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New Series, No. 32. } AUGUST 11, 1860. { Price 3d. No. 542.

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London and County Banking COMPANY. Subscribed Capital £1,250,000; Paid up Capital, £500,000; Reserve Fund, £110,000. Head Office (Temporary) South Sea House. DIRECTORS. Philip Patton Blyth, Esq. Thomas Tyringham Bernard, Esq., M.P. John William Burmester, Esq. William Cory, Esq. James Andrew Durham, Esq. John Fleming, Esq. Edward Huggins, Esq. William Champion Jones, Esq. James Laming, Esq. John Henry Lance, Esq. William Lee, Esq., M.P. William Nicol, Esq., M.P. GENERAL MANAGER—William M'Kewan, Esq. At the Half-yearly Meeting of Proprietors, held on Thursday, the 2nd August, 1860, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, the following Report, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1860, was read by the Secretary. WILLIAM CHAMPION JONES, Esq., in the Chair. REPORT. The Directors have the satisfaction to submit to the Proprietors the Accounts of the Bank for the half-year terminated on the 30th June last. It will be found that after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, the payment of current expenses, interest to customers, income tax, and rebate on bills not due, and providing the usual Midsummer dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year, there remains a surplus of £8,708 19s. 7d. to be carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account. The Dividend will be payable on and after Monday, the 13th instant.

BALANCE SHEET, Of the LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY. 30th June, 1860.

Dr.		
To capital paid up	£500,000	0 0
To reserve fund	110,000	0 0
To amount due by the bank for customers' balances, &c.	5,366,127	7 11
To profit and loss balance brought from last account	£6,065	7 11
To gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts..	112,277	10 10
	118,342	18 9
	£6,094,470	6 8
Cn.		
By cash on hand at head office and branches.,	£554,290	18 10
By cash placed at call and at notice	892,845	4 11
	£1,447,136	3 9
Investments, viz.:		
By Government and guaranteed stocks	514,121	17 0
By other stocks and securities	109,689	12 7
	£623,811	9 7
Discounted Bills, Notes, and temporary advances to customers in town and country	2,489,486	14 4
Advances to customers on special securities....	383,011	13 0
	3,872,498	7 0
Freehold Premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings	70,568	2 11
Interest paid to customers	20,171	8 2
Salaries and all other expenses at Head Office and Branches, including income tax on profits and salaries ..	45,284	14 11
	£20,094,470	6 8
DR. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
To Interest paid to customers.....	£20,171	8 2
To expenses, as above	45,284	14 11
To rebate on bills not due, carried to New Account.....	10,177	16 1

To dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year

To balance carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account.....	25,000	0 0
	8,708	19 7
	£118,342	18 9
Cn.		
By balance brought forward from last account.....	£6,065	7 11
By gross profit for the half-year after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	112,277	10 10
	£118,342	18 9

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing Balance-sheet, and have found the same to be correct. (Signed) FRED. HARRISON, } Auditors. HENRY OVERTON, } London and County Bank, 26th July, 1860. The foregoing Report having been read by the Secretary, the following Resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted: 1. "That the report be received and adopted, and printed for the use of the shareholders." 2. "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Board of Directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company." W. C. JONES, Chairman. The Chairman having quitted the chair, it was resolved and carried unanimously: "That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to William Champion Jones, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the chair." (Signed) P. P. BLYTH, Deputy-Chairman. Extracted from the minutes. (Signed) R. P. NICHOLS, Secretary.

London and County Banking COMPANY.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Dividend on the Capital Stock of the Company of 5 per Cent., for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1860, will be Paid to the Proprietors either at the chief (temporary) Office, South Sea House, Threadneedle-street or at any of the Company's Branch Banks on and after MONDAY, the 13th instant. By order of the Board, W. M'KEWAN, General Manager. South Sea House, Threadneedle-street. August 2, 1860.

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	Pattern.	Thread.	Pattern.	Pattern
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12 Table Forks	1 10 0	2 14 0	3 0 0	3 12 0
12 Table Spoons	1 10 0	2 14 0	3 0 0	3 12 0
12 Dessert Forks	1 7 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	2 14 0
12 Dessert Spoons	1 7 0	2 0 0	2 4 0	2 14 0
12 Tea Spoons	0 16 0	1 4 0	1 7 0	1 16 0
2 Sauce Ladles	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 13 0
1 Gravy Spoon	0 7 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 13 0
4 Salt do. (gilt bowls) ..	0 6 8	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 14 0
1 Mustard Spoon	0 1 8	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 6
1 Pair Sugar Tongs	0 3 6	0 5 6	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Pair Fish Carvers	1 0 0	1 10 0	1 14 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Soup Ladle	0 12 0	0 16 0	0 17 6	1 0 0
6 Egg Spoons (gilt)	0 10 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0
Complete Service	£10 13 10	15 13 6	17 16 6	21 4 6

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THE HEADLESS LIBERALS AND THEIR RECENT VICTORY.

AFTER long preparation, and the employment of every means at the disposal of a wealthy body of manufacturers, and with the support of a powerful and dishonest portion of the Press, the great faction fight of Monday has ended in the defeat of the Tories, the Protectionist paper makers, and the venomous *Times*. Mr. GLADSTONE is left in possession of the field, and in the enjoyment of a triumph which will draw with it still further victories. The Liberal majority of thirty-three is ample for the purpose of showing that the Ministers can lead the present House of Commons when they pull together, and show they are in earnest upon any question of importance; but the issue could never have been in doubt, nor would a special meeting with the PREMIER have been necessary if our representative machinery had not got sadly out of repair. The principle of Free Trade having been adopted for many years, it is monstrous that a few selfish traders should have been able to create such a hubbub, place a Cabinet in danger, and almost bring about a dissolution of Parliament, in order that they might for a little longer retain a pennyworth of protection for themselves. The Tories sank deep in degradation when they took up this miserable question for the mere purpose of damaging Mr. GLADSTONE, and obstructing the growth of the cheap press. If they had come forward to avow any broad principle of action, their conduct might have inspired some respect; but the speech of Mr. DISRAELI carefully avoided any large view, and only attempted to establish a pretext for delay. The fact is, that from the moment the private intrigues failed to make Lord PALMERSTON desert Mr. GLADSTONE on this question, as basely as he did desert him on the far graver question of the aggression of the House of Lords, the Tories could not have really cared for a victory, as it would have been too absurd for them to bring about a dissolution upon such a ridiculous issue, and they must feel relieved that the PREMIER's efforts to bring his team into order met with success.

The Protectionist paper-makers are bitten as they deserve. They have, it is true, obtained more than they have shown themselves entitled to; but, now they have to compete upon almost equal terms with foreign manufacturers, very few will continue to express a desire to work in the fetters of an Excise; and before Parliament again assembles there will be many more converts to the popular doctrine that the paper duties ought to be altogether abolished, and the evil-doing of the Lords completely set aside.

The Tory Commoners and the Peers have played a very silly and short-sighted game, and they will find the difficulties of keeping up the Excise on paper growing thicker day by day. On Monday Mr. BRIGHT presented a petition detailing the grievances of Messrs. CASSELL and Co., who embarked in a large enterprise as soon as the House of Commons repealed the paper duties, and who consider themselves entitled to compensation, now that repeal has been refused; and Mr. GLADSTONE presented another petition from the hatters of Benton, complaining that they had to pay an Excise upon paper used by them in making hats; while according to the French treaty similar hats partly composed of paper were admitted duty free. Mr. GIBSON presented similar petitions from manufacturers of cardboard and paper-hangings, and dozens of trades will follow in a general chorus of grumbling, until neither the Excise officers nor the Cabinet can obtain peace while the obnoxious impost remains. Thus the future and early triumph of the free knowledge party is assured; but how is it that the House of Commons is so uncertain in its operation, and the Liberal members are reduced to isolated units, who can only be brought together by an absurd amount of whipping-in? Partly, no doubt, this comes from the tendency of our electoral arrangements to keep out good men, and return others wanting in ability, and still more destitute of political integrity. But there are other reasons which we propose to consider.

The House of Commons is necessarily dependent upon leaders. When the Government leads it well, it is by no means a bad follower; but it is lamentably deficient in leaders who do not belong to the Liberal administration, or to the Tory party. There are scores of M.P.'s who might be got to follow a good chief, but who cannot take a foremost position. When any member of fair reputation works up a question, as Sir JOHN TRELAWNEY has done with Church rates, he has seldom reason to complain; but scarcely any members take the trouble to learn what they are going to talk about; and desultory speaking, not above the ordinary

level of taproom gossip, is not likely to produce any important effect.

The most conspicuous efforts to lead are made by the Manchester School; and, on the whole, with mischievous effect. Mr. BRIGHT fancies he has a mission to talk on a certain range of subjects, and it too often happens that he merely throws the ball into the enemy's hands. This was the case with his late fortification speech. In exhibiting the folly of the professional advocates of the gross jobs which Lord PALMERSTON thinks it politic to encourage, the hon. member for Birmingham was right enough; but instead of confining the debate to the specific question before the House, he rambled away from it, and indulged in nearly every topic in which he could differ from, and annoy Liberals more rational than himself. He condemned the general principle of increasing our armaments on account of the fear of France; he condemned Sir J. PAKINGTON's patriotic efforts to bring our navy into an efficient state; and ridiculed making war preparations while the French were carrying on their Italian campaign; after this he declared that the QUEEN had not a "particle of justification" in encouraging the Volunteer Movement, and going to the shooting match on Wimbledon Common. In all these particulars he ran counter to common sense and English feeling. Everybody, except the Manchester School, believes that our safety has been obtained by the necessary, though painful sacrifices, at which our armaments have been kept up. Sir J. PAKINGTON is universally applauded for his exertions at the Admiralty, and the QUEEN most assuredly acted with the approbation of the country when she reviewed the Volunteers, and discharged the first rifle at the Wimbledon match. If Mr. BRIGHT had made a reasonable opposition to those portions of the fortification plan, which were wrong, instead of pouring forth an un-English rhodomontade, he would, in all probability, have succeeded in his endeavours; but as it was, he made the cause of opposition ridiculous, and Lord PALMERSTON easily snuffed him out with a joke. In this discussion no independent Liberal member displayed any talent or any industry, and the Government got through, without having been compelled to give any useful explanations, or deal seriously with a single argument used against them.

The next day the disturbances in Syria gave Mr. BRIGHT another opportunity of making the Liberal cause contemptible, and he took care not to lose it. On this occasion he ridiculed the idea of maintaining the Turkish Empire, denied that any good had been done by the Crimean war, declared Turkey to be tumbling to pieces, and that it would not matter much whether Russia did annex one of her provinces or not. Now, it is palpably and totally untrue to represent English policy as having been directed to the maintenance of the Turkish Empire as a *primary* object, and no man who valued freedom in Europe could speak lightly of the aggrandisement of Russia. Our statesmen have committed many faults and follies in their Eastern policy, as in other matters, but while Russia remains a barbarous military despotism it is of consequence to Europe that her power shall not be seriously augmented. If she need the Black Sea, and filled it as she now would with a powerful fleet, we must enlarge our own navy to be prepared for the possible contingency of a coalition between Russia and France. Our safety depends on our being able to traverse the waters freely, in spite of all opposition. If France had Belgium, and Russia Constantinople, it is absurd to fancy we could ensure this with anything like our present force, and therefore, on the simple ground of interest, we ought to do what we can to prevent such territorial changes from taking place.

Mr. BRIGHT admitted that if Turkey were left alone, a fearful internal struggle, with more massacres like that of Damascus, would occur. Surely, on the ground of humanity, this should be prevented if possible, and when an enlightened Minister, like Lord JOHN RUSSELL, is wisely exerting himself to remove the various difficulties of the Eastern question, it is the part of bad feeling as well as bad taste to indulge in a tirade against supporting an authority of the SULTAN.

Apart from its occasional timidity, Lord JOHN RUSSELL's Italian policy has been an honour to our country, and has exerted a most beneficial effect in aiding the Italians, and diminishing the chances of a European war. His Eastern policy is no less enlightened, and the beneficial influence of England may be clearly traced in the good understanding that has been brought about with France on the Syrian question. If our Government had followed Mr. BRIGHT, and said, We will have nothing to do with the matter, and shall not grudge Russia a province or two of her neighbour's territory, this Manchester generosity with other people's property would have

been the very thing likely to bring on a general war. France would care nothing for an alliance that was merely negative, and Russia would have new facilities for pushing her ambitious designs. Maintaining Turkey as she is, would prove beyond the reach of any power; but we may prevent her being a battle-field for marauding Sovereigns, and suffer her provinces to separate and form new combinations adapted to their characters and wants.

If a few other unattached Liberals occupied as conspicuous a position as Mr. BRIGHT, his eccentricities would matter little, but while he is the most prominent, and sometimes the only prominent non-official Liberal, his conduct is permitted to exercise an influence altogether beyond his merits as a political thinker. A year or two ago a Manchester party led a crusade against the East India Company without any appreciation of consequences, or any efforts to guard against the evils of aggrandising the patronage and favour of the Government and the Crown. Now the Bill for abolishing the local army of India furnishes him an illustration of the folly of this course, and Liberals are disgusted with the want of foresight displayed. Here was an opportunity for the Manchester party to have rendered some service, but they have been perfectly useless; the Cabinet has succeeded in obtaining the third reading of the Bill without furnishing the country with the information to which it has been entitled, and without fairly meeting any of the important arguments which Mr. HORSMAN, Sir JAMES ELPHINSTONE, and a few others, brought forward in opposition to a scheme which deserves to be characterized as one endangering the Indian Empire for the sake of adding to the unconstitutional favour and patronage of the Crown.

Lord PALMERSTON does not appear to want an improved state of the House of Commons. He knows that to keep any force in order, whether civil or military, it is necessary to employ it in successful work; but the only successful work he appreciates is to keep himself at the head of affairs. Hence his meeting with the Liberal members was very unsatisfactory. He could only urge them to support him because the Continent was in a ticklish state; and yet when one member spoke of our foreign policy, he quickly told him that was not the subject to be discussed. It is plain that while Lord PALMERSTON is the head of the Cabinet, the House of Commons will not be properly led by the Government, and it is patent before the public that the Manchester party have thoroughly failed as leaders, either for Parliamentary Reform or any other constitutional question, and they have deliberately betrayed the country by pocketing the Lord's aggression for fear of damaging the tail of the French Treaty. They desire the credit of having made that Treaty, and we have no wish to underrate it; but to sell all other questions for small commercial advantage is conduct deserving the strongest reprobation, and we learn that some of the leading Liberals of Birmingham are loud in their expressions of disgust.

THE SYRIAN PROTOCOLS.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has dealt very manfully with the bad business of Syria, which, in more fussy hands, would before this have assumed an alarming aspect. The Crimean war, although managed as a military job and a political swindle, did accomplish some important objects. It laid the foundation for the joint action of England and France in Turkish affairs, and weakened Russia so much that she has since found herself compelled to moderate her tone.

