

# The Leader

"THE one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—HUMBOLDT'S COSMOS.

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## News of the Week.

AMONG other of our institutions the royal speech has survived criticism. Persevering in platitudes, it has drawn forth the utmost extent of criticism of which the United Kingdom is capable, and by favour of that exhaustion it revels in impunity for villanous composition and barefaced assertion. To criticize a royal speech has become a condescension of faculties utterly impossible to the man of the world, and thus it happens that Ministers are able, without any consequent scandal, to make Queen Victoria utter such things as the "trust" that the Australian Colonies Bill "will improve the condition of those rising communities," "my Australian colonies"! We believe in no other public composition except a royal speech or a trade advertisement, could any declarations so perfectly idle be put forth. The Queen is also made to say that "the act for the extension of the Elective Franchise in Ireland" must have "the most beneficial consequences," as "it has been framed with a view to give to my people in Ireland a fair participation in the benefits of our representative system." Now, as it differs essentially from the bill which the authors of this speech had previously framed, with a view to give the people in Ireland "a fair participation," &c., they either contemplated by that abortive bill a revolutionary act against the constitution, which they now condemn, or they are now betraying their Sovereign into an act of political "smashing,"—the utterance of a worthless measure with the false stamp of the genuine coinage. In like manner Queen Victoria avows "satisfaction" with the Merchant Naval Service Act; her Majesty thus presenting an exalted and singular exception to the universal opinion. She is "encouraged to hope] for peace in the North of Europe" through the Berlin treaty! In short, there is nothing too extravagant to be put into a royal speech by favour of this public assent not to criticize it.

From the Royal speech you look to the noble speech—that of Lord John Russell, on being brought to a reckoning by Sir Benjamin Hall for the work done during the session. The gist of Lord John's reply may be summed up in these few words:—"There was so much to do, that he had no time to do anything." If he were an Irishman, some common-sense Englishman would at once ask him, why, then he tried to do so much;—why not leave "everything," and fasten his energies upon the few things that may be accomplished in seven months? But we doubt whether such a question would obtain an answer from Lord John Russell, since it is too logical to fit the temperament of his mind: we do not see how he could bend his faculties to a suitable response.

Two things unquestionably have been accomplished this session. By a nice adjustment of commissioners, Ministers have obtained a report

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which sanctions the undoing of their measure to suspend the Post-office on Sundays; and perhaps Whigs can never be more properly employed than when they are undoing some previous work performed by Whigs. As the best energies of an author are said to be exercised in blotting, so the greatest wisdom of a Whig Minister is found to be exercised in reversing his own acts. If Lord John Russell were to undo himself, altogether, he would unquestionably earn the national gratitude.

But there is "good in everything"—even in a Russell Cabinet; and it is not for us to deny the merits of that truly great measure, the Metropolitan Interments Bill. That is the real achievement of the session; although it is mentioned in the Royal Speech. Dictated by a great soul, it is a measure calculated to have the most enlarged and beneficial influence even on the people for whose service it is constructed. If it be carried out in the spirit of the report that preceded it, it will lead the people of this country into new customs concerning the last rites of mortality such as will elevate the sentiments and make every-day practices accordant with eternal laws. To readjust that accordance is the highest act of practical statesmanship.

Parliament is gone, and it is the out-of-door politicians that keep up the national activity. The Irish are endeavouring to grapple with the great incubus on their industry, the vitiated tenure of land. It will be observed that the agitator in this behalf is carrying on a movement concurrent with that official movement which is embodied in the Encumbered Estates Act. This agitation, too, differs from many others in the fact that the Presbyterians of "the black North," the hard-headed Scotch Irish, are taking the lead; supported, indeed, by all the enthusiasm of the South, and the subsidies for which the altar is so convenient an instrument of collection. The crops are said to be deficient,—blighted, both potato and wheat. The bad harvest will give a formidable stimulus to this movement.

The Chevalier Bunsen's letter, published this week, exposes the bad faith of the protocols published last week. It will be remembered that those protocols treated Prussia as a party acquiescing, if not consenting: from the new letter it not only appears that Prussia strongly protests against the position taken up by the parties to the protocols, but also that she has a case against the one-sided case upon which the main protocol rests. Prussia may have her own motive, may be not quite single-minded and sincere; but the project on the side of Denmark is not less double dealing, nor less marked by technical flaws. Denmark arrogated to herself the right of dealing with Schleswig and Holstein in a manner beyond her powers; and wrong is not to be made right by the mere act of presuming it to be so in a protocol.

France is entertained just now by the political tour which the President is making, and serious politicians busy themselves with remarks on the

frequency or rarity of the cries that attend his progress, "Vive l'Empereur," and so forth! He seizes a musket, and goes through the manual exercise; some enthusiastic partizan endeavours to improve the act into a coup d'état, and calls him "the little Corporal;" but the stroke of state proves a failure. In such triflings is the political world of France now engaged.

In America the politicians are occupied with the failure of Mr. Clay's Compromise Act, which was to settle the relation of California and some other new states, to the Union, with regard to the embarrassing question of slavery, on terms calculated to avoid difficulties and to suspend an ultimate solution of that vast question without creating new impediments. The movement was not only difficult on account of its complication with so many different views and interests, but it also had the weakness belonging to all indirectness; and the failure of the great American statesman corroborates the belief that his countrymen will have fairly to grapple with the monster question of their Republic.

Our journals at home are full of disaster, crime, and death. So many mortal outrages, newly discovered or under trial, are not often reported in one week. The case of Elizabeth Bubb, who killed her step-child by misusage, rivals that of Mrs. Brownrigg or the Birds. It reminds us that there is a very numerous class of the community subject to torture and suffering of the most agonizing kind, least able to bear that agony, and yet most devoid of protection—the class of children. Could we conjure up to our minds, compressed in one vision, all the agony and despair endured by the little multitude, at any moment now passing, under the tyranny of ignorance, passion, and avarice, the vision might well turn the strongest head. We believe that our law does not provide any adequate machinery for extending protection to that helpless class.

The fire at Gravesend, whatever its cause, is among accidents which Charles Lamb described as the condiment of civilized life: it is a disaster, but suggests no very painful reflections, and may perhaps suggest some improvements in the precautions against such calamities.

Two official deaths of some importance will create a movement in the legal world—those of Sir Launcelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, and Mr. Law, the Recorder of London. Sir Launcelot's benign aspect will be missed from the judicial bench; and, although the citizens may well find a legal adviser more suited to the spirit of the times, they will not readily replace Mr. Law's acuteness.

The meeting of the British Association is a passing suit and service to maintain enduring interests; and the account which we are able to give, by an accomplished hand, will show that the service has been well performed, although some visitors do complain that the Scottish hosts had made no sufficient preparations for illustrating the important and delightful phenomena of digestion.

## PARLIAMENT.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL called the attention of the House, on Monday evening, to the large amount of talk during the present session, and the small amount of work. He never knew a session of Parliament, since the passing of the Reform Act, in which there had been a more anxious desire to get through business. They had now sat for twenty-five weeks, exclusive of the holidays, and, allowing 100 hours for the Wednesday sittings, for four days every week they had sat during the whole of that session ten hours and half a day, making altogether 1041 hours. This was as much as could be given to the business of the nation; indeed it was more than many of them could afford, for they had all duties to perform out of the House, and it was impossible for any one who attended closely to the business of the House to obtain time for despatching any private business, or for purposes of relaxation or enjoyment. But, although they had been so diligent in their attendance, they had not got through so much business as might have been expected. Last year the House sat 932 hours, and the Government passed eighty-nine bills. This year, up to the 9th of August, they had sat very much longer, and only passed fifty-eight bills; and this, notwithstanding the prevalence of a greater desire to get through with the business. He had moved for a return of the bills brought in during the session, and he now referred to the document for the purpose of showing how they had been disposed of. Ninety-five bills had been brought in by the Government, and of these they had always been able to carry those upon which they had made up their minds, but whenever they had shown themselves careless about any measure, it failed to pass. There was the Appointment to Offices Bill. It was brought in on the 9th of July, was read a second time on the 12th of July; the committee was postponed five times, and now they did not hear anything of it. The Charitable Trusts Bill was brought in on the 8th of February, the second reading was deferred eleven times, the committee was deferred thirteen different times; the number of times it stood as amended to be considered was four times; the third reading was deferred five times; and thus a bill brought in on February 8, lingered till the 25th of July. The Chief Justices Salaries Bill was brought in on the 11th of March, was considered in committee on the 25th, as amended to be considered it was deferred eleven times, and no more was heard of it until the 1st of August. Very different was the case with the Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill, which was brought in on the 22nd of July and ran through its various stages in a few days. In many cases bills were brought in that Ministers never intended to carry through, and then, having been introduced, indecision was shown about them, and after remaining among the orders of the day for almost an indefinite period, they were at length struck off.

"The Fees (Court of Chancery) Bill was brought in on the 25th of April; the second reading was deferred three times, the consideration in committee was deferred fourteen times; and the bill, brought in on the 25th of April, lingered to the 29th of July, and then was withdrawn. Now, he said that, in such cases, it was better that the Government should not bring in bills at all, unless they really intended to persevere in carrying them through. (*Hear, hear.*) The Highways Bill was brought in on the 13th of February; the committee was deferred no less than thirteen times, and the bill lingered on to the 12th of July, and then was withdrawn. The same thing was the case with the Incorporation of Boroughs Bill. The Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Bill was brought in on the 18th of February, the second reading was deferred fifteen times, and a single word had not been heard about it since that time down to the 1st of August, up to which date the return was made. Again, there was the Lord-Lieutenancy Abolition Bill, brought in by the noble lord on the 17th of May, and read a second time on the 17th of June. It was almost unanimously agreed to by the House, only thirteen or fourteen members opposing it, and yet three whole nights were taken up in discussing the measure, when the time might easily have been much more usefully occupied. Nevertheless, this bill meeting with so little opposition, and which might have been carried, was withdrawn on the 4th of July, and thus all the time the House had occupied was utterly wasted. The Marlborough-house Bill was brought in on the 30th of July, and it was an instance of how a bill could readily be passed by the Government, when they showed a firm determination to persevere with it; for there was no doubt it would become law. The Mercantile Marine Bill was brought in on the 11th of February, and the second reading was deferred five times; but without even being read a second time it was withdrawn on the 19th of April, and another bill was obliged to be introduced after all the discussion that had taken place on the first bill. The Merchant Seamen's Fund Bill was brought in on the 11th of February, and the second reading was deferred no less than fifteen times, and members might have come down fifteen different days expecting to discuss this bill; but at last, after lingering from the 11th of February, it was withdrawn on the 8th of July. Then there was another bill of nearly the same character—the Merchants' Shipping Bill—brought in on the same day as the preceding measure, but withdrawn on the 19th of April. The next bill was one that showed again how the Government could pass a measure through whenever they were deter-

mined. He alluded to the Metropolitan Interments Bill, with which the Government having determined that nothing should interfere, it was of course passed. Then came the Oath of Abjuration (Jews) Bill, about which he would say little, because the subject had been so recently debated; but this bill was brought in on the 30th of May; the second reading was deferred four times; and (as the House would have a full recollection) on the 22nd of July it was withdrawn."

One of the great evils of this state of things was that the House hardly ever knew what business was likely to come on at any particular hour, and members came down and were obliged to wait night after night, in a state of uncertainty as to what questions would be taken. He concluded by urging upon Government to devise some arrangement to afford relief to themselves as well as to the independent members of the House. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that no other legislative assembly in the world had ever got through such an amount of business as the House of Commons had performed. Many weeks of discussion were necessarily required by the important legislative questions which that House had regularly to consider, and the time for carrying measures of a novel character was thereby materially curtailed. He defended his conduct in introducing and afterwards abandoning certain bills, and declared his opinion that the country had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of its representatives. He was far from considering that time was necessarily lost because bills were brought in, discussed, and then postponed; inasmuch as such proceeding furnished the best possible material for future legislation; and, unless a Government possessed a prophetic power, it certainly could not prevent its measures from incurring such a fate:—

"The honourable baronet had alluded to the withdrawal of the Court of Chancery Bill, and other bills. Committees were sitting up stairs, which took a view not entirely similar to that of the promoters of the bill, but favourable to different other changes accompanying those proposed by the Government. That being the case, it was desirable and reasonable that those bills should, for the present session, be withdrawn. But he did not consider the time that had been devoted to them was lost. On the contrary, he thought when bills of this kind were brought forward, and deliberations took place in committee, at length a way was discovered by which objections might be obviated, and the bill be enabled, after due consideration, to pass through Parliament. They had had proofs that bills of this kind often take very considerable time to fit them for becoming law; and there was an instance to which he had frequently alluded, because he happened once to have had charge of a bill on the subject. It was on the subject of the county courts. He believed nothing was more useful than a local administration of justice, rendering justice cheaper and more accessible. One had only to state such a proposition, and it might be thought a bill to carry out such an object would readily pass through Parliament, and receive general assent. But what was the fact? Lord Spencer, in 1823 or 1824, at the time when Mr. Canning was the leading Minister of the country, introduced a bill on the subject. It went on, admired and commended by everybody. It was introduced by various Governments, and he (Lord John Russell) and his right honourable friend near him had charge of such a bill. Various other persons took up the question: the late Government undertook it, and left a bill for the present Government to carry out when they came into office. And in 1846, after twenty-three or twenty-four years of discussion, that bill then became law. The honourable baronet would say whether the Government were to blame in not having until 1846 passed such a measure. Perhaps they were so to blame, and it might be that if the honourable baronet were Minister he could provide at once, not only for proper measures to pass, but for all the details at once to be acceptable to all parties, and such as without discussion would receive the assent of this and the other House of Parliament. (*A laugh.*) That might be possible, only it had never occurred in his (Lord John Russell's) memory; and it seemed that the various able Ministers who had conducted the affairs of this House for many years past had had to encounter delays of the kind he had stated."

In conclusion he remarked that the aptitude for business in the House was not surpassed by any public assembly in the world. Mr. BRIGHT said it certainly was not surpassed for industry. There were two hundred men in that House who had worked harder for the last six months than any two hundred men who could be picked out of any parish in England. He thought, however, that a full House was much too cumbrous a machine for discussing the details of measures. Such details might be referred to a select body of members, while the House itself should discuss principles only.

"Apart from the business of the House there was the business of committees, and he had the honour to be one of a committee which had been made the subject of a very severe attack in another place. A noble and learned lord had said that this committee was composed of very ignorant men. They certainly did not pretend to be so learned as the noble and learned lord, but he doubted if it was quite according to Parliamentary order that in another House a committee appointed by the House of Commons should be abused in the manner that that committee had been abused, or its members called ignorant men. The noble and learned lord, it appeared, complained that he had not been examined by the committee; but it was not because he did not ask that he

was not examined, for he had asked them over and over again to examine him, but because it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that the noble and learned lord could give them no information whatever that they did not already possess. (*Laughter.*) He had already had an encounter with the noble lord; it was, however, a battle of pens, and not of swords; and he remembered that generally it was the public opinion that he (Mr. Bright) had had the best of it. He did not, however, consider the present matter worth taking up any further, as he regretted to say that the noble and learned lord, whose eloquence they well remembered, had of late taken a course so eccentric, that he had become not only much ridiculed but even, what was worse, very much pitied. He counselled the noble and learned lord to be more careful of his reputation hereafter, for he said there had been no committee whose labours had met with more approbation from the public press than that to which he had alluded."

Mr. STAFFORD was astonished to hear the member for Manchester talk of dividing the House into sections, when it was already so much divided by party spirit. Who would decide what was the principle and what the details of a bill? Mr. BRIGHT explained that what he proposed in dividing the House into sections for the consideration of details of bills, was, he believed, carried out to some extent in the United States and in France, where many details were avoided which were inflicted on that House.

Mr. HUME moved that the evidence taken before the Ceylon committee should be printed. Mr. HAWES, on the part of Lord John Russell, opposed the motion, moving as an amendment that the evidence in question be referred to the Colonial Secretary and the Government. He reminded the House that the committee which took the evidence had decided that it ought not to be published, because it was in a great measure of a private and confidential nature. He agreed in that decision of the committee, although it prevented him from defending the Colonial-office against a variety of unfounded and exaggerated charges that had been brought against it. After a short discussion Mr. HUME withdrew his motion, promising to bring the subject on and to prosecute it to the full extent next session. The amendment was then agreed to.

The House of Lords having gone into committee, on Tuesday, on the Friendly Societies Bill, Lord REDESDALE objected to the portion of the bill sanctioning the use of secret signs, and proposed an amendment to abolish the use of secret signs or pass-words. Lord BEAUMONT opposed the amendment as fatal to the principle of the bill. The pass-words and signs were merely used as a protection, and it was impossible that the societies could carry out their objects without them. They had no objection whatever to allow the Government and the police authorities to know the signs and pass-words, but it was impossible that a member, when travelling through the country in search of work, could obtain assistance from local societies if he was not prepared to furnish them with the pass-word. After a few words from Lord MONTEAGLE the amendment was withdrawn, the bill then passed through committee, was read a third time and passed.

Lord MONTEAGLE detailed the circumstances connected with the subscription of false signatures to the petition against the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Bill, and concluded by moving resolutions which declared Mr. C. Green and Mr. M. A. Gage, the presenters of the petition, had been guilty of a gross breach of privilege. The LORD CHANCELLOR and Lord BEAUMONT supported the resolutions, which were carried unanimously. After some conversation, Mr. Green and Mr. Gage were called in, and asked if they had anything to say in explanation or extenuation of their conduct. The former declared his innocence, and asked to be heard by counsel and witnesses, which, however, was refused. He then entered into an exculpatory statement, the gist of which was that there was a very short time in which to get up the petition, and that the fictitious signatures were not discovered until within thirty-six hours of the time at which it was necessary to present it. Mr. Gage also defended himself, and said that the charge was the result of a deep-laid conspiracy in Liverpool in order to defeat the petition. On the motion of the LORD CHANCELLOR, a fortnight's imprisonment was inflicted for this breach of privilege, and they were both handed over to the custody of the Black Rod to be removed to Newgate.

The Earl of RODEN put a question to Ministers as to certain alleged religious persecutions of Protestant ministers and others in Ireland. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE attributed the origin of the disputes to which the noble earl had called attention to persons who, no doubt actuated by great zeal, had endeavoured to give the religion which they professed what was called in Scotland an "aggressive" character among a population the majority of whom were opposed to their views. Every effort had been and would continue to be made by the Government to repress outrage.

In the House of Lords, on Wednesday, Lord CAMPBELL, referring to the report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the operation of



the regulations lately adopted for preventing Sunday labour in the Post Office, expressed his belief that such report would go a considerable way towards removing the evils of which the country had been complaining for some weeks. He stated his conviction, as one of the judges of the land, that the new Sabbath restrictions had a tendency to obstruct works of necessity and mercy. Whilst the assizes were going forward, it was often of the greatest importance that communications should be made to the judges with respect to cases that were coming on for trial, and with respect to cases which had been tried. Under the system lately established, all communications of that sort were for four-and-twenty hours completely cut off. On one occasion he and Mr. Justice Williams, thinking that the postmaster might be authorized to make a dispensation from the strictness of the new regulations in favour of her Majesty's judges, applied for their letters at the post-office, but the postmaster refused to allow them to have any, stating that he had positive orders to deliver none whatever. He honoured that functionary for the refusal; but a danger arose in consequence that prisoners coming on for trial might have been deprived of evidence that might have been material for them, and prisoners who had been condemned might have been cut off from receiving the mercy to which their cases entitled them. Lord MONTEAGLE concurred in Lord Campbell's opinion, and added his opinion of the cruel hardship which the Sabbath meddling had inflicted on the poorer classes. In the House of Commons, Mr. LABOUCHERE said that the report upon the new Sabbath regulations for the Post-office had been laid upon the table of the House, but he was not prepared to announce the course that the Government intended to take upon the subject.

Mr. WYLD presented two petitions on Wednesday signed by numerous bodies of gentlemen, who, as authors or as publishers, are interested in a ready and accurate reference being afforded to the library of the British Museum. They complained of the wretched and cumbrous catalogue which is at present the only key to that magnificent collection of books; and while abstaining from anything like personal imputation, they insisted on the ease with which (despite of pedantic and official obstruction) a "Finding Catalogue" could be prepared.

Her Majesty prorogued Parliament on Thursday. As early as eleven o'clock St. James's-park and the Parade in the front of the Horse-Guards were crowded with persons of all ranks, anxious to obtain a view of her Majesty in her passage to the House of Lords. Before twelve o'clock the windows in the neighbourhood of Whitehall exhibited a gay assemblage of fashionably dressed ladies and gentlemen, anxious to testify their loyalty to the reigning Sovereign.

The doors of the House of Lords were opened at twelve o'clock for the admission of those who had been so fortunate as to obtain the necessary tickets, and before one almost every seat was occupied by peeresses and other ladies, whose elegant and gay attire, combined with the gorgeousness of the edifice, presented a most magnificent and imposing spectacle.

At twenty minutes before two o'clock her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince Consort, left Buckingham Palace in the state carriage, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, richly caparisoned in the new state harness (morocco). Her Majesty was attended by the great officers of the household, the Mistress of the Robes and Ladies in Waiting. His Royal Highness was attended by the Equerries in Waiting and officers of the Duchy of Cornwall. The guard of honour consisted of a squadron of the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards.

Her Majesty having given her Royal assent to several public and private bills,

The Lord Chancellor, kneeling, presented to her Majesty a copy of the following Speech, which she read with clearness of intonation and distinctness of pronunciation:—

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I have the satisfaction of being able to release you from the duties of a laborious session. The assiduity and care with which you have applied yourselves to the business which required your attention, merit my cordial approbation.

"The Act for the better Government of my Australian Colonies will, I trust, improve the condition of those rising communities. It will always be gratifying to me to be able to extend the advantages of representative institutions, which form the glory and happiness of my people, to colonies inhabited by men who are capable of exercising, with benefit to themselves, the privileges of freedom.

"It has afforded me great satisfaction to give my assent to the Act which you have passed for the Improvement of the Merchant Naval Service of this country. It is, I trust, calculated to promote the welfare of every class connected with this essential branch of the national interest.

"The Act for the gradual Discontinuance of Inter-

ments within the Limits of the Metropolis is in conformity with those enlightened views which have for their object the improvement of the public health. I shall watch with interest the progress of measures relating to this important subject.

"I have given my cordial assent to the Act for the Extension of the Elective Franchise in Ireland. I look to the most beneficial consequences from a measure which has been framed with a view to give to my people in Ireland a fair participation in the benefits of our representative system.

"I have observed, with the greatest interest and satisfaction, the measures which have been adopted with a view to the improvement of the administration of justice in various departments, and I confidently anticipate they will be productive of much public convenience and advantage.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

"The improvement of the Revenue, and the large reductions which have been made in various branches of expenditure, have tended to give to our financial condition stability and security. I am happy to find that you have been enabled to relieve my subjects from some of the burdens of taxation, without impairing the sufficiency of our resources to meet the charges imposed upon them.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"I am encouraged to hope that the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which has been concluded at Berlin under my mediation, may lead at no distant period to the restoration of peace in the North of Europe. No endeavour shall be wanting on my part to secure the attainment of this great blessing.

"I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with foreign powers, and I trust that nothing may occur to disturb the general peace.

"I have every reason to be thankful for the loyalty and attachment of my people, and while I am studious to preserve and to improve our institutions, I rely upon the goodness of Almighty God to favour my efforts, and to guide the destinies of this nation."

The Lord Chancellor then formally prorogued the Parliament, after which her Majesty left Westminster-hall, and returned to Buckingham Palace in exactly the same order as observed upon her entrance to the House of Lords.

THE IRISH AGRARIAN CONFERENCE.

The Irish Tenant League, into which the tenant conference has merged, held its first meeting on Friday night, in the Music-hall, and presented, in its inauguration, the most imposing event to which the tenant-right movement has yet given birth. The attendance was as numerous as the dimensions of the building would admit, and embraced, besides the active members of the conference, a great number of the citizens of Dublin, who had not hitherto taken part in the agitation, and a crowded audience, among whom were several ladies. As the meeting was a public one, and as the speakers gave full vent to their feelings in speeches of considerable eloquence, it formed a suitable conclusion to the calm deliberations of the preceding days. The number of Roman Catholic and Presbyterian clergymen who were present, and who took a prominent part in the proceedings, was very considerable. The speeches were all of the most hopeful character. The Reverend John Rogers, a Protestant clergyman, on the part of the 500 ministers of whom his church was composed, assured the meeting that their determination was to stand by the just claims of their own people, and by those of the people of universal Ireland. "The ministers of his persuasion were resolved to accomplish the downfall of the tyrannical and truculent feudalism of Irish landlordism." The Reverend Dr. Kearney, a Catholic priest, thought he could likewise promise on the part of upwards of 3000 clergymen of his persuasion, and he believed he might add that the sympathies of their bishops and prelates were with them too.

The resolutions passed were to the following effect:—

"That the system of rack-renting, the insecurity of the tenant's tenure, the absence of the recognition by the law of the tenant's right to the proceeds and benefits of his own labour and capital, together with the general treatment of the occupier by the owner, have been the leading causes of those evils.

"That the miserable condition to which the tenant-farmers have been reduced by the existing relations between them and their landlords having ruinously affected the position of the farming labourers of this country, reducing them to a state of the most abject poverty and social degradation, we consider it as absolutely necessary that we shall seek for them, in any legislative measure to be recommended by the League, that protection to which they are so justly entitled, and which they so urgently require.

"That no remedy for these evils can be effectual which does not embrace the regulation of rent by a just and impartial valuation; a legally secured occupancy to the tenant of his holding so long as he shall pay the rent fixed by said valuation; the right of the tenant to sell his interest to the highest bona fide purchaser; and the legalization of the tenant-right property of Ulster.

"That we have witnessed with feelings of unmixed satisfaction the union of sentiment on this vitally important question between persons of all religious denominations, and from every part of Ireland, which has been most happily manifested in the unanimity which has eminently distinguished all the proceedings of the late Tenant Conference, and that we regard it as a glorious indication of certain rescue of the tenant-farmers and labouring population of our common country from their hopeless and miserable condition; and we hereby call upon every Irishman who loves justice and humanity, and who desires the happiness and prosperity of his country, to join the Irish Tenant League which has been instituted.

"That, feeling convinced that any effort of the people, however wise, vigorous, or united, outside the walls of Parliament will be ineffectual, unless men of known honesty be selected as representatives, who will give a written pledge that they will support in and out of Parliament tenant-law, based upon and carrying into effect the principles adopted by the Irish Tenant-League; and that they will withhold all support from any Cabinet that will not advance those principles; and that, when called upon in writing, because of any distinct departure from this pledge by one-half of those electors who voted for them, they will immediately resign.

"That, thus justified, and having within our reach the assured elements of success, if vigorously and wisely used, we feel ourselves justified in recommending to the Irish people a general and complete organization of the entire country; and that it shall be one of the earliest duties of the Council of the Irish Tenant-League to arrange and submit to its consideration a detailed and well-considered plan of agitation, under legal advice, having for its object to bring into operation all the powers and all the energies which the law and constitution have placed in their hands for the attainment of the declared objects of the League.

"That, as adequate funds, ascertained by some fixed standard, and certain in amount, will be indispensable for carrying out the objects of the League, we recommend for the adoption of the country a general and voluntary assessment on the Poor-law valuation, of such an amount and under such regulations as the Council of the League may hereafter recommend, taking into consideration the circumstances of each locality, and the raising thereby, at as early a period as is considered practicable and convenient, a sum of £10,000 in the first instance."

One of the northern delegates, in the *Nation* of Saturday last, gives a dashing sketch of the Conference, from which we borrow a passage or two.

"Under the chair is a long desk for the secretaries, with three as pleasant faces behind it as any in the conference. One of them, a young handsome fellow of Saxon temperament, one would say, and of some two or three and twenty years, is Mr. William Girdwood, of Lurgan, in the county Armagh, gentleman solicitor, one of the northern deputies to London. The next is the Reverend William Dobbin, of Anaghlonge, whom it was said they would bring to the bar of the Lords some months since for heresy anent "the sacred rights of property." Now, no one would suspect Mr. Dobbin of schism even, he looks so mild, and smiles so blandly, whenever he rises to the meeting, and particularly when he does allude to the rights aforesaid, as he takes occasion to do pretty frequently—feeling a strong necessity to speak the flattest heresy in the most seraphic spirit possible. Mr. Dobbin is about thirty years of age. But who is this stalwart agrarian reformer alongside of him—Gracchus in a soutane—with a fist to fell oxen—and a voice to put the fear of God into a rack-renter, if anything could? That, Sir, is Father Tom O'Shea, of Callan. Just as much as M'Knight's name typifies the Ulster Tenant Right, Father O'Shea's does the southern movement that has grown so amazingly within the last nine months. About six years ago, under the shadow of Walker's Column, in the virgin City of Ulster, the doctor, with some half-dozen others, established the Ulster Association. It is another name for the province now. Last December, as well as I remember, Father O'Shea and his coadjutor, Father O'Keefe, founded the Callan Tenant Protection Society, round which the whole southern farmers have since gathered. And the conference means, in the main, the alliance of those great forces. Whoever is skilled in drawing conclusions from such tangible premises, may augur awkward results to the landlords, if they do not capitulate in time.

