seven, o'clock.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

At the Guildhall, on Saturday, the Board of Conservancy summoned the City Gas Company on a charge of allowing noxious fluid to flow into the Thames. Dr. Letheby gave evidence that the fluid was noxious, while Professor Taylor, who was called for the defence, entertained an opposite opinion. The magistrates decided in favour of the company.

Another gross act of Vandalism has been perpetrated in Marylebone, this time at the Marylebone parish church. Some miscreant effected an entrance into the church, and destroyed a beautiful painting, by Benjamin West, and defaced several of the monuments. Great indignation is felt by the parishioners, and a reward of 150*l.* is offered for the discovery of the offender.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, a further hearing was given to the application for a certificate by Messrs. Schlesinger, Schlesinger, and Parfitt, drysalers and general merchants, of Basinghall-street. The proceedings occupied the entire day,

and were again adjourned to Saturday, the 16th inst.—On Tuesday the petition for a winding-up order presented against the Metropolitan Saloon Omnibus Company (Limited) was dismissed.—Messrs. Oak and Snow, bankers, of Blandford Forum, whose certificate meeting has been adjourned several times for the purpose of enabling them to supersede the adjudication, offered, with that view, a payment which, with the dividend already made, would amount to a composition of 6*s.* in the pound on their joint debts. The proposal was rejected by a majority of the creditors.—William Lemon Oliver, the notorious stockbroker of Austin-friars, who is undergoing his sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, passed his last examination.—A winding-up order was made against the European and American Steam Shipping Company (Limited).

A house in Gravel-lane has been on fire ten times in the last two months. There was too much method apparent in such a succession of outbreaks for the cause to be classed as accidental; and from the resulting suspicions a woman named Emily Elizabeth Fairburn was charged at Southwark Police-court with wilfully setting fire to the house. The prisoner stands in the relation of daughter-in-law to the occupant of the house, and the evidence was designed to show that she possessed a latch key fitting the door, and, admitting herself by means of this, had made these several attempts to destroy the house. In defence, the accused denied the charge, declaring that it was a conspiracy against her. Mr. Burcham, however, committed her for trial.

William Butt, landlord of the King's Arms, Duke-street, Grosvenor-square, answered the charge at Marlborough-street Police-court, of allowing his house to be used as a common betting-house, and four other persons the charge of assisting to conduct the same; in addition to these there were about two dozen more connected with the prosecution, charged with being present in the house while betting was going on. The case being proved, Mr. Beadon fined Butt 50*l.*, three of the others 20*l.* each, and discharged all the rest.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, Robert Newman, a pipe maker, was found guilty of attempting to murder his wife by attacking her with a hatchet as she lay asleep in bed. Sentence of death was recorded against the prisoner.—John Harris, a clerk, was acquitted of a charge of feloniously shooting at Nicholas Henwood, his employer.

In the New Court, Ambrose Haynes, solicitor, was indicted, with three persons of the name of Bennett, who did not appear, for having conspired to defraud, by pretending to cure deafness in ten minutes. As the case rested entirely on the uncorroborated testimony of two accomplices, the jury at once acquitted the prisoners.—The charge of libel against the proprietor of the *East London Observer* was postponed.—James Thomas was fined 50*l.* for a libel against a Liverpool merchant.

At the Middlesex sessions, William Heathcote was found guilty of fraudulently obtaining money from persons advertising for situations, under pretence that he was able to procure them what they wanted. The prisoner was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

A summons granted at the instance of the Commissioners of Sewers, against the City of London, was answered at the Mansion-house, before Mr. Alderman Cubitt, on Wednesday. The ground of complaint was, that a sum of £142 1*s.* 5*d.*, expenses incurred by the Commissioners in executing certain works which ought to have been done by the City, had not been paid on demand. There was some difference of opinion as to the construction to be put upon certain clauses in the Sewers Acts, but this being settled in favour of the City, the case was adjourned, that the account might be modified in accordance with the decision.

A person calling himself the Rev. Charles Geary, and whose clerical toilet was faultless, has been finally examined at the Lambeth Police-court on the charge of fraudulently obtaining money from various persons in support of a charitable institution that had no existence, and sentenced by Mr. Elliott to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

James Clark and Joseph Smith, said to belong to a gang who commit extensive depredations on the river, were charged at Lambeth Police-court with having stolen a boat, a large quantity of oats, a number of sacks, and other things. The prisoners were taken in the act of landing the oats, which had been carried off from a barge at Queenhithe. Mr. Elliott committed both the men for trial.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Thursday, Frederick Shackleford, schoolmaster, pleaded guilty to embezzling the sum of 122*l.*, and other sums, the property of his master. The prisoner had been master of an industrial school at Westminster, and absconded with the money, which was the produce of the boys' earnings. Sentence, three years' penal servitude.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

JAMES WILLIAM MITCHELL, second engineer of the steamer Bogota, convicted at Liverpool of the manslaughter of Thomas Landor, the unfortunate Cornish miner, whose martyrdom has caused him a kind of rude canonisation as the "roasted sailor," has been sentenced by Mr. Justice Willes to fifteen years' penal servitude. The learned and humane judge who pronounced the sentence stated that "he must mark his sense of the cruelty of the punishment inflicted, and that if he was wrong he might be set right."

On Thursday, at Birkenhead, the announcement was made that a boy named Joseph Marsden, belonging to the reformatory hulk, Akbar, had been flogged to death. At the inquest, which has been adjourned, it was stated that the boy had been ailing some time, but that on Thursday he was whipped, from which he never recovered. The body exhibited evidence of severe treatment. There is to be a post-mortem examination.

The unhappy youth Frederick Prentice, convicted of the murder of Emma Coppin, at Queenborough, in Kent, underwent the last penalty of the law on Thursday morning, at Maidstone.

ACCIDENTS.

THE inquest on the bodies of the unfortunate persons whose lives were sacrificed by the powder explosion at Hounslow, was formally opened on Saturday. The proprietors of the powder mills undertook to bear any special expenses which might be incurred, Mr. Wakley explaining that on a previous occasion, when he felt it necessary to provide a model for the information of the jury, the sum that he paid for it was disallowed by the county magistrates, and he was compelled to be the loser.

An explosion took place at the Faversham Powder Mills on Saturday morning. Fortunately, owing to the absence of a large number of the workmen, no one was killed, and only a few injured.

Wombwell's Menagerie last week was being exhibited to a crowded assembly in a field at Maes-y-dre, Flintshire. A furious gale of wind was blowing, and four of the caravans (forming one entire side), containing lions, tigers, and bears, were thrown in upon the people, carrying with them the roof, poles, and lights, and burying the people beneath. Four persons were killed and twenty wounded.

A fatal accident has happened in Chatham dockyard to a workman named Gallavan. The deceased was doing something to one of the pumping engines, when his clothes came into contact with a portion of the machinery, and he was immediately drawn in, his body, before the engine could be stopped, being torn limb from limb.

The American mail, which arrived on Thursday, brings the account of several disasters at sea. The ship Centurion arrived at New York on the 23rd ult. from Glasgow, having on board part of the crew of the bark Dromahair, from Quebec to Sligo, abandoned at sea by her crew. When the Dromahair was fallen in with, she had been twenty-one days a wreck. The crew had subsisted on half a biscuit a day, and what rain water they could catch. Five died of starvation; the remainder, seven in number, were taken on board the Centurion, five of whom were subsequently transferred to the ship Magellan. The Tanaro had also arrived at New York with the crew of the French ship Bengal, who were taken off in lat. 35.8, long. 40.41, the ship being waterlogged and unmanageable. The Bengal sailed from St. Pierre, Martinique, for Bordeaux, on the 11th of January, and experienced a succession of heavy gales, which washed everything from the decks, depriving the crew of food, water, &c., for several days previous to their being picked up.

IRELAND.

On Monday Mr. Attorney-General Whiteside arrived in Belfast, in order to conduct in person the second trial of the parties charged with being members of a secret Riband society. The presence of the first law officer of the Crown has imparted a somewhat graver aspect to the proceedings, and at the scene of action the result was looked for with considerable anxiety. Mr. Rae, the attorney for the traversers, having vainly endeavoured to persuade Baron Fitzgerald to postpone the trials, that gentleman, following up the tactics at Tralee, has abandoned the defence of his clients, with the curt remark, addressed to the Court, that he "don't care how the case goes." The jury, having been locked up all night on Wednesday, have been discharged without agreeing to a verdict. There were eleven Protestants and one Catholic on the jury. The prisoners are to stand out till next assizes, if they can find bail.

Mr. Dobbs's appointment being officially an-

nounced in the papers, a vacancy will be created in the representation of Carrickfergus borough.

It is announced that the Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring a baronetcy upon Mr. Edward Grogan, the senior member for the city of Dublin. Mr. Grogan has represented the Irish capital for nearly seventeen years. He is a Tory of the old school.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge held a levee on Thursday at the Horse Guards, which was very numerously attended.

An interesting lecture has been delivered at the United Service Institution, on "The Rifle and the Spade." After an elaborate examination of the probable effects of recent improvements in artillery and muskets, the lecturer (Captain Tyler) said that the infantry soldier, who, in virtue of his enormously increased powers, had become of so much greater importance, should now be better trained. The best infantry that a nation could now possess would be one in which every man was not only a good rifle-man, but also a good sapper. This country was in a state periodical apprehension of French invasion. Without putting the rifle into the hands of the people, as it was called, there would be no difficulty in organising and in keeping up a body of 100,000 rifle volunteers, from a class who would be alike ready to protect us from internal disturbance or from foreign invasion. With these men to harass the flanks and rear of an invading army, and to oppose their advance, in conjunction with the regular troops and militia, from a series of intrenchments, provided by a sufficient number of sappers, the country might be disputed mile by mile with an invading army in a manner that would prevent the possibility of its advance.

General Frederick Charles White died on Friday last. The deceased general was for many years in the Grenadier Guards, and was present at the sieges of Valenciennes and Dunkirk, and at the action and storming of Lincelles.

The total force of all arms now included in the Aldershot Division is rather over 15,000 men, but from this force 650 must be taken for the 15th Hussars, who are stationed at Hounslow.

The whole of the troops in Canterbury were reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief on Tuesday. The cavalry, under the command of Colonel J. C. H. Gibsons, comprised the following depôts:—The 1st, the 2nd, the 3rd, and 7th Dragoon Guards; the 7th and the 8th Hussars; and the 17th Lancers. The infantry depôts were under the command of Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Armstrong, C.B., and embraced the 64th, the 70th, the 82nd, the 90th, and 98th depôts. The marching of the troops was pronounced excellent, especially for such young soldiers as most of them were. The Commander-in-Chief seemed exceedingly pleased with the very creditable state of efficiency displayed by them, upon which he complimented the commanding officers. His Royal Highness dined with the officers and left by the 7-22 train for town.

The Gazette contains the copy of the Royal Order for a Commission to inquire into the system of recruiting in the army. The Commissioners are Lord Hotham, Colonel Tulloch, William Foster, Colonel John Leslie, Colonel John Smyth, and Peter Blackburn.

Admiralty orders have been received at Chatham for the launch of the Charybdis, 21, screw corvette, to take place on the 1st of June next, immediately after which one of the new screw steamers is ordered to be built at Chatham.

The admirable method recommended by the Sanitary Commission in their recent official inspection of Woolwich garrison for furnishing a number of baths and washhouses for the free accommodation of the private soldiers is now complete. Each room contains seven spacious baths supplied with hot and cold water at discretion, and are situated so as to be easily accessible, being contiguous to the barrack quarters.

The Malta Times, of the 29th ult., states that orders have been received from England, in pursuance of which the order requiring sentries to "carry arms and present arms, as the Host passes," has been removed.

ASTONISHING FEAT AT NIAGARA.—An American circus performer has, for a wager of a thousand dollars to fifty, accomplished the feat of walking across the Niagara River, amid the rapids between Goat Island and the Falls. He performed the task in rather more than half an hour, by means of a pair of stilts "made of wrought iron, twelve feet long, flat, double edged, and pointed." The current struck only against the sharp edges, and produced but little effect. One false step would of course have been destruction.

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE review in the Champs de Mars on Sunday was favoured with splendid weather. There were about 50,000 troops on the ground. The Emperor and Empress were both present. A Paris letter says:—"If any expectation prevailed in Governmental circles that the review would elicit more enthusiasm than the one which took place a fortnight since, it must before this have been completely undeceived. People were as cold and as dull at this second gathering as at the first. They looked at the troops as they might have looked upon the *Bœuf Gras*, with mere idle curiosity, not appearing in any way to associate the idea of war with the military display they were witnessing. As on the previous occasion, there were no cries, no shouts of welcome: the Emperor passed among a population utterly indifferent to his presence. Of course claqueurs were in attendance, who earned their money in the usual way; and there was the usual number of simpletons and rustics who ran forward with delight upon seeing Imperial Majesty approach, and gave utterance to the usual sounds of rejoicing. But the vast mass of the spectators were as orderly as though at an Ancient Concert, and as devoid of animation as hired mutes at a funeral. Therefore, if review number two were intended as demonstration number two, it must be considered a complete and utter failure."

It is stated that although Count Cavour expressed himself to the Italian refugees in Paris as perfectly satisfied with the Emperor, this satisfaction is more apparent than real; that, in fact, his real feelings are quite of a contrary kind. He is said to be in reality anything but content with the little sympathy the Italian cause found among the French people, and that he was satisfied neither with the Ministry nor with their master. His Majesty, it is true, received him courteously, as a matter of course, but civil words were not the only things he required, and he left Paris for Turin much less sure of the fulfilment of his hopes than when he came there.

The Colonel of a regiment quartered in Paris lately assembled his officers and said to them, "Gentlemen, you may consider war as certain. I beg that any of you who, from the state of your health or other legitimate reason, may not be in a condition to take the field, will at once send in your claims for exemption."

It is rumoured that a division of the army of Paris is under orders to leave for Lyons at a moment's notice.

A letter in the Nord says:—"The Emperor of the French, though accepting as a fact the existence of the treaties of 1815, will never consent to give them, by his signature, a new consecration. In invoking the protocol of the 15th November, 1818, of Aix la Chapelle, Austria contrived a plan for obtaining a new sanction of those treaties; but the Emperor has formally declared that he will not sign in the Congress any protocol mentioning the treaties of 1815."

The Marquis de Torcy, a member of the Corps Legislatif for the Orne, died on Monday. He was a landed proprietor of considerable wealth, and one of the most celebrated cattle breeders in France. Another deputy, Baron Roquet, one of the members for the Gironde, and a son of General Roquet, the Emperor's aide-de-camp, is also dead.

Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian minister of Foreign Affairs, is expected this week in Paris.

The conferences on the affairs of the Danubian Principalities were to have opened on Thursday next. There will be two sittings only, both of which will be occupied with the consideration of Prince Couza's election. The discussion of the Danube navigation question is to be deferred to some future period. The Turkish Ambassador, M. Musurus, means to protest against the double election of Colonel Couza, but it is nevertheless believed that Fud Pacha is prepared to sanction the vote of the majority of the Congress in his favour. As already stated, the question is virtually settled.

The French journals favourable to peace express pleasure at finding Lord Derby and his supporters will retain the reins of power in England while the Congress on Italian affairs is in session.

M. Mirès has purchased the Hotel des Princes, in the Rue de Richelieu, in order, it is stated, to convert the building into offices for the Credit Industriel Company. It is said that he is charged with the organisation of the new undertaking.

AUSTRIA.

Letters from Italy state positively that Austria has asked for loans from all the Italian Princes whom she considers her feudatories. The Archduke Maximilian d'Este has responded to the appeal, by

an advance of nearly the whole of his fortune. His nephew, the reigning Duke of Modena, gives six millions of *zwanzigers*, and the Molza family one million and a half, besides an equal sum which they will advance under the guarantee of the Grand Duke. It is not yet known what subscriptions will be made by the King of Naples and the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

The *Memorial Diplomatique* says that it has reason to know that Austria has made no objection to the admission of Piedmont to the Congress, if the same permission be extended to all the Italian states. With respect to the evacuation of Rome, it is stated that Count Buol has given an assurance that the Imperial Government will immediately occupy itself with the regulation of the details in concert with the Holy See and the court of the Tuileries.

We read in the *Austrian Gazette*: "For us the congress is but a secondary affair; the capital point is that the armaments should cease. The congress cannot meet for a month, and its deliberations will last at least two months more. Are we to be spending our money all this while in armaments which will be of course highly useful if we are to fight, but superfluous in the contrary case? What matters it to us that Sardinia promises not to attack us? we know perfectly well that Sardinia is nothing but a French advanced post, and that she servilely obey all orders that come from Paris. Sardinia's intention is to excite insurrection and to second the rising by her army. It would seem that ever since January 1, France is carrying on a financial war with us. It is essential above all things, that a stop be put to this perfidious warfare."

The *Independence Belge* shrewdly remarks on the phenomenon presented by the contradictory reports on the state of negotiations for preventing a war between France and Austria. Our contemporary says:—"The accounts in favour of peace come to us from London, Berlin, and St. Petersburg; while those of an opposite character are invariably dated from Vienna or from Paris." The letters published by the *Independence* from this last-named city, coming from different sources, agree in representations very discouraging to the hopes of peace. They reiterate the assertion that Austria makes the disarming of Piedmont an absolute condition of the Congress.

SARDINIA.

The *Courrier du Dimanche* gives an analysis of a dispatch addressed to the diplomatic agents of Piedmont at foreign courts, by Count Cavour, in which he complains in a high tone of the intended exclusion of Piedmont from the Congress, and refers to the great sacrifices she made in aid of the cause of the Western Powers during the Crimean war. He says that Piedmont was called upon to take part in the Paris Congress for concluding a peace, and also in the Paris Conferences on the Danubian Principalities—questions in which she had no interest, and he cannot see any reason why she should be excluded now when her own existence is at stake.

Count Cavour arrived in Turin on the 2nd of April, and was met at the station by a number of coffee-house politicians, who were eager to read his countenance for news; but there was nothing to be gleaned from the perusal. He had a long interview with the King in the course of the morning. A deputation of workmen and students went to him as representatives of the crowd shouting their *vivas* under his window. To this deputation the Count addressed a short speech, expressing his confidence that the youth of Italy would be unanimous in braving the dangers of the future.

A Turin letter in the *Lloyd of Pesth* says:—"You have, perhaps, heard that, in the event of war breaking out, the intention is to transfer the seat of government from Turin to Genoa. At the end of February a grand council of war was held in this capital, the King presiding; and among other questions discussed was one as to whether the fortified line of Alessandria, Tortona, and Casale would suffice for the defence of Turin. The reply was not favourable, for General La Marmora, the Minister of War, and Generals Fanti and Cialdini, expressed the opinion that the enemy might leave those places untouched, and, by passing by Oleggio, Bella, and Chivasso, march on Turin. It was, in consequence, decided that, should war ensue, the Government would remove to Genoa, and orders were given to fortify as promptly as possible Novi and Busala, two important passes in the mountains on the road from Turin to that city."

RUSSIA.

The *Gazette of the Senate* of Tuesday publishes an imperial decree for the issue of bonds for *rentes* (*Obligations de rente*), bearing interest at 4 per cent., which bonds are allowed to be purchased both by Russian and foreign subjects. The bonds issued are to be for the following values—namely, 250, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000 and 100,000 roubles. The following day there appeared an Imperial Ukase for the loan of 12,000,000, at 3 per cent. The Ukase states that the loan has been concluded

through Messrs. Thomson, Bonar, and Co. of St. Petersburg, and M. Magnus, the banker, of Berlin. No subscriber to the loan is to be allotted less than 100Z. or more than 1,000Z. of the debt. The new loan was done at 71 in St. Petersburg.

From Paris it is positively announced that the representative of Russia at the ensuing Congress will be Prince Gortschakoff. The *Nord* pretends that the right to preside over the Congress will belong to Russia, because it was convoked by her. There is no diplomatic precedent to support this assumption. If the meeting were to be held in the territory of either of the five great powers, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the country in which the plenipotentiaries assembled would, as a matter of course, take the chair.

A despatch, dated, St. Petersburg, April 6, says that, according to private advices received from Kiachta, in the Governmental district Irkutsk on the Chinese frontier, famine is prevailing in the southern part of China.

PRUSSIA.

A book has been published in Berlin bearing the title, "The Urgency of Saving Europe from the Clutches of Military Despotism, and the Means to Effect it." It is written by Schuttre Bonder, and dedicated to Chevalier Bunsen. It shows the inevitable result of the uninterrupted increase of standing armies, and proposes mutual disarmament. Articles and letters to the editors in the same sense begin to make their appearance in the journals of Prussia, the most military country in Europe.

GERMANY.

News from Hanover states that the French Ambassador was recently obliged to quit the Theatre Royal in consequence of an anti-French demonstration of the audience. The Royal family was present at the time. The Chambers and even the theatres in the minor states of Germany are made the scene of demonstrations for German national unity, and for resistance to French encroachment. In Prussia alone do the Government, the Landtag, the press, and the people continue to show the most dignified reserve and moderation.

SPAIN.

The Conservative members of the Spanish Senate, who, on the occasion of the dispute between the President and Senor Collages, had withdrawn altogether from the exercise of their legislative functions, and thought it wiser to settle down inactively, have now changed their minds, and have made their appearance in public life.

TUSCANY.

Volunteering for the Sardinian army is going on rapidly, both on account of the small distance from the coast of Genoa, and also because the Government is too weak and irresolute to oppose any serious obstacle to this universal exodus. 150 volunteers left in one evening from Pisa; 200 marched off in a body from Lucca; at Florence several hundreds, amongst them youths of the noblest and wealthiest families, have left the luxuries of their homes to enlist as private soldiers in the Piedmontese regiments.

ROME.

The Prince of Wales and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe are still in Rome.

The French Ambassador, Duke de Grammont, has given a dinner to the Marquis d'Azeglio and other Piedmontese notabilities resident in Rome. The Marquis has been recalled by telegraph to Turin.

More than 300 volunteers for the Piedmontese army had left Rome before the 17th of March. Considering that Rome boasts a prelate, priest, or monk for every twenty-one inhabitants, that the rest of the population is mainly made up of servants of priests, couriers, waiters, and swarms of beggars, such a contingent from such a city is by no means to be despised. Funds have been subscribed in Rome not only to favour the departure of these volunteers, but also for a gift of war horses to Piedmont, in imitation of the Tuscans, who have mounted fifty Piedmontese troopers at their own expense. At Perugia, a town bordering on the Tuscan frontier, and distinguished at all times for its daring as well as for its detestation of the temporal power of the Pope, not only were there from fifteen to twenty departures of volunteers every night, but 300 papal carabinieri, constituting the whole garrison of the town, were more eager to join in the march than the townspeople themselves, and were meditating a rush across country to Sienna and Leghorn, deserting with their arms and accoutrements, with flying standards and braying trumpets.

NAPLES.

A recent letter from Naples mentions, that about a fortnight ago the health of the King seemed a little improved, and the fears of those diminished who are of opinion that things would be in a worse state in the hands of his successor. On the 21st ult., the surgeons opened the tumour in the right thigh, and his Majesty was better afterwards. Some of the hangers-on about the palace attribute the good

effect of the operation to the relics of the blood of St. Luigi, which are said to have been applied by a priest called Baccher, and others attribute it to the stick of St. Gaetano. The King so far revived that the Grand Duke Constantine was presented to him, and on the same day Filangieri had a long conference with his Majesty. On the following night, however, the King became much worse, and the medical men were compelled to order restoratives in consequence of his weakness.

Since then advices have been received of the 2nd inst., which state that the strength of the King is continually declining, and the news of his condition caused a fall of 4 fr. in the public funds during two days. Since the commencement of this year the fall has been 10 fr.

The Queen has despatched Prince Carini on a diplomatic mission to Berlin.

The armaments are still going on, and three vessels have left Naples laden with shot for Sicily. The troops garrisoning the citadel of Syracuse have recently been reinforced.

A rumour is current that a commercial message has been received at Marseilles from Sicily, announcing that foreign corn will be admitted into that country free of duty.

TURKEY.

Constantinople journals and letters to the 25th ult. state that Ali Pacha, the Grand Vizier, had entered on a state of convalescence, but that a retirement from the fatigues of office for two or three months would be necessary to ensure his entire recovery. Ali Pacha had expressed a wish to resign, but the Sultan would not consent, and Fuad Pacha will continue the *ad interim* direction of the affairs of the Grand Vizier's post. The news of the intended meeting of a congress was received with great satisfaction in the Turkish capital, where serious fears of a European war had been at one time entertained.

The marriage between the Sultana Fatima (widow of Ali Ghalib) and Noury Pacha has taken place. The young bridegroom was coming down the Bosphorus when his caique struck upon a sunken snag of rock, and being stove in by the shock, began to fill rapidly. Fortunately the shore was only a few yards off, and the occupants of the little barge, therefore, managed to reach *terra firma* up to their knees in water. Had the accident occurred in mid-channel, poor Fatima would have been once more in the matrimonial market.

A despatch, dated Constantinople, 2nd inst., states that two steamers with troops had left for Varna. The former Kapukiaja Aristarchi had been appointed Governor of Samos. A fanatical agitation prevailed at Smyrna against the Jews, caused by the murder of a Frenchman in the Jews' quarter. The Customs had been farmed out to the banker Missirloglu for thirty-three millions per year.

CANADA.

Very violent storms of rain have occurred in all parts of the country, doing great damage, particularly to railroads and on the banks of rivers. On the Great Western Railroad, between Flamboro and Dundas, the rain washed away an embankment, and a train was precipitated into a chasm some 20 feet wide; six persons were killed, and a dozen others more or less injured. Other railroads were submerged for miles, and travel was in many places suspended.

AMERICA.

The Arabia arrived on Sunday with intelligence from Boston, to the 23rd ult. The news is of slight importance. It was definitely stated that there would be no extra session of Congress, and the Postmaster-General was preparing plans to enable the department to carry on its duties without an appropriation.

It was reported that the barque *Lawrens* had landed 600 Africans on the coast of Florida.

A Washington telegram says prominent individuals were named for the English and French missions, but it was believed no change was contemplated.

A serious strike prevails among the labourers on the Erie Railroad. An outbreak was feared.

California dates to Feb. 25 had been received overland. Business was quiet; news unimportant.

The whole winter and spring has been one of extraordinary rains throughout the country. Lately the storms have raged with a peculiar violence. A strong south-east wind accompanying them has driven the waters in from the sea, and forced them up the North River, piling up the torrents of fresh water which were seeking an outlet, until the line of the Hudson River Railway was for miles so much submerged that traffic became impossible.

The representatives of the principal railway lines of the country are now met in convention at Buffalo for the purpose of arranging a scale of tariff for joint use. These meetings take place every three or

four months, and serve for the ventilation of ill-feeling, without effecting much practical good. The present one promises to end in a discontinuance of all joint arrangements about tariffs, and what they call in Kentucky a "free fight" for traffic.

The yacht *Wanderer*, recently seized by the United States Government for having been engaged in the slave trade, has been condemned and sold. A person named Van Horn at the auction bid against the former owner, and was knocked down for his pains by the latter, amidst the applause of the crowd, who encouraged the assailant to kill him.

The North Briton and the City of Washington both arrived at Liverpool on Thursday. The City of Washington fell in with the ship *Gray Oak*, of New York, which sailed from the Downs on the 18th of February, with eight feet water in the hold; shortly afterwards sighted two boats, steered for them, and took on board seventeen men and two women, who had abandoned the *Gray Oak* four hours previous.

It is stated that no first-class lawyer had been found willing to take part in the prosecution of Mr. Sickles.

The *Courrier des Etats Unis*, published at New York, asserts that an extensive filibustering expedition against Cuba was being organised.

A female servant at New York was in custody, charged with attempting to poison the inmates of a boarding-house in which she was employed. The proprietress of the establishment died, and fourteen other persons suffered severely.

A private letter received in Washington from a distinguished source in Paris, states that M. Levasseur, French ex-Minister to Mexico, would go to Nicaragua, nominally in the interest of M. Bely, but really as the agent of the Emperor Napoleon, with reference to securing to French citizens the right to employ Asiatic and African apprentices in mining and agriculture.

The *New York Times* has discovered "an intrigue for converting Mexico into a monarchy with a Bourbon king." The disclosure is made in a letter from a secret agent at Rome to Miramon's confessor.

WEST INDIES.

The *Parano* arrived at Southampton on Tuesday, with advices from Kingston to the 12th ult. Amongst her cargo is specie to the amount of 1,308,318 dollars, half of which is in gold.

JAMAICA.

The weather was fine and the crops promising well. A serious fire had occurred in Vere, through the carelessness of some labourers, which terminated in the destruction of Greenwich Estate, the property of the Hon. Edward Thompson, with all the cane-pieces except one, the 200 hogsheads of sugar.

A majority of the island press was still anxious for a removal of the post stamp duty on circulation.

Her Majesty's sloop *Styx* was to leave Kingston on the morning of the 13th, with 300 men for the 3d West India Regiment, under command of Colonel Whitfield, for Savannah-la-Mar, to quell the disturbance which had arisen in consequence of the heavy turnpike tolls in that district. The peasantry had levelled all the gates on the different roads. It would appear that Governor Darling had been petitioned by the black population, in August last, to remove these tolls, the roads being in a most wretched condition; but no further notice was taken of the appeal than a simple acknowledgment. The peasantry had now taken the matter into their own hands, and when the last accounts left it was reported that they were threatening to burn or destroy the property of any magistrate who interfered. Great fears were entertained as to the result of this disturbance.

The health of the island of Jamaica, though showing some improvement upon the last two months, continued in an unsatisfactory state, there being a good deal of sickness, cold, and fever in some families.

GRENADA.

At Grenada the weather continued highly favourable to the prosecution of crop operations, and all the mill and boiling-houses were in activity. Business generally appeared brisk.

TRINIDAD.

The crops at the Leeward Islands were below the average, and rain much wanted. Disturbances had taken place at Trinidad in consequence of the Governor attempting to suppress the carnival. The troops and police were pelted by the mob, and several casualties occurred. The troops are still under canvas, having suffered from yellow fever when in barracks, which are situated close to an unhealthy marsh.

BARBADOES.

At Barbadoes the yield has not been good generally, and most planters complain. The young crop

is promising. Governor Hinks had left Barbadoes for the United States, on leave of absence.

DEMERARA.

On the 26th of February a brig arrived from Madeira, with ninety-nine Portuguese immigrants. Another ship brought, on the 3rd of March, 372 coolies from Madras. The mortality was very slight; only five deaths took place during the voyage. The ship *York* arrived on the 10th from Calcutta, with 350 coolies. A good deal of sickness was prevalent in Georgetown.

MARTINIQUE.

At Martinique some incendiarism had occurred on the part of the coloured natives, arising from the immigration of coolies and Africans, which had reduced the price of labour.

ANTIGUA.

At Antigua a sort of low fever was prevalent, chiefly amongst the upper classes. It is expected Governor Hamilton will go home by the next packet. Her Majesty's ship *Atalanta* was refitting in English Harbour; crew healthy.

HAYTI.

Accounts have been received to the 26th February. An attempt at insurrection against the new Government had been made in the small town of Jeremy, having been got up by General Delice-L'Espérance, who took advantage of his authority to obtain possession of a small fort, from which he issued proclamations exciting the people to revolt. His efforts had been, however, unavailing, as the people, satisfied with Geffrard, refused to join him, and the discomfited general had been compelled to seek for refuge at the house of the French consul. He had afterwards been arrested.

CUBA.

From Havannah we have advices to the 19th ult. A Mr. Thomas Ascencio, a native of Cuba, but naturalised in the United States, had been arrested on landing at Havannah. He was suspected of being connected with some plot.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The report of the Ouseley treaty having been ratified by Nicaragua is confirmed. Sir Gore Ouseley has also entered into a postal convention. A special treaty relative to the Mosquito Protectorate has been submitted by Sir G. Ouseley to the Government. The workshops and other buildings of the Old Transit Company at Punta Arenas have been completely swept away by the sea. Her Majesty's ship *Cæsar* was still outside, at anchor; also the United States ship *St. Louis*.

