

THE LEADER

SATURDAY ANALYST;

A REVIEW AND RECORD OF POLITICAL, LITERARY, ARTISTIC, AND SOCIAL EVENTS.

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March 3rd, 1860.

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Crystal Palace.—Arrange-

ments for week ending Saturday, March 10th.
MONDAY. Open at 9.
TUESDAY to FRIDAY. Open at 10. Admission One Shilling; Children under 12, Sixpence.
Orchestral Band, Great Organ, and Pianoforte performances daily. The Picture Gallery is open.
SATURDAY. Vocal and Instrumental Concert. Admission by Season Tickets, Half-a-Guinea each, or on payment of Half-a-Crown; Children, One Shilling; Reserved Seats, Half-a-Crown extra.
SUNDAY. Open at 1:30 to Shareholders, gratuitously, by tickets.

Great Northern Railway.

NOTICE FOR MARCH, 1860.

ALTERATION OF EXPRESS TRAINS.

The Scotch Express Train, now leaving King's Cross at 9.20 morning, will be despatched at 9.0, calling about 20 minutes earlier at all stations, and reaching Leeds at 2.15, York at 2.0, and Edinburgh at 8.0 evening.

The Manchester Express Train, leaving King's Cross at 10.0 morning, will be continued into Yorkshire, reaching Leeds at 3.0 afternoon.

The Up Express Train, now leaving Bradford at 3.25 and Leeds at 4.0 afternoon, will start from Bradford at 3.10 and Leeds at 3.45, reaching King's Cross at 9.30 evening. This train will not run from Halifax.

A New Express Train will be despatched from Halifax at 4.10, Bradford at 4.35, and Leeds at 5.5 afternoon, joining the Manchester Express at Retford, and reaching King's Cross at 10.15 evening.

For further and consequent alterations on the Main and Branch Lines, see the Time Tables of the Company, dated the 1st of March, 1860.

SPYMOUR CLARKE, General Manager.

King's Cross Station,
27th Feb., 1860.

Established A.D. 1844.

Great Britain Mutual Life

ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

14, WATERLOO-PLACE, LONDON.

AND
42, JOHN DALTON-STREET, MANCHESTER.

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This Society is established on the tried and approved principle of Mutual Assurance. The funds are accumulated for the exclusive benefit of the Policy-holders, under their own immediate superintendence and control. The profits are divided annually, and applied in reduction of the current premiums. Policy-holders participate in profits after payment of five annual premiums.

The last annual reduction in the premiums was at the rate of 32½ per cent.—By order of the Board,
G. L. LAWSON, Secretary.

Pelican Life Insurance

COMPANY. Established in 1797.

70, LOMBARD STREET, CITY, AND 57, CHANCERY CROSS, WESTMINSTER.

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This Company offers COMPLETE SECURITY. MODERATE RATES of Premium with Participation in Four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the Profits.

LOW RATES without participation in Profits. LOANS in connection with Life Assurance, on approved Security, in sums of not less than £500.

BONUS OF 1861.

ALL POLICIES effected prior to the 1st July, 1861, on the Bonus Scale of Premium, will participate in the next division of Profits.

ROBERT TUCKER, Secretary and Actuary.

Silver Mines of Norway.

EAST KONGSBERG NATIVE SILVER MINING COMPANY OF NORWAY (Limited).
Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856, 1857, 1858.

Capital, £150,000, in 30,000 Shares of £5 each.
Deposit 5s. per share on application, and 5s. per share on allotment. Future calls, if required, not to exceed 10s. per share, and not to be made at less intervals than three months.

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James Lawrie, Esq., 33, Lombard Street.

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This Company has obtained an exclusive grant from the Norwegian Government of upwards of 56,000 acres, part of the Kongsberg Silver Mines, so successfully worked by the Government for many years past, and reckoned the most important for native silver in Europe.

Some idea of the results to be obtained by an extensive and energetic development of this property may be formed from the fact that the King's Mines, worked by the Government, have, in some years, yielded a clear profit of upwards of £60,000; the average net profit for the last 25 years has been £44,000; the aggregate returns for the same period being £1,377,769; and as much as £5,000 worth of pure native silver having been disclosed at a single blast. This Company has already opened on its property upwards of 30 mines containing silver, which only require the erection of suitable stamping and washing machinery to render the produce immediately available, so that an almost immediate result may be anticipated on commencing the works.

It is confidently expected that no call will be required beyond the 10s. per share. If the experience of the King's Mines is a fair criterion, its judicious expenditure ought to realise profits at the rate of 100 per cent.

Detailed reports of J. H. Clement, Esq. (who has been 27 years at the silver mines in Mexico and Spain), and Mr. Pries, at the present time superintendent of one of the Government Mines at Thonsberg, as well as extracts from the reports of the directors of the Government mines, with a number of official documents and plans, have been embodied in a pamphlet, which may be had of the offices.

Applications for shares may be made in the usual form to the Broker or Secretary, at the offices of the Company, of whom prospectuses may be had.

Law Union Fire and Life

INSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Offices,

120, CHANCERY LANE, London, W.C.

Birmingham Branch, 47, UNION PASSAGE.

Capital, ONE MILLION STERLING.

The Fire and Life Departments are under one Management, but with separate funds and accounts.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Capital responsible for Losses, £750,000.
The business is confined to the best classes of Insurance. The discount allowed by the Government on the duty is in all cases given to the insured.
Claims settled with promptitude and liberality.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Capital responsible for Losses, £250,000.
A Bonus every five years,—next Bonus in 1861.
Moderate rates of Premium.
Annuities granted on favourable terms.
Prospectuses, forms of proposal, copies of annual reports, and every information, on application to FRANK MCCLEDDY, Secretary, 120, Chancery Lane.

The Buenos Ayres and San

FERNANDO RAILWAY COMPANY

Limited.
Incorporated with Limited Liability under the Joint Stock Companies' Acts, 1856 and 1857, and authorised by Special Law of the Legislature of Buenos Ayres, dated June 25th, 1859, and the Government Concession of the 19th July, 1859.

Guaranteeing Seven per cent.; the same rate will be allowed on calls from the date of their payment, and Five per cent. on payments in anticipation of calls.

Length of line fifteen English miles.

CAPITAL £150,000, (or 750,000 SILVER DOLLARS), in 15,000 SHARES OF £10 (50 DOLLARS) EACH.

Deposit £2 10s. per share, of which £1 must be paid on application.

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In Dublin—Edward Fox, Esq., 51, Dame-street.

Offices—84, King William-street, City, E.C.

Detailed prospectuses and forms of application for shares may be obtained of the Brokers and Bankers; or at the Company's Offices, 84, King William Street, E.C.

Applications for shares must be accompanied with the Bankers' receipt for £1 per share in part payment of the deposit of £2 10s. per share, the balance, if any, must be paid on allotment, or, in default, the amount may be forfeited, and the allotment cancelled.

By Order of the Board,
A. ELBOROUGH, Sec.

84, King William Street,
1st March, 1860.

The Mutual Life Assurance

SOCIETY, 30, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, E.C.—A.D. 1831.—THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT, Cash Account, Balance Sheet, &c., are now ready, and may be had on written or personal application.
CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

Cadiz.—A Pure Pale Sherry.

of the Amontillado character, 31s. per dozen Cash. We receive a regular and direct shipment of the fine wine.
HENRY BRETT & CO., Importers, Old Tannery, Distillery, Holborn E.C.

London and County Bank-

ING COMPANY (ISLINGTON BRANCH).
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a BRANCH BANK of the above Company has this day been OPENED at the Premises, 19, High Street, Islington, under the Management of Mr. G. A. ADDISON, from whom Prospectuses and any other information respecting terms of business can be obtained.

By Order of the Board,

W. McKEWAN, General Manager.

No. 21, Lombard Street, February 20, 1860.

London and County Bank-

ING COMPANY. Established 1836.
Subscribed Capital, £1,250,000. Paid-up Capital, £500,000. Reserved Fund, £110,000.

DIRECTORS.

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Thos. Tyngnam Bernard, Esq. Edward Huggins, Esq.
John William Burmester, Esq. William Champion Jones, Esq.
James Jaming, Esq.
William Cory, Esq. John Henry Lance, Esq.
James Andrew Durham, Esq. William Lee, Esq., M.P.
William Nichol, Esq., M.P.

Head Office—21, Lombard Street.

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Borough, 201, High-street, Borough—W. K. Milward.
Hanover-square, 21, Hanover-square—T. R. Walker.
Islington, 19, Islington High-street—G. A. Addison.
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The London and County Bank opens—

Drawing accounts with commercial houses and private individuals, either upon the plan usually adopted by other bankers, or by charging a small commission to those persons to whom it may not be convenient to sustain an agreed permanent balance.

Deposit Accounts—Deposit receipts are issued for sums of money placed upon these accounts, and interest is allowed for such periods and at such rates as may be agreed upon, reference being had to the state of the money-market.

Circular notes and letters of credit are issued, payable in the principal cities and towns of the Continent, in Australia, Canada, India, and China, the United States, and elsewhere.

Great facilities are also afforded to the customers of the Bank for the receipt of money from the towns where the Company has branches.

Prospectuses, with a list of these Branches, can be obtained at the Head Office, or any of the Branch Banks.

By Order of the Directors,

W. McKEWAN, General Manager.

No. 21, Lombard Street.

Eau-de-Vie.—This Pure

Pale Brandy, though only 16s. per gallon, is demonstrated, upon analysis, to be peculiarly free from acidity, and very superior to recent importations of veritable Cognac. In French bottles, 34s. per dozen or securely packed in a case for the country, 35s.

HENRY BRETT & CO., Old Farnival's Distillery, Holborn. To be obtained only at their Distillery.

NOTICE.

To induce a trial of South

African Wines at 20s. and 24s. per doz., bottles included, (the consumption of which has now reached 420,000 dozen per annum—vide "Board of Trade Returns"), a case containing four samples, sealed and labelled, will be forwarded on receipt of THIRTY POSTAGE STAMPS, viz.:

Half-pint Bottle of best South African Sherry,
Half-pint Bottle of best South African Port,
Half-pint Bottle of best South African Madeira,
Half-pint Bottle of best South African Amontillado,
Bottles and Case included.

COLONIAL BRANDY, very superior, 15s. per gallon.
BEST GIN, full strength, 11s. 3d. per gallon.
Price Lists free on application.

Address—ANTHONY BROUGH, Wine and Spirit Importer, 29, Strand, London, W.O.

Allsopp's Pale Ale.—Re-

commended by Baron Liebig, and all the Faculty, in the finest condition, direct from the New Brewery at Burton-on-Trent, may now be had of Messrs. Harrington, Parker, and Co., who have REDUCED the PRICE of this highly-esteemed beverage to

4s. 6d. per dozen, IMPERIAL PINTS.

2s. 9d. per dozen, IMPERIAL HALF PINTS.

Messrs. HARRINGTON, PARKER, & CO., also supply Allsopp's Ales in casks of eighteen gallons and upwards. 54, PALL MALL, S.W.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST

Teas and Coffees in Eng-

land are to be obtained of PHILLIPS & Co., Tea Merchants, 8, King William Street, City. Good strong useful Tea, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s. and 4s.; Rich Souchong, 3s. 8d., 3s. 10d., and 4s. Pure Coffees, 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d., 1s. 6d., and 1s. 8d. Tea and Coffee to the value of 40s. sent carriage-free to any railway station or market town in England. A price current free. Sugars at market prices. All goods carriage-free within eight miles of the City.

Spiced Breakfast Tongues,

74d. each, or 3s. 6d. per half dozen. Cheddar Loaf Cheese, 6d. and 74d. per lb. Osborne's Post-smoked Breakfast Bacon, 8d. per lb. by the half side. Butters in perfection at reasonable rates. A saving of 15 per cent. is effected by the purchaser at this establishment on all first-class provisions. Packages gratis. OSBORNE'S CHINESE WAREHOUSE, OSBORNE HOUSE, 80, Ludgate-hill, near St. Paul's, E.C.

THEATRES AND AMUSEMENTS.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Under the Management of Miss LOUISA PYNE and Mr. W. HARRISON.

Last Twelve Nights of the Royal English Operatic Season, terminating Saturday, March 17. Wallace's New Grand Opera "Lurline" increases nightly in attraction.

ELEVENTH WEEK OF THE PANTOMIME.

On Monday, March 5th, and during the week, a New Legendary Opera, by W. Vincent Wallace, entitled

LURLINE.

Count Rudolph, Mr. W. Harrison; Rhineberg, Mr. Santley; Zeliaka, Mr. H. Corri; Baron, Mr. G. Honey; Wilhelm, Mr. Lyall; Ghiva, Miss Pilling; Liba, Miss F. Cruise; Lurline, Miss Louisa Pyne. Conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon.

To conclude with the popular Pantomime of

PUSS IN BOOTS.

Messrs. W. H. Payne, H. Payne, F. Payne, Barnes, Tallens, Clara Morgan; French Dancers, Mdles. Lequigne, Pasquale, Pierron, and Mons. Vandris.

Stage Manager, Mr. Edward Stirling. Acting Manager, Mr. Edward Murray.

Stalls, 7s.; Private Boxes, to hold four persons, from 10s. 6d. upwards; Dress Circle, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s. Commence at 7.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Mr. W. HARRISON respectfully intimates to the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public (his Patrons) that his BENEFIT will take place on SATURDAY, March 17th, the last night of the Royal English Opera Season.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

Extraordinary success of THE OVERLAND ROUTE, written by Tom Taylor, Esq., and in which Mr. Charles Mathews, Mr. Compton, Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Clark, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Buckstone, Mrs. Charles Mathews, Miss M. Ternan, and Mrs. Wilkins will appear. Commence at Seven. Concluding with the Magnificent Pantomime of VALENTINE'S DAY.

THEATRE ROYAL LYCEUM.

Sole Lessee and Directress, Madame Celeste.

Last Week but Three of the present Season. Madame CELESTE has the honour to announce that it being a part of her original intention when she assumed the management of this Theatre, occasionally to reproduce some of the most celebrated of the Dramas for which the old Lyceum Theatre was famous, and which are the property of this establishment, she will, on Thursday next, March 8th, revive the Drama of THE SERGEANT'S WIFE, in which Mrs. Keeley, who is engaged for next season, has consented to sustain her original character of "Margot," Madame Celeste undertaking (for the first time) the character of "Lisette." On Monday and Tuesday, A TALE OF TWO CITIES, and (last times), KING THURSHBEARD; on Wednesday, Amateur Performance, SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL, and THE FORTY THIEVES; on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, THE SERGEANT'S WIFE, the Transformation Scene from KING THURSHBEARD, and A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

ROYAL ST. JAMES'S THEATRE,

KING STREET, ST. JAMES'S.

Sole Lessee, Mr. F. B. CHATTERTON.

Directress, Miss WYNDHAM.

Nearest theatre to Chulson and Picnic, the Park being open to carriages and foot-passengers all hours of the night.

Reduced Prices—Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d.

On Monday and during the week, a New and Original Burletta, entitled No. FORTY-NINE.

After which FIRST AFFECTIONS Miss Wyndham, Messrs. H. T. Craven, and George Spencer.

To be followed by the successful burlesque of DIDO, Mesdames Wyndham, Clara St. Casse, Ediza Arden, Cecilia Ramoe, and Mr. Charles Young.

To conclude with MAGIC TOYS, Miss Lydia Thompson, Miss Clara St. Casse, and the Corps de Ballet.

Box-office open from 11 to 5 daily. Commence at 7.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

BEETHOVEN NIGHT at St. James's Hall. On Monday Evening next, March 5th, the Programme will be selected from the instrumental works of BEETHOVEN. To include the posthumous Quartet in F. major, No. 17 (by desire), and the Grand Septons. Principal Performers—MISS ARABELLA GODDARD, HERR BECKER, Sig. PIATTI, Mdle. PAREPA, and Mr. SIMS REEVES.

Conductor, Mr. Benedict.

Stalls 5s.; Balcony 3s.; Unreserved Seats 1s.

Tickets may be obtained at Chappell & Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street; Keith, Prowse, & Co.'s, 48, Cheap-side; Crumey & Co.'s, 201, Regent-street; Hammond's (Julien's), 214, Regent-street; and at the Hall.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD,

Mdlle Euphrosyne Parepa, and Choir of 200 voices at the performance of the Vocal Association on Thursday evening next, March 8th, St. James's Hall—Miss Arabella Goddard will perform "The Harmonious Blacksmith," and "Where the Bee sucks," Mdle Parepa will sing the solos in Mendelssohn's Psalm, "Hear my Prayer," &c., &c.—Conductor, M. Benedict.—Tickets 1s., 3s. and 5s. each, at the Hall—Commence at 8, terminate 10.15.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.

POLYGRAPHIC HALL,

KING WILLIAM-STREET, STRAND.

FAREWELL SEASON,

in London. Every Evening, at Eight; and every SATURDAY Morning, at Three o'clock. Tickets and Places may be secured at the Hall, from Eleven till Three, and at Mr. Austin's West-end Box-office, St. James's Hall, Piccadilly. Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. RAYNOR; Secretary, H. MONTAGUE.

Teeth replaced. Decayed

Teeth restored. Mr. A. ESKEIL, Surgeon-Dentist, supplies patented Incurable Teeth without extracting Teeth or Stumps, on his never-failing and painless principle of self-adhesion; rendering detection impossible. Articulation and mastication guaranteed. Decayed Teeth rendered insensible to pain, and stopped with his Osteoplastic Enamel—of the same colour as the Teeth, permanently useful, and lasting unchanged for years, (a most important discovery in Dental Science!) Loose Teeth, fastened, &c. Hours, Ten to Six. Consultation free. Charges strictly moderate. 314, Regent-street (opposite the Polytechnic), and Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

The European Assurance SOCIETY,

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

FOR THE ASSURANCE OF LIVES, ANNUITIES, AND THE GUARANTEE OF FIDELITY IN SITUATIONS OF TRUST.

Chief Office—

2, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, LONDON.

The existing Revenue from Premiums exceeds ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.

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The Guarantee Policies of this Society are authorized to be accepted by Government, Poor Law Board, and other Public Departments. The leading London and Provincial Joint Stock and private Banks, the principal Railway Companies, Life and Fire Offices, Public Companies, Institutions, and Commercial Firms throughout the Kingdom, accept the Policies of this Society as Security for their Employes.

Immediate Annuities, payable during the whole of Life, may be purchased on the following scale:—

Annuities granted at the undermentioned Ages for every £100 of Purchase Money.

Ages.	50	55	60	65	70
Annuity payable yearly.	47 17 0	8 10 8	10 3 4	12 1 3	14 16 2

Lists of Shareholders, Prospectuses, and Agency applications, may be obtained on application to the MANAGER.

THE HARRIS FUND.

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It is proposed by a few friends of the deceased to raise a fund for the Children of the late Charles Harris, who are left totally unprovided for—the father having struggled for years with misfortune, ill health, and many reverses and failures in his business as a Theatrical and General Bookseller. This appeal is earnestly addressed to professional gentlemen; for the "Theatrical Depot," which stood opposite Covent Garden Theatre for a half century, must be well remembered. Any member of the Committee will thankfully receive contributions; and Mr. Louis Herrman, of 92, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, who will gratefully acknowledge them, has kindly undertaken the office of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Does your Tailor fit you?

DAVID J. SMITH, 38, Lombard-street, E.C.—SOLFERINO TROUSERS, all Wool, of the Newest Designs, in endless Variety, to order, 10s. Observe the address, 38, Lombard-street.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

IT is just twelve months since the Cabinet of Lord DERBY made their bidding for popular approval on the subject of Reform. They proposed to give a £10 household franchise in counties and towns, and an £8 lodging franchise, while an income tax, a savings bank, and some half dozen professional franchises were thrown in; finally, they proposed to redistribute the four seats forfeited by Sudbury and St. Alban's, and some fifteen more, to be taken from rotten boroughs; in all, nineteen. This bidding was rejected by the country as wholly insufficient; it was rejected by Parliament on other grounds. Whigs, Peelites, and Radicals equally desired to oust their Tory rivals from power, and for that purpose were alike ready to vote against Mr. DISRAELI's Bill; but, as their opinions regarding Reform differed widely, they were fain to vote upon some particular point on which they could all agree. An Amendment was accordingly framed by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, which censured the Conservative plan in general terms for not lowering the town franchise, so as to include a just proportion of the working classes. After a good deal of higgling and wrangling amongst themselves, the Peelites and Stafford House Whigs consented to vote for this resolution. Ministers were beaten, and forthwith dissolved Parliament; they failed to get a majority in their own House of Commons, and so the Whigs and Peelites came in, leaving their Radical associates at the door. Then came their turn to bid. While the party contest was pending, the chiefs had declared that, were they allowed but the opportunity, they would prove themselves able and willing to pass a large and comprehensive measure during the session of 1859; or if the summer were too far spent in elections and change of ministry, they were resolved to have an autumnal session for the especial purpose of dealing legislatively with the great question. But summer and autumn were suffered to pass without anything being done; and the Palmerstonian Cabinet has, upon various pleas, contrived to postpone its bidding until the 1st of March, 1860.

At length, however, we have that bidding, and it will be for the country to say whether, on the whole, they think it was worth waiting a year for. In some important features it is identical with that of their predecessors in office; in others it differs materially. Regarding the county franchise extension, they agree. Ten pounds occupation, accompanied with the fact of being rated to the relief of the poor, and with payment of assessed taxes, is to constitute the new suffrage in counties. Six pounds occupation, with similar accompaniments regarding rateability and payment of taxes, forms the proposed basis of the new borough constituency. All the minor qualifications, or "fancy franchises," as they have been called, are thrown aside on the ground of intricacy and complication; but the old reserved rights of freemen, etc., are not to be interfered with; those who possess them are to retain them for life, but with the present generation they will expire. Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated, in his speech of Thursday night, when moving to bring in the Bill for England and Wales, that in this part of the United Kingdom the present borough constituency might be taken at 404,000, not reckoning some 35,000 freemen, whose franchises would gradually expire. He estimated the additional number of borough electors under a £6 franchise at about 198,000, or nearly fifty per cent. addition to the borough constituency that now exists. He stated with great simplicity and clearness his reasons for discarding the idea of founding the franchise on rating instead of rent, confirming fully the objections that have been so often argued in the columns of this journal: and after enumerating the additions which a £9, an £8, and a £7 qualification would severally give, he disposed of them all with the plain convincing question—Would it be worth while disturbing the present condition of things for the sake of a less augmentation in point of numbers than that which he was about to propose? The noble lord relies upon the answers obtained by the late Mr. JOSEPH FLETCHER to inquiries directed to be made by him some years ago in the manufacturing districts, as to the usual rent paid by skilled artisans, for the assumption that his £6 proposal will include a considerable proportion of that deserving and intelligent class. A better man than Mr. FLETCHER never lived, nor one on whose statistical accuracy we should be more disposed to place reliance. We must, nevertheless, express our doubts as to whether the result of his investigations can be fairly taken as conclusive regarding the working classes in other parts of the kingdom. We know that in the metropolis, for example, six or seven pound houses are comparatively unknown. It was this conviction, doubtless, that led Mr. DISRAELI and his colleagues to suggest the propriety of having a lodger franchise. In this respect we think they were in the right; and we should not be sorry to see

that part of their proposal revived and engrafted on that which is now before us.

With respect to the re-distribution of seats, the Derbyite Bill adopted the principle that no borough now represented in Parliament ought to be disfranchised; and to this principle the PALMERSTON Government has now given its adhesion. It was by Mr. GLADSTONE that the expediency of preserving and perpetuating small boroughs as an essential part of the constitution was most energetically expounded last year. The right hon. gentleman then sat on the Tory side of the House, and voted for the Tory Bill, assigning as one of his chief inducements to do so its non-disfranchising character. He now sits on the Whig side of the House, and is prepared, of course, to support the present Bill, which has for him the same conspicuous recommendation. No one can accuse Mr. GLADSTONE, in this respect, of inconsistency, for he will only do this year what he did last—advocate eloquently the rights of nomination. As regards this fundamental principle, the two measures are substantially and avowedly the same; and they are no doubt identical, because the interests and wishes of the majority of those concerned in framing them are so much alike as to be popularly indistinguishable. Nor should we forget that five sixths of the present House of Commons (could they vote by ballot) would gladly resist the pruning of a single sapless bough. Ministers have therefore had to consider what could be carried, as well as what ought to be proposed. Lord JOHN confesses that his own opinion regarding disfranchisement of small boroughs, as expressed in the Bill of 1854, which would have made away with some fifty or sixty seats, and transferred them to more populous places, remains unchanged; but he declares his belief that without great excitement out of doors, no such proposition could be carried through Parliament.