"And now, looking right down to the end of the table, passing a dozen or so very white Presbyterian cravats, and about the same number of ecclesiastical rabbas agreeably interspersed, and noticing among the laymen the massive head, and portly, Yorkshire look, of Frederick Lucas (who is discussing the principles of valuation in the most affectionate way possible, with sundry shining lights of the kirk), there, beside Mr. C. G. Duffy, you may observe a tall and remarkably handsome young man, with nothing of the cleric very observable in his aspect, but rather a subdued military dash in air and apparel—a lieutenant of Volunteers in mufti, one might fancy. But that, Sir, is the Reverend David Bell, of Ballibay; and, i' faith, I could almost swallow the Westminster Confession, to be of his congregation. He has you fairly taken by storm before he speaks a word, there is something so frank and open—almost boyishly so—in his face. But when he does speak, you recognise a real orator. It is my impression—take it for what it is worth—that, except Thomas Meagher, there is no man born in Ireland this generation who has so much true, native eloquence in him. And although, to use his own words lately, he always 'sticks to his text' when speaking, still there are occasional indications of an undercurrent of deeper disaffection than what he bears to the landlords. I marked him talk about representatives with quite an '82 accent; and in a little, appropriate allusion that he made to 'the

enemy,' on one occasion, should not feel surprised if he meant to include the Castle. This is mere speculation, however.

"There is Father Redmond of Arklow, and I thank him from my heart for it, and so will Ireland. He was the first man to repudiate all names and symbols of disunion. No man shall forget the hearty enthusiasm which hailed his denunciation of all attempts to divide the people—no man can fail to remember the generous glow which fell on the assembly like a second sunlight when Dr. Rentoul, with his rugged Derry accent, clinched, as it were, the cordial union of the provinces. A union not of name alone neither. On every question that was discussed, on every side of the discussion, men took their places, and stated their views in utter oblivion of creed or province. The Conference was Irish, and Irish only. And on every point that involved a great principle an unanimous vote was taken. 'Discuss the question all day if you will it, but we must have an unanimous vote.' This was the spirit of the proceedings. It is a thing to be told and cogitated in St. Stephen's, to be heard with horror by the exterminators, and to give hope and heart to our poor exiles in America, this unanimous declaration that the Irish tenant shall have perpetual tenure, and a regulated rent in future. It is a thing to move England more than men think. As Thomas Carlyle said the other day, this Irish tenant agitation is very likely to become 'soon an English and a Scotch one too.' And if it does?"

#### NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Reformed Council of this Association—which has abolished its own property qualification—was held on Thursday last, and it gave the most satisfactory proof of the new vitality which has been infused into it. In the evening a tea-meeting was held at the King's Head, and was a proper sequel to the proceedings of the morning. The room was crowded and the assembly most enthusiastic. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting, composed of numerous members of the Council of the National Reform Association, elected by the members in general, in conformity with the recommendation of the Conference held in April last, and of a large and influential body of gentlemen representing various districts in and about the metropolis, rejoices in this opportunity to congratulate reformers in all parts of the kingdom upon this satisfactory adoption of popular principles in the constitution of the council, and desires to declare its implicit confidence in the gentlemen to whom the future operations of the Association have been thus delegated and entrusted.

"That this meeting would record its high satisfaction at the result of the recent election for the borough of Lambeth, and would offer its grateful acknowledgments to the electors of that borough for having returned to Parliament by a triumphant majority a member of its council, and a consistent advocate of Parliamentary and Financial Reform, in the person of William Williams, Esq., and for having thereby set a noble example to the independent electors of the kingdom at large, to whom, as well as to all reformers, this meeting urgently appeals for increased energy in support of the National Reform Association; and the gentlemen present pledge themselves to use their utmost efforts to extend its influence and to increase its means of operation."

#### SIR LAUNCELOT SHADWELL.

The Right Honourable Sir Launcelot Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, expired at an early hour on Saturday morning at his residence, the Barn Elms, Putney. It cannot be said that this event was unexpected, Sir Launcelot Shadwell having been for some time seriously ill. It is now about a month since he was suddenly seized, on his way to London, with a fit which was understood to be of a paralytic nature, and since that time he has been gradually sinking. His death will not, however, be the less lamented. He has presided over a branch of the Court of Chancery since the year 1827, and has secured the entire respect of the profession, by the general soundness and invariable impartiality of his judgments, by the regularity of his attendance in his court, and his untiring assiduity in the disposal of its business.

Sir Launcelot Shadwell was the son of a barrister, well known in his day in the courts of law. He was born in the year 1779, and was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, at which University he took an honourable degree as 7th wrangler and junior medalist. He subsequently obtained a fellowship, and in 1803 was called to the bar at Lincoln's-inn. In 1821 he was appointed a king's counsel, and in 1826 he obtained a seat in parliament for the borough of Ripon, by favour of Miss Lawrence, of Studley Park, who, by means of her property, long held the power, if not the right, of presentation to that honour. His parliamentary career was brief, extending over little more than one year, he having been appointed Vice-Chancellor of England on the 31st of October, 1827.

He twice filled the office of a Commissioner of the Great Seal. The first occasion was after the resignation of the Lord Chancellorship by Lord Brougham, when he was associated in the commission with the Earl of Cottenham and the late Sir John Bernard Bosanquet. The second occasion occurred only a few weeks ago, when Lord Langdale, Sir J. M. Rolfe, and himself were appointed Commissioners of the Great Seal. On both these occasions, he was enabled to give a living to one of his sons in the Church. On the former occasion he gave a living at South-

ampton, to a son now sometime deceased, and the other day he gave a good living in Yorkshire (the only one, we believe, that fell to his gift during his brief tenure of the Great Seal) to another son, the Reverend Arthur Shadwell. He was twice married, and has left a large family. His eldest son is at the Chancery bar, where he bids fair to uphold the legal reputation of his family. For many years the late Vice-Chancellor held the office of auditor of the estates of the late Miss Lawrence, of Studley, under whose will he received a bequest of thirty thousand pounds. Up to a very recent period, he appeared to enjoy the most robust health. It was said in the courts that he bathed every day in the year, no matter how severe the season, in one of the creeks running from the Thames, near his house, at Barn Elms, and that this practice was the cause of that vigour of body which he showed, even at his advanced period of life. It is even said that on one occasion he granted an injunction in the water. It occurred in the long vacation; the counsel and solicitor went to Barn Elms; they found him in the water; counsel stated the facts of the case from the bank; he ducked under the stream, and, sputtering out water, said, "Take an interim order, sir."

Under the Act 5 Victoria, c. 5, the successor of the Vice-Chancellor of England will receive a diminished salary; it being enacted by the 37th clause that no such officer should henceforward receive a salary of more than £5000 a-year, or a retiring pension of larger amount than £3500 a-year.

The appointment vacant by Sir Launcelot Shadwell's death will naturally be offered to Sir J. Romilly, her Majesty's Attorney-General. In legal circles, however, some doubts are entertained whether that gentleman will accept the office. It is understood that the Attorney-General is most anxious to secure the Mastership of the Rolls, which it is also understood is likely, at no distant date, to become vacant by Lord Langdale's resignation. In the event of Sir John Romilly declining the Vice-Chancellorship, Mr. W. P. Wood, M.P., and Mr. Rolt, are spoken of as likely to be elevated to the dignity of a Vice-Chancellor. In case the Attorney-General becomes Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Cockburn will succeed to the Attorney-Generalship, and Mr. W. P. Wood will, it is believed, be appointed to the Solicitorship.

#### AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The differences between the Austrian and Prussian commanders at Mayence respecting the transit of the Baden troops destined for Prussia have entered into a new and very important phase. The Austrian Government has issued a peremptory order to the commander of the fortress to oppose the further transport of troops from Baden to Prussia by force of arms, although this order appears very difficult of accomplishment, as the Baden troops in going by land are quite beyond the reach of the guns of the fortress of Mayence, yet we believe that the order itself for this inimical demonstration will carry its full weight in the proper quarter.

The plenary diet at Frankfort, so called by Austria, and so constituted by itself, has closed its career by a self-destrorying decree, in virtue of which its own political decease is declared. Provision for a successor was made by the expiring plenum by devolving upon the Cabinet of Vienna the task of inviting all the governments of Germany to form a restricted diet.

The Minister Manteuffel has tendered his resignation. Stockhausen, the minister of war, is said by some of the journals to have also left the ministry, which, however, is an error. Both, however, are alike opposed to the policy of Radowitz, believing it must be followed by most unhappy consequences. And yet it is the execution of this policy which is to be expected as soon as the King shall have accepted the resignations of the two ministers just named.

A war with Austria, should such actually take place, would probably be commenced by Prussia taking possession of the federal fortresses of Rastadt and Mayence, which stand within her own borders or those of her allies. Afterwards Frankfort-on-the-Main would probably be a scene of war.

#### AMERICAN POLITICS.

The chief item of news by the last American steamer is the rejection by the Senate of the long-pending Compromise Bill. It is stated that the question of the admission of California is to be considered separately, and divested of the many collateral issues which encumber Mr. Clay's rejected bill to such an extent as has earned for it the sobriquet of "The Omnibus Bill." The *New York Herald* makes the following remarks on the rejection of the Compromise Bill:—

"The crisis so long predicted and so intensely dreaded by all good men and true, by all patriots of the new world, is at hand, if it has not actually come upon us. The highest self-devotion and talent of the land have been exerted in bringing about a settlement of this question. Both have failed, or may fail, according to present appearances, in producing the desired result. The Governor of Texas has called an extraordinary session of the Legislature, for the purpose of adopting measures to maintain what the people of that State insist is their

rightful boundary, and to resist any attempt, come from what quarter it may, to dispossess them. The day of meeting is close at hand, and it certainly would be advisable to settle this troublesome question before any rash steps should be taken by Texas."

President Fillmore has held his first levee, and in the course of a reply to an address from the Russian Minister, declared his adherence to the policy of strict neutrality and non-interference in regard to the affairs of all foreign countries.

Mr. Webster, as Secretary of State; Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury; and Mr. Hall, Postmaster-General, of the new Cabinet, have already accepted their commissions, and commenced their labours. Messrs. Crittenden and Graham have also accepted their appointments, but have not arrived at Washington. It is not yet known whether the other two will accept office.

It is asserted in political circles in Washington that the differences between the American Government and that of Portugal have been adjusted. The terms are not given, nor is it stated where or when the adjustment took place.

The cholera was prevailing to a fearful extent in Mexico at the date of last advices. At St. Louis Potosi, 300 persons had died out of a population of 25,000. In the city of Mexico it was making awful ravages, and in some of the mining districts the country was depopulated. So violent is the disease that of 2000 cases reported from the 25th of May to the 2nd of July, 1234 had died; and from the first appearance of the cholera until the 2nd of July there have been 15,000 cases and 6400 deaths. The disease has broken out with great violence in Vera Cruz.

The wheat harvest throughout the country has been gathered, and the quantity produced is said to be far greater than ever before. In many of the Western States, where Indian corn has heretofore been the principal crop, a large amount of wheat has been grown this year. Missouri, which is one of the smallest wheat-producing states, has an estimated surplus of 500,000 bushels.

According to present appearance there will be a tremendous emigration from the Atlantic States to California during the present year. Up to the 17th of June last we are authentically informed that some thirty thousand adventurers passed Fort Laramie, on the overland route to the modern El Dorado; and the rush by the way of Chagres and Panama is still very great. The probability is that the new state on the Pacific will receive an accession to her population of sixty or seventy thousand within the present year.

Accounts from the cotton-growing districts are more favourable, but this should not be construed into any indication that the crop will be a large or even an average one. The report is merely noted and quoted in contradistinction to the unfavourable ones already sent over.

#### THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The twentieth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science has just concluded at Edinburgh an unusually prosperous and successful sitting. Everything has smiled on its proceedings. The weather, which, at the former meeting in that city, sixteen years ago, proved so treacherous that for three days the streets were deluged, has this time made amends by a week of unbroken sunshine, which has shown to the best advantage all the glories of the beautiful city and its neighbourhood.

The various sections have had more papers brought before them than they have been able to hear read in full, and an amount of zeal, activity, and harmony has characterized the whole proceedings to an extent unsurpassed at any previous meeting. Fewer distinguished foreigners have been present than on some previous occasions; not, however, because their interest has declined in the association, but because, as numbers of themselves have stated, they are induced to postpone a visit to this country till next year, when the attractions of the great exhibition of industrial products will be added to those of the association. A considerable number of illustrious strangers have been present, and a great impetus has been given to the public interest in scientific pursuits by the large and gifted assemblage which has been deliberating for a week with open doors upon all the important discoveries of the past year.

It does not fall within the scope of our journal to report in detail the proceedings of the sections, which, after all, are not by any means the most important part of the doings of the association. The Geological Section, as usual and as deservedly, has been the most attractive, some four or five hundred persons daily attending its sittings. The greatest interest was excited by the appearance of the Duke of Argyle as the author of an important discovery, which promises to solve for us the geological age of the famous island of Staffa, a problem which had been considered quite insoluble. The Duke addressed the section in a style which has called forth universal commendation, and not a few do not hesitate to pronounce him the best speaker who has appeared at the meeting. His Grace was listened to, especially by the lady members who crowded to hear him, with a prepossession in his favour which was not shown towards other speakers less favoured by nature and fortune. But, after making every deduction for this, no candid critic could refuse to admire

the simplicity, modesty, and unaffected style of his address, or decline to acknowledge that he is an eloquent and delightful expositor of scientific truth. One of our most accomplished literary men passed this judgment upon his appearance, "You quite forgot that he was a duke."

The mechanical section came next to the geological in popularity. The most interesting speaker here, to those at least who are not professed students of science, was Mr. Nasmyth, now of Manchester, but formerly of Edinburgh, which is not a little proud of its previous townsman. He is a remarkable man, self-taught and amazingly ingenious; and, although quite untrained to oratorical display, a most impressive speaker. The most interesting of his many communications was a familiar lecture on the lunar surface, which he has observed for some eight years with telescopes made by his own hands, which, by the way, present the finest example of manipulative and constructive fingers we have ever seen. They are not what a lady would call neat hands, but they are what a cheirognomist would instantly recognise as belonging to a neat-handed man. Mr. Nasmyth, whose address is frank, hearty, and genial, rivetted the attention of an audience of some twelve hundred persons, who stood for an hour listening with delight to his graphic, vivid, and picturesque descriptions, illustrated by beautiful drawings and models of the discoveries he has made in the geology of the moon. His success was a lesson to our artificial, pedantic, and wordy prelectors. He has not a whit of the stump orator about him; but, having something to tell about things which he has witnessed with great delight, he stands up and tells them in a few simple, graphic phrases, and reproduces in others the delight which he has felt himself. This is true eloquence.

In the natural history section much interest was excited by the exposition of the very curious and beautiful mathematical laws which Mr. D. R. Hay, of Edinburgh, has discovered to regulate the proportions of the human frame. Distinguished anatomists and mathematicians acknowledged themselves convinced of the truth of Mr. Hay's views, and assisted him in expounding them. This section, as might be expected at the seat of a great medical school, was largely attended, and, in truth, swarmed off into a physiological sub-section where the medical men, slenderly attended by the lady members, discussed their own important but forbidding subjects. The ethnological sub-section was the scene of most profound and animated discussion between those three highly accomplished philologists, Major Rawlinson, the Reverend Dr. Hincks, and Dr. Latham, who soon got beyond the depth of all but a very few of their auditors.

The mathematical and statistical sections were marked by the presence of some of the most distinguished authorities on those subjects, and, although the majority of their communications were beyond general appreciation, there are no sections from whose labours the great mass of mankind will reap more than from theirs.

The chemical section was less adorned than any by the distinguished seniors who have made this science so popular; but the younger chemists had gathered from nearly all the universities of the country, and the proceedings of this section went on with great zeal and spirit.

One most interesting feature of this meeting was the large number of ladies who followed its proceedings. Their presence had a most wholesome effect in diminishing the pedantry and technicality which too often disfigure the exhibitions of scientific men, and it also checked the tendency to acrimonious criticism, which is always liable to intrude itself into public discussion. Perhaps it did more than this; but we do not regret it. An active member in one of the sections was heard to say, "I should like to criticise so and so's views, but I am sure those ladies are his mother and sister, and I should not like to vex them by seeming to depreciate their relative's speculations." In this particular case we have reason to believe that the younger lady was the author's *cousin*, who probably would have listened with still less patience than even his sister to any criticism of her relative's views.

Much unkindly animadversion was at one time passed on the British Association, because public dinners were held throughout its sittings, where the members appeared to no better advantage than other sitters round a dinner-table. This was very foolish. The active members of the sections are all connected with many scientific societies, and read and listen to communications during six or eight months of every year. If the Association, accordingly, only summoned them to read and hear again their scientific papers, we venture to say that none but the idlest and the vainest would stir a foot to attend its meetings. The great attraction which the yearly gatherings have for scientific men lies in the opportunity which they afford for cultivating the acquaintance of each other. Our British men of science are honourably distinguished from their brethren on the Continent by the rarity of controversies between them, and by the absence of personalities when those occur.

This is very much owing to the freedom of our press, and the ample opportunity which all Englishmen have of gratifying their combativeness by disputations on politics and religion, upon which every class of the community, the philosophers included, unceasingly expends its controversial energies. Our men of science, accordingly, rarely attack each other, in reference to disputed scientific questions, in the style in which French and German savants assault each other; and when a personal controversy between scientific men does arise in England, it is invariably censured by their own brethren. This happy state of matters is greatly fostered by assemblages such as that which has just been held in Edinburgh. Few things have been more pleasant to us than to see men of note, who had known each other only by name for years, shake hands, and look with kindly glances on faces they had long wished to see in the flesh. Acquaintanceships, on these occasions, rapidly ripen into friendships; and we witnessed, in one section, a general shaking of hands between some five different philosophers who had been looking with coldness on each other for years, but could not resist the thawing influence of the harmonious and happy concourse around them, and gladly caught at some slight courtesy from their old opponent to stretch forth their hands and make peace again. We have seen so many scenes of this kind; so much kindly intercourse; so much frank acknowledgment of each other's merits; so much willing co-operation where union was requisite; and so hearty a determination to make the future surpass the past in scientific achievements, that we cannot but pronounce the British Association one of those institutions which is materially helping to promote peace upon earth and good-will among men.

No meeting of this body has been more genial and harmonious than this twentieth one. The hospitalities of Edinburgh have been extended in the most liberal and princely way to all the celebrated strangers. The College of Physicians entertained a hundred and fifty of the most distinguished members of the Association. The College of Surgeons had with a wise liberality expended its income on improving medical education, and could not rival the sister institution. But Professor Lyme, the President of the College of Surgeons, generously came to its rescue, and at his own cost, erected within the grounds of his beautiful villa, a building solely for the purpose of accommodating the philosophers. Similar hospitalities on a smaller scale were shown by all who were in a condition to manifest them; and the only complaint which we have heard made by the members has been that they received so many invitations for the same day that they were compelled to refuse some which they would gladly have accepted. The beautiful weather also permitted excursions to be made in all directions, so that some visited the Bell-rock Lighthouse; others the Bass-rock; others Tantallon Castle; others the Pentland-hills, or Arthur's Seat; and the poorest pedestrian could wander with pleasure round the picturesque environs of Edinburgh.

In short, the British Association has discussed the topics brought before it very much in the style in which Thomas Carlyle tells us the ancient parliament of England did the subjects brought before it. First they breakfasted over them; then, in the section rooms, they sat and talked upon them; then, in the afternoon, they dined over them; in the evening they promenaded upon them; and, on one occasion, Sir Roderick Murchison setting the example, they took occasion of their presence in the Music-hall, with a fine military band in the orchestra, to ask for a quadrille, perhaps even a polka, and to dance upon them. This is the *Novissimum Organon Scientiarum*.

#### LEGITIMACY AND BONAPARTISM.

The two parties who are making most noise in Paris at present are the Legitimists and the Napoleonists. The latter, of course, are in the ascendancy both in Paris and the Provinces, although it is generally thought that they have not acted very wisely in coming forward so prominently at the military dinners; that, however, remains to be seen. Audacity has always been the great political force in France, and perhaps it will still remain so.

The papers still continue to comment, with considerable acrimony, on the dinners, but they admit that the unconstitutional demonstrations made at the first of them were not encouraged by the President. The *Ordre* gives the following explanation of what took place at the dinner to the Gendarmerie Mobile; and this explanation is the more important, as it is considered to be from General Changarnier himself:—

"Some persons, who know the just ascendancy of General Changarnier over the minds of the troops, and who are aware that the general was present at the banquet of the 7th instant, feel astonished that unconstitutional cries should have been uttered in his presence. General Changarnier was in fact present at that banquet, but the sole cries which were uttered were 'Vive Napoleon!' 'Vive le General Changarnier!' At this moment, it is said, the President of the Republic rose, and, taking the arm of the general, passed before the silent guests, and made the round of the lawn of the Elysée. It was only

at a late hour, when General Changarnier, with his aides-de-camp and a great number of other officers, had retired, that some members of the Société du Dix Décembre gave the signal for the cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' 'Aux Tuileries!' 'Aux Tuileries!'—a signal, moreover, which did not appear to have received the slightest encouragement on the part of the President of the Republic."

As respects the dinner given on Saturday last to the 4th regiment of infantry, it appears that although the cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" were not quite so general as on the previous occasion, they were not altogether wanting. They were even so loud as to be distinctly audible in the street adjoining the garden of the palace, where the tent was erected in which the dinner was given. The crowd, however, did not echo the cry, nor at all partake in the jovial enthusiasm of the subalterns within. After the guests left the table they adjourned to the garden to smoke their cigars, and were soon joined there by the President. In the course of the evening Louis Napoleon, observing a musket, which was probably placed there on purpose, took it up, and delighted the sergeants and corporals by going through the manual exercise with great skill and precision. The enthusiasm was of course great, and some of the officers endeavoured to turn the affair to account by applying the pet name which the soldiers used to give the emperor—*le petit caporal*—to the emperor's nephew; but the thing did not take; it produced a laugh, but nothing more.

Louis Napoleon left Paris on Saturday morning for his tour in the eastern departments. He was accompanied by some of his Ministers, who intended to go with him as far as Tonnerre. He reached that place about half-past ten o'clock, where the mayor and the other members of the corporation had assembled to pay him homage. The President reviewed the troops stationed in that town, and then left for Dijon. The Government journals state that in passing through Paris, on his road to the railway, he was saluted with loud cries of "Vive Napoleon." They make a point also of mentioning that at Yonne, the President was received with great enthusiasm by some old soldiers, the glorious remains of the Imperial Guard, and of that army which, as Beranger has sung, fatigued victory by following her. The official journal says:—

"The prefect of the police, who had accompanied the President to the confines of the Yonne, the department in which he was born, presented to the Prince some of the men who, in difficult times, had sacrificed everything to combat demagogical tendencies, and who were the first to raise the old Imperial standard, the symbol of order, of the glory, and of the prosperity of the nation, in spite of the threats of the anarchy which had issued from the revolution of February."

A rumour was spread in Paris on Tuesday that the President of the Republic had been suddenly seized with indisposition, arising from drinking a glass of cold water while in a state of perspiration. The report, however, was not credited, as it could not be traced to rest upon any good foundation.

Meantime Henry Cinq, the hope of the Legitimists, is holding his court at Wiesbaden, which is said to resemble "a little Coblenz," a rather ominous comparison. It is said that the conference will decide what policy the French Conservatives are to pursue, but nothing has oozed out as to what that policy is likely to be. We question whether any of the conspirators themselves could give much information. Still, however, the conference furnishes an excellent subject for Parisian gossip.

A Legitimist pasquinade was found attached to the base of one of the statues before the Palace of the National Assembly on Saturday. This seditious placard, which was printed, after several flourishes about Henri V. and the Duchess of Berry, and taunts at the Republican party for their tame endurance of the repeal of universal suffrage, and for not having given up their 25 francs per day, finishes with the following menace:—"Faites vos sacs, Messieurs, le rappel va sonner." The Commissary of Police of the quarter having been informed of the crowds gathered about this singular publication, proceeded to the spot and tore it down.

The French Assembly was, on Friday, to meet *pro forma*; but there was nothing on the orders of the day, and the session was practically at an end. At half-past two, when the chair was taken, only about 200 members were present: as there must be 376 members present to sanction any decision, the President declared the sitting closed, and members rushed out with the eager pleasure of boys going home for the holidays. This quiet and unceremonious way of closing the session, though not very dignified, is not without its convenience. To the Government it is particularly agreeable, as it is understood that it was the intention of the Montagnards, if they had had the opportunity, to conclude the session with a manifestation in favour of the Republic—a manifestation which, in the present anti-Republican times, would have been considered little better than rank treason. To console itself for the disappointment, the Montagnard representatives have published in the newspapers of this morning an address, entitled "Compte rendu par la Montagne au peuple," in which they severely criticise the labours of the session.

### THE WAR BETWEEN DENMARK AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

The loss of lives the Holsteiners sustained in the battle of Idstedt (July 25th) has been increased by a catastrophe. The laboratory of their artillery in Rendsburg—as is frequently the case when the works in such places are hurried—blew up at a quarter to twelve, a.m., on the 7th instant. The explosion killed and severely wounded about 100 persons, and a great number of houses have been damaged. As to the damage which has been done to the stores of the army, it would appear from General Willisen's proclamation, issued after a thorough examination of the locality, that it was of no importance.

On the day after this catastrophe the Danes made an attack upon the Schleswig-Holstein line of posts, near Sorgbrück, and between the Stendler-Mühle and the Bissen Lake. Whilst they confined themselves, in this attack, principally to skirmishing with their light troops and cannon with the Holstein patrols of cavalry and rifles, near Sorgbrück, they made a more serious attack on the easterly part of the Holsteiners' position. But here the rifles of the latter made a charge upon the advancing Danes with the bayonet, and compelled them to retreat hastily by the heights of Langenberg, in a northerly direction, upon Ahlefeld. From five to six Danish battalions, with some cavalry and artillery, were engaged in this action. The Danes lost about 100 men in killed and wounded, and the Holsteiners had two killed and about eighteen wounded; such at least is General Willisen's statement in his fifth army report. After this engagement, which was but a strong reconnaissance, a pitched battle was expected on the next day (the 9th instant), but it had not taken place up to the 10th instant.

Meanwhile, on the west coast of Schleswig, the Danes are landing troops and taking possession of the islands without encountering any resistance. On the opposite coast heavy guns are being landed and mounted by the Danes at Eckernförd, some of which have been transported from Copenhagen in Russian men-of-war. The island of Fehmarn is being fortified in a similar manner, and a garrison of 1200 men has been placed there.

The proclamation of the Danish Minister-of-War, that the army of Holstein is beyond the protection of the law of nations, has drawn a counter declaration from General Willisen, stating that in such a case he feels bound to make known that he shall consider the 500 Danish prisoners in his hands as security that the Ministerial declaration will not be acted on towards any individual serving in the Holstein army.

The Holstein Government has made large claims on the several German Governments, on account of the last year's expences of the war with Denmark having been carried on in the name of the German Confederation, but as yet without success; and, whilst the larger states have exhausted every pretext for evading this claim, the little principality of Waldeck has come forward with spirit, and sent 5000 dollars to Kiel. The general sympathy for Schleswig-Holstein throughout the whole of Germany not only continues, but is on the increase. There is not one of the thirty and odd states which is not represented in the Schleswig-Holstein army,—there is not a town and hardly a village which has not contributed to the collections which are being made for the benefit of the duchies. In Berlin 5000 dollars have been raised by private subscriptions. Breslau has sent 3000 dollars, and Vienna 3000 florins. Up to the 8th instant the sum raised throughout Germany amounted to about 100,000 dollars (about £15,000). The Vienna press has likewise shown its sympathy for the duchies, having done all in its power to urge their Government to protest against the incorporation of Schleswig with Denmark on the one hand, and to maintain the agnatic succession in the duchies on the other. But it has been the policy of Austria not to countenance any change in the existing balance of power in Europe, and she will of course remain faithful to this petrified maxim in the present question, especially as by deviating from it she can derive no such advantage as in 1846, when, by violating the treaty of Vienna, she seized upon the Republic of Cracow, in spite of Viscount Palmerston and Louis Philippe's protests. This enthusiasm and sympathy of the German people for the duchies sufficiently shows that they are conscious that the war between Denmark and Holstein is but a struggle between the provisions of the treaty of 1815, refreshed by diplomatic protocols on one side, and the nationalities, whom that treaty has injured, on the other.

A rumour was current lately at Hamburg to the effect that England and Russia had sent commissioners to Copenhagen and Kiel for the purpose of endeavouring to bring about a termination of further bloodshed, but it has not been confirmed.

### SPANISH COURT GOSSIP.

Queen Isabella, for the first time since her accouchement, took a ride in an open carriage, accompanied by the King, on the evening of the 4th instant. As it was known that her Majesty was going out, and, as it was besides a fête day, a great crowd was

assembled on the passage of their Majesties from the palace to the Prado. She was well received at the Puerto del Sol, the Prado, and other places on her route. She appeared perfectly convalescent. On the 5th she again rode out, and was equally well received. Queen Isabella and the King have abandoned all idea of visiting La Granja this year. They have determined to remain at Madrid for some time.