MEXICO.

The last advices inform us that President Miramon had left Mexico for Vera Cruz with 5,000 men; and on the day of the packet leaving Vera Cruz it was reported that he was about twenty-five miles distant, and an attack was expected. They were defended by about 200 guns, but only 500 regular troops and 1,200 National Guard, and there was every probability of the city being taken. Letters from Mexico state that city to be quiet.

THE BRAZILS.

The *Tyne* has arrived at Southampton with dates from Rio of the 11th February, and Buenos Ayres of the 27th. Heavy rains had continued to fall at Rio, which had caused much damage to the coffee crop, and had prevented supplies from being brought to market. Yellow fever was prevalent among the shipping, though not so violent as last year. The new President of the Brazil Bank, Viscount Itaboraky, was installed about a fortnight before the sailing of the packet.

The dispute between America and Paraguay is settled, America accepting about one-third of her demand. The flotilla had returned to Monte Video. English, French, American, and Brazilian squadrons were at Monte Video.

The Buenos Ayres *Commercial Times* says:—"Speculation has been rife, and the excitement caused has proved very detrimental to legitimate business, which has been dull throughout the month, though the arrival of the packet infused considerably more animation into most branches of our trade, but more especially into exports, the advices from all parts being highly favourable."

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES.

CHILI.

The news continues very unfavourable to the present Government. *El Comercio*, which is a strong Government paper, says "mutiny and riot are the order of the day." The outbreaks in Copiapo and Talca have been followed by others in different provinces. Concepcion, Tomé, the Araucanian territory, and in fact the whole country, both north and south, appear to be up in arms against the existing Government, which there is little doubt, from what we can judge, must yield to the opposition. Business appears in a perfectly stagnant state, and although the crops are favourable it is reported

that, owing to the disturbances, hands cannot be procured to save them, and they will be entirely lost.

PERU AND ECUADOR.

The naval forces of Peru now blockading the port of Guayaquil have seized, before the island of Puna, the Spanish barque *Maria i Julia*. This vessel had a valuable cargo, and the mate being in a dying state, the captain went up to Guayaquil in his boat, with the purpose of leaving his mate in that city, and taking another one for going on his voyage to Europe. During the captain's absence, a Peruvian man-of-war ordered the second mate of the *Maria i Julia* to leave the anchorage. The second mate told him that he was unable to navigate the ship. The Peruvian commander took then possession of the ship, pulled the Spanish flag down, hoisted the Peruvian, and sent the vessel to Paita with a Peruvian crew, putting the Spanish one on shore in Tumbes. The Spanish consul in Guayaquil made his claim, protesting against these outrages, as the vessels, far from forcing the blockade, had remained quietly in Puna. The blockade of the ports of Ecuador still continues.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The *Athenian*, with the mails, arrived on Thursday, bringing twenty-one passengers, including Bishop Payne and nine distressed seamen.

The Bishop of Liberia was a passenger in the *Athenian* to Bonny, Lagos, &c., en route to Abeokuta.

A detachment of 200 men of the 1st West India Regiment, under the command of Governor Hill, had embarked on the 21st ult., in Her Majesty's ships *Vesuvius*, *Trident*, and *Spitfire*, for the purpose of protecting the native tribes at the sources of the Timminy against the tribe *Sousos*, and placing them in possession of their town, which had been taken from them.

Trade in the palm oil rivers was very dull.

AUSTRALIA.

We have received files of Australian papers, with dates from Melbourne to the 15th February, and Sydney to the 11th February.

The chief political event in Victoria had been the statement by Mr. O'Shanassy before the Legislative Assembly, of the principles of the new Land Bill, proposed by the Government. Large areas are to be preserved for free selection adjoining populous localities—actual cultivators only to select. Selection limited to half a square mile, and the price £1 per acre. Agricultural municipalities are to be formed with a view to local improvements. Town and valuable agricultural lands are to be sold by auction as formerly. There had been a revival of the question of payment of members; and the assent of the House had been given to the proposal for a grant of £2,000 in aid of the Jewish Synagogue Fund. The former was the subject of a lengthy discussion, which ended, however, in the rejection of the resolution. The Parliament was shortly to be prorogued previous to its dissolution.

The returns of gold by escort from the various diggings, since the commencement of the current year, show an aggregate amount larger than that returned during the same period of 1858.

From New South Wales we learn that the steam postal question has occupied the attention of both Houses of Parliament. The result appears to be that both are dissatisfied with the arrangements which have been made binding at home, in respect of the route per Suez, without any reference to the line via Panama. The main political topic, however, which had engaged attention had been supply. Day by day the estimates, which were to have been brought down to the house in such a way that they could not be disputed, but were to be passed in the lump, have been discussed. The church State Aid question will form a feature in the hustings speeches which were impending.

FEELING OF THE FRENCH ARMY.—The Paris correspondent of the *Express* writes:—"It happens to be within my knowledge that the following scene occurred in the quarters of a line regiment in Paris, two or three days ago. A captain of a company called together his non-commissioned officers, and thus addressed them:—"I firmly believe, my fine fellows, that no captain in the service has such an efficient set of non-commissioned officers as it is my happiness to command. You have all served with me in Africa and in the Crimea; you are now about to take the field again. Act up to the example which you have set yourselves, and I take upon myself to promise that before six months of the coming campaign are over there is not a man of you who, if alive, (a laugh), will not be promoted. Lieutenant," turning to his second in command, "mark what I am saying, and let it be thoroughly understood that whichever of us two may be spared will not fail to see these men rewarded."

THE NAVIES OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

By a Cabinet minute, dated the 1st of December last, a confidential committee was appointed to institute a strict examination into the comparative naval expenditure of the years 1852-53-54, and of the present year, with the view of placing fully before the Cabinet all the causes of the past increase, as well as those causes which appear to threaten a further increase for the future. The committee were also to undertake the difficult task of tracing the progress of the navy of France since the year 1852, as compared with that of England, and to ascertain, if possible, the present condition of the French navy as regards docks and works, including the construction and armament of ships of war. For this purpose such information as was possessed by her Majesty's Government was afforded "in strict confidence" by the Earl of Malmesbury. The committee consisted of Mr. Hamilton, then Secretary to the Treasury; Mr. Corry, then and now Secretary to the Admiralty; Sir Richard Bromley, K.C.B., Accountant-General of the Navy; and Mr. Anderson, Chief Clerk of the Treasury. Their report is issued.

In 1852 England possessed an aggregate of 177 steamships and vessels, 3,045 guns, and 45,064 horse-power; in 1858, England possessed, inclusive of 62 troop-ships, store-ships, yachts, tenders, despatch vessels, &c., an aggregate of 464 steamships and vessels, 8,246 guns, 105,962 horse-power, and 457,881 tonnage. The stores in stock are reported to be in a satisfactory state; but the stock is not more than adequate according to the existing expenditure.

From a variety of tabular compilations, it appears that France, since 1852, has increased her steam line-of-battle ships from 2 to 40, of which there are 5 building and 4 converting, and that this has been effected by the conversion of 26 sailing-ships, and the building of 14 screw-ships. England, in the same time, has increased her line-of-battle screw-steamers from 17 to 50, of which there are 10 building and 7 converting. This has been effected by the conversion of 27 sailing-ships, and the building of 23 as screw-ships. The addition, therefore, to the French navy, in steam line-of-battle ships, complete, building and converting, is 38, and of England 33, since 1852. France has at present, 4 iron-sided ships ("frigates blindées") in course of construction. The steam-frigates of France, screw and paddle, have been increased from 21 to 46, and England has increased her steam-frigates, screw and paddle, from 22 to 34 and her block-ships of 60 guns each from 4 to 9. "It is necessary," observe the committee, "that, we should notice this superiority in steam-frigates, on the part of France over Great Britain, which, in the event of hostilities, might form a serious detriment to this country, especially in relation to the interruption of commerce." On the other hand, the French steam-corvettes and sloops, which in 1852 were 31, are now only 22; while those of Great Britain, which, in 1852, were 59, are now, including 7 vessels since reduced from frigates to sloops, 82; our screw floating batteries are 8, as against 5 French; our screw gun vessels and other small vessels are 53, whereas the French have 93; our screw gunboats are 162, and those of France 28; and the whole steam navy of Great Britain now amounts to 464 vessels, while that of France numbers 264.

As regards sailing vessels, England still possesses a great superiority over France. England has 35 line-of-battle ships, of which 6 are proposed to be converted into steam-ships; of the remaining 29, only 13 are considered by the surveyor of the navy effective as sailing-ships; and, in his opinion, if it should be deemed expedient to convert any of them, they are convertible only into frigates; France has 10, of which only 2 are convertible; England has 70 frigates (of which 27 only are reported by the surveyor as effective sailing-ships). France has 32, of which it is said that 9 or 10 will be converted into steam-transports, the remainder being too old for conversion; there are in both countries several other vessels which, being too small for conversion, it is not necessary to notice. The total number in the two sailing navies is, England, 296; France, 144.

FRENCH MERCANTILE MARINE.—The French mercantile navy consisted, on the 1st of January last, of 14,900 sailing vessels, of which 11,090 were engaged in distant voyages, and the remainder were in the Mediterranean. It comprised, moreover, 330 steam-vessels, of which 182 were engaged in distant voyages, and 148 in the Mediterranean.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.—This force is at present being regularly drilled at the Wellington Barracks by experienced sergeants now serving in the police office. "This," says the *United Service Gazette*, "is a very proper proceeding. It gives additional security to London, and may ultimately enable the inhabitants to dispense with the presence of guardsmen, who seem not to know how to conduct themselves."

FACTS AND SCRAPS.

A grand entertainment has been given at Rome by the Ambassador of France to the Prince of Wales, Queen Christina, the Duke George of Mecklenburg, and all the Roman princesses, and the English persons of distinction, who were all presented in their turn to the Prince of Wales, by the Duchess de Grammont.

Her Majesty will hold a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace, upon Thursday, the 14th day of April next, at two o'clock.

The following are some of the costumes worn at Prince Leopold's birth-night ball:—Prince Arthur and Prince Leopold, time of Henry the Fourth of England. Princess Helena and Princess Louisa, costume of peasants of Berne. Prince Philippe of Saxe Cobourg, a Saxon grenadier of the 18th century. Prince Augustus, an Austrian grenadier. Princess Clotilde, an Hungarian peasant. Princess Amelie, a cantinière. The Prince of Condé, a sergeant in the Condé Infantry, 1745.

The Princess Frederick William has associated herself with other ladies at Berlin, to establish an asylum for governesses who may be temporarily out of employment. A fund of 2,000 thalers being all that was required to make a beginning, the Princess at once contributed 500 thalers.

This season will be distinguished by the formal *entrée* of the Princess Alice into the *beau monde*. After her confirmation, which takes place this Easter at Windsor, the presence of the Princess may be looked for at the drawing-room.

The ex-Queen of the French is expected in Malvern again this summer. Her Majesty and suite honoured that lovely place with her presence for two months last year.

The King of Wurtemberg arrived at Marseilles on Wednesday from Nice, and left immediately by a special train.

The Lord Chancellor reports that the Earl of Courtown has established his claim to vote at the election of representative peers for Ireland.

The *Gazette* announces that the Queen has appointed Lord Canning and Lord Elphinstone to be Knights Grand Cross of the Bath.

The coming of age of the Earl of Coventry, in May next, is to be celebrated on his large estates in Worcestershire, in a manner rarely excelled for magnitude and grandeur.

It has been agreed upon that the University boat race shall come off on Friday the 15th instant, at about half-past twelve, instead of Saturday, the 16th instant, at half-past one. The crews will be in London, taking their "breathings" over the course, in a few days.

Lord Haddo has given notice that in Committee of Supply, on the vote for education, science, and art, he will move to disallow 100*l.*, being the sum paid for undraped female models in the School of Design, Edinburgh, and the School of Art, Manchester.

The expedition of M. Miani, for the exploration of the sources of the Nile, sailed from Marseilles on Saturday, on board the Tamise steamer, belonging to the Messageries Impériales.

At Marseilles a violent hurricane had caused serious damage. It dispersed the ships which had arrived in the bay, and prevented them from entering the port. The fruit crop in the neighbourhood of Marseilles, which bore such a promising appearance, is now nearly destroyed.

The Rev. Dr. Rogers has received from Auckland, New Zealand, the sum of 33*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, as the contribution of the St. Andrew Society of that place, in aid of the Wallace Monument Fund. Forty competitors, it is stated, have intimated their intention to send in models or designs for the monument.

The first credit of 500,000*fr.* has been granted by the French Government for a floating dock at at Boulogne-sur-Mer, and the works of which are to commence next month.

It is stated that the Government are giving their earnest attention to the adjustment of the long agitated claims of Mr. Barber, upon which a select committee, last session, reported favourably; and it is hoped that public feeling will be adequately recognised in the award made.

Forty-nine vessels, with 1,100 hands, have this season taken their departure for the Greenland fishery, touching at Orkney and Zetland to fill up their crews.

An individual, who calls himself the Baron de Camin, was the person who, according to his own testimony, fired the celebrated shot at the residence of the Foreign Minister, in Paris, which initiated the French revolution of 1848. He is now at Manchester, delivering lectures against Popery, which are badly received.

A curious new sect, called Transmigrationists, have become numerous in France. Their character is moral, and their creed Christian, only they include all animals in their idea of universal morality. They profess to believe that, being changed after death into some animal will be their purgatory. In Germany their increase is immense.

The reading-room of the Literary Society in the Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem, was opened to the public on the 1st of March. It is supplied with British, American, French, German, and Arabic newspapers and periodicals. It has also a library containing above 1,000 volumes.

During the month of March the number of shipwrecks reported was 151. In the month of January there were 177, and in February 165, making a total during the present year of 493.

Prince Gholam Mahomed, son of the Sultan Tippoo Sahib, has arrived at the Oriental Hotel, Vere-street, from Calcutta, with a view of renewing his protestations of loyalty after the proclamation of her Majesty to the native princes of India.

It is understood that Mr. Commissioner Holroyd will resume his judicial duties in May.

Fifty-eight pilgrims have just left Paris for Jerusalem, under the superintendence of the Duke de Lorges.

Alderman Farncombe having given notice of his intention to resign for the ward of Bassishaw, Mr. Donald Nicoll, M.P., has been applied to to allow himself to be put in nomination, but has declined. Mr. Sheriff Conder will probably be elected.

A grand display of falconry is to take place on Lincoln-common about the latter end of June, under the auspices of the Deputy Grand Falconer of England.

A subscription is on foot for raising a testimonial to the late Mr. William Weir, long and honourably connected with newspaper literature and the *Daily News*.

It is announced that a fourth regiment of native riflemen is to be raised in Algeria. These regiments are composed of Arab soldiers. They performed good service during the war in the Crimea.

The wife of Mr. Watson, dyer, of Leeds, a fortnight ago, whilst asleep, swallowed four false teeth, which stuck fast in her throat. Medical men were called in, and succeeded in partially dislodging the teeth, but she expired on Saturday.

We (*Athenaeum*) understand that Mr. Tennyson's new volume of poems, which is nearly ready for the press, is entitled "The King's Idylls," and that the subject relates to the legend of King Arthur.

In the fourth week of February there was a decrease of 104,373, or 10·68 per cent, in the number of paupers in receipt of relief in England and Wales. The decrease extends to every week in the month, and in the first and second weeks was 11 per cent.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place, between Comte Reventlow Criminil and Miss I. Wemyss, only daughter of Lady Isabella Wemyss.

It is stated that Rossini is about to write an opera in five acts for the Académie Impériale de Musique of Paris.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

The following is a list of the various constituencies where opposition is threatened to the present members of Parliament, or vacancies occasioned by retirements, of which there are several.

In the METROPOLIS, Lord John Russell, Baron Rothschild, Sir James Duke, and Mr. Crawford, will again offer themselves for re-election in the city, and a requisition is being signed in Lombard-street, requesting Lord Stanley, Messrs. T. Baring, J. G. Hubbard, and Duncan Dunbar, to come forward and contest the representation. Another Liberal candidate is also mentioned.—Sir Samuel Peto has announced his intention to stand for Finsbury, where it is believed Mr. Parry will again appear. There is a rumour that Mr. Duncombe will retire, but this is not confirmed.—In Lambeth Mr. Williams has announced his intention to retire.

COUNTIES.—Mr. Fellows has just issued his address to the electors of the county of Huntingdon, seeking re-election. There are also two other candidates—Mr. Robert Montagu, whose political opinions are in accordance with those of the present Government, and Mr. J. M. Heathcote, who issues his address on the Liberal side. Mr. James Rust has expressed his intention of retiring from the representation of the County.—Mr. Hedworth Williamson, of Whitburn, a member of an old Whig family, and nephew to Lord Ravensworth, is spoken of as a candidate for the northern division of the county of Durham.—In Norfolk (West), there is strong reason for anticipating a Conservative opposition to the return of Mr.

Brampton Gurdon, the Whig member. Mr. Bagge had represented this division of the county on Conservative principles for many years; and a numerous signed requisition has been forwarded to him to come forward once more in conjunction with Mr. Bentinck.—For the southern division of Shropshire the return of the present Conservative members, Viscount Newport and the Hon. R. Windsor Clive, will be unopposed. There will be a severe struggle in the northern division, owing to the retirement of Mr. Dod. The vacancy created is contested by Sir Baldwin Leighton, Bart., and Mr. J. R. Ormsby Gore, son of a former representative. Both candidates are Conservatives.—In Northamptonshire (North) a requisition has been forwarded to Mr. Fitzpatrick Vernon (son of Mr. Vernon Smith), inviting him to contest this division with Lord Burleigh and Mr. G. W. Hunt, but the result has not yet transpired.—The Conservatives of Worcestershire (East), declare their determination to contest this division with Mr. Foley and Mr. Calthorpe. The Hon. Mr. Coventry and Mr. Williams, an influential ironmaster, are both spoken of.—Two candidates are before the electors for the vacancy which will shortly be occasioned in the representation of West Suffolk by the retirement of Mr. H. S. Waddington—Earl Jermyn and Major Windsor Parker. Both gentlemen profess Conservative principles.—It is more than probable that there will be a severe contest for Hertfordshire. The candidates at the forthcoming election will most likely be Sir E. B. Lytton, Mr. Puller (Liberal), Mr. Abel Smith, jun. (Conservative), and the Hon. Mr. Grosvenor, a son of Lord Ebury (Liberal).—For Suffolk (West), no announcement has appeared that Captain Bennett, one of the sitting members, is to retire. A "central committee" has been formed to promote the return of Lord Jermyn. Meanwhile the friends of Major Windsor Parker are strenuously pressing the claims of that gentleman. Thus there are three Conservatives in the field.—Mr. George Hussey Packe, vice-chairman of the Great Northern Railway Company (who contested South Lincolnshire at the last election), has again come forward in opposition to the Right Hon. Sir John Trollope and Mr. Anthony Wilson.—In Wilts (South), Mr. William Wyndham retires on account of ill-health, and Lord Henry Thynne, who contested this division of the county at the last election, is again in the field.

CITIES.—The political struggle in Gloucester has already commenced with considerable energy. Sir Robert Carden addressed a large meeting of the Conservatives at the Bell Hotel on Wednesday evening, and was enthusiastically received.—It is probable that Mr. W. Lawson, nephew of Sir James Graham, will be brought forward to oppose Mr. W. N. Hodgson, the Conservative M.P. for Carlisle, at the forthcoming election. Mr. Lawson is a ballot man.—It seems the Conservatives intend to contest Norwich city. A private meeting of the party was held on Wednesday. It is said that the Whig section are in treaty to bring forward a coadjutor with Mr. Fenwick, and that the "advanced" section are in treaty with other persons. The names of Mr. S. Morley, of London, and Mr. Digby Seymour are mentioned.—On Thursday morning the following circular, printed in London, and dated from the Carlton Club, was freely distributed in Oxford: "The freemen and electors of the city of Oxford are apprised that a county gentleman, of sterling independence and staunch Conservative principles, will offer himself as a candidate at the approaching general election."—For Oxford University we learn, on good authority, that Sir W. Heathcote, in consequence of ill-health, will not offer himself for re-election, and Sir G. Cornwall Lewis, Dr. Travers Twiss, Q.C., Mr. Roundell Palmer, and Mr. Sotherton-Estcourt are confidently spoken of in the University as candidates for the seat thus vacated.

BOROUGH.—At Nottingham the only names at present before the electors are Mr. C. Paget, one of the present members (Liberal); Mr. Ernest Jones (Chartist); and Mr. Granville Edward Harcourt Vernon, of Grove-hall, East Retford (Liberal Conservative).—At Hull, Mr. James Clay (Liberal) offers himself for re-election, and another Liberal candidate has offered himself in the person of Mr. Harvey Lewis. Efforts are making by some of the leaders of the Conservative party to bring forward what they call a "real Conservative."—The success which recently crowned the Conservative cause in Harwich has induced the party to put a second candidate into the field, and a large body of the electors have pledged themselves to support Mr. Dodd in the event of his accepting the invitation which has been forwarded to him.—Mr. J. R. Mullings, who has represented Cirencester for eleven years, has issued an address, in which he intimates his intention, owing to ill health, of not again soliciting the suffrages of the electors. The other member, Mr. Allen A. Bathurst, nephew of Earl Bathurst, again offers himself as a candidate.

—At Colchester, another Conservative candidate, in the person of Mr. P. O. Papillon, locally connected with a highly respectable family, has entered the field, in conjunction with Mr. T. J. Miller, one of the sitting members.—Lord Stanley has addressed the electors of King's Lynn, announcing his intention to offer himself again for that borough.—A sharp contest is expected in Buckingham, and several candidates are already in the field. Major-General Hall retires, and the constituents are being canvassed on behalf of Sir H. Verney, Mr. J. G. Hubbard, of Addington, Mr. G. W. Barrington, and Mr. Cavendish, of Thornton-hall.—The retirement of Mr. W. H. Adams has called into the field two new aspirants for Boston—Mr. Staniland and Mr. J. H. Hollway, of Gunby-park. Mr. Ingram has published an address, and will seek the honour of re-election.—Mr. Beresford Hope has taken leave of his constituents at Maidstone.—Neither of the sitting members for Manchester has made any sign; but Mr. J. A. Turner's friends are anxious that he should offer himself again, in which case it is hoped a contest will be avoided. Large placards are posted on the walls announcing that Mr. Cobden will be brought forward.—At Salisbury the two borough members, Lieutenant-General Buckley and Mr. M. H. Marsh offer themselves for re-election. A Conservative candidate, it is stated, is also about to issue an address—a Mr. Errington, connected with the South-Western and Yeovil Railways.—In Maldon there will be a strong contest. Three candidates are now before the small constituency, Mr. T. S. Western, Liberal; and Mr. Bramley Moore, Conservative, the sitting members, and Mr. M. B. Peacock, formerly one of the members, and a defeated candidate at the last election.—Mr. Tomline and Mr. Slaney, the present members for Shrewsbury have issued addresses declaring their intention to stand again. They are not, however, to be allowed to walk over the course quietly, as Major Phibbs has issued an address on Conservative principles.—Mr. W. Wood, as well as Mr. R. M. Milnes (whose address appears in *The Times* of yesterday), offers himself for re-election at Pontefract, but, as usual, there is to be a contest. Mr. Sidney Woolf, of the Knottingley Potteries, has come forward on the Liberal interest.—Mr. Martin retires from the representation of Tewkesbury on the alleged ground of ill-health, but it is said he will be brought forward for a neighbouring county. His brother, Mr. James Martin, will be proposed in his stead, and, of course, the Hon. F. Lygon seeks re-election.—Sir F. Smith, the Conservative member for Chatham, has issued handbills to the electors, in which he states his intention of again offering himself for re-election, should a dissolution of Parliament take place. On Saturday intelligence was received that, in the event of a general election, a Liberal candidate would come forward.—Mr. J. T. Mackenzie has come forward as a candidate for Northampton on Conservative principles. Mr. Mackenzie convened a meeting of the Conservative electors yesterday evening to hear an exposition of his principles.—At Newcastle-on-Tyne the Hon. A. Liddell, of the Northern Circuit, it is stated, is about to offer himself in the Conservative interest. Mr. Liddell is a younger brother of Lord Ravensworth. Mr. John Hodgson Hinde, of Acton-house, a former member for the borough, is also mentioned.—Mr. Edward Baines, the brother of Mr. M. T. Baines, has been formally asked to stand for Leeds by the leaders of the "moderate" Liberals and the voluntary educationists, and he has taken time to consider whether he will allow himself to be put in nomination or not along with Mr. W. E. Forster, the candidate of the extreme Liberals.—In the event of a dissolution, Mr. G. H. Money, who describes himself as a Liberal-Conservative, has announced himself as a candidate for the representation of Rochester. The two present members—Mr. P. W. Martin and Mr. Serjeant Kinglake, Recorder of Bristol—will again be brought forward by the Liberal electors.—Kidderminster is again to be contested. Mr. Huddleston, of the Oxford Circuit, has arrived here, and on Wednesday issued an address to the electors in opposition to Mr. Lowe.—There is not much room for doubt that Mr. Villiers will have a new associate at Wolverhampton after the election. It is understood that Mr. Thornley is about to signify his wish to retire, on account of the state of his health.

SCOTLAND.—Mr. Cowan, who has been one of the representatives for Edinburgh for twelve years, has issued an address to the electors, stating that it is not his intention again to offer himself. Mr. Black, who has represented the city since Mr. Macaulay's retirement in 1856, is expected to stand again.—Captain Hamilton, the present member for the Falkirk Burghs, has issued an address, offering himself for re-election. A meeting of Mr. Morry's supporters in Airdrie was held on Tuesday night for the purpose of getting up a requisition to that gentleman to become a candidate.—For Fife (County), Mr. J. H. Erskine Wemyss has issued an

address offering himself as a candidate, Mr. Fergus having retired. Mr. Wemyss is to be opposed by Lord Loughborough on Conservative principles.—For Selkirk (County), in the prospect of the retirement of Mr. Elliot Lockhart, the names have been mentioned of Mr. Johnstone, of Alva (Liberal-Conservative), Mr. Scott, of Gala (Conservative), and Mr. J. P. Murray, of Philiphaugh (Liberal).—Ayrshire: It is currently rumoured that the present Solicitor-General will be asked to contest the county of Ayr.—Berwickshire: Mr. Robertson, of Ladykirk, still prosecutes his canvass among the Berwickshire electors, with the most gratifying results.—Dumbartonshire: Mr. W. C. Bontine is in the field on the Liberal interest. No communication had up to Wednesday afternoon been received from Mr. Smollett.—Glasgow: Mr. Walter Buchanan, one of the present members, will not again become a candidate. Several gentlemen have been already mentioned, including Sir Andrew Orr, who, it is believed, will come forward, and Mr. William West Watson. There is also a rumour of nominating Sir Archibald Alison as a Derbyshire. Mr. Dalglish is very likely to be re-elected.—Inverness Burghs: Mr. A. Campbell, of Monzie, has issued an address to the electors of the Inverness burghs, offering himself as a candidate at the forthcoming election.—Leith: Mr. Donald McGregor is spoken of as likely to be put in nomination, should Mr. Moncrieff stand for Edinburgh. An influential party of Liberals have requested Mr. Robertson Gladstone, merchant, Liverpool, to come forward to contest the burghs against Mr. Miller, who came down from London on Wednesday morning, and was busy canvassing during the day.—Montrose: There is at present some talk of an opposition to Mr. Baxter.—Paisley: Mr. Crum Ewing has issued an address, again soliciting the honour of representing this constituency in Parliament.—Roxburghshire: The Hon. J. E. Elliot withdraws from the representation of this county. The name of Sir William Scott of Ancrum, has been mentioned as a candidate in the Liberal interest. It is rumoured that the Conservatives will bring forward a candidate in the person of Lord Henry Scott, second son of the Duke of Buccleugh, who was some years ago declined by the electors of Dumfriesshire.—Stirling: Sir James Anderson has issued an address to the electors, declining again to stand. Mr. James Caird has come forward and issued his address.

IRELAND.—Carlow County: It is believed that the Hon. Frederick Ponsonby will again come forward.—Carlow City: It is said that Mr. Ball, Q.C., will be a candidate.—Cork: Mr. Bancroft Carroll has addressed the electors as candidate for the representation of the city of Cork, and it is considered that Colonel Wood will also come forward. Messrs. Beams and Fagan, should the health of the latter permit, will, we presume, also be up. Mr. Scully will again try his fortune in the county, where he will have to contend with Messrs. Deasy and McCarthy.—Dublin City: Messrs. Grogan and Vance will offer themselves again.—Dundalk: It is believed there will be a contest for both borough and county.—Kildare County: Mr. O'Connor Heneky resigns on account of ill-health.—Kilkenny County: The Hon. L. Agar Ellis and J. Green, Esq., are expected to present themselves for re-election. The Hon. Mr. Mostyn, Mr. G. H. Moore, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Mr. Serjeant Shee, and Mr. O'Hagan, Q.C. have also been spoken of.—Kilkenny City: Mr. Hughes, Q.C., or Mr. O'Donnell are spoken of as likely to contest the representation with the present member, Mr. Sullivan.—Londonderry County: Mr. Clarke, it is anticipated, will retire, but Mr. Greer will offer himself, it is expected, for re-election. Mr. Robt. Peel Dawson and Mr. Beresford are spoken of as likely to contest the representation.—New Ross: Mr. J. Rea, of Belfast, is a candidate.—Queen's County: Sir Charles Coote, it is stated, will retire.—Tipperary County: It is understood there will be no opposition to the re-election of Mr. Waldron and the O'Donoghue.—Westmeath: Mr. W. P. Urquhart, of Castlepollard, who represented Westmeath on a former occasion, will again start for that county.—Wexford Borough: Mr. Villiers Latouche Hutton addresses the electors from London.—Galway County: Mr. F. F. Skerratt, of Carrownacrowe Castle, is likely to contest this county against Sir Thomas J. Burke, one of its present members. Both the candidates are Liberal.—Mayo County: It is reported that George Lynch, Esq., of Ionisburgh, solicitor, will contest the above county on extreme Liberal principles. Mr. George Henry Moore goes to Tipperary, and it is said Mr. Watson Rutledge will contest Mayo in conjunction with the present member, Captain Palmer, on ultra Conservative principles.—Sligo: Lucas Alexander Trenton, Esq., who once before stood for Sligo, will now again stand against Mr. Somers. They are both Whigs, and their splitting that interest will, it is thought, enable an eminent Queen's Counsel, who is to contest it on high Tory principles, to get in.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

It would be futile to deny that the most interesting literature of the week is to be found in those columns of the daily papers containing the addresses of honourable members about to face—and some with wry faces, too—the perils of a general election. One of these documents has, indeed, a direct literary interest, as the work of no less a person than G. H. M., the dining-out oracle, in the *Times*, who astounded plain men, the other day, by the announcement of his great discovery of the four fundamental sauces. This epicurean politician addresses the burgesses of Rochester in terms as mellifluous as an invitation to dinner, assuring them of his fondness for economy, and his “disposition to conserve”—conserve, he should have said.

The Association for obtaining the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge takes opportunity in time, and issues a manifesto, calling upon the constituencies to pledge every candidate to support the repeal of the Paper Duty. As we are not aware that there is any constituency in England consisting entirely of newspaper men, we do not anticipate much result from this appeal.

The Newspaper Press Fund has held its first general meeting, and from the report issued its affairs seem to be in a slightly better form than would appear from the prospectus lately referred to. The list of members now includes 105 names, and after payment of all expenses—which, being preliminary, are, of course, exceptionally heavy—there is a balance left of nearly 70%. The committeemen elected were Messrs. S. C. Hall, Stirling Coyne, Joseph Bee, and Edward Barrow; Messrs. M. Cooke, D. Morier Evans, and James Lowe, were elected auditors. The resolutions proposed for separating the funds arising from the members, from those collected from the public, were also put and unanimously carried.