The frightful slaughter of Christians in the Lebanon and in Damascus has excited the passions of the Russian people, and, if Nicholas had still been sovereign, with unbroken power, under the guise of a religious crusade, he would have had an excellent opportunity of pursuing his ambitious and aggressive designs. As it is, France is to play first fiddle in the Syrian movement, and Russia, whose operations would have been far more dangerous from her command of the Greek Church, must remain contented with an inferior part. According to the protocols which are to form the basis of a Convention, the operations of the European Powers will assume the legitimate form of assistance afforded to the SULTAN by his allies. The number of European troops is limited to twelve thousand, and France is to supply immediately one half of this force. Should the remainder be required, an agreement is to be made between the various European Governments and the Porte. The expedition will be properly subordinated to the authority of the SULTAN, and its commander will be instructed to make joint arrangements with the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Porte. The contracting parties have fixed the period of occupation by European troops at six months, "convinced that

such a space of time will be sufficient to attain the object of pacification they have in view." Thus there is no appearance of a permanent intervention; and, although six months will assuredly be insufficient to obtain a complete realization of the various objects that have to be attained, it may suffice for the accomplishment of some of the most important.

There can be nothing in the temporary presence of six thousand French troops in Syria to excite the slightest alarm; and with great European difficulties impending over him, it is unlikely that the Emperor of the FRENCH will do anything to hasten or promote the breaking up the Turkish Empire, which need not be that imminent event which the interested and dishonest Greeks are so fond of affirming. It will not do to imagine the Christians of Syria perfectly meek and inoffensive beings. They have shown themselves to be religious fanatics, and have got the worst of a feud which they themselves provoked. The country wants a ruler strong enough to keep all factions in order, and events point to ABD-EL-KADER as a man eminently qualified for the task. The authors of the massacres must be punished, but they are far less blameable than the Turkish officials, who practically encouraged the murderous deeds. The contending parties were animated with that fury which possesses religious bigots of all races, and they carried on their warfare upon the sanguinary principles common in the East. Of course, both were to blame, and the victors the most for the ferocious use they made of their power; but, we repeat, the chief fault lies with the officials, who did not choose to do their duty, and the SULTAN can have no power to carry out the benevolent intention he is known to entertain, until these men are made a severe example of.

ABD-EL-KADER gives an interesting account of the Damascus horrors, from which it appears that the war in that city broke out on the 9th of July, in consequence of the punishment inflicted upon a few Moslems who had insulted some Christians. The Turkish soldiers assisted the rioters. "A few old Musulmans made efforts to stop the business; but the Turkish officers had no wish for peace, and, on the contrary, hounded on their soldiers against the unfortunate Christians."

Turkish officers are quite capable of understanding personal responsibility; and if the offenders in this affair are treated as they deserve, others will have too keen a sense of interest to repeat their misdeeds. Without European support the SULTAN might be unable to execute justice upon these offenders; but he has now no excuse, and the European Powers ought to insist on the application of wholesome severity. For two days the Governor of Damascus suffered the massacre and pillage to be carried on, and probably no Christians would have escaped, if ABD-EL-KADER had not so nobly and generously interfered on their behalf. The French Government has done well in conferring the cross of the Legion of Honour on this distinguished Mahometan, and the SULTAN could not do better than offer him the Viceroyalty over the entire province.

THE DEVILS OF LONDON.

THE Devils of which we speak were called devils in a former age, they are called spirits now; but they have been called by all sorts of names at one time or another, since the reign of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. In Saul's day they were witches, though they were not yet mistresses of the art of aerial broom-riding. Among the ancient Greeks and Romans they were Eleusinian Mysteries and Delphic Oracles, and so they came down through ages and generations to our own time, when they became simply spirits, but in all respects the very image of their ancient fathers. Oracles, mysteries, witches, and spirits, in one form or other, have haunted the world from its earliest infancy, or, at least, from the time that mankind appeared upon the face of the earth; and it is not at all extraordinary that their characteristics in all ages have been very much the same; since man is the same animal to-day, minus his tail, perhaps, that he was six thousand years ago. There is no feeling more deeply implanted in the human breast than a love for, and a craving after, the marvellous; and as this very craving has produced the meat it feeds on, it is but logical that the meat should always be beef or mutton, with, perhaps, a variety in the mode of dressing. What we see in the modern days, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, as we love to boast—seems to prove that civilization and enlightenment are no safeguards against a belief in supernatural agencies. No Pagan who consulted the oracles of Delphi could have been more impressed with a belief in the prescient powers of direct augury, than are well-educated Christian men and women of these days with the belief that Mr. HOME can float through the air, and that tables rap out communications from the other world. Spiritual seances are now all the rage with a certain class of society in London. They were all the rage in Paris some time ago, and now they have come over here, with the large-fronted bonnet and the new mantle, and are quite as much the fashion. We have had mysteries of this kind in a variety of forms during the last twenty years. A familiarity with scientific phrenology introduced mesmerism, and mesmerism brought up electro-biology. Who has not seen a drowsy-headed rustic stared

into a state of stupefaction? Who has not seen the same rustic, on his bumps being rubbed, go through a variety of antics, supposed to correspond with the passions excited? That was all the rage some fifteen or twenty years ago, but when electro-biological *seances* began to be held in greengrocers' back parlours and tavern tap-rooms, electro-biology went out of fashion, and the bumps of society got a holiday. But now we have changed all that; we have got a mystery of a novel shape and form, something quite new, or at least as new as anything can be in a world where there is nothing new under the sun. We have heard many accounts of the wonderful things which have happened at spiritual *seances*, both in Paris and in London, and all we have wanted to enable us to make the sayings and doings of the spirits a subject of serious public remark, has been a well-authenticated relation of what has taken place. This we now possess. A writer in the "Cornhill Magazine," for whose good faith and honourable character the editor publicly vouches, retails a variety of manifestations of the most extraordinary nature. At the first *seance* he went to, the table was so delighted to see him, that it actually ran across the room to meet him. We will give his own words: "At my request, a question was put as to whether I might join the *seance*. The answer was given in the affirmative, with tumultuous energy; and, at the same moment, the table commenced a vigorous movement along the floor, till it came quite close up to me." But there was a more wonderful table still. "In accordance with an instruction received through the alphabet, we finally removed to a small round table, which stood on a slender pillar with three claws. Here the noises and motions thronged upon us faster and faster. The table seemed to be inspired with the most riotous animal spirits.

It pitched about with a velocity which flung off our hands from side to side as fast as we attempted to place them." Presently, this remarkable table rolled over on its side, and sank to the floor; then it got up, and ran about the room. "Part of the journey," we are quoting the trustworthy witness again, "it performed alone, and we were never able to reach it at any time together. Using the leg of the large table as a fulcrum, it directed its claws towards the ottoman, which it attempted to ascend. It slipped down at first, but again quietly resumed its task; and, at last, by careful and persevering efforts, it accomplished the top of the ottoman, and stood on the summit of the column in the centre, from whence, in a few moments, it descended to the floor by a similar process." This is wonderful enough in all conscience, if, as "our trustworthy correspondent" assures us, no one assisted the table in its movements; but something far more wonderful still remains to be told. We are at a *seance* now, at which the celebrated Mr. HOME is present. There is the great man seated in the window, not by any means a Cagliostro in appearance, but a very mild specimen of that familiar humanity which you pass every hour in the day, and see nothing remarkable in. We are assured that Mr. HOME is as modest as he looks, and that the vulgar stories which have been circulated about him, give altogether a false impression of his character. He plainly and unreservedly tells you that he is perfectly impassive in these matters, and that whatever happens, happens from causes over which he has no control. When the *seance* began, the spirits intimated in the usual manner, namely, by raps, that the lights must be extinguished. The company were in almost total darkness, and all eyes were immediately turned towards the window, through which came a faint gleam of light. We quote again: "Presently, the tassel of the cord of the spring-blind began to tremble. Slowly, and apparently with caution or difficulty, the blind began to descend. . . . several times, at intervals, the blind was raised and pulled down, but capricious as the movement appeared, the ultimate object seemed to be to diminish the light." The persons seated round the table, and many of them were ladies, felt a twitching at their knees, as of a boy's hand partly scratching, partly striking and pulling them in play; soon after, what seemed to be a large hand came under the table-cover. Our trustworthy witness, somewhat too eager to satisfy his curiosity, seized it, felt it very sensibly, but the next instant it went out like air in his grasp. This phantom hand—the one we presume which appeared to the Emperor of the French, and signed his uncle's name—performed a variety of feats, too numerous to mention. Let us come to the accordion, which lay at a distance from the floor. That accordion played tunes of its own accord. The air was wild, and full of strange transitions, with a wail of the most pathetic sweetness running through it. "The ears which heard it had never before been visited by a sound so fine." Mr. HOME takes his turn next, like the last vaulter in the circus, who comes in to outdo all the others, and jump over all the six horses at once. When the accordion had finished its tune, he said, "My chair is moving; I am off the ground; don't notice me." But our eye-witness could not restrain his curiosity, and he did notice the great medium. In a moment or two he spoke again. He was then up in the air. As he ascended higher he described his position. Our eye-witness does not say that he saw him there. It was at first perpendicular, and afterwards horizontal. Now, however, they saw Mr. HOME's figure pass from one side of the window to the other, feet foremost, lying horizontally in the air. At length he hovered perpendicularly over the company's heads, allowed our informant to touch his foot, and then descended. We should not omit to mention that this performance was enlivened by a tune from the self-acting accordion on the floor, and it is also attested that spirits were heard and seen gliding about the room surrounded by coloured atmospheres. All this reads like a chapter of the diseased fancies in "Beckford's Valhalla." Yet it is gravely related as an actual occurrence by a sane and trustworthy man. He solemnly affirms that he saw these things. Did he see them, or did he imagine he saw them? Absurd as is the

idea of spirits rapping out their communications (often with a total disregard of spelling and grammar), of tables dancing about a room, and clambering up ottomans, and of a man floating horizontally over a drawing-room table, we will not venture to say that these absurdities have not happened. We may, however, be permitted to remark upon the curious similarity between these manifestations and the tricks and cheats which were played off by pretenders to spiritualism in past times. M. LOUIS FIGNIER, in his "Histoire du Merveilleux dans les temps modernes," gives an account of the miraculous doings of the Devils of London, which in some respects bear a strong analogy in their nature to the feats of the spirits of our modern drawing-rooms, which, adopting the title, we have called the Devils of London. London is an old town situated in the modern department of Vienna, and the ancient province of Poitou. In the year 1632 it became famous for manifestations of a demonological character. Spirits of evil took possession of a convent of Ursuline nuns there, and a favourite feat of the demons was lifting their victims up in the air. The superior, who was possessed by ASMODEUS, raised herself high enough to astonish the vulgar, but just as the miracle was being proclaimed, an inquisitive person raised her robe and disclosed to those standing round that one of her feet touched the ground. Another spirit, or rather demon, greatly astonished the natives by lifting off people's caps, and keeping them suspended in the air. He held his *seances* late at night by the dull light of torches. On one occasion, however, it was discovered that all his necromancy consisted of a horsehair line and a hook. When ASMODEUS was unable to answer a question, he was accustomed to rap out, according to the manner of the period, that he was *aliud agens*—on one occasion, in conducting to hell the soul of LE PROUT, the Procureur of the parliament of Paris.) The spirits in those days, as now, were not universal linguists. They could only speak the language of persons who called them up, and they were not always good grammarians. The spirits of JOHNSON and BACON have come up in our day fearfully to belie their character for erudition, and the ability to speak the English language with propriety.) ASMODEUS rapped out shamefully-bad Italian, and appeared to be quite insensible to the necessity of an accusative case after an active verb. When a Scotchman asked him the Scotch word for something, he answered, "*Deus non volo!*" It seems a little strange that spirits in all ages should have had such a decided partiality for lifting people. But to return to our own spirits. They are not all conjurors. Mr. DICKENS gives a very different account from that of Mr. THACKERAY's trustworthy correspondent. At his *seance* a spirit announced itself, and rapped. Who was the spirit? A brother, and his name was EDWARD. Now the person for whom the communication was said to be intended never had a brother of the name of EDWARD. Then the spirit scratched upon a piece of paper, and the medium, a young lady, was caught making the noise with her finger. When the table reared itself up, this young lady's thumbs were discovered underneath it. The knee-twitching business was done, but this keen eye-witness, who resisted spiritual influence, distinctly felt the young lady doing it with her foot. An old guitar was played under the table, but it only gave out a noise without any melody whatever, such as could have been produced by sweeping the hand or foot over the strings at intervals. These miracles, which were regarded as such by some in the company, were plainly proved by one observer among them to be clumsy and bare-faced impostures. We are ready to admit, that it does not follow because this lady medium is an impostor, that therefore Mr. HOME and other mediums are impostors also. But, at the same time, it is but fair to argue, that if these things can be done by a clumsy operator so as to satisfy all but one person in the company, a dexterous medium may be able by the same means to satisfy every one. The lady medium who failed so signally to impose upon the witness whom we have quoted, did every thing which was done at Mr. HOME's *seance* (and to the satisfaction of the majority of her audience), except the one feat of suspending herself in the air. And with regard to this, we must remark, that it is necessary for the conviction of those present, that the medium should himself announce that he is in the air; they are not sensible that he is in that position until they are told. In this age of scientific research we should be very cautious how we reject new discoveries. Fifty years ago the notion of travelling at the rate of thirty miles an hour was openly scouted in the House of Commons as a mere phantasy: we now travel at the rate of sixty miles an hour. Who, twenty years ago, could have conceived it possible that a message could be sent from London to Paris in a few seconds? We are, therefore, willing to give the spirits a patient hearing and a fair trial. At present, however, when failure and success are so evenly balanced in the demonstration of the new science, if such it may be called, we must wait until the scale is decidedly turned to the one side or the other, before we can make up our minds to say whether spirit rapping is a gospel truth or an impious imposture.

SELF-EDUCATION.

POPE'S Dunciad is more enacted than read; it is, perhaps, indeed, the least studied fancy of his poetry. The fine closing passage being the only one generally known; but it is full of general truth and admirable expression, and the bolt aimed viciously at some luckless individual, personally offensive to the poet, passes like a Whitworth rifle bullet through a whole file of the same genus, generally noxious to those to whom they may be individually unknown, and piercing follies of which no immediate information may perhaps occur to the reader. The echo of one of Pope's shots is continually rattling in our ears, very poor

compared with the clean, clear sound of the original discharge: it is aimed against the formality of common school teaching, and its effects. Here are the lines:—

"With the same cement ever sure to bind,
Bring to the same dead level every mind,
Then take it to develope, if you can;
Then hew the block off, and take out the man."

Who has not heard this expressed more or less loosely or mystically in lieu of meeting with the neat self-explaining metaphors of our great poet? Undoubtedly there is less reason for the satire in our days than in his, and even in his it was less called for than in the olden times of *trivia*, *quadrivia* and *pentatata*; the difference between the two being, probably, that at the earlier period teachers were sounder and systems more limited and formal, and in the later the field was wider, but the guide more superficial and faltering; but in both the education was indifferent if it stood still where the master or professor left it, and all the distinguished men of the two periods were those whose real education was mainly self given.