Senior Sanchez, the head physician to the Queen, whose treatment of her Majesty during her accouchement was so severely criticised, has requested to be allowed to retire on the pension he is entitled to. The Queen has requested him to remain in her service, at the request of Queen Christina, who seems to place great faith in the doctor. The two wet nurses selected to suckle the late heir-apparent have had pensions of £55 settled upon them.

Lord Howden, the new English Ambassador at Madrid, was received with the usual ceremonies, in private audience, by the Queen of Spain in the evening of the 3rd, to present his credentials. The early reception of the British envoy is considered as a special honour, various corporations and public functionaries having been refused an audience. Lord Howden was also received at the palace with the military honours paid to Infantes of Spain.

There was a grand reception by the Queen Maria Christina, on the 6th instant, which was very numerous attended, it being known that she is going in a few days to La Granja. The Duke of Valencia is gone to the watering-place of Puerto Llano.

It is not true that the Spanish Ambassador at Rome has taken his departure for Madrid, and that the diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the Court of her Most Catholic Majesty have been suspended. It is said, however, that the conduct of the Pope with respect to the marriage of the Count de Montemolin, and the sympathies he is known to entertain for his Royal Highness, have deeply wounded the self-love of Queen Christina and Narvaez, although motives of policy hinder them from giving vent to their indignation.

The Gazette publishes the decree for the dissolution of the Cortes. A general election will take place on the 31st, and the Cortes will meet again on October 31. In that way the budget can be discussed before the end of the year. The Cortes which is just dissolved has had a more extended existence than any one which has preceded it. It was convoked in the autumn of 1846, and has therefore continued four years, and had four legislative sessions.

### THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF 1851.

The working classes of Leicester appear to have made up their minds to come up to London *en masse* next summer, judging from the enthusiasm displayed at a public meeting in the Townhall on Tuesday week, to consider what steps should be taken towards enabling them to visit the metropolis during the time of the Industrial Exhibition. So great was the interest evinced on this occasion that the hall was crowded, and the Mayor's parlour had to be thrown open for the accommodation of the audience. The grand jury room was also called into requisition for the same purpose in the course of the evening.

The chairman, Mr. W. Biggs, in the course of his speech, remarked that, "considering the flourishing state of the Exchequer, the expense of the exhibition might have been borne by Government. In compliment to Prince Albert and the people, Ministers might have undertaken it, and he thought the public money might have been infinitely better employed in that way than the taxes raised from the people generally were expended."

Several resolutions were then proposed for the formation of a society whose object shall be to raise a fund by weekly subscriptions of 6d., 9d., and 1s., out of which the expenses of a trip to London shall be defrayed. By beginning in time they will be able to raise the requisite sum in the easiest manner possible. A weekly payment of 6d. will give 26s. at the end of the year, and that sum, according to one of the speakers, will be sufficient to defray the cost of a journey to London from Leicester, by railway, and back, including a week's residence in the metropolis. At this rate he thought there would be some 5000 or 6000 people from Leicester who would go to see the exhibition. Another speaker, in reply to the objection that the exhibition would enable foreigners to come and "pick our brains," said he felt certain "for one foreigner who would get an advantage by it, there would be a thousand Englishmen benefitted by seeing the works of foreigners."

At a public meeting held at Bakewell, last week, Mr. Paxton gave a description of the intended building in Hyde-park. The building will be 2100 feet long by 400 broad. The centre aisle will be 120 feet broad, or ten feet wider than the Conservatory at Chatsworth. The great object, with so vast a structure, was to make it up with as few details as possible. The glass and its iron supporters will comprise the whole structure. The columns will be precisely the same throughout the building, and will fit all parts alike, the same is the case with the bars and the glass, every piece of which will be four feet long.

No numbering or marking will be required, and the whole will be put together like a piece of machinery. The site will be twenty acres of land, but by an arrangement of Mr. Paxton's the available space which may be afforded by galleries can be extended to about thirty acres if necessary. The gallery will be twenty-four feet wide, and will extend a distance of six miles. If it should be thought desirable to let it remain after the exhibition is over it might be turned to most admirable uses. There might be made an excellent carriage-drive round the interior, as well as a road for equestrians, with the centre tastefully laid out and planted, and then there would be nearly six miles of room in the galleries as a promenade for the public.

The Duke of Devonshire, who was present at the meeting, said that, much as he admired the projected exhibition, his admiration had been greatly enhanced by the description of that gigantic structure in which it was to take place. No one need fear that the magnificent plan should not be successfully carried out, for Mr. Paxton had never undertaken anything in which he had not succeeded.

### INSTITUTION OF MR. GORHAM.

A correspondence of some length has taken place between the committee of the Metropolitan Church Union and the Archbishop of Canterbury, in relation to the institution of the Reverend Mr. Gorham to the living to which he has established his title after an almost unprecedented course of expensive and dilatory litigation. The correspondence arose out of a request made by the committee that the Archbishop would receive a deputation from their body commissioned to solicit his Grace not to proceed with the institution of Mr. Gorham, on certain grounds, which appear more satisfactory and conclusive to the remonstrants than they do to the mind of his Grace of Canterbury. The scope of this solicitation will, however, be best understood from the following passage in the Archbishop's reply, repeating his determination and sentiments as expressed in a previous reply to the committee:—"You disclaim my interpretation to the request then made to me, and profess that in desiring me to withhold consent to the admission of Mr. Gorham to the benefice of Bramford Speke you do not propose that I should reverse the sentence of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. It is, however, obvious that to refuse Mr. Gorham a benefice to which that tribunal has declared him to be entitled would be practically to reverse its decision,—the decision of a tribunal which, whether it be termed spiritual or secular, is the tribunal by which, according to the existing law, Mr. Gorham's right was to be tried."

### TRAFFICKING IN MATRIMONY.

At the Guildford Assizes on Tuesday, an action for crim. con. was tried, in which the damages were laid at £2000. The plaintiff was a Mr. John Marsh Case, a navy agent, carrying on business in the Adelphi; the defendant, Mr. Baker, a parliamentary agent, residing in Spring Gardens. The marriage appeared to have been an unhappy one from the beginning. Mrs. Case was an illegitimate child, but had been well brought up, and a handsome provision was made for her. When only seventeen years of age, Mr. Case met her accidentally in a jeweller's shop, entered into conversation, followed her home, and applied to her friends to be allowed to pay his addresses to her. They refused, clandestine interviews took place, the marriage was anticipated, and then her friends unwillingly consented to the marriage to save her reputation. But although a marriage settlement was made upon her, none of her friends sanctioned the marriage with their presence. The union proved to be one of unmitigated misery. The husband kept his wife without money, taunted her with being illegitimate, and appeared determined to drive her away from his house. On the other hand it appeared that Mrs. Case had a temper, and one of the witnesses, on cross-examination, stated her mistress sometimes took a little too much drink after dinner.

In the spring of 1849, when they had been ten years married, Mrs. Case left her husband's house, on account of some quarrel, but was soon after induced to return, chiefly through the intercession of Mr. Baker, the defendant, and an old friend of Mr. Case. The criminal intimacy between Mrs. Case and Mr. Baker commenced apparently at the time when this quarrel took place, and was kept up after she returned to her husband. In August, last year, the latter had his suspicions first awakened by a statement made to him by his servant relative to the intimacy between his wife and Mr. Baker, and soon afterward other evidence was obtained which left no doubt as to the fact. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £200.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Wednesday, an action for breach of promise was brought against a young lady. The plaintiff was a Mr. Thomas Washington Atkinson, a young man said to be of a respectable family at Gateside, in Yorkshire. In 1836 he returned from Cambridge University, having only

been there three months, and fell in love with Miss Anne Noble, aged eighteen, the daughter of a comfortable farmer, who also kept an inn at Borough-bridge. The young man was not a favourite with Mr. Noble, who objected to him on account of his want of means. With a view to remove that objection, the young man went to Liverpool, in what year is not stated, and entered into business as landlord of the Spread Eagle. He continued to keep up a correspondence with the young lady until 1842. After that year there appears to have been a rupture, for we hear of nothing further till 1849, when Miss Noble became Mrs. Day, and then her old lover makes up his mind, on the strength of the following letters, written eight years before, to bring an action for breach of promise of marriage.

“Wednesday afternoon.

“My dear Tom,—I received your letter quite safe this morning, and hardly know how to answer it.

“I fear you are not acting as you ought to do as regards your health, but let me entreat you not to make yourself so unhappy on my account, as I feel quite resigned to my fate, and feel more and more settled in mind. Rest assured of this, though we are forbid to go together at present, all that I can say is, it shall not be my fault in the end. I have a favour to beg, that is, that you will not think of such a thing as going abroad. It will be a source of great comfort to me to live as near you as I can, as I am forbid to enjoy your company at least as a lover. I shall consider you as dear to me as if I were your wife, which I hope I shall be if we both live, but for the present don't mention such a thing. There is another thing you must not do, that is, not to write while I'm in Manchester. My father wrote to Wm. on Monday, I believe to set him on as a spy. I shall not stop there more than a week or ten days, and I will write to you as soon as I get to Liverpool, and shall have such a much better chance of doing it without suspicion. You try and make yourself as happy as you can under present circumstances. Surely happier hours await us both. There is one consolation, they cannot be more unreasonable. I will do all that ever lies in my power to preserve my health. I must conclude this hasty epistle, as they are calling me in every direction.

“Yours ever truly, “ANNE.”

“Liverpool, 18, Pembroke-place, Sept. 4, 1841.

“My dear Tom,—I duly received your letter, and was glad to hear that you had said something more about the subject to my father. He is not at present agreeable, and will always be the same, so I think there is but one way left. I don't wonder at your being surprised at my father's notions about money affairs. It was a thing I never gave a thought about until he mentioned it; nor, indeed, since, only that I wished you to know his thoughts, for there is nothing but what I would willingly tell you. What you say you possess, I should think quite plenty to live upon in a comfortable way in the north. I shall certainly have something at some time, but not as long as my mother lives; so if it should happen, I should be quite dependent upon you until that time, therefore, I think it best to wait the end. I leave it to your own judgment whether you should say anything to him about it or not. Just do as you please. I think I have said quite plenty about this subject, for it is a thing I hate to mention in any respect. . . .

“Yours very truly, “ANNE NOBLE.”

The following letter was addressed to a friend, and was by her handed to the plaintiff:—

“Dear Anne,—Will you have the kindness to write to T. W. A., and tell him that I think he is not acting very wisely to leave Gateside. It would be the greatest comfort to me to know that he will not do so, but come and live at it as if nothing were. Tell him that I say that if he thinks me worth waiting for, he must return soon after Christmas, and lead a nice, steady, quiet life at Gateside; and if I should live longer than my father, then I will fulfil my promise. If he cannot consent to do so, we must, indeed, put an end to this affair, for I have made up my mind not to marry as long as my father lives. He may think me stupid; but he does not know all things. Did he know as much as I do, he would not blame me; but I leave it to his love and honour. Should you get an answer to this keep it till I see you. Tell him I send my best love to him, and shall expect to see him at the next B. B. Fair.—From yours, very truly, but unhappily

“ANNE NOBLE.

“I think you had better send this note inside yours.”

In another letter to the plaintiff, without date, the young lady said:—

“You must be well aware that it is not my wish that the engagement should be done away with; and if it had not been entirely to please my father I would never have acted in the manner I have done.”

Mr. Sergeant Wilkins, who addressed the jury for the defence, characterized the action as one brought against the husband with a view to draw money from his pockets, and to promote domestic discord.

The jury having retired for a short time returned a verdict for the defendant.

#### SUNDAY POST DELIVERY.

The report on the Post-office, which has been presented by Lord Clanricarde and the Right Honourable Messrs. Labouchere and Cornwall Lewis, to the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, makes the following recommendations:—

“With regard to the London Post-office, we think that the system which was in force at the time specified, and which has not been affected by the recent order, should be continued.

“With regard to the provincial Post-offices, we recommend that a delivery of letters on the Sunday should be resumed, subject to the following restrictions, many of which have been sanctioned by the previous practice of the department:—

“1. That there be only one delivery and one collection.

“2. That the delivery be made at such a time as shall not interfere with the hours of Divine Service, especially of morning service.

“3. That this delivery be made either by letter-carriers or at the window of the Post-office, according to the practice previously pursued on Sundays in each place. In Edinburgh, Glasgow, and most other towns of Scotland, it has been the practice to deliver letters only at the window on Sunday. The inhabitants of these towns have become habituated to the arrangement, and we do not, therefore, advise its discontinuance; but we do not propose its extension to other towns, where such a usage has never been introduced, because it affords less convenience and security to the public, while it produces no diminution of Sunday labour.

“4. That, as far as possible, every Post-office be closed on a Sunday at ten a.m., for the remainder of the day, with the necessary exceptions arising from the late arrival of mails which have heretofore existed.

“5. That no money payments for inland letters be received at the Post-office on a Sunday; and that no such letters be received except such as are stamped or unpaid.

“6. That whenever the letters, which were delivered on the Sunday morning, reach their destination by eight o'clock on the Saturday night (which is the case in some of the more remote parts of the kingdom), the delivery be made the same night instead of on the Sunday morning.

“7. That where the duties are such as to prevent the rural letter-carrier from attending Divine service, an arrangement be made for providing a substitute at least on alternate Sundays. We apprehend that the additional cost incurred by this arrangement would be justified by the importance of its object.”

#### THE FIRE AT GRAVESEND.

The town of Gravesend was visited by a most destructive fire on Sunday last, by which several hundred persons have had their houses burned down. The fire began in the High-street, nearly opposite the Town-hall, about two o'clock in the morning, and, as many of the houses in that vicinity are built of wood, the flames spread so rapidly that at least a dozen houses in the High-street were on fire before the tardy corporation engines could be called into operation. The houses on the opposite side, to the number of six or seven, caught fire almost simultaneously, and several buildings in Church-alley and the adjoining lanes were also encircled in flames. The various ships in the river, the Town-hall, Gravesend Church, and other lofty buildings were brought out in bold relief. The reflection of the flames could be distinctly seen from the metropolitan bridges.

Expresses having been despatched to Rochester, Chatham, and Dartford for assistance, in a brief space of time the engines from these places, with another from the Custom-house and one from Tilbury Fort, arrived. The whole of this powerful force was brought to bear upon the flames; but in spite of this the work of devastation continued, and the tallow-chandlery of Mr. Troughton becoming fired, the oils and tallow ran along the street in a complete blaze. The Parr's Head Tavern, belonging to Mr. Creed, was the next house that became ignited, and when the spirits came in contact with the fire they ran like liquid flame into the neighbouring premises. The flames then assumed a more fearful aspect than ever, and the Town-hall in front and the parish church at the back seemed doomed to destruction, for pieces of burning wood were carried high into the air by the wind, and, falling upon these and numerous other premises, it was deemed prudent to send an electric telegraphic message to London for the aid of the brigade. When the London firemen arrived they found the greater part of the High-street in flames, and immense bodies of smoke were rolling from the burning houses over the town, nearly obscuring from view the principal public buildings. Not a moment was lost in setting all hands to work, and, fortunately, no further destruction of property took place, although at seven o'clock in the evening a great body of flame still remained amidst the ruins.

Of all the fires that have of late years visited the town of Gravesend, none has been attended with so much destruction of property. Some of the parties burnt out were the largest tradesmen in the town. One who carried on the business of a draper has lost about £5000 worth of goods, exclusive of the value of the premises, and several others have lost their stock in trade, averaging from £1000 to £3000 each. The havoc amongst the poor people, who were uninsured, is serious even to contemplate. Many of the sufferers, being deprived of house and wearing apparel, are obliged to walk about in raiment borrowed from their more fortunate neighbours. Amongst the poor people who have lost everything they once possessed, are about a dozen families who lived in Church-alley; the whole of their dwellings have been levelled with the ground, and the people with their children in their arms were obliged to rush out almost in a state of nudity.

It is the general opinion of the inhabitants in the town, that had the corporation telegraphed for the London engines when the fire was crossing High-street, instead of waiting three hours, which was actually the case, a very large portion of the property would have been preserved. The largest building among the premises burned down was used as the London and County Bank. It occupied much ground on the east side of High-street, close to the Townhall, and with its contents was insured for £10,000. The clerks succeeded in saving the whole of the books, cash, and paper belonging to the bank.

The loss by this terrible fire, as estimated by the surveyors of the various London Insurance Companies, who were engaged the whole of Monday enquiring into the amount of property destroyed, is £80,000. The principal offices that will suffer are the following:—Kent Fire-office, £10,000; Globe, £8000; Royal Exchange, £8000; Alliance, £8000; Norwich Union, £7000; Phoenix, £7000; Mutual, £2000; West of England, £5000; Star, £3000; Commercial, £2000; making £65,000.

#### MURDERS AND ATTEMPTS TO MURDER.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Tuesday, Robert Reed was indicted for the manslaughter of his wife, at Liverpool, on the previous Friday morning. We last week published the particulars of this case. The prisoner was a singer in a concert-room, and on the night of the occurrence his wife went for him, at which he was much irritated. On their way home he quarrelled with her, and immediately upon entering their lodgings he struck at his wife, and she ran or was pushed into a dark parlour into which the prisoner followed. In about five minutes afterwards he left the room and went to his bedroom. A female went into the parlour shortly afterwards, and found Mrs. Reed lying in a pool of blood, being at the time quite dead. Mr. Wilson, surgeon, gave it as his opinion that death had been occasioned by the wound on the ear, but said that this might have been produced either by a blow or a fall. The prisoner was found guilty.

A murderous assault, inspired by jealousy, took place at Boston, last week. The victim was a young man, named John Holmes, who had for some time past been keeping company with Isabella Sneath, who acted as housekeeper to a tailor named James Clarke, residing in West-street. She was sister to Clarke's late wife, and both Holmes and Clarke had fallen in love with her, out of which frequent quarrels arose. On Tuesday night, as Clarke was returning home from a public-house, he saw Holmes and his housekeeper in conversation with each other on the opposite side of the road. Without saying a word to either, the wretched man went home, and, having armed himself with a large sharp-pointed knife, he rushed out again, and made a most fearful attack upon Holmes. He stuck the point of the knife into various parts of the unfortunate man's head and neck, inflicting such injuries as leave it very doubtful whether the poor man will survive. Clarke is in custody.

John Curtis and his wife Ann, an unhappy pair in the neighbourhood of Stourbridge, lived a cat-and-dog life for some time together. Occasionally she deserted him, and went to live, in the most intimate relationship, with an uncle named George Clarke. The latter having been committed to prison for some offence, a few months ago, she went back to her lawful husband during Clarke's incarceration. On her uncle's release, however, she went to live with him again, and shortly afterward she murdered her husband, with the assistance of Clarke and a man named Carrell. Clarke and his niece have both been committed for trial.

At the Gloucester assizes, on Monday, Elizabeth Bubb, aged forty, was tried for the murder of a niece four years old, by starvation and ill treatment. The woman was the sister of the deceased wife of a man named Richard Hook, a woodman, living at Churcham, about four miles from Gloucester. His wife died about two years ago, leaving three children, of whom the deceased was the youngest; and soon after his wife's death Bubb and her children, two boys, went to live with Hook, and she became his housekeeper and the manager of his family. Up to the time of the mother's death, Hook's children were well attended to, and were also very healthy-looking children; but from the time that Bubb undertook the charge of them, all of them, but especially the youngest, were systematically neglected. The result was the death of the child Maria, on the 24th of May last, of actual starvation; and so attenuated had the body become through want of food and clothing, that, although the body of a healthy child usually weighs from 5lb. to 8lb. at its birth, the body of this child at its death, including the weight of a cloth in which it was wrapped, weighed 6lb. only. From the evidence it appeared that the ill-treatment of the child had been carried on in the most systematic, persevering, unrelenting manner. The young Bubb was supplied by their mother with plenty of bread and butter, while Hook's children were starved. One witness said:—

“She knew the child before her mother's death. Up to that time she was very well, but after the prisoner undertook their management the young Hooks were shamefully ill-treated and neglected, though the young Bubb enjoyed every comfort. Hook's children were ill-fed and ill-clad, especially the deceased. She would cry in the morning before she was up for food, and the prisoner would send up a morsel of dry bread, about an inch and a half long and about half an inch thick. She used to send it up by one of the children, and say if that did not satisfy the little — she should have a whipping. Has seen prisoner and her children sitting at breakfast and eating buttered toast, whilst the deceased was on the floor and picking up the crumbs and devouring them with the greatest greediness. The child often came to her and cried for food, and she frequently gave it bread and butter. The child gradually wasted away, and became so weak that for three weeks before her death she crept about on all fours. Even in this state she did not receive more attention, and witness frequently heard her crying for bread. Had seen the prisoner catch the child with one hand, and beat it with the other, within three weeks of its death, and when it was little better than skin and bone—a mere living skeleton. About two months before it died saw prisoner washing the child in a tub, and saw her take it out and push it across the room, and say, ‘D— thee, thee will never die, and nothing will ever kill thee.’”

The shopkeeper with whom Hook dealt proved that he had always been in the habit of having sufficient food—bread, bacon, tea, and sugar—for his family. Other witnesses stated that they had frequently seen the poor little orphan in a ravenous state for want of food. The Jury, after a short deliberation, returned the following verdict:—“We find the prisoner Guilty of an aggravated

manslaughter," and she was thereupon sentenced to be transported for life.

A young woman, named Amelia Georgina Snowwell, living at Eden place, Gravesend, during a fit of insanity, on Tuesday, murdered a child of eighteen months old, the daughter of her sister, Mrs. Cooper, by cutting its throat. It appeared that the wretched woman had been dejected and melancholy for some time past. About a fortnight ago she had struck her mother on the head with a poker, without the slightest provocation. She had always displayed the greatest fondness for the child. The whole of the evidence tended to show that the woman was insane. She was committed for trial.

At the Gloucester Assizes on Tuesday, Hannah Curtis, aged 55, was tried for the murder of her husband by poisoning him with arsenic in April last. A few weeks before the death of her husband, she told a person in the village where she lived that she had been having her fortune told. The fortune-teller told her her husband had been bad, had got better, but that he would be worse, and be taken off very sudden, but she should not be a widow long, for she would soon get another offer, and it would be her own fault if she refused him. She did her best to make the prediction a true one by poisoning her husband, and getting married the Sunday after his death. She was found guilty, but recommended to mercy, on what grounds was not stated.

An excavator, named James Stamp, was brought up at the Thames-street police office, on Wednesday, charged with ill-using his wife. Two policemen had been passing at the time when he was beating her, and, hearing a cry of "Murder," they went in. Having proceeded up stairs, they heard a struggle in the first-floor room. The door was fastened; they burst it open, and found Stamp with a poker in his hand, striking the woman in a most savage manner at the side of the bed, which was stained with blood. As the policeman entered he struck her a severe blow across the back, which completely disabled her, and she fell upon the floor in a state of insensibility. He aimed a blow at one of the men, who parried it with his truncheon, and knocked the poker out of his hand. The two policemen then closed upon him, and, after a desperate struggle, took him into custody. It appeared that the poor woman had been frequently beaten "within an inch of her life" by the wretch with whom she lived, but her fear of him was so great that she was afraid to complain. Mr. Ingham said that, although it would be useless to send this case for trial at the sessions, the prisoner should not escape a severe punishment for the atrocious outrage he had committed, and, in default of paying a fine of £5, committed him to prison for two months.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Queen and Prince Albert left Osborne at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, and arrived at Buckingham Palace about a quarter to two. The Queen held a Court and Privy Council at three o'clock. The honour of knighthood was conferred upon Mr. Cockburn, M.P., and Mr. Sandford (from the Cape). At the Privy Council the Royal speech on closing the session of Parliament was arranged and agreed upon. In the evening the Queen went to the Haymarket Theatre.

The Queen and Prince Albert honoured the Italian Opera-house with their presence on Thursday evening. Her Majesty and his Royal Highness were accompanied by Count Alphonse de Mensdorff Pouilly, and were attended by the Viscountess Canning, Lord Elphinstone, General Wemyss, and Colonel Bouverie.

The authorities of Edinburgh are engaged in making the necessary preparations consequent on the Queen's visit to the ancient capital of her northern dominions. It is, however, as yet uncertain whether she will enter the city during her short sojourn at Holyrood on the journey northward, as it is understood to be her desire to make her present visit as private as possible; and it has been determined, on the suggestion of the Lord Provost, to erect a temporary platform at the Meadowbank station of the North British Railway, at which her Majesty may leave the train without entering the city, and proceed at once to the palace by the Queen's Drive.

The Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Scotland has come to the resolution that the different lodges cannot walk in procession at the laying of the foundation-stone on the Mound, on the 30th, Prince Albert not being one of the craft, and having scruples about being initiated. The lodges in England, from some strange notions of loyalty, consented to appear at the laying of the foundation-stones of the Corn Exchange and the Masonic Almshouse in London, but their sturdier brethren of the north have unanimously agreed to allow our Lord Provost and the other functionaries to manage the business themselves. Thus, one of the grandest features of the Queen's visit of 1850 will be done away with.—*Edinburgh News*.

The colonelcy in chief of the 60th Rifles, vacant by the decease of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, has been bestowed on Prince Albert. The colonelcy of the Coldstream Guards, also held by the late Duke of Cambridge, has been bestowed on the Earl of Strafford, who has resigned the colonelcy of the 29th Regiment.

The Duchess of Kent, who left St. James's Palace at eight o'clock on Friday morning, arrived at Edinburgh at midnight, having travelled from London to the northern metropolis in about sixteen hours. On Saturday she visited the Castle, the College, Holyrood Palace, and Craignillar Castle. At the Palace she first proceeded to the state apartments, now in course of preparation for the reception of the Queen and royal family, on their approaching visit to Edinburgh. Her Royal Highness afterwards visited the Picture Gallery, and viewed with interest the grim array of the portraits of the northern Kings. The party next proceeded to Queen Mary's apartments, where they examined, with the

deepest interest, the various relics of the beautiful and unfortunate Queen. On Monday her Royal Highness left Edinburgh for Perth, en route to Blair Castle, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Athol.

Mr. Leeman, of York, was in Berwick on Monday, with the view of making arrangements for the ceremony of the opening of the Railway-bridge over the Tweed by her Majesty and Prince Albert on the 29th, and these the directors of the railway have resolved shall be on the most magnificent scale. Their desire is that her Majesty will accept of luncheon in Berwick, and, should she assent to this, a splendid marquee is to be erected on the site of the ancient castle.

The will of the late Sir Robert Peel was proved on Saturday, and probate passed for assets under £500,000.

The late Sir Robert Peel has, we hear, left full and specific directions in his will for the early publication of his political memoirs; and has ordered that the profits arising from the publication shall be given to some public institution for the education of the working classes. As already stated, he has confided the task of preparing these memoirs to Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell. Their duty will, however, be comparatively light, though delicate, from the admirable and orderly state in which Sir Robert has left all his papers.—*Daily News*.

Lord John Russell intends to pay a visit to his father-in-law, in Roxburghshire, towards the end of the present month. His stay is likely to be for some time.

The rumour relative to the intended elevation of the Right Honourable John Cam Hobhouse to the peerage, has set the politicians of Harwich on the *qui vive*. Mr. George Frederick Young has recently taken a house in Essex, chiefly, it is said, with an eye to Harwich.

The East India Company entertained Lieutenant-General Sir William Gomm, K.C.B., at dinner on Saturday evening in honour of his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Presidency.

Sir George Anderson is appointed Governor of Ceylon, and is to be succeeded in the government of Mauritius by Mr. Higginson, now Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands. Sir George Anderson is said to have earned his promotion by the ability with which he has conducted the government of Mauritius, where he has effected a considerable reduction in the expenditure, and introduced many useful practical reforms.

The Right Honourable Thomas Francis Kennedy, Paymaster of Civil Service in Ireland, has been appointed one of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, in the room of Mr. Alexander Milne, retired.

Mr. Labouchere has recently purchased a marble bust of Milton, made, it is said, from the life by an Italian sculptor during the poet's visit to Italy. The sum paid—200 guineas—and the known good taste of Mr. Labouchere, speak in favour of the excellence of the bust as a work of Art, and also in favour of its authenticity.

Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer arrived in New York from Washington on Saturday fortnight, and went immediately to Staten Island, where he has taken a cottage for the summer. It is said that his health has been impaired by the climate of Washington.

The Right Hon. Charles Ewan Law, Recorder of the city of London, died suddenly on Tuesday morning, at his residence in Eaton-place. The hon. gentleman had been ailing some few days, but his illness was not of that character to create alarm to his family. He was son of the first Baron Ellenborough and of the Hon. Augusta Champagne, daughter of the second Baron Graves. He was in the fifty-eighth year of his age, having been born in 1792. He filled the office of Common Sergeant from 1830 till 1832, when he was elected Recorder. By his death a vacancy occurs in the representation of Cambridge University in Parliament. Mr. Russell Gurney (son of the late Baron Gurney), Judge of the City Sheriffs' Court, is spoken of in the City as likely to be appointed the new Recorder.

Dr. T. Southwood Smith, who was the medical member of the General Board of Health during the period of the Orders in Council, has been appointed the second paid member of the Board provided by the Metropolitan Interment Act.

The Reform party in Rochdale have received a letter from Mr. Sharman Crawford, who states that, owing to his health having improved of late, he shall not at present resign his seat for Rochdale.