The Libri sale is concluded, and the sum total obtained amounts to £6,515, quite as much as was expected by those who understood the value of the MSS. We are glad to know that some of the best lots have found their way into the national collection; though not so many as was perhaps desirable. It is, however, impossible for the Museum, with only a very limited sum at the disposal of its agent, to compete with wealthy private collectors, who are determined to secure certain coveted gems; and at this sale considerable difficulty was experienced, owing to the high bidding of Sir Thomas Phillips and other collectors. The choicest lots sold during the week were the following:—A romance called “La Voue de Paonne” (the Vow of the Peacock), by Jacques de Longuon (619). This was on vellum, and sold for 58l. A vellum copy of Lucretius de Rerum Natura, Lib. VI., with various readings of value (626); this sold for 62l. A collection of old mathematical writers, a vellum MS. of the twelfth century (665), fetched 100l. A treatise on Fortification, by Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, 1629 (727), bought for 51l. A vellum of the tenth century, containing Commentaries, by Origen and Hieronymus, illuminated (744), brought 95l. 11s. A vellum copy of Ovid's *Fasti* of the fifteenth century (751), 50l. 10s. A vellum copy of Persius's *Satires*, of the tenth century, 60l. A beautiful vellum MS. of the fourteenth century, containing poems of Petrarch and Dante, beautifully executed and illuminated; this was a perfect gem, and fetched the enormous price of 250l. Another beautiful MS. of Petrarch sold for 78l. Two collections of charts and maps, by Portulano, sold, one for 61l. and the other for 91l. As we have before stated, this is one of the most important sales of manuscripts that has taken place for some years, or is likely to take place for some time to come. M. Libri's splendid collection of rare, and other printed books, is expected to be offered for competition about the beginning of June.

The *Critio* communicates the following interesting items of literary intelligence:—

A reprint of the first four editions of the

“Divina Commedia” of Dante has just made its appearance in the shape of a handsome volume, privately printed by the Messrs. Boone, at the expense of Lord Vernon, and under the superintendence of Mr. Panizzi, who has prefixed to it a highly interesting bibliographical preface. These early editions of Dante were published at Foligno, Jesi, Mantua, and Naples, respectively. The editions of Foligno and Jesi both appeared in the year 1472; that of Mantua bears the same date, and may have been published earlier even than the Foligno edition, which passes for being the *editio princeps*, while that of Naples, which is without date, could not have been published, according to Mr. Panizzi, before 1475. All these editions are of such excessive rarity that bibliophiles in general, and *Dantophiles* in particular, will doubtless feel themselves much indebted to the munificence of Lord Vernon for having reprinted them in this highly convenient form.

A new edition of the Russian Imperial Code has just been published in fifteen volumes, a copy of which, handsomely bound, having been presented by the Russian Government to the Foreign Office, is now deposited in the Library of the British Museum.

Our Canadian Government has published a collection of the several Jesuit “Relations” concerning the missions in Canada, or “New France,” as it was called in the seventeenth century. This work is in three volumes, handsomely printed, but not on the best paper, and is entitled “Relations des Jésuites contenant ce qui s'est passé de plus remarquable dans les Missions des Pères de la Compagnie de Jésus dans la Nouvelle-France.” Québec: A. Cote. The “Relations” extend from 1611 to 1672, and are highly interesting.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett have favoured us with their list of literary novelties for the coming season. Among them we note:—“Sixteen Years of an Artist's Life in Morocco, Spain, and the Canary Islands,” by Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, with coloured illustrations; “Lectures on Art, Literature, and Social Science,” by Cardinal Wiseman; “Realities of Paris Life,” by the author of “Flemish Interiors,” &c.; “The Life and Times of George Villiers, First Duke of Buckingham,” by Mrs. Thomson; “The Jews in the East,” from the German, by the Rev. P. Beaton, M.A.; “Nathalie,” by Julia Kavanagh, forming the fourth volume of Hurst and Blackett's Standard Library. Messrs. Hurst and Blackett also announce the following new works of fiction:—“A Life for a Life,” by the author of “John Halifax, Gentleman;” “Woodleigh,” by the author of “Wildflower;” “A Good Time Coming,” by the author of “Mathew Paxton;” “Newton Dogvane,” by Francis Francis, with illustrations by Leech; “A Mother's Trial,” one vol., by the author of “The Discipline of Life,” &c.; “Through the Shadows,” by the author of “Sidney Grey,” &c.; “Miriam Copley,” by Mr. Jeaffreson; and a new story by the author of “Margaret and her Bridesmaids.”

Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. announce that they will publish during the present Spring:—“Memorials of the late Percy Bysshe Shelley,” edited by Lady Shelley; “Life and Liberty in America,” by Dr. Charles Mackay, with eight tinted illustrations; A new Volume of Lectures, by Mr. Ruskin; “The Fool of Quality,” by Henry Brooke, new and revised edition, with Biographical Preface by the Rev. C. Kingsley, Rector of Eversley, with a portrait of the author; “Spanish Scenes,” by G. W. Thornbury, with illustrations; “A Curate's Confidences,” by the author of “Rita.”

The press necrology of the week includes, we regret to say, the name of a respected veteran—the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, one of the oldest of the Conservative journals, having attained the ripe age of ninety-five years. Our contemporary, it is said, died of Conservatism, aggravated by a serious attack of pennypaperism—a new disease which is proving very fatal to many of our provincial, and some of our metropolitan friends. *Requiescat in pace!*

The *Publishers' Circular* announces, with regret, that the Canadians have imposed a duty of 10 per cent. upon the importation of books. What may be the meaning of this, we do not very well

understand, for it is scarcely possible that they can entertain a hope of supporting an independent literary existence for some time to come, at least. So far as we can foresee the consequences of such a measure, we agree with our contemporary in regarding it as one to be deeply deplored. It is some satisfaction, however, to learn from the same source that our American cousins are about to commit, at least, one act of justice, by contracting with Mr. Dickens for the sale of the copyright of his new tale. Whether this will be a complete protection to the enterprising and honest publisher who has consented to this, we doubt; because whatever precautions may be taken for bringing the numbers out in New York as early as possible, there is no perfect security that some piratical individual, who does not pay for his copyright, will not step in and reap all the profits. When Messrs. Harper and Son contracted with Mr. Dickens to pay him a good sum for stereotyped plates of “Bleak House,” and brought it out in New York as early as its issue in England, the conductors of a well-known New York daily paper managed to get early copies of every number, and to bring out the numbers in their columns almost as early as the authorised edition. A trap was laid by some insignificant alterations of the text, and the paper was convicted, but the rejoinder was, that it was done to punish Messrs. Harper for their past transgressions against English authors, and the public, only too well accustomed to such transactions, laughed at and applauded the successful “dodge.”

According to the latest accounts from America, the coming spring trade in books will be rather dull; not so much for lack of books, as because the leading publishers are becoming more inclined to adopt the English plan, and make their own arrangements with the book trade, rather than leave it to the auctioneer.

From France we receive an account of the reception of the new Academician, M. Laprade. The comparative insignificance of this acquisition to “The Forty” is such as to warrant fully the insinuation of Piron, when he wrote for his own epitaph:—

Ci gît Piron, qui ne fut rien,
Pas même Academicien.

M. Laprade is a poet of inferior merit, recognised as a pupil of the school of Lamartine. This gentleman succeeded to the chair of Alfred de Musset, a poet of undoubted genius, although soiled with some of the grosser stains of humanity. Among the most notable of literary novelties may be mentioned the third volume of “L'Histoire du Gouvernement Parlementaire en France,” by M. Duvergier de Hauranne; and the second part of M. Albert de Broglie's “L'Eglise et l'Empire Romain au IV^e Siècle.” M. Victor Bonnet has put forward a work of some financial interest in these times, entitled, “Questions Economiques et Financières à propos des Crises;” and M. Léon Auroc another on the condition of the small rural communities in France, called, “Des Sections de Communes.” It will be observed that all these works have an interest almost exclusively political. Works of fancy and genius are not now to be looked for in France.

HUGH MILLER'S LECTURES ON GEOLOGY.

Sketch-book of Popular Geology; being a Series of Lectures delivered before the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. By Hugh Miller, with an Introductory Preface by Mrs. Miller.

Edinburgh: Constable & Co.

THIS is the last of the posthumous works of Hugh Miller; and it fully sustains his reputation. The only fault of any importance we can urge is, the title given to the volume (we presume by Mrs. Miller.) It is inadequate, by being too general and pretentious. The lectures do not, as the title page would lead one to expect, systematically lay down the rudiments of the science of geology. They are a series of addresses, delivered to the people of Edinburgh, in which the whole panorama of geology, principally of the palæozoic and mesozoic periods, is unfolded, in connexion with

the present aspects of scenes familiar to his auditors, and which represent in their formations the several stages of palaeontological history. Doubtless much of elementary geology is taught to the reader, ere he has reached the end of the lectures; but in a discursive and, to some extent, an unmethodical and unscientific way. We cannot therefore but regard the title as a misnomer.

Hugh Miller's mind was led to the study of geology, and to the enrichment of geological science with many gains all his own, just as many sculptors have been led to the art of statuary. Many men, trained in the handicraft of mullion or cornice carving, have caught, while they carved, the conviction of higher forms of beauty and of higher capacities of plastic art: and they have taught their chisels to create and perpetuate the sacred innocence of cherubs and the graceful forms of nymphs. Hugh Miller's earliest operative days were spent down in the recesses of a quarry whose lowest rampart, were of venerable red sandstone, and whose topmost layers were deposits of red boulder clay. The mind of artistic bent is led forward from the fashioning of the rock into routine and useful fabrics, to the forming it into new and unborn shapes. Hugh Miller's speculative mind was led backward from his toil, into inquiries into the origin and history of the sandstone in which ever and anon he unexpectedly came upon a cavity exactly representing in its form some curious unknown reptile, or of the boulder clay in which he found pebbles polished to the smoothness of enamel, and rutted with lines which seemed to have been impressed by gnome or genii gravers. Under any circumstances, in any age, Hugh Miller would have been a geological inquirer. The inquiring mind, situated as his was, would always have been awakened into curiosity and speculation by the phenomena placed before his eyes. Luckily for himself, he came into the world, and began to philosophise in his quarry, a sufficient number of years after other men's minds had begun to speculate in the same line, to have at his disposal the fruits of the first expeditions, into the wilds of tellurian history—certain ascertained facts and deductions, which guided him in his further inquiries. For geology this man's mind was utilised *in maximo*. He arrived just at the right time. Fifty years earlier his cravings would have been unsatisfied, and his observations turned to no scientific account. There was just enough of geological truth radiating to Cromarty, when he began to hew slabs from the formation he has made his own for ever, by the unassailed right of exclusive conquest, to light him some solitary steps on his way; but its glimmer was just faint and short,—reaching enough to display without illuming still further recesses of research and speculation. One curiosity was allayed only to beget others more enthralling.

Hugh Miller began to philosophise in the natural and spontaneous way; that is to say, he began, untutored as he was, to wonder what were the causes of what he saw around him. To students of any science, in any stage other than that of the very earliest development, this way of philosophising is impossible. Progressive science is only possible under the condition of each student beginning where the last left off. For the positive gain of the increased radiance, and under illumination of a truth in science, we pay the penalty of removal further and further from the fresh wonder and delight of the pioneers on whose eyes its rays first dawned.

In the sketch of geology, which these six lectures contain, Hugh Miller conducted his auditors, and now conducts his readers into every stratum of the earth's substance, especially the fossiliferous formations, in the fresh and natural method of informal and primitive philosophy. His whole method is analytical. Instead of starting from the bowels of the earth, as a systematic grammarian of geology would, and leading you through red-hot gneiss and schist, enigmatic Silurian bands, cinetures of peat hardening and blackening into coal, seams of lias rich in shells and lizard scales, tilted up on the slopes of Scottish mountains, or enriching, as a sub-soil, the hops which wave over the Weald of Kent, and so through chalk and tertiaries, up to the alluvial soil, on which he, the geological grammarian, and you, the cramming student, stand; instead of adopting this, the dry, but logical synthetical method of didactic science, Hugh Miller adopts just the opposite plan. He first describes to you characteristic landscape features of certain formations, then

touches off, in a sketchy way, some of the more obvious and interesting of minor details; and then satisfies the curiosity he has incited as to their causes, by vivid and imaginary descriptions combining all the circumstantial reality of a verbal Pre-Raphaelitism with the grandeur of an apocalyptic vision, of the processes and states through which coal, porphyry, or limestone have passed.

As an illustration of this plan, we shall summarise for our readers, the popular view he gives, in the last lecture, of the primary rocks, that is, those deposited and done with, ere life was born into matter. Many of our readers are, doubtless, familiar with the scenery of the Western Highlands. Take your seat, then, once more, with Hugh Miller as fellow-passenger, on the coach that runs between Glencoe and Loch Lomond. In the glen you are in a region of primary porphyry, itself dingy, and made all the more sombre by the dark heath which covers without clothing it, and by the long shadows cast by its masses over the vale. Igneous these rocks must be. Their semi-columnar structure betrays their origin; and their towering pyramidal form tells the same tale.

We emerge from Glencoe, and the scene entirely loses its character. We have just left towering masses, broken into dizzy precipices. Now, that first mountain that breaks upon our sight is "a mere hummock, magnified into a mountain, and wrapped round by a continuous caul of brown heath." And just beyond, the scene rolls out into one of the dreariest moors in Scotland. We have passed from porphyry to granite, and to granite largely composed of feldspar. Feldspar contains a large proportion of potash, which decomposes readily, and thereby accounts for the rounded form, at once, of granite boulders, and these granite hills.

We pass from granite to a region representative of the staple scenery of the Highlands.

"Its swelling hills are rolled, like pieces of plain drapery, into but a few folds," and its valleys are long and withdrawing. The hills are broad of base and squat, as if they were well begun, but interdicted in the building, and wanted upper stories. They are mountains "of one heave;" whereas, all the grander Scottish mountains, such as Ben Lomond and Ben Nevis, are of two heaves, at least. We have been journeying through gneiss.

We pass from gneiss, and become aware, by the peculiar contour of the hills miles before us, that we are approaching a new formation. The rocks are grey, of a silky lustre; curved, wrinkled, and contorted, like pieces of ill-laid-by satin. The outlines of the hills are tubercled: projecting knobs and sudden recesses break up their surfaces into picturesque wildernesses of light and shade. The decomposition of the rock evidently forms a soil favourable to the production of grasses, and the common dicotyledonous trees. For, as Sir Walter says, in the "Lady of the Lake," with his invariable absolute truthfulness of local description:—

"Nor were these earth-born castles bare,
Nor lacked they many a banner fair;
For from their shivered brows displayed,
Far o'er the unfathomable glade,
All twinkling with the dew-drop's sheen,
The briar rose fell in streamers green,
And creeping shrubs of thousand dyes,
Waved in the west wind's summer sighs."

Loch Katrine, the Trosachs, and Ben Lomond are in a mica-schist district. And so we travel on through the clay-slate of the encroaching lowland scene, between Loch Lomond and Dumbarton, sacred to the memory of George Buchanan and Dr. Tobias Smollet.

The above is a fair specimen, allowance being made for the unavoidable marring in the transcript and condensation of the general style and treatment of the lectures. To those who wish to acquire by rote the skeleton of geological science and nomenclature, the book is not appropriate. It is all that can be desired by the hearts of those who would place themselves, with the alacrity of joyful discipleship, at the feet of one who has mastered many of nature's darkest and most wondrous secrets; whose soul has risen and expanded with the theme; who has taken unto himself strength and sovereignty over every new domain of discovery, and who possesses the rare faculty of enkindling, as a teacher, the enthusiasm and tremulous awe he felt himself when first he crossed the portals of the past, and stepped upon the virgin shores of the old red sandstone epoch.

LIFE'S FORESHADOWINGS.

Life's Foreshadowings. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

We are presented in the preface with a gratuitous key to the "aim" of the author of "Life's Foreshadowings." If the author has met with the characters in real life portrayed in these remarkable volumes, then his or her experiences must have been somewhat exclusive. The passion of love is presented to us under two widely different modifications of its influence and action, in neither of which is it very probable that living types could be found, even in this commonplace world of ours. Certainly the scene is laid in Ireland, and the characters are Irish. This may account for a good deal of the talent and much more of the eccentricities that unquestionably display themselves in this work. The first portraiture of "love" is shadowed forth in the history of Mr. Pierce Henderson and Annie Brandon. The gentleman is more than middle-aged, bald, anything but good-looking, cold, selfish, an unnatural son, a hard, unfeeling husband, a severe father when passion is up (he horsewhips his daughter over her bare shoulders), a spendthrift bankrupt; and to all this "intolerable quantity of sack" the only redeeming morsel of "bread"—if there be any redemption at all—is a pleasant voice and a great command of shallow small talk. And yet Annie Brandon, a lovely, wealthy, talented young creature, who has been brought up to view Pierce Henderson in the light of a second father, falls in veritable love with this elderly piece of masculinity, and consents to become his wife. The match is broken off, however, because Annie Brandon becomes acquainted with the contemptible character of her *fiancé*; but no sooner does an apoplectic attack—*hemiplegia*, so it is described by the author—reduce this elderly lady-killer to a slaving semi-idiot, with features hideously distorted and limbs paralysed, than the love of young Annie Brandon revives, and becomes so intense that she marries him as soon as the doctor can get him upon a pair of crutches. It is true that the author, in order to cover what would otherwise be the revolting aspect of this affair, restores the paralytic cripple to a moderate share of health; still it is difficult to reconcile such a marriage to notions of propriety, to nature's workings, or to life's foreshadowings. The other love passage has reference to Christie Roach and Jay Henderson, daughter of Pierce Henderson. Roach is a penniless man of plebeian extraction, gifted, however, with strong mental faculties, and devoted to abstruse science. Jay Henderson is a fairy in beauty and accomplishments, well-born, and her father's heiress. She, when a mere child, falls in love with Christie Roach, then her father's agent; Roach loves Annie Brandon, and runs fast when he finds his hopes in that quarter are vain. Poor and ugly, and not over clean, he still has attractions in the eyes of Jay Henderson, who would marry him, nothing loth, did her worldly-wise parent consent. Christie Roach becomes eventually an astronomical and scientific luminary in Paris, acquires fame, name, and money, comes to Ireland, and marries Jay Henderson, even then quite young enough to be his daughter. These are a few of "life's foreshadowings" in this work. We must put the author on his or her trial—empanel a jury of the reading public—and having, as critical judge, given our charge, leave them to pronounce the verdict. We will not close this notice without a word or two of positive approbation. The author has a fine, cultivated, elegant, but somewhat crotchety mind, and a pictorial and fascinating style. "Life's Foreshadowings" we assume to be a first production, but it shows so much real promise that we feel confident the writer, if he or she chooses, may become a celebrity.

ELLEN RAYMOND.

Ellen Raymond; or, Ups and Downs. By Mrs. Vidal. 3 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THE heroine, Ellen Raymond, is the foremost character in this work—very handsome very clever, very decided. She is throughout subjected to a series of trials and misadventures, the consequence of not being properly understood; she is placed in situations rather critical for her purity of character; she is restrained from vindicating herself by obligations which are not clearly defined; she is made the victim of circumstances and situations which appear in some respects overstrained; but she surmounts all her trials with dignity and decorum. The interest is made to concentrate

upon the love passages in the life of Ellen Raymond. This young lady has a special susceptibility for the tender passion. She very nearly falls a victim to her sensibilities when at boarding school; she is, however, rescued from harm by a middle-aged paragon, Mr. Edward Vaughan. Having escaped this danger she plunges head over ears in love with Granville Mortimer; and a large portion of the three volumes is taken up with cross purposes, in which every thing provokingly turns out contrary just as Granville Mortimer is time after time about to pop the pleasant question. After a good deal of this sort of thing Granville Mortimer, mistaking the feelings of Ellen Raymond, marries somebody else. Then we have a rather delicate position for Ellen Raymond prepared: she just peeps over the brink of the precipice; she is recalled to her sense of propriety in time, and her difficulties end by her becoming the wife of Edward Vaughan. There are two or three episodal circumstances connected with the main adventure, but though they promise to be interesting and very mysterious at the beginning, the end is rather commonplace and disappointing. The novel, however, will find a great many admirers.

THE OLD PLANTATION.

The Old Plantation. By James Hungerford, of Maryland. Sampson, Low and Co.

THIS is a series of American scenes and incidents, limited to the Southern localities. The story has no romantic complications, neither does it pretend to illustrate or elucidate any profound mystery connected with the operations of human passions and human feelings. Negro life is painted somewhat too much *couleur de rose*—the niggers appear to be the happiest, most careless, and wouldn't change their condition if they could of living mortals. We have no doubt that such scenes have occurred, and that such pleasant plantations have existed and do exist; but then we fear, if an illustration of the "domestic institution" is intended, that there is a darker side to the picture, which the author has skilfully kept from view, and which would have somewhat marred the impression it is, as we surmise, his desire his production should make. However, the book is pleasant reading—the graceful pictures of real American life are selected with judgment, and the work, though it can never prove an antidote to "Uncle Tom's Cabin," may be read with advantage as a corrective of that clever, but overstrained, nigger romance.

FALSE AND TRUE.

False and True. By the Hon. Lena Eden.

GRACEFUL writing and pleasant reading—characters not out of the pale of everyday existence, and incidents such as may be presumed to flow naturally from the idiosyncrasies and positions of the respective characters. We have met with them all in our peregrinations through society, and this is about the best testimony we can offer to the truth and talent of the writer. Pamela Dynely is the only character which strikes us as aiming at originality, and is the one that pleases us best, and, we fancy, will also best please the readers of "False and True."

POEMS.

1. *Footpaths between Two Worlds*; and other Poems. By Patrick Scott. Bell and Daldy.
2. *Songs for the Suffering.* By Thomas Davis, M.A. John W. Parker and Son.
3. *Jo in Egypt*; and other Poems. By Richard Garnett. Bell and Daldy.
4. *The Buried Titan*; a Drama. By Franklin Leitchill. Robert Hardwicke.

THE first of these poems is by an author who has already won a respectable name as a minstrel. In the leading production of the volume he discusses the question of the soul's immortality, and has entitled himself to take an eminent rank as a didactic poet. Mr. Scott has brought a considerable amount of learning to bear on the point, and has illustrated the entire argument with scientific as well as metaphysical proof. The volume contains other poems. One, in lyric verse, on Edwin, King of the Northumbrians, has some remarkable stanzas. The others are variously entitled "The Village of the Dead," "The Demon's Bath," "The River of Life," "Faith and Knowledge," and "The Soldier's Sacrifice." There is also one relative to the Crimean war, under the title of "Chersonous Taurica," which has poetic merit as well as patriotic feeling. "The Life of the Houseless" is also a poem that will com-

mand attention. "Iscaiot," "The Passing Bell," "The Stars," and "The Battle of Inkermann," are lyrics that possess high finish, and testify to a fund of thought and feeling in the author more than common. The publication, altogether, will raise the reputation of Mr. Scott.

The next volume presents the Rev. Mr. Davis in a favourable light. He is a verse-writer of merit, and these "Songs for the Suffering" are quite equal to his "Devotional Verse." One poem in the present collection, on "The Mossy Old Oak," manifests decided descriptive power; and there is many a stanza in the volume as full of pathos as of piety.

Mr. Garnett writes with classic propriety and elevation, and his volume of poems will procure him respect with a superior class of readers.

Mr. Leitchill's drama is a sort of parody on the Prometheus of Æschylus—not, however, in the shape of a burlesque. By the "Titan" we believe the author means the spirit of democracy. The gist of the work will be well enough understood when we state that it is dedicated to Comte de Montalembert. There is some eloquent and poetic dialogue.

MISCELLANIES.

The Congregational Hymn and Tune Book. By the Rev. R. R. Chope, B.A. First ten thousand. J. Wright and Co.

The nature of this publication is sufficiently explained by the title. Some of the hymns are really beautiful, and the entire collection does credit to the compiler.

Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn, F.R.S. New edition. In 4 vols. Henry G. Bohn.

VOL. IV. is now published, embellished with a portrait of John Evelyn, and ten other likenesses, including Oliver Cromwell's. The volume is occupied with correspondence, commencing with the letters of Mrs. Evelyn, and her character by Dr. Bohn. Then follow the private correspondence between Charles I. and Sir Edward Nicholas; the correspondence of the latter and various members of the royal family; the private correspondence between Sir Edward Hyde and Sir Richard Browne, and a selection from the correspondence of Sir Richard Browne. A general index to the Diary and Correspondence is added.

The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore, with a Portrait. Complete in Ten Parts.

Longman, Brown, Green, Longman, and Roberts. PART I. is now published, containing "Lalla Rookh" complete; in double columns, beautifully printed.

The Finances of Great Britain Considered. By Reuben Browning. Part I.

Richardson Brothers. THIS work comprises an Examination of the Property and Income Tax, and Succession Duty Tax of 1853. The author proposes what he regards as a practicable scheme for the annihilation of the National Debt; which debt, however, he does not look on as the evil that some take it for. We must await future issues before we can judge of the writer's argument.

The Common-sense of Life Assurance. By a Man of the Times. James Hogg and Sons.

THE author writes in a merry vein, but he writes also wisely, since he inculcates prudence. We recommend the perusal of this manual.

Chambers's Encyclopædia; a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge for the People.

W. and R. Chambers. THIS work, of which Part I. is just published, is based "on the latest Edition of the German Conversations Lexicon." This is the highest commendation that can be bestowed on it; and when it is added that it is "illustrated by wood engravings and maps," the book purchaser will be naturally anxious to possess it, as the most valuable book of reference that he can obtain.

Homœopathic Handbook, and Guide to the Domestic Use of the Medicines. William Freeman.

THE directions are plain, and the arrangements good.

The Gourmat's Guide to Rabbit Cooking, 124 Receipts. By an Old Epicure. W. Kent and Co.

ONE hundred and twenty-four different ways of cooking a rabbit? Yes;—it is a fact. For the necessary detail of the particulars, buy and read this useful little book—and then go and catch your rabbit.

Memoirs of the Empress Catherine II. Written by herself. With a Preface, by A. Herzen.

Trübner and Co. THIS is a very good translation, from the French, of a well known work, which will be gratefully received by a large body of readers, and which we noticed in its French form some short time since.

O'Byrne's Pocket Post-Office Directory for 1859. Published, April 1859. O'Byrne Brothers.

THE utility of a work like this is obvious. It forms "a Handbook to London and its Environs," and its main advantage is in its portability.

White Hands, a Legend of German Chivalry. A Tragedy in Five Acts. By Henry Spicer.

Bosworth and Harrison. MR. SPICER is well known as a dramatic author and manager, and is remarkable for his close imitation of the style of Beaumont and Fletcher. The subject of this play relates to Otho III., the soldier-emperor, and his bride Mary, of Aragon. He was married by proxy; whence it followed that the empress loved his representative, in the person of the brilliant Count of Amala. Some of the scenes in this drama are of rare beauty; but the catastrophe presents stage difficulties. Nevertheless, two years since it was designed for representation at a west-end theatre. That opportunity was lost, and, not expecting another, the author has judiciously published his work.

Ten Thousand Wonderful Things. Edited by Edmund Fillingham King, A.M.

Ward and Lock. THIS is not a book of vulgar wonders, but a scientific collection of curious matters, which may be read with profit. It is also profusely illustrated. The number of odd and quaint things is carefully separated from the coarse and objectionable extravagancies which formerly composed the contents of similar works. There is here much of the strange, but nothing of the vulgar.

SERIALS.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.—The new number is excellent. Its two political papers, on the "Italian Question" and "England's Political Position in Europe," are of rare merit. The fulness of their information, and the good sound practical sense of their suggestions place them in favourable contrast to the usual run of political articles. There are also a capital review of George Eliot's novel of "Adam Bede," and an accurate account of "The Drama in Paris." The other articles treat of "Yorkshire," "The Morals of Trade," "Weimar and its Celebrities," and "De Lamennais; his Life and Writings." The strictures on contemporary literature appear to be governed by impartiality, and embrace nearly all the publications of the quarter.

BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.—The number contains discriminating articles on "Cheap Literature" and "Alison's History of Europe," but its papers on "Baron Bunsen's Bible" and "Egypt's Place in Universal History," are marked with sectarian prejudice, unworthy of, and incompatible with, a true literary spirit. There is a very learned article on "Bartholomew Fair," "Ellis's Madagascar" is reviewed in a kindred spirit, and the papers on "Japan" and "Lady Morgan" are good. The "Reform Question," and "The Punjab and its Administration," are political articles of average merit. The short notices of recent publications are numerous and well written.

THE NATIONAL REVIEW.—This periodical is in great force this month. The opening contribution is a trenchant criticism on the writings of "Sir E. B. Lytton, Novelist, Philosopher and Poet." The laurels of the Colonial Minister are unsparingly shorn from his brow, and though not stripped quite bare, he is so far denuded of those literary trophies which an admiring public has long decorated him with as to be hardly recognisable. "Monimensen's History of Rome" is an able paper. "Social Innovators and Reformers" deals with anti-political economists, and their heresies against the doctrines of the Malthus, Bentham, Ricardo Smith school of teachers. The revision is evidently impregnated with the hard unfaternal spirit which distinguishes the principles of the modern school of economical theorists. "The Present State of Photography" is instructive, and well worth careful study. "D'Au-guesse and French Jurisprudence" pays a just tribute to an eminent French logist. "Peasant Life in Russia" more fully brings before the reader the admirable descriptive writings of Iyam Tourguonett. "Schleiermacher's Life and Times" will be read with unqualified pleasure. "The True Difficulties of the Italian Question" tells us nothing but what has been made public, but it puts the case fairly and forcibly before the public. The writer scouts the idea of Congress effecting any permanent good. The expulsion of the Pope and of Austria from Italy altogether, are the only two remedies the writer considers capable of settling Italian grievances. "The Present Aspect of Parliamentary Reform" will be approved in proportion as the tone is in harmony with the politics of the reader.

THE LONDON REVIEW.—"Buckle's History of Civilisation in England" and "Comte's Positive Philosophy form the text of a long and an able article on the merits of these renowned writers. The critic slashes away at Mr. Buckle, without stint or mercy, summing up his diatribes in the following words "Mr. Buckle may spare himself and his readers the continuation of this crude and monstrous undulatory. It has survived the little moment of applause and

now a long oblivion is yawning to receive it." We cannot endorse this wholesale summary condemnation of a remarkable work. We however share the critic's scorn of the occasional shallowness of the author, and we applaud the outspoken exposure which it receives. But then we cannot overlook the positive merits of Mr. Buckle's work. It has stuff in it which will rescue it from that limbo into which the wrathful critic so coolly consigns it. "Virgil and Tasso" is a scholarly contrast of the respective poetical merits of these ancient and modern immortals. "Goethe's, Ballads, and Minor Poems" enabled the reviewer to fall somewhat foul of the translators, Messrs. Aytoun and Martin, and not without some shadow of reason. "Ullmann on the 'Sinklessness of Jesus'" is beyond our sphere of criticism. The "Zwingli Reformers," "The Serampore Mission," and "The late Baron Alderson" are all extremely readable and full of information. The number altogether is a very good one.

NEW QUARTERLY REVIEW.—The number contains a general retrospect of the literature of the quarter, and a fair proportion of works, consisting of history, memoirs, travels, poetry, and novels. There is also a military article, "On the Armies of the Great Powers," and several reviews, including Masson on Milton, Lord Campbell on Shakespeare, and the Life of Jerrold. On the last, the reviewer lays rather a heavy hand;—too heavy.