Under these circumstances, the new Bill proposes to take one seat from each of twenty-five boroughs now returning two members, the population of which does not exceed seven thousand persons. Of the seats thus confiscated, fifteen are given to large counties, and ten to large towns. We have not space or time to enter now into a scrutiny of the conflicting claims of these localities. Differences of opinion there will of course be on every variety of detail; but for the public at large it is satisfactory to be able to look forward to the subtraction in future of even twenty-five from the compact mass of irresponsibles hitherto privileged to rule over us, and in the addition of twenty-five votes to the number of those legislators who cannot with impunity defy public opinion. It only remains for us to add, that the long forfeited seats of Sudbury are to be given to Scotland, and those for St. Alban's to Ireland.

THE INTENTIONS OF FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

CERTAIN journals have been assisting to get up alarm, and we cannot help thinking their correspondents have been partially misled by unprincipled politicians, anxious to make money by disturbing the funds. In the first instance, an attempt was made to make the public believe that an offensive and defensive alliance had been concluded between Austria and Russia; that the latter guaranteed the territories of the former in consideration of receiving aid in schemes of aggression in the East. The statement was in the highest degree improbable, as St. Petersburg papers, such as the *Invalide Russe* and the *Abeille du Nord*, were advocating the independence of Italy; and Russia's finances are in no condition to render it likely that she would be in a hurry to provoke another collision with England and France. It is possible that the Austrian Government proposed something of the kind, and very likely received assurances that the Czar would do all in his power to prevent the renewal of the war, and the consequent occurrence of movements to favour the independence of Hungary; but those best acquainted with the affairs of St. Petersburg doubt whether Prince GORTSCHAKOFF will permit himself to be dragged into an imbroglio by the House of Hapsburg, of whose perfidy he has already had ample experience.

The second edition of this story, in the *Morning Chronicle*, is more probable, as it abandons the declaration that Russia guarantees the Italian territory of Austria; but we want confirmation and explanation of what she means, if she promises to "act with Austria in any complications that may arise on the Danube or in Hungary;" and pause before we believe she will adopt a course that may bring against her something worse than a renewal of the Crimean war.

Another story has likewise given rise to anxiety. We allude to the assertion that the Emperor of the French had peremptorily ordered VICTOR EMMANUEL to give up all idea of annexing Tuscany to his dominions, and threatened serious consequences if his behest were disobeyed.

In this case, as in the former, we have had two versions, and the last—that of the *Débats*—is the most probable. According to this, no positive threat is offered to Sardinia, but simply a negative one—that of withdrawing French troops. This would not be inconsistent with the Emperor's speech on opening his Chambers, in which he says, "I have not hesitated to declare to the King of SARDINIA, that while I left him full liberty of action, I could not follow him in a policy which had the disadvantage of appearing in the eyes of Europe to be based on a desire to absorb all the States of Italy." If VICTOR EMMANUEL rejects the advice to respect the "Autonomy of Tuscany," Austria may fancy the French guarantee at an end, and may endeavour to occupy Tuscany or the Romagna, in which case, even without French aid, she might be worsted; and if she were successful, it could not be for the interest of LOUIS NAPOLEON to stand aloof, and allow the blood of Magenta and Solferino to be shed in vain. The proposition to make a child (the Duke of Genoa) King of Tuscany, looks as if it were made to be rejected, as it would be displeasing to the Italians, and could not satisfy Austria. Unless the THOUVENEL despatch has been published in a spirit of inexplicable hypocrisy, the King of SARDINIA is assured of safety, even if he rejects the new scheme. This, we think, is evident from a consideration of its contents.

M. THOUVENEL writes with a degree of dignity and self-respect that was never seen in the State papers of Count WALEWSKI, and his tone is rather that of a constitutional minister than of a mere flunkey of absolutism, capable of eating any amount of dirt for a sufficient consideration. He reminds the Austrian Government that, after the interview at Villafranca the Emperor of the FRENCH said, "The principal object of the war is attained—Italy is about to become, for the first time, a nation. Venetia, it is true, is to remain under the sceptre of Austria; but she will, nevertheless, be an Italian province." It is impossible to regard this allusion in any other light than that of a complaint against Austria, who, instead of permitting Venetia to be an Italian province, has poured out upon that unhappy district a flood of military brutality, in the vain hope of extinguishing every Italian thought and aspiration. Speaking of the dynasties which have not been restored, and of those which remained in possession, M. THOUVENEL throws the blame upon them, and complains that the latter "did not accomplish any of the reforms which the Emperor had in view;" that the Austrian Government was silent as to its "generous intentions" in Venetia; that "the Duke of MODENA desired to return by force to his States;" and that "the Grand Duke of TUSCANY waited so long before adopting a resolution which the interests of his house pressed him to adopt without delay, that an Assembly met and proclaimed his deposition." By such conduct M. THOUVENEL declares the situation was "gravely compromised" when the Zurich negotiations were opened. The French minister further reminds the Austrian Government of the efforts made to induce the Italians to take back their potentates, and the failure of these endeavours, which brought France "before an hypothesis which the Court of Vienna long knew she neither could nor would accept—that of the employment of force to impose a solution."

M. THOUVENEL goes on to show that Austria could not be permitted to employ force to restore the abolished dynasties, and inquires, "Could France, in her turn, without violating her principles, do violence to the populations?" Reiterating the statement, that France persevered in using moral efforts, which were all she promised, he reminds Austria that, without asking her to approve of what has taken place, she cannot expect it to be absolutely condemned by a Government based on universal suffrage, and proceeds to point out that continued opposition to the will of the Italian people would cause monarchical ideas to be replaced by those of another kind.

Laying down the position, that the employment of foreign force is excluded, M. THOUVENEL supports the English proposals, and protests against the supposition that France desires to replace Austrian influence by her own. He then urges Austria, if she cannot approve of what is practicable, at least to withdraw active opposition, and thus remove all cause of conflict with France. In conclusion, he promises another despatch about the Romagna, and deplors that the Court of Rome has rejected all useful advice, and allowed things to come to this present pass, but declares that France will endeavour to promote any solution less radical than the dismemberment of the Papal States, "on condition that the principle of non-intervention on the part of foreign powers is maintained."

This despatch was written on the 31st January, and it is, of course, possible that the French Government has changed its mind in the interim; but its publication at the present moment is a re-enunciation of the liberal principles it contains, and would provoke a more abundant and bitter hostility if those principles were to be violated,—a supposition which is the more impro-

bable because inconsistent with the Emperor's speech. The whole tenor and probable object of this document is to encourage Italy, assure Europe, and place Austria in a dilemma. She cannot in reason refuse the solution offered, and if she accepts it is bound to give securities that she will not disturb the peace, either by direct action or by a continuance of assistance to the King of NAPLES and the Pope.

We regret to see that Lord JOHN RUSSELL exhibits so little courage and straightforwardness when speaking in the House of Commons on the conduct of the Court of Vienna. His explanations on Wednesday were not the whole truth; and any reader of the "correspondence" just published is aware that he did not obtain from Austria, as he told the House, a promise not to employ force beyond her own boundaries; and it is ridiculous to describe the attitude of armed expectation which Austria avows she is keeping up in the hope of finding a good time for action, "as a great gain and security for the peace of Europe." Lord JOHN RUSSELL knows perfectly well that he has gained nothing of the kind, and that it is the fear of French cannon, and not the blandishments of Whig palaver, that for the moment keeps the HAPSBURG myrmidons in check.

It is not enough for his Lordship to be liberal with intermissions and valiant in fits. England has a right to expect firm, consistent conduct; and the tone of the letters we felt it our duty to praise last week ought, in common manliness and honesty, to be followed up by an uncompromising denunciation of the Jesuitical tricks and fraudulent schemes, by which the Austrian Government is endeavouring to excite a European conflagration, in the hope that, like CHARLES LAMB's "Ho-Ti," she may roast her diplomatic pig in the expensive blaze.

We concur with his Lordship's hope, that the Emperor of the French will give up his scheme of annexing Nice and Savoy, because, to persist in such a plan would assist Austria in her endeavours to entangle the whole of Germany in a crusade against France, and would alienate from his Government much valuable English support. At any rate, we have an assurance which ought to allay unreasonable fears, for in his speech the Emperor declares that he will not seek the additional territory by objectionable means, but by "exposing the question frankly to the Great Powers."

If LOUIS NAPOLEON surveys his position with his customary intelligence, he will perceive that he has already quite enemies enough, and that the Austro-Jesuit and BOURBON conspiracy against his Government will easily be made formidable by any important mistake. The Society of St. Vincent Paul, which is in league against him, ramifies all over France, and has its adherents in England and other countries of Europe. He may afford to despise reactionary cabals while the intelligence and the democracy of France are with him, or not against him; but the betrayal of Italy would be the signal for republican plots, and the pursuit of schemes of aggression might lead to a dangerous European coalition. He is in such a position that he may count upon a splendid success if he continue to act fairly, but in which nothing would be so perilous as betraying himself. His rival and enemy, Austria, must yield if his own errors do not strengthen her hands. Her State Council is composed of incorrigible blunderers, and her Emperor knows nothing, and learns nothing, that, for his own safety, an absolute sovereign ought to know. The time he gives to State affairs is for the most part occupied in idle formalities; and it is only a few days ago that he alarmed one of his adherents who obtained an interview, by asking whether the British Parliament had yet met! On learning that his visitor had not seen a newspaper since he left England he commended his prudence, and declared that he never read them himself. What the Jesuit priests think is good for him he learns, and it is understood that his haughty intractable disposition renders it perilous for any one to propose reforms. It is not before such an opponent, bankrupt alike in intellect and cash, that the French Emperor will quail while his own reason is clear; but we wish we could see in the English Government more symptoms of a desire to promote the reconstruction of the elements of the Austrian empire, instead of vain and mischievous efforts to sustain an edifice of tyranny and corruption, which will be a source of danger until it is pulled down and carted away. If English diplomacy can settle the Italian question without fresh disturbance of the peace upon just and sound foundations, we should be foremost in giving it praise; but we are sick of efforts merely to delay a catastrophe that cannot be averted, and feel that it would be the soundest policy to join France in bringing such a pressure to bear upon Austria as would speedily relieve Europe from a most uncomfortable and expensive suspense. While this question is unsettled, no merchant knows the value of his stock. To-day it is up—to-morrow it is down, not in consequence of any legitimate commercial causes, but because an effete and pestilent

despotism holds in its crumbling hands the keys of the temples of peace and war.

THE NEW WINE DUTIES.

WITH the details of the Budget, into which the House of Commons has entered in the week, Mr. GLADSTONE'S difficulties have begun. The broad principles involved in accepting or rejecting the treaty with France, as a whole, ensured for it unexpected and overwhelming majorities. On the one hand, the Commons had offered to them, on broad free-trade principles, the extension of commerce and the diminution of national animosities; the probable reduction of expenditure at no distant day, and the increase of prosperity to abate its evils while it lasted. On the other, they were offered the rejection of the treaty, the increase of national animosities, the certain augmentation of expenditure, and a denial of the extension of commerce, which makes even extravagance bearable. Between these questions the great majority of the House of Commons could not hesitate, and the bait of a present denunciation of the income-tax was spurned. It is plain, from the votes of the House, that free trade, and a determination to avoid unnecessary expenditure and national quarrels, have taken a deeper hold of the public than ordinary politicians are aware of; and the exulting ministers, as well as the defeated Tories, were astonished at the large majorities which supported the Budget and rejected a motion that recognised the necessity of increased expenditure. The bulk of the members for the large towns and the manufacturing counties—whether ranged under Tory or Whig banners—only spoke the sentiments of the nation at large in saying No to the motions of Mr. DU CANE and Mr. DISRAELI. So far as the Budget is founded on the principles of promoting and facilitating commerce, its success is assured.

Mr. GLADSTONE succeeded, too, on Monday in passing the second resolution, which regulates the wine duties. The first, as our readers will recollect, related to chicory, and was adopted when the Budget was proposed. It is a good sign of his ductility in future—when he is opposed on the registration of goods and warehouse taxes—that the resolution as passed varied considerably from his original proposition. He has substituted eighteen degrees for fifteen degrees as the proof strength of wine to come in at one shilling per gallon duty, and he substitutes the first day of January for the first day of April, 1861, when the one shilling duty shall come into operation. Both these increase the advantages of the reduction of the duty; the former by enlarging the quantity of wine which may come in at one shilling only, and the latter by shortening the time during which the three shilling duty is to be paid. According to practice, the instant a resolution concerning a reduction or imposition of duty is assented to by a committee of the House of Commons, it takes effect; and, therefore, from Monday last the duty on wine was practically reduced to three shillings per gallon till the 1st of January, 1861, and then to one shilling per gallon on wine containing less proof spirit than eighteen degrees, measured by SYKES'S hydrometer; to 1s. 6d. on wine containing less proof spirit than twenty-six degrees, and to 2s. on wine containing less proof spirit than forty degrees. If it be stronger than this, it will come in only on paying spirit duties. So the wine duties may be regarded as now settled; and the public has to estimate the consequences in future of this new arrangement.

Under it a portion of the lighter wines of France and of the Rhine, including some which are most highly prized, will be charged per gallon 1s. duty; other light wines, of the same and other countries, will be charged 1s. 6d., while the greater portion of the wines of Spain, Portugal, the south of France, and the other countries bordering on the Mediterranean will be subject to the 2s. duty. This distinction depends entirely on the quantity of alcohol in each gallon of wine. It will affect the wines of different countries according to their qualities, not on account of the place they come from. It appears strange that the quantity of alcohol in wine, which, except to be distilled, is no test of its value, should be taken as the test for the payment of duty. The very finest and best of the French and Rhenish wines will come in at the low duty; on the rough strong wines, which are likely to be most suitable to the pockets and palates of the multitude, the highest duty will be levied. This seems a fiscal injustice, more calculated to check the consumption of wine by the people than augment the revenue. Apparently strange and unjust, it is dictated by a stern necessity, born of other strange and unjust fiscal regulations.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER avowed that the adjusting of these duties was "one of the most difficult questions of fiscal and commercial law he ever had to deal with," and that he "was driven" into the adoption of varying duties because wine has spirits mixed with it both before and after it reaches this country, and because the State levies a large amount of revenue,

between £14,000,000 and £15,000,000 a-year, on malt and on spirits imported, and spirits made in this country. He admitted the desirableness of levying a small and unvarying duty on all kinds of wine, but could not do so without exposing spirits, on which a high duty is levied, to an unfair competition with the spirits contained in wine. He is obliged, therefore, to levy a duty on wine proportionate not to its value as wine, but to the quantity of alcohol it contains. This seems refining overmuch; but a subtle mind like that of Mr. GLADSTONE'S delights in detecting such fine analogies and distinctions; and he readily adopted, if he did not suggest, the argument against a low uniform wine duty, which he puts into the mouth of the distiller and the importer of spirits. He would readily, he said, sacrifice £500,000 of revenue to give fair play to the wise plan of reducing wine duties, but he cannot risk the immense revenue levied on malt and spirits. He adjusts, therefore, nicely, as he thinks, his proposed duties on wine to the alcohol contained in it and contained in spirits, so that he may not ruin the State and ruin the distiller by putting an end to drinking gin and brandy.

In practice his plan will encounter many difficulties. Already it happens that wine which cannot be imported if it contains more spirit than forty-three degrees, is admitted at one port by the Custom-house test, and rejected at another. But our officials, borrowing a plan from France, are now to undertake by a rapid distillation to ascertain the quantity of spirits in all wine imported, and it will only take half an hour to prove each cask. Half an hour for each cask will consume a vast deal of time over a whole cargo; and the regulation will be an impediment to the trade which Mr. GLADSTONE pretends to facilitate. The more important consideration, however, is that every species of skill at the command of the State to detect imposition, will be at the service of individuals to practise it. In the long run, private interest, for ever wakeful, is sure to triumph; and as sure as the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER by his regulations creates a bounty on the surreptitious introduction of spirits, so sure will he provoke the commission of this fiscal offence, and so sure will the duties be evaded. There is no regulation concerning the sinking fund, the payment of the dividends, or any matter, be it what it may, prospectively determined by the Government, but private interest on the Stock Exchange or in the Bank parlour or at the Custom-house, discounts it in some way or other, for its own advantage, generally turning from the State into its own pocket some expected benefit.

A regulation similar to that concerning wine, was introduced not many years ago to levy the duties on sugar. The qualities of this commodity are more perceptible and more easily ascertained than the quantity of spirit contained in wine; yet sugars of the same qualities are entered at different ports at different duties, and sugars of different qualities are charged the same duties at different times and places. There is not only by the sugar duty system great difficulties imposed on trade, but it also gives rise to fiscal injustice and fraud. When the progress of science and art and the nature of wine are duly considered, it may be concluded that a considerable importation of spirits disguised as wine will ensue. The clever and ingenious men who carry out a false system with the greatest care and in the most logical order, are sure to make its imperfections and its evils most conspicuous. The reduction of the wine duties had become absolutely necessary, the adaptation of them to the spirit duties was equally necessary; and this, effected with so much ingenuity by Mr. GLADSTONE, seems very likely to lead, at no distant day, by an equally urgent necessity, to the abolition of the spirit duties.

The questions have already arisen, What is wine, and what is spirits? With the progress of art the difficulties of answering these questions will increase day by day. Very soon the law officers of the Crown will find themselves in the same perplexity with regard to wine and spirits as they were in with regard to the question what is a newspaper, and what is paper? They will be unable to define them, except by some scientific or artistic distinction which would remove to *experts* from men of business the duty of determining the nature of the commodities in which they deal. This would hardly be borne. It is the repetition of the blunder already committed in taxing newspapers and paper, and will lead to the same result, the abolition of a duty, which can only be preserved by such means. Those persons who for moral rather than fiscal reasons have strenuously supported this fiscal enormity will, we presume, find consolation in this prospect; since it is now proved that to preserve heavy spirit duties has kept wine out of use, and has promoted the consumption of a more deleterious intoxicating liquor. Mr. GLADSTONE'S minute regulations about wine seem to us not likely to attain his object. Success in the House of Commons is very different from successful legislation.

He has only a choice of difficulties. To reduce the duties on wine, and so permit the now stifled commerce of England

with the southern portion of Europe to expand into its natural dimensions and order, whether we had a treaty with France or not, had become unavoidable. But those duties could not be reduced without endangering other parts of our absurd fiscal system; and Mr. GLADSTONE has, we think, vainly attempted to conciliate the two. If his three shilling duty all round will suffice to guard the spirit duties till January, 1861, might not it, or some other single rate of duty, suffice to guard the spirit duties hereafter? If such a single duty would have answered this purpose, would it not have been better to institute it at once, and retain it all through, in preference to adding to our already complicated Custom-house regulations this new scale of duties on wines in proportion to their alcoholic strength? Would it not have been, in fact, more statesmanlike to have considered our spirit duties in conjunction with the necessity to reduce the wine duties, and have amended the whole system? Mr. GLADSTONE, we fear, has been seduced into a hasty scheme by the prospect of reaping the glory of lowering the wine duties, and has increased complication where, above all things, simplification is required.

Till the low duties come into operation next January, there cannot be any great consumption of wine. In the country there are already large stocks on which drawback will be allowed; private wine bibbers are probably, on the whole, pretty well supplied for the few months which will intervene between this and next January, and consequently any expectations of an increase of revenue from wine this year from the reduction of the duty will be hopeless. No part of the revenue which Mr. GLADSTONE has given up on wine this year will be replaced by additional consumption. This will all fall on wine that has already been imported, and on much of which duty has been paid. By calculating that the increased consumption will show itself this year in the revenue, he is preparing a disappointment for himself, and for those who look for immediate benefit to the finances from the reduction of the wine duties. Comparatively little will be entered for consumption at the three shilling duty, when everybody is aware that next January any quantity may be entered at two shillings and at one shilling per gallon. We shall be unable, from the actual facts which may arise in the remaining part of this year, to form any notion of what will be the consumption of wine after the one shilling duty has come into operation.

WAREHOUSING AND SHIPPING TAXES.

WE expected, and are not disappointed, that the commercial classes would oppose Mr. GLADSTONE's projected new imposts on trade. The Steamship Owners' Association of London, representing 200,000 tons of shipping, have declared, in common with other shipowners, that the penny tax on imported and exported articles will press heavily on certain trades. To pay a penny on every animal imported from Germany and Holland, and on every little package brought over from Havre and Calais—to pay a penny on every little package sent to any continental port to which our steamers ply daily and hourly, must be extremely burdensome. It will probably knock up some carrying companies. Mr. GLADSTONE supposes the tax will be levied in bulk on the ship's manifest, but endless disputes will arise about packages unavoidably not entered. Not only will the tax fall heavily on particular species of shipping—it will be vexatious for all, and is directly opposed to that great principle, "facilitating commerce," which has secured for Mr. GLADSTONE his triumphant majorities.

We can say precisely the same of his proposed charges on removing goods in bond, against which the enlightened traders of Glasgow have petitioned. Men of business in Tynemouth, Hull, Ipswich, Blyth, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Leith, Arbroath, Bristol, and many other places have petitioned against them. Many reasons are stated why they should not become law. They will deprive outports of their ancient privileges; they will prevent the development of the warehousing system, which makes the present system of indirect taxation bearable. They are "petty, vexatious, partial, and fit only for the dark ages." From the first announcement of the Budget, taking no party view, but founding our objections on the free-trade principles which Mr. GLADSTONE prides himself on carrying into effect, we have expressed strong opinions against these new, paltry, and, as we again affirm, unnecessary taxes. We rejoice, therefore, that the shipping interest generally, and the mercantile interest in every part of the empire, oppose them. We think, too, after the changes Mr. GLADSTONE has already made in his Budget, that he will yield on this point, and will find some other less objectionable means of raising a few hundred thousand pounds, if he cannot spare them for a year. If these imposts be not resisted now they will become a lasting burden, and the revenue obtained from them will be a justification of future

extravagance. Economy will now and hereafter be more studied if the shipping and mercantile interests steadily resist these new exactions and restrictions.

While we urge the shipping interest to this course we must record our dissent from its remonstrances against the omission from the Treaty and from the Budget of any attempt to get rid of the differential duties on shipping which now exist in France. The principal effect of such duties is to injure the French by laying a tax on them for behalf of French shipping. It has lately been made manifest—and every one may satisfy himself of the fact who will examine the navigation returns of different nations (we mean to take an early opportunity of laying the evidence of the fact before our readers,)—that in all cases the foreign shipping entering the ports of commercial countries has of late years increased in a faster ratio than the native shipping, as well as in our own. Here, the fact is admitted, notorious, and complained of; but it is equally a fact in the United States, in France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, etc. All the shipping of the world is exposed to a like competition; and the amount or value of freight to be divided amongst them all depend exclusively and entirely on the quantities of goods to be carried. The regulations of the French Government may decrease—they cannot increase—the quantities of goods in existence, and of which the shipping of each nation competing in all the different harbours of the world will get its fair share. If French shipping carry more goods, at a higher rate of freight, from the Mauritius to France than other shipping, they will carry less from some other place. The restrictions favourable to French shipping cannot extend to shipping in all the ports of the world, and cannot alter the general relations which every where exist between the goods to be carried and the ships to carry them. Consequently, the French navigation laws may injure the French people, and by injuring them may injure others, but cannot injure these directly. They are intended, we know, to enrich the French, and to promote French navigation at the expense of other people; but, after our experience of the continual failure of all such laws to realize the intentions of those who enact them, nothing but an old prejudice in favour of protection and restrictions can make any man suppose that such laws increase the trade and shipping of France, and decrease the trade and shipping of other countries. We regret to see our neighbours injuring themselves by their own legislation, and so injuring us; but we cannot lend our aid to make them believe, by asking them to alter their laws in our favour, that they are benefiting themselves by continuing them.

CONVOCATION AND ORDINATION.