Our own times differ widely from both; an average of better teachers, of more choice in study, more pathos open or began, more formative or suggesting influences pressing or pointing on all sides, and in all directions.

We admit fully the value of self-education, in spite of the danger of the conceit which it may engender for want of rivalry and varied standards of measurement; of its frequent ignorance of what has been done before, and, in consequence, its rethinking of old thoughts and re-inventing of old inventions. We admit readily that what is self-taught is often best taught, that often the truth arrived at by self-teaching, even though not a new one, has a life of its own, and a freshness in its very utterance which makes it nearly as good as new to those who hear it, and a root and vigour which is likely to make it last and live when transplanted into the minds of others, if introduced fresh from the mind to which it has been native, and that science can carry the loving heart

"With one soft kiss a thousand furlongs, ere
With spur we beat an acre."

And this is said with the more conviction, because though we have individually received our due modicum of blame and praise, canings and prizes, from a regularly constituted statutory orbilius, we have been conscious, in our own case, of great difficulty in comprehending the oral explanations of others; in spite, however, of all this we are inclined to hold hard by a regular formal education, and to secure an ample basis, even though it should dwarf the statue to be placed on it, or almost make it invisible. Education is now wanted quite as much to steady as to elevate, for ballast more than for gas, sails, or feathers; to give humility, more than create assurance. Vanity and insatiable unprofitable curiosity and love of dabbling has been a thousand times repressed; genius, if accompanied by moral energy, has never been hide-bound by a regular and even sternly formal education, provided that education has been what could fairly be called, for the average mind, an useful one. Genius is inspired with wings, which scarcely ever fail to raise it from the lowest scales of life, and, if circumstances, at first apparently almost hopeless in their character, cannot keep it down, education, certainly, if it constrains at all, is likely to do so usefully, supporting it at first in a straight and undeviating upward flight, till it can fix its eye, or sweep the horizon, and then soar grandly and decisively to any quarter that invites it. Let your first education be merely that of others, your second and highest must be your own.

Strange to say, whilst some have objected to scholastic and academical training, the too great uniformity of their products, others have been scandalized at so much diversity as is found actually to exist among them, looking for results as accurate and measurable as PLATO might sigh after, or LYCURGUS effect. We might slip away from between the two fires, and leave the opponents at the opposite sides of the circumference, to blaze away at each other; however, the firing is heaviest from POPE's side of the question against the too great uniformity, and towards that we turn. Does a mischievous uniformity or a smooth sameness exist, or does it not? In certain cases, undoubtedly, and, to a certain extent; as, for instance, where the school is one, the presiding influence one, the subject one; as in a painting academy, a sameness of result may, to a certain extent, be anticipated, though not even here to the binding or crushing of a first rate mind: as some great man said, "I am an ancestor," so even the student of a painting academy may, ere long, feel within himself and exclaim, "I, too, am a master." So, again, in the case of a school of political economy, for instance, the same theories, the same mode of thinking, may go on almost *ad infinitum*, and perpetual guidance end in powerlessness and slavery, with, not only the same train of thinking, but the same essence of thought; many, who have been the masters of others, have been the pupils of him who might

"still have kept
The jealous key of Truth's eternal doors,
If Bacon's eagle spirit had not leapt
Like lightning out of darkness."

But the walls of the academy are now less likely to shut out the light when masters are varied, and subjects manifold: if we look more deeply—indeed, and this applies to all time, where is the man who can be said really to have received one uniform education? In spite even of the infant schools of ancient Sparta and modern England, there is the home education, with its infinitely varied double influences of father and mother, and friends,—the education of guidance for some dispositions, the education of reaction for others, where every thing that is taught of truth or conduct seems

to point to the opposite pole, as if the ivory end of the needle were taken for the index; the intellect, not merely regarding that opposite, but the will asserting its freedom by aiming at it in conduct, and so good parents mourn over evil children, and the Dissenting father over the Puseyistical son. Then, in England, comes the training in two schools, very often in three or more, where even, though the same things are professedly taught, and professedly in the same manner, yet the master's influence is different in degree, different in mode of exertion, his tastes different, his modes of conveying information different; his suggestions, his individual opinions, the stress which he lays on the comparative importance of various points, different. What real uniformity is here? In matters of morals, in matters of expediency, or where several considerations have to be taken into account, the conclusions will be different, and the natural temperament will modify even the aspects of truth, which, indeed, temperament often modifies even more than doctrine does, and prevents its appearing, in the words of Plato, "eternally one and single." What education, self or other, shall strip us of this or overcome it? For this, even Jesuits find it necessary to be elastic, and calculate upon it rather than control it. The same college, for aught we know the same school, produced a Newman, a Wilberforce, a Froude, a Whateley, and an Arnold; pick out, if you can, five more different men. Is there any object to which five men, self-taught or taught uniformly, attach the same relative importance, or even absolutely the same meaning? Amongst the very virtues every man has his idol. "I," says the last of those five, "should be disposed to worship truth and justice too much, for I should put mercy in the back-ground." Convictions depend much upon accumulation of facts; and facts, if not accumulated, are retained very much in accordance with temperament, which will influence the final intellectual pursuits, and the moral and social judgments. Whatever their education, we shall never fear too great uniformity, either in acquirement or opinion, at any rate in those Englishmen whose powers give perfection to these acquirements, and whose character weight to their opinions; for the rest, it is of small matter.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.*

AUTHORSHIP in England is regarded as the unpardonable sin. It appears to be so, and it is so. Property in his work is either denied, or grudgingly restricted. It may be stolen with almost impunity. The thief is favoured by the law, or the state of the law, or the forms of the Court, or the rules of the Bench; and if he do not escape it is pure accident. Against this condition of things, Mr. Charles Reade has lifted up an eloquent and vehement voice. He declaims like the angel of justice, he writes like an orator, and he thinks and feels like an honest and honourable man.

But not like an Englishman, some will say; indeed, he himself spurns the notion of Anglo-Saxon relationship; it being, as it were, the stupid instinct of the hard-headed Anglo-Saxon to "pillage authors and murder their families." Against this stupidity, this hard-headedness, this blind instinct of Anglo-Saxon ignorance, it is that he makes his forehead brass and his hand iron. He flashes his living sword in the face of it, that in the gleam of the weapon's lightning the dull eye may catch a glimpse of truth. He goes in for this desperate chance; but his courage abates not, and he still flourishes his weapon, to command attention, if not to slay. And all this he does in the manliest style. Chivalric Reade! we are proud of thee. Thou art, indeed, the champion of Truth, of Justice; and we foresee that there is a victory in reserve for thee, by the decree of the Watchers.

But, after all, what is the contest about? Is it not all in favour of those odious French plays with which the stage is flooded? Oh, short-sighted and barbarous folly! It is in favour of an equitable adjustment of property between the English and French author, the want of which now causes the overflow of foreign talent, and the presence of which would so regulate the market as to prevent native talent from being undersold. In a word, do justice to the foreign author, and justice to the native author follows of course. So even-handed is Justice.

Nine or ten years ago this truth was partially seen by the Legislature of England, which co-operated with that of France in settling the question of dramatic copyright. The intention was good enough; but interested parties were suffered to have influence, and accordingly a proviso was added to the statute, by which that intention was altogether defeated. The fatal proviso runs thus:—"It is understood that the protection stipulated by the present article is not intended to prohibit fair imitations, or adaptations of dramatic works to the stage in England and France respectively, but is only meant to prevent *piratical* translations." Under cover of this proviso, things went on in the old way, and the treaty became a dead letter.

But the gallant Charles Reade, jealous of his country's honour, and willing to trade in French translations on fair and honourable terms, and not otherwise, refused to believe that "an Act that aimed at international justice" could have been thus intentionally "degraded into a feat of partiality and international injustice." He refused, we say, to believe it; and he forthwith proceeded to bring the matter practically to the test.

The manner in which this was ultimately done gave rise to the funniest series of transactions on record. A gentleman was brought into contact with blackguards, and the incidents that

* The Eighth Commandment. By CHARLES READE. Trilbner and Co.

arose showed the *mesalliance* in the most grotesque shapes, and furnished a comedy, with scenes more proper for a farce or a melodrama, than for a more regular production. The characters were not at all of the drawing-room order, and there was a want of dignity even in the more respectable of the *dramatis personæ*, with the one exception, the hero of the fight, the champion of international justice.

Mr. Reade's test of the value of the international treaty was in this fashion. He determined to treat with the French authors for the copyright of "*Les Pauvres de Paris*." The original piece was legally registered; a version next produced and legally published, and entered at Stationers' Hall, Mr. Reade having previously advertised in the *Times* his intention of preparing a version, and that the solicitor of the authors was instructed to restrain any other version, or imitation, by an injunction of the Court of Chancery. Mr. Reade soon found that (to use his own language) he "had walked into a hornets' nest." But, first of all, a fair offer was made on the part of the Surrey Theatre by Mr. Creswick, to pay him and the French authors a small sum for permission to play a certain adaptation by Mr. Stirling Coyne, which they conceded. Mr. Payne, of the Strand Theatre, however, took another view of the matter, and employed Mr. Ben Barnett and J. B. Johnstone to concoct an adaptation, under the title of "*The Pride of Poverty; or, The Real Poor of London*." Hereupon, Mr. Reade hastily inserted an advertisement in the *Era*, announcing that injunctions in the Court of Chancery would be filed, and notice was subsequently served upon him to the same effect. Mr. Payne pleaded that his adaptation was "wide of the French," and so played it on the following Monday. Furthermore, he assumed the airs of "an injured pirate;" and he and Messrs. Barnett and Johnstone finally commenced legal proceedings against Mr. Reade, for having "slandered their title" by his advertisement above-mentioned. The trial at last came off, so far as respected the joint authors of the piracy, who laid their damages at five hundred pounds, but were non-suited. Mr. Reade found it impossible, meanwhile, to appear as plaintiff himself, in behalf of the French authors, except at a ruinous expense; and was therefore advised to be content with such solution of the question as the nonsuit implied.

Let not the reader imagine, however, that the above dry statement resembles the story as told in the book. Mr. Reade enlivens it with personal and picturesque delineations, and draws out the whole affair in dramatic distinctness; so that readers, both English and French, may see the *practical* operation of the Swindling Proviso surreptitiously inserted into the statute. He argues out, at length, the dishonourable nature of the transaction as regards England, and its impolitic nature as regards France. He points out, too, that the French dramatists are men of consideration, and that their good feeling towards England is of itself a great benefit, which it is important in us to secure.

Frenchmen, it seems, have to pay a heavy price for the imaginary protection afforded by the statute; if they do not, they are entirely helpless. But if they do, what then? Mr. Reade answers, that "then the heartless, lawless law encourages another swindler to attack them, viz. 'the adapter.'" He destroys them as inevitably as the other. *The same pirate that translates the unprotected pieces plays the adaptation swindle on the protected pieces.* It costs him nothing; "it is as easy as lying," or as daubing a stolen article with paint. Any stick is good enough to beat such mere dogs as Victor Hugo, Scribe, Molière, Shakspeare, Corneille. Mere colourable piracy is punished every day between Englishman and Englishman; (?) but it becomes an honest lawful act when levelled against a French dramatic author, after he has bought of us, at a heavy price, these sacred rights an Englishman gets gratis. Oh, shame! shame! shame!

That the Swindling Proviso should be immediately repealed is clear. "This disloyal intruder," says Mr. Reade, "into a great international equity has been tried nine years, and convicted as a pettifogging cheat; down with it! It is a blot on a noble enactment, and on our national escutcheon; 'out, damned spot!' It is a double-faced, double-tongued, double dealer. It turns one cheek to the honest inventor, and says, 'pay the price and I'll protect you; turns the other cheek to the rogue, and says, 'let him pay what he will, I'll show you how to do him;' and so it tempts the honest man to his temporal, and the frail man to his eternal, harm; down with it!"

Now for the result of the iniquity thus perpetrated. These are:—"High prices, low article, intellectual auditor banished, inventor extinguished, adapter half-starved, petty pirate in rags;" and these "are not the results of nature, as dreamers think, but the product of feeble legislation, and unjust, incapable tribunals. France has a national drama, mainly because she is an honest nation, and worthy of one—England has none, because she is at present an author-swindling nation, and unworthy of one. When the English Legislature shall rise to the moral and intellectual level of the French judges, then the present artificial opposition, which is such as no art ever threw under, will be removed or lightened, and a great and glorious national drama will that moment begin to arise by a law of commerce as inevitable as that which now strangles it."

Mr. Reade has indeed thrown a flood of light on the whole question; and has shown to the public a fact long known to ourselves, that "certain managers of theatres have formed a sort of KIDNAPPING ASSOCIATION." Mark the operation of it. Madame Celeste purchased, for about one hundred and fifty pounds, the sole right to dramatise "*A Tale of Two Cities*," and play it in London. Mr. F. A. Davidson, thereupon, advertises a

M.S. copy of an adaptation, which managers may have for *fifteen shillings*; "and they will have the right to perform the piece under their contract for the year 1860," as "subscribers to Cumberland's list of acting dramatic pieces." We have seen this adaptation performed, and it is as close a copy of Madame Celeste's as possible. Is it properly licensed? The Lord Chamberlain should surely look to this, and refuse his license to such robberies. "Here," shouts out Mr. Reade, and well he may, "here is a monster that offers directly a similar article, with the same title, to any theatre, for *fifteen shillings*. What inventor or honest purchaser can compete with this? In France this blackguard would be not only fined, but probably imprisoned. In England who cares but Mr. Reade?"

In conclusion, it is our duty to inform the reader that Mr. Reade has written a noble and eloquent book, which will circulate not only here, but in America, where it is already reprinted, and in France. That it will avail to stop the infamous piratical traffic, by compelling the Legislature and Government to frame a just law, we have no doubt. Mr. Reade has written with wonderful force, and also with a most fertile power of illustration, that makes the volume one of the most amusing and instructive ever composed. It is, in fact, an *immortal* work; and will, like Milton's "*Treatises on Divorce and Unlicensed Printing*," live as long as the English language.

Mr. Reade proves, by example, that the course we have been pursuing must extinguish literary invention. Englishmen, he rightly remarks, "can all see this where any nation but England is the pirate. We warned Belgium she would extinguish her literature if she played the same *ansero vulpine* game in all literature we are playing in dramatic literature. She persisted, and did extinguish her literature. What is the difference between her and England? None in our favour. The only vital difference is this: first, she did not shuffle and tamper with treaties, but did her roguery like a man, and we did it like a pettifogging sneak."