ECLECTIC.—The opening article is a fervent critique, devoted to the labours of Carey, Marshman and Ward, in Serampore. Arago's Popular Astronomy follows. The concluding article is a brief notice of the late Hugh Miller's Sketch-book of Popular Geology. The rest of the number is composed of papers on general subjects.

CONSTITUTIONAL PRESS.—New Series, No. 1.—This publication is now converted into a monthly; and is to be devoted to a review of politics, literature, the Church, the Drama, and the Fine Arts. Here is a wide field of controversy; but the critics are conservative, and therefore the field is limited in one direction. "The Reform Bill," "The Literature of the Month," "Various Versifiers," "The Church," "Italian Opera," "The Drama," "The Fine Arts," and "Suppers of the Tories," are the titles of the articles. Much of this body of writing is in an exceedingly bad spirit;—malignant and chilling.

JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE.—New Series, No. XIV.—This is a publication that always contains several interesting papers. An article on "Literary Fools," in the present number, is remarkably good. It particularly treats of Guillaume, Postel, and Christopher Smart. The subject is also illustrated by many other instances.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE.—Part XXX.—This is excellent. Mr. R. B. Brough's tale of Miles Cassidy progresses well; and the engravings in the number are judiciously selected and skilfully executed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Broad Arrow: being Passages from the History of Maida Gwynham, a Lifer. By Oliné Keeze. 2 vols. Richard Bentley.

Hollywood Hall: a Tale of 1715. By James Grant. Routledge, Warnes, and Co.

Routledge's Shakespeare. Part XXXVII. Routledge and Co.

The English Cyclopædia. Part III. Bradbury and Evans.

The Virginians. No. XVIII. Bradbury and Evans.

A Popular History of England. No. XXXIX. Bradbury and Evans.

The Gallery of Nature. Part VI. W. and R. Chambers.

La Follet. No. CLI. Simpkin and Marshall.

The Minister's Wooing. Parts III. and IV. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

The Minister's Wooing. Parts III. and IV. (cheap edition). Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

Songs for the Suffering. By Thomas Davis, M.A. J. W. Parker and Sons.

Fraser's Magazine. No. CCCLII. J. W. Parker and Sons.

The Comprehensive History of England. Nos. XVII. and XVIII. Blackie and Sons.

Chambers's Encyclopædia. Part I. W. and R. Chambers.

The National Magazine. Part XXX. W. Kent and Co.

The Gourmots Guide to Rabbit Cooking. W. Kent and Co.

Ten Thousand Wonderful Things. Ward and Lock.

The Ladies' Treasury. No. XXVI. Ward and Lock.

The Amateurs' Magazine. No. VII. Piper, Stephenson, and Co.

The Englishwoman's Journal. No. XIV., Vol. III. Piper, Stephenson, and Co.

Kimpton's Magazine for Boys. No. II. Bosworth and Harrison.

The Buried Titan. A Drama, by Franklin Liffelild. Robert Hardwicke.

Titan. No. CLXIX. James Hogg.

The Christian Examiner. No. CCXII. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, and Co. London: E. T. Whitfield.

New Zealand and the Canterbury Colony. A Pamphlet, by Lord Lyttleton. E. Stanford.

Wet and Dry, or the Docks of London. By Caple Court, Esq., of the City. Baily Brothers.

The London Review. No. XXIII. Alexander Heylin.

Homœopathic Hand-book and Guide. W. Freeman.

O'Byrnes' Post-office Directory for 1859. O'Byrnes Brothers.

Foot-paths between Two Worlds, &c. Bell and Daldy.

The Westminster Review. No. XXX. John Chapman.

The British Quarterly Review. No. LVIII. Jackson and Walford.

The National Review. No. XXVI. Chapman and Hall.

Davenport Dunn. Nos. XXI. and XXII. Chapman and Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS—ODDS AND ENDS.

The second volume of the translation of Shakespeare's works, by Francis Victor Hugo, has been published by Pagnerie, of Paris.

M. de Chasseloup Laubat, the new Minister of Algeria, has decided that he will in future appoint military and naval officers to be governors of colonies.

The Marquis of Waterford is the third peer who, within a short period, lost his life from hunting. The late Earl of Harewood and Lord Fitzhardinge died from bad falls in the field.

The French ship-of-the-line *Alexandre*, having been fitted out for sea at Cherbourg, has been placed under the orders of Admiral Jehenne, and is to proceed with him to the Mediterranean.

According to the latest intelligence received from Gorruckpore, the Nana is encamped at the foot of the hills, with 3,000 troops at the outside. It is reported that he has now no power, but goes about from place to place disguised, and is known to very few of the rebels. He now fears treachery.

The French screw transport *Entrepreneante*, which has her guns protected on the new system, is about to be dispatched on a special mission to the Indian seas.

The *Moniteur de la Gironde* publishes a letter addressed from MM. Petin, Gaudet, and Co., of Rive-de-Gier, on the subject of the Armstrong cannon, and which they claim as being their invention.

On Sunday morning, at 8 o'clock, the tower of the parish church of Basford, near Nottingham, fell with a fearful crash, burying with it a portion of the edifice. The church had for the past two years been undergoing restoration. The damage is great, being estimated at 2,000*l*.

Mr. W. F. Finlaison, of the Home Circuit, a barrister of 15 years' standing, and author of several legal works, has announced himself as a candidate for the judgeship of the Sheriffs' Court.

It is said that the Rev. Alfred Poole, late curate of St. Barnabas, intends appealing to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent decision.

On Wednesday several gentlemen were invited to a private view of a new type composing machine, in practical operation in the printing establishment of Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, Whitefriars. The machine is the invention of Mr. Robert Hattersley, of Manchester, and seems to be simple in construction and efficacious for its purpose.

The members of Fitzroy Episcopal Chapel have presented the Rev. William Yates Rooker, with a testimonial of their affection for his character and estimation of his preaching. The testimonial consisted of a fac-simile of the Bible presented by the Bible Society to her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and a purse containing 125 guineas.

Cardinal Wiseman, on Sunday last, in the chapel of the Convent of Mersey, Blandford-square, ordained five gentlemen as priests of the Roman church:—William Manning, John Richards, R. Bowden, —Gouch, and Cyril Forster, all converts to the Roman Catholic faith.

Letters of a recent date from Teheran announce the determination come to by the Persian Government of extending the commercial relations of the country with Europe. With this view Mr. W. J. Stevens has been appointed Consul of his Majesty, the Shah, at Malta.

The *Pays*, after decrying several of the warlike discoveries recently brought into notice, and especially the Armstrong gun, tells us that no faith ought to be placed in Captain Norton's liquid fire, a vast amount of exaggeration respecting which has prevailed. The *Pays* questions a truth which every chemist admits.

A monument is to be erected in St. Paul's to the late Bishop of London, a sum of 1,200*l*. being at the disposal of a committee for the purpose. They have issued invitations to compete to no fewer than eighteen artists.

Mr. R. Hitchman, chief constable of the Devonport Constabulary force, has been appointed chief constable of the city of Norwich Police force. Mr. Hitchman was formerly an active member of the metropolitan police court.

A return of the names and locality of all the literary, scientific, and artistic institutions which have obtained from the certifying barrister certificates of exemption from local rates, has been printed on the motion of Mr. Cowper, M.P. The list of the institutions fills a space of nine pages.

The *Madras Times* mentions a rumour that the leading Hindoos and Mahomedans at the Presidency have arranged the preliminaries for a monster anti-missionary meeting. For the redress of their supposed wrongs, and the attainment of their remedy, a memorial is to be presented to the Secretary of State for India.

The *Staffetta* of Turin states that a society of ladies has been formed in that city to supply the military hospitals and ambulances with lint and linen bandages in case of war.

THE POPE AND THE FISHERMEN.—On the 25th the final trial was made of the railway from Civita Vecchia to Rome. The chief contractor, M. Debrousse, with three carriages and 250 fishermen, performed the journey in 2½ hours. This gentleman seems to have sincerely believed that the successor of St. Peter was a fisherman. Impressed with this happy idea, he supplied himself with a quantity of fish, and presented himself to the Pope and the Cardinals with this merchandise, to the surprise of all Rome. The Holy Father received M. Debrousse, the fishermen, and the fish, in the Ducal Salon. He smiled, it seems, according to custom; tapped his stomach, according to custom; and bestowed plenary indulgences upon all who liked to pick them up. Then, by way of completing his generosity, he gave to each of the 250 fishermen a small copper medal of the Immaculate Conception! The men, who expected a very different sort of gift, were, it appears, terribly chafed. "He would have done better to give us a 'papetto' to drink his health with," some of them said. One even talked of taking back his fish, and the rest seemed disposed to follow the example. M. Debrousse, seeing the position of affairs, quelled the disturbance by crying aloud, "Now, my lads, come along with me, and I'll pay for a breakfast for you." After this all murmuring ceased.

PADDY TURNED INDIAN.—A correspondent of the *Daily News*, exploring the Fraser River, in company with some British officers, had got awfully drenched, and were in a sad plight, when they came upon a small Indian colony. "After a demonstration of signs, gestures, and broken English on our part, and a series of grunts and ventriloquial mutterings on theirs, which did not seem to bring about a mutual understanding, a voice, issuing from beneath a dirty blanket on one of the sleeping shelves, asked, 'If it's lodgin's we were after?'" The speaker then announced, by way of introduction, that he was Murty Kelleher, from Macroom, in county Cork. Mr. Elwyn suggested that perhaps the individual was a travelled Indian; to which Murty Kelleher replied, "The devil a bit, but a real wandering Irishman." Murty then turned out, and explained the mystery. He and his mate, an American, had been frozen up in the neighbourhood, and having no other resource they put the palaver on the Indians, and by way of requiting them for their hospitality they took wives a-piece for the winter. Murty had the sunny side of the bargain, for his companion was a really comely lass, who seemed to hang with rapture on his coaxing smiles and mellow tones. Nothing could exceed their kindness and attention, and we reluctantly bade adieu to Murty and his nut-brown maid, who stood upon the bank wafting kind wishes in our wake.

WAITING FOR A TRAIN.—I don't know anything so tedious as waiting at a second-class station for a train. There is the ladies' waiting-room into which gentlemen may not go, and the gentlemen's waiting-room in which the porters generally smoke, and the refreshment-room with its dirty counter covered with dirtier cakes. And there is the platform, which you may walk up and down till you are tired. You go to the ticket-window half-a-dozen times for your ticket, having been warned by the company's bills that you must be prepared to start at least ten minutes before the train is due. But the man inside knows better, and does not open the little hole, to which you have to stoop your head, till two minutes before the time named for your departure. Then there are five fat farmers, three old women, and a butcher at the aperture, and not finding yourself equal to struggling among them for a place, you make up your mind to be left behind. At last, however, you do get your ticket just as the train comes up; but hearing that exciting sound, you nervously cram your change into your pocket without counting it, and afterwards feel quite convinced that you have lost a shilling in the transaction.—*Trollope*.

Postscript.

Friday Evening.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE royal assent was given by commission to the East India Loan Bill and other bills. The Superannuation Bill was brought up from the House of Commons, and read a first time.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATION.

The EARL of MALMESBURY stated that before the session closed he intended to give some explanation touching the foreign policy of the Government, and hoped to be able to show that her Majesty's Government had done everything they possibly could to preserve the peace of Europe. (Hear.)

GRAND JURIES.

The third reading of the Indictable Offences Bill, by which the interposition of grand juries was abolished within the districts over which the metropolitan police magistrates held jurisdiction, was moved by the LORD CHANCELLOR.

Lord LYNDBURST and Lord CAMPBELL opposed the Bill, and the Lord Chancellor withdrew it.

The House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

AFFAIRS OF THE CONTINENT.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER asked Lord Palmerston to postpone the motion of which he had given notice, with reference to the present aspect of foreign affairs, on the ground that such a discussion now would be prejudicial to the public interests, and because it was his intention to take an early day—either Monday or Tuesday—to make a full statement to the House with reference to our foreign relations, and to show the position which this country at present held. After his statement it would be competent for the noble lord, or any other member, to address the House on the same subject.

Lord PALMERSTON said he could not resist the appeal of the right hon. gentleman, and would, therefore, defer his motion. The right hon. gentleman's statement would, no doubt, contain the answer he wished to elicit from Government, and in that case would render it unnecessary for him to say anything further. But he should reserve to himself the right of addressing the House on the subject, if he saw reason for doing so.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, on Monday he would give notice of the day when he would make his statement.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS.

In reply to a question, Mr. FITZGERALD said the recommendations of the committee in respect to the recent consular appointments had been carried out.

THE GALWAY PACKET STATION.

Mr. BEAMISH wished to know whether Government intended to continue to pay £600 to the Galway line, when Sir S. Cunard had offered to do the same duty for £500, and take the mails from Cork.

Sir S. NORTHCOKE replied, the sum asked by Sir S. Cunard was in addition to a larger sum given to him by Government, and that Government did not intend to disturb the existing arrangement.

After a statement of the advantages of Cork over Galway from Mr. MAUIRE—

Sir JAMES GRAHAM hoped that these private arrangements by the Treasury would not be henceforward permitted. If a public service was required to be done, let it be put up to public competition.

THE DISSOLUTION.

Sir G. GREY wished to know if the report was true that an interval was to elapse between the prorogation and dissolution of Parliament.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the report rested on no authority. The prorogation would be declared, and the dissolution would follow as soon as possible; but it would be inconvenient to have an election in Easter week.

Viscount PALMERSTON was not satisfied with the right hon. gentleman's answer, because it was not sufficiently explicit.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the public business would be concluded, he expected, about Tuesday, the 19th. He could not fix any closer day.

After some remarks from Mr. GLADSTONE, and Mr. FRENCH, in relation to the Galway contract, the other orders of the day were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

FRANCE.

The Conference was opened yesterday at one o'clock, at the Hotel of Foreign Affairs. Its attention was to be directed to the question of the election of Col. Couza by both of the Principalities. M. Musurus, the Ottoman Plenipotentiary, would set forth the reasons which have induced the Sultan to submit this question to the Conference. The discussion, it was thought, would take place to-day, and the protocol be signed to-morrow (Saturday). There seems to be no doubt that the double election of Colonel Couza will be sanctioned.

THE CONGRESS.

A letter from Vienna, dated April 4, says:—The sincerity of the French Government is about to be put to the test, for the Austrian Government, a day or two since, proposed that there should be a general disarmament. If France accept the proposition, peace will probably be maintained; if she reject it, war is almost inevitable. Sardinia persists in refusing to disarm unless Austria does so likewise, but the latter cannot possibly suspend her preparations for war as long as the Emperor of the French continues his armaments. It is not yet certain that the Congress will meet, but if it should, the great Powers alone will have seat and voice in it, as Sardinia stands on her dignity, and declines to be placed on the same level with the other Italian States; and Rome has formally announced its intention not to send a representative to an assembly whose right to meddle in its internal affairs it cannot recognise.

NAPLES.

According to advices from Naples to the 5th, five of the King's physicians have declared his Majesty's malady to be incurable. Public opinion is in an agitated state, and the higher classes of society are again beginning to demand constitutional reforms.

ROME.

Advices have been received from Rome to the 5th inst.—The Papal Government is preparing an official note relative to the proposed Congress to be addressed to the great Powers. It is said that Cardinal Antonelli intends to declare in this note that the French Ambassador, the Duke de Grammont, had made reservations, opposing the Cardinal's intervention in the affairs of the Congress.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, April 16th. 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 3 o'clock.

Admission, 2s. 6d.; Children 1s. ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, ORCHESTRAL BAND, and GREAT ORGAN daily. Collection of Autograph Letters of Eminent Men, in the Centre Transept. The Tulips and other bulbs are now in bloom in the Palace and on the terraces. The Crystal Palace Art Union works on view in the Sheffield Court. Sunday, open at 1-30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.) The new and greatly successful Comedy, "Everybody's Friend," every evening.

Monday, April 11th, and during the week, to commence at 7, with the New Comedy, in three acts, entitled EVERYBODY'S FRIEND. Mr. Featherly, Mr. Charles Mathews; Icebrook, Mr. Compton; Major Wellington de Boots, Mr. Buckstone; Mrs. Featherly, Mrs. Charles Mathews; Mrs. Major de Boots, Mrs. Wilkins; and Mrs. Swandown, Miss Reynolds.

After which, on Monday and Tuesday, for these two nights only, A GAME OF SPECULATION. Sir Affable Hawk, Mr. Charles Mathew. After the Comedy on Wednesday and Thursday, in consequence of its great attraction, for these two nights only, THE CRITIC. Puff and Sir Fretful Plagiarist, Mr. Charles Mathews.

After the Comedy on Friday, for this night only, USED UP. Sir Charles Coldstream, Mr. Charles Mathews. Concluding every evening with A BALLET. On Saturday next, April 10th, last time of EVERYBODY'S FRIEND, with other entertainments, being for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews, and their last appearance. Also the last night of performing before the Easter holidays.

On Easter Monday Miss Amy Sedgwick will appear in the successful Comedy of THE WORLD AND THE STAGE. After which (first time) a New Classical Extravaganza by Francis Talfourd, Esq.

Stage-manager, Mr. Chippendale.

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.

MADAME LOLA MONTEZ

Will positively give her LAST LECTURES IN LONDON, at the St. James's Hall, THURSDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, April 14 and 15.

THURSDAY Evening: COMIC ASPECTS OF FASHION. FRIDAY Evening: STRONG-MINDED WOMEN. Tickets at the Muscicollers', and St. James's Hall, 28 Piccadilly.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

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

Monday, and during the week, will be performed an entirely new and original Comedietta, by Tom Taylor, Esq., entitled NINE POINTS OF THE LAW. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, H. Wigan, W. Gordon, Miss Cottrell, and Mrs. Stirling.

After which THE PORTER'S KNOT. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, W. Gordon, H. Wigan, Cooper, Sams, White, and Franks; Mrs. Leigh Murray and Miss Hughes.

To conclude with BOOTS AT THE SWAN. Jacob Earwig, Mr. F. Robson.

Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.

120, PALL MALL.

The SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PICTURES, the Contributions of Artists of the FRENCH and FLEMISH SCHOOLS, is NOW OPEN.

Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d. each. From 10 to 6.

ORATIONS BY MR. T. MASON JONES.

WILLIS'S ROOMS.

This day, Saturday, April 9th, at half-past three o'clock, will be repeated the Oration on "Milton, the Patriot, Statesman, Prose Writer, and Poet."

And on Monday Evening next, April 11th (by desire), the Oration on "Curran, and the Wits and Orators of the Irish Bar." At half-past eight.

Subsequent Orations will be given on Edmund Burke, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Charles James Fox, and John Wesley, the dates of which will be duly announced.

Stalls (numbered), 5s.; Reserved Seats, 3s.; Back Seats 1s. May be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The celebrated CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS will resume their Popular Entertainment on Monday evening next, 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.

MAN AND HIS HABITS.

Daily, 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.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty held a court on Tuesday at Buckingham Palace, at which Sir John Young, and the Hon. Henry Elliot were presented on their return from Corfu and Denmark respectively. On Wednesday there was a levee at St. James's, which was very fully attended; amongst the presentations were Prince Gholam Mahomed, son of Tippoo Sultan, Prince Feroze Shah, grandson of Tippoo Sultan, and Prince Ferroke Backt, great grandson of Tippoo Sultan, introduced by Lord Stanley. On Thursday the Queen celebrated the birthday of little Prince Leopold by a juvenile fancy ball, to which a very large number of children were invited. The Prince and Princess Augustus, of Saxe Coburg, accompanied by their family, have arrived at Buckingham Palace on a visit. Her Majesty leaves Buckingham Palace on the 15th inst., for Windsor Castle, to pass the Easter holidays. It is stated that the Queen purposes to have another juvenile ball at the Palace on the 14th inst., in celebration of the birthday of the Princess Beatrice.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return for six days, ending Friday, April 8th, 1859. Number admitted, including season ticket holders, 13,631.

Considerable sensation has been caused in Leipzig, by the arrest of Dr. Lindner, professor of theology at the University. He had been detected in the act of stealing a very valuable Bible from the library of that establishment. Dr. Lindner affected the most austere piety.

The Count de Chambord and his sister, the Duchess Regent of Parma, have sold the forests of Faylet and Hamets, in the Vosges, to the Marquis de Pimodan, Lieut.-Colonel and Chamberlain of the Emperor of Austria, for the sum of 415,000*fr.*

On Sunday last the Bishop of London preached to 600 persons, principally servants of the "Favourite" Islington Omnibuses, at Wilson's-yard, Upper-street. The audience is described as a very attentive one.

A bi-weekly newspaper is about to be started at Lucknow, with the title of the Lucknow Herald. There is also a rumour that a new paper is to be established at Delhi.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE LEADER."
ONE GUINEA PER YEAR,
 UNSTAMPED, PREPAID.
 (Delivered Gratis).

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
Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 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 DISSOLUTION.

LORD DERBY has made his option; and instead of wasting public time and patience in further fenceings with the Opposition in Parliament, he has resolved to appeal to the country. All the laborious argumentation devoted by many of our cotemporaries to the great constitutional question, whether he could or should hold office after being defeated in a great party battle, by a majority of thirty-nine, is gone to the winds. For the three days which intervened between the termination of the struggle in the House of Commons, and the Premier's announcement in the House of Lords on the 4th instant, the secret of Ministerial intentions was well kept; so well, indeed, that their most devoted friends were taken by surprise, at last, when they heard of the Cabinet's decision to dissolve. Many stories were afloat as to divisions amongst them on the point; these, however, have been absolutely disposed of by Lord Derby's announcement of their having been unanimous in the advice they gave to the Queen. Then there were stories to no end about the withdrawal of individual Ministers—Lord Stanley's, General Peel's, and Lord Salisbury's names being those most freely used. But each and all of these retain their places, and we do not hear now of any resignations whatever. Nor was the Sovereign herself omitted by rumour, in its catalogue of mysterious disclosures. Her Majesty was said to be nervously apprehensive of the consequences of a dissolution, but still more so of what might arise of a change of Ministry. Domestic agitation, encouraged by the election of an ultra-popular Parliament, and peace abroad endangered by the return of the Whigs to office—such were the conflicting fears supposed to occupy the royal mind. But those who observed the features of her Majesty, when she appeared in public could discern, no traces of peculiar anxiety there; and the promptitude with which her assent was given to the act of dissolution leaves no room for further ingenious inventions upon that score. It is quite clear that the Crown reposes as much confidence in its present advisers as in any others. Some observations of Lord Palmerston's as to the power and the right of the Commons to prevent the exercise of the prerogative in the way of dissolution, are supposed to have been not particularly palatable in high quarters: hence the noble lord's anxiety to explain them away in the House on Wednesday last.

And now that we are fairly embarked in the business of the national trial, and the plunders on either side have begun their appeals to the judgment of the country, we begin to look more closely

into the precise nature of the issue we have got to try. To the mass of the community it looks as if it were neither very great or very important. The surface of things is what strikes most people in politics, and the outer rind of the present controversy does not give much promise of what is either very pleasant or very useful. Although things were brought to a dead lock by the vote on the second reading of the Ministerial Reform Bill, it is not upon any definite or precise phrase of the question of Reform itself that the dissolution is declared to be taken. Lord Derby explicitly stated that he would hold himself free of all pledge as to principles involved in the measure which had been defeated; and that his main reason for appealing to the constituencies was to try and put an end, to some extent at least, of the anarchic condition of the House of Commons. He described that assembly as no longer consisting of two great parties, but of a number of separate and jealous sections, no one of which was strong enough to dominate over the rest sufficiently to secure the possession of power for any considerable time. This condition he pronounced incompatible with the maintenance of national influence abroad, or the well working of our institutions at home. In the address of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the electors of Buckinghamshire, the same ideas are pointedly and pungently expressed. Not a word is said about Reform; but the Opposition is held up as impotent for the work of government, yet irresistible in its factious strength; and the people are called upon to return a patriotic Parliament, which shall enable the Queen's Government to carry on the business of the country with dignity and effect. In other words, the hope of Ministers is, that, sinking all minor questions, the nation will take care to give Lord Derby a working majority in the new House of Commons.

Meanwhile, the various sections of the Liberals prefer to represent the issue at stake as one of measures rather than men. They do not assert their individual or collective superiority to their opponents; but they say that the foreign policy of Lord Malmesbury is spiritless, and that the Reform Bill introduced by Mr. Disraeli was inadequate to meet the case it professed to deal with. Lord John Russell has come out with a new bidding, namely, 6*l.* annual value, instead of 10*l.*, for the suffrage in towns, without the limitation of two years and a half's residence prescribed in the bill of 1854; he would also retain the professional and other franchises enumerated in that bill, and the 10*l.* occupation in counties. He no longer pronounces the ballot pernicious or un-English, but intimates that when public opinion is a little more matured on the subject it must be carried. Lord Palmerston and Mr. Bright, though for opposite reasons, object. The veteran viscount not having been consulted beforehand, demurs to the whole scheme, and refuses to hold himself pledged to any part of it. Mr. Bright, through his only organ in the daily press, denounces the plan as falling far short of what he would recommend. Perhaps the majority of the Opposition, were they left to do exactly as they at heart desired, would rather incline to the inertia of resistance Lord Palmerston suggests; but the majority of them, having regard to their electoral makers, would, doubtless, think it prudent to vote with Lord John. A parliamentary party, prepared to take Mr. Bright as its head, is an article yet to be manufactured. Whether the honourable member for Birmingham will be able to produce it in form, when the new Parliament meets, we must wait for a few weeks to see.

FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE conference respecting the Danubian Principalities has assembled in Paris. The precise result of their deliberations regarding the election of Prince Alexander I., is not yet known. Very little doubt is entertained, however, of a general agreement being come to in favour of recognising the legality of his joint Hospodarate. The great Powers have become too much absorbed in the more serious question—What is to be done in Italy to prevent war?—to permit of their indulging in diplomatic quarrels on other points just now.

Some time will probably yet elapse ere the proposed Congress meets regarding Italian affairs. It is certain, however, that the impression daily gains ground that neither France or Austria are about to enter it with any genuine disposition to

yield sufficiently to prevent hostilities. Other Powers may try to persuade themselves that they are about to engage in a peaceful review of relative forces for the purpose of harmlessly measuring one another's strength, and then drawing off their respective contingents without a shot fired in anger. But France and Austria look upon the proceeding as one which enables them to reconnoitre each other's position, and to manœuvre previously to a collision which they both believe to be inevitable. When two such States are bent on going to war, it is hard to find a sufficient excuse for preventing them. Who the British plenipotentiaries to the Congress are to be, does not seem to be finally determined on. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and Sir Hamilton Seymour are, beyond all question, the most distinguished ornaments of our diplomatic service: how far they could be induced to concur in the pursuit of Lord Malmesbury's policy, is more than we can venture to say. M. Druyn de Lhuys is believed to have been asked to act on behalf of France; but, if so, he will have certainly declined.

FALSIFICATIONS IN BUSINESS.

Nor long ago the adulterations by shopkeepers of the common articles of subsistence and of daily use as luxuries, engaged public attention, and justly roused public indignation. The case of the Messrs. Taylor, and their opponents, heretofore their customers and coadjutors, which brought the false measures commonly used in the thread trade before the public, has now directed attention to different, but equally injurious, and probably more extensive, and less suspected species of frauds. From the following letter, and from several specimens of similar abuses which have been brought under notice by our contemporaries, the falsification by manufacturers would appear to surpass in number the adulterations by shopkeepers. It is high time the public looked after its own interests, for it is quite impossible for any law to reach an evil so completely a part of the national life. Opulent and indolent people will not take the trouble to attend to such minute matters, and consequently encourage the frauds of those who supply them. The industrious classes, especially the busy poor, cannot attend to them; they must, in a great measure, trust those with whom they deal, and so there would seem to be no other remedy for the malady than to strengthen the conviction of its general injuriousness. Manufacturers and dealers must be shamed out of it, as even more foolish than vicious. We want amongst us, now, something like Chinese minuteness in dealing with one another, and Chinese acuteness in detecting small frauds; and as we are not likely suddenly to acquire these habits—whatever the persistence in such rascality may ultimately bring us to—our only hope of amendment rests in improving public knowledge and public sentiment. We have great faith in the principle that all men seek good; it is their nature to strive after it. Evil is pain, and men naturally avoid it: they sin from ignorance more than from design, and increased knowledge is the parent of purer motives and greater virtues. The public may learn that a rogue is only a fool with a circumbendibus—that fraud is folly; but such errors and vices cannot be corrected by the coercion of others neither more honest nor more enlightened than the rogues and the fools. With these few words as an introduction, we lay the letter of our correspondent, rough as he says he sends it, before our readers:—

Manchester, March 20, 1859.

Sir,—From the surprised manner in which you speak in last Saturday's LEADER of the *expose* in the matter of Taylor's Persian Thread, it is quite evident that you are in a state of blessed innocence as regards the thread trade, that is as astonishing as it is refreshing, to people engaged in the buying and selling of goods.

Why, sir, without any joking, Messrs. Taylors are looked upon as one of the most upright firms in the trade, and however uncomplimentary it may be to the rest, I really believe they are justly so regarded.

The practice of short lengths, insidious as it doubtless is, is surpassed in the difficulty of detection by the practice equally common of "marking up," that is to say, marking cotton that actually are 20's or 30's as 60's or 80's, and so on, in greater or less degree, according to the—what shall I call it?—the elasticity of the buyer and manufacturer; this practice is chiefly confined to "ball" sowings,

because *they* are sold by *weight*; and it is evident that a pound weight of fine cotton, say 80's, is in worth a good deal more than the same weight of 30's, having absorbed a great deal more labour in its production, with the corresponding result of giving a much greater number of yards to the pound weight; there is no inducement to carry out the manœuvre with *real* thread, which is sold according to length, because, speaking roughly, 100 yards of fine is pretty much the same value as the same *length* of coarse. The extra labour in spinning out the one being about balanced by the extra weight of cotton in the other. There is another little eccentricity indulged in with ball sewings, which I dare say will charm you as much as the preceding. I believe there was once a very interesting controversy as to what "a pound was," which some sage or other solved by saying that "a pound was a pound, of course; what else could it be?" Now I beg to say, that a pound is *not* a pound; that it is, in fact, anything *but* a pound, as applied to sewings. In the first place, then, a pound of ball sewings *includes* the weight of all necessary papers that wrap it up, generally about 2 oz. Well, that might pass; the "custom of the trade," that charitable mantle, might cover that; but then, there are pounds of 14 ozs. and 12 ozs., according to price, of course, and I believe even pounds of 10 ozs.—though of this latter I have no testimony. You may judge, therefore, of how much, or rather how *little*, a man may get for his money who buys a case of ball sewings; his pounds, instead of 16 ozs. only, weigh 12 ozs., from which you must deduct 2 ozs. for the paper; and, beyond all that, the cotton is marked up to, perhaps, twice its real *fineness*.

Looking at the entire production of thread in this district, you will easily understand that it would be presumptuous in any one individual to state with anything like precision, the *extent* to which these frauds are carried; but speaking only my own opinion, and open to the correction of any of your correspondents who may be better informed, I should say that about three quarters of the thread made hereabouts is dishonestly made up or packed.

You are right enough, unhappily, in saying that this matter of sewing cotton is only an illustration of what is done in many other trades. There are whole branches of Manchester business that are founded and worked upon nothing more nor less than "thievery," and, did the time and occasion call for it or permit, I could a tale (or two) unfold that would show that Manchester is no more free than her neighbours from those sins of which "the haste to be rich" produces so plentiful and flourishing a crop.

GUY FAWKES."