It is reported that some Royal and official personages of this country will pay a visit to the French fleet at Cherbourg, during the forthcoming review by the President of the Republic, and that the Admiralty yacht will be placed at their disposal.—*United Service Gazette*.

Mr. George Catlin, the Indian traveller, is to sail in a fortnight's time to Texas, from Liverpool, with the first body of settlers on the Universal Emigration and Colonization Company's lands, in Menam County.

Jenny Lind arrived at Margate on Sunday evening, from Ostend, by the Princess Mary. Her first expression on landing was "God bless happy England once again." She sails from Liverpool for America next week.

M. de Lamartine has taken his departure for France, visiting by the way the property which has been granted to him by the Sultan in the neighbourhood of Smyrna. M. de Lamartine has already completely inspected, in the company of two distinguished agriculturists, this extensive estate, which lies in the plain of Burgas-Orsa. The soil appears of great fertility, being composed of an alluvium several yards deep, and watered by the famous Cayster and abundant springs. It produces corn, sesame, cotton, mulberries, vines, &c. There is a fall of water of sixty or eighty-horse power, and the estate comprises seven villages, together with a dilapidated mansion, which has been recently in part restored. Every person who is acquainted with the drained resources of the poet, whose hands resigned the reins of power without having rubbed off any of the gilt, and who cherishes

esteem for his character, will trust that the hopes built upon the munificent territorial grant of the Sultan may be realized.

Paris is uncommonly empty of political celebrities at the present moment. The Assembly having adjourned, almost all the representatives have taken to flight. M. Molé is at Champlatreux, M. Berryer at Wiesbaden, the Duke de Broglie in the department of the Eure, M. and Madame Thiers at Baden Baden, M. Leon Faucher at Villars-Coterets, General Cavaignac in Switzerland, General Bedeau at Angers, General Lamoricière in Brittany, M. Dupin at his seat near Nevers, the Ministers either with the President of the Republic on his journey to Lyons, or at their country seats, &c. The only Ministers remaining in Paris are MM. Baroche, Rouher, and de Parieu. The diplomatic corps are also scattered, most of them having gone to the German watering-places.

Several journals have stated erroneously that M. Guizot had gone to Wiesbaden. M. Guizot only went to spend a day at Ems, whence he proceeded to Brussels, and on the 6th dined with his Belgian Majesty at the chateau of Laecken. On Sunday he returned to Paris.

The French Council of State has just decided that the Standish Gallery and the Spanish Museum in the Louvre, are the personal property of the ex-King Louis Philippe.

M. Emile de Girardin has taken his departure for Strasbourg, having promised his constituents a visit at the close of the session. Then he goes to the Congress of Peace at Frankfort.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* announces that M. Libri has ceased to be a member of the Legion of Honour, in virtue of the sentence of the Assize Court of Paris, pronounced on Saturday, and on the demand of the Grand Chancellor of the order.

The new Emperor of Haiti has been a good customer to the tailors and jewellers of Paris lately. There is at this moment to be seen in the warerooms of a celebrated goldsmith a crown, a sceptre, a wand of justice, and a sword of state, manufactured expressly for his sable Majesty, at a cost of nearly £20,000 sterling. He has, moreover, commanded for his coronation a sky-blue velvet mantle, embroidered with bees and richly bound with gold lace. He has further ordered a court dress of scarlet velvet, lined with white satin, and trimmed with the most expensive point lace, and most valuable ornaments to match.

The inauguration of the statue of Larrey, the famous surgeon of the imperial army, at the Val-de-Grace, took place in Paris on Thursday week. Among the assistants at this solemnity not the least interesting portion was a corps of 100 invalids upon whom Larrey had operated. The hero of the day was Dupin, who walked in to the flourish of drums and trumpets at the head of the commission of the monument. The statue of bronze, by David, of Angers, was unveiled amid the clang of "sonorous metal blowing martial sounds." Old Dupin, in a fit of happy inspiration, jumped up on the chair from which he presided, and delivered perhaps the best speech he ever made. He drew, in lively touches, the mission of the man whose hospital is the battle-field, of his intrepid coolness and humane devotion. Larrey was wounded, while binding the wounds of others, in Egypt and at Waterloo, in the days of glory and of disaster. The President of the Assembly spoke with much feeling, and when he jumped down from his chair a general rush was made by his friends to embrace him.

The Count de Hatzfeld, Envoy of the King of Prussia, has presented a letter to the President of the Republic, notifying the marriage of his niece, the Princess Frederika Louisa Wilhelmina Marianna Charlotte of Prussia, with Prince George of Saxe-Meiningen.

The semi-official journals of Berlin state that there is no truth in the report which has appeared in certain journals that Chevalier Bunsen, Prussian Minister at London, has been recalled. M. Bunsen is only going to take the waters of Eisenach.

The Princess Clementine of Orleans, wife of Prince Augustus of Saxe Coburg Cohary, and sister of the Queen of the Belgians, arrived at Brussels on Friday with her three children.

The British claims in Tuscany are in a fair way of arrangement. Lord Palmerston reduces the indemnity to one thousand pounds.

Madame de Bonisio, of Venice, mother-in-law of Colonel Graziani, and of Lieutenant Bandiera (the latter, it will be remembered, was shot at Naples, in 1845), committed suicide a few days ago, by throwing herself out of the window of her residence. Grief was the cause of this act. One of Madame de Bonisio's daughters became mad after the surrender of Venice, in consequence of the disappearance of her husband.

General Dembinski has been ordered by the Porte to quit Broussa to join the Hungarian exiles at Kutayeh. It appears that this aggravation of the old general's lot arises from the inveterate animosity of the Austrian government, which has pressed the Porte not to allow Dembinski's plea that he is a Russian subject.

The Turkish officers and soldiers have treated the Hungarian prisoners with deference, and the Turkish population with every mark of Oriental respect, Kossuth being with them the Kral who had held for a time in his hands the destinies of Eastern Europe. This universal respect was especially evident on the occasion of Kossuth's reception of his children. Three of them, interesting and intelligent little creatures, were sent by the Austrian Government, not without foreign intercession, to share their father's captivity. He and Madame Kossuth were allowed to go and meet them—under guard of course; and the very guard of rude Turkish soldiers were affected to tears at the meeting. In the education of his children, the delving and planting of a kind of garden within the barrack wall, and an occasional game of skittles with the companions of his political and military struggles, Kossuth whiles away the time of his captivity.

The Procureur of the Republic ordered the seizure of a lithographic print, on Saturday, with text, bearing the title "Trinité Républicaine," and representing, under the dates of An. 33, 1793, and 1848, the three portraits united of Jesus Christ, Robespierre, and Barbès. Proceedings have been ordered against the editors of this publication as an outrage against public and religious morality.

The *Presse* says that the French Government has authorized a lottery of 7,000,000f. for sending out 5000 emigrants from Paris to California. There are to be 70 lots, amounting in the whole to 1,200,000f. The principal lot is to be an ingot of gold weighing 130 kilogrammes, and of the net value of 400,000f.; the other lots were to be ingots of 200,000f., 100,000f., and of different sums down to 5000f. The tickets are to be 1f. each, and all are to take part in the drawing of the lots.

The *Ordre* states that, on Monday morning, a vast number of crows alighted on the trees of the Tuileries gardens and the roof of the Palace. It was found necessary to call out a number of men belonging to the chas-seurs of Vincennes, who killed 500 of them.

A duel with swords took place in the Bois de Boulogne on Saturday, between two representatives of the people, MM. Brissette and Perrinon. The former being wounded, the combat was stopped by the seconds.

The manufacturers of objects of luxury in Paris have received an immense number of orders from Spain since the change of tariff in that country, by which the prohibitive system has been abandoned, and a fixed duty imposed. The number of handsome carriages now building for Spanish noblemen, and the quantity of expensive furniture now being prepared for the same destination, is almost incredible.

The French Minister of Agriculture has received returns of the harvest from several of the departments. They are, on the whole, favourable, but not so much so as was at one time expected. It is probable, indeed, that there will be a rise in prices; but, if so, it will not be of sufficient amount to create any anxiety.

All danger of any further difficulties with Greece are now at an end; the letters from Athens announce that King Otho has signed the London convention.

It is stated that a note of the great powers recommends the Pope to grant a constitution to the States of the Church on the model of that which Austria has given to the Lombard-Venetian kingdom. M. de Rayneval invites his holiness to grant only the organic laws promised by the *motu proprio* of September.

The commandant of Pesth has issued an order, reminding the inhabitants that it is forbidden to wear cockades, ribbons, and other revolutionary symbols.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 6th instant announces the death of the Cavaliere Pietro de Rossi de Santa Rosa, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The *Croce di Savoia* and *Concordia* mention with severe blame the rancorous brutality of the priesthood in denying to the dying Minister the rites of the Roman Catholic religion, the holy viaticum and extreme unction, unless he recanted the principles he had held with regard to the church. Santa Rosa refused, saying that he knew how to reconcile the duty of a Minister of the King with that of a good Christian. It was reported that the clergy would push their fury so far as to deny the rites of sepulture to his remains.

The King of Prussia, by a Cabinet order of the 15th of July, has ordered that, in virtue of a chapter of the "Louisa Order" (for ladies), held, and presided over by the Queen, upon the 23rd of April, the said order shall be renovated and extended, and that this mark of distinction shall be conferred upon divers married and unmarried ladies, who distinguished themselves during the years 1848 and 1849, by attending the sick and wounded soldiers, and by various other acts of patriotism, humanity, and generosity. The reverse of the cross is to bear the years 1848 and 1849, in lieu of the old anniversary of the war of liberation (1813).

The Government of Saxe-Weimar has just founded, under the title "Institute of Goethe," an annual prize of 20,000f., for which the whole of literary and artistical Europe will be at liberty to compete. This perpetual prize is thus to be arranged:—1st year, Poems, Romances, and Theatrical Works.—2nd. Paintings of all kinds.—3rd. Statuary.—4th. Music, either sacred or profane, operas or oratorios. After the fourth year has expired the same rotation is recommenced. In addition to receiving the 20,000 francs, the author will remain in possession of his work. The jury will be formed of two committees, the one at Weimar and the other at Berlin, the King of Prussia being interested in the institution. This institution will be definitely constituted at Weimar on the 23rd instant. Numerous invitations have been addressed to writers and savans of all countries.

Lord Dudley Stuart has given notice of his intention next session to call the attention of the House to the inconvenience arising from the absurd practice of causing strangers to withdraw during divisions in the House of Commons. This practice appears to be as meaningless as inconvenient. The public and the representatives of the press are allowed to hear everything that goes forward, so long as the House is engaged in debate, but the moment a division is ordered, that is, as soon as the members commence withdrawing, in order to record their votes in separate apartments, the public who could see nothing but the empty benches during the process of dividing, are turned out of the House to wait in the corridor until the members return. This is an antiquated absurdity that calls for removal.

The Metropolitan Interments Act, which is to be executed by the Board of Health, will be speedily enforced in "The Metropolitan Burial District," comprising the city of London, Westminster, Southwark, and numerous parishes set forth in one of the schedules annexed. Among the provisions is one under which the Board of Health may "contract" for funerals at fixed charges, so that there are likely to be "three classes" of funerals,

according to the means of the parties. The salary of Dr. Southwood Smith, the additional paid member of the Board of Health, is not to exceed £1200 a-year.

At the monthly General Court of Commissioners of Sewers, on Friday week, the scheme of Mr. Frank Forster, the engineer of the commission for the drainage of the metropolis on the south bank of the Thames, was read by the chairman. The main features of the scheme are—that it proposes to collect the ordinary drainage of the southern part of the metropolis by four great principal arms, confluent at different points, and which ultimately form a single trunk at Deptford, near Collier-street. Here the stream is to be "lifted" by steam power to a height not exceeding twenty-five feet; and from this new elevation it will gravitate afresh to a point eight miles below London-bridge, where will be formed "a double reservoir, capable of holding at least twenty-four hours' drainage, covered over, and elevated to such a height as to discharge the whole of its contents (into the Thames) at high-water, delivering them by means of pipes near the middle and at the bottom of the river. The sewage will be lifted into the reservoir at this point (by means of an engine) from the main sewer; the invert of which is proposed to be at about mean low-water, and ten feet below the surface of the marshes." The "estimate" of these works is put by Mr. Forster at £241,297; but the "expense" of the whole project was put by Mr. Hawes, a commissioner, at £500,000; and this sum it was proposed to raise by a loan, payable in thirty years, by thirty instalments of principal and interest. The report was praised by Mr. Stephenson and Sir John Burgoyne, and was agreed to.

A crowded meeting of the electors of the borough of Lambeth took place on Monday evening, in the Assembly-room at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, to receive the farewell address of Mr. Charles Pearson upon his recent retirement from Parliament. On Mr. Pearson entering the room and proceeding to the platform, he was greeted with the cordial cheers of the meeting. Mr. Henry Doulton was called to the chair. Mr. Pearson then addressed the meeting at considerable length, explaining that he had thought it his duty, when he felt that his official avocations as City solicitor would not permit him, with a due regard to his health, to retain his seat, to resign. He expatiated, at some length, on the question of prison discipline, to which he had mainly devoted his attention, and hinted that he might, at some future time, again seek the suffrages of the electors of Lambeth. Resolutions expressing the full confidence of his late constituents, and thanking him "for his able and unwearyed exertions to promote a better and more economical system of prison discipline," were carried with acclamation.

A private meeting of the Catholic laity of the London district, convened by the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, was held at the Thatched-house Tavern, on Tuesday, when an address of congratulation to the Right Reverend Dr. Wiseman, on his intended elevation to the rank of cardinal, was agreed to, and was numerously signed. A resolution was also passed for raising, by subscription, the expenditure which will be occasioned by his lordship's elevation; and a considerable amount was subscribed at the meeting. In the evening his lordship held a levee at his episcopal residence in Golden-square.

The costs of both parties in the Gorham case would have been sufficient to build and endow twenty churches of the size of Bramford Speke. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, M.P., alone has had three separate retainers of 500 guineas each, besides consultation fees, which will bring up his share to nearly £2000. It is stated in legal circles that the whole costs are upwards of £80,000. It is, however, pretty clear that the Bishop of Exeter and the Reverend Mr. Gorham are not the actual parties who are to bear the brunt of the battle. The money, it may be presumed, has been provided by the high and low church parties.

The Judges and Sheriff had a narrow escape at Wells, on Thursday week. A large sculptured statue, weighing several hundred weight, in front of the cathedral, fell to the ground with a tremendous crash. The Sheriff's coach had been standing on an adjoining spot, waiting for the Judges and Sheriff for some time, and had only moved off a short time before the accident occurred.

The Committee of the Associate Institution for Improving and Enforcing the Laws for the Protection of Women, intends to offer a prize of 100 guineas for the best Essay on the Laws for the Protection to Women.

Glastonbury Abbey and estate were put up for sale on Wednesday at the Auction Mart, where there was a full attendance of capitalists, antiquarians, and gentlemen connected with the county in which the estate was situated. The estate contained about 380 acres of rich meadow and dairy land, the value being estimated at £1410 per annum. The first offer for the property was 20,000 guineas, and, after an active competition, it was knocked down for 35,000 guineas, being 2000 guineas under the reserved sum.

A young man, a tailor by trade, and in the habit of bathing at the Westminster Swimming Baths, went there on Sunday afternoon for that purpose. Just before going into the water he was heard to remark that he had better wait a little, as he had but just dined. Scarcely, however, had he uttered these words when he fell in with a loud splash. Assistance was immediately rendered, but life was quite extinct. A surgeon was called in, who pronounced the death to have been caused by apoplexy.

So great has been the demand for tickets to hear Jenny Lind in Liverpool that the committee have found it necessary to contrive nearly 400 additional places, almost the whole of which have been taken; and the tickets are said to be already at a premium. Strangers from all parts are expected: tickets having been taken by persons in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cornwall, Belfast, Staffordshire, and other places, remote and near. Many distinguished names are on the list; and most of the stalls, which, on ordinary occasions, are calculated to accommodate six, will, on this occasion, seat eight or ten.

John Lind, mariner, of Stockholm, son of Hans Lind, schoolmaster, and brother of Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," was married in the Bridgewater register-office to Miss Mary Gee, of Pllgwenny, last week. John had not seen his sister for many years, until he accidentally met with her the other day at Liverpool, on her professional visit to that place. Jenny presented him with a handful of pocket-money; but John, like his other two brothers, is able and willing to work for his bread, and if his sister were to offer him an annuity to exempt him from labour he would not accept of it. He spoke in the most affectionate terms of his sister, stating that she had supported her father and mother since she was sixteen years of age.

A shocking disaster occurred at Blackpool, Milford, last week, which resulted in the loss of five lives, under very distressing circumstances. Some colliers employed at the Hook Colliery were engaged in loading two lighters with timber for the use of the pit, and on the completion of the work five of the men proposed to return home by water. Having embarked in a small boat, they made their way down the channel against a strong head wind. On nearing Picton's point the boat shipped several seas, which terrified the men so much that they jumped overboard and were drowned.

A large lump of auriferous rock or stone has arrived from the neighbourhood of Annatto Bay, Jamaica. Split open it appears almost one compact mass of gold and silver, the pure silver ore laying in thin lumps thickly interspersed with gold particles. This lump will yield about seventy per cent. of the precious metals, which is considerably richer than many of the Californian specimens.

Miss Sophia Beard, a young lady, who was on a visit with the family of Mr. Gunthorpe, a retired medical practitioner of Newington-place, Kennington, was found dead, on Thursday morning week, in her night-dress, on the stone pavement of the garden, under her window, which was open. Mr. Gunthorpe's opinion was that she had not thrown herself out, but that, leaning too far forward to attend to some creeping plant, she had fallen out head foremost.

The Nepaulese Ambassador and suite passed through Lancaster on Wednesday week, by the morning down mail, en route for Glasgow. Whilst the train was stopping at the Castle station, an incident occurred which exhibited a characteristic of the religion of these Oriental visitors. His highness being thirsty, the interpreter inquired for some water, and, in the emergency, one of the porters hastily procured it in one of the men's coffee cans. This not being accepted, and the porter supposing the vessel was too plebeian for his highness to use, a clean glass, containing the pure element, was tendered, but also solemnly rejected. In this dilemma, the prince caught sight of the stand-pipe and hose by which the engines are supplied with water, and supposing it to be a spring, endeavoured to find where he could dip in his own drinking cup, and procure water unpolluted by contact with any vessel in Christian use. The whole party curiously examined the water pipe, but of course could make nothing of it, and returned to the train with his highness's want unsatisfied.

The *Tipperary Vindicator* announces, "on the best authority," that the National Synod has been adjourned from the 15th to the 22nd of August. It is said in Dublin that the Primate comes armed with pontifical powers to reinstitute a whole legion of "fasts," which had been dispensed with by former Popes, and that a certain number of holidays are to be added to the long list already observed by the Roman Catholics of this country. These rumoured "reforms" do not appear to have been very favourably received.

The number of English tourists now in Ireland is far greater than in any previous season. Killarney has seldom had so full and profitable a season; Glengarriffe has its fair share: the romantic scenery of Wicklow is attracting considerable numbers; and many are proceeding to Connemara and other western wilds. Kingstown, near Dublin, which has become a fashionable watering-place, is now quite crowded, and most of the sojourners at the hotels are English. In consequence of the numbers awaiting a passage across the Channel at Holyhead, owing to the arrival of a crowded excursion train, an extra steamer was despatched from Kingstown on Tuesday, to afford the requisite accommodation to this influx of English tourists.

Mr. Thomas Scully, J.P., with a party of bailiffs, made a distress for rent on his tenants at Gurtmagap, near Tullaroane, on Friday. He was proceeding to drive a number of cows to pound, when the tenants made a dash upon them, and carried off the cattle in spite of the bailiffs.—*Kilkenny Moderator*.

Mr. Smith, of Castlefergus, a magistrate of the county of Clare, who is accused of having conspired to shoot his mother, and who had been liberated after a recent investigation by Mr. Moloney, of Kiltannon, and Mr. O'Brien, resident magistrate, of Tulla, has been again arrested by order of Government, and lodged in Ennis gaol. The depositions in the case are voluminous and strange. The rumour is that the arrest has been ordered on the information of an insurance-office in which a policy had been effected on the life of the late Mrs. Smith. Mr. Smith is a gentleman about fifty-six years of age, and has been generally, if not always, a resident at Castlefergus.

Eleven convicts under sentence of transportation effected their escape from the gaol of Maryborough last week, and none of them have yet been arrested.

A diabolical outrage was committed on Saturday night on the Southern and Western Railway, between Maryborough and Mountnorth, some miscreants having hurled a huge stone from a bridge upon the mail-train as it was passing: the stone fortunately missed any of the passenger carriages, but fell through the roof of the carriage which contained the mail bags. No person has yet been arrested for the outrage.

## Associative Progress.

### PROFITS OF COOPERATION.

The enquiry made last week by a correspondent, whose initial appears to have been omitted, as to the ascertained profits of the Tailors' Association, admits of a sufficient answer. In the report entitled "Savings of the Middle and Working Classes," ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on the 5th ultimo, the evidence given by Mr. Walter Cooper, described as "Manager of the Working Tailors' Association, 34, Great Castle-street," is to this effect:—"Though we have been only three months at work, at the end of that time we found that we had a clear profit of £77 after paying all expenses, and paying the workmen good wages. That £77 we divided into thirds; one third went towards paying off the capital we had borrowed, the second third to the increase of the stock, and the next third was divided among the workmen."—p. 53.

The "Coöperative Provision Store" of Galashiels also furnishes an early balance of profits. From information just received it appears that, during the last thirteen weeks, provisions, &c., to the amount of £1765 16s. 2½d. have been sold; £64 in new shares have been added, and £14 have been withdrawn; and £86 14s. 1d. have been gained as profit during the quarter.

The operations of this "store" are not without interest. In the bakery attached to it, 16,500 four-pound loaves have been made during the past quarter, and £16 worth of small bread.

It is very gratifying to find the coöperative store plans, which have been ignored for so long a time—which promised such useful results eighteen years ago—reviving and bearing fruit though in late season.

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### THE ICARIANS.—LETTER FROM AN EMIGRANT.

Icarian Committee-rooms,  
No. 13, Newman-street, Oxford-street.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Osborne, who left England with his wife and family on the 25th of May to join the Icarian Community at Nauvoo—the only representative of English Communism in a colony consisting of people from almost all the other European countries:—

New York, July 12th, 1850.

"Dear Friends and Brothers,—Many days and many miles have intervened since we last had the happiness of communing together, and doubtless by this time your anxiety to hear from me is fully equal to mine to communicate with you. I take, then, this earliest opportunity of doing so. Our voyage has been a protracted and sufficiently a boisterous one; nevertheless without accident of material importance, a mainyard broken, a half dozen sails carried away, and sundry minor misfortunes among the refractory plates and dishes and other culinary utensils. The deaths of three children took place, one from croop and the others from the measles; all were under twelve months. These have been the limits of misfortunes in general. In particular, with the exception of M., who was ill more or less during the first three or four weeks, the family did not suffer much from sickness; the children and myself suffering the first two or three days, and occasionally quailish now and then afterwards. Our voracity at times has been that of a shark and our digestion that of an ostrich; generally speaking the children were never better in their lives, as, indeed, was the case with the majority on board, 250 being the total, of which eighty were children. The babes and sucklings seem to suffer most at sea, being much affected by the indisposition of their mothers. The captain affirms that our voyage was the worst he ever experienced at this season of the year, and, considering this, I think we have escaped very well. We spoke several ships which had been much longer at sea than we were. Although M., with her usual method, has pertinaciously, in spite of illness, regularly kept our log. I yet shall abstain from details, for, generally speaking, the days at sea do not vary more than did Paddy's dinner, which report affirms to have been salt and potatoes one day and potatoes and salt the other. I will merely remark that a voyage at sea is by no means the formidable undertaking some persons anticipate, and, though involving many inconveniences, it does occasionally present many objects of pleasurable contemplation. Nothing can be more gorgeous than the rising and setting of the sun; a poet or poet-painter would fail in depicting its ever-varying splendour; the bounding of innumerable shoals of porpoises in pursuit of their prey; the swift flight of the stormy petrel circling around us, and occasionally seeming to dance on the crest of some foaming billow; the meeting of returning ships, and the occasionally exchanging signals with them, serve in some sort to divert the general monotony of the journey.

"Dear friends, we are about to be still more widely separated from each other as to distance, yet confidence in a reciprocity of feeling and of sentiment assures me that our hearts and endeavours are as ardently and as closely akin to each other as ever—that the chain of sympathy and mutual desire, which has hitherto bound us, is as firm and tenacious as heretofore; and that, however distant we may be, its links have but lengthened in proportion, in order to extend more widely the circle of our actions, and endeavours, in furtherance of our object, and accelerating the happy success of the cause we are devoted to. I trust that my removal to the close proximity of our brothers at Nauvoo will impart a fresh and active

interest to our cause at home, and a corresponding impetus to your operations among the dormant and inactive spirits of quasi socialists—that my humble efforts will be seconded by your endeavours to disseminate the principles of practical communism, and to impress our latent friends, the dillettanti of Socialism, with the laudable necessity of doing something for the cause in which the Icarians are engaged; for their cause is identical with the cause of Socialism in England; the triumph of Socialism with them will be the triumph of Socialists over the world, the victory of a principle. But how much more will it be a triumph in particular to the friends of Mr. Owen—for who can fail to perceive a remarkable resemblance in the characters of an Owen and a Cabet—the same benevolence and equanimity of disposition, the same universality of sympathy for suffering humanity, the same abnegation of self, contempt of office, and indifference to power and emolument, save those that may contribute in aid of their grand design, are the distinguishing traits of both these single-hearted reformers.

"Apart from my domestic duties, which were somewhat onerous, for you must know that at sea all duties of this kind devolve on the male—employed myself in reading many works treating of America, and the comparative advantages of its different states. I have also had much conversation with individuals well acquainted with the country and its resources, and all agree that the State of Illinois and its vicinity offer by far the greatest, so that I think we have no reason to complain that the Icarians have given it a preference; it is saying much for it, that full one half of the emigrants on board the Adeline are bound for that district; these, with myself, set out in company immediately. . . . The Government of America does not evince the lassitude and supineness of that of England in permitting the seeds of intelligence and morality to fall neglected into an impoverished and vicious soil, merely contenting itself with lopping off abnormal excrescences and refractory branches. A state-imposed education is rapidly spreading broadcast the germs of reason and enlightenment, and communism has here nothing to fear in its endeavours; on the contrary, it would seem that the principles of communism are tolerated by the authorities, for among other communist parties the Cherokee nation, a portion of the civilized aborigines of America, are protected in their laws and specially located by the Government, live together in community and cultivate their land in common.

"I remain, dear brothers, yours fraternally,  
"ANDREW OSBORNE."

### THE REDEMPTION SOCIETY.

Great progress is making in Halifax. The camp meeting of Sunday last will produce a good effect. Another meeting of the kind will be held near Leeds shortly.

The members at Hyde are very active and are about to get up a meeting in that town.

#### Moneys received for the week:—

Leeds .....	£1 16 8
Morley .....	0 1 6
Hyde, per Mr. Bradley .....	0 13 0
	£2 11 2

#### Communal Building Fund:—

London, per Mr. Corfield, for G. H. ....	£1 0 0
Hyde, Mr. J. Hogg .....	0 1 3
Leeds, Various .....	0 4 0
	£1 5 3

### NOTES OF TRAVEL IN FRANCE.

I have crossed the Jura to Dijon, and everywhere I find the same opinions respecting the present state of things both among the peasantry and the soldiers, and among a great majority of the bourgeoisie. The president is estimated at his proper value, and all are looking forward to a speedy termination of the reign of hatred, for it is nothing else; in fact, so intense and fierce is the hatred exhibited by the present ruling party, that no one can conceive it or scarcely credit it who has not witnessed their proceedings. The general expression is, "Cela ne finira pas sans un autre coup de feu." ("It will not finish without another battle"). The slightest accident will bring things to a crisis, and so discontented are the military men that a trifle will be sufficient to make them refuse to fire on the people, among whom may be their brothers, their fathers, or the companions with whom the day before they had been drinking at the café. All without exception with whom I have conversed have expressed the greatest horror of fighting against their frères (brothers) as they properly term it. In the meantime the ruling powers are blind to their position, and are only anxious to come to a fight, while the very support on which they are depending is every day giving way under them. It was but yesterday that Carnot declared in my presence, that had Baroche delayed two minutes longer to ascend the tribune on Friday evening, he would have been arrested in the Assembly, and sent to Vincennes, which would have been the signal for a general outburst, "Nous avons manqué une révolution, de deux minutes." ("We failed in a revolution by two minutes"). M. Meunier, editor of the *Echo des Instituteurs* (Echo of the Instructors), and schoolmaster in Paris, has been condemned at the Cour d'Appel, in a second trial for the same offence, to be prohibited from ever more receiving pupils; because, says the act of accusation, he has endeavoured to bring contempt upon the Catholic religion! There were thirty judges to decide the question, but no jury, or he would have been acquitted. As to the provincial districts, affairs are very different in different parts; thus, in the department of the Jura there are scarcely any labourers; all the peasantry being small proprietors, cultivating their own lands: they live comfortably enough, clothing themselves in home manufacture, and living on humble fare,

but then they are independent; and, proud of being proprietors, there are many of them rather harassed with debts to the usurers, but they do not mind submitting to hardships to keep themselves independent, and will, probably, next revolution clear off their debts in the simplest manner; they are, however, generally anti-Socialists in those districts, remarkably egoistic, and will, probably, for a long time resist any attempts at association; whereas in the towns the ouvriers are rapidly discovering the advantages of association. At Lyons the soldiers are becoming very much discontented at the excessive strictness of discipline; it was but the other day that a soldier was sentenced to death for having in a moment of intoxication knocked down his lieutenant; and if a soldier absents himself for three days without leave he is considered as a deserter.—C. of the *Weekly Tribune*.