IT is not our intention just now to discuss the question of councils or "convocations" generally—we mean their expediency for settling Church disputes—nor to range ourselves under the banners either of those who have cited the worn-out passage of GREGORY NAZIANZEN to approve or to condemn its decision. It might be interesting to set the combatants in the field, and observe their tactics and arguments. Amongst them would be found LUTHER, SIR THOMAS MORE, HOOKER, BACON, MILTON, BURNET, and SWIFT—we know not how many more; but these we can answer for, and such names might give a zest to what appears but a dry subject to the majority of readers.

However, we forego this pleasure, to dwell on, not a doctrinal or ritual, but a practical matter, submitted recently by the Bishop of LONDON, in Convocation, to some of his brother Bishops, the drift of which is contained in a few well-known words, that bishops "should lay hands suddenly on no man." At the same time he intimated, that in certain quarters there was reasonable dissatisfaction upon this head.

We cannot proceed further on this subject without congratulating Churchmen on the steady improvement which, with occasional relapses, has been going on in the character of the clergy, and their respectability; and on the sacrifices they have made, not only of the wrong, but of the innocent, yet inexpedient—we mean as a general body, of course—and without referring to inexpediencies of ritual. One scarcely recognises in the Church of to-day the Church in which, a few centuries ago, a man was at the same time an evangelical bishop and a keen sportsman like CRANMER and ABBOT, and when the following picture, though drawn from a Catholic, might have done for many a Protestant priest as well.

"Item. Sir JOHN BUCK, parson of Stratford, fished my stanks at Dedham, and helped to break my new mill, and was against me always at Dedham. Item. He and JOHN COLB bath by force this year, and other years, taken out of my waters at Dedham to the number of twenty-four swans and cygnets, and I pray you this be not forgotten." (We quote from a well-known collection of ancient letters.) Many a poaching parson

has indeed trembled since then at the approach of the lord of the manor.

Pavet ipse sacerdos
Accessus, dominumque timet deprendere luci.

Men and things have changed since the Defender of the Faith, in the midst of his zeal for Church reforms and his founding of colleges, could find a reason for investing a priest with a living because of his "skill in the training of hawks." (Tytler.) When such divertissements as these were going on, the clergy might be well content to mumble over the "humbles" (homilies); and ELIZABETH, who did not, on the whole, much approve of sermoning, might easily find the greatest difficulty in collecting a sufficient number of decent select preachers for Lent. (Aikin.)

The author of the "Faery Queen" says, no doubt justly, of many a country clergyman in those days:—

"Of much deep learning little had he need,
Nor yet of Latine, ne of Greek, that breede
Doubts 'mongst divines, and difference of texts,
From whence arise diversities of sects,
And hateful heresies of God abhorred,
But this good sir did follow the plaine word,
Ne meddled with their controversies vaine;
All his care was his service well to sayn,
And to read homilies on holidays—
When that was done he might attend his playes."

There were many causes for this condition of the clergy, dependent on the circumstances of the Church itself, as well as on the general state of society—as readers of history well know, and on which we need not here dwell. We say readers of history, for those who judge of the state of the Church from the few great stars which shone in the general darkness, are liable to fall into great error in these matters.

In the next reign we again find the eloquent preacher and court favourite DONNE complaining that the Ambassadors of GOD were held in small honour in England, nor can we much wonder at this, when we find another court favourite and Bishop of OXFORD, CORBET, his cotemporary, publicly making the worst possible jokes upon the personal appearance of those who came to him for confirmation; if such were his confirmations, what probably were the consecrations of one who had to use the naïve expression of BOSSUET with regard to a French ecclesiastic, "*La malheureuse habitude de traiter comme en se jouant les choses ecclesiastiques?*"

On the condition of the Church in the following period MACAULAY may be consulted; his account, by no means creditable, of the *status* and conduct of the clergy caused recently great anger, and produced violent reclamation; but cotemporary writers prove that it was substantially true, though the state of things which he describes was becoming less and less the rule, and more and more the exception. Since then improvement on these points has been rapid and, on the whole, steady. The last half-century has effected wonders:—in all parties of the Church we find increased earnestness and increased energy, and much zeal, by no means untempered with charity. The thinking, and now the larger portion of society, insists on viewing serious things seriously. There is scarcely any form of Christianity, in the Church or out of it, which does not find thoughtful and well-read men to defend it, or charitable ones to excuse it, even in its extravagances. To the most obstinate, men are inclined to give the credit of honesty even in their errors; and absurdities, provided they are religious absurdities, can no longer be criticised in a spirit of rollicking ridicule with impunity to the character of the writer who does so. If any man is inclined to make light of the whole subject, at least,

"In public he complies,
Obliging friends alone with blasphemies."

Even the pious humorist's day is almost gone. SPURGEON's jokes are the least approved part of his sermons; the time for ROWLAND HILL's facetiae is over; and no future SYDNEY SMITHS are likely to mingle exquisite humour with halting logic, and the utmost charity in action with the greatest want of it in opinion.

When such is the temper of society the last thing it is likely to submit to is the careless laying on of hands of the Bishops. Enough scandals are caused by the cases of those who fall from the violence of sudden or protracted temptation (cases against which no Church can guarantee itself,) without suffering the admission of men originally of a low standard of character and acquirements, men to whom a whole parish can point as unfit for the clerical office.

Improved as it may be, the Church is by no means out of danger of such appointments. There is many a good living waiting for the son of the family—an important county family

probably—and a sufficient amount of character has to be cooked up to satisfy the good-natured Bishop of the diocese, who as a christian and a gentleman is expected to put a hopeful and charitable construction on youthful levities—a hard trial of discrimination, it being almost impossible to tell whether such candidates will in ten years' time turn out hard-working parish priests, or mere sots and fox-hunters.

There are still men in trade who choose the slowest of their sons for the Church, just as professional men choose their cleverest; a case of the former kind just occurs to us, where a father selected his son's profession on that principle, and the mother selected the University on an equally curious one, videlicet, that the Cambridge coach, and not the Oxford, daily passed the door of the family mansion.

There are still religious parents trusting to their own prayers for the final fitness of their sons, by no means "*fili verè aurei*" (we remember a most worthy man who intended to "offer up" three of his sons in this way, not exactly at that time worthy offerings); and other parents, daily fewer, who care little for any fitness except fitness for a good *entrée* into the world, a small income, and a gentlemanlike profession.

There are still young fellows of colleges to be presented to college livings, without any over-excessive care on the part of the authorities as to their fitness for presentation. Of such constituents is a college often mainly made up, as we can witness; some sincerely regretting their destination, but obeying their parents rather than their consciences, and feeling that it is too late to seek a living elsewhere; "Put me into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread." We could mention many cases of this sort: let parents look to it. At last, such men reconcile themselves to a lower standard, from the force of example, on the old principle,

"Where many men are bad, not to be worst
Stands in some rank of praise."

Subsequently they may rise to their duties, or fall so much beneath them as to dismiss a congregation, after having collected one, without a sermon, but with a smiling face, and with the plea "that it is the first of April;" this is not an imaginary case, nor an old, though, we fully believe, an unique one.

Much improvement, for which there is still room, will doubtless take place. Bishops themselves are now chosen less frequently with reference to family connections, or mere classical attainments, and are more likely to exact from their examinees qualifications like their own. So many of them are chosen from amongst the public schoolmasters, that the latter will be tempted to pay increasing attention to the religious knowledge and condition of their pupils previous to sending them up to the university, even for their own sake. Again: as education becomes more general in its character, men will no longer find that their education has only fitted them for a profession which they would be likely to desecrate, and the competitive examinations throw open many paths for men who find that they have more talent than seriousness.

Bishops seem so shy of doing anything that can appear to annul the effect of "the laying on of hands," and ecclesiastical law holds such a thick shield over heads once consecrated by a bishop, that the world is scandalised at the determined and effectual resistance often made by the unworthy and refractory: it behoves the bishops then to take care how they do what it is so difficult to undo. The world is intensely critical just now of the character of the clergy; there is scarcely a fashionable novel of the day which has not its imaginary clergyman, and its judgment upon him, till we are sick of the processions of black coats. And this criticism on the imaginary is not likely to fail on the real.

Since the introduction of so much of the voluntary system into the Church, the quality of the clergy has been raised, and congregations have become more and more fastidious: the more clergy of a high standard the Church has, the less likely is it to acquiesce in those of a low one. On the whole, Convocation can do nothing more useful or more popular than to attend to the hint given by the Bishop of LONDON.

THE CLASSIC AND THE GOTHIC; OR, THE BATTLE OF THE STYLES.*

THE *Classici* and the *Gotici* are the very Montagues and Capulets of modern times. At soirée or in lecture-room, everywhere we meet them, frowning and biting the thumb at each other. The tilt-yard of the press is, however, the special arena for their single combats, and scarcely has the bleeding body of one discomfited argumentalist been trailed from the dusty ring, than another trumpet sounds blaringly without, and lo, in gallops another plumed champion, his quiver full of quills ready to do battle à l'outrance with the Goths, or to die for the honour of the Classics. The battle is perpetually

* Pagan or Christian; or, Notes for the General Public on our National Architecture. By W. J. COCKBURN MUIR. London: Bentley.

fought. "The Thirteenth century" is blazoned on the Gothic banner—on the Classic flag the honoured names of "VITRUVIUS and PALLADIO." Neither side will yield. If it were merely an *idea* that the two parties were fighting for, there might be some hope of the war ending; but when we remember that this is a question affecting the profits of a large profession, we have reason, we think, to dread still many angry campaigns.

Mr. MUIR, who writes nervously and with much condensed and aphoristic force, is a warm advocate of the Gothic cause, and, by natural consequence, a no less violent opponent of what he calls pagan and infidel architecture. He believes the Gothic style to be a sturdy indigenous sheltering style: he thinks it expresses our love of nature—our defiant manliness—our faith: that it meets all necessities of climate; and he would have all our buildings Gothic—from a reading-room to a cathedral. The Classic style he considers formal, unprogressive, hide-bound—restraining all invention—dull—having no analogy to our national character: in a word, utterly unfendurable. We allow everything that Mr. MUIR cleverly brings forward in favour of Gothic architecture, though not all he says against the Classic. We will not be unjust against the Classic, because we think it cold, lifeless, and unsuited to our race and climate; and though we prefer the vertical tendency of the Gothic—elevating, hopeful, and aspiring—to the conventional horizontalism of the Classic art, which has no growth and no mystery about it. In thirteenth century art we see a reality, a love of nature—a striving, an earnest faith, which is radiant with genius. They turned glass, in their windows, into eternal flowers of Paradise. They learned the secret in their mortuary chapels, where the stone knight prayed ever, to vault the groined roof with perpetual twilight. They made stone leap forth into flying buttresses—their sculptured spires sprang to heaven like frozen fountains—their cathedral fronts were niched caskets containing the whole army of martyrs—their arches sprang with divine spontaneity from strong-ribbed pillar to pillar, in avenue after avenue—their bell towers breathed music, or called the people with voice of prisoned thunder to pray. When the bells roared they roared with the voices that were heard on old Sinai. All round the church the rain water poured from the heads of crushed and gaping devils doomed to this expiatory toil for countless centuries; and when all this was done they went to the forest for the fretted fern leaf and for the wild rose and the cinquefoil, and twined them round the capitals and the window mullions, and the weather mouldings, till the stone home of the priests became a great petrified forest—a very fossil Eden changed into stone—for God's glory and man's delight.

So far we agree with Mr. MUIR, that we see a certain pathos and poetry and truth and reality about thirteenth century work which we look for in vain in Grecian structural art. Its high pitched roof throws off our rain storm and our snow; its dim choirs and twilight chapels have something of the mystery of the northern forests about them; its all-pervading and varied ornament delights the English fancy, and in the yawning corbels and the distorted waterspout heads even English humour found a vent in very durable jokes. It was harmonious and rhythmical: it expressed all our thirteenth century's wants, hopes, and ideals. Whatever there was good in that thirteenth century must, we know, have found expression in these Gothic buildings, which still remain for us to see. It was not a debased church that reared our cathedrals, but robust, warlike lovers of truth and justice; rough and coarse, and free-spoken, perhaps, but certainly not the priests ERASMS sneered at and LUTHER struck in the face.

Yet still, much as we love the Gothic, a style that has struck so deep its roots, and whose cathedrals are still like old oaks growing so fresh and green, we are loath to allow that the great new style, that is coming, like the *man* we have all heard so much of and waited so long for, must be a mere revival of the art of the thirteenth century. Our aims are not those of the dead Gothic builders—of the men who built Salisbury Cathedral or York Minster, any more than of those sandalled men who put the Parthenon together, or who devised the Athenian temple of Theseus. We do not think going back is the right way to begin going forward. The *reguler* does not always lead to the *mieux sauter*—our faith is neither that of WILLIAM of Wykeham nor of PERICLES. The Greeks had not windows enough for our climate. The thirteenth century did without a hundred things that are now as necessary to us as bread or water. Art must grow, or it is not real art. The thirteenth century, had it been of longer duration, would have changed every portion of its style, from the mere craving for novelty that exists in every mind. New materials lead to new designs; we have iron now—iron will partly supersede timber and stone, and requires a different treatment altogether from anything the Gothic architect ever dreamed of. To imagine, as Mr. MUIR seems to do, that the great stone Eden of the thirteenth century would express the faith of the present day, be it great or be it small, is simply absurd. It represents it no more than the dome does, the Moor's honeycomb stucco, the Egyptian's rock caves, or the fantastic porcelain pagoda of China;—our ideal is a new one, and a new style must represent it.

While, however, with Mr. MUIR, we condemn Greek art as an exotic, unsuited to our climate, we cannot be either so wilfully unjust or organically blind as to deny that its eradication is almost hopeless. It may have dull surfaces of rapid wall. The ornament may be unstructural, etc., but it has been now used for more than two hundred years in England, and, from Whitehall to St. George's Hall, has been tested for public purposes in thousands of places. Its pediment may be a foolish resting-place for cramped-up figures; its portico columns may block out the light; yet still, the style with all its faults is liked, and used perpetually for town halls,

churches, and music rooms. If it has no other merits, it is simple in design, and leaves a clear, open, available area for its temporary inmates. The dome has been wedded to it, and the Renaissance of Italy furnishes it with a prodigal store of not very thoughtful, but yet graceful and varied ornamentation. Surely Somerset House, and Greenwich Hospital, and St. Paul's and St. George's Hall, are sufficient to save Anglo-Greek art from utter condemnation. Have our modern Goths ever got as near their models as WREN and CHAMBERS did to theirs? We trow not. Nothing of the forest mystery, we allow; but a certain abstract modulated symmetry and beauty, that never came but from the mind of genius. In Greek art we see a force, life, and expression of a certain measured kind. We admit its monotony and conventionality; but still, of beauty there are many kinds; and we do not call a daisy hideous or monotonous because it always has the same number of white petals in its little frill. The whole dispute, let us disguise it as we may, is, in fact, the dispute of the Classical and Romantic schools of art, passed from literature to architecture—from SHAKESPEARE and EURIPIDES, POUSSIN and TURNER, to Gothic and Classic—to SCOTT *versus* TITE. It is not argument in Mr. MUIR to tell us that Classic architecture is all a question of measurement, of certain rules, of invariable ratios; that the architrave, frieze, and cornice must be always of certain prescribed depths; that the fret, acanthus-leaf, bull's horn, egg, and dart, &c., must be all from the tyrannical old pattern-book. Mr. MUIR is here merely expressing in a casuistical way his preference for the Romantic as compared to the Classical. The Greek builder, having discovered certain laws of geometric harmony, kept them as standards, just as the Gothic builder did his own laws, which were more variable and irregular. You can hardly call a style monotonous which grew from the Egyptian solidity of the Doric to the florid lavishness of the Corinthian—that, working through Roman art, originated the arch and dome, and indirectly gave birth to the Gothic, that ungrateful child that now mocks its parent. There seems to us no reason that Greek in new hands might not become as much a new thing as Gothic.

Two things about Mr. MUIR's book specially offend us: the one is his affectation of new words, such as "thowness" and "religiousness;" the other his desire to lower every style of architecture but the Gothic. He assures us himself that the true artist is he who believes that the world is the best archetype, both as "picture, poem, music, or mansion;" he must believe this, and love the earth, feeling that the great Maker of it loves it. All great thinkers have had both faith and love. To our eyes faith shines forth as strong in the great works of Egypt as in anything the thirteenth century produced. The immutable pyramid, the pondering Sphinx, the dim cave-temple, that ever-pointing obelisk, all express a divine calm, a divine rest, a solemn stillness, a ponderous imperturbable regality as of Omnipotence itself.

The Greek came next, and working his enchantments on the Nilotic art, turned it into a poem of the utmost purity and harmony. He incarnated its ideals, and gave materialism the fairest shape it ever wore. Nor can we but rejoice in the robustness of Roman art, in the sensual elegance of the Moorish, in the tent-like doming of the Turk, in the thorny strength of the Byzantine, in the lily growth of the early English, in the cheerful splendour of the Tudor, in the lavish richness of the Renaissance. Why should not the modern architect wander among this harem, and praise the beauty of all, without detracting from the merits of any?

It is only an enthusiast's dream, a Puseyite's nightmare, to imagine that pure Gothic art will ever reign alone in England. You may prove till you are black in the face, Mr. MUIR, that Gothic is the most religious, and expansive, and adaptable of styles; still people, wilful people, will go on building stucco Corinthian. You may even prove Gothic the cheapest style, yet town halls with fluted pillars will arise, because they have already arisen, and have been found convenient and reasonably cheap. Good average people do not live on salads of violets; they care nothing about the æsthetic; taxes are more to them than discussions about Venetian windows. They want the cheap and strong—not the archaic and fantastic. They have no sympathy with the thirteenth century—they prefer a soft hassock to a hard faldstool—sleeping-boxes to open benches. They will not live in a house like a church; and if a mullioned window breeds rheumatism, "Out with it," they say, "and put in a modern sash." Even the flower of them—fresh from RUSKIN—have often strange misgivings about these modern fancies concerning Gothic and Classic. They do not really believe that the men who built best were necessarily the best men, or that, because the Renaissance was a licentious, luxurious age, its art was necessarily bad and devilish. They have a few ugly facts, such as the existence of LUTHER and COLUMBUS, and the progress of the Reformation, to prove the Renaissance age was not really worse than any other. Common sense is a troublesome horse to train to circus tricks of logic and casuistry; for sometimes it gets kicking off its RUSKIN riders, and going the old straightforward way. It cries, "Away with your variorums;" all styles of architecture originated in simple necessity. Some space must be bridged—a wise man invents the arch; the monk wants a shaded rain-proof walk—he devises the cloister.

The old workers never "fashed" themselves with RUSKIN fancies about the "vertical and the horizontal" faith, religiousness, etc. They studied the wants of those they built for—all the rest came.

In conclusion, let us lament that clever advocates like Mr. MUIR injure their cause in the eyes of honest and impartial people, trying to raise Gothic art by lowering the Classical, whose beauty is not inferior, but different.

WINE.

IT would be a wanton waste of revenue and a gross imposition upon a credulous public to reduce the duty upon wine, if, as has been stoutly contended, the wine-producing countries are not only unable at present to supply any increased demand, but cannot, so limited is the extent of soil adapted to the cultivation of the vine, augment their production in any sufficient measure by planting fresh vineyards. It would be almost as idle to make the sacrifice involved in this reduction of duty if the statements—brought forward to sustain and cover this broad assertion—that France alone can be looked to for a supply, but that such a supply, if obtained, must consist entirely of thin light wines, quite unsuited to English tastes, were correct. These objections, however, are quite untenable. The supply of wine is practically unlimited, and the quality of the greater part of that annually produced in Europe is of the strong, full-bodied kind assumed to be irrevocably selected by Englishmen. We shall not now discuss the question whether English taste is so fixed—we do not believe that it is, not only because the original taste of the nation was for a lighter kind of wine, as is evidenced by the great consumption of claret two hundred years ago, but from the fact that the importation of French wines has been gradually but surely increasing of late years, whilst it is within the knowledge of all that the consumption of Bourdeaux is fast gaining ground. It is however a matter of little importance, except so far as sobriety and health are likely to be promoted by the preference for light wines, since, assuming the taste to be for wines of a port or sherry character, it can be gratified to almost any extent. We will now give the reader some idea of the capabilities of Europe for the production of wine, requesting him always to bear in mind that the English consumption has, during the last few years, averaged from six to seven million gallons.

We could obtain a supply sufficient for tenfold our present consumption from Portugal alone. The whole soil of that country is stated to be peculiarly adapted to the production of the grape. With even the present cultivation of the Alto Douro, we might have three times as much good port as we now get, if the monopolising restrictions of the Oporto Wine Company did not prevent its exportation. Only an arbitrarily determined quantity is allowed to be shipped to Europe each year, and that not the purer port—such of which as we do get being smuggled by the large wine houses—but a strong sweet wine, full of spirit. But a small quantity is allowed to come, and the price of that is augmented by fees and dues. A wine merchant of great experience, no advocate for the remission of the duty, stated, before the Wine Committee of 1852—and he was confirmed even by the representatives of the great wine houses, who fear an interference with their own monopoly from the reduction of duty, that if the duty were reduced to two shillings the gallon, and the control of the Oporto Wine Company got rid of, first class young port might be sold in London at twenty-four shillings the dozen, and a very good wine at fourteen shillings. Of the abolition of the Company there can be little doubt. Without it Portugal must see her wines entirely excluded from the English market, to the advantage of other countries which produce what may be termed port wine, inasmuch as, although not coming from Oporto, it has all the characteristics of the wine shipped from that place. Port wine, however, is not the only product of Portugal. To pass over Colares and other wines of a claret character, highly praised by those who have drunk them, it yields Lisbon and Bucellas, both well known in this country, although the former has gone much out of use, and several other delicious wines of a sherry description, the supply of which is illimitable, and the price so low, that, at a two shilling duty, they could be sold in London at ninepence the bottle.

Spain is a very El Dorado of wines, and, for the most part, yet unworked. It produces annually millions of gallons of most delicious wines, which are comparatively unknown even to Spaniards themselves, and are sold at prices which appear to us ridiculous. The great cause of this state of things has been the deficiency in means of transit; it has been impossible to carry the wine any distance, and often it has been so plentiful, that, Mr. LUMLEY tells us, it has been used to mix mortar and water the vineyards. At any rate, it has been purchasable at one halfpenny the gallon, and that wine of a strong, sound character. The wine-growers of Spain have been stirred up by the demand for France during its years of bad vintages, and have begun to take more care in their manufacture, and something has been done within the last few years to make the interior more accessible. Spain may be taken to produce even now two hundred and fifty million of gallons every year, and that quantity, the most experienced observers tell us, might easily be doubled or tripled. Spanish wines are nearly all full-bodied and highly alcoholized, some partaking of the port wine character, as Beni Carlos, which, although at present badly made, has found its way into the English market, others being of the sherry description. The district of Xeres, which yields the wines from which sherry ought to be compounded, could produce a much larger quantity than it does; and most reliable witnesses before the Wine Duties Committee of 1852 stated what Mr. LUMLEY's report fully bears out, that Spain could immediately supply any possible demand from England for strong, full-bodied wines.

As to the quantity of wine France can supply, there must assuredly cease to be any question after the fact vouched by official returns, that she yearly produces more than eight hundred million gallons. Assume that our demand augments immediately in a tenfold ratio—and the assumption is very extravagant—what are seventy million gallons to such a harvest? The other question, however, arises—is the wine such as Englishmen are likely to drink? A notion

prevails in this country that France can send us only light sour clarets and frothy champagnes, but it is one of those strange delusions about other countries which still linger amongst us. One third at least of the produce of France is strong, highly alcoholised wine, most of it now used in the want of a market as wine for distillation. No better evidence can be given of its character than the fact, that a large quantity of the port drunk in England and South America comes from the South of France. The Roussillon wines from the neighbourhood of the Pyrenees are allowed by wine merchants to be scarcely distinguishable from port, and some admitted before the Wine Committee of 1852 that they were unable to detect Masdeu when offered them as a high-class port. So much for the quality, now for the price. The wine-growers of the Hérault would be amply satisfied with threepence a gallon, and M. MICHEL CHEVALIER calculates that a good wine could be delivered in London, free of every charge but duty, at 1s. 1d. the gallon; assume the duty at 1s. 6d. (2s. 7d.), and allow the large proportion of 1s. 5d. for profit, good wine could be retailed at sixpence the pint. All persons acquainted with the French wine trade agree that with such a duty as is now determined upon, good claret can be sold at one shilling the bottle.