In directing attention to these facts, we must not fail to remind the public that they are but the symptoms of a general disorder not by any means confined to manufacturers or shopkeepers. Competition, like the growth of population, is natural and necessary, and only brings the latent disease of the national mind into prominence. Like all moral diseases it is the result of error. A creed very false and very extensive, which still dictates the policy of states and the theories of some philosophers, though now denied, taught all men that the welfare of one was only to be promoted and secured by restraining, oppressing and plundering others. The still prevalent dishonesty is one of the remanets of this false creed. It has left behind it many dangerous consequences. The upper, the governing, and the teaching classes, still believe, for example, that they can only provide for their own welfare, and the welfare of the State, by imposing restrictions of various kinds on the great multitude. The whole nation is now agitated by a conflict to remove or retain restrictions which originated in this unfounded creed. It may be noted that this conflict turns on an amount of franchise, or a question of property, and on a fear in the upper classes lest they should be despoiled by the political action of the lower classes. We regard the apprehension as wholly chimerical, but it is a proof how deepseated and wide spread is still the creed that the welfare of some is best promoted by imposing restrictions on others. To carry out these, an enormous amount of taxation is necessary. On a variety of pretexts—many of which, as they all centre in the assertion that these restrictions are for the good of the multitude, must be false—this amount of taxation is increased from year to year. The Government and the upper classes, from unwise and unfounded fear, set the bad example of appropriating property on fictitious and false pretences; and if they are not the parents, they are certainly the nurses of the fraud committed by manufacturers, merchants, dealers, and others,

which are now the greatest plague suffered by the community.

STREET VIEW OF ITALY.—No. V.

ROME AND THE CAMPAGNA.

THERE is a sort of dead look about Rome which accords well with the memories of the place. With the exception of the English quarter, and the Corso, the streets are at all times solitary. There are few carriages, and not many passers-by on foot. A great portion of the space included within the city walls is unoccupied, and the side streets all seem to end in nothing and lead nowhere. Indeed, upon the whole city there is a dull, sombre look, which never varies. It is at night, however, that the silence and desolation of the Eternal city strikes you most forcibly. After ten o'clock at night, in Rome proper, the town is deserted. The streets are but poorly lit—and to walk alone through the narrow lanes, with their high houses and deep shadows, requires a certain amount of moral courage. Everything is as suggestive of assassins and stilettos, as the tombstones of a moon-lit graveyard are of ghosts. The Pontifical police, too, is none of the best. We know ourselves a gentleman who in broad daylight was stopped in the middle of a crowded thoroughfare, in one of the transpontine streets, and had his gold pin pulled out of his scarf before he could recover from his astonishment at the audacity of the attempt. The bystanders looked on with indifference, and every attempt to obtain redress, either from the Papal or the Imperial police was unavailing. In the true spirit, however, of priesthood policy—on that "straining at the gnat and swallowing the camel" system, which from the days of the Pharisees downwards has been distinctive of the class—every precaution is taken to secure outward decorum. If report is not altogether false, the standard of private morality at Rome is certainly not higher than in less favoured cities. But to do the Papal Government justice, the outward show of decorum is preserved intact. There is no city that we know in Europe where the streets are so absolutely free from vice in any form. The wine shops are few in number—never noisy or crowded, and closed early. The theatres are all shut during Lent, and are poorly attended; but, indeed, the whole atmosphere is unfavourable to the drama. The priests are not great patrons of the theatre, and never appear there except in screened boxes. It is only within the last few years that women have been allowed to appear on the stage at Rome—and even now the ballet is interdicted. With the exception of the last night of the Carnival, masked balls are strictly forbidden. Newspapers, you might almost say, are an invention that has not yet penetrated to Rome, for the Government *Diario Romano* can only be called a paper by a stretch of charity. In truth, a Roman editor would have a pleasant easy time of it; for as nothing is allowed to be done in the way of business, and even the banks and post-office are closed on fast-days, and as saints' days occur in the most rapid succession, his intervals of repose would be long and frequent. Indeed, as far as the cessation from labour and closing of the shops is concerned, the appearance of Rome on a Sunday would satisfy the most rigid of Sabbatarians. Even the English reading-room is hermetically closed.

Were it not for the French and English occupation, we think the whole of Rome would collapse into a state of stagnation. Whatever there is of the life and movement of a great city about Rome is found in the English quarter. The Ghetto, where the Jews used, till lately, to be locked up at eight every night, is not more decidedly Jewish than the Piazza de Spagna is English. Amidst the Jewish street you can fancy yourself in the Juden-Strasse at Frankfurt, or in St. Mary Axe at home. Strolling along the Via del Babuino, you could almost imagine you were at Brighton or Cheltenham. The shops have English headings. The carriages are English built. English is spoken on every side, and about the whole place there is that indescribable air, which is characteristic of an English watering place. Hard by, too, there stands the English Protestant church, which, with a worthy return for our liberality, is not allowed to pollute the sacred city by standing within its walls. The American and Prussian ambassadors have both chapels within their own embassies; but as we choose to

keep up our character for consistency, by ignoring the existence of the Pope, we cannot complain at the price we pay for the absence of an envoy. Fortunately the "Porta del Popolo," outside which the church is placed, lies close to the English quarter. Till very recently, music was not allowed at our church, for fear of Roman orthodoxy being perverted by the sound of Protestant harmony. The character, however, of the English colony would not be complete if we had not among us a member of the royal family. The Prince of Wales was a source of never-failing attraction. The church, since the Prince's arrival, used to be thronged, especially by Americans, whose chapel was, in consequence, deserted. Why, however, people should have gone to church to gaze on royalty, when they could see it any day in the open air, is one of those many mysteries which a philosophical mind does not attempt to solve. Every morning and afternoon you could see the young Prince being taken to some sight or other, always accompanied by Lord Bruce and some other coadjutor. Being a small lad, placed between two tall, elderly men, we confess—without disloyalty—that the impression always produced on us was the strong resemblance to a very small offender being marched along by two big policemen. His Royal Highness, indeed, always looked as if the greatest kindness you could have done him would be to tell him that the sight he was being taken to see was closed; and, indeed, never seemed to enjoy himself, except at the eminently unclassical and unintellectual amusement of bonbon pelting at the carnival. We could not help thinking that, if the Prince read "Dombey and Son," the description of Tozer and his uncle must have struck him with peculiar sympathy.

Another great attraction at Rome were the lectures of the ex-Archdeacon Manning. With the peculiar neatness with which the Roman Catholic priests conduct all their operations, a church was chosen for these sermons close to the Porta del Popolo, and the hour was fixed exactly after the Protestant service was over, so that crowds of English dropped in on their way home. However, as we had never the slightest desire to hear Mr. Manning when he was a good Protestant, we saw no reason for hearing him when he had become an indifferent Catholic; and, putting aside all theological considerations, we have no sympathy with an English gentleman who can lower himself to the company of Italian priests. Indeed, in spite of the *Record* and Exeter Hall, we cannot conceive, as a rule, a greater safeguard against perversion than a sight of Rome and its priesthood. You might as well think to encourage a passion for the stage by taking the aspirant behind the scenes in broad daylight; or try to give your guests an appetite for dinner by showing them the cooking apparatus uncleaned and the cook unwashed.

The exit from Rome, *via* Civita Vecchia, is a worthy termination to a tour to the Papal States. The distance is scarcely forty miles, but we took twelve hours in doing it. There were a string of some seven diligences started on the night we left, and as soon as we got outside the city walls we had an escort of dragoons. If ever one diligence lagged behind, the others waited for the defaulter to come up. At every stage the postillions woke up the passengers, to bully them into giving an extra "buono-mano," as they term it, and this, coupled with the necessity of closing the windows for fear of the malaria in the air, makes the journey anything but a pleasant one. The utter dreariness of the road can hardly be imagined. With the exception of the post stations, there is not a house along it, and after the endless successions of barren hillocks you ascend and descend, the sight of the blue sea is perfectly delightful.

THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE law of real property, originally obscure, has in each succeeding age been rendered more intricate by the well-meant, but often ill-directed, efforts of some enthusiastic law-giver, who, fancying himself a Solon in his country's cause, has endeavoured to simplify the existing code by adding to it some theory of his own, which in many cases, instead of promoting that most desirable result, has only terminated in rendering "confusion worse confounded." This entangled mass of

law—this fabric, handed down to us from our forefathers, gathering, as a rolling snowball, increased bulk in its onward progress—has eventually arrived at our feet in its present unwieldy condition. Yet, bulky and confused as the present system of Real Property Law is, its component parts are so inextricably interwoven, so dependent on one another for mutual support, and for the working of the whole machinery, that in the present attempt to remodel it, many contingencies connected with the old structure rise up, like breakers ahead, when least expected; and well-skilled indeed must be the hand to guide a bill through the surrounding dangers without being swamped in gurgite vasto.

Sir Hugh Cairns has boldly undertaken this task, and although every praise is due to this accomplished lawyer for the masterly manner in which he has constructed his bills, yet there are certain difficulties connected with them, and difficulties which appear to us of so insurmountable a character, and so greatly prejudicial to the interests of a certain class of the public, that we cannot refrain from laying before our readers, as concisely as possible, what would be their effect should they become Law.

The object of the "Titles Bill" is this. Should the owner of property wish to secure an infeasible title, he may do so by applying to the Court which is to be established for adjudicating upon these cases, and which, after a careful investigation of the evidence in support of his title, will give a certificate, if it approves. The owner having obtained the necessary certificate has it then registered in the Registry of Landed Estates Office. Now this arrangement, *per se*, is very plausible and proper. Nothing could be a fairer or more reasonable proposition than that the owner of an estate should do his best to secure it for himself and his offspring, and no doubt he would attain that end most effectually by having his title cleared up and duly registered. When the landowner has no other interest but his own to consult, this method of proceeding is very satisfactory; but when, as it frequently happens, the lands are subject to incumbrances, and several claim under the same title; when conflicting interests clash together, and one man, in order to improve his own position, prejudices that of another, the case assumes a very different form. Many hold their lands under derivative titles; many have sold a small portion of their estate, covenanting to produce their title from a particular date. Now, supposing a purchaser should compel the vendor to come before the Court and substantiate his title according to the proposed system; it may be, the title although a safeholding one, and, for all practical purposes of the present method of conveyancing, a good one, yet would not be able to bear the severe test of being sifted before a legal tribunal. Is it in accordance with the principles of justice that a man's whole property should be endangered by a small encumbrancer subjecting his title to a refusal by the Court? For a title once weighed in the balance and found wanting—once branded by a rejection—would be avoided by all future purchasers as unsafe. Again, take the ordinary case of mortgagor and mortgagee. Suppose the property mortgaged for almost its full value—the mortgagee is perfectly satisfied with the existing state of things, knowing that in default of payment of his money advanced he has his remedy by foreclosure. How much more precarious would be his security should the mortgagor go through the ordeal of proving a doubtful title. Should it happen, as it often does, that a landowner wishes to contract a secret mortgage, meaning shortly to redeem his property, and, for reasons of his own, wanting the transaction to be private, this arrangement could not be accomplished under the new bill without a publicity which would render the attempt nugatory.

It is very questionable whether the benefits expected to be derived from the working of this new machinery are sufficient to counterbalance the evils to which it must necessarily give rise. It has been argued that the system has already been tried, with great success, in Ireland; that there is there a mania for registered lands, and that it is difficult to complete a purchase without registration.

Does it follow that because the plan has answered well with Irish property, that the same success will attend it when worked in England? It is notorious that the titles of many estates in Ireland have for years past been of a very questionable kind, and that the introduction of the

Registry restored confidence, and led to their increased demand in the market, and a proportionable rise in their value. In England there is not that timidity as to titles; a purchaser here may invest his money in land with perfect security, if backed by the advice of a good conveyancer.

The plan of registration has already been tried here, to a certain extent, in lands belonging to the Crown, corporations, or to colleges; and yet they are not more run after, nor do they fetch a more marketable price than the lands of private individuals. Many landowners hold their lands under a title that would not be a good marketable one, trusting to length of time and the Statute of Limitations to make good their possession. Would it benefit this class to have to come before a legal inquisition to prove a title that would not bear the light, making patent to all the world the weakness of their claim.

We consider these objections in themselves a sufficient apology for bringing them under popular discussion. The space a newspaper can afford will not admit of those of a more technical character that might be raised on the subject. The great evils that exist in the present state of the law are apparent; and we are willing to give due credit to Sir Hugh Cairns for the very skilful attempt he has made to grapple with so complicated a subject. But care should be taken in doing good that harm does not follow, for the remedy is often worse than the disease.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETIES,

No. III.

LIABILITIES OF THEIR POLICY HOLDERS.

THE order made by Vice-Chancellor Kindersley on the policy-holders of the "Security-Mutual Assurance Society," by which each contributory is now called on to make a payment of 30*l.* in respect to every 1*l.* he may have paid to the office in shape of premiums, shows that the legal position of the assured in mutual offices is really a very critical one.

During the last four years an unprecedented number of assurance companies, both proprietary and mutual, has been compelled to relinquish business, and there is no evident reason that before long as many more societies may not break down. There can be no doubt that the chief cause of their failure has been mismanagement, as there is still an ample field of life assurance to be cultivated. Were the losses incurred in these concerns confined to shareholders, only little need be said on behalf of the assuring public. But now the order of the Vice-Chancellor furnishes a striking instance that the prudential person who invests his savings in a life policy is liable to the same vicissitudes as the speculative shareholder; for in the eyes of the law, the term shareholder, in the case of mutual assurance companies, means any person who is an assured member thereof, and, in the event of pecuniary embarrassments arising, he holds the identical position in respect to the society of an avowed shareholder in a proprietary company. Fortunately, we have some mutual societies that the country may well be proud of; but recently even old and respected institutions, which by the outward world were looked upon as towers of strength, have been compelled to seek amalgamation on terms of great loss to the shareholders; and as it is impossible for any but the few initiated to know anything precisely of the real state and condition of our largest companies, it is just possible that many others may be in no better condition than those which have actually disappeared; and in every way in which the subject may be regarded the chances are high that some mutual offices may be included in the list. So far, however, as younger societies are concerned, the danger to the assured is much greater; but whether the company be young or old, the reasons are the same against the present state of the law, which views the policy-holders in mutual societies as shareholders, remaining unaltered. We are unwilling to create any unnecessary feeling of uneasiness in the minds of assurers in mutual offices, or we might submit to the consideration of our readers a variety of aspects in which serious difficulties may present themselves. We have no wish to point out and give prominence to many of the signal failures of mutual adventures, in order to ground well-founded apprehensions of the dangers we may have to encounter for the future. There is enough in the recent proceed-

ings of the Vice-Chancellor's Court to justify us in advocating a change of the law as affecting policy-holders. Against the cogency of many of these observations we are fully aware that a large number of persons in the assurance world are likely to reply that in mutual societies, limited liability is stipulated for by the policy, which takes the form of a special contract; but the best rejoinder to this observation is the fact that the order of Vice-Chancellor Kindersley for so unprecedented a call on the assured in the "Security Mutual" arises out of a claim made under a policy.

If policy holders could in any sense be regarded as adventurers, who connect themselves with the Institutions in which they assure, in a similar manner, and with the same objects in view as shareholders, there would be no need for calling attention, especially to the position of the assured in mutual offices. Argument is, however, not wanting to show that, in no sense whatever, is it possible to place them in the same relation. The Legislature has, between 1793 and 1858, emphatically declared, by the passing of no less than twenty-four acts, that it is an imperative duty to encourage prudence and forethought amongst the working and industrious portion of the people to join benefit societies, and no such solecism in the present enlightened period of progress can possibly be permitted to exist of interposing difficulties and penalties in the way of the middle classes, who are anxious to do precisely the same thing which their poorer neighbours have been almost forced into by ten Acts of Parliament, within as many years. If it be sound legislation to encourage frugality amongst the poor, it surely does not follow to be political wisdom to hinder it among the more affluent. From the peer to the peasant, the vicissitudes arising from sickness, disease, and death, unless otherwise provided against, occasion great pecuniary suffering to their families. There is often no other protection or safeguard from those evils than the adoption of the principle of life assurance; and the Government of the country should give the same legal facilities for its practical adoption by all classes. Friendly societies, beyond mere legal privileges and facilities, have had conceded to them other advantages, such as investing at a high rate of interest in Government securities, and exemption from stamp duty; but these need not be sought for mutual assurance societies. They may, however, fairly lay claim to the right of limited liability, the cheap and easy modes of suing and being sued, appointing trustees and vesting property in them, easy modes of settling disputes, and the complete control which the society has over its officers and agents. Within the two or three last years, various bills have been proposed for the regulation of these societies, but they have been but indifferently received by those interested in assurance matters. That the Friendly Societies' Acts are well adapted to the government of assurance societies, is testified by the practical proof that three of our best and decidedly most successful institutions have been enrolled under them for upwards of a quarter of a century. Besides these, there are several other societies, although not of equal magnitude, which are known to work well under the Friendly Societies' Acts. Had it not been for the passing of the 3 & 4 Viet., cap. 73, and the still more stringent Acts, 9 & 10 Viet., c. 27, and the 13 & 14 Viet., c. 115, which effectually excluded all assurance schemes, properly so called, it is obvious that we should now have had a greatly increased number of good assurance institutions conducted under those Acts, and which would, under any circumstances, whether successful or unsuccessful, have afforded complete protection against the disastrous consequences which have befallen the policy-holders in the "Security Mutual." An attentive perusal of the 18 and 19 Viet., c. 101, by any one practically conversant with the management of a life assurance society, cannot fail to convince him how well adapted it is, with but slight modifications, for the regulation of assurance societies. The best guarantee for the government of any concern is good management, and the complete freedom of action and direct control which every member has over its affairs will generally cause a healthy vigilance to be at all times kept over the energy, skill, and discipline of its officers. It was the almost entire absence of the possibility of any such general supervision under the Joint-Stock Companies Act, the 7 & 8 Viet., c. 110, which occasioned a perfect swarm of so-

cieties to appear soon after its passing, and contrary to the expectations of its promoters. The crude and ephemeral nature of the schemes thus fostered, and the delusive stimulant given to their formation by this Act, in conferring on them the apparent character of great incorporated bodies, chartered under Act of Parliament, enabled their projectors for a time to gain a credit and position which should only have been the reward of skill, industry, and success. Had the public known their real status, or had they been enrolled under the Friendly Societies' Acts, the public would have exercised more caution in joining them, and every project would have had to prove its *bona fides* before receiving general support. This was very much the way in which institutions, formed prior to the passing of the Joint-Stock Companies Act, had to earn favour with the public. That it was very different after the passing of that, the *Post Magazine* and its companion Almanack afford the most abundant proof; and all of our readers who are desirous of keeping a watchful eye on the progress of assurance companies, ought to possess those able and valuable publications.

Some of our ablest economists object to any kind of company whatever being established with limited liability, and the main reason now advanced in support of their views is the large number of schemes which have been unsuccessful under the Limited Liability Act, 19 & 20 Vict. c. 47. It is somewhat surprising to find an argument of this kind employed in the presence of so much practical experience of greater magnitude and weight, and of exactly the same kind, by adventures in which the liability was unlimited. The solution of this question has a direct application in support of our views on mutual assurance companies. Any one who is familiar with the speculative period of 1824, 5, and 6, must be fully aware of the number of companies of all sorts then projected, when limited liability was not in any form sanctioned by law. There has been no period since when so many schemes were launched, and so signalled by their ephemeral duration. Projects of all conceivable descriptions, embracing every branch of industry and occupation, were projected—milk companies, laundry companies, horse-shoeing companies, watercress and potato sale companies, dust and chimney-sweeping companies, and companies for the invention, sale, and purchase of patents, companies to negotiate the acquisition of foreign concessions, decorations, and titles of distinction, and hosts of other schemes, many of which were equally absurd in their objects with those enumerated. The failure of these schemes is no more an argument against the state of the law in 1824-6, than the failure of many projects since the introduction of the Limited Liability Act, but which excludes assurance societies, is any reason against the beneficial operation of that Act. The causes of failure, in both the one case and the other, are entirely independent of the condition of limited or unlimited liability.

The functions of a public company are only properly brought to bear on any enterprise when the capital or credit required for its successful prosecution are beyond the command of ordinary adventurers. If skill, and not capital, be the primary element of success, then that commodity belongs to individuals, and companies cannot purchase it in successful competition with its possessors. Men soon discover when the merits of any adventure are due to their individual skill, when a small capital only is employed, how to turn all to their own account. A railway company and an assurance company are examples of enterprises usually beyond the reach of private means; the former requiring the outlay of an immense amount of money, and the latter a degree of confidence and trust which no individual could hope to lay claim to. Again, a milk company does not require capital beyond the means of many private persons, but an amount of tact and skill is needed in competition which a company could never succeed in securing. The humble but acute and keen Welshwoman outwitted the liveried servants of the Company referred to, and contrived to retain command of the market; and so has it been with fruit companies, potato companies, &c. Who would venture to predict the success of a scheme by which a company should undertake to trade in the production and sale of first-class microscopes? By what means could the projectors secure for their own concern *employés* having that skill of manipulation possessed by not more than three or four persons in

England, of making perfect one-eighth and one-twelfth eye-pieces. A company is no more justified, in a commercial sense, in undertaking a business in which the capital needed is within the command of any considerable portion of the trading community, than a blind man should be in attempting to become a sculptor, or than a person with a defective sense of colouring, like the late Dr. Dalton, should study painting. Dalton was great as a chemist, but he was incapable of becoming a good colourist, and could never have appreciated the charm of Turner's art. If this distinction had been kept in view by those who recently, in their high places, took occasion to comment, in so severe terms, on the operation of the Limited Liability Act, and if they had analysed the nature of the various projects registered under that Act, they would have found that nearly all the schemes launched for the exercise of those functions which properly belong to companies have been successful. The bulk of the failures have been connected with projects in which those elements were entirely wanting which promote the success of companies, and that irrespective of the state of the law. It does not, however, follow that because any particular adventure comes within the legitimate scope of a company that it will eventually prove successful.

Nothing, obviously, is a more fitting object of a public company than the transaction of assurance business; but we have some most painful examples of their want of success, arising chiefly from mismanagement. The same may be said of banking operations, the security and stability of which could not be guaranteed by their unlimited liability, which not unfrequently lends a false security, and throws many off their guard who might otherwise exercise a prudent discretion.

Recent legislation is evidently taking a direction in favour of our own views, in regard to the limited liability for companies generally. Whatever opinions, however, may be entertained as to the wisdom of extending that law to proprietary assurance companies, there can remain little doubt that it should be made to forthwith embrace the whole class of mutual societies.

ANGLO-MANIA IN RUSSIA.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE objects of Russia in promoting the scheme of a congress on the affairs of Italy will be differently interpreted according as the belief prevails that the great northern empire has really entered upon a new phase of development, or that the aggressive policy of Peter and his successors is only enjoying a temporary repose.

That the Russian Court and people are by no means favourably disposed towards Austria must be evident to any one familiar with the prevailing tone of conversation in St. Petersburg and Moscow; but this state of things is not inconsistent with a policy of peace.

The Russians feel very sore at their loss of prestige and influence in Europe, and they very naturally ascribe their misfortunes to their connexion with the treacherous and ungrateful House of Hapsburg. They see that the invasion of Hungary led to the aggression upon Turkey, and the disastrous quarrel with England and France, since which Russia has found herself crippled in resources, and reduced to occupy an inferior place as a European Power.

The proposition for a congress is the first step that Russia has taken to resume her influence; but it does not follow that she desires to re-establish it upon the old basis of military force. That she should view the humiliation of Austria with satisfaction is not to be wondered at; nor is it to be expected that she should be extraordinarily solicitous to heal the breach between Vienna and Paris; but she may be reasonably expected to exert herself to prevent the Italian question resulting in a general European quarrel, in which she might find herself inconveniently involved. The Emperor has his grand scheme of emancipating the serfs, and needs peace for its success, while a large portion of the wealthy men are engaged in new companies of all sorts, which would be ruined if their country were again plunged in an expensive war.

It is also satisfactory to find sufficient freedom of the press existing to enable the *St. Petersburg Gazette* to publish articles openly attacking the policy by which Nicholas and his predecessors made their country a constant source of danger to the stability of Europe. A very remarkable article

of this kind has recently appeared from the pen of M. Kokoreff, in which the following passages occur:—

"For more than a century and a half Peter the Great and all succeeding governments have endeavoured to Germanise and Frenchify us by turns. These endeavours ended in failure, because their elements were foreign to our natural feelings, and only produced moral deformities covered with an outward polish. Why not now try to Anglicise us? Of course I do not mean in external forms, but by the cultivation of those feelings which are characteristic of the English, and which will be found strongly rooted in every true Russian heart—such as patriotism, love of liberty, and independence. If our rulers had possessed the sagacity to discern and develop these sentiments, the process of our regeneration would have taken a more national direction, and we should not know, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, such questions as the emancipation of the serfs."

Had M. Kokoreff spoken in this way in the days of Nicholas he would have had to cool his patriotism in the snows of Siberia; and it is a fact most honourable to the present Emperor that such utterances are not only safe, but far more likely to raise Imperial favour than any appeals to the spirit of military aggression that his predecessor fostered.

As M. Kokoreff is the leader of the free-trade and industrial party, it is interesting to witness his ardent sympathies with this country, and see how he treats points of resemblance between his countrymen and ours. He warns us not to take the "modernised official," nor the "down-trodden serf" as specimens of Russian character, but rather the independent gentleman; and then he tells us we shall continually meet with English traits. He says—"In spite of the great disparity in the culture of the two nations, the principal features of the English national character will be found in the Russian also—a strong conservative feeling, a tenacious attachment to religious and national traditions, piety, clarity, and an ardent love for domestic and rural life, in preference to the towns, with their public amusements. He has also the same fear of innovation and brevity of speech."

Such are the feelings of what is now the rising party in Russia, and unless the Black Art of Secret Diplomacy exercises its pernicious influence, the projected Congress ought to be turned to good account. If our Government must unrighteously constitute itself an Austrian partisan, Russia will be driven into a closer and, perhaps, dangerous alliance with France, while, if England resolutely upholds the rights of Italy, it is most likely she will receive Russian support. A movement for the liberation of Italy would not interfere with the domestic policy of the Russian Emperor; on the contrary, he would find in any European impulse in favour of liberty an additional source of power to carry out the great work of peasant emancipation, and if that is once fairly commenced, it will afford the best guarantee for commercial activity and peace. It is not only a question of obtaining freedom for the serfs without any violent assault on the vested rights of the proprietors, but one of changing the fundamental conditions of the land which the peasants have not been entitled to purchase or hold. When these reforms are effected, a great industrial development will take place, from which no country would benefit more than our own, and it will be the part of wise statesmanship to prove to the Russian Court that a policy of peace and progress will win as wide an influence as national pride can reasonably desire.

A DREAM OF A MORAL MILLENIUM.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

THOSE men who are loudest in their conversational condemnation of jobbery and sinecures,—those writers who pen such bitter and forcible denunciations of official greediness,—and those financial and radical reformers, in and out of Parliament, who attack the weak strongholds of corruption with such inconsiderate and unfeeling oratorical energy,—how little do they know of the sufferings of those whose destiny it is to receive, under some peculiar form and title, an income of many thousands every year, and to be called upon to do nothing for it! The demoralising effect of legacies and expectations is bad enough, but it is even worse to be born into a position of wealthy indolence, to drink wines, to ride in carriages, to sit in

opera-boxes, to make continental tours, and to pay for all these luxuries with money drawn from a notoriously venal and eccentric creation of ancient, unscrupulous patronage. If you are not required to give a shadow of attention or attendance for the rich crop of salary or commission which you reap unfailingly every quarter, the anomaly of your position, and the unprofitable character of your existence, are rendered thereby so much the more striking and painful. Those superficial, unthinking men who look with a frowning, one-sided view down the long list of pensions and compensations that hang heavily at the rear, and clog the wheels of the chariot of reform wherever and whenever it moves, can know nothing of the jealousies, the professional discontent, the struggles to maintain a position in society, the family disorganisation, the loss of self-respect and of the esteem of friends and acquaintances, the constant fret of mind and body, that embitter the lives of my unfortunate class, who are objects of envy when they should be objects of pity.

I am a sinecurist pensioner. From my earliest years I was taught to look upon work as a punishment only meant for slaves, because I was born into the world as a Patentee of Bankrupts. Wonderful as the title may sound in the ears of those who know nothing of the office, it is equally wonderful in my ears; for, although I received for some time an annual income of more than 7,000*l.*, I never had the courage and the industry to learn the origin of my extraordinary sinecure. All I was ever taught was, that on the death of a certain gentleman—a reverend gentleman, by the way—I should become the possessor for life of this princely property, taken out of the funds of a commercial court of law, whose uniform practice it is to render half-a-crown to those who have lost a pound, and are looking for five shillings. Without any ill-will towards my predecessor in office (a distant relation), I waited impatiently for his decease, and hailed it, when it came, with almost unbecoming satisfaction. After a few preliminary formalities, I was duly installed as Patentee of Bankrupts for the duration of my natural life.

Being of a nervous and imaginative temperament, my new honours and emoluments did not bring me that placid contentment of mind which many ignorant persons would suppose. I asked myself troublesome questions, which I was not able to answer. What did the world think of such a kingly income, drawn from the pockets of victimised creditors? What was the chance of such a curious and lucrative office lasting even a year under the pertinacious attacks of determined reformers? When I read accounts of intended reforms in commercial law, I dreaded lest my particular sinecure should be singled out, and held up as a target for parliamentary indignation to shoot at. True, I had been bred up to have a firm faith in the stability of vested interests, but my early teaching failed to impress me with a proper belief in the permanent folly of mankind, and the consequent perpetual existence of flagrant jobs and compensations. I awoke sometimes in the dead of night, hot and feverish, unable to comprehend the solid reality of my position, and paced my room, asking myself whence came all the luxuries that surrounded me, and whither were they going? What had I done that all these things should be lavished upon me? What could I do to enable me to claim them with honest pride as my own, and bid them stay?

In the day-time I walked about listlessly, like most men with no occupation, and sometimes I fancied people glared at me in the streets, pierced through my thin disguise of outward respectability, and scorned me for the unprofitable character of my life. My efforts to become enrolled a member of one of the clubs—even the meanest of the number—were in all cases utterly fruitless. I could not conceal the objectionable source of my income, and a shower of virtuous black-balls effectually closed the doors against me. At times I got low and melancholy, and as I wandered amongst the unsympathising and hostile crowd, I felt like the common hangman. Money, it was true, I had in abundance, but it neither bought me friends, nor peace of mind. As long as I could preserve my secret all went well, but the moment the evil knowledge spread of who and what I was, they fled from me as if I had been plague-stricken—the heartless throng!—and dropped my gold as if it had been molten lead.

I ventured, or rather slunk, into society, like a

thief, in the hope of finding some fair creature who would listen tenderly to my pitiful story, and dare the scoffs and jeers of the world, by uniting her fate to mine. I thought that I had discovered this desired object in the person of a young lady, whom I will call Thalia, but how bitterly—oh, how bitterly—was I mistaken! She was fair, but not romantic; cool, sensible, and practical, with an overgushing flow of animal spirits. She had a considerable knowledge of the world, and long before I had got to the momentous question, she asked me, in a straightforward manner, what I was. If I hesitated for a few moments before I entrusted her with the fatal secret, my diffidence was fully justified, for a burst of laughter, that must have startled every house in the square where Thalia resided, greeted my tardy and unwilling disclosure.

"A what?" she exclaimed, shrieking with merriment;—"a Patentee of what? Oh, how funny! Do, pray, say it again!"

I need scarcely state that the unfortunate Patentee of Bankrupts did not succeed in his matrimonial designs with Miss Thalia, and that his ardour for domestic felicity was damped for some time by this very unpropitious reception.

The next lady that I ventured to address upon the subject was a very different character to Miss Thalia, and she referred me at once to her father, a man of substantial property invested in the funds.

"Sir," said he, "this is a most remarkable mode of gaining a livelihood; I can scarcely credit my ears when you tell me you derive upwards of seven thousand pounds a year from such a wonderful sinecure."