BEITH.—Mr. Robert Cooper lectured here on the 23rd ultimo, on "Coöperation the great want of the age." Mr. Cooper was listened to by a very numerous and attentive audience. The lecture appeared to leave a salutary impression on the minds of the people of Beith.

A NEW ADVOCATE.—The *Future* is the title of a new "Advocate of Social and Democratic Progress," which registers the movements of "Working Mens' Associations." No. I. commences Letters on "Individualism and Coöperation," which promise instructive interest. We give the *Future* a coöperative welcome.

THE WORKING SHOEMAKERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—The working men are beginning to see, and the public begins to see, that the exterminating system of competition has reduced the price of labour to the point of starving the workmen, and that Association, by means of which they can share the capital they create, is the only means of ameliorating their condition. With the assistance of gentlemen who have advanced the necessary capital, three sections of Associated Working Shoemakers have been formed, so federated that their interests will be identified with the cause of Associative Labour, and they are able to combine in themselves the hitherto antagonistic characters of employer and employed! They have commenced business on the Coöperative principle, with a stock of superior boots and shoes, all made on the premises, in well-arranged workshops, which may be inspected by any persons who take any interest in this movement. All their work is warranted not to rip; and should a boot or shoe happen to rip, if the customer will bring it back, it is immediately repaired without any charge.

CAMP MEETING AT MORLEY.—On Sunday, the 11th instant, a camp meeting of the friends and others interested in the progress of the Redemption Society was held at Morley, a picturesque site near the Leeds and Huddersfield Railway, and about equidistant from Leeds, Huddersfield, Halifax, and Bradford. The meeting was originally arranged to be held at Hooley-hall, an old ruined castle that crowns the summit of a hill near Batley, but the proprietor of the ground having objected the place of gathering was changed to Morley. About three thousand persons were present. The speakers were Mr. Gregg, Mr. David Green, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Cliffe, and Mr. Shaw. Mr. Gregg and Mr. Campbell, both of whom are local preachers in the New Methodist Connection, endeavoured to show the intimate relationship between true Christianity and Communism, while the other speakers kept to the more practical and immediate features of the question. With the exception of a passing shower the day was fine. Many of those present had travelled ten miles on foot to be present. At the close of the meeting the leading friends took tea together in a public-house near to the scene of the day's proceedings.

PUBLIC MEETING IN COWPER-STREET.—The friends of Associative Labour held a public meeting, numerously attended, in the British Institution, Cowper-street, on Wednesday evening; Mr. Lloyd Jones in the chair. The chairman enforced with great ability the objects of the meeting. He said the problem to be solved was the union of the cunning of the hand with the intelligence of the head. Associative societies, such as the one in question, were formed without reference to political parties; and the great object of emancipating industry by being held indivisible must become invincible. Messrs. Millbank, A. Campbell, Shorter, and Benny enforced similar views up till ten o'clock, at which time our report closed. The following were the resolutions affirmed by the meeting:—

"I. That competition is the principal cause of the misery existing amongst the working classes, and that the organization of labour by association is the best and most efficient remedy for the evils arising from that cause.

"II. That the organization of labour by association cannot only be effected without endangering capital, but it also may be the means of securing to it the payment of interest, as is proved by existing associations.

"III. That the best means of practically realizing the advantages of associative labour is by giving support to those associations already in existence, for upon their success depends the formation of other associations necessary to carry out the great end of rendering these associations self-supporting, and all labour associative."

MR. BUCHANAN.—The address of this gentleman will be for the ensuing week W. Love, Esq., 5, Nelson-street, Glasgow, where he will be glad to receive communications from the friends of Social Progress in Scotland in reference to lectures.

THE COSTERMONGERS' SUPPER.—On Monday evening next, in the Working Men's Hall, Barbican, the costermongers bring the subject of the improvement of their order before the metropolis by the means of a public supper.

RATIONAL PROGRESSION SOCIETY, LEEDS.—The Board of Directors of this Society lately engaged a hall for Mrs. Martin, of London, to lecture in, and paid £2 deposit several days before the lecture, and when the time came the place was refused, to the great inconvenience and injustice to those who had purchased its use. The denial is attributed to differences of opinion.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S.—The letter alluded to appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* of the 5th instant. Miss Martineau's very excellent letter on Association was not received in time for to-day's publication. We shall have much pleasure in publishing it next week.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY, August 17.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S WILL.

From the *Times* of this morning, we take the following abstract of Sir Robert Peel's will, as furnished to it by a correspondent:—

"The will of the late Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel has been proved at Doctors' Commons by the three executors, namely, Colonel Peel, the Right Honourable Mr. Goulburn (member for Cambridge University), and the Right Honourable Sir J. Hobhouse. The will is dated March 8, 1842, and extends over upwards of fifty sheets of brief paper. He bequeaths to each of his executors a legacy of £1000, and also a legacy of £3000 to Lady Peel, to be paid immediately after his decease. He also bequeaths to her her jewels and ornaments, as also such articles of furniture, plate, carriages, horses, &c., in his residence at Whitehall as she may choose to select; and for her to occupy such residence during her life. In default of her doing so he directs the house to be let, and the rent to be produced thereby to be paid to her. After her death he directs the house to go to his eldest son, the present Sir Robert Peel. His pictures at Drayton he directs his trustees to hold in trust for the person who would, for the time being, be entitled to the possession or receipt of the rents and profits of his house at Drayton; all his books, prints, furniture, and household stores, farming stock, &c., he bequeaths to the present baronet. Upon Miss Eliza Peel attaining the age of twenty-five years, he directs a sum of £25,000 stock to be invested for her benefit, the dividends thereon to be paid to her during her life, and on her death to be divided amongst her issue (if any) in the usual manner. The late Sir Robert Peel provided for future daughters in a similar way. All his personal property he bequeaths to his executors, in trust to realize the same, and first to pay his debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, and the legacies given by his will, or any codicils, and to invest the residue for the benefit of all his present and future sons who should attain the age of twenty-five years, except the son who should for the time being be heir male of his body, subject to a provision for bringing into hotchpot certain estates situate at Sutton Coldfield and Hampton-in-Arden; if no son (other than the eldest or heir male) should attain twenty-five years, and either survive him or die in his lifetime leaving issue living, the residue he directs to be in trust for the eldest son or heir male. He directs his trustees to raise annual sums for every daughter who should not have attained twenty-five years, or married, and from eighteen to twenty-five years he directs an allowance to be made to each of them, and the balance to be paid to Lady Peel for their maintenance and education. The testator refers to his marriage settlement, and appoints a sum of £1000 thereby settled. He then devises certain freehold estates in Sutton Coldfield and the manor of Hampton-in-Arden, and all other hereditaments belonging to him at the time of his death in Arden, to his son, Mr. Frederick Peel; if he dies under the age of twenty-five, or after that age, in testator's lifetime, without leaving issue living at Sir Robert Peel's death, the same to go to his son, William Peel, and so on in similar events to other sons, with a proviso that whoever took such estates should bring the value of the same into his share of the residuary estate; and in case no sons or the issue of any should become entitled to the estates, the same to go to his eldest son; if he dies under twenty-five years of age, or having attained that age in the testator's life, without leaving any issue at his death, the estates to go to his eldest daughter for her life, then to her sons and daughters equally, failing such issue to his next daughter for her life, then her issue, and failing such issue to the same uses in favour of after-born daughters and their children successively.

"If Mr. Frederick Peel or any other son should become heir male, or heir male apparent, before the last-mentioned estates should vest in him, the same estates are to go to the person next entitled, as if he had died under twenty-five. He then devises his estate in the Isle of Thanet and estate at Cumberford, in Staffordshire, to his trustees for sale, and the produce thereof to form part of his residuary estate. The will contains the usual power to grant leases until the estates devised vest. While his sons are under twenty-five the trustees are directed to receive the income and accumulate the same, with a proviso against accumulations for more than twenty-one years. A small property, called Cawnes Flat, he devises to the uses as concerns the holding of the manor of Drayton Bassett. All his other real estates he devises to his eldest son, the present Sir Robert Peel, for his life; then to the use of his sons successively,

and, failing such issue, to his next son in a similar manner, and then to other sons and daughters in like manner, and failing all such issue to the present Sir Robert Peel and other sons and daughters successively, and failing all such issue to the same uses as are declared concerning his estate at Drayton Bassett, and that any person who should become tenant in tail who was born in the late Sir Robert Peel's lifetime to take the estate for life only, and then to his sons in tail male, and while such tenants are under twenty-one, the trustees are empowered to receive rents, &c., and make advances for maintenance, &c., and to accumulate the residue of income. Powers to tenants for life and to his trustees during their minority to grant leases, &c., and to sell and exchange estates and lay out the produce in the purchase of other lands, and the income to be paid to the person who would have taken the rents of the estate. The will contains the usual provision for the appointment of new trustees to his will, and the mode of appointment and indemnification and protection to the trustees in the usual manner, and power for maintenance and advancement in life of children.

"By a codicil dated the 14th day of June, 1842, the late right honourable baronet bequeaths legacies to two of his stewards, and to some of his stewards, if in his service at the time of his death, a year's salary each; to other stewards and to each of his servants and labourers in his employment at the time of his death the following legacies,—to each of his stewards (other than as aforesaid), if they have been in his service ten years, one year's salary,—if less, half a-year's salary; to his head gardener and each of his other domestic servants who shall have been in his service ten years, one year's wages,—if a less period, half a-year's wages.

"To each under-gardener, farm labourer, and other out-door servants who shall at the time of his death have been in his employment regularly for ten years, £10; if a less period, £5 only. All such legacies to be paid within three months after his decease. He also bequeaths to his executors £200 for the poor of the parish of Tamworth (excepting the townships of Fazeby, Bouchell, and Wilnecote), £150 for the poor in the last-named excepted townships, £100 for the same class in the parish of Drayton Bassett, £100 for ditto in the parish of Kingsbury, £50 for the same in the parish of Hampton-in-Arden, £50 for ditto in the township of Oswaldwistle, Lancaster, £100 for same or any other detached estates belonging to him and not situate in the places before named, or who may be or have been employed thereon, or resident in the neighbourhood, such respective sums to be applied during the first or first and second winter after his decease, free of legacy duty.

"By a further codicil, executed in 1844, the testator directs an estate at Baughley to be sold, and the produce thereof to form part of the residuary estate.

"And by a further codicil, executed on the 24th of March, 1849, which relates solely to his literary possessions, he bequeaths all his manuscripts and correspondence, which he states he presumes to be of great value, as showing the character of great men of his age, unto Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell, with the fullest powers to destroy such as they think fit; and he directs that his correspondence with her Majesty and her Consort and himself shall not be published during their lives without their express consent first had and obtained, for them (the trustees) to make arrangements for the safe custody and for the publication of such of them as they may think fit, and to give all or any of them to public institutions; and the codicil contains general directions for the custody of such as shall not be disposed of in such manner. Bequeaths to Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell £1000 upon trust, to invest and to apply the income, and the principal if required, in the execution of his wishes for carrying them out. The trust is expressly limited against perpetuities. The codicil also contains the usual powers for the indemnity of trustees, and also for their new appointment. Sir Robert Peel also bequeaths to each of Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell a legacy as a recompense for their trouble and pains in such matters.

"The probate duty that has been paid to Government is £6000."

By extraordinary express, in anticipation of the regular mail, files of papers from Madras to July 9, Calcutta to July 2, and Hong-Kong to June 22, have been received. The Bombay mail has again failed. The Afreedees have again become troublesome. The passes are no longer secure. Lieutenant Pollock, Mr. Brand Sapte, and Lieutenant Miller of the Guide Corps, who had commenced a journey on horseback through the pass from Peshawur to Kohat, were fortunately stayed in time from proceeding at the certain loss of their lives. In the Punjab all is going on comfortably. In Burmah a domestic war is waging, but no particulars are given. From China the news is not of much interest.

The Queen and Prince, with the Princess Helena, left Buckingham Palace for Osborne yesterday morning. The royal party proceeded in carriages to the Nine Elms station, and left by a special train for Gosport. On

Tuesday next, as at present arranged, her Majesty and Prince Albert will take a cruise in the royal yacht Victoria and Albert to Belgium, making for the port of Ostend. His Majesty the King of the Belgians will dine on board the yacht, which will return on the following day to Cowes.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for superintending the Exhibition of 1851, at their meeting on Thursday, decided that the last day for receiving demands for space in the building from local committees in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands should be the 31st of October. Parties failing to give such notice as their nearest local committee may require cannot be assured that their claims for space will receive any consideration. Though the 31st of October is fixed, it is obvious that it will materially forward the arrangements of the exhibition if immediate notice is given to the nearest local committee.

The object of Mr. Shea Lalor in waiting on Lord John Russell at his official residence on Thursday was to represent to his lordship the conclusions at which the Irish Tenant Right Conference have arrived on the important question which formed the subject of the late deliberations of that body. From what passed during the interview there is every probability of something being done to amend the Irish law of landlord and tenant in the next session of Parliament, though we are sure, not so sweepingly as to satisfy extreme and unreasonable expectations.—*Globe*.

The three candidates for the Recordership, vacant by the death of the Honourable C. E. Law, M.P., are Mr. Sergeant Merewether, the town-clerk of the City; Mr. Edward Bullock, the Common Sergeant; and Mr. Russell Gurney, the Commissioner.

The strike on the Eastern Counties Railway bids fair to assume a very serious matter to the public. All chance of an amicable arrangement seems to have fled, and early on Monday morning the entire body of drivers and firemen in the service of the company will cease running on the line.

An aggregate meeting of Wesleyan delegates, who have been sent from all parts of the country to consider the steps to be taken in consequence of the expulsion of several preachers and others belonging to the Wesleyan body, took place yesterday at Albion Chapel, Moorfields, one of the largest buildings in the metropolis belonging to the Dissenters. It was stated that the proceedings would be for the most part devotional, and that they would be introductory to the formal sitting of a body which might be termed the "People's Conference," having nothing to do with the ordinary Conference of preachers now holding their annual meetings in London. The Reverend W. Griffiths, the Reverend Samuel Dunn, and the Reverend James Everett conducted the proceedings of the evening. Mr. Griffiths stated that tens of thousands of persons in different parts of the world were looking to the forthcoming sittings of the People's Conference, and he prayed that the delegates might have wisdom in their councils, moderation in their measures, and firmness in their resolves, so that no serious evils might arise out of this present state of connective agitation. Mr. Everett announced to the meeting, amidst loud cries of disapprobation, that on the previous day the Reverend James Bromley, one of the most able and zealous preachers of the Wesleyan body, had been expelled from the connection by the Conference. There were men who, acting the part of pirates, were endeavouring to steal away the consciences of their fellow men, and to impose upon their worship matters which were unsanctioned by the Scriptures. It was announced that on an early day a great public meeting would be called in London, in order that the intentions of the Reform party might be fully made known.

The friends of peace from various countries in Europe, and from the United States of America, are about to hold their third congress at Frankfurt-on-the-Maine. A large party of delegates and visitors, upwards of 500 in number, will proceed from this country, special trains and steamers having been engaged to convey the company direct from London to Frankfurt. They will leave the London-bridge station on Monday, at four o'clock, and will reach Frankfurt on Wednesday night.

A woman apparently about thirty-five years of age, mounted the parapet of Blackfriars-bridge, near the second arch of the Surrey side, yesterday morning at four o'clock, and plunged head foremost into the river. She was alive when taken out, but expired in ten hours.

Public attention seems to be directed to the progress of the President through the departments. As far as the news has yet reached us, the sayings and doings on that account have hitherto not answered the expectations of any of the parties concerned. The *Moniteur* publishes the following telegraphic despatches:—

"MAÇON, Aug. 14, p.m.—The President of the Republic left Chalons-sur-Saone at eleven o'clock. He stopped at Tournus, and arrived at Maçon at half-past three o'clock. The entire population spontaneously assembled on his passage—having the municipalities and National Guard at their head. The boats dressed in colours, the fire of musketry and artillery, and the sympathetic acclamations of the population, all contributed to give the journey the appearance of a continual festival. Maçon presented an immense population. The entire line of quays along the banks of the Saone was covered with spectators. The review was magnificent; the receptions which followed were extremely numerous. The municipal corporations came in full from the farthest points; some from twenty leagues distance."

"LYONS, August 15, Half-past Four, p.m.—The reception which the President of the Republic met at Lyons surpasses all expectations."

Letters from Copenhagen bring the intelligence of the left-handed marriage of the King of Denmark with Lola Rasmussen, a dressmaker.

# The Leader

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

## Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in its eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

### THE SESSION OF 1850.

THE collective wisdom of the nation having broken up for the season, and dispersed itself among German watering-places and those Highland solitudes where the solemn rites of "the grouse *ramadhan*" are annually performed, the earnest, thinking portion of the community begins to ask what has been accomplished between February and August? Mr. Bright assures us that Parliament has worked harder during the last six months than any set of day-labourers in the kingdom, and we believe him. But what has been the result of all their labour? Six hundred and fifty men, selected by the people of Great Britain and Ireland to consult together as to the best and speediest method of removing or alleviating our social evils, ought surely to have done something worthy of record. Alas! when we turn to the closing speech of Lord John Russell and his colleagues, as delivered by the Queen, on Thursday, we see that the six months' hard work of Parliament must have been mere treadmill industry, that sort of military exercise called "marking time"—an active demonstration of movement, but no progress.

The Queen is made to compliment Parliament on the assiduity and care with which it has applied itself to business. This is merely another version of Mr. Bright's observation touching the hard work of the session. The question still arises, what has all their hard work produced? It has passed the Australian Colonies Bill and the Mercantile Marine Bill; the latter a measure of very questionable utility, the former reconciles the fears excited by its execrable constitution-making with the internal evidence of impracticability.

It has also passed the Metropolitan Interments Bill, the only substantially valuable measure of the session; although, after all, a mere instalment of what is imperatively required in the single department of sanitary Reform. As for any of those other measures of reform which men talk about, and sanguine persons expect to see accomplished speedily, Lord John Russell has given us a scale whereby we can calculate in what part of the Nineteenth Century they are likely to be carried. In his speech on Monday evening, replying to Sir Benjamin Hall's complaint of the way in which good measures have been abandoned this session, he described at great length the course of a bill for county court reform,—a measure for cheapening and facilitating justice,—which was introduced into the House of Commons in 1823, and in 1846, after some twenty-three years' discussion, became law. Since this case was quoted by Lord John as an illustration of the great wisdom and discretion of Parliament in the reform of abuses, we infer that he does not intend to move any faster so long as he remains in office. At this rate, therefore, we may reasonably conclude that the Jew Bill will receive the royal assent about the middle of 1873, and that at the close of the same session, the venerable Queen Victoria will be made to congratulate Parliament on having passed the Savings Bank Bill.

But it is for their foreign policy rather than for any amount of domestic reform that Ministers seek for the applause and approbation of the country, and they have already received that applause from the Reform Club: the rest of the nation is waiting to see what is to come out of Lord Palmerston's union with the Northern despots to enforce the King of Denmark's despotic will in the Duchies, before they give their approbation.

As regards the position of parties, we can remember no period, since 1830, in which they were in a more chaotic state—the disorganization of debility. The Protectionists have been very busy during the session; and, with so much agricultural distress as the raw material, they might have been able to dictate terms to Lord John, if they had only known what to ask. But they have

striven to rub on without accomplishing the difficult work of bringing the conflict of their own opinions to an agreement upon some one settled purpose: they are impotent and unfeared. If wheat should rise to forty-five shillings per quarter by Christmas, they would disappear altogether. Of the Peelites, or moderate Conservatives, it is sufficient to say that they have lost their leader.

The Radicals are scarcely stronger than they were at the beginning of the session, because they have not yet devised for themselves a definite line of policy. They feel that they must act boldly in order to obtain the support of the People, and they dislike to make the plunge. The Irish Land Movement will perhaps assist them in arriving at a prompt conclusion as to the first great step which they ought to take.

All other parties, then, being weaker than they were at the opening of Parliament, the Whigs ought to be stronger. Are they so? Their long stay in office, exposed to all the terrible tests of every power and facility to fulfil their professions, has only the more and more exposed their bareness—as the bare skeleton, lying open to the blessed elements and the genial sun, grows whiter and whiter in sterile decay. The life has gone from them: there is no resurrection for them, no action, no useful purpose: a decent burial, the sooner the more decent, is their best promotion. They occupy the room that belongs to life.

### ROYAL DUTIES AND ROYAL SAVINGS.

THE leading journal seems to have been led by the Drengus into the political quagmire of the Civil List question, and by the mouth of a supposititious demagogue confirms the story to which we gave publicity last week: the demagogue is made to denounce savings "beyond the supervising power of Parliament, and to be used for purposes foreign to and wholly unconnected with the common weal of England."

The Sovereign, argues the *Times*, cannot have private property; if he be paid too much to support the dignity of his state the saving should go into the national pocket; especially in these days, when "every man," even "the landowner," is obliged to curtail his expenditure to pay the tax-gatherer. But this argument makes no allowance for the greater or less skill of the royal profession: one Sovereign may execute the pageantry, &c., quite as well as another, and save something out of the allowance; and if you revoke the profit you destroy the well-known inducement to industry.

We regard the transaction in this light: the nation at present desires to have a Monarchy with its due pageantry; a certain sum is allowed to the actual Sovereign for supplying that pageantry; and until it is shown that the contractor has failed in supplying an article at least equal to the standard, in quantity or quality, we do not see that the contract can be disturbed.

Indeed, the nation would gain nothing by it: let it be understood that all petites économies are to be refunded, and of course there would be no petites économies—all the money would be spent; and the contractor would be without inducement to zeal. The pageantry would degenerate into "royalty supplied on the usual terms," and we all know the value of a routine article supplied "on the usual terms." On the other hand, it is felt that the actual Court does supply the article in the best possible style; so that John Bull gets his full value for his money, and we want to know what more he would have?

Open up this question, and you will never draw the line before you slide into a Republic—a contemplation not so shocking to us as it might be to others who are so indiscreetly mooted these matters.

### THE TENANT-RIGHT MOVEMENT.

"Ireland has near seven millions of working people, the third unit of whom, it appears by Statistic Science, has not for thirty weeks each year as many third-rate potatoes as will suffice him. It is a fact, perhaps, the most eloquent that was ever written down in any language, at any date of the world's history. Was change and reformation needed in Ireland? Has Ireland been guided in a wise and loving manner? A government and guidance of white European men, which has issued in perennial scarcity of potatoes to the third man extant, ought to drop a veil over its face, and walk out of court under conduct of proper officers; saying no word, expecting now of a surety either to change or die."—*Carlyle's Chartism*.

Most people are tired of this everlasting discussion of the wrongs of Ireland. They have heard of little or nothing else for the last twenty years. Why must we be always talking about Ireland? Have not Englishmen enough to do in discussing

their own affairs? Unquestionably they have; but is not this land question quite as much their affair as it is that of the Irish peasantry? No class of the community has a deeper interest in the welfare of Ireland than the working men of England, and the only way by which that welfare can be effectually promoted is by placing the tenure of land on a perfectly secure basis. They talk of the evils brought upon almost every trade—reduction of wages and want of employment—by the application of machinery; but what are all these to that continual influx of pauper labourers from Ireland, which has been going on in such an accelerated ratio for the last twenty years? "The Milesian," says Carlyle, "is the sorest evil this country has to strive with. In his rags and laughing savagery, he is there to undertake all work that can be done by mere strength of hand and back, for wages that will purchase him potatoes. The Saxon man, if he cannot work on these terms, finds no work." Among the lower class of English labourers the result of this desperate struggle for employment is most apparent. Where strength of hand and back are chiefly required, the price of labour in England is gradually forced down by the deadly competition of Irish pauper labour to the Irish price. To stop that competition before it has brought the English labourer down to perennial scarcity of potatoes, the industry of Ireland must have free access to the land.

The people of Ireland are now thoroughly alive to all this, or are rapidly becoming so. The agrarian agitation, which has at last assumed a definite, practical shape, will soon swallow up all other agitations. Whatever there is of earnest endeavour and clear insight among the Irish people will join the Tenant Right League, and the result will be a great social revolution. Old fashioned political economists of the M'Culloch school prognosticate numberless evils from any attempt to regenerate Ireland by the creation of a peasant proprietary class. But public opinion is fairly against them. Political philosophers of the first class tell us that one of the earliest steps to the reformation of Ireland must be securing to the farmer the fruits of his industry; and this can never be done so long as he is left at the mercy of the landlord. Fifteen years ago Von Raumer, a sensible German, pointed out the cure for Irish misery and Irish disaffection, in very plain terms. After enumerating several instalments of justice to Ireland, which ought to be granted at once, including an effective Poor Law, and equal provision for the schools and churches of Protestants and Catholics out of church property, Von Raumer proceeds to say that all this would do very little for the removal of Irish distress, unless it were accompanied by another measure: "That measure," he adds, "is the complete abolition of the system of tenants-at-will, and the conversion of all these tenants-at-will into proprietors." Here was a proposal from a sober German statesman; one who always manifested the utmost horror at everything revolutionary! At the time when he wrote his book—*England in 1835*—such a proposal could have excited nothing but ridicule among most people. Yet now, in the summer of 1850, an Irish convention, assembled in Dublin, makes up its mind to demand that very revolutionary measure. The sequel is in the hands of Fate—and of the popular will: it is clear that, in some way or other, Irish labour must have free access to, and full enjoyment of, Irish land.

### THE SOURCE OF GREATNESS.

LORD BROUGHAM continues his persecution of the Court, but his zeal has betrayed him into proving too much. He continues to harp upon the royal savings out of the Civil List, and has vented his displeasure at not having succeeded in calling the Queen and her husband to account, by recording a protest on the journals of the Peers. In this protest Henry Brougham discovers "the legitimate source of political power" where Radicals and Chartists have forgotten to look for it—in the purse. "The spirit of our constitution," he says, "requires the Monarch to be dependent upon Parliament for the revenue by which his state and dignity shall be supported"; going upon an old notion that when Princes are beggars they are pliant. This is a popular fallacy. One example often cited is King John, from whom the Barons exacted Magna Charta. Now, in the first place, we have got beyond the Barons and Magna Charta; secondly, it was not extorted from John because he was a beggar, but because he was a coward, doubly—in the guilty conscience of a traitor; and in the

white-livered cowardice of an unhappy nature. Charles the Second was a notorious beggar; but did not half so much for our institutions as the irresolute obstinate recreant bigot his brother. We have extorted good out of bad Princes; but it is a bad method; and we are not inclined to it now-a-days. To keep Princes beggars that they may sell us reforms is about as obsolete, idle, and clumsy an idea as was ever born in antiquarian brain. It is starving a vicious horse that he may not kick us, instead of declining to keep a vicious horse in lieu of a serviceable one.

But Lord Brougham's veneration for the golden idol goes yet further; it is his speech on official salaries which explains the rationale of his "constitutional" check upon the Sovereign. On Friday he underwent a new explosion, the subject being the official salaries, at the reduction of which he was wild. He pronounced the proposal to cut down diplomatic salaries as "ridiculous;" but the notion of cutting down judicial salaries he assailed again and again, and he wound up by expressing a hope "that he never should see the administration of justice poisoned at its source." A reduction of official salaries poisons justice at its source—"the source," apparently, being the purse. Lord Bacon is accused of entertaining that Oriental idea, and the Bacon of our day appears to share it—in theory; for in practice no one will ever accuse Lord Brougham of seeking his inspiration from that source.

Still the phrase is curious, and it perplexes plain people: the purse, it seems, is "the source" of justice, and the real viceroy over the Monarch!

LIBEL FIGHTING.

PERHAPS it is a sign, as Basil Hall might have said, of the low tone of our morals, that we are obliged to ask "the Law" for protection against the dirty work of libellers. The injury attempted by a libeller is strictly of a social kind, seldom tangible or capable of being represented in "damages." But the retribution to be most effectual might be strictly of the same kind, if society were sufficiently moral to stand up in its own vindication.

The *Morning Chronicle* revives this week two libel cases which occurred last week at our Assizes. Mr. J. Heystek has a controversy with Mr. Ruysennaers, involving some commercial points, and also the conjugal allegiance of Mrs. Ruysennaers, into the merits of which we need not enter. But in pursuit of his objects, Mr. Heystek resorts to the singular expedient of addressing letters to correspondents of the plaintiff in Paris, Alexandria, and Rotterdam, declaring that Mr. Ruysennaers had attempted to assassinate his wife, that he lived in "scandalous disorder and immorality," and was completely insolvent. The jury allowed £600 damages, which may perhaps compensate for the commercial detriment; but how does it set Mr. Ruysennaers straight with society?