The time has, we hope, now arrived when our legislators and statesmen will put aside their jealousy of the author, the literary man, the Man Thinking. Such jealousy was always absurd enough. It might, however, be winked at in the days of ignorance. In these enlightened days it is both a blunder and a crime. Let government and parliament hasten to do justice. Let them put Mr. Reade's book, at once, into the hands of a competent lawyer, and codify the principles therein contained on the different matters, particularly the drama, therein referred to; and let the bill thus carefully and honestly produced be passed into a law without a moment's delay or hesitation. There should be none in removing the stain of dishonour from the escutcheon of England.

MEMOIRS OF BISHOP HURD.*

THE editor of the "*Literary Remains of Bishop Warburton*" has undertaken those of Bishop Hurd, and presented us with some acceptable memoirs and collections of unpublished papers and correspondence. The work is appropriately dedicated to Dr. Pepys, the present Lord Bishop of Worcester, and to the Right Hon. Edward John Baron Hatherton, as the descendant of Sir Edward Littleton, Bart., the life-long friend of Bishop Hurd; both of whom have contributed materials towards it. Bishop Hurd was one of those sober thinkers of the eighteenth century, to whom the form of our literature owes so much, and the substance so little. The bishop, indeed, never aimed at originality, but only elegance. Mr. Kilvert has taken for his model Mason's "*Life of Gray*;" and rightly, if only for the similarity between the genius of Hurd and the poet of the "Churchyard."

Richard Hurd was the second son of a respectable farmer at Congreve, in Staffordshire, of whom Sir E. Littleton spoke well, as possessing virtue and good sense, which in their sons had proved to be hereditary as family qualities. His early education was at the Grammar-school, at Brewood; but, in 1733, he was admitted a sizar at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and took the degree of A.B. in 1738-9. He was early recognised as a rising scholar. While at Cambridge he thus wrote to a friend:—

"With regard to systems of logic, which you inquire after, it will perhaps surprise you to hear that we can hardly be said to use any at all. The study of logic is almost entirely laid aside in this university, and that of the mathematics taken up in its room. It is looked upon as a maxim here, that a justness and accuracy in thinking and reasoning are better learned by a habit than by rules; and it is an observation founded upon long experience, that no men argue more closely and acutely than they who are well versed in mathematical learning, even though they are ignorant of the rules delivered by the great masters in that other science."

In June, 1742, Hurd was ordained deacon of St. Paul's, London, by Dr. Joseph Rutter, Bishop of Bristol, and in July took the degree of M.A.; in May, 1744, he was ordained priest. He is found thus early to have practised the habit of extracting from and commenting upon the books he read, as well as of registering his own thoughts and reflections on subjects as they presented themselves; a habit which he retained throughout life, and to which this volume is indebted for much excellent material. His first literary work appears to have been "*Remarks on a late Book, entitled, An Enquiry into the Rejection of Christian Miracles, by the Heathen, by William Weston, B.D., 1746*,"—the style of which was in part ironical; and, on the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, he contributed some stanzas towards the Cambridge congratulations on that occasion.

* *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Right Rev. Richard Hurd, D.D., Lord Bishop of Worcester; with a Selection from his Correspondence, and other Unpublished Papers.* By the Rev. FRANCIS KILVERT, M.A. Richard Bentley.

It was not until 1749 that Hurd published his well-known "Commentary and Notes on Horace's Art of Poetry;" on which, in 1762, Gibbon wrote an elaborate critique. Hurd's notion was, that it was the aim of Horace to reform the Roman stage. The general opinion, however, is, that the Epistle was a personal appeal to the Pisos, who were in danger of committing themselves precipitately to dramatic composition, warning them of the difficulties of the dramatic art, and the disgrace and ridicule attending failure. In this opinion Hurd himself ultimately concurred. One passage from this work must be quoted, as predicting the characteristics of our present literature and language:—

"When a language, as ours at this time, hath been much polished and enriched with perfect models of style in almost every way, it is in the order of things that the next step should be to a *vicious affectation*. For the simplicity of true taste under these circumstances grows insipid; something *better than the best* must be aimed at; and the reader's languid appetite raised by the provocatives of an ambitious refinement. And this in *sentiment* as well as *language*."

Somewhere about 1749 Hurd became acquainted with Warburton, and this was the turning-point of his fortunes. He was introduced by the latter to Mr. Murray and Mr. Charles Yorke; and in 1750, by Warburton's recommendation to Bishop Sherlock, Hurd was appointed one of the preachers at Whitehall. In 1751, Hurd published his "Commentary on Horace's Epistle to Augustus," which he characterized as "An apology for the poets of his own time." In 1756, Hurd was presented with the living of Thurstaston, in Leicester—a College gift. Its value was about £230 per annum. "The profits of my living," he writes to Warburton, "with a little good husbandry, will make me quite easy. I, who was born to no hopes, bred in the school of parsimony, have no large necessities, and have been trained to philosophy, ought to be ashamed if so decent a provision did not satisfy me." Next year he completed and published the dissertation on which his fame rests, namely, "1, On the Idea of Universal Poetry. 2, On the Province of Dramatic Poetry. 3, On Poetical Imitation; and 4, On the Marks of Imitation." Two years afterwards appeared his "Moral and Political Dialogues;" and he further enhanced his reputation as a critic in 1762 by his twelve "Letters on Chivalry and Romance." In 1768 he preached in Lincoln's Inn chapel twelve sermons, as opening the lecture founded by Bishop Warburton for the illustration of the argument in favour of Christianity derived from prophecy. In 1774 he was advanced to the episcopate as Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry—an elevation which was ascribed to King George the Third's admiration of his "Moral and Political Dialogues." It seems, therefore, clear that Hurd owed his bishopric to his literary merit. Two years afterwards he held the office of preceptor to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. In 1781 he was translated to the see of Worcester. From that moment his life appears to have become thoroughly practical. His time was divided between the calls of his important diocese, his studies, and becoming hospitality towards his friends and neighbours, varied only by occasional visits and attendance upon his parliamentary duties. In 1783 the King offered him the Archbishopric of Canterbury, but Hurd declined. He died in May, 1808, in his 89th year.

Hurd appears in disposition and manner to have been a proud, learned man; but of an affectionate heart, as well as of an elegant mind. Vulgarity, in fact, was intolerable to him. Madame D'Arblay describes him as "dignified, placid, grave, and mild, but rather cold and rather distancing." He was never married, nor, it would appear, ever had an attachment; and his appearance and air may have been due to his solitary and studious habits. Certain it is, he loved his books better than he loved mankind. We can smell a fault in that. On further acquaintance, Madame D'Arblay found that "piety and goodness are so marked on his countenance, which is truly a fine one, that he has been named, and very justly, 'The Beauty of Holiness.'" These characteristics redeem somewhat the sterner features of his mind and carriage. On the whole, we must regard him as an intelligent, thoughtful, and venerable man, devoted to letters, of a nice perception and fine taste, not strong in imagination, and gifted rather with judgment than genius.

VICISSITUDES OF FAMILIES.*

IN a former series we sought to do justice to the author for his interesting narratives, more romantic than romance, and yet as true as history. The decadence of wealthy families is inevitably instructive. Its causes are not far to seek. The civil wars ruined many great houses. Sir Bernard Burke remarks that, owing to them there is not now in the House of Peers a single male descendant of the twenty-five Barons who were appointed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta. What a fact! How pregnant! How important! We cannot pursue the subject to the length that Sir Bernard has done. Another source, however, pointed out by him must not be overlooked. The peculiar talents, he says, and dispositions that have led to the aggrandisement of any one person are seldom repeated in his immediate successor. It is not often that a miser is succeeded in the same line by a miser; a poet by a poet; or a commander by a son of the same military ability as his father. But the main cause lies in the state of the law of inheritance. In the absence of direct heirs male, the estate is allowed to pass to the heiress, while the title to which it belongs may devolve on a collateral branch that may be devoid of wealth or education; thus, the

property goes to one line, and the dignity to another incapable of supporting it. Sir B. Burke proposes some remedies for this inconsistency: but, we take it, that the law of vicissitude will always find, or make, some loophole, under any possible arrangement.

Sir Bernard opens with the story of an extinct family in Derbyshire. The house of Finnerne exists no more. Not a single record in the village remains. Not one? Yes; one. "I accosted a villager," says Sir Bernard, "hoping to gain some stray tradition of the Finnernes. 'Finnernes,' said he, 'we have no Finnernes here, but we have something that once belonged to them; we have Finnerne's Flowers.' 'Show me them, I replied,' and the old man led me into a field which still retained faint traces of terraces and foundations. 'There,' said he, pointing to a bank of garden flowers grown wild, 'there are the Finnerne's Flowers, brought by Sir Geoffrey from the Holy Land; and, do what we will, they will never die.'"

The story of Feargus O'Connor is told by Sir Bernard with great force. Of the Martinet William Wray of Ards, he presents us with a curious account. With a connection as wide as his fortune, he managed to fall into pecuniary difficulties; and so vanished a splendid estate. "Yet there is no record of anything coarse or vicious in the extravagance which beggared the Master of Ards. One hears nothing of hard drinking, or loud swearing, or boisterous revels in his courtly mansion. William Wray was a gentleman, a high Irish gentleman, too proud to be popular, and too eccentric to be understood; he could not be estimated by the unimaginative and matter-of-fact people among whom he dwelt; the shrewd and money-loving Northerners called his unbounded hospitality riotous living, and his diffuseness they termed madness; but had these things been done in France in the fourteenth century, and chronicled by such a pen as that of Froissart, he would have classed him with such entertainers as Phœbus, Gaston, Count de Foix, and pronounced him a courteous and liberal, a bountiful and most gentle host."

In recounting the strange story of the avaricious family of the Elwes, Sir Bernard interposes a remark which, for moral significance, is perhaps unequalled. "Warriors, statesmen, merchants, and lawyers," says he, "all have originated great and flourishing houses; but misers are rarely the patriarchs of families of enduring prosperity; the same remark may be made in reference to those who gathered gain by the slave trade; they never flourished. It has been ascertained as a positive fact, that no two generations of a slave-dealer's race ever continued resident on the estate acquired by the unholy pursuit of their founder; and a similar observation applies, to a certain extent, to the profits of the usurer. A very-learned friend of mine, deeply versed in the vicissitudes of genealogy, assures me that he never knew four generations of an usurer's family to endure in regular unbroken succession."

The fate of the last of the Myttons, of Shropshire, suggests an opposite moral;—"a warning to the extravagant and a lesson to the profligate. It tells, too, of the instability of all human things. A family far more ancient, and apparently as vigorous as the grand old oaks, that once were the pride of Halston, was destroyed, after centuries of honourable and historic eminence, by the mad follies of one man in the brief space of eighteen years."

The life of John Robinson, of Appleby, the builder of the "House that Jack built," in Westmoreland, and father of the Countess of Abergavenny, is as singular as it is interesting, and proves that the elements of romance are now as strong in our actual history as ever they were in the past. But we cannot repeat the records of the book, and must remain content with selections. We can only glance at the Lady Henrietta Anne Leslie, who married a gardener, and lived with him for years, supported only by his honest industry, a happy woman; at the Livingstones, in their splendour, decline and fall; and at the Lairds of Callendar and Westquarter.

We come then to a story of distinction, acquired not by the exercise of talent, but merely by the caprice of fortune. The Bristol boddicemaker, John Diddlestone, who dared to address neglected royalty, and invited Prince George, the husband of Queen Anne, to eat pudding with him. Whereupon the guest invited the host to London, and introduced him and his wife to the queen. "So pleased was the latter with the blunt novelty of her visitors' manners, that she took a gold watch from her side, and presented it to the wife, who, full of the pride of such a memorial, never failed afterwards to display it attached to her blue apron when she went to market. Nor did her Majesty stop here; she proposed to confer a pension upon the boddicemaker. But this he refused to accept, declaring that he had got the sum of fifty pounds out at interest; and, moreover, he well saw that her Majesty could spare no money, when she had such a flock about her to support. Amused with this naive trait, the queen, who was as famous for her good humour as her love of good wine, bade him kneel down, and before the Bristolian became quite aware of what was intended for him, he rose up a knight."

But what is the end of the story? Hear Sir Bernard: "From this day, the fortunes of Sir John went on increasing till he had amassed a very considerable sum, and had a baronetcy conferred on him in 1691-2. Would that my tale could end here; but the story of life is pretty sure either to end or to begin in sorrow. All this wealth was embarked in merchandise that was intrusted to the mercy of the salt seas; and before the ships that bore it could return, there came the tremendous storm, in November, 1701, in which the whole was lost. From this blow Sir John never recovered, but continued to live in very reduced circumstances until the hour of his death; his grandson and heir, the second Sir John Diddlestone, held a humble appointment in the Customs at Bristol; but of his descendants, if he had any, nothing has been left on record."

*A Second Series of Vicissitudes of Families. By Sir BERNARD BURKE, Ulster King at Arms. London: Longmans.

A similar story is told of Tom Ward, the Prince of Lichtenstein's stable-boy, who subsequently rose to be the Prime Minister of the Duke of Lucca and of Parma, under the title of Baron Ward. Sir Bernard gives a long account of this honest and shrewd Yorkshireman. It is one of the most wonderful stories we ever read, and has the advantage of being literally true. That of the Bonapartist family, which follows, is, in our opinion, less wonderful, and less morally available as an example teaching the value of honesty and fidelity.

The remaining chapters deal with the family of Maccarthy, the fortunes of Bulstrode, the vicissitudes of the O'Melaghlin's and the Laws of Lauriston, with the sorrows of the old Countess of Desmond, the last of her kin. In her 140th year the elderly dowager crossed the channel, and presented herself a suppliant before James I. A portrait yet exists of the aged woman, which bears, on the back, an inscription, stating the fact of her age and appearance at Court, and adding, "Thither she came, from Bristol, to seeke relief, ye house of Desmond having been ruined by attainder. She was married in ye reigne of King Edward IV., and in ye course of her long pilgrimage renewed her teethe twice." She died the same year (1604). But, in the Earl of Leicester's "Table-Book," it is stated, "Shee might have lived much longer, had she not met with a kind of violent death; for she must needs climb a nutt-tree, to gather nutts, soe, falling down, she hurt her thigh, which brought a fever, and that brought death."

The life of De Vere, Earl of Oxford, concludes the volume. This is a race of which Lord Macaulay wrote with enthusiasm. Edward de Vere, the hero of these memoirs, was a soldier and poet, renowned in the tournaments, and at the brilliant Court of Elizabeth, and was the first who introduced perfumes and embroidered gloves into England, the first pair of which he presented to his royal Mistress, who was so charmed with the gift that she had her picture painted with these very gloves on. But he dissipated his inheritance, and his descendants have degenerated. The last Earl's son died in a miserable cottage.

This volume of Sir Bernard Burke's is quite equal to its predecessors; and furnishes incidents of great value to the novelist and poet. The diligence in collecting materials is as extraordinary as the skill with which they have been treated. A more interesting book is not extant.