We have referred to three great sources to which we may look for our supply of wine, but we have by no means exhausted the fields open to us. Germany, for instance, yields an immense quantity of wine, and its capabilities are scarcely developed. The Austrian empire alone, it is calculated, could produce as much as France now does. But let that calculation be ever so much exaggerated, no doubt can exist that it is able to furnish an immense quantity. The wines of Hungary are comparatively little known, but they have been sold in England under the name of Port wine—a pretty good proof that they possess spirit and body;—and those of Dalmatia and Lower Austria are highly praised by competent judges. It is more difficult to speak of the capabilities of Italy. According to some, it can supply any quantity of capital wine; according to others, it yields none that other countries would care to have; and it is beyond question that the *Oidium* has, for the present, put it in the background. Sicily, however, has already conquered the English market for Marsala—a wine the demand for which steadily increases, and the red Marsala has made its way surreptitiously as port. The Greek wines, too, have many admirers, and an English market would lead to greater care in their production. Passing over Madeira and Teneriffe as wines that have had their day, and fondly trusting that South African has had *its* day, we may fairly assure our countrymen that the wine will always be ready whenever they have the wish to drink it and the money to pay for it. Such disappointment as may follow the reduction of the duty will rather fall to the lot of the wine-growers. They will probably forget that a nation cannot change its tastes or habits in a few months, and, in the expectation of a brisk market, ship us quantities of wine which will prove absolutely unsaleable at anything like a remunerative price. However cheap wine may be, it will be some years before the masses take kindly to it.

THE WHITWORTH GUNS.

THE surprising success of Mr. WHITWORTH's guns does not lead to the conclusion that the money spent upon those of Sir WILLIAM ARMSTRONG has been thrown away, or that the cannon of the latter gentleman will have to be set aside to make way for those of his triumphant competitor. It is, however, to be doubted, whether the Government exercised a wise discretion in expending all their energies upon one form of artillery, when there were good reasons for believing that Mr. WHITWORTH was acting upon sounder principles, and would obtain a more accurate result. Nothing in the history of projectiles is so astonishing as the recent performances of the WHITWORTH guns at Southport, and it is to be remarked that the means employed are precisely those which have been long known to be the best when adapted to small arms; although, perhaps from their merits, they have always been ignored and disliked by the old fogey party which rules in our military affairs. The Swiss, the Americans, and the late General JACON, all arrived at the same conclusion, that a rapid twist in rifle-grooving was essential to long range shooting, and accurate performance beyond trifling distances; and when Mr. WHITWORTH produced his rifle, he adhered to this rule, not from any fancy for a particular theory, but because he was led to it from careful experiments. Many years ago the Swiss proved that a half-ounce ball fired from a rifle with a twist about twice that adopted by our Government, would penetrate 3½ inches of deal at rather more than half a mile; while one hundred balls in succession at that distance struck a target eight feet six inches square. General—then Major—JACON, with a projectile of rather different pattern, and a rifle which had four grooves, instead of the seven employed by the Swiss, arrived at equally important results, but upon the same principle of a high twist, and obtained an effective range of two thousand yards with balls weighing about 1½ ounce, fired from a rifle which had one turn in twenty-four inches. In all these experiments two things were remarkable—first, the great range and penetrating power of the shot; and secondly, the small angle of elevation and the flatness of the curve of the line of flight—a matter of great practical importance, because it makes slight miscalculations of distance of comparatively little consequence, and materially adds to the destructiveness of projectiles fired at a considerable range among a body of men. In conformity with the mysterious constitution of red-tape-worm existence, our authorities decided to have a rifle with a small twist, and an unnecessary angle of elevation, giving to its pro-

jectile a line of trajectory so strongly curved, as to render missing an object comparatively easy, and materially to diminish its utility at a long range.

The problem to be applied to artillery was how to obtain on a large scale a repetition of the results of the best rifle practice. If, for example, JACOB, with a gun weighing less than ten pounds and projectiles of from one oz. to one and a-half oz., could do execution with tolerable certainty at from a thousand to two thousand yards, how much more ought to be accomplished with cannon weighing many hundred-weight, or even tons, and balls of proportionate size?

The two most successful experimenters were Sir WILLIAM ARMSTRONG and Mr. WHITWORTH. Both got over the difficulty of making an iron projectile fit as accurately as the leaden rifle ball, and, though in different ways, both accomplished the breech loading in a very serviceable manner. But there was an important difference in the two schemes. Sir W. ARMSTRONG adhered to the older pattern rifles, with a great number of grooves and a moderate twist; Mr. WHITWORTH followed the Swiss and General JACOB, in having few grooves and a very high twist. It may be said that the WHITWORTH guns are not grooved at all, being six-sided polygons, each side descending in a spiral or screw form; but the angles of the polygons correspond very closely with the grooving in other systems.

It may not be fair yet to assume a complete superiority in the WHITWORTH over the ARMSTRONG cannon, but from present appearances the former has the advantage in long range and accuracy, and confirms the principle of a considerable twist and a moderate number of grooves. The extreme range of the WHITWORTH gun is yet unknown, as in recent experiments his eighty pounder was only fired at a small elevation from a temporary carriage, but the operation of the different sizes employed was beyond any reasonable anticipation, and inevitably led to the conviction that very great changes must take place in the art of war. The twelve pound gun—that is, a gun whose round shot would be of that weight, but whose elongated projectiles are much heavier—with an elevation of seven degrees and $1\frac{1}{2}$ pound of powder, had a range of a little over three thousand yards, and in four trials the average deviation of the ball from the line of fire was only twenty-one inches. Twice out of the four, the ball fell on the line, and its greatest deviation was $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard. Even when, from the strength of the wind and other causes, the deviation was greater, it was still insufficient for the safety of a small body of men $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile off. With an elevation of ten degrees, the twelve pounder gained a range of from 3,942 yards to 4,059, or from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and the greatest deviation was only sixteen yards, the average of five shots being twelve yards. It should be remembered that the gun was worked by Mr. WHITWORTH's men, who have had very little practice, and that greater accuracy would certainly follow sufficient experience in making allowances for strength of wind and other disturbing circumstances.

The eighty pound gun with twelve pounds of powder and five degrees elevation ranged from 2,544 to 2,604 yards, with deviations of five and seven yards; at ten degrees elevation, its range was 4,670 and 4,730 yards, with deviations of five and six yards. The range obtained with ten degrees elevation exceeded that of the ARMSTRONG seventy pounder by seven hundred yards; but the latter, at thirty-five degrees elevation, made its first graze at eight thousand yards, and we wait with curiosity to know what the WHITWORTH will do when elevated to the same extent.

It was, however, with the three pounder that the most wonderful performance was made. This miniature piece of artillery, which a London porter would think nothing of carrying, as it only weighs two hundred and eight pounds, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch bore, obtained with thirty-five degrees elevation a range of more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the difference of deviation between the shot which fell nearest and that which fell widest being only fifty-seven yards. With twenty degrees elevation the first shot went more than four miles (7,073 yards), only deviating four yards; the second reached 6,985 yards, with deviation of $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards; the third 6,960 yards, deviating $4\frac{1}{2}$ yards; and the fourth 6,822 yards, with deviation of twenty-seven yards, all the deviations being to the right. The deviation in the last shot was ascribed to an accidental shifting of the gun. Thus it is shown that we have a small weapon with which death could be unerringly carried among a body of cavalry or infantry at a distance of several miles; and the chief obstacle to the use of this marvellous artillery will be the difficulty, even with good telescopes, of seeing the objects at which the guns ought to be aimed.

One of the first things which strikes us after reading the narrative of these trials, is the folly of wasting money upon coast fortifications, as it is evident that movable guns, well placed and protected by earth works or sand-bags would prove sufficient for the defence of almost any position; and hence that regular forts should only be constructed where there is an unusual amount of valuable material to protect, and a strong probability of a formidable and sustained attack.

Mr. WHITWORTH is preparing for an assault upon iron-cased ships, and expects, by strong, flat-headed shot to penetrate with ease the thick plates upon which many have placed too credulous a reliance. Last year Mr. WHITWORTH easily sent his balls through the plates then made, but those now used are stronger, and have resisted the seventy pound ARMSTRONG gun.

Looking at the effect these improvements in artillery will have upon European affairs, we cannot doubt that their main tendency will be pacific. The misconduct of Austria, and the ambition of Russia and France may cause new wars to arise, but they will be of short duration, and not dangerous in character, so long

as they do not involve the collision of the two greatest maritime powers; and the most daring soldier among our nearest neighbours must see the folly of provoking a contest with a nation possessed of unrivalled facilities for constructing all the costly apparatus of naval war, and whose new inventions have in all probability rendered useless the bulk of the armaments upon which other maritime powers rely. It may be annoying to us to feel that our expensive and proud-looking three deckers may be worth little more than fire-wood, and that floating batteries and steam rams will have to be valued as old iron, but calculations like these exhibit a practical disarmament such as no treaty could accomplish; and if much existing mechanism for hostility has to be written off the European balance sheet, as old-fashioned and good for nothing, other countries, if envious of England's power to produce new navies as they are required, will have the satisfaction of knowing that her ARMSTRONGS and WHITWORTHS are not the agents of aggression, but co-expounders with our merchants and manufacturers of the advantages of peace.

THE SAVOY DYNASTY.

THE cession of Savoy by Piedmont, in return for the States of Central Italy, in a political point of view, is a mere bagatelle, taken apart from the question of principle and policy involved in the extension of the French boundaries. As a matter of sentiment, however, VICTOR EMMANUEL must naturally shrink from giving up the little mountain nest in which his family found shelter from storm and blast generation after generation, as the following sketch will show.

Among the new kingdoms which sprung up at the dismemberment of the vast empire of CHARLEMAGNE, were those of Upper and Lower Burgundy, the former created by BOSONE, Duke of Provence, in 879; the latter nine years later, by RODOLPH, who, under the title of Marquis, assumed the mastery over the Burgundians, the Swiss, and the Savoyards, and was crowned in the ancient monastery of S. Maurice, in the Vallesse. This kingdom absorbed that of Lower Burgundy in 933, and extended from Basle to the mouths of the Rhone. But at the death of RODOLPH III., without children, in 1032, all real power was in the hands of the Barons and the clergy, and the crown descended to his cousin, the German emperor, CONRAD II. A near relative of the king, an Italian by birth, named HUMBERT, who had abstained from making common cause with the Burgundian barons, but was ever faithful to his sovereign, after his death protected the widowed queen. This prince it was who laid the foundation of the monarchy of Savoy, in the year 1003. In 1015 Turin and Piedmont were united to Savoy by the marriage of ODO, son of HUMBERT, with ADELAIDE of Turin. Left a widow, she governed the State with much wisdom for many years with the aid of her sons PIETRO and AMADEUS, and this through a period of great disquietude, owing to the long and bitter disputes between the sacerdotry and the empire. In this early period of its existence the Savoyard principality was little more than a great barony pre-eminent over the lay and clerical barons, by whose counsel it governed and administered justice. Attempts, more or less successful, were constantly made to reduce the power of the barons by the help of the communes—with whom HUMBERT II. united—and whose franchises and privileges AMADEUS III. thought it better to extend to some vassal provinces, lest they should rise and throw off their dependence altogether.

On the death of ADELAIDE, in 1091, a grand crisis ensued. The heir was a child; the dominions were dismembered by covetous neighbours, and by the communes, which were at that time definitively constituted; and the rapacious FREDERIC BARBAROSSA and his son HENRY made a descent upon the country, and took and destroyed several cities. In 1188, THOMAS I. succeeded, a prince fully equal to the task of restoring order and conferring prosperity upon the State. He not only made peace with the German Emperor, but was so useful to him that CESAR nominated him his vicar in Italy. THOMAS, however, never forgot that he was the true sovereign of Savoy, and that the homage he paid to a distant prince was a legal fiction and nothing more. At that period submission to imperial authority and Italian independence were not thought incompatible the one with the other. The Italians considered themselves as the legitimate descendants of the Romans, who had conquered the whole world, and felt that their talent and valour still made them worthy to take their place above all others; but they clearly saw that they could realize their desires only by ranging themselves beneath a single banner, and recognising a single head. This head must receive its crown in Italy; the crown must be conferred by the hands of the Pontiff; but under the presidency of this crown republics and seignories, cities and municipalities were all preserved free and independent. Emperor and pope thus shone with a mutually reflected light, and enjoyed mutual power; while Italy enjoyed the benefits of that light, and was defended, without being crushed, by the power. Thus the princes of Savoy served a noble cause, and in their quality of Imperial vicars guarded the liberties of their own country.

After the important increase of territory gained by ODO of Savoy on his marriage with ADELAIDE, the losses of the State were for some time greater than its acquisitions. But THOMAS was most successful, not only in restoring the glory of his country, but in making large additions to it. He effected the first confederation of Savoy and Lombardy, by means of a league with the Milanese and Vercellese against the Marquises of MONFERRAT and SALUZZO. This prince received the spontaneous submission of Pinerolo, and possessed himself of Cavigliano. On his death, in 1232, his State

became weakened in consequence of the appanages which the new king, AMADEUS IV., was compelled to assign to his brothers, AIMONE, PIETRO, FILIPPO, and THOMAS. Piedmont was conceded to THOMAS, who added to it Turin, Ivrea, Canavese, and other territories. After various engagements and different turns of fortune, Turin finally remained subject to the princes of Savoy until 1262, when it submitted to CHARLES of Anjou, Count of Provence and King of Sicily, out of whose hands THOMAS III. of Savoy took it, in 1280, when it returned, with the rest of Piedmont, to the dominion of the reigning line. The privileges which Turin obtained from THOMAS III., from AMADEUS VI., from LUDOVICO and other princes, and which it retained to a great extent until 1848, secured to it, if not political influence, at least an independent administration. Under AMADEUS VI., who began to reign in the middle of the fourteenth century, the Savoyard policy became more decidedly Italian than before. By a change of territory this prince had regulated his confines on the west and north, and, finding that no further increase could be gained in those directions, he turned his eyes towards the Peninsula. It was during his glorious reign that the King of France, under colour of the homage rendered to him by the Marquis of Saluzzo, raised his flag upon the castles throughout that little State; thus gaining an entrance and an opportunity to interfere in the direction of Italy. AMADEUS struggled against his powerful and ambitious rival, with whose successor his own had continual quarrels, but over whom they at length triumphed in Italy. The league of the Italian communes to resist the forces of Barbarossa exhibits Savoy as a principality predominating over the barons, the friend of popular liberty, and, consequently, a power loved and invoked by the people. From THOMAS I. to AMADEUS VII. Savoy distinguished itself, in an eminently chivalric age, by the gallantry and daring of its princes. In 1388 this power obtained a footing upon the sea by the voluntary surrender of Nice to its rule. The next century was one of absolute monarchy, and saw the completion of the great monarchical work of unification and nationality. The barons became transformed into courtiers, were insatiable in their thirst for riches and honour, and frequently emptied the public treasury.

AMADEUS VIII. was a great man in every sense of the word, and became Pope, under the title of FELIX V., in 1440. This prince adopted the glorious device, *Servire Deo, regnare est*. A series of unhappy and unfortunate reigns followed, during which French influence preponderated. In 1521 CHARLES III. married BEATRICE, the daughter of the Portuguese king, EMMANUEL the Great, and sister of the wife of the Emperor CHARLES V. The sovereign of Savoy received from his imperial brother-in-law the county of Asti and the marquisate of Ivrea. This acquisition of territory was almost the sole good fortune attending CHARLES III. He had evils of every kind to contend with. The agitation connected with the Reformation was now at its height. The country was impoverished and desolated by the constant passage of the Swiss, French, and Imperial troops, while it was compelled to remain neutral from want of men and money. Domestic disquietudes, famine, and pestilence devastated it. CHARLES's territories were taken from him by the French, so that at his death, in 1553, he retained only Nice, Cuneo, Vercelli, and Aosta. It may almost be said that the monarchy of Savoy now no longer existed. Beyond the Alps it was occupied by the Swiss and the French; south of the Alps by the French and Imperialists. The manners of the people had become corrupt, the clergy were ignorant and depraved, and the country was reduced to the lowest extremity, when a champion rushed to the rescue of Piedmont. CHARLES III. left an only son, EMMANUEL PHILIBERT, who had for many years fought in the service of his uncle CHARLES V., and thus acquired great fame. Being unable to make war against France on his own behalf and with his own arms, he headed the Imperial forces in Flanders and Picardy. After a series of fortunate engagements, at the battle of Saint Quintin, in 1557, he struck such a blow at the power of France that he obliged that country to make peace with Spain, and caused to be inserted in the conditions of peace of Cambray, 1559, that his states should be restored to him. His illustrious successor, CHARLES EMMANUEL I., who is well said to have adorned and disturbed two centuries (1580—1630) did his best to carry on his improvements. He completed the re-establishment of the national spirit, aroused, flattered, and excited the passion for national independence, and completely identified the interests of his monarchy with those of Italy. He was the idol of the Italians, and his name and person were popular from the Alps to the Sicilian sea, although no prince was ever obliged to impose more grievous burdens upon his subjects. Though successful during a great part of his reign, he was overcome in 1629, and at his death had lost Savoy and a great part of Piedmont to France.

A fresh period of French preponderance began under RICHELIEU, continued by LOUIS XIV., from which the two regents, MARIA CHRISTINA, of France, widow of VICTOR AMADEUS I., and MARIA GIOVANNA, widow of CHARLES ALBERT II., were unable to free themselves, though both jealously watched over the independence of the State and the dignity of the Crown. The period which now succeeded may be called the period of reforms, economical, legislative, monarchical, and military, and involved a reactionary movement against the temporal power of the Church. In the course of one hundred and seventy years the mind and will of five sovereigns effected mighty changes. The State was rich in arms and soldiers, defended by good fortresses, and had great authority in Italy. Its dependence upon France, which had lasted from 1630, was felt to be onerous and intolerable to the last degree in the early part of the reign of VICTOR AMADEUS II. The pride and ambition of

LOUIS XIV. kept Europe in continual disquietude and suspense, and in 1686 Spain, Bavaria, Sweden, and Holland united to form the powerful Augsburg League against him. The Duke of Savoy accepted the alliance of these confederates, and, having secretly concluded a league with the Emperor at Venice, June 4, 1690, declared war against France. After years of struggle and hardships he had the satisfaction of regaining much lost territory, of again rendering his State independent, and winning a standing among the allies as a power whose aid and influence were not to be despised. In 1713 he ceded the valleys of Barcelonetta, situated beyond the Alps, received in exchange the valleys of Oulx, and had the merit of leaving to France not a single foot of soil in Italy, nor any easy passage for invading the peninsula in future.

AMADEUS II., who followed CHARLES EMMANUEL I., after an interval of forty-five years, like him, reigned for half-a-century. This was a most brilliant period in the history of Savoy. The regeneration begun by EMMANUEL PHILIBERT, continued by CHARLES EMMANUEL I., and interrupted during the reigns of three minors and two regencies, was rapidly carried forward by AMADEUS. His health giving way, he abdicated, in favour of his son, CHARLES EMMANUEL III., in 1773. The French again invaded Nice and took Ventimiglia. They also descended from Mont Cenis and attacked the stronghold of Assietta, but were ultimately driven back and obliged to recross the Alps. In the long and glorious peace which followed, CHARLES EMMANUEL exhibited masterly powers of government. At his death, in 1773, he was succeeded by his son, VICTOR AMADEUS III., whose misfortune it was to reign at the troublous period of the French Revolution. The next may be characterized as the era of revolutions. The monarchy of Savoy was destroyed in 1800, and incorporated with France in 1802. Its title and authority however remained inviolate, preserved in the semi-African but faithful island of Sardinia. Restored in 1814, VICTOR EMMANUEL I., unwisely sought to ignore the progress made under NAPOLEON, and to replace every thing as it had been left by CHARLES EMMANUEL IV. This caused discontent. The revolution of 1821 was the consequence, although VICTOR EMMANUEL had then for some time sought to carry out useful measures of reform. He abdicated, and his successor, CHARLES FELIX, was satisfied to limit himself to reforming the grossest abuses. Not so, however, CHARLES ALBERT, who began to reign in 1831, and was in principle a thoroughly constitutional king. His ruling passion was the love of national independence. Taking his stand upon a passage in Deuteronomy, he would allow that none but a national sovereign could be a legitimate sovereign. This king initiated that system of enlightened progress and freedom of discussion which has proved so distasteful to the Conservative sovereigns of Europe. The French revolution of 1848 interrupted the calm and peaceful development of free institutions in Savoy and Piedmont. To avoid being swept away or merged into a republic, Rome, Naples, and Tuscany gave constitutions to their people and perjured themselves. CHARLES ALBERT, with the loyalty of a king and the affection of a father, gave and observed a constitution which his brave son, who replaced him in 1849, has honourably maintained, in face of dangers and difficulties of every kind. He has proved himself the worthy scion of a noble stock. In taking the lead in the national movement now proceeding in Italy VICTOR EMMANUEL is only acting in accordance with the traditions and policy of his race.

CURIOSITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE admirers of the "good old times," of the "wisdom of our ancestors," and every class of the "laudatores temporis acti—" together with certain civic metropolitan RHADAMANTHI and the band of "nasty particulars," at the head of which, according to Mr. ROEBUCK, stands Lord JOHN MANNERS, with his staff of eighty-three of the *delicatum genus* of the members of the House of Commons, who voted for closing the doors of the Divorce Court against the public and the press—should visit the town of Cambridge. In this venerable emporium of mathematical science, and better retailed by the yard, they can condole with kindred spirits on the degeneracy of modern times, and refresh their memories with respect to the past, by contemplating the actual but isolated existence of the fraction of despotism in the discipline and method of administering of what is there termed justice. This advice is given, in the hope, though certainly not in the expectation, that when they see how things are administered by the cloistered sages of modern monarchism, they will be more inclined to accept the practices of the present day, and confess them to be an improvement on the past. A suitable example has just occurred. A party of young men or students, *statu pupillari* (as it is called), as appears from letters addressed to and published in the columns of a contemporary, "were going, in an innocent way in an omnibus, to spend the evening at a village near Cambridge, when the proctors seized the vehicle, took the female passengers by force to the 'Spinning House,' and without form of trial, law, or justice, sentenced them to seven, and in some cases to fourteen days' punishment in that University prison, which is kept solely for the reception of loose females." "None of these females," say the correspondents, "were what is termed 'unfortunate.'" Now, be it known that all cases of this sort, when brought before the Vice-Chancellor or his deputy, are decided with doors hermetically sealed; the witnesses are also the prosecutors, viz., the proctors and their assistants, very appropriately called "bulldogs." They are the strongest and most quick-footed satellites that money can procure to do dirty work, and it is on their physical force in capturing delinquents, and on their moral intrepidity and success as witnesses in convicting them, that their employment depends. So much for closed-door trials and judgments.

The prison in which the captured are confined is a filthy hole, into which all are indiscriminately thrust, and from which there can be no egress afforded by any of the means allowed to those unjustly confined in the other prisons of England. The laws of the University are more despotic than those of modern Rome or Naples, and a jurisdiction at this moment exists in Cambridge and Oxford which exceeds in rigour the despotism of ANTONELLI or of King BOMBA. Be it further known, that, though no woman can safely or without danger of insult appear in the streets of Cambridge after dusk, nor sometimes even in mid-day, these insults are perpetrated not by the undergraduates, but by the "authorities" of the place, the "bulldogs," &c., whose zeal for the preservation of order is like that of the sea captain who, when the discipline of his ship was disturbed, administered justice by flogging the whole crew, he being of opinion that such indiscriminate punishment was certain to include the guilty. Verily, Alma Mater Cantabrigiensis, or, as she is entitled from her years and decrepitude to be called, "Proavia alma," whatever sweetness of temper she may occasionally show to her sons, displays nothing but sourness to her female offspring. Her daughters live in constant dread of blows, gyves, the Spinning House, the bull curs, and the proctor. There are laws—antiquated and disused, but still in the statute book of the University—empowering the old lady to administer a sound flogging to any of her male children, beneath the degree of a master of arts, who shall be found bathing his limbs in the Cam. But there is no law, as is the case with regard to the "unprotected females," which subjects them, if suspected of moral impurity within the town or within a circuit of four miles thereof, to be publicly whipped and driven into banishment. Well might JOHN MILTON exclaim, alluding to these, amongst other similar matters—

"Cæteraquæ ingenio non subeunda meo."