Again, the Reverend J. R. Prynne, perpetual curate of St. Peter's, at Plymouth, is the apparent object of a libel charging him with illicit instrumentality in the increase of population; and he brings an action against the *Plymouth Journal*. The defence is, that he was not the object, but that the paragraph was written by a Mr. Micklewood, a preacher of the Latter-day Saints, against a Mr. Burgess, another preacher of the same sect, to whom it was intended to do good in a spiritual sense. The jury acquitted the defendant, and the audience applauded; the whole transaction from the penning of the libel to the defeat of justice being one of the most singular complications of absurdity on record.

Some Liberals in France have been carrying on a kind of duel by libel, the libel being enforced apparently by its strict truth. Some of M. Thiers's political antagonists, seeking to annoy him, volunteered to circulate in the form of a card the following advertisement for a lady who appears to be related to M. Thiers, and also to carry on an honest avocation:—

MADAME L. RIPERT,  
Sister of  
M. A. THIERS,  
*Ex-President of the Council of Ministers, &c., &c.*  
keeps an excellent *table méridionale*  
at 3fr. a-head, wine included.  
Breakfast at all hours, at 1fr, 25c.  
44, Rue Basse-du-Rempart, Paris.

The retaliation was a counter-card:—

"Mdlle. —, *brevetée de la police*, et M. —, liberated convict, the sister and cousin-germain of M. —, a thorough-bred Montagnard, continue to carry on their business, Rue de la Lune. *On va en ville.*"

These attacks are very mean and paltry, but it is clear that their castigation is beyond the effective handling of the law. Yet society exercises no effective jurisdiction in the matter; it shields offenders against decency and generosity so long [as the offence is committed in subserviency to party.

FLAX versus COTTON.

At the late meeting of the British Association, a paper was read by Mr. G. R. Porter, "On the Cotton Manufactures of Great Britain," in which, after adverting to our dependence upon the United States for the raw material, and the evils arising therefrom, he strongly recommended the use of flax as a substitute for cotton. Could this be done on an extensive scale, it would furnish employment for a large number of hands in the rural districts, as there are few articles of home produce which require so much labour to render them fit for the market. It would also be an immense advantage to the manufacturers of this country if they could obtain a cheap substitute for cotton in seasons when a short supply from America causes it to advance in price nearly 100 per cent., as it has lately done.

SOCIAL REFORM.

EPISTOLÆ OBSCURORUM VIRORUM.  
No. III.—RELIGION: ITS DISCORDS.  
To A——A.

August 14, 1850.

MOST DEAR FRIEND,—We must busy ourselves for yet a couple of letters more with this subject of Religion; although I fear that some, whose attention I am anxious to preserve, would rather pass to other portions of the social scheme. I would fain consult their wishes, so far as to postpone these two letters to a later point in the series; but this subject of Religion will not be passed over, for many reasons. There is no part of political action in which we do not encounter the false influence of Religion as an obstruction to advancement; and with almost equal correctness it may be said that there is no part of political or social activity in which we do not detect the want of a true religious influence as the motive to cooperate in advancement. The want of such an influence I believe is one main reason why the motives to activity have degenerated to the single imperfect and falsely-working motive of self-interest. Amongst some of our "practical" philosophers the predominance of that motive is boasted as a great sign of peculiar enlightenment in our day. Our devotion to it is punished by something not very different from what is commonly called "the judgment of God," as most transgressions against the laws of God are punished.

In its nature, the obstructive influence of Religion consists chiefly of dogmatic assumptions, which resist intellectual activity in their own self-defence, and of the discords produced among several sections of the community by devotion to particular dogmas incompatible with each other. In labouring, therefore, to restore the true influence of Religion as an agent in our social and political advancement, we are first to consider the state of things which deprives it of its proper action; we are first to consider why there is this dogma, why this discord. I wish I could do so with the complete hope of not giving offence; but for that I must trust in great part to the good faith of my reader. I am certain that offence is not to be avoided by evasion and indirectness of language. If the spirit of perfect sincerity is not trusted on one side, it cannot be expected on the other.

A false religion cannot be a natural religion. I believe that all forms of faith whatsoever have had a common origin, and have in them a common principle of truth. This is partly because "the laws of Nature, and of the God of Nature," to adopt the title used by an eloquent clergyman of the Established Church, are patent to all the human children of God; some interpretation of them, therefore, is most likely to be found in every effort at a religious scheme; it so happens, also, because the power of truth is not altogether to be avoided by the rudest and most erring tribes. Falsehood is not *in* nature, but in what is put *upon* nature. Even ignorance does not produce falsehood until it attempts to put its own intelligent sensations into a formula. Men in any state of cultivation are conscious of the operation of larger powers in the universe than those of which human perceptions can comprehend the scope or nature. Those laws, in which they can more or less distinctly trace the working of what is termed "cause and effect," are called "natural laws"; phenomena not so clearly understood are referred to "supernatural laws;" and the ruder the nation, the more the idea of the "supernatural" prevails. A little further on in the progress of cultivation, metaphysical notions are added by the imaginative class of minds to the physical attributes of the lower deities. Partly because the original idea is vague, and is, therefore, *best* reflected by vague expression, these

metaphysical attributes are enunciated as a mystery. Once formed into a form of faith, they are sedulously secluded from scrutiny; and any new state of cultivation must *adopt* that settled form of faith. But the ministers of powers and mysteries, the priesthood, find advantage to themselves in their office; they multiply dogmas to bring about their own ends.

Thus the mere physical agencies of nature were deified by the Greeks; then, having been erected into supernatural individuals, they were clothed in mystery, and *presumed* to require divers observances; and then again they were asserted to require certain things convenient or agreeable to the priests. In Rome, under the Heathen faith formed by the mixture of the Greek with the gloomy superstition of the Aborigines, the Chiefs took part in the religious authority, and as Priests used their influence in augmentation of their political power.

The still earlier Egyptians, less artistic, more scientifically disposed, and much more mystical, generalized the facts which they discerned in nature, and presumed for them an universal extension. Thus the existence of the two sexes suggested the presumption that the whole secret of the creation lay in the male and female principles combined; and to eke out that doctrine a multitude of other presumptions were devised, and made to fit with evident facts; the planets, the seasons were employed to illustrate the doctrine.

The mythology of the Greeks survives only in poetry, the religion of the Egyptians has been unburied from the pyramids. Now each of those, and of many others that have expired, was the established religion of its country and day—deemed false in other countries, found to be false in later times. Every "Religion," of every country and time has been similarly pronounced false. Are we to presume that we have reached the perfect end of human perceptions? It is true the faith prevalent in our day and country has in it the principle of a longer duration, in being blended with a more refined scheme of morals. Perhaps, indeed, it may be said to have, in what are to be considered its grand essentials, the elements of immortality. But in regard to many of its forms and dogmas, which numerous sects hold up as the essentials, the signs of decay are already observable, in the habitual departure from its doctrines and social deviations from its moral code.

Instead of totally differing as to its history from anterior faiths, that which is commonly received in our day and country bears a close resemblance to those others, in its origin among a rude people, the growth of dogmatic forms, the adoption of obsolete beliefs by the framers of later doctrines, and the multiplication of dogmas to subserve the corporate purposes of ecclesiastical bodies.

The formal part of the Christian religion, as it is most commonly set forth, presents a sort of supplement to the Jewish religion; deriving its authority from that earlier faith, and incorporating many of its doctrines. We are, therefore, sent back to an examination of the Jewish religion. I will avoid entering into many of the refined and abstruse speculations concerning the authenticity of the historical records, taking them as they come to us.

We first find the Jews a barbarous nation, with certain traditions and written records; the records seem to embody traditions much older than themselves, written long after they purport to be. Like all rude people, the Jews supposed the existence of a God who was an individual, in the human sense of that word; he was male, human in form, and subject to many human passions; he was local, and distinct from the gods of other tribes, though he boasted his superiority over those of any other nation, as an Englishman is superior to a Frenchman. Some of the Jews were captive in Egypt; of so little importance as to escape notice in Egyptian records. But one of them, the O'Connell of the brickmakers of that day, was bred in the Egyptian church,—so says the history accounted authentic. He had learned—or at least *some* Jew had learned—in the Egyptian church the mystical generalization of the sexual principles; and he introduced much of the Egyptian mystery with the name by the Jews held most sacred—a name derived from the Egyptians, in whose tongue it signified the united principle of creation; but the Jew did not introduce the explanation of the mystery, only the mystery as such. He had to coerce his countrymen to do many things repugnant to their stubbornness or indolence, and he employed his divine superior as an authority to frighten them into obedience. This authority he used to compel the making of the ark, their stubborn-

ness requiring him to use it in directing even the small details of carpentry, each of which was expressly decreed, by citation of the first person, in the name of the Deity. He employed it to reform their dietetics; to improve their morals—in "the Ten Commandments." Some of those Commandments will be just through all time; some, like that against idol-making, are directed against obsolete abuses; others bear traces of barbarism, as in the jealousy imputed to God.

Long ages later appeared Jesus of Nazareth, whose position in history and most modern controversy is very remarkable. By recent writers his very existence has been denied, though the invention of a character so divine, with a history so true looking, is far more incredible than anything in the staple of the history itself. The circumstances recorded of his origin, which, "humanly speaking," was obscure, have been explained as a myth invented subsequently. Some of his religious dogmas and moral principles have been traced to Plato. But whatever the fact may be regarding these excessively controverted points, taking his history as it stands, some facts in it are incontrovertible. "Humanly speaking" his origin is obscure, and is not explained. He makes his appearance in obscure classes of society, and is by them regarded as the expected Messiah. He was a dissenter from the faith of his country; and in regard to his doctrines, these very important facts must be constantly borne in mind. He did not wholly deny the Jewish faith; for the most part he did not expressly adopt it. By implication he adopted considerable part of it into his own; though where the line is to be drawn between positive adoption and the mere accommodation of his language to the moral state of his hearers it would be very difficult to say. He expressly enunciated a new moral code, the spirit of which is totally repugnant to the spirit of the anterior code; but in the sequel his professed followers deviated from his teaching, in adhering far more than he did to the letter of that anterior code. And, in departing from the spirit of his new dispensation, there can be no question that the doctrine which came down to us as a whole was vitiated,—far less divine and beautiful than when it came straight from his mouth. A better intelligence, however, in later days has tended to restore the spirit to the letter, and, although it is forbidden to dispute settled points of form, the expedient has been adopted of "explaining away" puerile myths or barbarous precepts. But in virtue of the immutability demanded for the dogmas of priesthoods, we are still called upon to respect the old traditions and precepts of the dispensation which Jesus repealed; that is, we must keep our understanding in that particular to the level of cultivation and knowledge proper to the time of the ancient Jews. The penalty is social excommunication; and under that penalty the timid and the selfish, even among those who know better and see the mischief, permit self-interest or moral cowardice to make them conform entirely, or evade opposition by compromise.

Among the evil consequences of such a state of things we find the following. Doctrines in themselves, barbarous and bad—like the "blood for blood" of the Old Testament,—which would become obsolete by the improvement of knowledge and art, are preserved by being wrapped up in the consecrated dogmas, and are even endured with a sort of respect: thus "Religion" teaches respect for things bad. The immense number of bad examples, mentioned without censure, or even praised, also teaches vice, and imparts to it the sanction of "Religion." Almost every crime on record is explained, sometimes censured sometimes sanctioned; murder, treason, and brutal violence, are but slight specimens of the crimes committed by men held up as patterns enjoying divine favour. Things the most puerile are held up as objects of veneration—read the account of the Ark—and thus the mind is habituated to confound things contemptible with things reverend. The habit of believing things incredible debilitates the mind; the habit of pretending to do so corrupts it.

The association of a "Religion" thus vitiated with the scheme of morals perverts the moral sense. It teaches people to disbelieve much of the good that exists around them,—nay, to think good things bad; and by contradicting the most sacred impulses of human nature, it distorts those impulses; thus producing misery and vice. It engages the oppugnancy of human nature to combat about non-essential and merely technical dogmas, and lends to that hated conflict the zeal due to the sacred rath of religion. Thus men will fight for the

mere traditional and impossible fragments from the wood of the pure cross, and in doing so violate the true spirit of that sacred symbol. All these things have been pointed out before; but there is one effect of a vitiated Religion which has not been indicated—its preoccupying the place that ought to be occupied by a true Religion. It is not only bad in itself, but it blocks out that Religion which would be capable of becoming a true moral influence suited to the improved conditions of mankind—at all events calculated to improve mankind. Thus is it that that the name of Religion comes down to us as "the persuader of ills," the fomentor of discords, the proverbial source of the worst hate.

Have we faith in God, that we can suffer evils to reach this pass in his name, without a struggle for redemption? I will do my best towards answering that question.  
THORNTON HUNT.



### Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

#### STABILITY OF SOCIETY.

August 14, 1850.

SIR,—Your "Open Council," I presume, is an arena for the discussion, not merely of opinions, but of modes of arguing; and few things require discussion more. Availing myself of this liberty, I will put a few questions to one of your correspondents (signing himself W. Thomas) who is a very active questioner of others, and is much dissatisfied that nobody is willing to be "plain" and "precise." Mr. Thomas stands up for the indissolubility of the marriage contract for the following plain and precise reason:—"The stability of society rests upon the permanence of the marriage tie; loosen that, and society is on a sandbank." These he thinks threatening words, since he puts them in italics. I ask, what he intends to be understood by them. "The stability of society" is an expression I have often heard before; but I cannot say I have ever been instructed what it meant. Indeed, I have remarked that it is mostly used by people who are not in the habit of attaching any very particular meaning to what they say. If the foundations of a house give way, the house falls, and there is no longer a house. What is it that happens if society falls? And what is this thing called "society" that requires to be protected from falling? Has it anything to do with you, and me, and the remainder of the men and women in the world? Does it mean the men and women themselves? If so, what is meant by the stability of the men and women? If it does not mean the men and women, does it mean anything belonging to them? And if so, what? And what is the precise nature of the mischief to be apprehended in case this something, I know not what, should come upon a "sandbank"? When a ship comes upon a sandbank, I know what happens; the ship breaks to pieces and the passengers are drowned. I want to have it made equally clear to me what would happen if, in consequence of permitting facility of divorce, "society" should, as Mr. Thomas says it will, come upon a sandbank.

I am the more desirous to be enlightened on this matter as I cannot call to mind any great improvement in human affairs, or the eradication of any deep-rooted and long-standing evil, which was not, at the time when it happened, represented as subverting the foundations of society. The abolition of slavery; what a laying prostrate of the whole fabric of society was there! There was a time when even the boldest speculators were afraid to entertain such an idea. The destruction of the temples and altars of the old divinities, by the introduction of Christianity, was, according to the gravest people, the demolition of society altogether. The Reformation! another dreadful blow to the stability of society. The Revolution of 1688, which expelled God's anointed and set up the people's delegate; nay, the Reform Bill, and

even Catholic emancipation, all made society crack and totter. Cheap newspapers, teaching the people to read; this last was a thing after which, we were told by many people, society could not much longer exist. A Turk thinks, or used to think (for even Turks are wiser now-a-days), that society would be on a sandbank if women were suffered to walk about the streets with their faces uncovered. Taught by these and many similar examples, I look upon this expression of loosening the foundations of society, unless a person tells in unambiguous terms what he means by it, as a mere bugbear to frighten imbeciles with. The utmost it can mean is, that the thing so characterized would be a great change—of some sort; which change may either be for the better or for the worse. I am one who think that not only divorce, but great changes in most matters are needed; and I confidently hope for many more as complete subversions of the foundations of "society" as were made by Christianity, the Reformation, and the enfranchisement of the slave.

I cannot conclude without a word or two on the naïve selfishness of another letter, in the same number of your paper and on the same question, but on the contrary side of it, in favour of Divorce. The writer shows the most unaffected unconsciousness that anybody has an interest in the matter except the man, whom he purposes to liberate from the consequences of an "act of youthful folly or inexperience." Not a word of the woman, who is in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the chief sufferer, as is inevitable so long as the law gives all the power to the man; and on whose account, for more than even on that of the man, it is necessary that the yoke should be lightened. But this entire ignoring of women, as if their claim to the same rights as the other half of mankind were not even worth mentioning, stares one in the face from every report of a speech, every column of a newspaper. In your paper of the 27th ultimo, there is a long letter signed Homo, claiming the "right of the suffrage" as justly belonging to every man, while there is not one line of his argument which would not be exactly as applicable if "woman" were read instead of "man;" yet the thought never appears to occur to him. In a Conservative this would be intelligible—monopoly, exclusion, privilege, is his general rule; but in one who demands the suffrage on the ground of abstract right, it is an odious dereliction of principle, or an evidence of intellectual incompetence. While the majority of men are excluded, the insult to women of their exclusion as a class is less obvious. But even the present capricious distribution of the franchise has more semblance of justice and rationality than a rule admitting all men to the suffrage and denying it to all women.  
C.

#### RELIGION.

Aug. 16, 1850.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent who denies the possibility or the necessity of a new religion. The theology of men may require purification, but the only religion for humanity is that which humanity has always recognized under forms more or less imperfect. We want no revelation but that which we may read every day; and we ought to expect no revelation but that which still remains unexplored and unobeyed. It must be conceded, however, that this eternal religion has no dogmas, admits of no exact definition, has no Articles and no Liturgy. Habit miscreates us, and gives us artificial wants. A salvation by enchantment under some new form is what gentle spirits, who have not long renounced the old superstition, would appear still to require; and to refuse formal worship seems sacrilegious in their eyes. As they grow stronger, as the confusing and prejudicing influences of bad beliefs and perverting practices fade away, they will lose these misgivings and melancholy forebodings; and painful cravings for an exact and precisely formulated creed will be lost in that higher life which is manifested in child-like resignation, in reverence, love, hope, and faith. Then the demand for a new religion will cease. But it has been said that there can be no sustained piety without worship; and that even strong men require the discipline and nourishment of forms. What, then, is the worship of God, of which we hear so much. Is it not the wondering recognition of the Divine work; is it not the loving perception of the Divine goodness; is it not the sentiment of awe felt as in the presence of the Invisible Life of the world; the infinite and adoring admiration which the sense of the endless terrors and splendours of the universe of God must awaken in all thinking minds and feeling hearts? Surely the only sincere and adequate celebration of the Divine greatness must lie in the experience of holy thoughts and sentiments like these. So the only true confession is the sense of our littleness and imperfection, and the quiet acceptance of our necessary limitations; the only true prayer is the desire for a heart more loving, more reverential, and more obedient to the eternal laws; the only true thanksgiving is the grateful and joyful emotion with which we contemplate the presence of goodness, and beauty, and justice in the world. Is it requisite to have a form of prayer that shall embody these emotions? Cannot we meditate on the unspeakable

mysteries that surround us, and live in the whole, the good and the lovely, without punctual matins and evensong? But I am far from saying that a method of divine life is not necessary to some men, is not, perhaps, best for all. We may still find sacred utterances in the old Hebrew prophets and psalms, and the history of Jesus is in its inner significance full of inspiration and comfort to the souls of men. In the modern poets, too, are snatches of a celestial music. A Wordsworth, a Tennyson, a Shelley, a Milton, and a Goethe, can elicit and strengthen what is holiest, deepest, highest in our nature. The universe looks larger and lovelier out of the *Cosmos* of Humboldt, and Emerson, Carlyle, Richter, and George Sand are not destitute of the vision and the faculty divine. As to prayer in the sense of petition for supernatural aid to do what God has already given us power to do, it is cowardly; and supplication, as of some "greedy Oliver asking for more," is contemptible.

I will conclude this letter with a few remarks on the ethics of sin. All laws rest ultimately on some great fact, patent to observation, in nature or in man. Conscience, or the instinctive feeling of right and wrong, of truth and falsehood, of beauty and deformity, would never have been called in question had not the term been used without due circumscription and with superstitious accretions. Conscience is the instantaneous feeling of approbation or disapprobation with which we contemplate the opposing primitive phenomena of the external world (as beauty and deformity), the decisions of the reason, and chiefly the sentiments of man as the motives of moral action. No man of ordinary perceptions can behold a beautiful object without a sense of joy and affection; no man can tell a lie without feeling its meanness and its unreasonableness; no man can injure another without feeling sorrow or regret. Our heart responds to a generous thought, and a noble and self-sacrificing action commands our most sacred applause. I do not see how any sophistry can explain away this ultimate fact of the existence of an approving and disapproving sense in our nature, both moral and aesthetic, though I fully accord with the Rationalists in their expressed opinion of the looseness of phraseology employed, and the untenableness of the positions assumed by many advocates of the moral sense.

To return. Sin consists in disobedience to the implied command of the conscience; and the feeling of self-abasement with regret or even remorse for having wronged or injured another, are, within variable limits, legitimate consequences of a violation of law. Repentance, or the complete change of purpose and principle, accompanied with the act or the desire of restitution, with the patient endurance of the consequences of sin and the most entire guilelessness, as in the sight of God and man, is the only atonement that can be made or that ought to be demanded. Satisfaction, in the theological sense of the term, is a barbarous and pernicious mistake; and the substitution of an innocent for a guilty person is not only a crime but a blunder. Sorrow and remorse are admirable only when they lead to wisdom and virtue. When they render a man abject and useless they usurp a dominion which they should be compelled to abdicate. The morbid anatomy of sin, which is the hateful characteristic of modern pietism, cannot be too strongly condemned or too fiercely resisted. Let us repent like cheerful and wholesome children of Almighty God—not like whining and diseased sons of a cowardly devil. M. C.

THE RULING IDEA OF SOCIETY.  
LETTER IV.

London, August 5, 1850.

SIR,—Having indicated in the preceding letters the causes of the evils to which society has hitherto been subjected—all arising or permitted to arise on account of inexperience and consequent ignorance, which have been the parents of the false ruling idea, and which are the necessary antecedents to the attainment of knowledge,—I have now shortly to state the process by which the knowledge which has now been acquired is to be applied to produce the goodness and happiness which hitherto, for want of it, have been unattainable.

As soon as this knowledge shall be sufficiently disseminated—and it is now daily extending with continually increasing powers of progression—the mental and physical means and capabilities of society will begin to be applied to the construction of social arrangements in accordance with it; not by any useless and necessarily unsuccessful attempts to mix together the old and the new principles and practices, but by forming separate new arrangements upon new sites, which, while maintaining friendly relations with the old system, will be, as far as practicable at first, complete within themselves, and will be formed and conducted in accordance with the principles of the new system.

These arrangements will constitute new "Rural Towns," which will be the very antipodes of the natural growths of the old and now superannuated system. They will be the abodes of truth and consistency, and of justice, mutual kindness, and unity.

They will be constructed to give as nearly as possible equal domestic and social advantages to all, and laid out with studious attention to convenience, beauty, and every intelligent consideration.

Each town will be adapted for the accommodation of a population of such extent as can be the most beneficially associated under one combination, which number, according to Mr. Owen, is from 200 to 500 families; and will possess sufficient land around it to enable its occupants to produce the bulk of their own food, and a surplus of agricultural production, for sale or exchange, to defray or assist to defray external expenses; and will have various arrangements, according to locality, &c., for other useful occupations, that the people may at all times be provided with useful productive employments; and especial care will be taken to make every occupation as agreeable as possible, to introduce all attainable scientific and mechanical appliances to increase the efficiency of the various employments and arrangements and to supersede the necessity for unpleasant or excessive toil. The various occupations will be allotted and regulated with due regard to the wishes and capabilities of each individual, and with an especial desire to act towards all with perfect justice and unexclusive kindness.

By peopling these new towns at first with families of the working classes, who are already upon an equality as to general condition, the chief difficulty of commencing a system of rationality and justice, and, consequently, of equal general advantages for all, according to age, will be surmounted; and, by placing the management of the establishments for a time under the superintendence of competent directors, the people will be gradually prepared for a state of independence and self-government, when, by the proceeds of their industry, they shall have repaid the capital expended in forming their establishments.

Each family and all adult individuals, besides having a private home or separate apartments, into which no others will enter without invitation or permission, will have many advantages in common with others. They will have the benefit of cooperative or club arrangements for the preparation and service of their meals, superseding the necessity for the single family kitchen and refreshment-room, with all their inconveniences, annoyances, and waste;—of infant and other schools, superseding the private nursery, &c., and all the disadvantages of home education, but without unpleasantly or injuriously restricting the intercourse of parents and children;—of places of public meeting, libraries, reading-rooms, &c., to which all may resort to spend their leisure usefully and agreeably when the privacy of home becomes for a time undesirable; in short, all that intelligence can desire and devise will be combined in these new towns for the use and enjoyment of all their occupants, and all their proceedings will be conducted, by the well-regulated and justly-apportioned mutual services of the people, according to age, capacity, and taste, with system and with pleasure to all parties, and with far greater economy than the unjustly distributed and unsatisfactory occupations and amusements of existing society.

These new towns will form a most desirable occupancy for the land, and investment for capital during the period of transition; and by commencing with the poorest classes and progressively increasing the number of the new establishments, and improving their arrangements for those who are now less unfavourably situated, as the desire for the change shall extend, the transition may be effected with order and regularity, with benefit to all, and without interfering with the interests and positions of any, until they shall willingly adopt the new and far better interests and positions which will thus be prepared for the whole of society.

I have now sketched in a rapid and necessarily very incomplete manner, the effects of the old ruling idea of society, and the changes which will naturally supervene from the discovery of the falsehood and evil consequences of that idea, and from the consequent adoption of the opposite fundamental principle of demonstrated truth. Error and its consequences can only be perpetuated so long as the error is undetected. It is futile, therefore, for any parties to endeavour to oppose the changes which have been rendered inevitable by the indubitable revelation that the principle upon which society has hitherto been conducted is a falsehood which has never been supported by one single fact. If those who have now influence in society can be enabled and induced to be wise while they retain their power, they will discover that it will be overwhelmingly for their advantage that they should assist and direct the necessary changes, so that the transition may be made to be beneficial to all in every stage of its progress, and not to exasperate the oppressed and injured many, and oppose their own real interests, by endeavouring to maintain by physical force a system of which the falsehood, irrationality, fraud, and gross injustice can no longer be concealed, and the termination of which, by peaceful well-ordered measures of transition, will be, to every individual of the human race, the greatest good that can be attained.

HENRY TRAVIS.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

RAPHAEL'S APOLLO AND MARSYAS.

We have much pleasure in informing our Subscribers that the Leader of Saturday, August 31st, will contain a finely-executed engraving of this exquisite picture, recently discovered by Mr. Morris Moore, whose kind permission enables us to publish it. The engraving will be very nearly the size of the original, and a full account of the picture and its discovery will be given.

THE week has a brisk variety, quite noticeable at the close of a not very lively season. Gossip, indeed, we have none to entertain you with, but the Books on our Table arrest the eye. There is Dr. LATHAM'S handsome volume on the *Varieties of Man*, a work of solid learning and patient enquiry, demanding serious study; side by side with it lies the *North British Review*, which we mention again for the purpose of directing attention to a masterly and thoughtful essay on *Wordsworth*, written in a style of criticism very unusual now-a-days, and, if more favourable to the poet than our own notice in the present number, it nevertheless implies a general agreement with our estimate. An interesting paper on *Versification* apropos to TENNYSON is also to be found in this *Review*, the opinions of which, however, will not always receive the assent of critics musically sensitive. The *Papers on National Education*, read at the "Lancashire School Association," are of great importance, as opening up one of the grand subjects of National Reform. We shall consider these more fully in a future number; and we shall do the same with the two volumes standing beside them, bearing the title *Germania: its Courts, Camps, and People*, by the *Baroness Bläze de Bury*—if on inspection they turn out worthy of notice. And who, pray, is the *BARONESS BLÄZE DE BURY*? Why, sir, she is somewhat of a myth, making her avatars in literature with all the caprice and variety of *VISHNOU* or *BROUGHAM*; her maiden name of *ROSE STEWART* has not, that we can discover, been stained with printer's ink, but we trace her as *ARTHUR DUDLEY* in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* writing upon *BULWER* and *DICKENS*, we next find her as *MAURICE FLASSAN* in *Les Français Peints par eux-mêmes*. Rumour further whispereth that she had a finger in *Albert Lunel*, one of the eccentricities of an eccentric law-lord, which was hurriedly suppressed, one knows not why; in the *Edinburgh Review* she wrote a paper on *Molière*, and for *CHARLES KNIGHT'S Weekly Volume* a pleasant little book about *Racine*, on the title-page of which she is styled *MADAME BLÄZE BURY*: since that time you observe she has blossomed into a *Baroness de Bury*! Let us add that she is the wife of *HENRI BLÄZE*, known as an agreeable critic and the translator of *Faust*, that she is said to be a great favourite with the author of *Albert Lunel*, and that she has the two novels *Mildred Vernon* and *Leonie Vermont* placed to her account: how many other shapes she may have assumed we know not; are not these enough? Whether, after all, a flesh-and-blood *MADAME DE BURY* exists, is more than we can decide. *Une supposition!* what if, after all, she should turn out to be *LORD BROUGHAM* himself? The restless energy of that Scottish Phenomenon renders everything possible. He does not agree with *PLINY'S* witty friend, that it is better to be idle than to do nothing—*satius est otiosum esse quam nihil agere*.