THE BROWNRIGG PAPERS.*

THIS volume consists of articles which Mr. Jerrold contributed to periodicals and annuals, between the years 1830 and 1840. The admirers of this author will be glad to have all that fell from his pen, although no author was more anxious than Jerrold that only his best works should be collected. No one, indeed, had a more modest estimate of his own productions than he himself; and we happen to know that he studiously concealed many dramas and other works that, during his earlier career he had produced, to answer the needs of the moment. We have now before us a unique copy of a series of essays equal in bulk nearly to the present volume, which, though printed, he would never allow to be published, and which he paid a price to have destroyed, so justly jealous was he of his reputation after he had won it by as hard an apprenticeship as any writer ever served to literature. The extreme polish of his style, the pellucid clearness of his expression, his apt and copious powers of illustration, were all the fruit of a life of practice; and the most earnest feeling for literature as an art. Fastidious to an extreme with regard to his own style, he was by no means a harsh critic towards others, but we really believe that he would, if he could, have had the greater proportion of his own works destroyed.

The public, however, are neither such nice nor such fastidious judges, and are more amused by the eccentricities of character and pungency of expression, than charmed by the delicacies and refinements of style. The nineteen essays and articles here reprinted have a flavour of the works in which they originally appeared being brief and slight, though the author could never write without the purpose of exposing the small vices and the indomitable selfishness that pervades conventional society. The false standard of character set up by the slavishness of mankind, and the false idolatry of its worship of mere position and power, were always present to the writer's mind, and he is ever aiming showers of sarcasms at these pests of our existence. His love of the good was singularly simple, and of the old school. The women he shadows forth were rather the cultivated nymphs of cherry-cheeks and sloe-black eyes, than the cultivated creatures of modern existence; and the qualities he held up as examples of human excellence are the unadorned and unsophisticated things of nature's forming. In so much he belongs more to the last than to the present century; and, it must be said, he draws rather on his fancy than his experience for his samples.

Every one of these essays has a good moral, and tends to exalt natural goodness and talent over mere accidental wealth and conventional claims. They are slight, because the passions are never produced in them, and the thought only pierces skin deep. The fancy is kindled, and the sensibilities are sometimes sound, but beyond this, it was seldom the wont for the author to go; and we have every reason to doubt his capability of proceeding further. His aim was to expose the false and to uphold the genuine, and to this his whole life and writings tended. He was a true, but peculiar satirist; and if he did not do his spiriting gently, he always did it lightly; never darkening to the fury of a Juvenal, and never approaching the venomous rancour of Swift. Satirist as he was, we

much doubt his knowledge of human nature; for we found, in all his characters, more of the fanciful notions of the theatre than the endless varieties of real existence. This dramatic, or rather theatrical faculty, tended to give popularity to his productions; for unobservant or unreflecting readers or spectators take that for true which the are assured is so; and, doubtless, there are persons to be found who believe the operatic ballet to represent a state of existence at some time, or in some place, of the world.

It would be exceedingly unjust to the reputation of this able and, in many respects, fine writer, to take it as an example of his best style and his noblest thoughts, but as a link in the chain of his literary progress, for it will be interesting to the students of style; and, to the mere reader of amusement, it certainly will yield a few hours of enjoyment.

REAL LIFE NOVELS.*

THE short but brilliant career of Mr. Robert Brough, of which a brief summary is prefixed to the present volume, from the pen of Mr. Augustus Sala, naturally invests the writings of the above-mentioned gentleman with more than ordinary interest. More than once since the death of this popular author and humorist has the public been called upon to testify their appreciation of his talents by actively sympathising with the misfortunes and sufferings of his bereaved and afflicted family. The number of untimely deaths which have lately taken place amongst some of our most able compilers of light and entertaining literature has cast a gloom, not only around their brethren labouring in the same vineyard with themselves, but, alas! around that portion of the public who have been accustomed to derive edification and amusement from the productions of their fertile pens. Few, indeed, can escape the prevailing epidemic of grieving sincerely over the memory of those who have fallen early martyrs to their over-zeal in contributing to the enjoyment of others; for, in a large majority of instances, the premature deaths of rising literary men are the immediate results of hard work, and an injudicious over-tension of the whole mental system. Unfortunately, our highest and most brilliant intellectual faculties are subject to the tyrannical laws of nature, and even the man of dazzling genius dare not break through the regulations thus submitted for his guidance, without entailing upon himself the inevitable consequences. The sad fate of Mr. Brough (whose latest literary emanation, in the shape of a novel, entitled "Marston Lynch," we are now called upon to notice), is most ably and touchingly depicted by his friend and biographer, Mr. Sala; and it is with feelings of the deepest commiseration and most unfeigned regret, that we turn over the pages of the present volume, and give the reader a slight analysis of its contents. The hero of this work, "Marston Lynch," a young gentleman, of superior attainments, but who is, unfortunately, endowed with little power of self-reliance, and even less strength of mind wherewith to resist the temptations into which he is thrown by the irresistible tide of circumstances, is, at the age of eighteen, thrown apparently upon his own resources by the death of his father, Everard Lynch; a family of distant relations, including Mr. and Mrs. Merrypebbles, and their daughter Maud, magnanimously come forward to the assistance of their suffering kinsman, and to them he owes his first real start in the great battle of existence. Marston is, however, unconsciously the heir to a considerable property, which, at the commencement of the story, is held in the name of his uncle, Gregory Lynch; this last-mentioned personage having, at the time of his father's death, feloniously abstracted a will, in which his own claims had been set aside for those of his nephew. Marston begins life as a painter, but subsequently discovers his forte to be literature, and becomes, under peculiar circumstances, the editor of a provincial satirical newspaper, in which position he achieves for himself a smart, though not exactly an enviable, reputation. Our author then becomes ambitious of metropolitan fame, migrates to London, sets to work at several dramatic compositions, and is rewarded by one or two ephemeral successes. He has, however, eventually to go through that fiery ordeal of misappreciation, poverty, and laceration of the spirit, to which many a man of genius is subjected before he can arrive at the wished-for goal. We will not spoil the reader's enjoyment of this story by going too closely into the details of the plot. Suffice it to say, that the characters are all well conceived, and efficiently developed, especially that of the villain of the drama, Don Sancho de Saumarez, which appellative, by-the-by, is but one of the numerous aliases by which this gentleman has contrived to obscure, and render a mere matter of conjecture, the original cognomen handed down to him by his insulted ancestors. In short, this novel possesses a double claim to the sympathies of the public: firstly, that which is founded on its own individual merits; and, secondly, the fact of its being the death-bed production of an universally lamented and deservedly celebrated author.

From *Hay Time to Hopping*, by the author of "Our Farm of Four Acres," is a remarkably well written and interesting story. Perfectly unassuming in its general details and construction, it possesses that irresistible charm of truthfulness and simplicity which often achieves a greater success in securing the sympathies of the reader than falls to the lot of more inflated and high-toned compositions. The author has, moreover, in his present production, taken care to keep all his characters and incidents within the limits

* *Marston Lynch, a Personal Biography*. By Robert B. Brough, with portrait and memoir of the Author. By GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA. London: Ward and Lock.

From Hay Time to Hopping. By the author of "Our Farm of Four Acres." London: Chapman and Hall.

Easton and its Inhabitants. By the Hon. ELEANOR EDEN. London: Richard Bentley.

* *The Brownrigg Papers*, by DOUGLAS JERROLD. Edited by Blanchard Jerrold. With a coloured illustration, by George Cruikshank. John Camden Hotten.

of nature and probability, not allowing of any exaggerated colouring to mar the artistic proportions of his picture. The trials and sufferings of the poor female relative and dependent—a class of society none the less numerous from the fact of its being almost entirely unrecognised—are faithfully and touchingly delineated; and the reader experiences a laudible thrill of satisfaction when the two heroines, Laura Hope and Anne Ellison, rise triumphant over the difficulties by which their early career has been surrounded, and find refuge from the taunts and insults of unprincipled and exacting kinspeople, in the arms of affectionate and decidedly eligible husbands. Without doubt, this tale is worth the reading, and we can safely recommend it to the inspection of the public.

Easton and its Inhabitants, by the Hon. Eleanor Eden, is also a work of considerable merit. Were it not for a tendency on the part of the authoress to enlarge unnecessarily upon unimportant details, which somewhat retard and render tedious the action of the story, the present would be a most agreeable and instructive work of fiction. The characters, which are chiefly selected from that favoured and privileged class of society, generally designated by the term “fashionable,” are all drawn with the most delicate and artistic finish, and cannot fail to secure the approbation of the reader. We refrain from going into any particulars of this story, the plot being scarcely of that description which shows up favourably in an analysis. We will, therefore, conclude our remarks by saying, the substance of which has been already stated, that were this decidedly clever production reduced to about one half its present compass, the result would be in the highest degree satisfactory, both to the author and the reader.

HEALTH RESORTS OF BRITAIN, AND HOW TO PROFIT BY THEM.*

THIS is a comprehensive account of all the sea bathing, watering, and other places of resort to which the overworked population of our great cities occasionally retreat. These are so numerous and so various in locality, we may say in quality, that it must have cost the author considerable trouble to condense an account of them into one volume; and we are bound to say we think he has done his work very satisfactorily. Dealing with so many places it was impossible he could be interested in all, and he appears to have very fairly pointed out the class of persons and disorders most suitable to each.

The remarks on sea bathing and sea resorts are particularly valuable, and should be carefully studied, especially by those advanced in life. Indeed, we can heartily recommend the book to all who are on the look out for a health resort, as it contains a vast amount of information. The wood cuts give a lively idea of the places treated of, and in every way the work is most creditably got up, and at an extremely moderate price.

COLLIER, COLERIDGE, AND SHAKESPEARE.†

NEVER was any author subjected to such treatment as our great dramatist. Every possible kind of intellect makes every possible kind of speculation regarding what he has written; and the commentators bore the reading public with their squabbles to such an extent, that if he were not the most delicious as well as the profoundest of writers, his productions would be avoided as the most distressing and puzzling ever published.

The present addition to the Collier controversy, or rather attack, seems to us totally uncalled for. The belligerents in that controversy seemed to be fully aware that they had tried the patience of readers to the utmost, and that Mr. Collier's known probity of character was an unanswerable reply to the rancorous and petty attacks made on his works. That he had fallen into some errors was likely enough; but that he was the unmitigated scoundrel his few opponents tried to make out, was believed by no one who had not mingled with the clique, who having rashly commenced the attack, seemed to think there was a necessity to continue it, at any cost to their victim, or to their own characters as reasonable and just men. The present pamphlet chiefly impugns the accuracy of Mr. Collier's reports of some lectures of Coleridge; a matter, as it appears to us, not of the slightest moment, as we have Coleridge's Lectures on Shakespeare in a much better and more satisfactory state. Next comes a bitter attack on some of the readings of the 1632, or Perkins' Folio, which the author may certainly impugn, if it pleases him. Amidst all this hubbub of controversy and heat of contest, we are bound to say the author makes some excellent suggestions as to various readings, and seems to have a pure taste and an appreciation of the great writer. Embedded as the new readings are, in the wrangle of contention, we expect very few persons will trouble themselves to dig out the good from such a mass of petty and tedious controversy.

NOTES ON HEALTH, SHOWING HOW TO PRESERVE OR REGAIN IT, BY DIET, REGIMEN, &c.‡

IT is an old saying, that every man is a fool or a physician at forty; a saying which must be taken with many limitations. For a man to quack himself by administering to his body powerful medicines, without having undergone the necessary amount of study, is a species of suicide; but it is quite certain that any thoughtful or inquiring man may acquire a sufficient knowledge of physiology to help him to keep his body in a sound and healthful condition. Nor need he, now-a-days, wait until forty years of age to acquire this necessary quantum of information, for knowledge courts him on all sides. If he have

not already studied the subject, the present unpretending shilling volume will give him great help; and, would a man carefully study it, he might, at all events, know what to eat, drink, and avoid, and also learn how to apportion his work and enjoy his leisure. It very properly treats entirely of physiology, leaving the application of medicine to absolute disease to medical practitioners.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

SPECIAL.

HANOVER, August 7, 1860.

SEVERAL semi-official reports are in speculation respecting the late meeting of the PRINCE REGENT of PRUSSIA and the EMPEROR of AUSTRIA; and the Prussian Cabinet, it is said, has despatched to the different German Courts a circular note, in which it is stated that the results obtained at the Baden meeting have been perfected by the meeting at Teplitz. The two monarchs are of one accord to defend, at all risks, the integrity of every state of the Confederation; and, though no positive stipulations have been made, they have come to an understanding upon all the great European questions. As one consequence of the meeting at Teplitz a note has likewise been despatched to the Tuileries by the Prussian Government, expressing the conviction that the neutrality of Switzerland can never appear sufficiently secured so long as France refuses to declare the nature and extent of the obligations attached to her late territorial acquisitions. The Prussian Cabinet entertains the hope that France will perceive the absolute necessity of affording every guarantee that may secure the completest neutrality to Switzerland, and thereby restore confidence to Europe generally. A note to the same effect has been, or will shortly be, despatched by Austria to Paris. The *Donau Zeitung* publishes the following semi-official notice of the Teplitz meeting:—“The eventful days of Baden-Baden have been followed by the no less eventful days of Teplitz. Their significance and their aim were the same. An equal and common necessity drew the princes of Germany together. What was commenced at Baden has been completed at Teplitz. The broadest and firmest basis for a united German policy upon all the great questions which are now agitating Europe has been established. The interview between the two great sovereigns of Germany, upon whose good understanding the fate not only of Austria and Prussia, but all Germany, depended, has confirmed the happy union of all the Federal States. Without pretending to be initiated in the late transactions of the two princes, we may declare it as our conviction that a thorough accord exists among all the Governments of the Confederation, and more especially between the two Great Powers. We believe it to be no longer a matter of doubt that guarantees have been obtained for the combined action of all the forces of the country, in the event of any aggression upon German territory. For the attainment of this long-desired end, not only Germany, but all Europe, has reason to be thankful. The policy of this country is clearly not aggressive, but purely defensive. Consequently, the close union of all the States can never be a source of alarm to other nations. It serves merely as a guarantee for the maintenance of peace, and the balance of power.

The *Press* declares the following to be a reliable report of the meeting:—“With regard to Venetia no guarantee treaty has been entered into. On the other hand, it may be accepted as a fact that the eventuality of an attack upon Venetia has been taken into consideration, and a line of conduct arranged. As long as Italians alone shall be opposed to Austria, Prussia will in no way feel bound to leave her position of neutral observation; but should the events of the war take such a turn as to lead to another intervention on the part of France against Austria, should the legions of NAPOLEON again descend from the Alps, Prussia would regard this as a serious menace of the existing balance of power, and feel obliged to interfere actively. Herein lay the difficulty, for should Prussia, in such an event, be of effectual assistance to Austria, she would require not only the exercise of all her strength, but the combined strength of entire Germany—an utter impossibility under the present military constitution of the Diet. A compromise was, therefore, entered into at Teplitz to the effect that, in case of another intervention in Italy by France, the Federal army will move upon the Rhine, and the supreme command be conferred upon the Prince Regent. The importance of this arrangement for the integrity of Austria and the influence of Germany, as also for the maintenance of the balance of power, is self-evident.