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

IT was once the boast of Scotland, that it was the best educated country in the world. If no longer able to make that boast, Scotland has still, as regards education, a great superiority over England. For many years, however, while Scotland has had a vast industrial development, has been undergoing notable social changes, has been the theatre of striking ecclesiastical revolutions, its chief educational institutions have clung too much to the ancient ways—though less from prejudice than from lethargy. It is generally felt that the Scottish schools, the Scottish universities, must be completely and grandly transfigured, if Scotland is to continue to hold its moral and intellectual supremacy. The constitution of a Scottish university is extremely simple. Besides being simple it is profoundly democratic. This gives the universities immense power in a country where the churches are all democratically constituted. There are many things distinguishing the Scottish universities from the English. Two of the chief are the absence of cloistral control, and of any class clothed with aristocratical privileges. English universities are mediæval institutions; Scottish universities bear the broad, deep stamp of the Reformation. Students usually enter the Scottish universities at a very early age; and if they intend to take the degree of Master of Arts, they remain four or five years. The machinery is wholly professorial, and the income of the professors is mostly derived from fees. Some of the professors, but none of the students, lodge within the walls of the university. Except in class hours, the teachers, the officers of the university, assume no authority over the students, who live where they like, and how they like. It might be supposed that this unfettered liberty would be fatal to mere boys. On the contrary, it brings forth its true fruits—manliness, self-reliance, and purity. There is incomparably less vice at Scottish than at English universities. The Scottish students are, for the most part, the sons of farmers and tradesmen, sometimes the sons of common labouring men. They have been accustomed to frugality; they have no aristocratic tastes or habits; and there are no aristocratic examples to lead them astray; they set forth with the heroic idea that self-denial should be the companion of learning, and seldom are they faithless thereto. A signal advantage of the Scottish university system is, that it never severs the scholar from the people. A child of the people has the student come to the university, and a child of the people he remains. It is from this that the kingly, the unquestioned sway of the Scottish clergy is derived: they have never lost their bond and sympathy with the earnest, upright, valiant plebeians. Now, believing, from an intimate knowledge of Scottish universities, that they require a thorough transformation, we should yet not interfere with what we venerate as their essential basis. The Divine light of the mind, symbol and priest of the divinest light, should be honoured for its own sake. Thus is it honoured in Germany: thus is it honoured in Scotland: but we cannot say that thus is it honoured in England. Loyal to their essential basis the Scottish universities need to be enriched and enlarged, ennobled and fructified. Keeping their athletic element, their potency of discipline, they must add thereto a more opulent and radiant culture. With the Spartan vigor which is theirs they must combine an Athenian gorgeousness, variety, and vivacity, which are not theirs. The curse of Scotland is not drunkenness, as the calumniators say, it is what the Scotch themselves call arglebargling. Now this leprosy is in the Scottish nature: but it is tortured into an incurable disease by the Scottish universities. A student enters the university a logical, and he leaves it a psychological machine. Most young Scotchmen who have been at a university are exceedingly clever, exceedingly captious, are disposed to talk about every thing, and are to English-

men intolerable bores. The great English public schools give what the great Scottish public schools do not give,—culture,—in which is included a delicate classical instinct, which few Scotchmen possess. It is not easy for an Englishman to rise to Catholicity; knock away from a Scotchman a few provincial fetters, and he becomes Catholic at once. But through superior culture the Englishman contrives to appear to superficial judges the more Catholic of the two. The circle of studies at Scottish universities must be tenfold expanded, and a barren logic and a chattering psychology must be driven from the scene. What the Scotch require is poetic reflectiveness as opposed to fierce logomachy. The shortest poem of GEORGE HERBERT would do them more good than all those triumphant syllogisms of which they are so proud. Scottish individuality cannot be hammered down by the *Times*, cannot be sneered down by *Punch*. Shallow, sparkling, magniloquent leading articles, small cockney jokes leave the stupendous granite mass unworn and unwounded. But Scottish individuality—a colossal force might remain a colossal force, and yet also be a garden of the Lord. Is it to give no sign of its existence, except when some peak high as heaven falls fulminating into the valley? Grievously do ye err, my Scottish brothers; the tree of knowledge is not the tree of life. First life, then knowledge: not first knowledge and then life. The Scottish universities must remain Scottish, but they must clothe themselves with the Catholicity for which the Scottish heart irrepressibly yearns. How, in detail, mechanically, organically, the revolution is to be achieved, we pretend not to declare. It would be futile to declare, even if the declaration were a facile feat. What primordially concerns Englishmen and Scotchmen too, is, that we should make the heights of the naked granite broad enough, warm enough, rich enough, for the angels to rest on. When once we have convinced the Scotch that their universities are not perfect, they will rush to the work of perfection with that perfervid genius for which they are famous. After all, there is a more godlike spirit in nations than universities. A people's soul is of more importance than a people's schools. But while the soul is made healthy and holy, why should not also the schools be made beautiful temples of the Omnipotent? The Acropolis, with its girdle of fanes, and its garniture of gods, did not despise the quiet and sacred scenes where the philosophers taught.

MARGARET FULLER.*

THE somewhat romantic history and the tragic fate of Margaret Fuller have drawn attention more toward her than the intrinsic merit of her works. Of these, with the very best disposition to be lenient and appreciative, we cannot speak highly. They have rhetorical flow, but no artistic finish; liveliness of conception, but no fulness of idea; they want that without which no literary production can be perfect,—a sound view of the world; a clear, calm glance into human relations. Of creation in the divine poetic sense Margaret Fuller was altogether incapable. That she was a person of considerable faculty it were foolish to deny; but it was faculty precocious, morbid, feverish, fitful, stimulating itself into wild force by artificial enthusiasm. She would not have achieved great things even if she had had the very best culture, but as she had the very worst culture she could only do extraordinary things. Her education had been a mad feast of excitements, and thus was bred in her the insatiate hunger for new sensations. With an aspiring for the lofty she had no sympathy for the profound; she was always trying to fly to cold Alpine peaks ere she had trodden with modest, inquiring, reverent steps the scenes immediately around her. She rhapsodised incessantly, yet she kindled no one into kindred rhapsody. Her writings were confessions, the confessions of her dreams; but her dreams were not the offspring of an opulent phantasy—they were frigid, ghastly monstrosities borrowed from the chaos of books. The root of the evil was in that audacious, impious intellectualism which New England has substituted for religion. All the universe was to be intellectualism, and all intellectualism was to be inordinate, insane New England babblement. In Old England we have a stable existence, solid studies, a tranquil, clumsy, elephantine march. If we are the fools and fanatics of conservatism, better, verily better that we should be such fanatics and fools than the maniacs of a restlessness sputtering itself away in infinite and sterile speech. Well were it for the United States if for long years they had limited themselves to the development of their stupendous industrial energies. In this domain they are truly great. But when they resolved to have a literature of their own they egregiously blundered. What could their literature be except wretched imitation, tasteless exaggeration, blatant, braggart declamation? The institutions of the United States drive men to vary the hunt for dollars with boundless jargon. Every one is a noisy orator, except a handful of quiet persons, who shrink from politics. Nowhere else on the earth is the tongue so continually wagging. The vilest, vulgarest eloquence reigning supreme, communicates to literature its own cardinal defects; literature, instead of purifying eloquence, is rendered itself impure by an eloquence of the lowest kind. No American writers have escaped this contamination, but those who, like Fenimore Cooper, Brockden Brown, Washington Irving, have faithfully followed English models. The rest have been merely stump orators in books. Margaret Fuller was a stump orator in books of rather a nobler sort than her neighbours. Like the Yankees in general, she speechified so everlastingly, and with such hot delirious haste, that she had no time for thought, no time for substantial, systematic acquirements. Hence, in her

* *Life Without and Within; or, Reviews, Narratives, Essays, and Poems.* By MARGARET FULLER OSSOLI. Edited by her Brother, ARTHUR B. FULLER. London: Sampson Low, Son and Co.

verdicts as a critic, a pitiful shallowness and a prodigious presumption. She had dipped here and there with dilettante rapidity into a score of literatures, but she had not pierced beyond the surface of any literature whatever. Criticism is not obliged to be encyclopædic; yet this we demand from it, that it should speak only of the things which it thoroughly knows. Now, betraying the grossest ignorance, Margaret Fuller is oracular on all subjects alike. She places Bailey above Tennyson, with amusing impudence finds fault with Shakspeare, avows her preference for the classical as compared with the romantic, though obviously knowing nothing of what the true classical or the true romantic means. The most ambitious performances in this volume are two essays on Goëthe. Menzel, in his excellent work on German literature—the work of a man who, whatever his prejudices and passions, was at least thoroughly acquainted with his subject, courageously attacks Goëthe. He does not attack him with scurrility, or with fierce invective; he attacks him, if with prophetic warmth, with the honest and honourable weapons of criticism no less. Menzel maintains that in Goëthe the form was first predominant, then exclusive. The sense for Divine realities had died. But in Goëthe had that sense ever been deep? Had it ever existed? These questions have a moral far more than an intellectual bearing; they have, however, the vaster intellectual bearing from having a moral bearing. Poetry is as earnest as life, spite of Schiller's saying that while life is earnest, Art is serene and joyous. Through the whole of Goëthe's career he displayed no earnestness, either as a writer or as a man. A consummate coxcomb, a boundless self-idolatry, pervaded all his doings. That he was a laborious student is, by itself, poor praise. The sons of the Devil have always worked as hard as the sons of God; sometimes harder. To sever ourselves from the community, that we may dedicate ourselves to Art, is a sacrifice which Art refuses. Goëthe treated women more heartlessly than any other eminent writer. For the sake of Art he was justified in doing this, say the outrageous Goëtheans. You have to deaden your soul that your mind may toil the more at ease; and Shakspeare would have been a better poet if he had seduced and basely deserted a score or two of women! Our conviction is that the Goëtheans, universally, are humbugs; and that their master, though a very gifted mortal, was a good deal of a humbug too. Now, we do not aver that in reference to Goëthe, or in reference to anything, Margaret Fuller was a humbug. We simply accuse her of sciolism, pretension, Yankee impertinence, the assumption of the teacher's air when the air of the learner would have been much more becoming. Frankly, the contents of this volume—most of which have appeared in periodicals before—were not worth republishing. They had never aught but a slight and ephemeral interest. Whatever talent Margaret Fuller possessed was improvisatorial. She probably talked much better than she wrote, and wise would she have been if she had never written at all. The celebrated Rahel Varnhagen Von Ense, whom Margaret Fuller in many points resembles, and who was the best German talker of the day, had the good sense not to write books; and though Madame de Staël wrote well, yet her tongue was so much more eloquent than her books, that she also would have gained if she had trusted to her tongue alone. Margaret Fuller's instincts were, perhaps, as generous as her best friends have represented them; yet she plainly believed in nothing that could not be well talked about. What was most fitted for rhetorical embellishment always most readily found a place in her creed. Hence the abyss of the unutterable—that grandest temple of God—frightened her away from its very brink. The utterable was her world. Altogether, too much fuss has been made about her. We had, besides works of her own, three volumes of her "Memoirs," and now we have this obese tome, containing nothing of mark or merit. An impartial biography of her might be made an interesting book. This we advise some one of her more sober friends to undertake. Brave deeds never grow old, though the cleverest of leading articles and of improvisatorial essays are old the day after they are written; and there was a strong element of bravery in Margaret Fuller. Nothing that she ever wrote would we snatch from oblivion. Commonplaces in the newest Yankee garb are still commonplaces. But Margaret Fuller herself, as a singularly courageous woman, we would place among the saintly and the heroic. Is there not enough in her death to hallow and atone? Till nearly forty years of age Margaret Fuller had lived with her large-abounding treasure of affections unbestowed. Visiting Italy, she cast the treasure into the bosom of the Marquis Ossoli. To her home across the Atlantic she was conveying him and a beloved babe, when all three perished in the waves within sight of that home. Our shriek over the cruel waters, which thus so remorselessly devour, is at once the sublimest epitaph and the sublimest eulogy. We feel as if there must have been something exceedingly beautiful and godlike in this woman since we mourn her so fervently. Margaret Fuller is immortal, not for what she did, but for what she suffered. We love her, because she was one of those who love much. And it is they who love much, and not the kings and queens of literature, who make society sacred and pure. Thou didst strive to be eloquent, poor Margaret, but the billows lamenting over thy ocean grave, over the grave of thy husband and child, are more eloquent than thou!

UNDERCURRENTS OVERLOOKED.*

THERE are two ways of doing everything that is to be done; the straightforward way, and the oblique way—two ways of taking a town, of making a proposal for marriage, of settling a

* *Undercurrents Overlooked.* By the author of "Flemish Interiors." Two vols. London: R. Bentley. 1860.

peace, or of writing a book. Of the dozen other ways which gather round these two we say nothing; but every action may be referred to one of these classes—the manly, open, straightforward; and the indirect, secret, and sneaking. Good old John Bunyan, whose authority on such a question is not to be despised, tells us that there are two ways of entering even the Heavenly City; the one at the strait gate, the other over the wall; but he shows us also where the indirect way leads, even when the intruder has trodden on the golden floors of the New Jerusalem itself.

Such thoughts naturally suggest themselves to the conscientious reviewer, who, having read through a vast quantity of nonsense, if not exactly, to use a Carlyleism, "clotted," still of the undigested kind, finds that the whole gist of the nonsense aforesaid is to bring back England under the Papal rule. Indeed, were not the manner inexcusable, the matter is sometimes funny enough on account of the distance from the truth to which the author contrives to get; and as from the weakness of the artillery and the badness of aim no considerable harm can be done, it affords a pleasurable excitement to find certain masked batteries opening at the English nation in general and Church in particular. The author wisely keeps to the anonymous, but then so did Junius, and other great writers who have wished to carry out a great social revolution. *Slat nominis umbra*; so may it be with "Undercurrents."

We think it wise to begin our review by thus letting off a fog signal, since, no doubt, the subscribers to Mudie's will send, dear innocent young ladies, for "Undercurrents," under the idea that it is a deeply interesting novel, full of plot and passion, illustrating the adage that still waters run deep. It is nothing of the sort; it is a mere *furrage libelli*, containing sketches of London and Paris life, contrasted always to the benefit of the latter. As for the "undercurrents," they, alas! have been overlooked a dozen times before, and each sketch has been done many hundred times better by such men as Mr. Sala, in his "Twice round the Clock," Mr. Hollingshead in his recent work, and Mr. Hain Friswell, in "Houses with the Fronts off." The only thing which those writers have not done, is what this writer has done, namely, to cry as he pokes his pen into each social sore, "There, you see! look at it; is it not bad?—Protestantism has done this; it's all through that wretched Faith! Oh, they manage these things better in France!" This quotation he even takes for one of his chapters; we do not say that he ever uses any of our words, but he constantly infers as much or more. "Caparisons," as we learn from thrice blessed Mrs. Malaprop, are "odorous;" these are especially odorous.

Perpend, therefore! and let us learn that in "clerical delinquency," for which the author quotes the case of a dissenting minister, we are far and away lower than the continental nations; that we have "barbarous amusements," in support of which the author cites "a poor old fruit woman, whom we saw the other day so tormented by a number of rude schoolboys, just turned out of class, that she was crying and wringing her hands with vexation." He might as well have cited Mrs. Gamp being "chaffed" by Bailey Junior. Let us also learn that recruiting sergeants absolutely kidnap boys of fifteen for the army! That we have open day robbery in our streets! That we indulge—brutal nation!—in public executions; and that cock fighting, prize fighting, boxing matches, (and, to a certain extent of cruelty, we may add horse racing) are witnessed by women—and children too, Sunday after Sunday, in suburban London—that centre of decorum of humanity." That we have also prize fights—learn it, ye backers of Sayers and the Benicia boy—we have discovered in these "Undercurrents" hitherto overlooked—that in this nineteenth century there are a set of monsters called prizefighters, and moreover that Irishmen get drunk in London, and are often very brutal! "Why then," to quote Master Pompey, "here be truths, I hope!" Well may the author write, "We are aware that our fellow countrymen do not relish being reminded of these peculiarities, especially when facts are brought home to them in such a way that they cannot be controverted, and we expect to be very unpopular for speaking so plainly." Poor martyr! "he likes to be despised"—so did the saintly Mawworm. Again, says this deep philosopher, "We talk very glibly and very loudly of the barbarity and cruelty of Spanish brigands and Roman banditti, of the savage insolence and cowardly violence of their attacks; we talk also of the moral frailties of other nations, of their roguery and chicanery, and of many similar vices which we attribute so unsparingly (*sic*) to them. Has it never occurred to us that all we say of them, they may with far more reason affirm of us?" Of course, we, wretched creatures! we are just as bad, nay worse, than your Spanish brigand or your Roman bandit. Those gentlemen are mild, good, easy men to us. We shall see, if we look at home, "in what way the ties of nature, the obligations of propriety, and the laws of God and man are violated and mocked; how all the restraints of religion and civilization are set aside, and uncurbed passions reign unchecked, save when they clash with one another, and produce a conflict and a complication of violence and disorder." There's a climax for you! Lovers of your country, you who have an affection for our little England, "this priceless gem set in a silver sea," think, with tears in your eyes, what a den of thieves, of robbers, ruffians and murderers, it hath become.

There is a little book published in Paris, called "Les Verités Amusantes;" this might be called "Les Mensonges Amusantes." We learn from it, amongst other things, that Sunday is kept more sacredly in Paris than in London, and that even "a *procès verbal* has been drawn up against a tavern-keeper of Montigny, in the department of the Aisne, for having supplied refreshment to some individuals belonging to the commune on Sunday during Divine

worship. We do not doubt it. Has our author any idea that not a Sunday passes but what some policeman commences a *procès verbal*—verbal indeed—against some unfortunate tavern-keeper who allows beer to be drawn one minute before one or after eleven p.m. on Sundays? If, as our author states, and we do not doubt it, our “tradesman retires on Sunday to ‘is ‘ouse hat ‘Ackney, or ‘Amstead, ‘Orton or ‘Ammersmith, “to follow dear Mr. Silvertongue to chapel, and to hear ‘im preach a most beautiful sermon, so as to be sent ‘ome to his bit o’ roast pork in a ‘appy state of mind;” surely even he will allow that the Parisian tradesman hopes also to enjoy his *rus in urbe* in the Bois de Boulogne, or at Passy, or elsewhere. He, also, if he be not an infidel, has his mild religious excitement under the Rev. Père Langue-d’argent also. Cockneys are cockneys all over the world, and hard-working citizens no doubt live in glass houses. It is cruel—it is more than that, it is wicked—to take, as this author has done, one set of statistics—those of crime—and to seek to prove by them that his own country is by far the worst in the world. The English, with all their vices, have not that of excessive self-praise. We are the best abused people in the world; not by others only, but chiefly by ourselves. We are continually grumbling and finding fault with, and, thank God, mending our ways; but to make us mend them we must have truth at the bottom of the complaint. Our vices, like our virtues, are very apparent. We trumpet them in the newspapers; we make political capital out of them; we multiply statistics to show what thieves, what poor, what misery, what crime we have; but we do it not with the purpose of parading, but remedying our state. This author does so in a manner as false and stupid as it is cruel, and is obliged to contradict in one page what he sets down in a former one. He has advertised a political and semi-religious treatise under a false name; he has poisoned his arrow, and drawn it to the head with the purpose of giving a deep wound to Protestantism. But he has missed his mark. If he sketches, as he does, one infidel lecturer that we have, he is obliged to own that the lecture does not pay, and that the audience are ignorant and few. If he quotes an advertisement of a prize fight, he must own that that amusement decreases; if he talks about brutality, he must know that it is less frequent, and only dragged into sight by vigilant societies and police. He does not mention that Papistical countries boast also their infidels, that they have ever been most fertile of them; that they have their bull fights and other brutalities; that their prostitution is more wide; their charity less general. He is afraid to go into the open day to quote the broad distinctions between Protestantism and Papacy. He knows that even his own book could not be issued under Papal rule without an imprimatur, or the free scissors of the censor. He knows, also, that progress, a free press, a constitutional government, a reverence for property, for law, a love of order, peace, and general security—live here and in Protestant countries. He knows, also, such things do not exist in favoured Rome (where “the Pope has built model lodging houses”) nor in France, where they lately closed a Protestant church. He knows all this well enough; but he chooses to look at the small stains which abound in our social system, and which have abounded, and will abound in every social system in the world, past, present, and to come. At a time when the Papacy is on its trial before the world, when its head is in great tribulation, its governments are weighed and found wanting; its princes the only disturbers of peace; its bishops the loudest demagogues and greatest traitors; its people generally debased and ignorant, the sordid and blind only content, the good longing for a change—this writer has chosen to assault his own country, to decry her civilization and to deny her Christianity. But “Oh,” cries old Burton,—“oh, that Peter and Paul had been alive to hear this!” The failure is lamentable. Few men could have written so stupid a book. The author has squirted his garden engine at the sun, but he has not yet put it out. He will only deceive the race of novel readers by his title, that is all. Mr. Thackeray, in one of his early illustrations in “Punch,” pictures the disappointment of two Lisbon longshoremen who had picked up a floating bottle, in which one of our societies, debarred from other entrance, had packed a tract. At a distance he cries, “Brandy, I hope;” nearer, it is “Sherry, I fear;” when uncorked, he shouts with disgust, “Tracts, by Jingo!” So our beguiled readers will hope for something delectable, and find, after all, that they have only certain papistical “under-currents,” the bearing of which will be perceived simply for the book to be “overlooked!”

M. LOUIS BLANC'S REVELATIONS.*

THE part which has been taken in regard to the cause of Italian liberty by the head of the great house of Phipps, however much it may have been criticised, cannot be deemed surprising by those who remember the prejudice and misstatements which Lord Normanby lavished upon the French Revolution of 1848, and the leading actors in that great national drama. Consistent his lordship at least is, in his views of good government and patriotism, and therefore Ricasoli and Farini must not expect to stand higher in the marquis's estimation than M. Louis Blanc and his fellow-republicans. Every one is doomed to crosses in this world however, and Lord Normanby is not without his mortifications in the shape of flat contradictions to his accounts of foreign events; indeed, only a few days have elapsed since we read the sturdy Italian byker's refutation of the marquis's version of recent transactions in Tuscany. The two volumes before us are a French translation of

* *Révolutions Historiques en Réponse au Livre de Lord Normanby, intitulé "A Year of Revolution in Paris."* Par LOUIS BLANC. Bruxelles: Meline, Cans et Compagnie.

M. Louis Blanc's work, published in London, and in our own language, two years ago; and, so far as Lord Normanby is concerned, do not contain any additions of importance to the signal castigation bestowed upon the noble peer in the English work. The author has, nevertheless, greatly increased and enriched the work by amplifying his account of the eventful period during which he took a prominent part in public affairs, and by much valuable and eloquent matter upon the present state of French politics. The most conspicuous and important statement in this new issue is that unveiling the intrigues of the Bonapartists during the fearful insurrection of June, 1848; and documents are given which show the determination of Louis Napoleon, at that time, to lay the foundation of his power by corrupting the chiefs of the army. The story of the “Insurrection de la Faim” is now written at much greater length, and is full of tragic interest; apart from its political importance the descriptive vigour and the nervous eloquence of the author render it difficult to lay aside the book till we come to the end of the terrible narrative. Strong in his own integrity, and feeling intensely the justice of his cause, M. Louis Blanc pours a torrent of sarcasm and invective against the ruler whose iron despotism, in his opinion, is repressing the energy and crushing the hopes of his native country; and, though Louis Napoleon has succeeded in creating a more favourable impression upon the opinion of most Englishmen than he has upon that of our author, few readers will be able to resist the brilliancy of his eloquence or the charms of his clear and elegant style. Allusions are frequently found in his pages to the noble position which free England holds among the nations, and we congratulate ourselves upon having amongst us a Frenchman capable of understanding and of judging without prejudice our national character and our peculiar institutions. M. Louis Blanc, indeed, has lived so long with us as to become half naturalised as a citizen of our free community; his logic bears an almost British stamp, and his sentiments are marked by English heartiness; he has acquired no inconsiderable portion of the solidity of our nation, while sacrificing no particle of the *esprit* which belongs *par excellence* to his own.