Lastly, we will mention *Alton Locke; Tailor and Poet: an Autobiography*, a work likely to create a sensation as wide and as profound as *Mary Barton*. It is a *Chartist* novel in the autobiographical form, and passionately ripping up many vital questions now agitating the masses. We have read but a portion of it, and must speak at length in a future number; but, from what we have already seen, we may form a tolerable guess as to its unusual excellence. The solemn voice of sorrowing experience sounds here in eloquence to startle and appal. The cry of oppressed millions—the cry for bread, for education, for light, for air, for justice rings through these pages with a piercing energy that must be felt. It is a voice from the deeps.

France is so occupied with *LAROCHEJACQUELIN'S* daring pamphlet, *Trois Questions*, a hearty Vendean outburst, that we suppose it can pay but little attention to the *Nouvelles Confidences* which

LAMARTINE has commenced in the feuilleton of *La Presse*, or to THEOPHILE GAUTIER'S novel, *Jean and Jeannette*, which is just republished from the same source. It is a pleasant bit of flagrant work: cobwebs of phrases without any substance; or, rather, let us call it a bit of Dresden china, equally coquettish, impossible, and charming. The story is simply that of a *grande dame* disguising herself as a grisette in order that she may inspire a genuine passion—the *salon* being a garden where those flowers will not grow; she meets with a Marquis also disguised as one of the People; they fall incontinently in love, marry, *et la toile baisse!* As a characteristic specimen—a good one—of the style, let us quote this phrase in a description of the heroine: "Sa poitrine intrépidement décolletée était les plus délicieux néants, et l'on peut dire que jamais le rien ne fut plus joli." This is *Mari-vaudage* at its best.

The dramatic censorship has been reestablished, and its first act was to suppress SOUVÈSTRE'S drama of *L'Enfant de Paris*. This violent and foolish piece—written upon that odious pattern of flattering the people by painting the poor as incarnations of purity and heroism, the rich as incarnations of well-dressed scoundrelism—was made by JULES JANIN the topic of one of his most characteristic feuilletons. SOUVÈSTRE was absurd enough to reply, alleging that his intentions were not to vilify the rich, and that J. J. had given an inaccurate report of the piece. J. J.'s answer is admirable, and might serve as a model for unfortunate critics, who never satisfy an author, whether they praise or whether they blame. On this subject we know nothing that can be added to the wit's definition of the criticism which could possibly satisfy an author, "unqualified praise and all extracted!"

The censorship seems, however, to have been used with little discretion in this case, for the piece was played to empty benches. But who can pretend to understand censorships? In Vienna a pamphlet, called *Estereich, Ungarn und die Woiwodina*, is tolerated, in Pesth it is confiscated; both Vienna and Pesth are in a state of siege; both towns belong to the same monarchy, but the book thought permissible in one is prohibited in the other! The Austrians are an intelligent people.

In Prussia, as we recently mentioned, the unhappy bookseller is responsible for his wares. Oh! why does not \* \* \* live in Prussia? A book issued in Hamburg, called *Europa*, and written by the ex-famous JOHANNES RONGE of the Holy Shirt, was sold in Berlin by an easy, simple-minded *Buchhandler*, whose ideas of literature were possibly limited to vague associations respecting dollars and butter, when he was somewhat roughly awakened from his innocence by finding himself condemned for the crime of high treason to four years of hard labour! The Court of Appeal commuted the sentence into seven months' imprisonment. As Charles Lamb says, after quoting a platitude, "the Germans are certainly a profounder nation than we."

#### WORDSWORTH'S PRELUDE.

*The Prelude, or Growth of a Poet's Mind.* An Autobiographical Poem. By William Wordsworth.

UNDER any but the lowest aspect, that of mere curiosity, this poem must be regarded as an uninteresting performance, and an ambitious failure. We know that terrified critics (terrified lest they should be suspected of imperfect poetical taste if they talk not grandiloquently of Wordsworth) have agreed to rhapsodize its glories—the *Athenaeum* standing alone in withholding eulogics, and in quietly indicating its mediocre admiration of the work; yet our purpose being not to flatter the prejudices of any class, but to express opinions whatever amount of opposition they may excite, we do not hesitate to affirm the poem to be a failure. As an autobiography it is meagre and futile beyond anything of a biographical kind we have seen; as a philosophical survey of the genesis of a poet's mind it fails in distinctness, in grasp, in coherence, and in introspective analysis: the utmost that can be said is that here is a collection of anecdotes, mostly trivial, regarding his early life, gathered together without any artistic sense of co-ordination or mutual irradiation, and written in a style sometimes lofty, picturesque, and instinct with poetry, but often surcharged with a dense prosaism to be paralleled only by passages from his other works. Coleridge, it is true, called it, when in MS.,

"An Orphic tale indeed,  
A tale divine of high and passionate thoughts  
To their own music charmed."

And he was assuredly a judge whose competence we would not for a moment question in ordinary cases; but here his judgment was blinded by personal considerations, as indeed the very phrasing of his criticism plainly shows. One may remark in passing that, although the words "Orphic tale" will have a dim and shadowy grandeur to the ordinary reader, they present nothing but a puzzle to those familiar enough with Grecian literature to have some precise notion of Orphic poems: in its most generalized form, "Orphic tale" would mean a religious tale; but any connection possible between *The Prelude* and an Orphic tale must be as remote as that between *John Gilpin* and *Watts's Hymns*. We dismiss this judgment therefore in spite of our respect for the judge. No one could better have exposed the inanity of its philosophical pretensions than Coleridge himself, had it been the work of Byron or Shelley.

On matters of taste differences are admissible; there is no arguing against feeling. But on matters of philosophy—if anywhere—reason asserts her claim, and brings forward demonstrations to support it. There is a notion current in the vague talk of the day that Wordsworth is a great philosophical poet—a notion we hold to be demonstrably incorrect. People here confound the *meditative, contemplative* spirit of Wordsworth with the *creative, ratiocinative* spirit of a philosophical poet, as seen in Sophocles, Lucretius, Shakspeare, Dante, Goethe, and others. Take any test of philosophy you please, and Wordsworth will be found wanting. He plans philosophical poems, and their structural confusion and departure from the first principles of Nature betrays his unphilosophic mind. He does not grasp great truths and illustrate them (to employ the word in its primitive sense of purification); he does not form great conceptions and fill up the outlines with impassioned experience, in typical Events and Characters, or in great Representative abstractions. Two of his dominant qualities, closely allied, prevent any grandeur of conception, or of evolution, viz., *picturesqueness* and *triviality*; these lead him away from what is essential and typical to that which is accidental and particular. Accordingly, although his works are full of picturesque details, they have little that is grand in them except the aspects of landscape nature, and little that is universally true except the reflections of his own personality. But inasmuch as Nature appeals to all minds, and his diffusive egotism meets with responsive feelings, Wordsworth takes possession of us. There lies his strength. He is the greatest descriptive poet that ever lived. He is the greatest egotist that ever lived. But he is not a philosophical poet in any exact meaning of the term. Want of human sympathy and an incurable bias towards the trivial, prevent his taking his place among the Shakspeares, Miltons, Dantes, and Goethes. In him it is the meanest flower that stirs thoughts too deep for tears—the meanest flower, never the noblest Life! He revels in the tempests that shake the hills and forests, but the storms that agitate mankind are conflicts that he shuns. What is *human* interests him only in as far as it is *picturesque*; and he avoids the great theatre whereon the tragic passions and exalted heroisms are displayed, to throw his whole poetic sympathy upon parochial woes! His bias towards the trivial is irresistible, and he glories in it. In verse as ignoble as the thought he says:—

"Eyes of some men travel far  
For the finding of a star;  
Up and down the heavens they go  
Men that keep a mighty rout!  
I'm as great as they, I trow,  
Since the day I found thee out.  
Little flower! I'll make a stir  
Like a great astronomer."

We believe him. He always did make a stir about trivialities of diction, of sentiment, or of thought.

"Wisdom," he says, "is oftentimes nearer when we stoop  
Than when we soar."

And he stoops. But observe, that in stooping he insists on your believing that he rises to a height above the reach of soarers! Read his modest prefaces.

The triviality we speak of pursues us throughout his works, and shows a mind incapable of the perception of general truth and proportion. In endeavouring to trace "maternal passion through many of its more subtle windings," he selects his example from the silly mother of an Idiot Boy; in planning his great philosophic poem he selects as a hero a Pedlar; thus for ever ignoring greatness, and never going beyond the narrow circle of his own personality save to fasten upon something small!

The reader will not, it is hoped, so far misconceive

the drift of these remarks as to suppose us insensible to the depth of feeling, the brooding solemnity of thought, and the unusual loveliness of imagery and diction which can be found scattered through Wordsworth's works. As a man for ever communing with Nature and with his own soul, and producing poetry unique in our literature, we assent to the highest claims set up for him; but as a *philosophic* poet we unhesitatingly pronounce him mediocrity itself. We can quote beauties with any of his admirers; but our sense of his deficiencies, prosaisms, pedantries, and trivialities equals our admiration of his merits. Nay, more—while our enjoyment of much that he has written is intense, we feel a strong personal dislike to the man. Not that we ever saw him: the repulsion grew as we grew familiar with his mind; and the reports of those who knew him intimately and loved him, have only deepened that feeling, for they all, without exception, paint him as *intensely selfish*; while not one generous action is recorded, nor does one deep friendship—soul reciprocal with soul—give warmth and vitality to a life of solitary self-worship.

The *Prelude*, it would be easy to show, fails in every requisite of a philosophical exposition and conception of what it purposes to be, viz., the genesis of a poet's mind. Only those unaccustomed to analysis, or unable to read beneath the efflorescence of imagery the substantial meanings forming the organic structure of a poem, can be deluded for an instant. The topics selected have no interdependence; they are recorded more like the capricious wanderings which memory makes over the past, leaping from anecdote to anecdote, governed by *casual* associations not obedient to a predetermined plan. The successful portions are those wherein he traces the influence of nature on his opening and his growing mind. The first two books entitled "Childhood" and "School-time," though not of high philosophical pretensions, do in some sort carry out his intention, and these contain the loveliest passages. We will quote a few. In an article like the present, where so much antagonism is forced upon us we may be spared from quoting any bald, prosaic pages, and give our readers the relief of beauty as a set off; that will also prove we do not grudge our admiration when due:—

"Was it for this  
That one, the fairest of all rivers, loved  
To blend his murmurs with my nurse's song,  
And from his alder shades and rocky falls,  
And from his fords and shallows, sent a voice  
That flowed along my dreams? For this, didst thou,  
O Derwent! winding among grassy holms  
Where I was looking on, a babe in arms,  
Make ceaseless music that composed my thoughts  
To more than infant softness, giving me,  
Amid the fretful dwellings of mankind,  
A foretaste, a dim earnest, of the calm  
That Nature breathes among the hills and groves.  
When he had left the mountains and received  
On his smooth breast the shadow of those towers  
That yet survive, a shattered monument  
Of feudal sway, the bright blue river passed  
Along the margin of our terrace walk;  
A tempting playmate whom we dearly loved.  
Oh, many a time have I, a five years' child,  
In a small mill-race severed from his stream,  
Made one long bathing of a summer's day;  
Basked in the sun, and plunged and basked again  
Alternate, all a summer's day, or scoured  
The sandy fields, leaping through flowery groves  
Of yellow ragwort; or when rock and hill,  
The woods, and distant Skiddaw's lofty height,  
Were bronzed with deepest radiance, stood alone  
Beneath the sky, as if I had been born  
On Indian plains, and from my mother's hut  
Had run abroad in wantonness, to sport  
A naked savage, in the thunder shower.

"Fair seed-time had my soul, and I grew up  
Fostered alike by beauty and by fear:  
Much favoured in my birthplace, and no less  
In that beloved Vale to which erelong  
We were transplanted—there were we let loose  
For sports of wider range. Ere I had told  
Ten birthdays, when among the mountain slopes  
Frost, and the breath of frosty wind, had snapped  
The last autumnal crocus, 'twas my joy,  
With store of springes o'er my shoulder hung,  
To range the open heights where woodcocks run  
Along the smooth green turf. Through half the night,  
Scudding away from snare to snare, I plied  
That anxious visitation;—moon and stars  
Were shining o'er my head. I was alone,  
And seemed to be a trouble to the peace  
That dwelt among them. Sometimes it befel  
In these night wanderings, that a strong desire  
O'erpowered my better reason, and the bird  
Which was the captive of another's toil  
Became my prey; and when the deed was done  
I heard among the solitary hills  
Low breathings coming after me, and sounds  
Of undistinguishable motion, steps  
Almost as silent as the turf they trod."

Alluding to the chequered vicissitudes of life he finely says:—

"Dust as we are, the immortal spirit grows  
Like harmony in music; there is a dark  
Inscrutable workmanship that reconciles  
Discordant elements, makes them cling together  
In one society. How strange that all  
The terrors, pains, and early miseries,  
Regrets, vexations, lassitudes interused  
Within my mind, should e'er have borne a part,

And that a needful part, in making up  
The calm existence that is mine when I  
Am worthy of myself; Praise to the end!"

The influences he records are mostly Nature's:—

"Not with the mean and vulgar works of man;  
But with high objects, with enduring things—  
With life and nature, purifying thus  
The elements of feeling and of thought,  
And sanctifying, by such discipline,  
Both pain and fear, until we recognise  
A grandeur in the beatings of the heart.  
Nor was this fellowship vouchsafed to me  
With stunted kindness. In November days,  
When vapours rolling down the valley made  
A lonely scene more lonesome, among woods,  
At noon and 'mid the calm of summer nights,  
When, by the margin of the trembling lake,  
Beneath the gloomy hills homeward I went  
In solitude, such intercourse was mine;  
Mine was it in the fields both day and night,  
And by the waters, all the summer long."

Then follows the loveliest passage in the volume—the description of skating—but as it has long been known by its publication in *The Friend*, we must pass it over. This is in the same spirit:—

"The seasons came,  
And every season, wheresoe'er I moved,  
Unfolded transitory qualities,  
Which, but for this most watchful power of love,  
Had been neglected; left a register  
Of permanent relations, else unknown.  
Hence life, and change, and beauty, solitude  
More active even than 'best society'—  
Society made sweet as solitude  
By silent inobtrusive sympathies,  
And gentle agitations of the mind  
From manifold distinctions, difference  
Perceived in things, where, to the unwatchful eye,  
No difference is, and hence, from the same source,  
Sublimity joy; for I would walk alone,  
Under the quiet stars, and at that time  
Have felt what'er there is of power in sound  
To breathe an elevated mood, by form  
Or image unprofaned; and I would stand,  
If the night blackened with a coming storm,  
Beneath some rock, listening to notes that are  
The ghostly language of the ancient earth,  
Or make their dim abode in distant winds.  
Thence did I drink the visionary power;  
And deem not profitless those fleeting moods  
Of shadowy exultation: not for this,  
That they are kindred to our purer mind  
And intellectual life; but that the soul,  
Remembering how she felt, but what she felt  
Remembering not, retains an obscure sense  
Of possible sublimity, whereto  
With growing faculties she doth aspire,  
With faculties still growing, feeling still  
That, whatsoever point they gain, they yet  
Have something to pursue."

If the reader wishes to appreciate the poverty of *The Prelude* let him compare the two books on Cambridge and London with De Quincey's chapters on Oxford and London, in his "Autobiography of the Opium Eater": he will find more poetry as well as more philosophy in the magnificent prose of the latter than in all this very blank verse. Indeed these books—London especially—treat of subjects too grand in compass and too human in modulation for Wordsworth's one-stringed lyre; and he fails miserably in touching them. The current of to-day happens to set towards University Reform, and Wordsworth's condemnation of Cambridge, though essentially mediocre, is quoted with interest to serve party purposes; but no accident thus favours the "London" book, and all readers must be struck with the singular incapacity of this philosophic poet to deal with so grand a topic, and must observe how he eludes its greatness to dwell upon the merest trivialities. "Summer Vacation" leads us back again into the country, and there he is at home. How beautiful is this comparison:—

"As one who hangs down-bending from the side  
Of a slow-moving boat, upon the breast  
Of a still water, solacing himself  
With such discoveries as his eye can make  
Beneath him in the bottom of the deep,  
Sees many beautiful sights—wreeds, fishes, flowers,  
Grottoes, pebbles, roots of trees, and fancies more,  
Yet often is perplexed, and cannot part  
The shadow from the substance, rocks and sky,  
Mountains and clouds, reflected in the depth  
Of the clear flood, from things which there abide  
In their true dwelling; now is crossed by gleam  
Of his own image, by a sunbeam now,  
And wavering motions sent he knows not whence,  
Impediments that make his task more sweet;  
Such pleasant office have we long pursued  
Incumbent o'er the surface of past time  
With like success, nor often have appeared  
Shapes fairer or less doubtfully discerned  
Than these to which the Tale, indulgent Friend!  
Would now direct thy notice."

The close of the book is very characteristic of his tendency to make trifles important by the solemnity of his treatment. He devotes four pages to excite a thrill and awe respecting an old soldier whom he met at night—you expect some tragic story is about to be evolved, or some great moral illustrated—and after all it resolves itself into a mere casual meeting and parting of two strangers. Book fifth is devoted to *Books*, and is very fine; we might quote the whole, did space permit, and not be tedious. One passage we must give:—

"Oh! give us once again the wishing-cap  
Of Fortunatus, and the invisible coat

Of Jack the Giant-killer, Robin Hood,  
And Sabra in the forest with St. George!  
The child, whose love is here, at least, doth reap  
One precious gain, that he forgets himself."

And this:—

"The tales that charm away the wakeful night  
In Araby, romances; legends penned  
For solace by dim light of monkish lamps;  
Fictions, for ladies of their love, devised  
By youthful squires; adventures endless, spun  
By the dismantled warrior in old age,  
Out of the bowels of those very schemes  
In which his youth did first extravagate:  
These spread like day, and something in the shape  
Of these will live till man shall be no more.  
Dumb yearnings, hidden appetites, are ours,  
And they must have their food."

The book entitled "Love of Nature leading to love of Man," may be said to resume the cardinal points of his philosophy, which is nothing else than the wretched absurdity that man, to keep himself pure and pious, should shun cities and the haunts of men, to shut himself in mountain solitudes, and there, amidst the roaring cataracts and gliding streams, impregnate his mind with the solemnities and beauties of landscape nature—an ignoble, sensuous asceticism, replacing by an artistic enthusiasm and craving lusts of the eye that religious enthusiasm which moved the ancient recluse to tear himself from man and commune in loneliness with the Eternal:—

"If this be error, and another faith  
Find easier access to the pious mind,  
Yet were I grossly destitute of all  
Those human sentiments that make this earth  
So dear, if I should fail with grateful voice  
To speak of you, ye mountains, and ye lakes  
And sounding cataracts, ye mists and winds  
That dwell among the hills where I was born.  
If in my youth I have been pure in heart,  
If, mingling with the world, I am content  
With my own modest pleasures, and have lived  
With God and Nature communing, removed  
From little enmities and low desires,  
The gift is yours; if in these times of fear,  
This melancholy waste of hopes o'erthrown,  
If, 'mid indifference and apathy,  
And wicked exultation when good men  
On every side fall off, we know not how,  
To selfishness, disguised in gentle names  
Of peace and quiet and domestic love,  
Yet mingled not unwillingly with sneers  
On visionary minds; if, in this time  
Of dereliction and dismay, I yet  
Despair not of our nature, but retain  
A more than Roman confidence, a faith  
That fails not, in all sorrow my support,  
The blessing of my life; the gift is yours,  
Ye winds and sounding cataracts! 'tis yours,  
Ye mountains! thine, O Nature! Thou hast fed  
My lofty speculations; and in thee,  
For this uneasy heart of ours, I find  
A never-failing principle of joy  
And purest passion."

Thus, if men are sunk in apathy and indifference, your task is not to reawaken the great enthusiasms which once animated them, nor to withdraw the veil from those awful forms of Truth and Justice which dwell in every heart as in a temple; no, you must leave them to their apathy, and learn from sounding cataracts and winding mists all the lofty speculations that may secure your own salvation!

In this eighth Book he plainly states—that which indeed we knew before—how human beings first became interesting to him when he learned to look at them as *picturesque*! he loved them something better than his dog, a little less than the rocks and sounding cataracts:—

"Nature, prized  
For her own sake, became my joy, even then—  
And upwards through late youth, until not less  
Than two-and-twenty summers had been told—  
Was Man in my affections and regards  
Subordinate to her, her visible forms  
And viewless agencies: a passion, she,  
A rapture often, and immediate love  
Ever at hand; he, only a delight  
Occasional, an accidental grace,  
His hour being not yet come."

It never came! He made his soul a verse-making machine, treating humanity as "materials." Throughout this retrospect of a life he never softens with one deeply-felt affection, never hints that any one human being profoundly mingled with his life, modifying it, directing it, strengthening it! A few bald lines record that Calvert gave him independence—but there are no lines tremulous with tenderness towards any human being save his sister! With all this tenderness for Nature not a heart-beat for Man! As in Turner's pictures the pencil lingers fondly over water, skies, atmosphere, or light, while a few hasty indistinct scratches are given to the human figures, so in Wordsworth, Landscape Nature absorbs Human Nature.

To judge from Wordsworth's example we should say that Nature was not the best of teachers,—that cataracts and murmuring streams inculcate a spirit of intense selfishness, giving us a taste for the indolent enjoyment of meditative moods, and shutting from our view the grand ideal of a Noble Life. Such Landscape Nature left Wordsworth, if it did not

make him such; a man more arrogant, narrow-minded, and selfish than any poet we ever heard of!

In another, and purely critical, aspect the part assigned to Nature is an æsthetic fault, which we may be pardoned for indicating ere we close. The feelings with which men regard Nature, as the symbolic reflection of human emotions, or as the language in which God delivers himself to man, the whole range of sentiment, in short, which in modern poetry relates to Nature, was unknown to the ancients, as Schiller (in his "Essay on Naïve and Sentimental Poetry") and subsequently Humboldt (in "Cosmos") have abundantly proved. Landscape, with ancient poets as well as with the early painters, formed but the background for humanity. In the moderns this background has gradually assumed a greater and greater encroachment upon the foreground, till, in Wordsworth, it has completely inverted the ancient order. This is not a healthy symptom in art. Whenever accessories become elevated into principals, it is a sign of a false estimate of art; and this is the invariable tendency of inferior artists. Thus we see in German musicians harmony and orchestral effects predominating over melody and dramatic effects. And although no one will deny the increased power of modern poetry derived from its saturation with this sentiment of Nature's grandeur and loveliness, yet, after all, the Human Soul must ever remain the chief object of Art, and Nature itself only become interesting in as far as it is associated with man. To recur to our musical illustration, let us compare the introduction of the sentiment for Nature, in its profound modification of our poetry, to the introduction of *moving basses* made by Carissimi, whereby the domain of musical expression was so inexpressibly enlarged; without the moving bass what stupendous choral and orchestral effects would have been undreamt of, what gloom and grandeur uncreated! Nevertheless, to give predominance to moving basses over melodies would be to destroy music: and something of that error is committed by Wordsworth; but he is preserved from its full consequences by his own intense personality, which is always present to us and keeps up our interest, and by our own associations of personal experience with the phenomena he describes.

KAY'S SOCIAL CONDITION OF ENGLAND.

*The Social Condition and Education of the People in England and Europe.* By Joseph Kay, Esq., M.A. 2 vols. Longman and Co.

(Second Notice.)

In returning to this invaluable work we must again observe that the two subjects it discusses really are the two most important of all for the welfare of the nation; facilities for the acquisition of land, and the necessity of national education—food for the body and food for the soul—implying a thorough renovation of our social state, though Mr. Kay thinks they would be the most powerful *conservatives*. He shows from an amount of evidence perfectly overwhelming that the combined influence of peasant proprietorship and national education is the readiest means of securing the well-being of the people. Having accepted his position, you wish to see something of the kind introduced into England; but at the first step you take there is an obstacle such as must damp your ardour—we mean the state of the law.

"In Great Britain and Ireland the laws relating to property in land are either the direct creations of the feudal system, or modifications of that system, varying in character as little as the change of times and circumstances will allow. They form one of the most difficult and intricate parts of our jurisprudence, being compounded of ancient feudal regulations, couched in quaint and technical language, of modifications engrafted upon the old system by the monastic orders, and of statutes modifying the stringency of the old restrictive laws, or restraining the liberality of the monastic interpretations. They are so technical, and are based upon so much antiquated learning, and upon so many almost forgotten customs, that it is quite impossible for any one, who has not made himself master of a great deal of the old learning connected with them, to understand them. If a system had been expressly devised, in order to keep every one but the studious part of the legal profession ignorant of its objects and meaning, none could have been better fitted to effect this end than our present landed property laws. It is most astonishing that, in this age of reforms, no one has attempted to codify and simplify these laws. When we see the beautiful simplicity and clearness of the foreign codes, enabling any unprofessional person to understand their general meaning and effect; and when we look at our own system, which keeps every one, but a part of the legal profession, in absolute darkness as to the rights and privileges of an owner of land, which often renders it very difficult and expensive for a pro-

prietor to find out, what his real power over his own property is, and which tends so greatly to fetter and impede the sale of land, by rendering its conveyance from man to man so difficult and expensive; and when we remember how many centuries this system has existed, we see another singular instance of the difficulty and slowness with which the most useful and necessary national reforms are effected.

"These laws were framed and have been retained for the express purpose of keeping the land in the hands of a few proprietors, of depriving the peasants and small shopkeepers of any part of it, and of the influence which its possession confers, and of supporting a great landed proprietor class, in order to uphold the system of aristocratic government, and to give greater strength and stability to the Crown."

"In Great Britain and Ireland, in Russia, and in some parts of Austria alone, as many of my readers are aware, the land is still divided, and, so to speak, tied up, in a few hands and in immense estates; and in these countries alone the old laws relating to landed property, which emanated from the feudal system, and which tend to prevent the subdivision of estates, still continue in force. These laws effect this end by means of the extraordinary powers which they confer upon owners of land. They enable an owner of land to prevent the sale of the land by himself during his own life, by his creditors, and by any successor or other person for many years after his own death.

"They enable an owner of an estate in fee simple (i.e., of an estate which the owner can sell so as to give the purchaser full powers of selling it to whomsoever he pleases), not only to dispose of his land during his own lifetime, and to leave the whole estate in it to any one he pleases after his death, but to do very much more. They enable him, if he has not been prevented by the settlement or will of a former proprietor, to grant by his settlement, or to leave by his will, different interests in his land to a number of persons, and so to arrange the succession to the ownership of the property by his settlement or will, that no person or persons shall be able to sell any portion of the land, until some person, who was an infant at the time of making the settlement, or at the death of the person having made the will has grown up, married, and had a son, and until that son has attained the age of twenty-one years, and not even then, so as to confer a right to the immediate possession of it, unless all those who have any interest in the land prior to that of the last-mentioned son, are dead, or join in the sale."

"It may be stated, generally, that these laws enable an owner of land, by his settlement or will, so to affect his estate that it cannot possibly be sold, in many cases, for about fifty, and, in some cases, for even sixty, seventy, or a hundred years, after the making of the settlement or will.

"However advisable it may be that the estate should be sold for the sake of all those who are interested in it, such is the state of the law that in many cases this is impossible, owing to the terms of the settlement or will of some former proprietor, who died, it may be fifty, sixty, seventy, or eighty years ago.

"Our law is not content with giving the living man full power over the land, but it gives his corpse, so to speak, a controlling power long after breath has departed, and after the circumstances of the family or nation have changed.

"Owners of land are also enabled in certain cases to make long leases of their land, and to introduce into these leases clauses which prevent the land being underlet or sold, or treated in any of the excepted manners mentioned in the lease. Such leases often affect the land for many years; sometimes for several generations after the death of those who made them; and often prevent improvements which the progress of science, long after the decease of the person who so affected the land, has rendered not only possible but expedient."

He thus sums up the effect of our law of property:—

"1. It causes the land to accumulate in the hands of a few proprietors; it prevents its selling, in the generality of instances, in small estates; it has for the last two hundred years tended gradually, but continually, to merge all small freehold properties in the great estates, until the old race of yeomen freeholders and small copyholders, who, eighty years since, were to be found all over our island, has almost entirely disappeared; it thus deprives the farmers, the shopkeepers, and the peasants of almost every chance of purchasing small plots of land, except for building purposes, in the neighbourhood of the towns; it promotes a system of large farms, and by so doing lessens the number of small farms, and renders it every year more and more difficult for a peasant to rent a farm and to raise himself to the next step in the social scale; and it thus deprives the peasant of all strong motives to exercise exertion, self-denial, economy, or prudence, renders his prospect hopeless, and condemns him to pauperism.

"2. It tends in many instances to cheat creditors of landlords of their just claims. If a man purchase land and get deeply into debt, and afterwards marry, and if upon his marriage, and while he is still in debt, he makes a settlement of his property in consideration of his marriage, and afterwards die, not having paid his debts, and leaving no money or other property besides the land, or not sufficient money wherewith to pay his debts, his creditors cannot sell a bit of the land so settled, and have no means of recovering their debts, although they were induced to trust him before his marriage by seeing him in possession of the property.

"If, too, a man has a great house and estate which belong to him for his lifetime only, under his own or some prior settlement, and if shopkeepers and tradesmen, seeing him in possession of this great house and estate, allow him to run up long accounts with them, believing him to be able to pay any amount of claim upon him, and if this wealthy owner die very much in debt

and leaving no money, the poor creditors, who had no means of learning whether the land belonged to him for more than his own life or not, cannot, after his death, recover a farthing of their debts, even if their debtor was possessed during his lifetime of a million acres of land.