According to the *Breslau Gazette*, the Prince Regent, on his arrival at Teplitz, greeted his Ministers with great heartiness, and expressed himself somewhat in these words:—“Gentlemen, our line of conduct remains unaltered. We shall not deviate from the path we have adopted; and I think Austria will follow us in the same direction. It is, therefore, to be hoped that each country, in its own way, will strive to reach one and the same object.”

It is generally supposed that the sudden and apparently frank appeal to the people of England by the Emperor NAPOLEON is, in a great measure, to be attributed to the meeting at Teplitz. Opinions are divided as to the effect it will produce upon the public mind of England; but the majority of the journals are inclined to think it will lend force to the peace-preaching of the Manchester party, and disincline the nation from a closer alliance with the German Powers. Some would gladly believe that the Emperor's letter has arrived a day behind the fair; and that a coalition has already been concluded between England and the chief Continental Powers. By all appearances England has laboured hard to bring about a good understanding between

* *Health Resorts of Britain, and How to Profit by Them.* By SPENCER THOMSON, M.D., L.R.S.E. Ward and Lock.

† *Collier, Coleridge, and Shakespeare.* By the Author of “Literary Cookery.” London: Longman and Co.

‡ *Notes on Health, Showing How to Preserve or Regain It, by Diet, Regimen, &c.* By W. T. COLEMAN, M.D. Routledge, Warne, and Routledge.

Austria and Prussia; and the interview is the result of the efforts of the English Court, if not of the Cabinet. It is tolerably certain that the English Court shares the views of Austria and Prussia with respect to the Italian question, or rather revolution; and that Prussia and Austria are of one accord with England concerning Syria. The Emperor's letter has tended, in some degree, to open the eyes of the general public to the fact that BRITANNIA, in spite of her having so long and modestly played *violino secundo* to LOUIS NAPOLEON, is mistress of the situation at this moment.

We expect a confirmation of the report that the convention, with regard to Syria, has been signed. Prussia proposes that the occupation by European troops shall not exceed a certain period; and that the troops shall be of different nations, subject to the instructions of a commission appointed by the Great Powers.

There is, just now, a complete lull in home politics. Potentates and politicians are recruiting their strength at the watering places of the interior, or at the sea-side. Apropos of watering places, the island of Wangerooge, on the coast of Oldenburg, formerly a favourite summer resort, has almost ceased to exist. The continual encroachments of the sea which have been going on these centuries past, after having swept away half the village, have now gained the church. By this not only are the inhabitants ruined, but the entire navigation of the Weser and the Jade is affected. The church steeple of Wangerooge, well known to all seamen frequenting the north-west coast of Germany, was, and is at this moment, indeed, still a good landmark, because of its height and mass, and the more important to all vessels entering the Weser and the Jade, as it was necessary to erect the new lighthouse of Wangerooge four miles more to the eastward. The church is now in danger of being swept away by the first storm, and the Government of Oldenburg has issued a notice to mariners warning them against reckoning upon it as a landmark in future, for that it is liable to disappear at any hour.

It is mentioned in some of the old chronicles, that at the commencement of the Christian era a violent storm from the north west overwhelmed the island of Heligoland, which at the time extended all along the German coast and as far as Denmark. Confirmation is lent to the truth of this statement by the discovery of the remains of a forest at about four feet below the surface of the earth, just outside the town of Bremen, where some excavations are being made to obtain earth for a new churchyard, the ground being very swampy. The trees are found lying with their roots upturned directly to the north-west. Evidently they were prostrated by the force of wind or floods coming from that direction. The trees are of middling size, mostly oak and beech, and lie in a bed of fine vegetable mould at least four or five feet deep. The soil which covers it is sandy and poor.

Calcutta, 18th June, 1860.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEADER, LONDON.

SIR,—In the papers from Calcutta, which will now be reaching England, there is contained the evidence of ryotts (cultivators) and others, as given before the Indigo Commission, now sitting in this capital, and which evidence is mainly composed (so far as ryotts and missionaries are concerned) of accusations against indigo planters, and of statements which can be most completely contradicted.

Documents have already been submitted to the commissioners, showing the falsity of some of the statements—but as planters cannot personally attend at present in consequence of the manufacturing season, some time must elapse before their contradictions can appear on record. I am, therefore, requested by the Central Committee of the Indigo Planters' Association to address you in the hope that you will have the goodness, through the medium of your journal, to point out to the English public the necessity of their refraining from, and begging them to defer, forming any opinion on the subject, until the parties who have been accused have an opportunity of giving their evidence.

For any aid that you may afford us in this respect, I have the authority of the Central Committee of the Indigo Planters' Association to state that they will indeed feel much obliged.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. KINGSLEY,

Secretary, Indigo Planters' Association.

[We shall be very glad to aid in a just appreciation of this matter.—EDITOR.]

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.*

This little work is intended for the use of those who are desirous of passing the civil service examinations. It is applicable to narratives of facts or historical events, correspondence, official documents, and general composition, and contains numerous examples and exercises. As far as mechanical instruction goes it leaves nothing to be desired, and offers many useful hints and suggestions to the apt scholar, which will greatly

* *An Introduction to the Writing of Prose or Digests.* By the Rev. John Hunter, M.A. London: Longman & Co., 1860.

Bentley's Cook's Every Day Book. London: Bentley, 1860.

Aureby de l'Orme; or the Times of St. Anselm. London: J. H. and J. Parker, 1860.

First Steps to Zoology. By Robert Patterson, F.R.S. Belfast: Simms and McIntyre, London: Longman and Co., 1860.

A Guide to the Isle of Wight. By the Rev. Edmund Venables, M.A. London: E. Stanford, 1860.

facilitate his acquisition of the requisite proficiency in the particular branch of qualification to which it applies. But the student should never forget for a moment that it is by assiduous practical work and close thought that he must really achieve success.

The copious table of contents, covering eight pages, prefixed to this manual of gastronomy, would set an Alderman's mouth watering, even after unlimited turtle. No house which has that indispensable appendage of civilization—a kitchen—attached to it should be without this little work, which contains all the newest of most original "ideas" conceived on the subject by the *chefs* of the "noble science of cookery," with full and lucid directions for their practical realization.

This forms No. 18 of the "Historical Tales" issued by this establishment. It contains a short tale extending to 128 pages, incidents in which, of a highly interesting character, are matter of historical fact, and indeed the whole is founded on an historical basis, and its scope and purpose is to give a graphic representation of the period to which it refers.

The first part of this little manual is devoted to the infra-vertebrated animals:—Protozoa, or lowest animals—literally "first-life;" radiata or ray-ed animals, which in the construction of their frame resemble a wheel without its tire; annulosa, or ringed animals; and mollusca, or soft-bodied animals. Part II. contains the five classes into which the vertebrated animals are divided, namely, fishes; amphibious animals; reptiles; birds; and quadrupeds. Taking the vertebrated animals as one sub-kingdom, and each of the former orders of infra-vertebrata, as one, we have thus five sub-kingdoms, instead of four, the number determined by Cuvier, the lowest group (Protozoa) having been added since his classification was framed. The work is lucidly and compendiously arranged.

This Guide is compiled with the assistance of other eminent local naturalists in co-operation with Mr. Venables. It contains a full description of the Isle of Wight, its approaches and places of resort, with the walks, drives, and excursions it presents to the visitor; a well-constructed tourists' map; and a general synopsis of the topography, agriculture, products and manufactures, local affairs, antiquities, architecture, history, geology, zoology, and botany, of this favourite place of resort. The completeness and amount of the information it condenses, may be inferred from the fact of its containing 526 pages of close writing, in a terse, readable style. A well-arranged table of contents, and a copious index of fourteen pages are bound up with the work.

SERIALS.

The North British Review, for August, No. 75.—The opening article of this quarterly is one of considerable interest, the title of it being, "The Romance of the New Planet." M. Liais has denied the discovery of a new intra-mercurial planet, and M. Radeau has replied to M. Liais. The reviewer sums up the pros and cons of the question by urging that since the first notice of the discovery of Vulcan in the beginning of January, 1860, the sun has been anxiously observed by astronomers; and the limited area round him in which the planet must be, if he is not upon the sun, has doubtless been explored with equal care by telescopes as well as the eye of the observer, and yet no planet has been found. This fact would entitle us to conclude that no such planet exists, if its existence had been merely conjectured, or if it had been deduced from any of the laws of planetary distance, or even if Leverrier or Adams had announced it as the probable result of planetary perturbations. If the finest telescopes cannot rediscover a planet that has a visible disc, with a power of 300, as used by Liais, within so limited an area as a circle of 16 degrees, of which the sun is the centre, or rather within a narrow belt of that circle, we should unhesitatingly declare that no such planet exists; but the question assumes a very different aspect when it involves moral considerations. . . . Time, however, tries facts as well as speculations. The phenomenon observed by the French astronomer may never be seen again; and the disturbance of Mercury which rendered it probable, may be otherwise explained. Should this be the case, we must refer the round spot on the sun to some of those illusions of the eye or brain which have sometimes disturbed the tranquillity of science. The literary articles are on "Recent Poetry," "Imaginative Literature," M. Thiers' "History of the Consulate and Empire," and a resumé of "Recent Publications." "Sovere Winters" is an article rendered interesting by the peculiarity of the weather throughout the present year. "Dr. Brown's Life and Works," "Colonial Constitutions and Defences," "The Truth about Russia" (*La Verité sur la Russie par le Prince Pierre Dolgoroukoff*), "Recent Rationalism in the Church of England," and "Scottish Nationality," are subjects occupying a prominent place in the present number.

Medals of the British Army, and How they were Won. Part I. Groombridge and Sons.—The first part of this new work is devoted to the Crimean Campaign, and a *fac simile* of the Crimean Medal serves for its frontispiece. It contains thirty-two pages of large readable type on a highly interesting subject.

Recreative Science for August.—Groombridge and Sons.—This "monthly record of intellectual observation" contains a succinct and comprehensive resumé of science up to the present month. "The Structure and Movements of Comets;" "A Lesson in Physiology;" "A Geological Excursion to the Cotswold Hills;" "A Chapter on Flies' Heads;" and several other articles on astronomical and other interesting subjects of modern discovery will be read with profit by the scientific student.

Kingsley's Magazine for Boys. No. 18, August.—London: Bosworth and Harrison.—This magazine contains some instructive, and at the same time diverting articles, calculated to aid in rearing the tender thought into robust maturity, and to teach the young idea how to shoot up and produce a fertile harvest of reflection; the saying, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," seems to have been present to the minds of its writers.

RECORD OF THE WEEK.

HOME AND COLONIAL.

Last week closed with the customary reaction in the financial world, after the sudden rise caused by the French Emperor's letter; Consols, however, oscillated about 93½ to 5-Sths. The French Rentes had reached 68f. 30c. The quantity of bullion in the Bank of England last week was £15,758,880, which showed a diminution of £155,954 upon the week preceding.

The news with which the week closed, contained intelligence from New Zealand, relating to Captain Cracott's successful attack at Taranaki; that officer, his first lieutenant, and the men under his command, had been highly commended by the commodore for their bravery; the Admiralty had promoted the lieutenant to a commandership. Various other items of interest might have been picked out of the mass of intelligence which reaches us just as the week expires.

Alderman Sidney, the liberal candidate, was returned at Stafford by a large majority.

A curious "scene" occurred at Guildford Assizes, which almost eventuated in a Sayers and Heenan demonstration, between Judge Blackburn and High Sheriff Evelyn. The High Sheriff wanted the Judge to compliment the gentlemen who attended the Grand Jury, but had not been called upon to serve, for having done what they were bound to do under severe penalties, which the Judge declined, as a work of supererogation. Thereupon, the High Sheriff jumped up and began complimenting in *propria persona*. The Judge ordered him into his seat; the Sheriff persisting in keeping upon his legs; so the Judge thrust him down into his seat, and suiting the word to the action, fined him £500, which he subsequently remitted in a note, the only answer to which from the Sheriff was a blank envelope, with a £500 cheque in it. Subsequently, under the auspices of the chief judge, the Sheriff read an apology in court, when Judge Blackburn took the opportunity, however, to administer a final rap over the knuckles to the representative of the high shrievalty.

A more genial contest took place on the river between the picked crews of Eton and Westminster, which, after a gallant struggle, terminated in the victory of the former.

Among the alleged delinquencies emergent at the close of the week, was that of fraudulently misappropriating £2,000 and upwards, belonging to a Mrs. Rigg, of whose husband, Dr. Gourlay, the accused, a physician of Edinburgh, was executor, with another person. The Dr. was admitted to bail, sureties in a heavy amount being demanded.

The veteran General Wyndham's name was, we regret to state, found in the obituary of the week.

Some fresh facts were elicited in reference to the Walworth murders. It is stated that a few days before their perpetration, William Godfrey Youngman, the prisoner, had insured the life of Mary Wells Streeter in £100; that he represented himself to her as a man of property; that he had the banns published at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and that some time ago he had been imprisoned for a twelvemonth for robbery. The inquest on Monday terminated in a verdict of wilful murder against him. He is said to have been "engaged" to another young woman in Staffordshire. On Tuesday he was committed for trial from the Lambeth Police Court.

Mr. Welds' yacht, the Lulworth, came in first at the Yacht Squadron Regatta on Saturday. The Queen and Royal Family were present.

The death of Rear-Admiral Sir John Hindmarsh adds another name to the list of celebrities, one after another departing from us. He had seen service under Admirals Howe, Cornwallis, Nelson, Cochrane, and Saumarez.

Prior to the debate on the Paper Duties on Monday, a meeting of the Liberal party took place at Lord Palmerston's mansion in Piccadilly, at which the Premier declared that the Government considered itself irrevocably bound to pass the resolutions with regard to the Customs duties upon paper (*vide* our Parliamentary summary).

Among the offences of the week, is the charge preferred at Bow-street against a late keeper at Colney-hatch Lunatic Asylum, for ill-treating and causing the death of an inmate named Swift; a question being raised as to admissibility of evidence by a lunatic, Mr. Henry subjected the person to a private examination, and afterwards received his testimony as a witness. The inquiry was ultimately adjourned, and on Tuesday another keeper was placed at the bar, the proceedings being adjourned.

The arrival of the Indian Mail on Monday, brought tidings of Sir C. Trevelyan having left for England, all classes having combined to do him honour prior to his departure.

The Australian news was to the effect that there had been a ministerial crisis; that the supply of gold was decreasing, and that there was a cessation of the native disturbances.

In Ulster the "Orange" party having hoisted a flag with a representation of William the Third crossing the Boyne upon it, which irritating the national susceptibilities of the mayor, he had it pulled down; and "a very pretty quarrel" ensued, ending in the capture of the obnoxious banner, the dispersion of the mob, and the restoration of tranquillity, happily, without any very serious consequences. There is a truly Irish redolency and raciness about this—the "Orangemen" who initiated the "row" being the sworn champions of "order," and ultra defenders of implicit obedience to the "constituted authorities."