I assured him, as well as I was able, from my imperfect knowledge of the history of my patenteeship, of the real and solid nature of my income, and of the perfect security for its continuance during my life. He took three days to consider, at the end of which period, he sent me a short, and, as I considered it, a very severe note, declining my proposals for his daughter's hand, and my acquaintance at the same time.

After this second rebuff, I left my native land for a few months to try and regain my mental composure under the invigorating influences of a German watering-place. There, at the roulette table, I met with the charming relict of the late Robert Howler, Esq., M.P., for many years one of the firmest and most consistent advocates of financial reform. Whether the political views of the late legislator were unpopular with all Governments, I cannot tell; but office of any kind never came near his fingers. Whether he had neglected his own affairs in looking after those of the nation, I cannot tell; but I found his widow far from being well provided for.

I hesitated for some time to offer my hand to the lonely lady, although I had good reason to believe that, sinecurist as I was, I should not be unacceptable to one who had listened for twenty years to the voice of the stern economist. At last, one evening, while drinking the sour hock, and listening to the fascinating strains of a Launer waltz, I overcame my scruples, and when I returned to England it was with a companion for life.

We started an establishment fitted up with care and taste; and I began once more, with my wife's assistance, to try and overcome the prejudices of society. We gave dinners of the most faultless kind, as far as the viands and attendance were concerned; but we sat there to do justice to our own hospitality in solitary, melancholy state, for we could get no one to respond to our warm and pressing invitations. Our very servants, down to the lowest menial, took advantage of our position, and became extravagant in their demands, and impertinent in their demeanour. If we appeared in public places where we were known, the visitors fell off from us on either side, and we heard their loud and scornful whispers hissing in our ears.

"A Patentee of Bankrupts, indeed! why not a Patentee of Swindlers and Paupers?"

"What an extraordinary office! Did he invent bankrupts?"

"That, sir, is the embodiment of one of the grossest jobs that was ever foisted upon a patient public."

These were the remarks we had to endure; the carping of envious dowagers, the small sarcasms of young wits, and the fussy indignation of middle-aged patriots.

My wife had still a few acquaintances left who did not quite desert her, although they would not tolerate me; and she was not left altogether without advice as to how she should conduct herself under the trying circumstances in which she was placed. She was, of course, questioned severely about the infatuation that had led her to marry a man in such an equivocal position; but the fact that what was done could not be undone, was generally admitted, and she was advised to bear up with fortitude against the virtuous indignation of the world.

Finding society closed against me and my ill-gotten wealth, I made a strong effort to set up as a philanthropist and a benefactor of my species. I offered to build a church, to endow an hospital, to organise schools, to improve everybody and everything, even without the small return of having my name known in connexion with so much active benevolence. Here I was met on the threshold with the same coldness and disdain that checked my well-meant endeavours to obtain the goodwill of my neighbours. My cheque for the church-building scheme was firmly and respectfully declined; the hospital governors had reasons for rejecting my offer, and the guardians of infant and adult education bluntly told me they thought every school in the kingdom would get on much better without me.

Scorned, rejected, despised, and abused,—with every man's Spartan finger pointed at me, and every man's Spartan tongue loud in my condemnation, I did what I imagine every sensible and honest citizen would have done in my position. I threw up my sinecure without a sigh, and retired upon a small annuity to a continental town that I will not name, where I have brought up my children in comfort, if not in affluence, and have religiously kept from them all knowledge of their father's early disgrace.

A SUFFERING SINECURIST.

Fine Arts.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS, SUFFOLK-STREET, PALE-MALL.

Let us begin our notice of this collection with a merciful allusion to a much talked-of work, which we passed over in our anticipatory remarks, and which has caused some galled jades among our contemporaries to wince somewhat. There is no sufficient reason why Mr. T. Robert's picture—"The Opinion of the Press" (173), representing the desolation of a painter's hearth when a customer throws back upon his hands a work that the Art-Critic has rejected—should have excited critical ire or have been viewed as an expression of personal feeling. It seems to us less like a censure on the writer of a criticism, which might have been deserved, than on the mean and shallow "art-patron," so easily moved from his bargain. As the painter in quest of a subject may have selected this one without malice prepense, let his work stand on its merits. It shows considerable power, though the unfortunate artist looks rather like a self-asserting genius given to small heroics. The boy who seizes the opportunity of the general pre-occupation to make a mess with the colours, is a touch of comedy that goes far to put even a critic in good humour; and the French have a useful saying, "*Qui fait rire, desarme.*"

Can we be so near Mr. Pyne's version of "Genoa the Proud" (167) without remarking on its beauties and shortcomings? Spotty, dreamy, unreal, yet effective—doing what no one else could do so well, but what few master-minds would be content to stop at, Mr. Pyne, in this huge panorama, gives us forms that look like shadows; colours that have the effect of tints; art that seems like a dream of nature; but withal, a poetry that will ever secure admirers. Truly, might his denouncer, Mr. Ruskin, praise him for "painting his impressions"—aye, and other folks, too. His pictures remind one of Dickens's description of Venice in his "Pictures of Italy," for visions of truth, though not truth itself, they are like our memories of the past. Turn now to the delightful watery effect in "Lyme Cob, Dorsetshire Coast" (325), wherein the wet is exaggerated, so as to suffuse the whole canvas, and to produce on the mind the impression which the reality would have given us. The literal truthfulness, which would be a virtue in some, would be a vice in Mr. Pyne; he is eminently an ideal painter, the truth of whose delineations is to be sought for in their effect on the mind of the spectator. In the brown Samson, and the pink and white Dalilah, backed, for contrast, by an lanky Aethiop, we have a touch of Mr. Leigh-ton's quality, whom we formerly alluded to as a rather sinistral devotee to the old masters. The antique landscape, in which the figures are set, com-

pletes the likeness of this work to an old picture cleaned and restored—"in this style at so much." Nature is sacrificed to art, harmony to harsh oppositions, and even the text has been departed from; for the Dalilah is placed so close to Samson that did he but "suit the action to the word" he could hardly miss knocking her down. If it be true that "there is but one school of art, and that is kept by Nature," we fear Mr. Leighton has played truant all too long. Mr. Hurlstone has made a great advance upon his usual historic efforts in the illustration to "Othello." It is, as a whole, fine in conception, and, though something coarse in handling, is, for the most part, rich, harmonious, and even poetical in colour: of this the crimson and purple gleams through the chain-mail, and the blue on the breastplate, may be cited as instances. The Othello is a noble rendering of Shakespeare's Moor; and Iago's head, peeping through the curtain, is very striking. The Desdemona—the ardent though pure; the well-principled though weak and depending—of a natural but not common character, not easily mirrored in a studied face—is less satisfactory, and lacks refinement. The picture is probably unfinished, unless we are to interpret the inscription, "Haud fecit faciebat, 1859," as a deprecatory admission that the pencil of the artist has, in his own opinion, lost its olden vigour. The "Hamlet" picture (53), by the same hand, is less to our taste. The Ghost is a grand figure, but its colossal, stony form does not agree with our notion of the murdered king. Mr. A. F. Patten's scene from "The Sleeper Awakened" (450) is a very clever piece of painting. The expression of Abon Hassan is good; some of the dresses and decorations marvellous, and the imitation of gold so true that Mr. Patten might almost have painted his frame without fear of detection.

INSTITUTION OF FINE ARTS, PORTLAND GALLERY.
[Second Notice.]

BEFORE we leave the first room at the Portland, we must mark the "Sunday Morning" (309), of Alfred Provis, on the third screen, and "Out of Town" (262), by J. B. Burgess, on the second. The former is a mere morsel, splendidly lit up, and sparkling with all the usual beauties of the popular artist. It depicts an old man reading his Bible to a little child who sits at his feet. The latter is a pleasing combination of excellence, in portrait and landscape. Its subject, "Out of Town," playfully treats an episode in a country trip of a pair who may be father and daughter, or a married couple of most disproportionate age. On the mossy moorland turf, a silk handkerchief over his head, slumbers in the sun a paterfamilias-looking old gentleman, whose fair round person and honest features are redolent of capital and good humour. Near him, seated on a boulder, with a pair of expressive eyes turned upon the hill side, she is sketching, is his fair travelling companion. Both figures are very nicely drawn, their countenances are very well painted, and the fell background is successful.

In the second room Mr. F. Smallfield has disappointed us with his "Early Lovers" (319). A stout lubberly ill-proportioned youth, and as unpromising a maiden, in confabulation at a stile, are the lovers, and the drawing and colour are about as crude as the pair. That Mr. Smallfield's tender pinions should have failed to bear him, just at present, on a very ambitious flight, is not surprising, but the day is not very distant when we are fain to believe they will serve him. His "Popular Song" (378), a tiny canvas, showing a funny little maid-of-all-work engrossed in sweet forgetfulness of her normal sorrows and hardships, on getting up some such ditty as "Barbara Allen" or "Old Dog Tray," will please all who will be at the pains to seek it where it nestles in a corner among more extensive and pretentious works. Not far from "The Early Lovers" is a large and high-priced work, "The Last of an Old Comrade" (326), whose painter might, we should think, have spent skill and time to greater advantage upon a less hacknied subject than a grave-yard gathering. Hard by is a large landscape "Seeveyholme Leaps" (233), by Mr. Peel, who, abandoning the refreshing green of his last year's pictorial crop, has resumed the brown and orange hues he had then for a while laid aside. Mr. Provis shows no falling off as he becomes fashionable and, we presume, richer. His "Cottage Door" (392) is worthy of rank with his best. Mr. Wood, whose French street scenes we so often see at exhibitions, though so seldom "for sale," must look to his laurels; for Mr. J. D. Barnett, who paints a "Scene at Dieppe" (342), and some "Old Houses at Vire" (454), is behind him, and, though not quite at his heels, is gaining ground. The "Professor" (354), a jolly mediæval man-cook, lordling it in a baronial crypt, over his kitchen hand-maid and his marmite, is a first-rate specimen of Mr. D. Pasmore's clever ink outlines filled in with colour. As clever in their way, and illegitimate as attractive are his "Course of True Love" (357), and "Roadside Toilet" (265). "That's the Way the

Money Goes" is a painting of the Chinese school, that will raise many a laugh and many a grunt. All the stereotypes in the world could not more vividly bring a scene before one, than does this little picture by Mr. Hallyar, of a baby on a hobby horse revelling among the accessories of a most complete outfit of playthings. Gloomy, and grand, and dirty as ever, are Mr. R. S. Sanders' "Ben Bladach" (397), and "Head of Loch Long" (364). Get far enough away from them, reader; you may then know how well this painter understands and renders the ferocity of the mountain landscape. There are still some works of mark on which we shall have a few words to say in a future number; but for the present we must quit the Portland for other scenes.

In 555, a quaint little picture by Bowles, the expression of the little girl and the white light of summer sunshine are well represented. "Night" (507), by J. E. Collins, a female half-length, shows some good flesh painting. Mr. J. G. Naish's "Le Creux Harbour, Sark," is a picture which insists upon observation. It will hardly be appreciated by persons unacquainted with the green water and peculiar rocks of the Channel Islands, but none can deny that it displays great power of drawing and strength of colour, with an elaboration of detail that speaks loudly for its truthfulness. In short it must be believed in, and improves wonderfully on acquaintance.

THE HAVELOCK TESTIMONIAL AT SUNDERLAND.

The committee for the colossal statue to the late lamented Havelock have selected the competitive model No. 22. Although by Mr. Behnes, the same sculptor who was selected to erect the colossal statue in Trafalgar-square—now in progress—the model chosen is not the same as that selected by the London committee, the position being varied. The marble bust of the late General, now in the council-chamber, Guildhall, is also by the same excellent and, as it would appear, popular artist.

Theatres and Entertainments.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

OUR brethren of the daily press seem divided about the originality of Mr. Stirling Coyne's piece, "Everybody's Friend," which was produced here this day week. That it was successful is admitted by all. That it is good is denied by those only who, thirsting after "new characters," would not object to or detect such impossible combinations as a dramatic engineer of Mr. Coyne's experience and tact would never think of offering to the public. For ourselves, though not over much addicted to broad grins, we found occasion for a few in the course of the three acts. Our neighbours of the pit and gallery, who care no more for æsthetics than they do for Æschylus, and don't and won't go to plays to be taught (if they know it), applauded to a man, woman, and child, the insidiously disguised morality, the numerous and strange, yet easy working cranks in the plot, and the very neat and telling dialogue of the ingenious author.

The well-seasoned moral, that the pleasure of married life is to be sought and, if necessary, cultivated at the hearth—not abroad—Mr. Coyne has illustrated by the troubles that fall upon a certain vivacious Mr. Featherley (Mr. Charles Mathews), who, bored by a twelvemonth of matrimony, busies himself, as it would seem, for mere distraction's sake, in doing those most out-of-the-way services for other people which the bachelor Achates, or *enfant de la maison*, thinks nothing of undertaking, but which might well lead to inconvenience when performed by married men. A friend of Featherley's, one Mr. Icebrook (Mr. Compton), is too retiring to woo for himself.—Featherley plays suitor for him. A lady friend has a little boy by a former marriage to quarter upon a second husband without raising suspicion.—Featherley attempts it. But in both these intrigues, and a number of cross and counter-cross plots, which it would take us three columns to unravel successfully, he alarms his young wife (Mrs. C. Mathews), exposes himself, and has finally to be "Rarefied" into seeing his evil ways, a turning over a new leaf, and learning the true secrets of domestic felicity by the fascination of his better-half aforesaid, under the counsel of their friend, Mrs. Swandown (Miss Reynolds), a gay widow, who, having herself had some experience, of course gives the benefit of it to others with the greatest of pleasure.

Though Mr. Coyne most likely measured the Haymarket troupe for this comedy, and is a most renowned hand at cutting dramatic coats according to histrionic cloth, we cannot say that Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews are over and above well fitted. The former, having been long a favourite, will always, barring accidents or grave *l'esu majesté*, have a public of his own, in spite of careless study, a weak part, or a bad make up. The lady, again, who would do for the *soubrette* line of business, is not sufficiently at ease in genteel comedy for a Haymarket audience.

But by the strong help of Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Compton, and Miss Reynolds, the shortcomings above alluded to were amply compensated for. The lessee was ludicrous in the extreme as a vain, cowardly militia popinjay, *Major Wellington de Boots*. Mr. Compton was himself as the diffident *Icebrook*, and Miss Reynolds brought the aid of her excellent taste in dress and her ladylike manner to aid her excellent intelligence in completing an adequate impersonation of the author's *Mrs. Swandown*. The comedy, in short, is very good for times when everybody is very clever and has a good memory—Comedy having been hard at work since the days of Terence at the mines of "character," and true novelty being as rare as really new sensation. The pit said so, and the gallery said so, too. The boxes have pronounced by this time in favour. The quidnuncs will wait a month, by which time another "new and original" work in the comedy line will have appeared, to keep the embers of their spleen alive for the summer season.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

The new series maintains its well-deserved popularity. The eighth concert, on Monday evening, was extremely well attended, and the miscellaneous audience throughout evinced a thorough appreciation of the classic music of Handel and Bach, admirably executed. Bach's "Prelude, Sarabande, and Gavotte," by Signor Piatti and M. Benedict, met with an enthusiastic encore. Miss Arabella Goddard, in her *Suite de Pieces*, concluding with the "Harmonious Blacksmith," was also encored. The lady appeared, at first, reluctant to yield to the wishes of the audience, but afterwards complied, and received a universal and hearty tribute of applause. Among the vocalists, Miss Dolby deserves especial mention for her chaste and beautiful delivery of Handel's fine air, "Cangio d'Aspetto," from the opera of "Admetus."

LECTURES BY MADAME LOLA MONTEZ.

This celebrated lady, noted alike for her personal as for her political powers, has arrived in London, after lecturing in Dublin and elsewhere on the characteristics of the Americans and the English, and gave the first of a series of four lectures, at St. James's Hall, on Thursday evening. We need hardly say that, though now styling herself Madame Lola Montez, she is Countess of Landsfeld, and that her quiet manners and appearance correspond with her rank. Her figure is slender and graceful, and her features are small, delicate, and feminine. Her eyes are remarkably brilliant, and the expression of her mouth, though it betokens energy of character, is not deficient either in suavity or refinement. She has a sweet, flexible voice, which she manages with great discretion, and her delivery is graceful and impressive. There is considerable cleverness in her lecture; and she manifested a woman's acumen in the detection of character by the observation of numerous small characteristics. Though severe on the manners and principles now in vogue in the United States, she yet sees in the people the germs of the mightiest of nations, when they have passed out of their present *gawky* state, which may be compared to the transitional condition of boyhood to manhood. The lecture was listened to with marked attention; the applause at the conclusion was hearty and universal; and Madame Montez was recalled to receive a second round of approbation.

INDIAN MUTINY RELIEF FUND.—The Committee have issued their second annual statement. It shows that the total amount of subscriptions raised, with interest and premium is 442,476*l.*, that is to say, a handsome sum which looks like half a million sterling. Upwards of 40,000*l.* has been given to sufferers in Great Britain.

MARINERS' COMPASS FOR IRON SHIPS.—An important invention, by Mr. John Gray, of Liverpool, has lately excited the attention of the principal European Governments. By Mr. Gray's principle the slightest deflection of the needle in the compass of iron ships is immediately rectified. All errors caused by the heeling of the ship, as well as its horizontal deviation, are corrected; and experience has shown that in the circle of 360 degrees there has been only one degree and a fraction of error—a fact reported to the Lords of the Admiralty by the officers of the Crown appointed to investigate the system. It has been introduced into the British Royal Navy on the express recommendation of the Astronomer-Royal, Mr. Airey. The Russian Government have adopted it in their navy; and Mr. Gray recently met, at Bordeaux, a commission composed of French officers, specially appointed to report upon it. Mr. Gray has since received an order from the French Minister of Marine for his compasses. We mention these facts in the interest of science, for, some years back, it was feared that the oscillations of the needle on board of iron steamers would prove fatal to the use of iron as a material in shipbuilding.

Original Correspondence.

FRANCE.

Paris, Thursday, 6 p.m.

THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE.

It would be unwise to endeavour to conceal from the English public that the dissolution of Lord Derby's ministry, and the advent to power of Lord John Russell, but more particularly of Lord Palmerston is regarded here by the friends of peace with considerable apprehension, and even dismay, while the partisans of war and imperial aggrandisement hail the change as most propitious to the fulfilment of their hopes; for it is believed, that although no English minister, however greatly he might be influenced by party spirit, would venture to propose the violation of treaties, on which repose the public law and order of Europe; yet Lord Palmerston is imagined to be so devoted an admirer of the present régime in France, and of its author; and to bear such personal ill-will to Austria and her statesmen, that were he to stand at the head of the Government, the weight and influence of England's councils would be withheld from Austria, if not thrown entirely on the side of France and Sardinia. Of course it is not for me to say what amount of truth or falsehood there may be in this opinion; I merely report it for the information of your readers, as being very generally current among the war party. It is for them to decide what amount of credit is to be attached to it, and to draw their own conclusions.

Towards the end of last week the conditions upon which the Emperor had made up his mind to accept peace, were circulated among those who are his personal adherents, and who form what is termed the palace party—"le parti du château." They are, or at least were reported to be, as follows:—

The Emperor of Austria to withdraw his troops from the Legations.

Abrogation of the private and secret treaties of Austria with Naples, Tuscany, Modena, Parma and Rome.

The formation of all the Italian states, from Naples to Sardinia, into a confederation, something after the model of the German confederation.

The Lombardo-Venetian provinces to make part of the confederation, under the Government of Francis Joseph, not as Emperor of Austria, but as King or Arch-Duke of Lombardo-Venetia.

A separate, independent, and Italian Government of the Lombardo-Venetian provinces, which is to be understood to imply the elimination of the German element, from the administration the recall of the Austrian army, and the non-employment of Italian soldiers in any but the Italian dominions of Francis Joseph. The constitution of a federative army, from contingents contributed by all Italian States.

The constitution of a federative navy in like manner.

The establishment of the Code Napoleon throughout the entire peninsula.

Austria to use her influence to obtain the general reform of all Italian Governments, particularly the secularisation of the administration of Rome, and the establishment of representative bodies to control public expenditure.

Other reforms have been spoken of, such as the introduction of uniformity in weights and measures, and the assimilation of custom laws; but these are matters of detail for private arrangement, and can scarcely require the intervention of a European Congress for their settlement.

When these conditions were first circulated, the general impression among the Palace party was that they would not receive the approval and support of England. If they were sought to be imposed upon Austria, and upon their acceptance made to depend the issue of peace or war, Lord Derby's ministry, it was imagined, would take part against France. The Emperor Napoleon is reported to have been of a different and opposite opinion all along. He is said to have shown unshaken confidence in the maintenance of the Anglo-French alliance, and an undisturbable belief that the English Government and nation would acquiesce in his terms. Since there appears a chance of Lord Palmerston's return to office the Emperor's reputed conditions seem too easy to the war party. They imagine they may rely with security upon the cordial co-operation of the noble viscount to enforce harder terms upon Austria, and upon his neutrality, if not physical, and to repel the Tedeschi from Italy altogether. The hopes, therefore, of the war party have risen enormously, and congratulations are bandied about upon the prospect of speedily seeing Lombardo-Venetia annexed to Sardinia, by a campaign which is to out-rival in effect and brilliancy that of Marengo, which is to secure, as a mark of gratitude, Savoy and Nice to France, to increase the artistic riches of the Louvre, and augment the hangings in the church of the Invalides.

The friends of peace, however, who yield to no one in sympathy with Italy, and sincere desire for her independence, are inclined to believe that no change of ministry in England will induce the Emperor to swerve from the course he is reported to have marked out. If it be true that the conditions stated above are those which it is intended to submit to the forthcoming congress, it is more than probable that they will meet with the hearty concurrence of the English people, and I venture to believe that they will be looked upon as the most convincing proof which the Emperor has yet given of his wisdom, moderation, respect for public law, and high estimation of the English alliance; for they do not, so far as I can judge, infringe the treaties of 1815, nor disturb the territorial arrangements which they made. The Emperor of Austria will not have his dominions curtailed, although he may rule over a portion of them under a novel and, perhaps, more legitimate title. Not a square yard of territory will be added to the French Empire, nor to round off the domains of Victor Emmanuel. Neither France nor Sardinia are likely to acquire additional influence in Italy, nor will the legitimate authority of Francis Joseph be diminished. No French prince is to be quartered upon a neighbouring people, nor is any slight offered to the great German people, while the problem of Italian independence and Italian unity is left to be worked out in peace and order by the Italians themselves. Lastly, it must not be forgotten that the huge corroding cancer of Papal domination will be erased from the body politic, and with it the mania for assassination of political opponents which disgraces Italy.

It remains to be seen whether the English Government and nation will unite with the Emperor to strengthen his hands to resist the seductions of Count Cavour and of the Italian revolutionary party, who desire not only the expulsion of Austria from Lombardo Venetia, but also that of the English from Malta, and of the French from Corsica.

THE ARMAMENTS.

Meanwhile the armaments continue, and are pushed forward with amazing rapidity. To provide for them a Bill is now before the Senate to authorise a new loan, the particulars of which have not yet transpired. Three separate armies are collected in the south-eastern districts of France. Soldiers on furlough are swarming in from the provinces to head-quarters. The whole of the Algiers army—probably 80,000 men—exercised for war and the fatigues of campaigning, are being gradually brought back to France, and their place supplied by new levies. God help the Italians who may have to suffer the protection of Zouaves and "Africans," as they are called, who are practised in razzias, and nurtured with traditions of Dahara!

It was expected that the review of last Sunday would not pass without a manifestation of some sort or other. But nothing beyond enthusiastic cries of *Vive l'Empereur*, *Vive l'Impératrice*, and *Vive le Prince Impérial* were heard. The review was a very brilliant affair, and was taken, for what it was meant to be, as a manifestation of physical force. As some of your contemporaries, including many of the Paris journals, have fallen into error, and considerably underrated the number of men at present under arms in the *Champ de Mars*, I forward the details. There were present the first military division or Army of Paris, which has always been reported to muster 40,000 men of all arms, besides additional troops, as will presently be seen. The whole were under the orders of Marshal Magnan, who was attended by a brilliant and numerous staff.

The infantry was formed by divisions on four lines, to the west of the ground; the cavalry on the three lines opposite, and the infantry to the east; the artillery to the north, with the Seine behind, and the immense parallelogramme was completed by the Imperial staff—among which were fewer foreign uniforms than usual—ranged in front of the Ecole Militaire. The first infantry division, commanded by General Forey, was composed of the 17th battalion of rifles, the 74th, 84th, 91st, and 98th regiments of the line; the second infantry division, commanded by General Ladmirault, was composed of the 10th battalion of rifles, the 15th, 21st, 61st, and 100th regiments of the line; the third infantry division, commanded by General Ulrich, was composed of the 14th battalion of rifles the 18th, 26th, 80th, and 82nd regiments of the line; the fourth infantry division, commanded by General Vinoy, was composed of the 6th battalion of rifles, the 52nd, 73rd, 85th, and 86th regiments of the line. There were also on the ground the battalion of the city firemen and battalions of the Paris guards. The artillery consisted of the 14th regiment of horse artillery, and of the 2nd regiment of foot artillery. The first cavalry division, commanded by General Noüe, was composed of the 3rd hussars, and of the 3rd, 6th, and 7th dragoons.

The second cavalry division, commanded by General Dubern, was composed of the 1st and 4th cuirassiers, and of the 1st and 2nd carabiniers. A squadron of the Seine gendarmerie, and squadrons of mounted Paris guards, besides the military train, were also present.

There were thus upon the ground fifty-five battalions of infantry, thirty-six squadrons of cavalry, and thirty-eight guns. If we take the battalions at their minimum of 800 rank and file, there would be 44,000 men. The squadrons, at 300 sabres, would give 10,800 men, and the artillery regiments, at 800 men each. We should have a total of 56,000 men of all arms, and which, I think, to be rather under than above the mark, although the papers before referred to gave no more than 35,000.

COMMERCIAL SITUATION.

I regret to have to report little or no improvement. Trade is at a stand-still here, and never were so many members of the middle classes sold up by the taxgatherer before.

In the Paris market, metals are officially reported to be "in the same state of stagnation," with the exception of Banca tin, which has been sold at an advance of from £1 to £2 per ton. Red copper sheets have risen £2 per ton, without sales, and rolled lead, 16s. per ton, also without sales. Corn fell 50 cents. the half hecolitre; flour a little firmer than last week. Soap same prices, but sales less active; and nothing doing in wools. Sugars have fallen: coffee and alcohol have risen. Grease and oils in request.

At Havre, nothing doing in cocoa, but sales with a rise of from 16s. to 32s. per ton in coffee. Nothing doing in leather, nor in cochineal, nor in oils, nor in metals, nor in rice, nor in sugars, nor in fats; and it is nearly the same with all articles of trade in the provincial markets and seaports.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—On Thursday a meeting was held between Lord Derby and about 140 of his supporters at his official residence in Downing-street. The meeting was of a private and confidential nature. Lord Derby addressed his friends, we are informed, for upwards of an hour.

SYMPATHY WITH REBELS.—At the recent Kilkenny Assizes an action was brought by the editor of the *Kilkenny Journal* against the editor of the *Belfast Mercury*, for an alleged libel. The jury awarded a verdict of £5. The following is a portion of the cross-examination of the plaintiff:—"Mr. Rolleston, Q.C.: A great many people have different opinions as to the struggle in India, have they not? Kenealy: Yes, I suppose so. Are your views peculiar on the subject?—Can't say; I can only answer for myself. You wished success to the revolt?—I wished the cause of right success. Did you not wish success to the revolt, Sir?—I did. You wished to see British rule in India overthrown?—Yes, I did. Were your sympathies with the rebels?—They were for the Indian people struggling for independence. Were they not rebels against the British Government?—They were in arms against the East India Company. Were they not in arms against the British Government, against the Queen?—Against the East India Company. Come, Sir, were not the Queen's troops there?—I can't say. On your oath, Sir, were not the Queen's troops there?—were not the 88th there?—They may have been there in the pay of the East India Company. Do you believe there were any troops there not in the pay of the East India Company?—(No answer.) On your oath, do you believe there were no regiments there in the pay of the Queen of England?—I cannot answer; I considered, generally speaking, the troops there were in the pay of the India Company. Did you wish success to the Sepoys?—I wished the cause of right and freedom success. On your oath, did you wish success or defeat to the British soldiers?—(No answer.) If you have a feeling on the subject, you ought not to be ashamed to express it.—(After a pause) I wished defeat, certainly. (Sensation.) Is not defeat best secured by the slaughter of the soldiers? (A pause.) Speak out, if you are a man.—I am a man; there are many ways. Slaughter is one?—Yes. Disease is another?—Yes. Cholera?—Yes. Did you wish defeat to the British soldiers by slaughter and disease?—I did not consider the matter in that light. Give me a plain answer, Sir, to a plain question—did you or did you not?—My sympathies were with the soldiers individually, but not with the cause they were engaged in. Was not the defeat and slaughter of the Queen's troops the surest way of securing success to the Sepoys?—I suppose so. Was not your anxiety for the defeat of the Queen's troops, and for the success of the Sepoys?—Yes, it was. As a public journalist, you consider yourself bound to publish your own opinions?—I do. You would consider yourself unfaithful to your trust if you did not disseminate your own opinions?—I would."

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

INDIAN FINANCE.

In the last century, when the great French and English economists began to consider systematically the functions of society, they found every variety of tax in operation in Europe, in the large and small states of which it was composed. Indeed, the Fifth Book of Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," or about one quarter of his work, is devoted to this subject of finance. Then it was that the doctrines of political economy were made to bear upon finance, and that intimate connexion was established between science and statesmanship which is now indissoluble. For nearly a century these doctrines have been under discussion, and for half a century they have been applied in Europe and America, till we have a very different system of finance in operation from that of the last century. True it is, there are still remains of protective duties, of excises, of monopolies, and gabelles; but on the whole, the management of the revenue is much simplified, and its sources are more certain and better understood. The public finances are now, in each civilised country of the world, brought under the dominion of public opinion, and they are no longer a mystery, unless where absolutist Governments, for some purpose of fraud, resort to mystification.

What the finance of France or the German empire was then—a subject of perplexity and difficulty—Indian finance is now; for Indian finance is in much the same condition as that of the Western kingdoms in former days. It presents all the evils and anomalies which are to be recognised wherever there is a disregard of economical science, taxes weighing upon industry, and taxes rigid and incapable of expansion, to meet the wants of the Government, a chronic deficit, and a relatively small public debt, made dangerous because the public credit has been tampered with. To find corresponding examples of this state of affairs in the west now we must refer to countries of the lowest character, to Spain or Portugal, to Buenos Ayres, or New Granada. Here we may seek the mysteries of Indian finance, and find them, for they are only mysteries to those who choose to disregard facts, for the laws of science did not alter between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, they do not alter in their application to Europe and America; nor are they susceptible of modification by the climate of the East, for they are immutable, being the teachings of truth.

The English public may be afraid of dealing with the public worship and social institutions of the people of India; but they need have no fear in forming an opinion on English finance. Do we want an example of any tax, however oppressive, chronicled by Adam Smith, as formerly in existence in India, we shall find it, crushing land taxes, the salt monopoly or gabelle, the poll tax, property taxes, income taxes, the alcabala, license duties of all kinds; import, export, and transit duties, general and local, river dues, octroi, accompanied with every personal and administrative oppression that the brutality of savages, the ingenuity of Arabs, or the perverseness of doctrinaires can invent. After all Spain, Portugal, Rome, New Granada, and Buenos Ayres cannot afford parallels for the practical operation of the fiscal system of India, on the zemindar, enamdar, or ryot; for, notwithstanding the benevolence and good intentions of the Supreme Government, bad is the condition of the population, and we must go to Egypt, and seek in the fellah a being as miserable as the Indian ryot.