RECENT HISTORIES.*

A GOOD book is a living thing. There is a pulse of vitality in each sentence, each member of a sentence. There are motion and warmth in the very words. There is also, underlying the whole literal expression, a prevailing idea—a pervading principle, which associates with itself, and with one another, an aggregate of facts, and makes them illustrative of a law. Professor Innes, of Edinburgh, has given to the world a portly volume, ostensibly on Scottish history, but truly on the growth of order and authority in Europe, commencing with Charlemagne, which the serious historical student will find anything but dry reading. There is indeed much of the manner of lively discourse about it. Perhaps this may be the result of the sketches that compose the work having been originally prepared for lectures to a class in the university to which the Professor is attached. At any rate, here we have a charming, and, in spirit, an original book.

Professor Innes deals with general history, before (to use a Scotch phrase) he condescends to the special history which it serves to introduce. We have much about Charlemagne, and the consequences of his avatar to Europe. It is owing, Mr. Innes tell us, to his wisdom and vigour, and to the success of the party of which he was the leader and type, not only that the Germanic race is lord of the ascendant in Europe, but, perhaps, that Europe has set up the standard of mind against brute force—has identified its existence with Christianity, instead of the worship of the groves and of Odin, or the doctrine of the prophet of Islam. Charlemagne, however, like Mohammed, converted with the sword. The rude freemen of Saxony long resisted “the soft persuasion of the sabre.” Some yielded to other teaching, but not without difficulty. Take a tale told of Radbod, a fierce chief of the Frisians, who had withstood the arms of Pepin Heristal, but was at length almost gained over to Christianity, by the persevering intreaties and preaching of Wulfram and other missionaries. “This chieftain was brought to the sacred font. “He had already one foot in the water, when he suddenly stopped, turned to Wulfram, and asked, whether there were more Frieslanders in heaven or in hell. The missionary could not hesitate, and told him that all his ancestors, being unbaptized, were certainly in the latter place. The prince immediately drew back his foot from the font. “I cannot,” he said, “give up the company of my ancestors, even for the joys of heaven.” And Duke Radbod,” says the chronicler, “died unbaptized.”

Christianity has suffered more from its interpreters than from any other cause. But wherever Christianity has been introduced, our author tells us, it has brought in its train three remarkable effects: a tendency to unite, an inclination for kingly governments, and a preference for hereditary institutions. And this proposition he illustrates by reference to the spread of Christianity among the Anglo-Saxons. On the character of King Alfred he dwells with peculiar complacency.

At length we come to Scotland, beginning with Macbeth, whose character does not merit the description of it by our national poet. The reign of Macbeth was prosperous and long—of

* *Scotland in the Middle Ages: Sketches of Early Scotch History and Social Progress.* By COSMO INNES, Professor of History in the University of Edinburgh. Edmonston and Douglas.

History of the Reign of Henry IV., King of France and Navarre. (Part I.) Henry IV. and the League. By MARTHA WALKER FREER. Two vols. Hurst and Blackett.

seventeen years' duration—a time of great abundance and strict administration of justice. His defeat and death were the commencement of great troubles to Scotland, foreign war, and civil commotions. The conflict between disputed successions and the deadly strife of hostile races, continued until the reign of David, who inaugurated a new policy, which lasted happily for about two centuries. The first enforcement of tithes is traced to his reign, and to him Scotchmen are indebted for the very foundation and framework of their national establishments and parochial divisions. Every lord's manor became a parish, and the church divided the respect of the people with the castle. The subject of monasteries is also treated with favour. They were suited for their time, and the vices that crept into them were due to an after-age. We are also warned that it is an historical mistake to speak of the extermination of a people by an invading enemy. No such general and violent destruction has ever taken place. An error of Mr. Hallam's is also corrected—namely, that the early burghs of England had no municipal administration by magistrates of their own choice; there is now abundant evidence collected of burghal property in England before the conquest. Such towns as London, York, Lincoln, and Winchester, full as they were of wealth and enterprise, managed their common affairs, their polite and internal economy, long anterior to that epoch. It is also wrong to deny the existence of *common law* in Scotland; but there is little of local and peculiar interest in it. The only facts to prove the existence of a peculiar Celtic law are connected with the institutions of succession and marriage.

The chapters on the Scottish language and literature are excellent, as are also those on sculptured monuments and architecture. In a postscript the Professor tells us that there has lately been discovered in the public library at Cambridge a MS. of the Gospels, which bears to have belonged to the Abbey of Deir, in Buchan. It contains, in addition, some portions and forms of church service; and on the margins and blank vellum are entered a few charters and memoranda of grants to the church of Deir. These entries are more ancient than any extant Scotch chartularies. The discovery of this book, it appears, sets the whole discussion which excited the Scotch antiquaries of the last century on an entirely new footing. The hope is expressed that the whole of the contents will ere long be made public.

Different altogether in texture and quality, we associate with the above a new history in relation to France—a biography of Henry IV., by a lady who has frequently exercised her pen in historical reproductions. Miss Freer has had recourse for some of her materials to unpublished sources, particularly MS. documents in the Bibliothèque Impériale and the Archives du Royaume de France. The rhetorical style adopted carries the reader with ease over these descriptive and narrative pages, which it is but just to say have been compiled with evident care and diligence.

MINOR NOVELS.*

A NEAT and well-told story, representing life in modern Rome, with much spirit and precision, is *Mademoiselle Mori*. The heroine is a young *cantatrice*, Irene Mori, whose character is very cleverly drawn. There are also some vivid descriptions of papal oppression, and the state of public feeling in the year 1848, when the heroic Charles Albert placed himself at the head of the general movement in favour of Italian independence.

Before the Dawn is also a tale of Austrian tyranny and Italian martyrdom. The authoress, we are told in the preface, was formerly a *prima donna* at Drury Lane theatre; but ill health having since compelled her retirement from the stage, she expresses her intention of devoting herself henceforth entirely to literature. This work possesses sufficient merit to justify the authoress in issuing a second edition.

We now come, in due course, to a series of tales by Agnes Strickland. We have not space to enter into the details of this elegant little volume. Suffice it to say, that it entirely justifies the former reputation of the authoress.

We wish we could extend the same praise to *Stephen Dugard*, Mr. William Mudford's new novel. In fact, we should advise the reader only to open this book at midnight, in order that the horrors therein accumulated may tell with due effect upon his nerves.

* *Mademoiselle Mori; a Tale of Modern Rome*. Two vols. John W. Parker and Son.

Before the Dawn; a Tale of Italy. By KATE CRICHTON. Second Edition. Two vols. Charles J. Skeet.

Old Friends and New Acquaintances. By AGNES STRICKLAND. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

Stephen Dugard; or the Black Rock's Mouth. A Romance, by WILLIAM MUDFORD. Thomas Hodgson.

Step by Step; or, The Good Fight. From the German of MARIA NATIUSIUS. Richard Bentley.

Stories of Rainbow and Lucky. By JACOB ABBOTT. Sampson Low and Co.

The Weaver's Family. By the Author of "Dives and Lazarus." Judd and Glass.

Alive or Dead; A Tale of St. Crispin's Parish. By CHARLES HOWELL. James Blackwood.

Land Sharks and Sea Gulls. By CAPTAIN GLASCOCK, R.N. Knight and Son.

The Pocket Novels. Illustrated by Charles Bennett. W. Kent and Co.

Lichtenstein; or the Outlaw of Wurttemberg. From the German of HAUFF, by ELINOR M. SWANN. James Blackwood.

A Life for a Life. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." Hurst and Blackett.

In contrast to the above, we glance at a pretty, refined, and interesting little tale, translated from the German, and entitled *Step by Step; or, The Good Fight*. The tone of it is religious, and we have no doubt that it will meet with the approbation of a numerous class of readers.

A series of American tales, entitled *Stories of Rainbow and Lucky*, are also deserving of honourable mention. The same may be extended to *The Weaver's Family*. *Alive or Dead* is the old story of missing relatives who, after years of absence, turn up in out-of-the-way places, having in the interval become both opulent and enfeebled. *Land Sharks and Sea Gulls* is cleverly written and well constructed, and though a very old favourite of the public, is well deserving of the honour of reprint.

The first number of the *Pocket Novels*, containing "Piffin the Philanthropist," and "My Aunt's Umbrella," is well calculated, by the ability displayed in both tales, to procure for this series of cheap, light literature, an extensive circulation.

Lichtenstein; or, the Outlaw of Wurttemberg, is another added to the list of our numerous German translations. The scene is laid in the sixteenth century, and the principal personage who figures in the drama is Duke Ulric, whose struggles and misfortunes are well known to historical readers. The German stories are generally replete with thrilling interest, though they sometimes lose considerably in the translation. In the present instance, however, we can safely state that full justice has been done to the original by Miss Swann.

A Life for a Life is a new and revised edition of a popular work.

POETIC ASPIRATION.*

THE spirit of poetry, like every other immaterial essence, never dies, but only changes its form. In days when education was confined to a few, only the greater minds of the number attained to expression in verse; but in these days of general cultivation, the more sensitive intellects, though neither very lofty nor very wide, seek to relieve their feelings by indulging in metrical composition. Of these some are merely Singers, others are Poets; but the shape is comparatively of a meaner type, and the power proportionately small. The spirit, as it gains in universality, must content itself with minor agencies, but in these, as in the major, alike merits recognition and encouragement. From the little books of verse, accordingly, that modestly claim a place for a while on our library table, we select what seem the more worthy for a few remarks.

The author of *Uriel* demands attention as an ambitious aspirant, of a metaphysical turn of mind; but should have been careful, we think, not to have taken the title of another man's work as his distinctive appellation. A poem entitled *Uriel* was published with the second edition of Mr. Heraud's *Descent into Hell*—a poem of such a speculative character, as might reasonably have marked itself for a peculiarity, and been protected against imitation. Little it might have been expected that a second poet would have adopted the same title, and made a similar use of the theme. Nevertheless, so it has been; and the second *Uriel* has been succeeded by other similar efforts, in which with much poetical feeling a hasty and faulty execution has been shown. In *The Re-Burial* we find an attempt made the very opposite of the poetical in spirit,—however like it in its apparent embodiment. The title page has a saucy air, with its mottoes in Greek, Latin, Hebrew and English; and its theological theme, adopting Ewald's view of the Resurrection, is, to say the least, a bold one. The subjective interpretation of such a fact, whether in prose or verse, must turn out most unsatisfactory; but in the latter, it seems to us an utterly hopeless and impracticable attempt. Certainly, the author of *The Re-Burial* has conquered none of the difficulties that beset such a task.

Mr. Wilson has turned his attention to more practicable themes; and has, moreover, a decided lyrical vein which might be worked to advantage. But his verses have not always the polish without which no verse can enjoy immortality. He sometimes thinks loftily, and feels intensely; but he is not careful to express himself with grace and ease. His ear, too, is deficient, and his rhythm is not seldom unmusical.

Mr. Stigant is capable of a broad view of life, and has strong convictions both political and religious; but he is occasionally rough, and should cultivate an ear for the harmony of numbers. The character of his mind is strength, rather than grace. Let him emulate more elegance; and, in another volume, the chances are that he will do something that people will like to read.

Mr. Preston, on the contrary, has a finish in his verses which shows a correct taste. Whether his genius be equal to his powers of execution may be doubtful. The verses, at any rate, are smooth, and the rhymes for the most part accurate. We must, however, await further proof, ere we can pronounce upon the degree in which he possesses "the vision and the faculty divine."

Mr. Smith has judiciously collected some dramatic scenes for the use of those who practise private theatricals, and for that purpose we can recommend his volume. "M. U." has written an illustrated child's book, containing an amusing metrical story, in which dolls are the heroines. Let these works be accepted, equally with the above, as evidences of a general poetic aspiration. It certainly amounts to a social feeling, and is the great reason why more poetry is written than read. The practice must needs be concurrent with a diffused taste, which requires the highest excellence before it permits any one candidate to claim precedence of the multitude of competitors.

* *The Re-Burial; or, The Grave in Galilee*. By the Author of "Uriel." (John Chapman.)

Gathered Together. Poems by WM. WILSON. (Longmans, G. L. & R.)

A Vision of Barbarossa, and other Poems. By WM. STIGANT. (Chapman and Hall.)

Ballads and Metrical Sketches. By GEORGE F. PRESTON. (W. Kent and Co.)

Dramatic Scenes from Standard Authors. For Private Representation and Schools. By CHARLES WILLIAM SMITH. (Routledge.)

The Doll's Picnic for M. U. (Darton and Co.)

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS.*

THE first volume of M. de Chatelain's *Beautés* having been devoted to paraphrases of the works of deceased poets, the pieces which he has chosen for translation in his new volume are nearly all from the pen of living writers. Tennyson, Browning, Longfellow and Landor have been laid under contribution to a small extent; but the greater part of this bulky volume is adapted from the works of rhymesters who were almost as little known in their original guise as they are likely to be when adorned with the Chevalier's versification. The fugitive poems of some of the rising contributors to the periodical literature of the day appear to have a peculiar attraction for M. de Chatelain, and he has succeeded in rendering these perhaps better than any other of the poems in his selection. The new volume at any rate is fairly to be considered as an improvement upon its predecessor—at least to English eyes; for the comparatively feeble lays which swell its pages are certainly better adapted for the translator's purpose than the poetry of Shakespeare, Dryden, Milton, and Gray, who wear with but an ill grace the jingling fetters of French rhyme. Determined, apparently, to avoid the imputation of exclusiveness, M. de Chatelain has been very comprehensive in his selection, and among the illustrations of *Beautés* of English Poesy we find lyrics from the famous pens of Tupper, G. W. M. Reynolds, and Fitzball. Far be it from us to call in question the judicious choice made by M. de Chatelain; but we would in friendship counsel him against invidious distinctions—if Tupper and Fitzball are admitted to the sacred precincts of the temple of Apollo, why—oh why—is no niche reserved for the immortal Bunn?

Trades' Unions and Strikes is a pamphlet written by the Secretary to the London Society of Bookbinders. The writer appears to be well acquainted with the subject; he discusses it with considerable ability, and evinces a desire that it should be generally understood that working men unite to support, but not combine to injure.

Memorials of Workers, is a meritorious address, intended by the author expressly to encourage every man who is toiling to improve himself, and to benefit others. The many remarkable instances which Mr. Godwin gives of men who, without friends, and without the advantages of early education, have, by perseverance, risen to proud positions of usefulness and eminence in society, are calculated to inspire every earnest aspirant in every condition with hope and with the assurance of success.

This new edition of the well-known *Life of Oliver Cromwell*, by Guizot, is published in a form and size at once handy and readable. It is too late in the day to criticise this work—opinions of its merits and demerits having been long since very generally formed. It is—certainly an able work, and interesting also as the production of a man whose genius, culture and principles are essentially different from those of the men who were engaged in the great English revolution. So far and so well as Cromwell and his times can be understood and appreciated by a foreigner, it has been done by Guizot, who has unquestionably displayed great ability in his work on the subject. But the men and the events connected with the Commonwealth, we cannot help saying, will, by their influence, always greatly transcend any opinion or estimate formed of them by our author.

MISCELLANIES.†

ESSAY-WRITING is apparently coming again into fashion; and we may notice with commendation a series of essays by Mr. Baxter, which are calculated to please on perusal, and to promote a proper understanding of the age we live in. Mr. Baxter believes that the world has greatly improved; that we are both better off and better than our forefathers, less superstitious, more literary, less narrow-minded, and more free; also more tolerant and truly religious. Mr. Baxter's vein flows with facility, and his style is marked by grace as well as ease. Sermon-writing, too, is regarded with more favour than formerly. The Rev. W. G. Barrett having succeeded, and deservedly, in furnishing the clerical profession with more than a hundred excellent sketches and skeletons of discourses, adds to his second series more than as many more, still better, and uncommonly well-adapted to help in pulpit composition. Dr. Schaible, too, has offered helps in the arts of thinking and composition, which will be found especially useful to preceptors.

The popularity of essay-writing is much nurtured by the brief papers contributed to our journals. These are frequently collected into distinct

volumes. Mr. Wills gives us an excellent set of such papers, under the title of *Old Leaves*; and Blackwood many a pleasant story from the pages of *Maga*. The late Mr. De Quincey's *Letters* are of the same character, but of higher aim. Life, however, is not wholly reflective; there are fields of action as well as of thought. Captain Hutchinson supplies us with an accumulation of minute facts in connection with the mutinies in Oude, of great service to the survivors of those who were sacrificed during the terrible conflict. He has published, with the concurrence of the Government of India, "the most accurate and complete information that the Local Government has been able to collect," for the benefit of all who may have lost friends or relatives in Oude. Lieut.-Colonel John Adye, in like manner, supplies us with an official *Review of the Crimean War*, in which he defends Lord Raglan and other officers against the representations of Mr. Russell. His work is illustrated with numerous coloured maps. Another useful work, is one by Mr. Glover on *Harbours of Refuge*. The exposure of official jobbing contained in this production is complete. Surely, millions will not continue to be wasted in the infamous manner here pointed out. We commend Mr. Glover's statements to the notice of Government.

Among the works of elegant literature published since Christmas, a new edition of *The Household of Sir Thomas More*, by the author of *Mary Powell*, merits recognition. An appendix has been added to it, in which learned notices of Erasmus More and his daughter Margaret, and some local and other traditions are collected. We have likewise a curious work in French, entitled *Histoire de la Littérature des Fous*. Some of the specimens of lyrical genius possessed by lunatics are most interesting; but the work is not altogether trustworthy. Among the insane, we have Thomas Wirgman, who translated the articles on Kant and Transcendental Philosophy for the *Encyclopedia Londinensis*, and wrote many books on the same subject. He is here stated to have retired from business with a large fortune, to have expended it in the publication of his works, and to have died in distress. We knew the man well, and his productions, and can assure M. Delepierre that he has made an absurd mistake. But we cannot account for his positive misstatements. M. Delepierre thinks he finds proof of Wirgman's insanity in his coloured diagrams and gilt title-pages; but he seems unaware that the philosophical system thus illustrated is that of the great Kant, now acknowledged by the best and soundest of metaphysical authorities as the father of modern philosophy; and that the diagrams are not only of much use to the student, but are correctly as well as ingeniously constructed, as convenient illustrations of the argument. To be sure, we gather from some previous remarks, that in M. Delepierre's opinion, philosophy itself, even in such persons as Kant and Aristotle, is but a sort of sublime madness. A man who spends his life in such a pursuit, to say nothing of his fortune, is, in his estimation, only a kind of rational lunatic.

The new work on the Highlands contains a graphic account of the condition of Strathavon and Glenlivet. The author has had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the subject. His father held a tract of the Grampian Hills, in Banffshire, including within its range "Cairngorm, famed for its gems, Ben-Macdui, said to be the highest ground in Britain, the dark and awful gorge of Lochavon, on which the sun but seldom shines, Clachdian, or the shelter-stone at Lochavon, Clachvan, or Clach-na-Ban (the women's stone, once, and sometimes even now, the resort of females in an interesting condition, to ensure them an auspicious hour), and many other objects of surpassing local interest and Alpine grandeur." Thus qualified, the writer, it may be believed, delineates with a genial pen the various features of the country he has undertaken to describe. The little book abounds in entertainment.

Passing from Scotland to America, we notice a quarto volume of testimonials in favour of Washington Irving, which will be welcome to his admirers in this country. We conclude this list of miscellaneous books with commending to perusal the *Memoir of Emma Tatham*, a poetess little known, but not without merit. The volume also contains some poems of hers not hitherto published.

SERIALS.

BLACKWOOD this month concludes its didactic on "St. Stephen's," and which, we perceive, is also advertised for separate publication. The third part is rougher, but more vigorous than its predecessors. The autobiography of "Norman Sinclair" is continued, and "The Luck of Ladysmede" concluded. There is a venturesome paper on Fielding and "Tom Jones," in which the modern critic reverses the received dictum, that the novel mentioned is perfect in structure. His remarks are for the most part sensible, but scarcely apply to the question raised. He seems to derive his notions of construction not from ancient models, which were, of course, the novelist's exemplars, but from the brief drawing-room dramas of the modern French stage, where language and illustration are sacrificed to certain limitations, suitable to purposes of convenience and neatness, which the elder masters had no motive to consider. The structure he proposes is, in fact, mechanical, not organic; it is the latter which old writers, however classical, observed; the former are the resort of the neat manipulators of French drama and *nouvellette*. These limitations are called by our new critic Economy and Selection, laws which may be admitted for the regulation of taste, but to which genius is but seldom obedient. They may suit a Virgil or a Taylor, but are transcended altogether by a Homer or a Fielding. Think, for a moment, of trying Ariosto by such rules! Why, even Tasso would shrink from their application. Besides, when authors have once gained their niches of fame, they are not to be dislodged by private criticism. Individual objection is lost in the universal consent.

Fraser's Magazine. This excellent magazine has always a variety of interesting articles. This number commences with several hitherto unpublished letters by Shelley, which we must carefully peruse before we pronounce on their effect on the Poet's character. Mr. Peacock's revelations have materially affected our previous notions relating to Shelley's first marriage. A smart paper on "the Worries of Life" follows. The serials are continued, and a new one, by the Author of "Headlong Hall," is promised for next month. There is a very able article by Professor Levi on the Budget; and altogether it is a powerful number.

Dublin University busies itself with Tennyson and his poetry. Here is

* *Beautés de la Poésie Anglaise*. Par le Chevalier de CHATELAIN. Vol. II. London: Rolandi.

Trades' Unions and Strikes; their Philosophy and Intention. By T. J. DUNNING. London: Henry Harley, Raquet Court, Fleet Street.

Memorials of Workers. By GEORGE GODWIN, F.R.S. London: Robert Hardwicke.

Life of Oliver Cromwell. By F. GUIZOT. London: Richard Bentley.

† *Hints to Thinkers; or, Lectures for the Times*. By W. E. BAXTER, Esq. M.P. Routledge.

New Sketches and Skeletons of Sermons, Devout and Practical; specially Prepared, and wholly Original. First Series (second edition), and Second Series. By Rev. W. G. BARRETT. Thos. Jopps.

Practical Elementary Exercises in the Art of Thinking. By CHARLES SCHÄIBLE, Ph.D., M.D., L.O.P. Aylott and Son.

Old Leaves gathered from "Household Words". By W. HENRY WILLS. Chapman and Hall.

Tales from "Blackwood", Vol. VII. Blackwood and Sons.

Letters to a Young Man whose Education has been neglected, and other Papers. By THOMAS DE QUINCEY. James Hogg and Sons.

Narrative of the Mutinies in Oude. Collected from Authentic Records. By Captain G. HUTCHINSON. Published by Authority. Smith, Elder, and Co.

A Review of the Crimean War to the Winter of 1854-5. By Lieut.-Col. JOHN ADYE, C.B. Hurst and Blackett.

Harbours of Refuge; not Dangerous Decays, Ship-traps, nor Wrecking Pools. By FRED. R. A. GLOVER, M.A. Edw. Stanford.

The Household of Sir Thomas More. By the Author of "Mary Powell." Fourth Edition, with an Appendix. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

Histoire Littéraire des Fous. Par OCTAVE DELEPIERRE. Trübner and Co.

Lectures on the Mountains; or, the Highlands and Highlanders as they Were and as they Are. First Series. Saunders, Otley, and Co.

Irvingiana: a Memorial of Washington Irving. New York: C. B. Richardson.

Memoir of Emma Tatham. By BENJAMIN GREGORY. Hamilton and Co.

an eloquent paper on Maclise's Illustrations to "The Princess," and another, by a Country Parson, on the religious aspects of the Laureate's productions. The latter proves that, in the highest sense, Tennyson is a religious poet. The provocative to his remarks are certain strictures of M. Emile Montégut, who has regarded our poet's works from a French point of view, and one not altogether favourable to a just decision. Yet he has hit on a truth or two. Thus, he tells us that Tennyson's genius has a predilection for "heroism in reverie rather than heroism in action; and that he paints woman not as a whole but in details; seizing some delicate play of expression, some passing glance, some evanescent work of light and shadow upon a golden curl, some bend of the neck, or some attitude of beauty." The French critic attributes this habit to the fugitive character of English beauty, which is the least classical and most romantic in the world. Tennyson's ladies, he says, are "all smiles, all melancholy, or all caprice; Claribel is a shadow; Lilian, a peal of laughter; Mariana, a melancholy look; Isabel, an attitude." The number contains also a powerful poem by Atherstone, on "The River turned into Blood," and another paper on Victor Hugo's "La Légende des Siècles." "The Season Ticket" is concluded, and "The Club-Table" continued. The latter includes brief notices of books.