The deputation appointed by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce to proceed to Paris, with the view of protecting the manufacturing interests of the town, have returned, and made their report; they state their conviction that the Treaty will be of benefit to both countries.

The Vanderbilt has brought late news as to the reception of the Prince of Wales at Newfoundland, which was of the most flattering description; Prince Alfred had arrived at Rio Janeiro, and had a meeting with the Emperor of Brazil.

The Road murder is still shrouded in mystery. It has been suggested that while the assumed origin of the murder in hatred or insanity will not bear examination, fear may account for the deed; that something was being done in the house on the night of the murder which caused some person or persons to be seen by the murdered child under circumstances that would have brought them to punishment

or disgrace had it lived to make them known. It is asked why one person on the premises ostentatiously read the Bible for an hour at the very time that search ought to have been made for the missing child, and why other persons on the premises at once came to the conclusion that the child had been murdered. All these suggestions and suspicions must be painful to the innocent members of the household, but public safety and justice require that no stone should be left unturned, and every device set at work to discover the criminal.

The second grand review of Volunteers took place on Tuesday at Edinburgh. There were upwards of 20,000 troops on the ground, and their manoeuvres and evolutions were similar to those gone through at the review in Hyde-park. The Queen was present, and there was an immense concourse of spectators, viewing the scene from the summit of Salisbury Craig and the adjacent eminences. There were numbers of Volunteers present who took no part in the review.

An alarming psychological fact is revealed in the report just published of the Select Committee on Lunatics. Not only is insanity declared to be on the increase, but one person at least out of every 600, in England and Wales, is incompetent to manage his own affairs. Various salutary amendments of the law are suggested, particularly with reference to private asylums. Indeed, the examination at Bow-street, mentioned above, in which the name of Colney Hatch occurs, seems to shew that not merely private, but public asylums require the most vigilant supervision of the authorities, and the Press. Medical certificates, the Committee are of opinion, should be verified before a magistrate, and limited to three months, instead of being granted, as is now the case, for an indefinite period. Many other suggestions for the protection of patients, and the more efficient management of asylums, are also made.

In connexion with the "capital and labour—wages and profits" question, some important, and, to political economists, well-known facts relating to the co-operative system, have been prominently brought before the public, through the medium of the press, this week. They relate to the Rochdale movement in 1844, and continued with such prosperous success. In the year mentioned, a co-operative society was established at Rochdale; it began with twenty-eight members subscribing £1 each, and in the short period which elapsed between that date and 1859, it increased to 2,073 members, with a capital of £27,600. It transacted business during the year to the extent of £104,000, and had divided amongst the members £10,730. During the first quarter of the present year ending March 20th, the business done was £34,000, that is at the rate of £136,000 a-year. Its establishments are a grocer's shop, a clothing shop, a butcher's shop, a shoe shop, and a bakehouse. The workmen have established a mill, which begun in 1850 with a capital of £2,163, had increased in 1859 to a capital of £18,236, the business done being £85,845, yielding a profit of £6,115. For the year ending March 24th, 1860, the number of members was 550; capital £21,192, business done £92,270, profit £8,273. But further—the Rochdale co-operative manufacturing society has 1,600 members, and upwards of £50,000 capital. There is a reading-room and a library, with 4,000 volumes, maps, globes, telescopes, microscopes, and other scientific appliances, besides a school. The Rochdale co-operatives are perfectly liberal and steer clear of all sectarian differences without distinctions. They have made it a rule that there be no test in matters of conscience and belief for the admission of members—no conditional assent to or dissent from any theological or other dogmas. This practical working out of a principle long ago seen and enounced by enlightened benevolence, affords a solution of the dispute so long pending between "capital and labour."

The deaths last week in the metropolis were less by 190 than the average, although more numerous than those which occurred in the two previous weeks.

The Queen having reviewed the Volunteers at Edinburgh, left Holyrood Palace, on Wednesday, for Balmoral, where she arrived in the evening.

FOREIGN.

Last week closed with authentic details of the battle of Melazzo reaching us. The fruits of victory to the conqueror, Garibaldi, were, in mere material, &c., fifty guns, 100,000 rounds of ammunition, and 139 horses, but these represent only a small portion of the substantial results of this important triumph of the Liberal cause, which had the effect of opening the gates of Messina, settling the evacuation of Sicily, and establishing a second time, by the decisive logic of facts, the irresistible prowess of the Cacciatori against all odds of position, artillery, and numbers. Garibaldi was received in Messina with the ovation of a long expected Messiah. The sudden transition from the torpidity of an iron military despotism to perfect liberty, was not attended with the slightest abuse of newly acquired freedom. We also had intelligence of the precise terms of the Syrian Convention, the substance of which was as follows:—"It contains six articles, the intervention to last as long as the Porte deems advisable; a previous agreement was specified as necessary for the regulation of the military preparations, and the number of troops to be sent. The French troops already assembled for embarkation were to start without waiting for those of the other powers, unless all intervention became unnecessary. When the adherence of all the Great Powers was given their representatives to sign the convention and protocol, the two documents were then to be combined, in order to receive, at a fourth meeting, the signatures of the plenipotentiaries. The Emperor of Austria, we learned from Vienna, had, on his return from Toplitz, signified his desire that the whole of the reforms which for nearly a year after the programme of the Laxenburg had been delayed, should be finished, and published as soon as possible, and it was expected that such publication would take place on the 20th August, the Emperor's birthday.

The arrangement that the interference of the Western Powers was to cease on the Porte's declaration that the Syrian disturbances were at an end, had the effect of hastening the despatch of French troops, some of which left on Saturday for the East, and other detachments on Sunday and Monday.

The Governor-General of Beyrout had been arrested.

The Neapolitan Government had dispatched troops to Calabria, in expectation of Garibaldi's at once crossing the straits of Messina.

The German press declare that Prussia has decisively refused to join in guaranteeing the possession of Venetia to Austria.

The protocols on the Syrian disturbances provide, that the great Powers seek neither territorial aggrandisement, nor exclusive influence, nor commercial advantages; and all, except Prussia, undertake to furnish naval assistance in case of its becoming necessary. The mutual jealousy and suspicion evinced in the framing of this provision is very suggestive and edifying. The Sultan, in another passage, is admonished to be, what the "copy slips" tell little boys—"punctual in the performance of engagements," with special reference to the Treaty of 1856, article 9; and a further passage declares that the Sultan has been and will continue to be mindful of his obligations—the one clause neutralizing the other. The preclusion of "commercial advantages" is also nullified by an additional clause, that they are to be permissible not for the exclusive benefit of any particular nation, but for the common advantage of all.

Abd-el-Kader has been presented with the grand cross of the legion of honour by the French Emperor, for his magnanimous conduct in protecting Christians during the late massacres.

On behalf of the revolutionary party in Sicily, a statement has been put forth with an intended conciliatory view, to the effect that the expectation that the party in question would seek to republicanise Italy, was not well-founded—an adhesion to monarchical principles being thus considered, as it would appear, a commendation rather than a slur.

The cabinets of Vienna and Berlin have simultaneously sent notes to Paris, that they consider that the affair of Savoy does not require any conference, and that the French government ought to give specific and satisfactory explanations as to the obligations imposed upon, or undertaken by her, in respect of her new acquisitions. This seems to indicate something like that unity of action which the German populations have always been in favour of.

A note, dated 18th July, has been received by the federal council of Switzerland from the Swedish government, to the effect that it is the intention of the latter to support the claims of Switzerland at the conference on the affairs of Savoy.

The French Emperor has reviewed the troops in camp at Chalons, where he was received with enthusiasm.

At Belgrade, the capital of Servia, a serious disturbance, probably a sympathetic reverberation of the Syrian outbreak, has taken place. Some Turks, stated to be soldiers from the fort garrisons and some sailors from the ships in the Save and Danube, came to blows with the native population, and people were killed and wounded on both sides.

The following Address was delivered by the Emperor of the French to the troops destined for Syria:—"Soldiers! you leave for Syria. France hails with joy an expedition the sole aim of which is to cause the rights of justice and humanity to triumph. You do not make war against any foreign Power, but to assist the Sultan in bringing back the obedience of his subjects, who are blinded by the fanaticism of a former age. In that distant land, rich in great reminiscences, fulfil your duty; shew yourselves the worthy children of those who once gloriously carried into that country the banner of Christ. You do not leave in great numbers, but your courage and prestige will supply the deficiency; because, wherever the French flag is seen to pass, nations know that a great cause precedes it, and that a great people follow it."

ENTERTAINMENTS.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—Having in our last impression noticed the performances of the closing week of the season at this superb theatre, we now give a rapid sketch of the season itself. It commenced on the 10th of April, the subscription consisting of forty nights, and it has included the usual number of extra performances, bringing up the sum total to fifty-six. Meyerbeer's "Dinorah" was the opening opera of the season, and six performances were subsequently given in addition to the first. Donizetti's favourite "Favorita" was repeated thrice; Auber's "Fra Diavolo" four times; Verdi's "Trovatore" five times; Mozart's "Don Giovanni" (after Sig. Alary) four times; Rossini's "Gazza Ladra" four times; Meyerbeer's "Huguenots" five times; Bellini's "Puritani" once; Flotow's "Martha" three times; Gluck's "Orfeo e Euridice" four times; Bellini's "Norma" twice; Donizetti's "Lucrezia Borgia" twice; Meyerbeer's "Prophete" six times; and Verdi's "Rigoletto," Rossini's "Barbiere di Siviglia," and Beethoven's "Fidelio,"—the latter repeatedly given, either in whole or in part,—were the remaining three of the sixteen operas produced, five of these being virtually new productions, or revivals with all the attributes of perfect novelty. Among the most noteworthy "first appearances," we have to record those of Madame Miolan Carvalho, as *Rosina*, in "Il Barbiere," and as *Zerlina*, in "Fra Diavolo"; Madame Penco, as *Ninetta*, in "La Gazza Ladra," *Lady Henrietta*, in "Martha," and *Gilda*, in "Rigoletto." This lady also undertook, at a few hours' notice, the part of *Leonora*, in "Trovatore," which was substituted for "Le Prophete," as the second performance of the last week of the season. In addition to these, and, though last in order, by no means least in interest, were the *debuts* of two artistes new to this country, namely, Madame Rosa Osillag, from the Imperial Opera at Vienna, and M. Faure, from the Opera Comique at Paris, in the characters of *Leonora* ("Fidelio") and *Hoel* ("Dinorah"). The performance which for the first time was witnessed in England was that of "Orfeo e Euridice." There were also four grand concerts—morning and evening—in the Floral Hall, to which the subscribers to the opera had the *entree* gratis; and this magnificent structure, brilliantly illuminated and filled with the choicest flowers, whose delicious odours turned the very atmosphere into perfume, while their dazzling hues made the whole area resplendent, contributed largely towards the attractions of Mr. Gye's unrivalled establishment. On the 10th of May, the band of the Coldstream Guards played here till midnight. Among the other features worthy of specification we may mention M. Desplace's ballets of "Les Amours de Diane," and "Azelia." Madame Grisi's last "announced" twelve appearances were, by a happy stroke of managerial arithmetic, converted into seventeen. May we express a hope that this process of addition, or a still more liberal one of multiplication, may be repeated

next season? In that case we may be able to witness at least *once more* her matchless characterizations in "Semiramide," "Anna Bolena," "La Gazza Ladra," "Puritani," "Don Pasquale," "Il Barbiere," "Le Nozze di Figaro," &c., a pleasure which was subtracted from the sum of our musical gratifications this summer. If we take the combination of powers requisite to make a first class artiste for the lyric stage, we find they are the most distinct, not to say the most incompatible that can be well imagined; inasmuch as the study and application requisite for either of the two leading qualifications is such as to furnish almost a life's work for the greatest human capacity. The most perfect natural capabilities of voice cultivated to the highest pitch of excellence, is only one of the essential elements that enter into this very complex character. In addition to this, not only is an amount of dramatic power, also matured by incessant training and practice, equal, at least, to the requirements of the non-lyric stage, indispensable; but there is besides the desideratum of versatility for enabling the consummate Operatic performer to assume all parts from the deepest tragedy to the lightest comedy. These gifts and accomplishments are but rarely found concentrated in one and the same individual; still their realization is not without precedent. Nature and art have conspired to produce in Madame Grisi one of these prodigies so seldom found at all, and then like the phoenix, solitary and unique. Her voice is not what it was, but her histrionic powers as they seem to develop and expand instead of declining, compensate for the slow deterioration of her still incomparable organ. It is in general only the soprano and the tenor to whom the first *roles* are allotted. The baritone and bass are, as a rule, subordinate—the contrary is the exception. Lablache was one, Alboni of whom we speak with reference to her *vocalization* merely is another. Ronconi, with whom we have specially to do in this notice, possesses a degree of versatility and genius as an actor, which would place him in the highest rank on any stage, and this is more than sufficient to counterbalance any imperfection of voice as a singer. Mario is another, in whom all these requisitions indicated are satisfied; nor must we omit, in the category of first-class artistes (all of whom existent in the world at any one time, can generally be all but counted on the fingers of one hand), who are inscribed in the prospectus of this theatre, the name of Signor Tamberlik. It is this, coupled with the possession of a band, which Mr. Costa has brought in every element of completeness and excellence to a perfection that cannot be even approached elsewhere, that renders this house so famous for its performances, in a musical and dramatic point of view alone. In addition to the "first appearances in this country" that we have signalled there, are the familiar names of Gardoni, Luchesi, Neri-Baraldi, Tagliafico, Patriossi, Polonini, Rossi, Zelger, and the first baritone in point of voice on the stage, Graziani; Mdle. Didiée and Mdle. Corbari, Madame Tagliafico, and Madame Leva, and the new comer, Mdle. Giudita Sylvia, enough in themselves to make a tolerably strong operatic company. But all the other appliances and means of an ancillary character are in unison with the main features we have indicated. There is no starving of one department to exaggerate another—no jarring mental discords in the painful contrast between gigantic development in one direction, and puny, meagre attenuation in another. When we consider, that at the burning of the former house, the mountings and properties of 60 operas are said to have been destroyed, we ask ourselves in astonishment, how all this loss can have been repaired in the magnificent *mise en scene* in every opera produced, and of which the representation of "Le Prophete" may be cited as a remarkable, though not an isolated, example. Mr. Gye has shown what capital, judgment, energy, an indomitable resolution in a manager to do the best that human resources can accomplish in catering for his subscribers, will achieve. Every department is upon the best footing, and every detail under the most efficient supervision. The stage directorship, under Mr. A. Harris; the scenery, in the designing and production of which the taste and practical ability of Mr. Beverly and Messrs. Grieve and Telbin are conspicuous; the machinery, appointments, and costumes, in connection with which we may mention the names of Messrs. Sloman, Prescott, and Combes; M. Hennier and Madame Marzio (of Paris), and Mrs. James, are all in the highest style of excellence. In this necessarily fragmentary article we must notice the departments according to the exigencies of composition, without exact regard to their order in importance. Having disposed of these adjuncts, so essential to the completeness of a finished *ensemble*, we must specify the literary department, under the able direction of Sig. Maggioni. The chorus, so indispensable in an operatic performance, occupies a prominent place in the excellence of the representations at this theatre; and the name of its "master," Mr. Smythson, deserves creditable mention; as do also those of M. Desplace's "maitre," and M. Nadaud, leader of the ballet, in which we find the names of Mdle. Zina Richard, Mdle. Esper, &c., with a first rate *corps de ballet*. The military band and its leader, Mr. Godfrey, complete the items that occur to us for enumeration. With *nunquam dormio* optics vigilantly scanning all these various departments, and following every detail through its ramifications up to the point of consummation, Mr. Nelson, the private secretary of the establishment, deserves special mention, no less for the courtesy which all who have to consult him on business can thoroughly appreciate, than for his assiduous and careful attention to all matters coming before him. We heartily wish Mr. Gye in future seasons the success of which he has hitherto shown himself so well deserving, and which it requires no gift of prophecy to predict awaits him.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—"The Lady of Lyons," "La Fille Terrible," and "Thrice Married," drew full houses during the week. In the first, Miss Heath and Mr. Melville sustained the leading parts of *Pauline* and *Claude Melnotte* with fidelity and spirit. But the incomparable personation of female characters by the Zouave Lucien (*La Fille*, 16 years of age!), and the Zouave Glatigny (principal soprano of the company!), as her mother, the novelty being only equalled by the graphic and life-like acting of these performers, is the chief feature of attraction at Mr. Harris's elegant theatre.