Good intentions we make small account of; and must proceed unflinchingly to ascertain the existing evils, and to remedy them by the application of a reasonable system of finance, which will result in the remodelling of the whole revenue of India, a work of many years, attended with heavy deficits, requiring much sacrifice, and a large outlay, while the reins of Government must be firmly held. Fortunately, in consequence of the revolt, the double Government has been abolished, and a responsible administration has been established. That is now practicable and safe which before was dangerous.

The means of meeting the present and future

deficiency cannot be sought in reduction of expenditure, because the necessities of India require the maintenance of a large European force, and of a large European civil staff. A large European force must be maintained instead of a native army; but pending the disbandment of the native army, and the establishment of a European militia in the hills and plains, and the enlistment of the hill tribes, the European field force must still be large, until the great number of rebels lately in arms, and those fostered in our ranks, become absorbed and nullified among the mass of the population. This will be a work of ten years at least. A large European civil staff must be maintained to work out the new system of Government which a native establishment cannot effect, for the whole corrupt native staff of revenue officers, law officers, and police has to be abolished, and a new native staff to be reared, educated, and organised, free from the traditions, the prejudices, the corruptions, the oppressions, and the tortures of the old class. The salaries of Europeans may be redistributed, the enormous endowments of the civil service will be abolished, many Europeans will be employed at very moderate salaries, and many unpaid justices, honorary magistrates, and municipal officers will be supplied by the European residents in aid of the administration; much of the increased charge will be borne from new municipal taxes; but with the diminution of centralisation in India, new salaries and new officials will have to be created, new lieutenant-governors, new secretaries, new judges; and no effective diminution of expenditure can be looked for. Then there is the demand for the education of two hundred millions of people, which is a growing one, enormous in its requirements, and which must be met.

We cannot, therefore, look for an effective diminution of expenditure, except under the head of military expenditure, by abolishing native corps and reducing the pay of English troops in the hills, but we must look for the means of meeting this expenditure by increased revenue; still when we come to examine the present sources of revenue in India we find them much more likely to exhibit a decrease than an increase, as they are at present administered. The land tax, which combines all the evils of a rent and a tax, which has only theoretical advantages, and is attended with grievous oppression to the taxpayer, is in Bengal fixed by the perpetual settlement, and in the other presidencies is being brought under limited settlements, and must, therefore, be regarded as practically inelastic. Yet the land-tax is at present the mainstay of the Indian exchequer. The opium monopoly cannot be relied on as a permanent source of revenue, for the opinion of the civilised world is becoming strong in expression against its immorality; and now that the management of the Indian treasury is transferred to England, the opium monopoly cannot be very long upheld on the plea that it is no more harmless for the Government to hold it than to raise a spirit duty, which is a tax on drunkards, and a discouragement of drinking. Moderate men may not be moved by wild zeal against the opium traffic, but moderate men do see that it cannot be maintained. The salt monopoly is doomed, and the necessities of the Government alone maintain it in a moderate and restricted form from year to year.

Custom duties afford only a paltry return, for the import trade of India is restricted by the deficiencies of internal transit; though such is the condition of industry, that large quantities of cotton are exported from India to England, brought back as cotton twist, and manufactured into cloth in India, mixed with a local web. When the trade of India extends beyond local consumption, which is so far localised in many districts that it is like sheep feeding off turnips in a field, then we shall have a customs revenue,—but this has to be created. The income, property, and succession taxes are local, and of small amount; the stamp duties are already obnoxious and oppressive; the waste land revenues give no return; the excises are arbitrary and ill adjusted, and yield but little.

In fact, industry, the true basis of taxation in India, has to be created and fostered, and until this be done, India, as a poor country, which it now is, cannot yield an expansive revenue; and as private enterprise has not been fostered by the Government, on the Government still rests the burthen of providing for the wants of India. Private enterprise has to be called into action, and this is the work of years; municipal institutions, the handmaidens of a strong central government, have to be created, and this is the work of years. None of these things can be brought into sudden action by imperial decrees, acts of parliament, or proclamations. The forms of private enterprise and of municipal action are to be seen, but as yet little that is effectual has been done. India requires a large administration, not an administration for Bengal, one for Madras, and one for Bombay, but a whole cabinet, besides the President of the Council. India requires a responsible and effective minister of the treasury, a minister of war, a minister of public works, a commissioner of public lands and emigration, a president of the board of trade, a president of the board of agriculture, and a president of the board of education. True it is there are functionaries of this nature in each Presidency, but until a public is formed in India, and a responsible parliamentary Government, the central administration must be formed in England, and not in India, and in India itself local Government must be extended and distributed so as to ensure real efficiency.

One great error in Indian administration has been to place the Government in the central authorities, leaving the local authorities without power. Where the contrary course has been followed, as in the Punjab, a strong Government has grown up, and good officials have been trained, while the central Government has continued to show weakness, because it has gone beyond its functions. Thus the Indian army has been an opprobrium, Indian Finance is an opprobrium; the public works have been neglected, and English settlement has been discouraged. The functions of the central authorities should be simply consultative and supervising, leaving as much liberty of action as possible to the local Governor. In England Indian finance must be reconstructed, the army reorganised, and the administration placed on a new basis, but by the Indian officials must the country be governed.

NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE Commander-in-Chief of Madras, with Colonel A. Cotton, Chief Engineer, and other authorities, proceeded from Dowlaishwaram to Bison Hill to survey it as a sanitary post. It is stated that Samulcottah will be recommended as a sanitary station for Europeans, adding another station to the resources of the Madras Presidency. It is in the Vizagapatam district.

Leave has been given for the Neilgherries and Bangalore to Mr. Frederick Orme, Registrar of Madras, to Mr. R. K. Puckle, and Capt. H. B. Herbert; Capt. W. J. Cooke, 8th Madras N. I., and Lieut. H. A. Graham, 2nd European L. I.

A marriage has taken place at Coonoor, between Mr. Le Mesurier and Miss C. W. West. The wife of Capt. J. Gerrard died in that town on the 14th February.

Lieut. J. F. Sherer is appointed Commandant of the Kooky Levy, and assistant to the Superintendent of Cachar.

Major J. Drysdale, of the 42nd Highlanders, is appointed Commandant of Nynee Tal Convalescent Depot.

Lieut. G. D. Younghusband is appointed to command the depot of the 66th or Goorka Light Infantry at Almora.

At Deyrah, Mr. A. S. Heathcote has been married to Miss Mary H. Thompson.

Lieut. Grove, 32nd Madras N. I., is appointed to command the detachment at Chindwarra, which is likely to become of importance as a sanitary station.

Ten thousand pounds is to be spent on new barracks at Rawul Pindoo.

Lord Clyde has gone to Simla, and the Commander-in-Chief of Bombay to Mahabuleswar.

Allahabad, the new capital of the North-west, is now occupied by all the public offices except the

Accountant's office, which will not be removed till September.

Canningtown, at the Mutlah, is making slow progress. There are only a few thatched sheds for stowing salt, and a few coolie huts. Two tanks have been dug, but they have not been well made, and the people are suffering in health from drinking brackish water. Much fish is caught in the river, and sent up to Calcutta. This traffic will be greatly helped by the railway. The river is being buoyed. The Mutlah is recommended for the supply of salt water for bathing at Calcutta. There is no port, as yet, to Calcutta. The town of Ellengunge, on Mr. Burkinyoung's grant, on the other side of the Mutlah, is making good progress.

We regret to state that, in answer to a reference from the home Government, the local authorities in the North-West provinces have not yet appointed one hill station as a cantonment for English troops. All the stations yet named are in the plains.

Great exertions are being made by the retrograde faction in England and India to reduce the English army in India, and to constitute another large army of native mutineers. The *Times* has spoken out against this, but public attention has not been sufficiently directed to it.

It has been fortunately decided by the home military authorities that the Royal Artillery shall be kept up in India, and the black artillery reduced.

At a recent dinner given by the Madras Government, in honour of the return of the Madras Fusiliers, to the officers and men of that regiment, all the members of the press were excluded.

There was one good point, and one benefit from the railway, that the men were, after dinner, carried on by railway to Arcot, whence they were to be dispatched by transit to Bangalore, where their wives and children had previously been sent. Already railways are affording great relief to the European soldiery.

The coolie emigration from Madras to the Mauritius, in 1858, was 10,869, the number of those who returned was 1,486. The coolies to the West Indies were about 1,600.

From the Island of Socotra it is reported that the population are in revolt against the English Government. There is no man-of-war there.

A war steamer, the *Mohawk*, has been dispatched to protect our interests in the Kooria Moorla Islands, which, besides producing guano, will be an important station of the Red Sea Telegraph Company.

The news from Ceylon is very favourable.

An intrigue has been discovered of that arch conspirator, D'Orgoni, or General D'Orgoni, as he calls himself. He has persuaded some Lyons people to send a small screw steamer to Rangoon with a party of Frenchmen, women, and children, for the purpose of proceeding to Ava to set up silk filatures. The steamer is to be sold to the Burmese Government, and is thought to be intended for some ulterior object of D'Orgoni. It is hoped that the Government will not allow him to set foot on Burmese soil.

The Indian Governments, now that matters are quieter, are reported to be distinguishing themselves in the old style provided for interlopers, and tormenting the railway companies. A traveller proposing to go by the railway at Allahabad has first to apply to the commissioner, to obtain a "certificate" for leave for himself to travel on the railway; next, to the postmaster, three and a half miles distant, for a certificate for his native servants to travel; and three miles to the railway station, to the traffic manager, to get tickets.

Another proceeding of the Government nearly shut up the line of the East Indian Railway Company; for the Government, as supervisors of railway expenditure and railway details, issued an order that the engine-drivers and other English workmen were not to be paid their wages till the monthly pay-sheet had been passed by the responsible officer of the Government, and leave had been given by him for the men to be paid. In February the locomotive superintendent was obliged to refuse to pay the men their January wages, and they went on strike, when he was forced to pay, for which it is expected he will receive condign punishment from the supreme Government. It appears very desirable that some of the Indian officials should be transplanted to China, Japan, or Prussia.

The news has arrived at Madras of Sir C. E. Trevelyan's appointment as Governor, and great expectations are entertained of the progress of the Presidency under such a distinguished administrator.

The *Madras Spectator* is demanding boldly the application of the system of guarantee to reproductive works as the best measure for placing the finance of India on a footing of permanent soundness.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce recommend the maintenance of the principle of Treasury bills bearing interest, so as to create in time a floating

debt; and they urge that India should be enabled to have the advantages of the English money market, like other colonies, and like every nation and every public community of the world.

Mr. W. P. Andrew has failed in the scheme he set on foot for a Euphrates Telegraph Company, and the money is to be returned to the depositors. The Red Sea Telegraph Company are proceeding vigorously with their operations.

Good news has been received in confirmation of the progress of the Punjab Railway. This and the allied undertakings will open up the valley of the Indus, and realise the predictions of Sir Alexander Burnes.

Most of the joint stock companies of Calcutta stand at good prices. The following shows the last quotations:—

	Paid up.	Quotation.
Bank of Bengal.....	£400	£30
Agra Bank.....	50	65
North-Western Bank.....	50	13
Delhi Bank.....	50	—
India General Steam Company.....	103	230
Ganges Steam Company.....	150	170
Calcutta Steam Tug.....	100	80
Bengal Coal Company.....	100	150
East India Coal Company.....	7	7
Bonded Warehouse.....	44½	32½
Oriental Gas.....	1	1
Calcutta Docking Company.....	70	85
Assam Company.....	20	33
East India Copper Company.....	100	—
Calcutta Auction Company.....	2	2

The above list shows that enterprise is active. The Bombay Companies are generally well. Of Madras Companies we know nothing.

The Western Irrigation Company, in Bombay, has applied to the Government for a guarantee. It is proposed to irrigate the Gokauk valley, in the Southern Marhatta country.

Great complaints are made at Madras of the want of a breakwater and proper accommodation for shipping. The new pier will afford little relief.

LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

THE Bombay mail has arrived, but brings little news of importance. At Bombay a grand ball was given by Mr. David Sassoon, to celebrate the Queen's assumption of rule in India. Mr. Sassoon is one of the wealthiest native merchants of Bombay; he has the desire to perpetuate his name in connexion with great acts of public benevolence. The ball was attended by Lord Elphinstone and the whole society of Bombay, and the Governor made a speech, in which he alluded to Mr. Sassoon's various acts of benevolence, and particularly noticed the reformatory and industrial institution which he had endowed, and which bore the name of the "David Sassoon Institution."

The Governor-General is still at Calcutta, busily engaged with financial schemes. He has approved of a plan for converting the Rewah levies into a police force for the four districts under the political agent. The artillery attached to the force will be abolished. The rates of pay are to be assimilated to those of the police corps of the north-western provinces.

A report has been made to Government that the King of Delhi is in a state of destitution at Rangoon. Orders have accordingly been given that he shall receive a sufficient allowance for his suitable maintenance.

From Madras there is nothing important to communicate. The Hindus and Mahomedans, it is said, are about to hold a great meeting for the purpose of asserting their pretensions to oppress their lower caste brethren while living, and denying facilities for decent burial when dead. The appointment of Sir Charles Trevelyan to the Governorship has excited very general satisfaction.

The Punjab continues perfectly tranquil. Mr. Montgomery assumed the reins of office on the 25th of February, and Sir John Lawrence took his departure on the same day for Bombay.

Tantia Topce, Feroze Shah, and the Rao have lost most of their followers during the last week, and are hiding under false names. Tantia Topce, alias Ram Singh, has completely disappeared, and it is only suspected that he was lately near Jhansi, under the name of Jeet Jung. Feroze Shah has also disappeared, no one knows where; he also is probably hiding under an alias.

In the flight from Bhilsa to Seronge and Beora the four guns were abandoned. Colonel Rich is in pursuit, and other columns close at hand; so that this last remnant of rebellion has little chance of a lengthened existence.

In the Banda district the rebels Rewa Sirdar and Hummunt Singh succeeded in surprising two railway engineers, Messrs. Evans and Linnell, whom they cruelly murdered.

In Oude the new organisation continues to work well. The frontier is still guarded, but Horsford's corps on the Raptée has been finally withdrawn to Baraltch. Lord Clyde left Lucknow on the 1st of March for Simla, and reached Cawnpore on the 3rd.

He is still suffering from his fall at Burjidiyah. One of the tendons of the shoulder was severed, and hence his lordship's slow recovery.

Sir John Lawrence was to come home by this mail. His manner and appearance are strikingly blunt and straightforward.

Mr. Peacock has been offered, and has accepted, the place of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta. The appointment vacates a seat in the Council of Calcutta.

Lord Stanley's financial statement is considered at Bombay most able, and will do much good in silencing dark forebodings.

THE NANA SAHIB AND JUNG BAHADOOR.

A contemporary has the following:—The Nana Sahib Dhoondia Punt is now localised, to a mile, in the Tourin district of Nepal, from which he has addressed a letter to Jung Bahadoor. It would seem that one of Jung Bahadoor's officers has had interviews with the Begum, with Birjis Kuddr, with Nana Sahib and Bala Rao. They and their followers, whom Buddi Singh, the Nepaulese officer, describes as numbering no less than 60,000 men, of whom, however, only 12,000 are infantry and 5,000 cavalry, the rest being camp followers and unarmed dependants, were proceeding towards Katmandoo, to seek an interview with Jung Bahadoor. It would appear, however, that the Nepaulese minister is preparing a trap for the Begum and her followers, for he is preparing a large force to march towards Chitoun, whither, at his invitation, the whole rebel force is now marching—the Nana, Bala Rao, and all the chiefs, except, perhaps, Beni Madho. Horsford closes up one pass out of Nepal into Oude, on the south; Kelly is stationed to prevent escape into the Gurruckpore district; and the regiments which the Nepaulese have detached to the flank will suffice to cut off their retreat westward. The snows bar their progress northwards. What the Nepaulese intends to do when he gets them is not so plain. The Nana Sahib's letter to Jung Bahadoor (date 28th Jumadee Aosanee, year 1275 Hijree, corresponding with 2d of February, 1859) is:—"Blessings to the Mahara-jah! Your letter, dated 8th Magh Zumbut 1915 (26th January, 1859), to the address of the Begum of Lucknow, inviting her, with all the rajahs, talookdars, and army in her train, to come to Chitoun, came to hand, and the contents have been read. I have heard of your magnanimity from every one, high and low, but now I am sure of it. Although your seven brothers possess great qualities, yet you are as the sun in the midst of a clustre of seven stars. Indeed, I have heard of chiefs of Hindostan of past ages, and seen those of the present, but I find you without a rival; for you have not refused to give your aid even to the British, who are opposed to you in everything. But that you did at their request, for your own renown. This generosity makes me hope confidently that when I arrive with the other chiefs at Chitoun you will, in consideration of the relations that for many years existed between me and your Government, not fail to give us your aid. As the poet says, you who are kind to your enemies cannot make your friends hopeless. I have no hope from any one in the world but from you. Do what you think best for me. With those hopes I have determined to go, that I may seek the object I desire. The violation of promises and breach of treaties on the part of the British Government towards the chiefs of Hindostan are so well known, that any enumeration of their acts would be superfluous. Moreover, the British have attempted to destroy the faith and religion of the people of India, which attempt has caused this great outbreak and mutiny. Before my departure I sent by my brother, Sir Munth Mahara-jah Gunga Dhur Rao Bala, Sahib-Peishwa Bahadoor, a friendly letter, in order to obtain your summons, and he will enter into particulars when you meet him." This epistle is not signed, but it is sealed with the signet ring of the ex-Peishwa of the Mahrattas, Bajee Rao, which the Nana wears and uses.

PARVENU POMP.—According to a correspondent of the *Independence Belge*, flunkeyism is soon to take new developments at the Court of the Tuilleries. The writer says:—"Under the first Empire, there were as many as sixty chamberlains, and in Austria the number of such dignitaries is even more considerable. The second French Empire is resolved that the Court shall not be inferior in splendour and pomp either to the Court of Vienna or to the historical traditions of Napoleon I. I can state, on information obtained from a good source, that the Emperor is about to nominate a considerable number of new chamberlains, but without salary. Among the persons mentioned as likely to obtain this honour are Count de Nieuwerkerke, M. Duhamel, deputy, Count de Contades, and M. de Las Cases.

COMMERCIAL.

AUSTRALIA AND INDIA.

IN 1858, the value of the exports of British manufactures and produce to Australia, was 10,464,198*l*. This was exclusive of goods of foreign produce and manufacture exported, which may be put down at 1,500,000*l*. more. The value of our imports from those colonies was 5,255,687*l*., exclusive of gold, and the value of the gold imported was 9,066,289*l*. With some vacillations, our trade with these colonies is increasing, and becoming more important from year to year. They stand eighth on the list of countries with which we trade for the value of their imports, and third on the list for the value of our exports to them. They are the germs of a great empire and a vast traffic, and we ought not, by any regulations, to lay the least impediment in the way of their greatness.

We learn with satisfaction, by the latest accounts from them, which reached us only on Thursday, that they are all in a tolerably flourishing condition. The customs revenue of New South Wales was nearly 10,000*l*. more in January, 1859, than January, 1858; and in the same month of 1859, the quantity of gold dust received by escort, was 19,908 ounces, or 14,701 ounces more than in January, 1858. So we are informed from Victoria, the miners have begun the year well, and produced 168,609 ounces of gold in January, 1859, against 157,603 ounces in January, 1858. Both the arrivals by escort and the shipments of gold had increased. In the two first weeks of February, 1859, the arrivals were 250,716 ounces, against 227,350 in the same period of 1858; and the shipments in the first six weeks of the year were 289,273 ounces, against 230,273 ounces in the first six weeks of 1859. New gold fields of fair promise had been opened, some of which were yielding well; and improvements in the system of washing had enabled the miners to extract larger quantities of gold from equal quantities of earth. These colonies, therefore, continue to flourish, and are amongst the most prosperous countries of the world.

Not very far from them, compared to their distance from us, lies another noble country, even more important to England, at present, for the amount of its trade, than Australia. India is second on the list for the value of imports of all the countries with which we trade, and was actually first on the list in 1858, though this is not the rule; for generally the United States stand first, for the value of British produce and manufactures exported. Every year, too, of late, our trade with this great country has increased, and increased so rapidly last year as to induce a contemporary, forming his opinion by this one indication, to assert last week that India, with the exception of the United States, is the most rapidly progressing country in the world. Long peopled, with habits not yet broken through, which would permit the population continually and rapidly to increase, this must be an exaggeration; but it is, nevertheless, a fact that the trade between India and Great Britain is increasing very fast, and that we have as great an interest in promoting its prosperity as in promoting the prosperity of Australia. With the welfare of both these countries our welfare is closely united, and a policy which impedes their prosperity must impede our prosperity. Of course, it follows that whatever promotes their trade with one another will be to our advantage, and whatever impedes their mutual traffic must be our injury.

A slight inspection of the fable of imports into the two countries will show that Australia may derive a large proportion of its imports, such as coffee, tea, sugar, &c., direct from India, and a large portion of its clothing, is composed of raw materials derived from India. Both countries being pretty much in the same latitude, or about equidistant from the equator—though the one lies on the south, and the other on the north side of the line—the natural productions or raw materials of each, except as one has been much longer peopled than the other, do not afford—except as to the articles already indicated, which all go one way—much scope for international traffic. In the natural course of trade we receive from India cotton and

wool, and we receive wool from Australia—perhaps we may hereafter receive cotton—and to both countries we send back their raw materials wrought into various kinds of cloth. For the many commodities which Australia thus derives, immediately or mediately, directly or indirectly, from India, her chief means of payment is gold. To stop the export of gold from Australia to India seems, therefore, a cruel injustice to both colonies, and doing wrong to both is an equally cruel injustice to Great Britain itself. It resembles that colonial system which formerly prevailed, and which actually forbade the colonies to trade with one another, or with foreign countries, except through the mother country, making it necessary, before a hogshead of Jamaica sugar could reach North America, that it must be brought to England.

There is, in truth, no positive prohibition to export Australian gold to India, but there exists in India a regulation which virtually amounts to such a prohibition. Already inhabited by very opulent classes, and increasing very fast in wealth, India requires, and, in fact, can only be prevented from having a gold currency by a positive regulation. Such a currency, too, has been in existence. Now, the chief use of gold is as currency, and to prohibit it to be used for this purpose is virtually to prohibit it from being imported into the country where it cannot be used as money. This, however, is done by the Government of India. It was done by the East India Company, and it is continued by the present Administration. By the Government the people of India are forbidden to use gold as money; and, therefore, it cannot be imported, except in very small quantities for ornaments. We stop not to inquire into the reasons of the prohibition. Politicians never want reasons for doing wrong. We may say, however, that the principle reason for continuing the regulation is a false expectation that a fall in the value of gold will occur, and a kind of prudery of honesty which does not always animate politicians, that the fall, were gold to be employed as money, would do injustice to the holders of a debt contracted in silver. Caring nothing, however, for the reasons of this strange prohibition, we only wish to direct the attention of our readers to some of the consequences. The prohibition is utterly false in principle, as false as would be a prohibition to a people as they advanced in civilisation to substitute wheaten bread for oat or barley cakes.

We have mentioned that Australia derives, directly and indirectly, commodities from India, for which she must pay in gold; but as she cannot pay directly in gold, she sends the gold to England, whence a portion of it, or its value, finds a way to India in goods or in silver. Of late years, no doubt partly in consequence of Australia deriving a portion of her necessary supplies from India, silver has been continually sent from Europe to India. We read day by day that the last Australian gold arrived has been taken for the Continent, therewith to buy silver to send to India. Or we read that bars of gold—most probably Australian gold—have been taken from the Bank to buy silver abroad, for we have none here to spare, to make up the quantity required to be exported to India. Thus the prohibition to use gold as money in India causes the gold of Australia to be sent to Europe, therewith to buy silver, to be sent to India instead of that gold going direct from Australia to India. Instead of transmitting the more valuable metal, at a small expense of freight, the short distance, say 2,500 miles to India, we bring it, say 12,000 miles to Europe, and send silver at a much larger expense of freight, say, 6,000 miles to India. There was a time when our fiscal regulations induced merchants to ship Norway timber to Canada, and then import it into England as timber from our colony, our absurd tariff making it advantageous to send this timber two long sea voyages, in order to place it in the hands of the consumer. At that time, too, it was advantageous to ship coffee from Rio Janeiro to the Cape of Good Hope, and there to re-ship it and import it into England as from a possession of the East India Company. Saving a discriminating

duty paid all the cost. Such consequences of these absurd fiscal regulations happily gotrid of them in the end, but we now find similar consequences cropping out of our Mint regulations. To send cargoes this round-about course was only an occasional experiment, but mint regulations, worse than discriminating duties, compel a continual sending of Australian gold to England, to buy silver to send to India? A greater waste of labour and property could not well be devised; but the men who devised it—though it is condemned alike by science and experience—claim obedience and reverence as the benefactors of mankind. When such contrasts between their demands on our respect and the results of their acts are continually forced on our notice, that they should fall in our esteem can surprise nobody. The wonder is, that after such innumerable exposures of inefficiency and blunder, statesmen can lift up their heads unabashed, and as boldly demand our confidence as if they had never been detected in a single error.

One of the consequences of all such regulations is, that they create sinister interests and rally around them, as supporters, large bodies of men, who imagine that they and society would be mortally injured by abolishing them. Besides, all the officers of the Mints in the two countries, who have a great love for things as they are, and regard every demand for change and improvement as an insult, the bullion merchants who are engaged in making the double exchange; the bill brokers, who get a commission on the greater number of pieces of paper they have to negotiate; the bankers, who, in England, Australia, and India, are connected with exchange operations, and the carriers, who get the longer and the double freights, and all the connexions of these persons, have an interest in continuing this absurd prohibition. All regulations and restrictions require a staff to carry them into effect, and the more they are multiplied the greater is the number of persons we have to reward for inflicting them on us. Moreover, whenever they affect trade, or any of the ordinary business of life, many persons must adapt their conduct to them and carry on their business in subservience to them. Their habits are formed on a faulty model. This gives a long life to all such errors, and makes men fight almost to death, as now in France and heretofore in England, for monopolies which science demonstrates to be injurious to society. Error and restrictions, therefore, cannot be put down too soon, and if they can be prevented from coming into existence, so much the better.

MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

MONEY is in good demand, but the supply is large, and the market is, on the whole, easy. At the same time, with the Indian loan, the Russian loan, and a further issue of Exchequer bonds hanging over it, it is uncertain; and though the terms are not altered, lenders are not eager to part with their money. Though the dividends will be in the course of payment next week, there is no probability of the demand for money lessening to any great degree. The Bank terms are the usual rate for discount.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of silver which is to be dispatched to India by the next mail—£900,000—the market for silver is flat, and has declined $\frac{1}{2}$.

The funds, which have been dull all the week, were excessively flat to-day. The business done was almost nil, and the closing price of Consols was 95 $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ below the closing price of yesterday. There is still a want of confidence in the intentions of the sovereigns of the Continent, and Count Cavour's memorandum to our consul has outmeasured the hopes of peace. Accordingly, the telegraph this morning brought a further decline from Paris of $\frac{1}{2}$ in the 3 per cent. Rents. Our market, too, was slightly influenced by the picture of a speculator with a bull account for a large sum. Nor is there any probability that the public securities will show any liveliness till the present critical period in the political relations of Europe is passed.

The Russian loan, it is now stated on good au-

thority, is to be £12,000,000, issued at 69 for 3 per cent. As the payments are spread over eight months, while the interest begins from the subscription, the 69 will be equivalent to 68. Not more than £4,000,000 of the loan will be reserved for the English market, and that amount will probably find a ready sale here, though it is not offered on terms more favourable than the terms at which other Russian stocks can be obtained in the market. The credit of Russia, however, is good, and unless some very untoward event should arise, it is likely to be placed without difficulty.

The attention of the monied world is at the same time directed very closely to the Indian loan, the Act authorising which is announced to receive the royal assent immediately.

Private letters in town from Melbourne do not represent the affairs of the colony of Victoria in quite so favourable a light as the public accounts. There had been a large influx of immigrants, and a considerable number of people were in want of employment. The finances of the Government were, at the same time, not in a favourable condition, and complaints were again heard of the misappropriation of the land.

A new phase of society, similar to a very old phase of society in Europe, is now manifesting itself in the colonies. Strikes have become common in New York, and other towns somewhat crowded with a manufacturing population. Strike meetings of furniture carvers, cap makers, and varnishers have been held in New York. The first named have succeeded in getting an advance of wages, and the others have the same objects in view.

The White Star has arrived from Melbourne, bringing £130,000 in gold; but, at the same time, it is announced that gold in small amounts is continually removed from the Bank.

The law passed a few years back, when there were very exaggerated stories rife in the land about an epizootic on the continent, is now found to act very injuriously. At a time when meat is very dear, it keeps wholesome food and healthy cattle out of the market. Lately 104 head imported were not allowed to be landed because the Custom Inspector was of opinion that they were diseased. Other authorities decided differently, but the cattle were sent back to Holland where they were pronounced healthy, causing, no doubt, a considerable loss to the shippers. This law is one of many modern enactments, passed at the instigation of half scientific men, and for which the Parliament, and the impulsive people who have hastily demanded them, are alike responsible. The deliberative assembly, however, which ought not to yield to panic terms or foolish theories, is more to blame for them than the deluded people.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 6th day of April, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued.....	£32,746,230
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities ..	3,459,900
Gold Coin & Bullion	18,271,230
Silver Bullion	—
	£32,746,230
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital.....	£14,553,000
Reserve	3,101,382
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	9,000,001
Other Deposits.....	12,020,732
Seven Day and other Bills.....	784,501
	£41,359,336

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated April 7, 1859.

At a meeting of the governor, directors, and proprietors of the Bank of England, held on Tuesday, Mr. Bonamy Dobree was elected Governor, and Mr. Alfred Latham, of the firm of Arbuthnot, Latham, and Co., merchants, of St. Helen's-passage, Deputy-Governor, for the ensuing year.

FREE TRADE IN FRANCE.—In spite of the violent assaults of the protectionists and the opposition of the Senate, free-trade appears to have obtained another respite. The *Echo Agricole* announces that the Council of State has terminated its examination of the corn laws. Another journal states that no new law will be brought forward this year, and that the regime of free-trade established by the decree of October, 1858, and which is the continuation of that which has existed since 1853, will remain in force until the 30th September next. At that period the government will take the subject again into consideration, and the result of the next harvest and the state of prices will influence the resolutions which it will come to.

HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening.

THE markets are without any material alteration. Corn is dull of sale, and the price rather flat. All the Mincing-lane markets are firm without much activity.

In confirmation of what we have stated in two successive weeks, of wheat going to the United States, we copy the following from the *New York Courier and Inquirer*:—

"The latest quotations for wheat in London show the price of breadstuffs to be absolutely lower in the English market by some 15 cents. per bushel than in the United States. The truth is that the country is suffering grievously from a nearly general failure of our provision crops for three or four successive years. Indian corn and oats were almost ruined last year by drought, and the wheat by blast. The same thing has happened three times since 1853, with the additional calamity that potatoes and roots generally have failed from drought every season since 1853 but that of 1858. No period of undoubted and admitted prosperity can be looked for throughout the United States until after at least two favourable seasons for cereals and roots. The condition of the country in this respect is the same as in 1837-38, when a foreign Hebrew banking-house wrote, with only rational prudence, that they did not care for investments in an agricultural country which imported its food. There can be no permanent improvement until we are relieved from dependence on foreign manufactures, or are enabled by a well-directed industry to extract from the earth the means to pay for what we buy of them."

We have to note nothing of a particular character. As a matter of course, the dissolution has interfered with business, but a good trade has, nevertheless, been done, and at fair prices. The unusual and unseasonable fine weather has caused a good deal of attention to be directed to the crops and to horticultural produce. If we have a continuance of fine weather, with a due proportion of rain, and no nipping frosts, like those we had last week, we may reckon on another season of abundance and cheapness.