We trust the *Universal Review*, which possesses more than nominal claims to its title, and which has now lived through twelve months, will grow, if not in bulk, at least in vigour and in favour with the public.

The *Cornhill Magazine* for March contains, noticeable among its contents, a few words on Junius and Macaulay; the National Gallery difficulty solved; and Student Life in Scotland. "William Hogarth," "Studies in Animal Life," "Framley Parsonage," and "Lovel the Widower," are continued.

The *Eclectic*, with its average number of well-chosen and ably written reviews and notices of books, contains a good paper on Macaulay.

The *Englishwoman's Journal* opens with statistics as to the employment of the Women of Great Britain. The inquiry is comprehensive and well conducted. We can with pleasure recommend a journal such as this, whose pages are highly entertaining and instructive, and devoted mainly and with no lack of ability to the social, moral, and intellectual advancement of Englishwomen.

The *Working Men's College Magazine* is a cheap and useful serial, devoted, as its name implies, to subjects of special interest and advantage to working men. But though it is called their college magazine, it is evidently suited for, and ought to attract the attention of mechanics generally, who, from sundry causes, are not associated with Working Men's Colleges. We mention this to prevent any misconception as to the contents of the magazine, and to point out that it contains something more than a registry of the pursuits and progress of the students. In the January and current numbers are papers by T. R. Bennett, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, which throw much light on the subject of Trades' Unions and Strikes. The origin and objects of these institutions are dwelt upon, and, though the best systems and societies are liable to be abused and to require reform, we believe that if "Trades' Unions" were better understood and more prudently managed, their objects would be accomplished with more advantage to the men connected with them, and to the country at large. These papers are ably written, and supply the requisite information on a question that has recently been agitated with considerable pertinacity and some ignorance, attended by more serious consequences than ever before. Other papers, of a popular kind, entitle the *Working Men's College Magazine* to a fair share of public support, and strongly recommend it to those for whom it is specially intended.

The *Ladies' Treasury* admirably sustains its character as a ladies' treasury. The illustrations are, as usual, varied and good, and the contents truly excellent.

No. I. (February) of *The Piccadilly Papers* contains an elaborate paper on "the great increase of the public expenditure; its causes, and how to check it." It is the first of a series of good promise.

Messrs. Longman and Co. have issued the second and third parts of the "people's edition" of the *Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore*, edited and abridged from the first edition by Lord John Russell. The ten parts in which these memoirs, &c., are to be completed will contain eight portraits and two vignettes engraved on steel. The second part has a portrait of the noble and talented editor. It is superfluous to add that the life and correspondence of Moore are most interesting reading.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall have issued the fourth number of the tale entitled *One of Them*, by Charles Lever. It progresses pleasantly.

The *Spiritual Magazine* progresses, and maintains its conflict with objectors, Mr. Grant and Mr. Dickens being the two who cause most excitement. Mr. Harris's extraordinary discourses command much attention; and some details are given of "Spiritualism among the Mormons," and "Spiritualism at the Tuileries," which are very properly registered, and should doubtless awaken reflection. Mr. Howitt seems to consider that the manifestations he advocates are the only means existing of confounding Materialism. We may add, that it is only the materialist who can need such proofs; the truly spiritual believer has long ago transcended the necessity for such evidence, and attained to a certainty which they can never supply. Philosophy will nevertheless do well to examine into the phenomena, which we may reasonably suppose have a scientific ground, and may be referred to intelligible causes.

The *Art-Journal* for the current month contains, from the royal collections at Windsor, Dresden and Osborne, beautiful engravings of the celebrated pictures of "The Misers," "Madonna di San Sisto," and "The Cow-keeper."

Once a Week contains, amongst other things equally entertaining and cleverly illustrated, "Evan Harrington; or, He would be a Gentleman," continued, "A Clerical Captain," "Cost of Cottages," by Harriet Martineau, and "Bribery and Corruption," by Albany Fonblanque.

The very valuable and comprehensive English *Cyclopædia of Arts and Sciences*, published by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, has reached its fourteenth part.

Recreative Science, a monthly record and remembrancer of intellectual observation, possesses real intrinsic value, the best of all recommendations any magazine or serial can have to public attention. It certainly makes science attractive and entertaining; its prominent characteristic being an

endeavour to blend in its pages the charms of Poetry with the truths of Science.

There is great care shown by the conductors of *Kingston's Magazine for Boys* to instruct while they amuse its youthful readers, and this must, therefore, be its chief recommendation to those for whom it is specially intended.

Nos. 25 and 26 of *Blackie's Comprehensive History of India* come to the charges against Clive in 1772. It is a most valuable history, and beautifully illustrated.

We have received the eighth part of "Plain or Ringlets," which story is told with a good deal of wit and spirit, under a title that is evidently curious and interesting to the majority of fair readers whom nature has adorned with rich and profuse locks. For the particularity of the story, however, and how things turn and persons behave, we must refer our readers to the book itself, that they may enjoy the author's own manner of telling it.

Le Follet for March, a journal *du grand monde*, is, as usual, learned in Fashion, and elegantly illustrated.

We notice that Part II. of Cassell's *Popular Natural History* is just published.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

(SPECIAL.)

PARIS, 29th February, 1860.

THERE is no city in Europe where it is so difficult to procure reliable intelligence as to political movements and intentions as in Paris, although perhaps at the present moment there is no other city from which so many movements emanate, or where intentions are more significant. It has been often observed, in one of those terse sayings which Louis XIV. brought into fashion by his "*L'Etat c'est moi*," that France is Paris, and this might be further condensed to the effect that Paris is the Tuileries; for assuredly there is the Olympus of the French mythology of the day; where they used to bake tiles, they now forge thunderbolts, a more august, but at the same time more dangerous process. However, as I was saying, the manufacture is conducted with so much secrecy, that it is no easy matter to discover what is actually going on. Of course there is an abundant supply of *canards* to make up for the want of certain news, and we are startled by constant and alarming rumours, which do great credit to the ingenious versatility of the person or persons by whom they are fabricated. There is an amusing play now being performed at the *Théâtre des Variétés*, in which M. BLONDIN, the mythical personage whom the American newspapers represented as having crossed the Falls of Niagara, is introduced in the middle of his hypothetical exploit surrounded by a perfect swarm of ducks. It seems to me that what little appetite there is in Paris for politics, is forced to satisfy itself with this same ornithological food, which, like Sam Weller's muffins, is very filling at the price. In England, all these false rumours are attributed to the hunger of the penny-a-liner, with whom the wish is father to the thought, and who argues that if this or that terrific event is not true, why it ought to be, which is almost the same. They order this matter better in France, as STERNE said, and the penny-a-liner tribe is as vigorously persecuted, or rather prosecuted, as its worst enemies could desire: here "the duck" no longer finds its element in columns of newspapers, though, heaven knows, the columns of the French journals are watery enough for a much larger bird. How astonished an Englishman would be to find by the side of the two matutinal eggs that miserable and attenuated sheet which in this country presumes to call itself a newspaper! There is about as much playful irony in calling these productions newspapers, as in designating TROTTER's lucubrations as "philosophy."

I have before me a Paris daily paper, *L'Opinion National* (a singularly inappropriate name, by the way), which is a very fair specimen of its class; and what does it contain? It is the size of a sheet of the *Times*, and has four sides, one of which is entirely devoted to advertisements, so that only three are available for the writers. There is no attempt at fair criticism of events, and the only sign of individuality that can be detected from one end to the other, is a little feeble vituperation of Austria. Otherwise, it is a mere collection of odds and ends—the despatch of M. THOUVENOT, quotations of the Bourse, lengthy extracts from treaties, and the correspondence of NAPOLEON I. relative to the Pontifical territory, a tedious critique on some concerts, in place of the *feuilleton*, which is generally composed of a chapter of a novel; and then the remaining space is filled up with little scraps from foreign newspapers. For example, the English intelligence is merely a curt extract from the *Morning Post*. Altogether, a more dismal document you could not conceive, unless it be the *London Gazette* or the *Court Circular*. There was a paragraph in *Le Nord* of Monday last which amused me considerably, and it shows what sort of notion is entertained even now of our own country. The writer congratulates England on having endorsed the commercial treaty with France, and then proceeds to hope that it is an omen on the part of England that she is commencing a new and more humane policy; and that for the future she will not think it necessary to ruin other nations, and disturb the peace of the world, in order to procure her own aggrandisement. This is tolerably cool.

The question by which public feeling is chiefly agitated is not so much the treaty of commerce, or even the annexation, as the problem of the papal territory, and what will be done with it. An address to the Pope from the Catholics of Paris has been drawn up, of great importance, though the significance of it can scarcely be entirely appreciated, any more than could "Le Pape et le Congrès," until we can get to know something further about its paternity.

The document is of considerable length, and is thoroughly characteristic of all French literature. There is a clear and logical division of the subjects; each point is accurately stated, traced from general principles, and finally illustrated from past history. In fact, the line of argument, and the method in which it is drawn out, are equally deserving of admiration; so admirable, we fear, that all its candour and impartiality will fall powerless and unvalued in the quarter where it is directed. Though couched in all possible terms of respect, the subscribers to the address do not hesitate to speak with entire frankness; and it is rather a remonstrance, than a consolatory exhortation, such as one would have expected—"their devotion," as they well say, "consisting not in flattering, but in assisting." It is rather a fall for the Infallible Church to be assisted by anybody, and the offer of help is probably with his Holiness, as with other people, a sign of weakness. We shall have another illustration of the old proverb, that Heaven helps those who help themselves; the feebleness of the papacy at the present time is a token that it is no longer a self-helper, and that Heaven has left it to itself. But to return to the address. It opens by stating generally that they wish to see the Pope place his Government on a footing consistent with a condition of things which the papal power cannot control: they do not require abdication—heaven forbid!—but they venture to suggest one of those actions rich in consequences, actions which save whilst they renew powers. They then set forth two principles which ought henceforth to be sacredly observed in the government of the States of the Church. The first is, that, inasmuch as there is a fundamental difference between the *property* of the Church—which must always be inviolable—and that society of men which various circumstances have placed under the government of the Holy See, therefore the Holy Father is bound to recognise the civil rights which Catholic doctrine has never ceased to admit in the civil community, rights which are as justly claimed at Bologna as at Paris. It was by the exercise of these rights that the temporal power was first conferred: "The real founder of the temporal power of the Popes was the Roman people; PEPIN and CHARLEMAGNE only gave that power the sanction of their swords." "Through all epochs," they add, "the consent, expressed or not, of the national will sanctions the temporal power in its various developments, and supports while it legitimises it." The second principle is that of the Italian nationality, which is illustrated by divers historical events.

There is thus a double basis of reconciliation between the Pope and the States, (1), the assurance to the people that they shall enjoy the application of those principles which constitute at the present day the political life of all nations; (2), an organisation which allows this people to remain in communion with the general life of the Italian nation. Unless this reconciliation is effected, the subscribers see nothing but disasters for the religious world; then follows the remarkable appeal: "Never, Most Holy Father, has a more solemn crisis come upon the Church or the world. Upon the resolutions that your Holiness shall adopt, will depend the pacification of Italy, nay, may be the religious destiny of the nineteenth century."

To turn from grave to gay; there is a representation in one of the illustrated papers of Paris of Mr. GLADSTONE laying his budget before the English parliament. The right honourable gentleman is evidently drawn from imagination, and a very fervid imagination the draughtsman must have, for I doubt if DISRAELI himself would recognise his chief opponent. "*Le Budget*" is a most portentous-looking roll. The French people just now are loud in their admiration of GLADSTONE and his financial scheme. Fortunately for them, they have no income-tax to pay.

There are distinct symptoms of a temporary Anglomania setting in in Paris. The Parisian swell is astonished to find himself a clotheshorse for coats and trousers of English cut, and even that strange garment, the Inverness cape, has made its way across the channel. Tea is becoming a common beverage, which it certainly never has been hitherto. English words and phrases are getting more fashionable, and English books are being translated into French with an enormous accession of vigour. I also observe, that my amiable compatriot, the British "bouledogue," is becoming prevalent; which, I believe, is an unmistakable sign of an increase of good feeling towards the nation to which that delightful animal belongs, and whose characteristics he is supposed so accurately to represent. Action and re-action are always equal, so no doubt the present friendliness towards England—"that accursed, triumphant beast," as MICHELET styled her—is the natural corollary of the late bitter and violent dislikes which it supersedes for a time, and for a time only.

What would MILL or BUCKLE say to a case like that which has just been tried at Lyon? In the early part of the month a person of the name of RIVOIRE was prosecuted before the authorities for having taken the communion on Christmas-day in a state of intoxication, and having disturbed Divine worship. The defendant was convicted, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. Upon this, the public minister, deeming the punishment utterly insufficient, appealed to a higher chamber, where the sentence has been changed from two to twelve months.

HANOVER, February 27, 1860.

THE chief domestic topic of the week has been the proposed military reform in Prussia. The liberals do not appear to be quite decided whether the change is deserving of their support or their opposition. The circumstance that journals with supposed Russian, i.e., despotic tendencies, are in favour of the scheme, may be the cause of this doubt and hesitation. Besides the official journals,

the ministry enjoys for this reform the hearty concurrence of the *Kreuz-Zeitung*, the mortal foe of liberal progress. But this paper piques itself upon being the organ of military Prussia, and is, therefore, naturally prepared to countenance any measure having for its object the increase of the army, and the extension of the period of service. The *de facto* abolition of the *Landwehr*, or militia—the hitherto presumed bulwark of Prussia's civil liberty—and the adoption, in its stead, of a system somewhat resembling that existing just now in France, it is feared, will place the Sovereign and his ministers beyond the influence of public opinion. The measure may be justified by the signs of the times; but, even should Germany be spared from the evils of war, a long period of pure military rule must be the fate of this and most Continental nations. The question of the *two* or the *three* years' term of service will probably form the subject of a serious debate in the Prussian Chambers. The most important alterations in the military organisation of Prussia will be briefly as follows:—From the age of seventeen years, every Prussian subject, till his forty-ninth birthday, is bound to perform military duty. The armed force is composed of the army proper, the marine (sailors and coastguard), and the *Landsturm*, or general call to arms. The army is divided into "*active*" army, *land-wehr*, and *marine*. The *Landsturm* comprehends all men bound to serve, who do not already form part of the army or marine. The numerical strength of the army and marine are regulated by the requirements of the state. The active army and marine are to be always under arms. The term of service is eight years, to date from each man's entry into the army, the entry to take place on the 1st of January of that year in which he completes the twentieth year of his age. During these eight years, the men are bound to serve—in the cavalry, the first four years; in the infantry, the artillery, and the marines, the first three years; in the "*Train*" the first half-year. The remainder of the eight years' term of service, they go, on furlough, into the reserve, unless the requirements of the service demand their recall. During the furlough, the men will not be regularly recalled, but twice a year—those of the cavalry but once—to the annual manoeuvres. The *reserve* and coast-guard are intended to second the active army and the marine. The reserve is only to be called out in defence of the country within the borders; at the same time the Government may employ, if need be, this branch of the armed force beyond the frontiers. On the expiration of the eight years' term of service, the men enter the *Landwehr*, to which they belong till they have reached their thirty-ninth birthday, whereupon they are entirely free of military duty. The distinctions hitherto known as the *Landwehr* of the *first*, and the *Landwehr* of the *second* call are abolished; but the privilege accorded to young men of education, of serving actively *one* year only, on passing an examination and equipping and maintaining themselves, is retained; and this one year is to be counted as three in the infantry, and four in the cavalry. Thereupon, according to their abilities and rank in life, they will be proposed as officers in the *reserve*, the *Landwehr*, and the *marine*.

Hereby it seems that the present exclusive system, as regards officers of the line, is to be retained. The men of the army and the marine on furlough will remain during their furlough under military control, but without being circumscribed in choosing their place of abode, that is, within the Prussian territories. The regulations of this new military law regarding the duration of the conscript service in the several branches of the service, apply only to times of peace; in times of war the requirements of the sovereign will alone be consulted; and all the corps of the army and the marine under arms will be filled up from the older or younger classes of conscripts in proportion to the reductions made during the peace: the *Landsturm* to be called to arms only in the event of an invasion.

It is the general belief that, if this law be carried out to the letter, the annual conscription of recruits will be sixty thousand men, instead of forty thousand as hitherto, and cost at least sixteen millions of thalers more per annum.

It has been proposed in the Federal Diet by the Committee for the Affairs of Holstein-Lauenburg, to demand from Denmark the fulfilment of the promises given in 1851 and 1852, viz., to convoke a conference of delegates; to respect the rights of the Duchies in all affairs of a special or general nature, and not promulgate any general laws without the acquiescence of the Duchies. The vote upon this proposal is deferred till the 8th March.

The agitation in the Duchies is waxing hotter, and motions for the accusation of Danish ministers, freedom of the press, the use of the German language in schools, &c. are the order of the day. A new Danish Ministry has just been formed, after much difficulty. It comprises the following personages: HALL, President of the Council, and Minister, *ad interim*, for Foreign Affairs; FRINGER, Finance; MONRAD, Education, and Minister, *ad interim*, for Home Affairs; CASSE, Minister of Justice; TLESTRUP, Minister for War; BILLE, Marine; WOLFSHAGEN, Minister for Schleswig; RAASLOFF, Minister for Holstein. Two of these gentlemen, namely, HALL and WOLFSHAGEN, are most unpopular in the Duchies, and their appointment will not tend to allay the present excitement according to all appearances. The attention of the Federal Governments has been attracted to the large exportation of horses, and the transmission of arms from and through Germany of late; and negotiations are on foot relative to a prohibition to be published upon the subject. The Federal Diet has received and referred to committees the proposals of the Wurzburg Conference States relative to the introduction of a general system of weights and measures, and

that of Prussia for the revision of the Federal military organisation upon the basis laid down by the Cabinet of Berlin.

From Austria we have an Imperial edict to the effect, that the Jews in Lower Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Hungary, the Woiwodship, the Banat, Croatia, Slavonia, Transylvania, the Coastlands, and Dalmatia, are allowed to possess landed property; but without being entitled to the privileges and rights enjoyed by Christian, or, rather, non-Jewish, landowners. This is another of the promised reforms which were to attract to the Emperor the love and admiration of his subjects, and enable him by a dash of his pen to do this and that.

According to reports from Vienna a better understanding has arisen between the courts of Berlin and Vienna. Here, however, the idea is prevalent that Prussia is beginning to feel somewhat uncomfortable at the isolated position she now occupies in Germany. See sees France nibbling at the Alps, and thinks a snap at the Rhine is not beyond the range of possibilities; consequently she would have no objection to conciliate Austria and Austria's German allies. But it will be difficult to set herself right again either with princes or people. Whether right or wrong, politic or inpolitic, her neutrality during the Italian war, while Germans were being mowed down by rifled cannon and maimed and slaughtered by mercenary Zouaves and blacks, will not be forgotten for many a long year. North and South are quite of one mind upon this matter, as the letter of Mr. VON GAGERN proves. The Germans as a people detest the Austrian system of Government, and hardly a man would raise his finger in defence of it; but the defeat of the Austrians they cannot avoid regarding as a national defeat by a nation which of all others they, nationally speaking, hate the most. Prussia now stands alone in Germany, and if attacked on the Rhine even, it is a question whether she would find Germany united in her support. Prussia has undoubtedly sacrificed her prospects of future power in Germany to present imaginary profit and security.

No change has occurred in the Hessian Constitution question; the people seem to have given up every hope of redress from the Diet, and all the discontented who possess means sufficient are fast leaving the country. Since 1852 the population has decreased more than four per cent., and this without war or disease. This is a logic, one would think, sufficiently clear and eloquent to induce the Elector to alter his views upon Government, but he appears to be as determined as ever. The other princes stand by with folded arms, so nothing is left for the people but submission or emigration.

RECORD OF THE WEEK.

HOME AND COLONIAL.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, Prince Alfred returned to England in the *Euryalus*, having passed his examination as midshipman.

On Monday, Feb. 27, a public meeting in favour of an Irish Reform Bill was held in the Queen's Theatre, Dublin; the Lord Mayor presided, and resolutions were passed demanding an extension of the franchise to all who are rated at £5.—On Tuesday, Feb. 28, a numerous meeting of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce adopted a petition to Parliament against the Edinburgh Annuity Tax Bill.—On Wednesday, Feb. 29, was a meeting of the Newspaper and Periodical Press Association. Resolutions were passed, claiming the repeal of the paper duty, in spite of the hostile motion threatened in the House of Commons by Sir W. Miles and Mr. Puller.—On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the merchants and lace manufacturers at Nottingham pronounced in favour of the commercial treaty and the Budget.

On Sunday, Feb. 26, an American preached to a large audience at the Pavilion Theatre. Lords Shaftesbury and Kinnaird took part in the service.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, a deputation waited on the Hon. W. Cowper with regard to the filthy state of the Serpentine; Sir John Shelley and Sir Minto Farquhar hoped the present insufficient remedy would be stopped at once.—On Monday, Feb. 27, a deputation from St. Luke's, Chelsea, urged upon the Chief Commissioner to proceed with the embankment of the river between Chelsea and Battersea. Mr. Cowper advised them to ask Parliament for more money to do it thoroughly.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday, Feb. 28, announces that Captain Fredk. Leopold M'Clintock has been knighted; Andrew Buchanan, Esq., has been created a K.C.B.

On Sunday, Feb. 26, died the Hon. Geo. Yelverton, eldest son of Viscount Avonmore, aged forty-one.—On Monday, Feb. 27, Mr. Palmer, banker, of Bristol, expired, aged eighty-eight. His property is estimated at a quarter of a million.—On Tuesday, Feb. 28, died Dr. John Gifford Webb, Dean of Lincoln.

The public health continues to deteriorate. On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the Registrar-General announced the deaths to be 1,500, being 151 over the average; births 1,964, or 228 above the average.

On Friday, Feb. 24, off Portland, H.M.S. *Diadem*, 32, was seriously damaged by a collision with the *Queen*, 91.—On Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Channel, the *Mersey*, 40, ran foul of the *Algiers*, 91; both ships are very much injured.—On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the *Mersey* lost three men in the gale.—On Wednesday, Feb. 29, four deserters were tried on board the *Victory*, at Portsmouth; sentence, twelve months' hard labour in jail.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, a terrible hurricane caused great damage in London and the provinces; two men were blown into the Surrey Canal and drowned; a boy drowned in the Thames; other lives lost in the country, and many persons wounded from the same cause; the destruction of property was enormous.—On Monday, Feb. 27, a great fire destroyed Morley and Co.'s warehouse in Wood Street, Cheapside, and many surrounding houses were damaged; a vast amount of valuable goods is consumed.—On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the steamer *Nimrod*, from Liverpool to Cork, was wrecked off St. David's Head, Pembrokeshire; forty lives are thought to be lost, and £50,000.

On Monday, Feb. 27, arrived the Cape mail of Jan. 20; the vine disease is spreading; the Orange River republic have elected Pretorius President; Dr. Livingstone and party were at the bend of the Zambesi river, and about to visit the Makololo country.

On Monday, Feb. 27, the Calcutta mail of Jan. 24, was received; preparations for the Chinese expedition continue; commands have been given to Sir R. Napier and Sir J. Michell.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, were published the Board of Trade returns, showing a falling off of 2½ per cent. compared with Jan. 1859; but an increase of 30 per cent. compared with Jan. 1858.—On the same day the General Steam Navigation Company declared a dividend of 10 per cent.—On Wednesday, Feb. 29, at a meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company power was given to the directors to raise £20,000 to complete the cable.—On Thursday, March 1, Consols were closed at 94½, 94½, for money and 94½, 95 for the account; French rentes 68 fr. 10 c.