MADAME TUSSAULT'S.—The proprietor of this remarkable gallery has been at considerable pains and expence to make what is termed the "Napoleon" room attractive and instructive. He has re-arranged the mass of objects which illustrates many public events in the history and exploits of the first Emperor, and more particularly show the economy

of his domestic arrangements. There is the military altar of the Emperor, in which he has marked out, with pen and ink, many plans of battles, marches, and campaigns; a dress, presented to the Empress Eugenie, by the manufacturers of Lyons, of beautiful texture; and a collection of curious relics which fills a long catalogue of letter-press.

ROYAL SURREY GARDENS.—At the "farewell" concert, Mr. Sims Reeves being announced to appear for the last time this season, a crowded audience was attracted by a programme of almost unprecedented extent and quality, in which the most favourite and popular pieces were against the names of some of the first artistes of the day, including Misses Poole, Rance, Brougham, and Mdlle. Parepa, Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley, Kelly, Viotti Collins, M. Emile Berger, &c. The Royal Surrey Gardens Choral Society, of 200 voices, sang some of its best pieces, under the leadership of Mr. Herring. The conductors and accompanists were M. Emile Berger and Dr. Pech, the latter presiding over the orchestra.

PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord BROUGHAM's motion that the report of the Section of the Statistical Congress on Judicial Statistics be laid on the table of the House, was agreed to. The Mines' Regulation and Inspection Bill was then brought forward for the third reading.—In the House of Commons (Thursday), Colonel WILSON PATEN moved certain formal resolutions, with reference to the business of the House. After several matters had been discussed, the House went into committee on the vote for 2,000,000*l.* for fortifications and works, moved for by Lord PALMERSTON, when Mr. LINDSAY moved an amendment to the effect, "That as the main defence of Great Britain against aggression depends on an efficient navy, it is not expedient to enter into a large expenditure on permanent land fortifications," which was seconded by Mr. H. BERKELEY in a humorous speech. Mr. S. HERBERT, Mr. NEWDEGATE, Lord R. MONTAGUE, Mr. CORRY, Mr. HORSMAN, delivered speeches more or less in advocacy of the Government measure; and Mr. BRIGHT (who contended that the expenditure would be at least 20,000,000*l.*) Sir F. GOLDSMID, Mr. WHITE, Sir C. NAPIER, Mr. OSBORNE, Sir F. SMITH, and Sir M. PETO, spoke on the opposite side. Lord PALMERSTON made a general reply, and on a division the amendment moved by Mr. LINDSAY was negatived by 268 to 39. Subsequently Mr. MONSELL moved as an amendment to add to the resolution, "that in the absence of artillery and engineering information it is not expedient to incur any extraordinary expenditure in constructing permanent works at Portsdown-hill," but this also was negatived by 165 to 37. The resolution having been ultimately agreed to, and ordered to be reported, the remaining orders were gone through, several bills advanced a stage, and the house adjourned at a quarter past two o'clock.—In the House of Lords, on Friday, Lord STRADFORD DE REDCLIFFE called attention to the Syrian massacres. He was for European interference in default of the Turkish Government suppressing the disturbances, or even for interference by one European Power alone. Under the sanction of a treaty, though, Syria being the key to Egypt, such a course was not without risk, as it might lead to a war among the maritime powers. He thought the Porte was chargeable with remissness, if not connivance, and traced the cause of the movement, in a great measure, to the weakness of the Turkish Government. We were rapidly approaching that tremendous war of principles which had so long been held in abeyance by palliatives. He concluded by moving for certain papers requisite for the elucidation of the question. Lord WODEHOUSE, in declaring that it was impossible the Government could consent to the production of the papers, stated that a protest had been signed by the Five Powers and the representative of the Porte for sending an European force, not exceeding 12,000 troops, to Syria. France to furnish 6,000 immediately, and the other 6,000, in case they are required, to be furnished by such one of the Powers as should be deemed expedient; the continuance of European troops to be limited to six months. Steps had been taken by the Porte for the suppression of the disturbances. There was to be a Commission sent to Syria, Lord DUFFERIN to represent England. The Governor of Damascus was in custody, and would be brought to trial. The stability of the Turkish Empire was of the greatest importance to Europe, and everything ought to be done to preserve it. After observations on the part of some other noble lords the matter dropped, and the House adjourned at 25 minutes past 8 o'clock.—In the House of Commons (Friday), after Sir J. SHELLEY had protested against the Government's proposing, at two o'clock in the morning, to take a large vote for civil expenditure at an early sitting, and suggested that means should be adopted to prevent such a surprise in future, Lord FERMOY moved a resolution, "That the conduct of the Irish Poor Law Commissioners relative to the dismissal of the Rev. Mr. Fox from the office of Chaplain of the South Dublin Union, and the occurrences which gave occasion to it, are not calculated to promote confidence in the administration of the Poor Law, or in the exercise of the Powers of the Commission;" which, however, was negatived by 86 against 49. Mr. CARDWELL stated to the House that he should communicate with the Poor Law Commissioners on the subject. The House then (half-past 3 o'clock) went into a Committee of Supply upon the civil service estimates; the first vote of 39,597*l.* being for the expense of new works to the Houses of Parliament, but the discussion on this had not finished when the sitting was suspended. In the evening there was a long discussion on the Syrian disturbances, and statements made on the part of the Government similar to those reported in the House of Lords. The motion for adjournment was then agreed to at a few minutes before eleven o'clock. The report upon the Fortifications and Works was then brought up, and after remarks from various members, was agreed to, and leave was given to bring in the Bill. The House went into a Committee of Supply, and resumed the consideration of the vote for works at the Houses of Parliament which was agreed to, at 237,997, and ordered to be reported. After some other business, the House, at two minutes to three, adjourned till Monday.—In the House of Lords on Monday, Lord WODEHOUSE, in answer to the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, stated that the expedition to Syria was for pacification merely, and that there was not the slightest intention of meddling either in the civil or religious affairs

of the country. The House adjourned at six.—In the House of Commons (Monday), in a Committee on the Customs' Act, Mr. GLADSTONE, in bringing forward his resolutions, entered into considerable argumentative detail. He urged that either the paper-makers had or had not profited largely by the duty on paper. If they had, then they must have been enjoying unfair advantages at the expense of the public who were consumers; if they had not, then there was nothing to complain of in the proposed alteration. To recapitulate Mr. GLADSTONE's speech would merely be to summarize all the well-known arguments in favour of the free trade principle, with which the public are by this time thoroughly familiar, and which are applicable not to this or that particular case, but to all cases whatever. Nothing in his (Mr. GLADSTONE's) opinion could be more cruel to the British paper-makers than to adopt Mr. PULLER's amendment, and defer the change, thus keeping them in suspense; so that on the ground of humanity to this interest, the question should at once be set at rest. This question was a touchstone for the sincerity of professing freetraders. The facts had been misrepresented. The material for the manufacture of paper was really cheaper and more accessible here than in any other European country, and was abundantly increasing every day. The principle of British legislation was to act upon just and equal principles irrespective of the legislation of other countries, and, in conformity with these rules, the issuers of low-priced publications should not be compelled to buy paper in a protected market, at an artificially enhanced price. He concluded with moving the first resolution, charging certain duties on books and paper goods imported under the treaty in lieu of the present duties. Mr. PULLER moved, as an amendment, "that without desiring to prejudice the question of a reduction, at a future period of the Customs' duty on books and paper, this Committee does not think fit, at present, to assent to such reduction." Mr. CHILDERS adduced facts to shew that large paper producing countries, such as the United States, for instance, charged no duty on the export of materials for the manufacture of paper, and upon statistical grounds, argued that, independently of the question of honour, the House should, upon the facts of the case and as a matter of commercial interest, support the resolution. Mr. CROSSLEY urged, that the House should not stultify itself by receding from the principle of free trade. Mr. MARSH protested against any tampering or playing fast and loose with the principle of free trade; the case against the resolution was the weakest and most illogical ever presented. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave an exposition of the 7th and 8th articles of the treaty, showing the case of the paper duty was governed by the 7th, providing for admission into the United Kingdom, of merchandize imported from France, "at a rate of duty equal to the Excise duty, which is or shall be imposed upon articles of the same description in the United Kingdom." In addition to the obligation in point of honour contracted under the treaty, and the considerations of expediency, the House was bound, in justice to consumers and other manufacturers, to put an end to a particular monopoly by adopting the resolution. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that, according to the 7th article of the treaty, when commodities, like those in question, were imported from France, they were to pay a Customs' duty, equal to the Excise duty. The argument against the resolution pretending to be founded upon policy was the same that had been so often exposed in all its fallacy; that free trade was an excellent thing, but a particular article was always to be excepted from its operation. After forty years' successful free trade legislation it was too absurd to go back. Upon the ground of treaty obligations, as well as of wisdom, policy, and justice, he called upon the House not to present to the world the disreputable spectacle of a repudiation of our engagements. Lord PALMERSTON said the simple question was whether they should or not fulfil a treaty by pursuing those principles of free-trade to which they were committed. The House had unanimously voted an address approving the treaty, and that very House was now called upon to violate its engagement. Mr. MAGUIRE, Sir HUGH CAIRNS, Mr. NORRIS, Mr. DISRAELI, and Mr. HENLEY, spoke against the resolution, impeaching its justice and expediency, and contending that the national honour was not staked upon its adoption—the latter gentleman urged, and with great force, as regards the anomaly pointed out, that in the case of hops a similar course of legislation had not been adopted. If free-trade is to be carried out in its entirety, then all indirect taxation must be abrogated, the customs and excise abolished, and the whole financial legislation of the country remodelled. Why should paper be exempt from duty any more than the multitude of articles, many of them essential necessities of life, that are still so heavily taxed? On a division, Mr. PULLER's amendment was negatived, and the resolution carried by 266, against 233. The second resolution, charging the same duties upon the same articles imported from countries other than France and Algeria, was carried against Mr. PULLER's amendment (similar to the former), and a further resolution, increasing the rate of duty chargeable on wine according to the proof spirit, was also agreed to. The remaining orders having been gone through, the House adjourned at half-past two.—In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, Lord DE GREY and RIBON explained that the provision for reducing the age up to which men could be ballotted for the militia from 35 to 30 was introduced, in order that men of settled position in life might be exempted, and Lord GRANVILLE thought that Lord DERNY's suggestion, that the minimum age should be reduced from 18 to 16, by way of compensation at the other end, was a good one, and said it should be taken into consideration; and the report was received. The Volunteer Corps' Practice Ground Bill was read a second time, and the Naval Discipline Bill a third time. Lord GRANVILLE elicited impatient cries of "Oh! oh!" by remarking (in answer to Lord DERNY, who wanted to know what bills waiting for second reading the Government would proceed with), that it would not do for their lordships to strike work five or six weeks before the end of the Session; and the House immediately afterwards adjourned, at ten minutes to seven.—In the Commons (Tuesday) the morning sitting began with the Roman Catholic Charity Bill, which was agreed to, with material amendments; and the Industrial Schools Act (1857) Amendment Bill, was considered in Committee. In the evening, on the order for the third reading of the European Forces (India) Bill, after a long discussion in which Mr. DODSON, Mr. VANSITTART, Sir R. WILLOUGHBY, Sir T. COLEBROOKE, Mr. J. B. SMITH, Mr. T. S. BARING,

SIR DE LACY EVANS, Sir H. VERNEY, Colonel HERBERT, Mr. HORSMAN, Sir M. FARQUHAR, Mr. HADFIELD, Sir C. WOOD, took part, an amendment by Sir J. ELPHINSTONE to defer the third reading for three months, was negatived, and the bill was read a third time and passed. On the next order for the further consideration of the 13th resolution of the Committee on the Customs Acts, as to the duty on the importation of malt, the resolution was agreed to, an amendment of Sir FRITZ ROY KELLY's having been negatived. The report of the Customs Acts was brought up and agreed to, and leave given to bring in the bill. The house adjourned at a quarter past, one.—The House of Commons, on Wednesday, considered the Union of Benefices Bill (sent from the House of Lords) in Committee; there was a strong opposition to the measure, which occupied the whole sitting. Two ineffectual attempts were made to stop the progress of the bill. A material change was made in its scope, which had extended to five cities, by limiting it to the metropolis. Other amendments were adopted; but, before half the clauses had been disposed of, the time for its discussion had expired, and the Chairman reported progress. The remaining business having been got through, the House adjourned at six o'clock.

THE HARROW TONTINE ASSOCIATION.

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THE LONDON AND COUNTY BANK

Have held their half-yearly meeting, and, trusting rather to the figures of arithmetic than to the figures of rhetoric, lay a plain unvarnished account before their shareholders. The best comment on the proceedings is the pithy resolution unanimously agreed to, "That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Board of Directors, for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Company." This is by no means mere routine work, for it is still fresh in the

memory of many, that this bank, if it has not had its Pullinger, had a very deranging director in the great schemer who executed justice on himself. The present directors and their able manager have brought the company triumphantly through that difficulty, and the clear statement now shows this great monetary concern to be in an admirably sound state. They have declared a dividend of five per cent. on the half-year, equivalent to ten per cent. per annum, and there is every prospect of increasing prosperity. There is no special mention of the general manager, because there is a just avoidance of anything like flourish or humbug in the entire proceedings, but every one who has had any transactions with this bank knows how much is due to the wisdom, shrewdness, and indefatigable attention of Mr. M'Kewan.

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