CORN.—Business has been quiet during the week. The home and foreign supplies were not large. Wheat and flour steady at the late ratio. Oats, not much in demand. Fine barley keeps up its price. Beans and peas in limited request.

The following is a comparative statement of the prices of raw cotton, wheat, and the rates of discount, &c., in March, 1849 and 1859:—

	Mar., 1849.	Mar., 1859.
Cotton, Upland bowed, fair per lb.	4½	7 5-16ths.
Ditto " good fair ..	5	7 7-16ths.
Ditto, Pernambuco, fair ..	5½	8 7-16ths.
Ditto " good fair ..	5½	8½
Average prices of wheat per qr.	45/8	40/6
Rates of discount for unexceptionable Bills	3	2½
Av. circulation of the Bank of England in millions of pounds..	18½	21½
Av. amount of Bullion in the Bank in millions of pounds.....	15½	19½

HIDES AND LEATHER.—The markets are comparatively inactive.

SUGAR.—The market retains its improved tone. Almost all descriptions find a readier sale at full prices, and in crystallised a further small advance is established.

MAURITIUS.—By auction crystallised was disposed of at very firm prices; middling and good middling yellow (duty 13s. 10d.) at 43s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; low to good white (duty 16s.) at 47s. to 49s.

BENGAL.—Cossipore, fine yellow (duty 13s. 10d.), at 48s.; sirups, 45s. 6d.; the remainder, ordinary brown, date at 30s. 6d. to 31s. 6d.

FOREIGN.—Further public sales of clayed Manilla, to the extent of 18,013 bags, were brought forward, of which about 11,000 bags went off freely at firm prices; low middling damp to good dry, 38s. to 40s.; 1,192 boxes Havanna sold at about previous rates; low to good greyish yellow, fair quality, 40s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; one lot, fine crystallised grey, 45s. 6d.

REFINED.—The market continues unvaried, and no increase of activity can be reported.

COFFEE.—Firm prices are obtained for the small lots required, but the market generally is inactive.

COCOA.—Common quantities are only saleable on moderate terms; Dominica at auction fetched 40s. to 42s.; 51 bags Trinidad bought in at 44s. to 46s.; and 29 bags Grenada withdrawn.

TEA.—There has not been any business of importance to report, yet the market is firm. Common Congou, 13½d. per pound.

RUM.—Offers of about the former prices are made for Demerara, and fifty puncheons have been sold

at 2s.; also seventy puncheons common pale, Leeward Island, at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 7½d., proof.

RICE.—Bengal, middling to good middling white, 9s. 3d. to 10s.

SAGO has gone off more freely, especially for the better qualities, which are rather dearer; fair to good bright small pearl, 19s. to 21s.; dull, 18s. to 19s. 6d.; large, 18s. 6d. to 19s. per cwt.

ARROWROOT realises the previous quotations; St. Vincent, 3d. to 3½d.; Jamaica, 6d.; Natal 4d. per lb.

PEPPER.—The market is dull, at previous quotations. Penang, principally damaged, first class, 3½d. 3½d.; sound 3½d. White pepper—of 355 bags from Singapore fifty bags good found buyers at 8d. to 8½d.; the remainder inferior quality bought in at 7½d. to 7¾d.

PIMENTO is only saleable at rather lower prices; good ordinary to middling, 3d. to 3½d.; good middling 3½d. per lb.

GINGER.—Ordinary to middling, 76s. to 91s.; good middling to rather bold, 104s. to 130s.

MACE.—Low middling Singapore sold at 1s. 2d.

NUTMEGS.—Singapore sold steadily, middling 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; small 1s. 6d. per lb.

FRUIT.—The market remains unaltered, the demands at the previous prices being steady but limited. Currants, a few lots sold at 32s. to 34s.; Valencia Raisins, chiefly withdrawn, part sold at 35s., damaged 28s. 365 cases Eleme, bought in at 60s., and 437 bags black, at 26s. Bombay Dates, 18s.

Valencia Almonds, withdrawn 50 boxes; Jordan, 6l. 10s. per cwt.

The annexed remarks are extracted from Messrs. Richard Witherby and Son's circular:—The stock of currants in London on the 31st March consisted, according to dock and wharf returns, of 300 butts, 7,208 carotells, 59,489 barrels, 13,968 cases, 2,050 pipes, and 1,045 half pipes, or 10,200 tons against 12,500 tons on the 31st December, 1858, and 5,500 on the 31st March 1858. The currant market has of course partaken of the general inaction which has so long prevailed in most articles. The extremely low prices of good old fruit, have much interfered with the sale of new, which are now in some description 8s. to 12s. per cwt. lower than at the opening of the season.

RAISINS.—As arrivals seem to have ceased we have now only to watch the clearances. Those of March, in London, were for consumption 480 tons against 530 tons in March, 1858, and 270 in March, 1857; and for export 358 tons, 57 of which to the United States, 85 to colonies, 200 to the continent, and 16 coastwise, making the total March clearances 838 tons.

SALEPETRE.—Bengal sold for arrival at 38s.

COTTON.—The market remains inactive.

JUTE.—Undesirable qualities went at a decline 1s. per ton.

HEMP.—A lot or two of third class damaged, sold at £20 5s.; 64 bales white realised £37 10s. per ton. Coir goods, sound, £24 5s. to £24 10s.; Ceylon fibre, £27 to £31; Madras, £23 10s. to £24.

INDIGO.—Guatemala, 3s. 8d. to 5s. 11d.

COCHINEAL.—Teneriffe silver, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.; black, 4s.; three bags Maderia, 3s. 4d. to 4s.; thirty-nine bags Honduras silver, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 10d.

TALLOW.—The market for Y. C. is steady at 53s. 3d. on the spot; 53s. to 53s. 3d. April to June, and at 53s. 9d. for the last three months' delivery.

LINSEED OIL.—The market is steady at £29.

OIL.—Rape continues quiet at £42 10s. for foreign refined, and at £39 for brown. Palm and cocoa-nut remain at previous rates without much business doing.

LINSEED.—The market is quiet at 52s. to 52s. 6d. for Bombay, and at 49s. to 50s. for Calcutta.

RAPSEED attracts little attention at 57s. to 58s. for Bombay Guzerat, and at 49s. for fine sound Calcutta.

TURPENTINE.—Spirits are only in limited demand at 43s. for American, and at 42s. for English.

SPELTER.—Few inquiries are made, and the market may be reported quiet.

TIN.—About 600 slabs Banca have been recently sold at £135.

SCOTCH Pig Iron has declined to 52s. The shipments last week were 5,280 tons foreign, and 8,051 coastwise; together, 13,331 tons, against 15,306 tons in the corresponding week of last year.

2,000,000l. is the amount of Exchequer bonds, dated 8th of May 1854, and redeemable at par on the 8th of May, 1859, issued per Act 17th of Victoria, cap 23.

There was a terrible riot among the Irish near Baltimore, on St. Patrick's Day, in which weapons of various kinds were freely used, and 100 persons were injured, some of whom have died. The fighting lasted three hours, and was as bloody as some skirmishes that have respectable places in history.

SHARES AND STOCKS.

No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.	
				T.	F.												
84543	12	10	Ambergate, &c.	64	64	Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead, 5 per cent.	116	116	48810	20	13	Great Western Canada New	84	84
Stock	100	100	Birkenhead, Lancashire, and	64	64	Stock	100	100	Cork and Bandon, 5 per cent.	101	101	100	all	all	Ditto Bonds 1876	105	105
Stock	100	100	Cheshire Junction	93	93	Stock	100	100	East Anglian, Class A, 5 and 7 p.c.	112	112	25000	20	20	Ditto 1873 without op.	100	98
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter	82	81	Stock	100	100	Class B, 6 per cent.	114	114	25000	20	20	Ditto 5 p. ct., 1877, ditto	17	17
Stock	100	100	Caledonian	16	16	Stock	100	100	Class C, 7 per cent.	132	132	25000	20	20	Madras guar. 4 per cent.	20	19
Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead	60	59	Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties Extension, 5 per cent.	114	114	50000	20	20	Ditto ditto 5 do	18	18
Stock	100	100	East Anglian	47	47	Stock	100	100	No. 1	84	84	50000	20	20	Ditto 4 per cent. Extension	3d	3d
Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties	32	31	Stock	100	100	No. 2	119	117	25000	20	20	Ditto Thirds ditto	3d	3d
Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, class A	15	15	Stock	100	100	New 6 per cent.	112	112	25000	20	20	Ditto Fourths ditto	3d	3d
Stock	100	100	class B	93	93	Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, 4 per cent.	105	105	30000	10	2s6d	Ditto New	par	par
28000	25	25	East Kent	73	73	Stock	100	100	Great Northern, 5 per cent.						guaranteed	21	21
Stock	100	100	East Lancashire	27	27	Stock	100	100	5 per cent. Redeemable at						5 per cent.	par	par
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh and Glasgow	102	101	Stock	100	100	10 per cent. pm							3d	3d
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee	87	87	Stock	100	100	4 per cent. do							par	par
Stock	100	100	Great Northern	133	133	Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western								
Stock	100	100	A stock	105	106	Stock	100	100	(Ireland), 4 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	B stock	58	58	Stock	100	100	Great Western, red. 5 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western (I.)	87	87	Stock	100	100	con. red. 4 per cent.								
18000	50	50	Great Western	123	123	Stock	100	100	irred. 4 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	Lancaster and Carlisle	94	94	Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire, 6 per cent.								
18000	10	10	Thirds	112	113	Stock	100	100	London and Brighton, New, guar.								
24000	15	15	New Thirds	94	94	Stock	100	100	6 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	66	67	Stock	100	100	London and S.W., late Third								
48444	16	6	F. 16	112	113	Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln								
87500	9	7	9. shares	94	94	Stock	100	100	3 per cent.								
11900	11	11	London and Blackwall	112	113	Stock	100	100	Midland Consolidated, 6 p. ct. Stk.								
Stock	100	100	London, Brighton, and South C.	94	94	Stock	100	100	Bristol and Birm., 6 per ct.								
Stock	100	100	London and North Western	94	94	Stock	100	100	4 per cent. pref.								
244000	12	7	Eighths	94	94	Stock	100	100	Norfolk Extension, 5 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	London and South-Western	94	94	Stock	100	100	North British								
Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln	94	94	Stock	100	100	North-Eastern—Berwick, 4 per cent. pref.								
Stock	100	100	Metropolitan	94	94	Stock	100	100	York, H. and S. purchase								
Stock	100	100	Midland	94	94	Stock	100	100	North Staffordshire								
Stock	100	100	Birmingham and Derby	94	94	Stock	100	100	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolver-								
20000	50	50	Midland Great Western (I.)	94	94	Stock	100	100	hampton, 6 per cent.								
22220	25	25	Newport, Abr., and Hereford	94	94	Stock	100	100	Scottish North-Eastern Aberdeen								
Stock	100	100	Norfolk	94	94	Stock	100	100	guaranteed 6 per cent.								
Stock	100	100	Northern Counties Union	94	94	Stock	100	100	7 per cent. 6 Pref. Stock								
60000	50	3	North British	94	94	Stock	100	100	3 per cent. Pref. Stock								
Stock	100	100	North Eastern—Berwick	94	94	Stock	100	100	South Devon, Annuities 10s.								
Stock	100	100	G. N. E. Purchase	94	94	Stock	100	100	South Eastern, 4 per cent. pref.								
64115	25	16	Leeds	94	94	Stock	100	100	South Yorkshire, 4 per cent. guar.								
Stock	100	100	York	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	North London	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	North Staffordshire	94	94	Stock	100	100									
168500	20	17	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolyn.	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Scottish Central	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Scottish N. Eastern Aberdeen Stk.	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Scottish Midland Stock	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Shropshire Union	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	South Devon	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	South Eastern	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	South Wales	94	94	Stock	100	100									
27582	20	20	South Yorkshire and River Dun.	94	94	Stock	100	100									
3273	20	18	Do do	94	94	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Vale of Neath	94	94	Stock	100	100									
LINES LEASED																	
AT FIXED RENTALS																	
Stock	100	100	Buckinghamshire	100	99	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	110	110	Stock	100	100									
43077	12	12	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	93	Stock	100	100									
82500	5	5	Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock	24	24	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Midland Bradford	97	97	Stock	100	100									
16802	50	50	Northern and Eastern, 5 per cent.	59	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	Wilts and Somerset	92	93	Stock	100	100									
PREFERENCE SHARES.																	
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter, 4 per cent.	97	97	Stock	100	100									
Stock	100	100	Caledonian 10, 4 per cent.	102	101	Stock	100	100									

ENGLISH STOCKS.		Fri.	ENGLISH STOCKS.		Fri.	FOREIGN STOCKS.		Fri.	FOREIGN STOCKS.		Fri.
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p. c. ½-year	225		India Loan Scrip	10		Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent	94½		Russian Bonds, 1822, 5p. ct. in £ st	100	
3 per ct. Reduced Anns.	94½		Do. Bonds, 4 per cent., 1000l.	14		Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent	94½		Ditto 4½ per cent	45	
Ditto for Opening	95½		Ditto under 1000l.	225		Ditto 4½ per cent. 1858.	94½		Sardinian Bonds, 5 per cent.	45	
3 per cent. Consols Anns.	94½		Bank Stock for account Aug. 5	95½		Ditto 5 per cent., 1829 and 1830	94½		Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent.	103	
Ditto for Opening	94½		3 p. ct. Cons. for account do	95½		Ditto 5 per cent., 1843	94½		Ditto 3 per cent. Deferred	103	
New 3 per cent. Anns.	94½		Ditto for Opening do	95½		Ditto 4½ per cent. 1858	94½		Ditto Passive Bonds	103	
Ditto for Opening	94½		India Stock, for account do	95½		Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent.	94½		Ditto Com. Cert. of Coupon not fd.	103	
New 3½ per cent. Anns.	94½		Exchequer Bills, 2d. and 1½d. p. day	32 6		Ditto Account	94½		Turkish Scrip, 6 per cent.	103	
New 2½ per cent.	94½		Ditto 1000l.	32 6		Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent.	94½		Ditto 4 per cent. Guaranteed	103	
6 per cent.	94½		Ditto 500l.	30		Ditto 3 per cent.	94½		Venezuela 5 per cent	103	
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	94½		Ditto Small	30		Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825	94½		Ditto Deferred 2 per cent.	103	
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1850	94½		Ditto Advertised 1½	30		Ditto 5 per cent. Bonds	94½		[Divs. on above payable in London.]	103	
Ditto exp. Jan. 5, 1860	94½		Ditto Bonds, A 1858 3½ p. ct.	30		Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	94½		Belgian Bonds 4½ per cent.	103	
Ditto " Jan. 5, 1860	94½		Ditto under 1000l.	30		Grenada Bonds, Now Active, 2½ p. c.	94½		Dutch 2½ p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	103	
Ditto " April 5, 1855	94½		Ditto B 1859	30		Ditto Deferred	94½		Ditto 4 per cent. Certificates	103	
India Stock, 10½ per cent.	97½		Ditto under 1000	30		Guatemala	94½		Peruvian Dollar Bonds	103	
Do. Loan Debentures	97½					Mexican 3 per cent.	94½		PARIS.	103	
						Peruvian Bonds, 4½ per cent.	94½		French Rentes, 4½ per cent.	103	
						Ditto 4½ per cent. (Urribarron)	94½		Ditto 3 per cent	103	
						Portuguese Bonds, 8 per cent., 1853	94½				

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.						JOINT-STOCK BANKS.					
No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.	No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.
			£	£ s. d.					£	£ s. d.	
22500	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Australasia	40	40 0 0	88 $\frac{1}{2}$ *	20000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	National Bank	50	25 0 0	..
10000	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Bank of Egypt	25	25 0 0	25	25000	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	New South Wales	20	20 0 0	..
6000	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Bank of London	100	50 0 0	47	50400	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Oriental Bank Corporation	25	25 0 0	..
20000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	British North American	50	50 0 0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	25000	..	Ottoman Bank	20	20 0 0	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
32200	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Char. of India, Australia, and China ..	20	10 0 0	..	20000	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	71
4500	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	City Bank	100	50 0 0	03	4000	..	Ditto New	10	10 0 0	..
20000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Colonial	100	25 0 0	33	12000	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Ionian Bank	25	25 0 0	..
25000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Commercial of London	100	20 0 0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	12000	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	South Australia	25	25 0 0	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
25000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Eng. Scot. and Aust. Chartered	20	20 0 0	16	4000	..	Ditto New	25	12 10 0	..
35000	0 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	London Chartered Bank of Australia ..	20	20 0 0	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	32000	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Union of Australia	25	10 0 0	..
20000	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	London and County	50	20 0 0	..	8000	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Ditto New	15	3 0 0	..
30000	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	100000	..	Union of Hamburgh	50	10 0 0	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
50000	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	00000	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Union of London	100	50 0 0	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ d
10000	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	..	3000	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Unity Mutual Bank	100	50 0 0	..
25000	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Ditto New	20	10 0 0	..	4000	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Western of London	100	50 0 0	..

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

Friday Evening.

THE current of business has been somewhat checked by the announcement of a dissolution of Parliament, but not to that extent which usually occurs on such occasions. Throughout the manufacturing districts trade has been good, but not very brisk. It is satisfactory to have to state that the last advices from Bombay give ground for the hope that the markets of India have not been oversupplied. The temporary check to demand and the partial lowering of prices which occurred in India, are referable to other causes than that of a glut of English manufactures. To counterbalance this satisfactory information we have to state that the last advices from Australia indicate a repetition of that ruinous system which produced so much bankruptcy in 1853 in Australia, and which eventually reacted with such force in this country. We refer to the practice of sending consignments of goods of all kinds on sale and speculation, without regard to the demand or the capacity of the population to consume them. We are informed that shippers have been told by their consignees that the depôts are crammed with unsaleable goods, that buyers are only taking what they absolutely want, and are quietly waiting for that crash and that rush to sell at any sacrifice by which they profited so largely in 1853, and by which they hope to profit again in 1859. With this exception, we believe we may say that the export trade is in a satisfactory condition. Home trade appears to be both sound and progressive.

LIVERPOOL.—The raw cotton market has not been very brisk, but a fair trade has been done, and prices have given way under the strength of the reports from America of the amount of the crop. The price generally is lower by about 4d. per pound.

MANCHESTER.—Orders from Germany have come in pretty freely, but by no means to the extent which would be the case were matters on the Continent a little more pacific in aspect. From the Mediterranean few or no orders are given out. This is what might be expected. The home trade is more active, and the Indian business, which was beginning to alarm spinners, has received an impulse in consequence of reassuring reports from Bombay and Calcutta. Several additional orders have been given out for India, but we have not heard that manufacturers have made any concession in price—indeed our inquiries point to quite another result. It is certain that the downward tendency which began to manifest itself has been arrested, and that the markets for yarns and cloths are firm in tone.

LEEDS.—Light and fancy fabrics still continue in demand. More sales are made of plain cloths; altogether the tone of the trade may be reported as improving.

BRADFORD.—Wools and worsteds are more in demand. The finer sorts of wool have an upward tendency; bright haired are in request at good prices. Wools and brokes in demand, but no change in prices. Manufacturers are well employed for the home and American markets.

LEICESTER.—As the shipping season approaches, it is expected that a busy time will ensue. In the hosiery districts, though trade is not active, there is an average amount doing, taking the season into consideration.

NOTTINGHAM.—The lace trade is pretty fair, but no marked improvement has occurred.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The attendance of buyers from distant markets has been rather limited. Prices in all departments are firm. A brisk demand exists for light goods, and superfine goods go off better.

BIRMINGHAM.—The hardware trade is not very brisk, but it is sound. The iron districts in Staffordshire and Wales are fully employed on railway orders.

We have reason to believe that the differences between employers and operatives in general trades which have shown themselves within the present year, will not grow to that magnitude to warrant alarm. There is, in many instances, a disposition to listen to reason on both sides, and this, we anticipate, will prove the best peace-maker.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

On Monday a special meeting of the proprietors of the Norfolk Railway was held for the purpose of considering an agreement between the East Suffolk Railway Company and the Eastern Counties and Norfolk and Eastern Union Companies for the use and working of the East Suffolk line. A resolution was passed sanctioning the agreement.

A satisfactory report was read and adopted at the half-yearly meeting of the Dunblane, Doune, and Callender Company on the 30th.

The annual meeting of the Copiapo Extension line was held on Tuesday. The report was adopted. The directors were re-elected, and 2,000l. was voted to them for their services. Mr. Hankey was appointed one of the auditors.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Great Western Railway of Canada Company, held on Wednesday, the report, which was on the whole favourable, was adopted; and the dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum being agreed to, the meeting adjourned.

The directors of the Scinde Railway Company have made a final call of £5 upon the shares in the first issue of capital, and offer to the shareholders in the second issue the option of paying, in anticipation, the remaining £10 per share, up to the 28th instant.

A special meeting of the proprietors of the London and South Western Company was held on Thursday to consider certain bills now before Parliament, the first of which was for authorising the company to make new works, and to raise further funds, and for other purposes. The Chairman proposed that the consideration of the others should be postponed until the 18th inst. Mr. Edgington wished to know when the ruinous competition with the Brighton Company now going on was likely to cease. The Chairman stated that they had desired peace, and made every possible concession; even when they found it would be impossible to keep friendly they had done everything in their power to conciliate the Brighton. The South-Western was not the first to lower the fares. The bill was then adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

LONDON-BRIDGE AND CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY.—The committee of the House of Commons have come to the decision that the preamble of this bill has been proved; but they require that clauses be inserted with reference to the compensation to be paid to St. Thomas's Hospital. The committee adopted the unusual course of personally visiting and examining the London-bridge terminus, St. Thomas's Hospital, and the crossing of Wellington-street, the interior of St. Saviour's Church, and the Borough Market.

SARDINIAN LINES.—A letter from Turin says:—"As far as I could judge by the view obtained from the coach road between Magenta and the Ticino, the heavy embankments in the valley of that river are all but complete, and the short unfinished section of the rail that is to connect Turin and Genoa with Milan and Venice might be opened to circulation in a very short time. In Milan I was told that a month or six weeks would amply suffice. It is doubtless the present unsettled state of things and the possibility of war that stop progress. When those pass away, and the whole line is opened, it will be a twelve hours' run from this capital to Venice."

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

A meeting of the company of Copper Miners in England took place on Wednesday, Sir J. H. Pelly in the chair, when a dividend was declared at the rate of 7½ per cent. on the preference shares and 1 per cent. on the original stock. The works were stated to be in an efficient condition, and nearly all departments are fully occupied. In reply to questions it was mentioned that the stocks at Cwm Avon are properly vouched and valued. The saving of 20 per cent. in the wages of the ironworkers, contemplated at the last meeting, has been effected.

At the Quinquennial Meeting of the Alliance Assurance Company, a bonus of 16s. 6d. per share was declared, making, with the half-year's dividend now due, an aggregate of 1l. 5s. per share. The dividend for the ensuing five years will be continued at the present rate of 17s. a share (or 7l. 14s. 6d. per cent. on the 11l. paid up), a sufficient sum having been reserved out of the profits ascertained and declared to provide for it.

The half-yearly meeting of the Australian Joint-stock Bank was held on the 28th ult. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was declared. The net profits for the half-year amounted to £17,557 12s. 6d. The reserved fund was increased by the sum of £1,755 15s. 3d., and now amounts to £8,209 11s. 4d.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Australasian Steam Navigation Company was held on the same day. The report was considered very satisfactory. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 15s. per share, was declared. The net profits for the half-year amounted to £32,962 17s. 6d. Mr. C. Kemp was elected a director in the room of Mr. T. W. Smith, resigned.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Newcastle (Australia) Coal and Copper Company was held on the 31st of January. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was declared.

The report of the directors of the City of London Life Assurance Society, presented at the annual meeting on Wednesday, congratulated the proprietors on a large accession of new business, "notwithstanding the immense competition to which life assurance continues subjected." During the past year new policies have been completed representing £210,534, and producing a premium income of £7,480, being a larger amount of new business than has been effected in any year since the establishment of the society. The accumulated funds of the society would have been very largely increased but for the recent additional purchase of the business of other companies, from which the directors anticipate satisfactory results. It is intimated that "the society being now established on a firm basis, the directors are devoting their earnest attention to economise the working expenses of the office as far as possible, without impairing its efficiency."

The twenty-sixth quarterly general meeting of the Conservative Land Society was held on Tuesday, Viscount Ranelagh in the chair. The report showed quarterly receipts of nearly £13,000, making a grand total of receipts, £380,814 19s. 10d.; land sale, £219,976 18s. 6d. The committee reported, that at no period of the society's existence had properties of greater magnitude and importance been brought under their notice than during the past quarter. The committee were enabled, taking into consideration the present position and prospects of the society, to raise the rate of interest from Lady day to the end of the financial year at Michaelmas, 1859, on completed shares, and shares paid a year in advance, to the rate of 5 per cent. per annum; and to fix the rate of interest for the same period on monies invested in the deposit department, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Viscount Ranelagh, in moving the adoption of the report, after commenting on its details, adverted to the importance of the society at the present political crisis. A vote of thanks was then passed to the committee for their successful management of the society's affairs.

LOCAL JURISDICTION IN BANKRUPTCY.—The *Mercantile Test* says—"Considering the very great convenience which traders would have in resorting to a tribunal within an easy distance of their own residence, it seems to us that an irresistible case is made out for conferring unlimited jurisdiction in bankruptcy on the County Courts. This jurisdiction is given to those courts by Lord John Russell's Bill. It is not proposed to abolish the jurisdiction of the present bankruptcy courts. In some cases creditors may think that their cases will have a more satisfactory decision in those courts. But wherever the creditors are of opinion that they would best find their remedy in the County Courts, it is proposed to allow them to do so. This was the plan adopted in the recent Scotch Bankrupts Statute, and the result is that the County Courts have been universally resorted to. The real secret of the success during the last three years of the working of the Scottish bankruptcy, has been the conferring of unlimited jurisdiction on the County Courts. This was done so lately as 1856, by the Act of 19th and 20th Victoria, chapter 79, which, besides creating every County Court a court of bankruptcy, abolishes the distinction between bankruptcy and insolvency. The Act originated in a bill prepared by a committee of London merchants. It has remedied almost all the evils formerly complained of in Scotland, and on the whole, as regards cheapness, dispatch, and efficiency in the administration of an insolvent's estate, it has unquestionably placed Scotland the foremost among commercial nations."

THE LESSEPS' SCHEME.—Recent Paris letters inform us that the statement that the Viceroy of Egypt had peremptorily interdicted M. de Lesseps from proceeding with his plan for piercing the Isthmus of Suez is contradicted. It is now asserted that although the English Consul did submit to his highness reasons for opposing the undertaking, the Egyptian government declined to entertain his objections, unless they were formally laid before it in writing, and that in the meantime M. de Lesseps is going on with his preparatory works without molestation.

THE BERKELEY PEERAGE.—On Thursday the House of Lords sat as a committee for privileges on the claim of Sir Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley, K.C.B., &c., to the honour and dignity of Baron of Berkeley Castle. It was a claim by the tenure of Berkeley Castle, and of manors and hereditaments held from his ancestors. After hearing counsel for the petitioner, and receiving documentary evidence, their lordships adjourned.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The returns for last week indicate a favourable state of the public health. In the week that ended March 5th the deaths registered in London were 1,215; in the three weeks that followed they averaged about 1,160; in the week that ended last Saturday they declined to 1,067, of which 603 were deaths of males, and 464 those of females. Last week the births of 952 boys and 885 girls, in all 1,837 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-58 the average number was 1,087.

NEAPOLITAN PRISONS.—A letter from Naples says:—"The Bagno of Montesarchio, lately the prison-house of Poerio, is now closed. Nisco has been taken to the prisons of Avellino, and his other companions, according to the prevailing report, have been transferred to the Bagno of Procida; but no order has been issued for sending any new expedition to America. That which has awakened great curiosity is an order which has been given for putting the Bagno of Montesarchio into a state of the greatest elegance. Are the visits of the curious feared, and is there a desire on the part of the Government to make it appear that a Neapolitan bagno, and that the recent residence of Baron Poerio, is one of the "delicæ" of the kingdom?"

GENERAL POST OFFICE.—A recent notice says—"It often happens that there are several persons living in the same town whose surname and Christian name or initial, are exactly alike, and sometimes not only is the name the same, but the trade or profession, and even the street. The address of every letter ought to be full and distinct; but in the cases referred to it is obvious that the correct delivery cannot be secured unless the name, calling, street, and number of the person for whom the letter is intended, be all given. An instruction has been issued to all postmasters directing them to deliver letters imperfectly addressed whenever they have no reasonable doubt as to the persons for whom they are intended, but in other cases to continue to send the letter to London to be returned to the writer."

THE ESTIMATES.—The estimates of the sums to be voted on account of the Army and Navy, for the Revenue Departments, and the Civil Service, for the year ending March, 1860, are issued. For the Army, on votes for clothing, reduced pay, pensions, &c., a sum of £1,170,000 is required, or something less than half, on account. On the miscellaneous Navy votes, amounting in the whole to nearly seven millions, including wages to artificers, stores, half-pay, new works, conveyance of troops, and packet service, the Government will ask £2,500,000. The total amount of the estimates for the Revenue Departments is £4,610,453 (including superannuations), of which £1,125,000 is demanded on account. And on the seven classes of Civil Estimates—viz., Public Works, Salaries, &c., of public departments, Law and Justice, Education, &c., Colonial, Consular, and Foreign, Superannuation and Charity, and Miscellaneous, the sums required to be voted to defray payments arising during the year do not exceed £1,854,000—a very small proportion of the total estimates. We presume the passing of these "to account" votes will form the principal Government business in the House of Commons next week, at the close of which, as is now understood, Parliament will be prorogued, and immediately thereupon dissolved.

IRISHMEN IN THE AUSTRIAN AND FRENCH ARMIES.—There are few, if any, Prussians in the Austrian pay, though many Irish, as this list will show:—First Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor—Maximilian, Count O'Donnell. Field Marshal, Laval, Count Nugent. Field Marshals-Lieutenant, Simon Fitzgerald, Colonel 6th Chasseurs; Felix Count Moyna, Colonel 4th Uhlans; Constantine, Baron Herbert of Rathkeale. Major Generals—Peter Von Mulholl, and Ambrós O'Ferrall; Count Albert Nugent, Dan. O'Connor of Kerry, Count Charles Taaffe, Baron Brady, Oliver Wallis, Count Carrick Mayne, Major of the 8th Uhlans; Maximilian, Count MacCaffrey, Rittmeister, 9th Uhlans; O'Hanlon, Frank, Baron O'Byrne, 39th Infantry; Maurice Piers, Baron Chas. MacSherry, 8th Uhlans; Baron Julius Wallis, of Carrick Mayne; Tim O'Mahony, 4th Dragoons; Aloysius MacCullen, 23rd Infantry; Antony Adler Mulholland, 44th Infantry; Edward, Baron Herbert of Rathkeale, 45th Infantry; Joseph Hickey, Registrar of Military Archives. Should France cross the Alps a far more numerous array of fighting Irish will be marshalled against their Austrian kinsmen, about 200 officers appearing on the roll here. The Paris garrison counts many; the 73rd of the Line, now quartered at the Chateau d'Eau on the Boulevards, is commanded by Colonel H. C. O'Malley; and the Cuirassiers of the Imperial Guard, quartered at St. Germain, by Lucius O'Brien; not to mention General P. MacMahon, who is likely to guide the whole campaign. Tom Moore's son died a lieutenant in Algeria, or that minstrel boy to the wars would have gone. Not a few English are in France's service—among others a brother of the late Sir Wm. Molesworth, holding high rank in La Garde Impériale.—*Globe*.

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