FOREIGN.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, a note was despatched from the Emperor Napoleon to Turin, requesting the King of Sardinia to give up the annexation of Tuscany to Piedmont.—On Monday, Feb. 27, it was announced that Count Cavour would consent to the Emperor's proposal, provided universal suffrage were loyally carried out in each Italian state.—On Thursday, March 1, on opening the French Legislative Chambers, the Emperor Louis Napoleon announced that he had advised the King of Sardinia to maintain Tuscany as an independent state, and to respect the rights of the Holy See. He declared that the annexation of Savoy was necessary to France, but leaves it to the Great Powers to decide. He also announced a new era of peace for France, and congratulated the empire on the treaty with Great Britain.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the *Morning Chronicle* announced that a treaty was on the eve of signature between Austria and Russia, in order to keep upon good terms with France. Russia refuses to aid Austria in Italy, but will act with her on the Danube and in Hungary.—On Monday, Feb. 27, the *Patrie* and *Presse* flatly contradicted this statement.—On the same day, the official journal of Vienna also denied it, but asserted that Austria will not in future oppose Russian policy in Turkey.—On Thursday, March 1, the *Chronicle* reiterates its statement, adding that the Prince of Hesse is on his way from Vienna to St. Petersburg with the treaty.

On Friday, Feb. 24, the Dictator Farini arrived at Forli, in the Papal States, and was received with enthusiasm, and shouts for the "King" and "annexation."

On Thursday, Feb. 23, Muley Abbas had an interview with O'Donnell to propose terms; the result was unfavourable to peace.—On Sunday, Feb. 26, the Spanish squadron left Algeiras, and bombarded the Moorish ports of Larache and Arzella; great destruction among the Moors; Spanish loss, one man.

On Monday, Feb. 27, at Belgrade, a new Servian Ministry was formed; Prince Milosch continues very ill.

On the 17th of February, a resolution was passed in the Senate of the United States, calling for a letter to the French Emperor to discuss the subject of free trade.

By the American mail on Tuesday, Feb. 28, news arrived that Mexico is in frightful anarchy; Miramon was expected to reach Vera Cruz on the 1st of March; a great battle had been fought, in which the Liberals were utterly routed.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN. Seldom has the expectation of a new opera been more strainedly on tip-toe than in the case of Mr. Vincent Wallace's "Lurline," and never, in our time, if truth be told, have the favourable auguries, as well of good-natured friends as of connoisseurs, been so fully realized. If the lyre of the composer has been silent for twelve years, it has clearly not lost its tone, and the hand of the gifted musician has not forgotten her cunning. The subject, at once captivating and inspiring, has tinged his work with fascinating mysticism, now nerving him to demonstrate all the power that lays in sound, and now softening him to impassioned sweetness. All may deplore the incompleteness of the beautiful fragment of inspiration that Mendelssohn drew from the Lorelei; but all may now congratulate our country that a native master of music has so ingeniously captured and domiciled among us the fair spirit of the German stream. And not alone must Mr. Wallace stand complimented on the exploit, for the immortals who nightly hold their court full fathom five below the high water mark of the gauzy flood in Covent Garden would have scorned, we are sure, the earthy fetters of some librettists who have spoilt by their rude handling the most commonplace legends of mortality and faerie. Mr. Fitzball

has not only very pleasingly arranged his subject for stage and musical purposes, but his libretto, free from the abominable superfluity that makes weeping critics shout for "the knife"—not, good reader, to truncate the author, but his verse—if not equal to that of Mr. Leslie's late operetta, is on the whole as far above libretto mediocrity as his accomplished collaborator's music is above the average of musical excellence. Premising that a superb overture preludes the opera, let us now give our reader a review of the action. The first scene is laid in a cavern on the Rhine, where, in common with *Rhineberg* (Mr. Santley), spirit-king, baritone, and a sort of subaqueous Prospero, who also keeps a Caliban and an Ariel of his own, we are apprised that *Lurline* (Miss Louisa Pyne) his fair daughter, has conceived a passion for a superjacent mortal, *Count Rudolph* (Mr. Harrison). The light thrown upon spirit life by both author and musician throughout their joint work is pleasing enough. The Lorelei, though gifted with the power of a Circe, is a lovelorn maiden; and the Rhine-king is no tyrant fiend, but a particularly respectable, mild, and thoughtful "heavy father," disturbed in his watery ways by the dissipated habits of his familiar, the *Gnome* (Mr. H. Corri), but otherwise so wrapt in paternal affection as to resign his wayward daughter, without reserve or soul-compact, to mortality and the love of the fast young *Rudolph*. *Rhineberg's* first recitative and the air, "Idle spirit wildly dreaming," is excellently and characteristically accompanied. Its melody is fluent as the stream; and Mr. Santley sings this, as every piece allotted to him, to perfection. The *Gnome* having been duly chastened, *Lurline* is called forth by her parent. Her first song, "The Spell," in which she avows her love, is, as intended, the gem of the work. In the ensuing romance, "When the night winds sweep the wave," with its unearthly accompaniment, *Lurline* describes her mystic power to lure and to destroy, and again refers to her subjugation by the master spirit of *Rudolph*. Here is a specimen of both the composer's and the artist's genius; and *Rhineberg's* answer, "How can a son of earth ensnare?" superbly declaimed by Mr. Santley, is no less remarkable. The pretty chorus, "Sail, sail on the midnight gale," closes the first scene, and brings us to the bower of the lady *Ghiva* (Miss Pilling), a mortal with whom the penniless *Rudolph* is supposed to have been flirting before the spell of *Lurline* took possession of his soul. This scene, which is comic throughout, possesses few passages of interest, if we except portions of the duo, "Haughty *Rudolph*," and the *Count's* part in the trio, "I think there's a saying of yore," which was very well delivered by Mr. Harrison. In Scene 3 we have a revel of *Rudolph* and his free companions. Their chorus, "Drain the cup of pleasure," makes a popular sensation. The wind instruments in the succeeding dialogue are admirably effective. Mr. Harrison has the labour and the honours of a grand scena, within his range, and leading up to an elegant romance, "Our bark in moonlight beaming," which he sings so feelingly, as to merit the redemand that nightly attends it. While he describes his sensations at the voice of *Lurline*, that voice is suddenly heard. She rises from the wave, places on his finger a ring, which confers "undrownability," and compels him, in the midst of a storm-rent *finale*, to seek a lover's grave in the whirl of waters. Act II. takes place in the crystal dwelling of *Lurline*, whereunto *Rudolph* has descended. The opening is grand and mysterious; passage after passage of great and varied beauty bring us to the *ad populum* cavatina, which Mr. Harrison well knows how to sing, "Sweet form, that on my dreamy gaze." Then follows a drinking song for *Lurline*, in which we cannot see the same beauties as do the all-powerful public, who *encore* it for Miss Pyne's vocalization, when they should dismiss it as far short of the composer's general mark of originality. An excellent buffo song, "As in this cup," which Mr. Corri, as the drunken *Gnome*, sings not only effectively but well, concludes this scene, and we again seek upper air and the fair *Ghiva's* toilette table. The song "Trobador Enchanting," which Miss Pilling sings with pure simplicity that better fits the strain than her supposed character, is the most strikingly tuneful *morceau* of the opera. Its first division insists upon being remembered, and its piquant refrain, as well as its easiness, will make it, we are bound to say, the favourite. But of this the music sellers will presently be the best judges. After thus prettily invoking *Rudolph*, Miss *Ghiva* is informed that he is drowned; but being requested (*sic in orig.*) to "share the sports," stifles her sorrow to the sound of a brisk and noisy chorus, and with plume and javelin seeks a distraction she hardly needed in the hunting-field. And now down we go again to *Rhineberg's* mysterious halls, where, in a very conventional, shoppy ballad, Mr. Santley discourses eloquent music about "A father's early love," and then, by way of change, attacks his Topsy of a *Gnome*. The latter reveals the presence of *Rudolph* in the cavern's recesses, where *Lurline* has bestowed him; and the puzzled father, to rid himself of the mortal, invokes "earth's fond memories to enthrall him." Here we must observe that to lay an opera scene beneath the waves is well enough; but to show a portion of the company singing in the Rhine-bed as easily as larks and as dry as bones, and, at the same time, another party in a boat on the water level, *i.e.*, in mid air across the stage, is an undue wrench of the imaginative faculty. But, the smile once passed, how we are soothed and charmed by the effective mediæval *corale* of Bürschen in the boat aloft, who mourn their comrade's loss, and, as *Rhineberg* intended, attract his attention. He enters despondingly. *Lurline*, unselfish ever, urges him earthward. Paterfamilias *Rhineberg* is indignant; but the maiden has her way. Their argument, which ends in the departure of the *Count* once more to his palace, with a boat load of treasures, is the basis of a superb *finale*, in which principals, band, and chorus, are taxed to the utmost, and produce a truly noble result. This *finale*, which, though many are struck with its Verdesque character, was, we believe, written before the flower of that maestro's fame, demands again and again our remembrance and all honour as a specimen of the English School of Opera. The opening scene of Act III. is a most beautifully painted view from *Rudolph's* Castle. The *Count's* address to "My home! my heart's first home," a regulation pattern ballad, demands notice only for the information of the music-buying world. Its sentiment and the situation are alike conveyed by the little we have quoted. *Rudolph* is welcomed by *Ghiva* with considerable coldness. His drowning, as she thought, for love of her, had been genteel; but his reappearance as a poor lover dispels the charm. His bachelor friends, however, show better feeling, and he soon makes them acquainted with the treasures of the deep. Their joyful and original chorus is concluded by a beautiful tenor solo, "Go! from this heart its

message bear," in which *Rudolph* conveys by the return *Gnome* his kind remembrances to *Lurline* ere he settles down to enjoy his old home and his old associations. A grand orchestral symphony succeeds, enveloping, as it were, sundry vocal pieces of immense merit and varied character, and concluding with a grand scena, in three movements for *Lurline*. Here Miss Pyne, seized by an extent of dramatic energy we have not been used to mark in her, rises beyond herself, and produces, especially in the so-called prayer, "Oh, Thou, to whom," a thorough sensation. The poor perturbed sprite has once more sought her *Rudolph's* side, but not unwatched by her parent. *Rhineberg* appears; declaims (per Santley) very nobly against her *penchant* for a mixed marriage; then joins her, *Liba* (an attendant sprite, Miss Cruise) and the *Gnome*, in a beautiful unaccompanied part song, "Though the world," and dismisses her, if not with a blessing, still without such an awful curse as might have been expected from a more ardent spirit. The climax now comes on apace; *Rudolph* and *Lurline* meet once more. Their union has been decreed by fate. Nor earthly joys on the one side, nor father's will on the other, may defer it. In a long scene, displaying all the composer's mastery of instrumentation, and the best points of both the principal artists, the nymph and her lover complete their betrothal. The life of the former, threatened for a moment by a troop of thievish assassins, is preserved by his supernatural connections; and old *Rhineberg*, before the last grand repetition of the dominant air, "Flow on! Flow on!" gives his blessing and his daughter amidst a burst of drums, symbols, and full horns. We have not space to descant, as is perhaps due, upon the obligations of the composer to Mr. Mellon and his admirable band, nor upon the lavishness with which all possible scenic appliances have been brought in aid of his work by the energetic and liberal management of this now well-accredited English Opéra House. But enough has at least been said to show our conviction that the production of "*Lurline*" is a fine-art event of the first order, and that the work itself must far extend the already great reputation of the composer of "*Maritana*."

The VOCAL ASSOCIATION will repeat Mendelssohn's Psalm, "Hear my Prayer, O God!" on Thursday evening, March 8th, at St. James's Hall, with Madlle. Parepa and choir of 200 voices. Miss Arabella Goddard will perform "The Harmonious Blacksmith," and "Where the Bee sucks." These attractive performances terminate at a quarter past ten o'clock.

A new, and this time admittedly original work by Mr. Tom Taylor, entitled "The Overland Route," has been played at the HAYMARKET for the last week with immense success. As being less a work of fiction than a dramatised journal it reminds us of the author's hippodrome of "Garibaldi;" but this must by no means be received in any depreciatory sense. The dialogue is smart and the characters numerous. The scene is laid on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamer, between Aden and Suez. The leading personage is *Tom Dexter*, a steerage passenger enlisted, *vice* the ship's doctor indisposed, to attend to the ailments of the cuddy passengers. *Tom Dexter* (Mr. Charles Mathews) is no third class passenger *pur sang*, but a gentlemanly "Bob Sawyer," who has rolled his stone round the world without gathering that moss which the proverb deems so ornamental and indispensable to stones proper. He recognises in the crowd about him a number of old faces. *Mrs. Sebright* (Mrs. Charles Mathews) is the wife of an old friend, and her he saves from indiscretion, if not worse. He serves every one at some pinch or other, and is at every one's elbow in time of doubt or trouble. He is first fiddle and first favourite in the saloon, and when the "Simoom" gets upon the "Mazaffa reef" he comes out a hero, supplies the disabled skipper's place as handily as he did that of the doctor, and keeps the company in order until the arrival of assistance. The guerdon of his services is the heart and hand of *Miss Colepepper* (Miss M. Ternan), daughter to *Mr. Colepepper*, Commissioner of Badgeripore (Mr. Chippendale.) The last-named gentleman, with Mr. Buckstone and Mr. Compton, are admirable in the characters they assume; and the same should, in fact, be said of all the artists concerned, who are, however, too numerous to catalogue here. The scenery is remarkably excellent, and adds not a little to the completeness of the ensemble.

We should observe that the season promises no lack of novelties in the guise of vocal and character entertainments. We shall take note, in our next number, of several who must this week give way before the surpassing importance of "*Lurline*."

THE CHRISTY MINSTRELS have reappeared at the Polygraphic Hall, under the able management of Mr. Montagu, after a long and successful provincial tour. Their repertory includes a new and most pleasing song, by Mr. Raynor, to words by one whose song words are always graceful and inspiring, Mr. John Oxenford. As good wine needs no bush, these minstrels seem to need no herald to convene their admirers, for all the *Æthiophiles* of London rally round them with a will that is intense, and in numbers that seem to stretch the little hall to bursting.

It is but natural that Englishmen should manifest some interest in a country which has been so long closed to our trade, and with which we now expect to open extensive and important commercial relations. Hence the announcement of some illustrated lectures on JAPAN, by a scientific gentleman who has resided so many years in the East as Dr. Macgowan, drew together at Willis's Rooms on Thursday afternoon an audience eager to acquire correct and recent information on so populous and important a country. Having only just returned from Japan laden with specimens of the skill and ingenuity of this curious people, and of the varied products of the country, besides being thoroughly conversant with their language, Dr. Macgowan was enabled to communicate a great deal of useful and general information, which he proposes to follow up in a second lecture this day.

AT MADAME TUSSAULT'S all who are curious to know anything about the personal appearance of celebrated men will have an opportunity of gratifying their curiosity, by seeing a full length figure of the late Lord Macaulay, and which, within the last few days, has been placed in the gallery of the Baker Street Bazaar. It is inferior to none of its predecessors, either for correctness of outline or truth of character and all who had the advantage of his lordship's acquaintance will admit the likeness.

PARLIAMENT.

LAST Friday the Earl of CARNARVON called attention to the unsatisfactory relation of affairs between Spain, Morocco, and this Empire, arising from the demands of Marshal O'DONNELL on the Emperor of Morocco. The danger to Gibraltar and to our position in the Mediterranean was forcibly set forth by the noble earl. Lord WODEHOUSE deferred any reply until Government were in possession of further details. Viscount DUNGANNON then brought under notice the recent practice of having church service in theatres on Sundays, accompanying his dissent from the practice by a resolution to the effect, that "such services being highly irregular and inconsistent with order were calculated to injure rather than to advance the progress of sound religious principles in the metropolis and throughout the country." The Archbishop of CANTERBURY admitted it was contrary to practice and to notions of propriety to have divine service performed on the stage, but the motives of the originators were good, and the practice certainly had the effect of inducing persons to hear Scripture who would otherwise not attend a regular place of worship. He thought the best way was to leave the matter to find its own level. The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, as the originator of this movement, contended that these practices were productive of great good, and were indispensable, owing to the deficiency of proper church accommodation. He trusted that Government would turn its attention to the subject of supplying suitable Church accommodation; in the meantime, he denied that the clergy were opposed to the movement, and he asserted, by the help of GOD, that the work had prospered, and would, no doubt, continue to prosper. Earl GRANVILLE hoped the motion would be withdrawn. The House had not before it a sufficient number of facts, and it would therefore be unwise to deal with the question. The Bishop of LLANDAFF and the Bishop of LONDON spoke in favour of an extension of Church accommodation. Viscount DUNGANNON consented to withdraw his motion.—On Monday, attention was called by Lord BROUGHAM to the unprotected condition of women and children employed in bleaching and dyeing works, with the view of getting the Factories Acts extended to them. Earl GRANVILLE promised that Government would look into the matter. The state of our naval reserves was fully brought under the notice of their Lordships by the Earl of HARDWICKE, who showed that the condition of the navy was in anything but a satisfactory state, so far, at least, as respected the existing means for manning it. He was of opinion, if men did not volunteer in sufficient numbers, that it would be necessary again to resort to the compulsory system. The Duke of SOMERSET admitted that the system did not meet with entire approval. Government were about to carry out the recommendations of the Commissioners, and that, he hoped, would have a good effect. The main obstacle to the success of the voluntary enlistment was the misapprehension under which the men laboured on the subject. Some remarks from the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH closed the discussion. Lord BROUGHAM, on Tuesday, took an opportunity to contradict the rumour that he, at the Social Science Meeting at Bradford, had desired to make bribery felony, punishable by imprisonment. The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved for returns connected with crime and outrage in Ireland, and observed, though increasing prosperity marked the condition of Ireland, that crime and outrage which baffled the efforts of the police to detect still existed in great force. This as a matter of course he attributed to Government. He also objected to the improper mode of employing and organizing the constabulary. The Duke of SOMERSET said the constabulary was a useful and well organized force, and it would be productive of injury to weaken or to impair its general utility by altering its composition. He did not think upon impartial inquiry that crime and outrage would be found to have increased recently. The Marquis of LONDONDERY thought the constabulary ought to be placed more under the control of the magistracy. Earl GREY considered that too much pains had been taken to convert the Irish constabulary into a mere smart body of soldiers. The real reason why crimes were undetected in Ireland was because witnesses would not come forward to give evidence. Some further discussion ensued, in which the Marquis of WESTMEATH and the Duke of NEWCASTLE took part. The Marquis of CLANRICARDE had the hardihood to assert that more serious crimes were committed in England than in Ireland. The noble Marquis, however, made no reference to the large proportion of crimes committed in England by Irishmen and foreigners. Lord HARRIS inquired of Government whether in the proposed treaty with France to allow labourers to emigrate from India to French colonies, due precautions had been taken to put an end to the emigration in case France failed to fulfil the conditions of the treaty. Lord WODEHOUSE said before the treaty was signed due precautions would be taken on behalf of the emigrants.

In the Commons on Friday, Lord J. RUSSELL significantly remarked, in reply to a question, that Marshal O'DONNELL had received the rank and title of Duke of Tetuan, but he did not know that any territory was annexed to the dignity, though he understood that Spain intended to ask for Tetuan from the Emperor of Morocco as the condition of peace. Several questions were put to the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, relative to paper, wine, barley, and other articles affected by the Budget. Sir M. SEYMOUR, between whom and the Earl of ELGIN there exists a very pretty quarrel as it stands, took occasion to give a flat contradiction to a statement made by Lord ELGIN in the House of Peers on a previous evening. Sir C. WOOD intimated that the foundation of a plan had been laid for introducing a Government paper circulation into India. Major BRUCE, in reference to the contradiction of Sir M. SEYMOUR,

stated that Lord ELGIN had assured him, on his honour, that he had made the statement to Sir M. SEYMOUR, which Sir M. SEYMOUR had just then emphatically denied. The question, therefore, rested between the veracity of Lord ELGIN and the "memory," he would not say veracity, of Sir M. SEYMOUR. Viscount PALMERSTON intimated that the course Government intended to take, was to propose, in a Committee of Customs, resolutions bearing on all the articles of the treaty which related to a change in the Customs laws. As soon as the House had disposed of these resolutions, he would submit to the House an address to the Crown, approving of the French treaty in the aggregate. Some amusing remarks were elicited by the question of Mr. HADFIELD whether Government intended to take steps to put an end to the fight for the championship of England between SAYERS and HEENAN. Mr. HORSMAN gave notice that he should move an Amendment, at the proper time, to the 11th article of the treaty, in order to procure its omission. The debate on the Budget was then resumed. Mr. NEWDEGATE objected to it. Mr. B. OSBORNE approved of it. Mr. M. GIBSON showed that the treaty was only the complement of previous exertions by all cabinets. Mr. WALPOLE liked Budget and treaty in principle, but disliked some of the details; and because Budget and treaty were ill-timed and hastily concocted, should therefore vote against them. Mr. GLADSTONE, with his usual masterly rhetoric, dealt with objections, and showed their insufficiency. Mr. DISRAELI considered it was his duty, and the duty of the party he acted with, to throw out the Budget, though neither his party nor himself had any desire to displace Government. Viscount PALMERSTON made a few pithy remarks, and the House went to a division, and gave Ministers 339 votes against 223, being the handsome and unexpected majority of 116.—On Monday Lord J. RUSSELL intimated that, although the reduction of the duty on wines would apply to Spanish wines also, the Government had not asked any corresponding commercial concessions from Spain. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that the regulations relative to giving wine licenses to eating-houses would shortly be laid on the table, and that it was contemplated to allow magistrates to have control over and to regulate these establishments. The House then went into Committee on the Customs Acts, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opened the discussion by a resolution on the subject of the alteration in the wine duties. This, of course, brought on a smart debate, and Mr. GLADSTONE's proposition was tested through an Amendment, moved by Mr. M. MILNES, relative to the drawback to be allowed on stocks. Mr. BALL was strong in Protectionist doctrines. Mr. BASS was for free trade even in malt. Mr. WHITESIDE quoted the French Emperor as his authority for asserting that the repeal of the wine duties would not create a large consumption for French wines in England. Mr. HENLEY objected to the sliding scale of duties as proposed. Lord J. RUSSELL advanced several cogent arguments against the adoption of Mr. MILNES's Amendment, and after a good deal of discussion, the Amendment was lost by 183 to 72. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then proposed to change the original resolution by lowering the duties on the 1st January, 1861, and changing the entire alcoholic strength at one shilling a gallon duty from fifteen to eighteen degrees. Mr. FITZGERALD considered this alteration made the proposition even more objectionable. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER incidentally remarked that cape wines would come in under the duty on strong wines. The resolution was agreed to, and two or three more clauses were also passed. On Tuesday strong notice was taken of Mr. POPE HENNESSEY's neglect to attend a Railway Committee. Mr. A. KINGLAKE brought on his motion relative to the rumoured annexation of Savoy and Nice to France. Lord JOHN RUSSELL intimated that all the correspondence on the subject would be produced without delay. Though a strong feeling on the subject of the annexation had been expressed in France, he believed, considering what were the opinions of England and several of the continental powers, that the French Emperor would long hesitate before he took a step calculated to create distrust and apprehension hereafter. The House went into Committee on the Customs Acts, which after some debate on the items as they came under review at last, was met by an amendment brought forward by Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, who wished to have corks, under special circumstances only, admitted duty free. The Amendment ended in a third ministerial triumph, the numbers being for Government 191, against 118; majority 73. In committee of Ways and Means on Wednesday, a resolution moved by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, that an additional duty of 1d. per gallon on spirits should be charged, was carried. Mr. NEWDEGATE protested against the Qualification for Officers Abolition Bill, which, however, was read a second time. The Masters and Operatives Bill was moved by Mr. MACKINNON, who, after pointing out the unmitigated evils to masters and operatives of strikes, said the Bill, which was only permissive, would effect much good by giving the dissentient parties an opportunity of referring their disputes to arbitration and to councils of conciliation. The Bill received the support of Mr. STANLEY and the qualified approbation of Mr. WALTER, who did not think a Bill of this kind would meet the evil effectually. Sir G. C. LEWIS did not believe the Bill would work well, and therefore proposed it should be read that day six months. The Bill was ultimately withdrawn. After a long critical discussion, the first and third clauses of the Food Adulteration Bill were passed with amendments. A Bill was introduced to enforce uniformity in the use of Ecclesiastical Vestments by Protestant Clergymen. On Thursday Lord JOHN RUSSELL introduced the promised Reform Bill—a synopsis of which will be found in our first article.

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