"3. It tends also in very many instances to keep large estates out of the market for fifty, eighty, or one hundred years, when, if it had not been for these laws, the proprietor would either have been compelled to sell them by his own extravagance, or by his bad and unskilful farming or management; or when he would have voluntarily sold either part of them, in order to obtain capital wherewith to cultivate the other part better, or the whole of them, in order to engage in other pursuits more congenial to his tastes.

"4. It induces unprincipled proprietors to be tenfold more careless than they otherwise would be about the education of the child who is to succeed them; for they reason, with great truth, that, whatever their own extravagance, the child will take the property which is settled upon him, unaffected by his father's debts, and, whatever the child's extravagance and folly, he will not be able to dissipate the property, or to lower the social station of the family. It thus often puts into the influential places of the land men whose early education and habits have rendered them totally unfit to be intrusted with any influence whatever, and who never would have enjoyed that influence if it had not been for this state of the law; and it thus often sets up as examples for society persons of depraved tastes and corrupted morals.

"If a proprietor is extravagant, this state of the law, in the vast majority of cases, saves his estate from being sold either by himself or his creditors; and, if he is prudent, it often enables him to add to the property, to entail, in many cases, again, and so to hand it, undivided and increased in extent, through several successive hands again.

"5. It supports a large body of old men and young men, who are not obliged to work for their living,—who are kept by the laws in their positions, however unworthy of those positions they may be,—who have never been obliged to study or improve their minds,—who have, therefore, often grown up in ignorance and frivolity,—who are so rich as to enable them to exercise an immense influence in the state, and to make their own conduct and manners the standard for all thoughtless and weak-minded men, and who, therefore, more than any other class, foster habits of extravagance, effeminacy, luxury, and immorality."

The effect of these restrictions is manifold. They make landed proprietors an increasing minority from the tendency of large estates to swallow the small; they render the peasant's condition *hopeless*; they impede the cultivation of the soil and accumulate vast tracts of waste land (in 1847 there were 11,300,000 acres wholly uncultivated!), which might easily be made fruitful; and they prevent the poor from having even decent cottages. The horrible results of crowding families into one cottage, mingling the sexes in a revolting promiscuity, preventing the possibility of cleanliness and order, and very seriously affecting the sanitary condition of the poor, have been detailed by many indignant enquirers; and in this volume Mr. Kay has collected a fearful amount of evidence on the subject. But how remedy them? Population increases, and cottages are not built.

"But if the cottages are so much in demand, it may be asked, why, if the landlords will not build them, others, who are neither labourers nor landlords, do not do so? There could not be a more profitable investment of capital, when the rents are regularly paid, and many would so invest, if it were in their power to do so. But cottages cannot be built in the air, although their foundations are sometimes laid in water. Those who would willingly invest their money in building them cannot get the land on which to build them. All the land about Wareham is so strictly settled as scarcely to admit of this. If one of the most respectable inhabitants of Wareham wanted to build himself a house, it is questionable if he could get the land. Not that the landlords would in all cases refuse it, but that in many cases they cannot part with it. A rather ludicrous instance of this occurred a short time ago. A firm in Wareham had negotiated with one of the neighbouring proprietors for a lease of a certain piece of land for some works, which were to be carried on upon it; but when the agreement came to be carried out, the proprietor found that he had so strictly tied up the land that he could not give the lease."

Turning from Mr. Kay's demonstration of the *benefits* of peasant proprietorship, to look for a moment on the *dangers* of such a condition, when universal, we see the necessity of a larger social theory than that of small farms and education. Mr. Laing, in his *Observations on Europe*, has pointed out the economical advantages of small farms, and their superiority over large farms, but he does not conceal their disadvantages in a social view, as tending to a stationary condition with a low ideal. It subordinates life to the means of living—*propter vitam vivendi perdere causas*. Now, unless it contain dynamic power, no theory of social life can be worthy our attention; the principle of indefinite progression is worked into our being, and must find issue in our theories. Mr. Laing has shown that the condition of peasant proprietorship tends to perpetuate a state of vulgar well-

being; and Mr. Kay, though he does not seem to concur in this, does nevertheless imply it in his frequent eulogies of the *conservatism* of peasant proprietors. But from Mr. Laing, as from Mr. Kay, we separate, and declare that their arguments force upon us the conviction that in Association alone are we to find an issue from our difficulties. By Association you would, in small farming, realize the double advantages of large capital and subdivided land—it would be the proper division of labour, which, as Gibbon Wakefield truly says, is the "combination of labour with division of employments." Mr. Kay points to this in answering the objection of the large farming theorists, that small holders would be unable to possess themselves of the expensive machinery which science has invented, and will invent, to carry out agricultural improvements; the objection, he says,

"Is more specious than true. The more intelligence advances among the small proprietors, by means of the agricultural colleges and of the schools of agricultural chemistry, which are being founded throughout Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Holland, for the express purpose of training the children of the peasant farmers in the science of agriculture, and which are raising up a class of small proprietor farmers, who, for the knowledge of agriculture, put to shame the majority of our large tenant farmers—the more, I repeat, intelligence advances by these means among the small proprietors, the better will they understand how to combine among themselves so as to help one another to carry out those particular operations which require an accumulation of capital for their successful prosecution.

"As Counsellor Reichensperger says, 'there is nothing to prevent small proprietors availing themselves of the more costly agricultural machines, if several of them unite in the purchase of them, and keep them for common use. It is always a very easy matter, so to arrange the agricultural operations of several farms, that one machine may perform them all without putting any of the proprietors to any inconvenience.'

Unless the laws of property—especially those affecting land—are speedily altered, England will have a terrible struggle to pass through; for, as Mr. Kay truly says, our conservatism is of the few, and not the conservatism of the masses. The condition of the people becomes yearly more desperate, while that of the wealthy classes becomes more splendid and luxurious. The estates gather into fewer hands. In 1770 there were 250,000 freehold estates in England, in the hands of as many families. In 1815 these 250,000 proprietors had dwindled down to 32,000! Since then the same process has been going on: a monopoly of land which implies extraordinary simplicity, gullibility, or patience in a people to suffer! The same appetite of large fishes devouring small is seen in commerce. The large shops absorb the small; the men who some years ago would have had shops of their own, now, with white neckcloths and mellifluous lying, serve you in some "Emporium;" they are hired servants, who would have been proprietors. We also hear much of the Emancipation of man by Machinery. That, doubtless, is the goal of our industry. But, if the present system is to continue, what will become of the "emancipated" masses? Machinery will more and more dispense with their labour, and they—may starve: at the banquet of life no knife and fork has been laid for them!

If the one argument derived from the miseries created by machinery were the only one to be adduced against our present system, it would be sufficient to condemn it. What! is that a true system of society wherein a gigantic improvement is a heavy curse to thousands, wherein the simplification of those processes by which we subdue Nature is the cause of destitution to those who live by labour, wherein man is emancipated only to starve! If so, we can tell our rulers that this *true* system will shortly be *violently* set aside for another, unless it be *peacefully* replaced by another; and, to accomplish this peaceful revolution, what is needed? Education. On this we shall hear Mr. Kay.

#### BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

*Briefwechsel Zwischen Goethe und Reinhard.* Stuttgart. London: Franz Thimm.

This correspondence is a new link in the Goethe literature; we doubt whether many more collections of this kind will make their appearance, for we possess now the correspondence with Schiller, Zelter, Bettina; with Frau von Stein, Riemer, with Merk, Goethe's Briefe an Leipziger Freunde, and a goodly number of other letters published in various collections.

Reinhard became acquainted with Goethe at Carlsbad, in 1807, and he corresponded with him from this time until the death of the poet. The letters of 1807-1808 are dated from the Rhine and from Paris. 1808-1813, Reinhard was French Ambassador at Cassel; 1814-1815, he held the office of Directeur des Chancelleries at the

Foreign-office in Paris; 1815-1829, French Ambassador at the Frankfort Diet; 1829-1830, at Paris; and from 1830-1832 we find him holding the office of French Ambassador at Dresden.

The family of Reinhard was of German origin, and, although he was born in France, yet his mind was thoroughly German. His letters now before us prove it abundantly, and his frequent stays in Germany brought him in contact with German literature.

The letters themselves are of a purely literary cast, and many of Goethe's letters—more particularly those that relate to his own works, such as the *Wahlverwandtschaften*, the *Farbenlehre*, *Dichtung und Wahrheit*—are interesting.

*The Present Age, or Truth-Seeker in Physical, Moral, and Social Philosophy* for August. Honlston and Stoneman.

This magazine is utterly unlike any other published in its class of topics and independence of treatment. The article "Of Sincerity," by January Searle, is an instance of both, and as remarkable for its recognitions. Mr. Hole's Lecture on the "Province of Society" will be read for its instruction and variety of treatment. "Self-Possession," by W. J. Linton, is another of those agreeable papers on the virtues which he contributes to the *Present Age*. Some notion of its character may be derived from a short extract:—

"He is no true man who is not self-centered, who does not under all circumstances possess himself. \* \* \* If another sway thee, if man or woman can influence thee, or sudden circumstances catch thee off thy guard, to what end are thy virtues? When some tyrant disallows thy honesty, or with subtle flattery—no less tyrannous—cajoles thee; when he sets thy noble-mindedness to base uses, chafes and frets the gentleness, and bullies thy great valour to most impotent submission? Believe, there are many such tyrants, men and circumstances, striding in our high places, walking daily in our streets, about our path, and about our bed, seeking whom they may devour, what noble spirit they may enthral and ruin."

*Religious Mystery Considered.* John Chapman.

A slender but thoughtful volume, not professing to solve the problem, but simply to set forth some materials which may help the thinker to a solution. Its general scope may be defined as an exhibition of the bewilderment of Reason amidst the manifold contradictions that arise on every side, and the necessity of holding by some other anchorage than that of mere logic. To our minds there is something cheering and significant in the frequent manifestations of what one may call the new spirit of religious philosophy, which separates from the purely negative philosophy of the eighteenth century in its clear recognition of the fact that, the "Soul is larger than Logic," and, consequently, that we have not reached finality, when, in Locke's homely phrase, we have come to the end of our tether.

*Latter-day Pamphlets.* Edited by Thomas Carlyle. Chapman and Hall.

We have spoken so frequently of these as they appeared, that we need only now record the fact of their publication in one handsome volume.

*Letters to my Children on Church Subjects.* By the Reverend William T. E. Bennett, M.A., Perpetual Curate of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. 2 vols. Cleaver.

These letters are the earnest appeals of a High Church clergyman to those whose spiritual welfare he may be supposed to have most nearly at heart, and they contain advice and exhortation upon those subjects which the author evidently considers the most important in their bearing on the present and future welfare of the younger members of his flock. Regarded from the author's point of view, and by such as sympathize with him, they will be esteemed for their strict adherence to Church principles, and their unflinching orthodoxy, while persons whose views of Christianity are more comprehensive and tolerant than those of Mr. Bennett will consider the work as an useful exposition of the opinions of the Tractarians on those points of doctrine and discipline which divide them from other parties of the Universal Church, and of a strict and uncompromising system of morality.

*Life, Poetry, and Letters of Ebenezer Elliott, the Corn-law Rhymner, with an Abstract of his Politics.* By his Son-in-law, John Watkins. John Mortimer.

*The Working-classes of Great Britain: their Present Condition, and the means of Improvement and Elevation.* Prize Essay. By the Reverend Samuel G. Green, A.B. John Snow.

*Half Hours with the Best Authors.* Part IV. C. Knight.

*Pictorial Half Hours.* Part III. C. Knight.

*National Education not Necessarily Governmental, Sectarian, or Irreligious: shown in a Series of Papers read at the Meetings of the Lancashire Public School Association.* C. Gilpin.

*The Phoenix Library: Extracts for Schools and Families in aid of Moral and Religious Training.* Selected by J. M. Morgan. C. Gilpin.

*Ibid: The Revolt of the Bees.* Fourth Edition. C. Gilpin.

*John Bull and Government Education.* By George Sunter, Jun. Newcastle-on-Tyne. J. Barlow.

*Leaves from Sherwood Forest.* By January Searle. C. Gilpin.

*Cholera and its Cures.* An Historical Sketch. By J. Stevenson Bushnan, M.D. W. S. Orr.

*Penny Maps.* Part I. Chapman and Hall.  
*How to make Home Unhealthy.* Reprinted from the *Examiner*. Chapman and Hall.

*Les Deux Perroquets; ouvrage Français destiné à faciliter aux Anglais la Cause élégante, la Lettre, et le Billet.* Par Une Dame. D. Nutt.

*Religious Scepticism and Infidelity; their History, Cause, Cure, and Mission.* By John Alfred Langford. John Chapman.

*The Natural History of the Varieties of Man.* By Robert Gordon Latham, M.D. Van Voorst.

*Every Day Wonders; or, Facts in Physiology which all should know.* Illustrated with Woodcuts. Van Voorst.

*Alton Locke, a Tailor and Poet.* An Autobiography, in 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.

PERIODICALS FOR AUGUST,  
*The North British Review.*

*The British Quarterly Review.*  
*Fraser's Magazine.*  
*The Rambler.*  
*Household Words.*  
*Peter Parley's New Monthly Journal.*  
*The Free-Thinkers' Magazine.*  
*Novello's Part Song Book.*  
*Novello's Oratorios.*  
*Novello's Masses.*  
*The Musical Times.*

## The Arts.

### COUNTRY COUSINS AT THE OPERA.

The Pythagoreans were the progenitors of our "fashionable circles." The assertion astonishes you? That shows how little the mysteries of Greek philosophy are treated of in the *Times* and *Morning Post*. Now listen, and "let no dog bark." The Pythagoreans, like our upper classes (an equally mystic race!), considered music to be the highest form of education, a virtuous life was to them as a well-tuned lyre (with moderns an opera box) cherishing the inward harmonies. Now, if the opera-box is the *adytum* of our social life, the mystic temple and sanctuary wherein are performed the great ceremonies of our creed, we cannot keep too vigilant an eye upon the priests and their performances. Every profoundly serious mind will desire to penetrate beneath the shows and surfaces into the inner core and meaning of what is there transacted. In other words, a philosophic enquiry should be commenced. We commenced one on Thursday week by taking two Country Cousins to her Majesty's Theatre. Country Cousins: neither more nor less. They were our hierophants, They were the Champollion and Rosellini who could decypher for us, as we thought, the hieroglyphic characters of operatic writing. The smile of incredulity we see stealing over your eyes (politeness keeps your mouth immovable) tells us how little you understand the true sources of judgment. Perhaps you think a few critics would have better served our purpose. Strange infatuation! Why, we in our own small person carried a forty-critic power, and what would "all the press" avail us, even were their consciences lightened of opera boxes? Our choice was perfect: one cousin, a rustic totally unbiassed by critical errors, a naïve and simple man whose talk was of oxen, and whose thoughts wandered amid cornfields and meadows; the other a cultivated, travelled *fanatico per la musica*, with the exquisite privilege of living out of our London circles, and consequently untroubled by its jargon and prejudices. These let us christen for the nonce as BULLOCKS and BLANFORD. It was Carlotta's benefit, and the opera was *La Sonnambula*, with Sontag and Sims Reeves. While the orchestra was "tuning" we raised the expectation of BULLOCKS by informing him that Sontag was a countess and ex-ambassador, a fact which predisposed him to be enraptured with her, for B. has the true British love of aristocracy, and we observed a visible deference in his manner towards ourselves when we carelessly let fall the mention of our having dined with that ambassador at the table of Lord Westmoreland in Berlin (an anecdote which secured our invitation for the shooting season!) BLANFORD remembered her twenty years ago, and assured BULLOCKS that she sang then like an angel. The curtain rose. BLANFORD winced at the chorus; and here let us say once for all that the English tongue is too poor to express the super-superlative badness of those howling rebels Balfe wishes us to believe are under his direction. Except the riotous chorussings of beery haymakers we know nothing equal to her Majesty's "gentlemen of the chorus." BULLOCKS was at home there, and thought it "no mistake;" but after he had worn the skin off his hands, and nearly dislocated his eyes with applauding and staring at the Countess on her first appearance, he soon sunk into a profound slumber. BLANFORD could have done the same. "Anything more droary, feeble, expressionless than this," he said, "I have not seen on an operatic stage. Sontag's 'Amina' is a triumph of mediocrity. That trick of warbling *pianissimo* which she is eternally repeating may not be a bad screen to conceal the ravages of time and the loss of her voice, but it is very wearisome—yet you see the public applauds it! The long-drawn A in alt is a sweet note; but a little water and a finger-glass will produce a note quite as sweet and quite as expressive. Of course the public applaud! Any trick succeeds. If she were to stand on her head the pit would shout 'Brava!' and the papers next morning resound with her musical variety and intensity. You Londoners are strange people. No wonder there can be no art with such a public. Look at Sims Reeves. I heard him when he first appeared, and thought we were to have in him an English tenor; he was coarse, but he had a thrilling voice and abundant energy. Having been warned of his tendency to shout, he now rushes into the opposite extreme, and imagines, because Rubini whispered, he may whisper. But Rubini was a consummate singer: his phrasing was so large and grand, his expression so delicate and refined, that one forgot that he was coddling his voice. With Sims Reeves the

case is precisely the reverse; his voice is only agreeable when he throws it out, and his defective style as a singer needs the compensation of energy. Then, what a contemptible actor he is in this part! I used to fancy he would ripen into an actor. 'Edgardo' was very, very superior to this. Observe him now: who would imagine his soul was torn with jealousy and rage?" Before we could reply to this tirade BULLOCKS awoke. It was the close of the first act, and, feebly as that dramatic finale was given, still the music had excitement enough to make our country cousin throw off some of the stupor which the dragging, whispering, and maudlin of the earlier parts had brought down upon him. As the curtain fell a storm of applause summoned the two feeble artists to appear, and BULLOCKS quietly whispered, "Well, well, I dare say it's all very fine; but I've heard Reeves sing 'The Bay o' Biscay,' and I liked it a deal better." During the second act BLANFORD kept up his running commentary of objection, pitiless towards the unmeaning delivery of Sontag, and the slackening of tempo and unmodulated whisperings of Reeves, who did not produce an effect even with "All is lost now"—which can scarcely escape an encore. BULLOCKS slept. And we pondered on the effect of the opera upon an unsophisticated and a cultivated taste: one slept, the other reviled! But the public? Oh, the public applauded; and the press next day assured us there never was such an "Amina" (not far from the truth that!), and that Reeves sang with his accustomed dramatic passion! Reconcile this. Perhaps you will say that our country cousins were simply incompetent. Not so. They were fond of music; one knew what music was; accordingly, when the third act of *Ernani* came (it was given as a make-weight), with Parodi, Gardoni, and Belletti, singing and acting in a true dramatic style, our cousins were delighted. BULLOCKS was not asleep then. We came home and pondered. The result of our excogitation was a wonderment at the power of the press in matters of art. Aided by some accidental circumstance—a coronet let us say—or "chastity"—or "native talent," (things which predispose the public) it can so puff an artist that the ignorant public shall be willing to believe it is affected, that it is enthusiastic, and that the tricks of an artist are the true manifestations of art.

### MADAME FIORENTINI.

On Tuesday we had a new prima donna, who boldly assumed the wreath and reaping-hook of "Norma" before that public which only last week saw the "Norma" in all her magnificence. To compare Madame Fiorentini with Giulia Grisi would be as idle as to compare Scribe with Shakspeare: the difference is not one of degree but of kind. However, we know the quality of comparisons and forbear. Madame Fiorentini is a young and handsome woman, with a graceful carriage and fine arms; her voice is a high soprano, clear, ringing, but metallic, very even and very sweet, but with the incurable sin of being as it were separate from herself—an instrument she plays upon—not the breathing melody of her own individuality. This peculiarity may be further illustrated in her acting: she does not play the part, she plays upon it; she does not throw her emotions into "Norma," she tries to produce effects, being herself unmoved. Thus in the grand trio with "Adalgisa" and "Pollione" she sang with considerable spirit, but her face underwent none of the emotions of the situation, and at the close, throwing herself into a fine attitude, she began to pant, as if it had just occurred to her that a sign of inward agitation was necessary! To prove how mechanical her acting, when this florid burst was encoored she went through it precisely in the same manner, with the same gestures in the same places, raising and dropping her arms on the same words. This is what we mean by playing upon a part. Another instance of her unimpassioned style: when about to slay her children she has a sweet smile upon her face! Handsome women may be forgiven if they wish to show their handsome teeth, and present a pleasing aspect to the omnibus box, but, although Richard may smile, and smile, and murder while he smiles, smiling matricide is scarcely acceptable! These remarks will inform the reader that Fiorentini is no young Grisi; but in the rank of Frezzolini she will be a valuable acquisition; she has youth, beauty, grace, and voice. In comedy she may be altogether charming.

### THE TWO FARCES.

The only novelties on our English boards which the week has produced are the *Hippopotamus*, in which Wright, as an Othello of private life, jealous of Paul Bedford, disguises himself as a vender of "apples, oranges, ginger beer" (bill o' the play not added), gives vent to some poor Adelphi fun; and *Without Incumbrances*, in which Compton keeps the Strand theatre audience in a roar by his overpowered timidity. Because the season is flat managers make it flatter by not producing pieces of any attractive calibre. *The Daughter of the Stars* is the only novelty of pretension we have had since Douglas Jerrold's comedy!

## Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—  
GOETHE.

### ASCENSION.

I will climb, I will climb,  
 Up the mountains, I said;  
 I will hear the glad chime  
 Of the stars overhead.

I have listened too long  
 For the voices of earth,  
 And I pine for the song  
 Of the gods in their mirth.

On the heights, on the hills,  
 Where the stars seem to rest,  
 Where bright manna distils  
 From the groves of the Blest,

I will stand, I will stand,  
 I will listen, all night,  
 For the songs of the land  
 Where the gods walk in light.

Then I climbed, and I climbed,  
 Thro' the sweet sunset hour,  
 While the fairy bells chimed  
 From the castle and tower.

I was fed on pure balm,  
 And I mounted aloft,  
 Thro' the blue floating calm,  
 On warm breezes and soft,

Till the glades and the dells  
 Vanisht out of the day,  
 And the far fairy bells  
 Faded slowly away.

Then I stood all alone,  
 And Hope lookt from my eyes;  
 But the stars they had flown  
 Higher up, with the skies.

As I mounted my heaven  
 Had mounted with me,  
 And no song from the Seven  
 Burst majestic and free.

But mount higher and higher,  
 O clasper of stars!  
 Ascend like a fire  
 O'er the cloud's purple bars.

If thy goal still retreat,  
 Know thy goal still is there;  
 And the starlight is sweet,  
 As it smiles down the air.

O! fed with pure balm,  
 Can that food be in vain?  
 Wilt thou leave the blue calm  
 For the dark earth again?

If thy stars, if thy sky,  
 Fall and pass from thy sight,  
 Thou shalt climb till on high  
 Breaks a lordlier light.

Thou shalt climb, thou shalt climb,  
 Up the mountains, and see  
 How a sky more sublime,  
 Sweeter stars wait for thee.

Thou shalt see the abodes  
 Where, in music and love,  
 Calm and regal, the gods  
 Lie and banquet above.

Thou shalt rest as they rest,  
 Thou shalt smile when they sing;  
 Thou shalt feast with the Blest,  
 And with kings be a king.

M.

### THE UNSEEN WITNESS.

(LEAVES FROM A JOURNAL KEPT BY No. 3 IN OUR STREET.)

By CATHERINE CROWE,

AUTHOR OF "SUSAN HOPLEY," "LILY DAWSON," "NIGHTSIDE OF NATURE," &c.

#### PART V.

CERTAINLY a sulky disposition is a detestable thing. If Mr. Joddrell would but condescend to demand an explanation, I am sure everything might be cleared up to his satisfaction. My poor mistress wants courage to do it, or love; perhaps both. Not a creature calls but Mr. Page, and to him she is denied. It strikes me that some of the people who used to call here pass by now on the other side of the street, and look up at the windows with a singular expression of curiosity.

Several days had elapsed since Mr. Leslie's letter without a single event to break the dull uniformity of Mrs. Joddrell's life, when one morning I was pleased to see her putting on her bonnet and shawl for a walk; indeed, I thought it high time she should pluck up a spirit and seek a little health and amusement out of doors, for the life she lived within could not contribute to either, and she was growing visibly paler and thinner since the late unpleasant events. I was aware that Mr. Joddrell did not like her to walk out alone; but what

could she do now that she had but one servant (for till they suited themselves with another a charwoman came for an hour or two in the morning to assist Sarah), whilst Mr. Leslie could not, Mr. Joddrell would not, escort her.

I will here refer to my notes, and jot down a few of my observations.

21st. A knock at the door—my mistress returned from her walk. It has certainly done her good; she has such a colour in her cheeks, and her eyes look so bright; they have been very dull lately; her movements are brisker too. I hope she means to make an effort to recover her spirits.

22nd. Another walk; but the air does not seem to have had so much effect as yesterday; she seems rather languid.

23rd. My mistress did not go out to-day. In the evening Page called, and had a chat with my master in his study. He said that Mr. Leslie had resolved to resign his situation immediately, as it was impossible for him to write in the same office with Mr. Joddrell after the treatment he had received. My master answered sulkily that Mr. Leslie might do as he pleased. I gather from the conversation that my master spends his evenings frequently at Mr. Page's now. I am sure this augurs nothing good for my mistress.

30th. My mistress has not been out for two days; but I was glad to see her putting on her bonnet again this morning. Her walk, however, did not seem to revive her much; she seemed rather languid after her return. I think it must have been Mr. Leslie she met on Tuesday, for there is no appearance of any reconciliation or explanation having taken place here. How long is this to last, or what is to be the end of it? In the afternoon Mr. Leslie came down the street arm-in-arm with Page. After they parted at the door of the latter he cast his eyes up to our windows as he passed, but my mistress did not see him—she was mournfully solacing herself in looking over her dead baby's clothes—little frocks, and caps, and bedgowns; above all, the little cap and bedgown it died in. Poor soul! How she kissed them and wept over them, and laid them on her sad bosom! Pity, pity that child died!

31st. This morning there came an invitation to a dinner from a Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who called here about six weeks ago. My mistress sent it down to Mr. Joddrell by Sarah, desiring her to enquire whether he wished it accepted. The answer being that he should go, she wrote a note accepting the invitation for him and declining for herself; but afterwards tore it up and wrote a second, accepting for both. I think she is right; why should she not go to the party as well as he?

2nd. Something extraordinary must certainly have happened this morning! My mistress walked out, but returned in a coach in a state of great excitement. Ever since she came in she has been writing, and I see the letter is addressed to Mr. Wynford, who is her uncle, and also her guardian. What can have occurred?

3rd. I now know the cause of my mistress's agitation yesterday. In the evening my master sent Sarah to beg Mr. Page would step in for an hour; he wanted to speak to him; and then I learnt by the conversation that, having a headache in the morning, Mr. Joddrell had quitted the office to refresh himself with a walk, and who should he see at the corner of the street but my mistress and Mr. Leslie, in what he called "close conversation!" (I wonder if they were closer than people in conversation usually are.) From the way Mr. Page drew down the corners of his mouth I saw he wished to intimate that he looked upon this as a very significant circumstance; then he pursed up his lips, as if he were determined not to let out all he thought upon the subject. My master said "this sort of thing could not go on," and asked Mr. Page what he recommended him to do. Page shook his head, and replied that "it was really difficult to advise in such a delicate case; but that for his part he was not inclined to think that anything criminal had taken place; at the same time there was no saying what might happen if a stop was not put to the connection. He did not think Leslie meant any harm, but there was no denying that the women were apt to be taken by those singing, talking fellows, and that he certainly did advise Mr. Joddrell to break off the acquaintance altogether."

"I can forbid her to speak to him," replied my master; "but how am I to know whether she obeys me or not. If I prevent her walking out people will say I am a tyrant. Besides, her health will suffer."

"You can forbid her going out alone, at all events."

"I have done it already. She knows it is a thing I always objected to here in London, where no woman under fifty should be seen in the streets alone; but unfortunately we have been without a servant lately. However, there is one coming on Wednesday."

"I am sure I or Mrs. Page would be very happy if she would accompany us sometimes," returned the other.

"You are extremely kind," answered my master. "It was very foolish of me, no doubt, to encourage that fellow to come about the house as if he were one of the family; but really I had always looked upon him as a brother. I should as soon have suspected myself of doing such a blackguard thing as him." (I wonder what it is Mr. Leslie has done!)

When Page was gone my master sent a note to my mistress, forbidding her to walk out alone or speak to Mr. Leslie. My mistress wrote in answer that she should not have walked alone if she had had anybody to walk with her; and with respect to speaking to Mr. Leslie, that, although she knew of no reason why she should not, she was certainly bound to obey him; but that she hoped he would allow her to explain to Mr. L. that she was acting under his, Mr. Joddrell's, commands, as it was very painful to treat with in-

civility a person who had always shown her great attention and kindness. To this note my master returned no answer.

9th. Yesterday morning the new maid came; and in the evening my master and mistress went to Mrs. Gordon's dinner. I suspect something unpleasant must have happened, for they came home at nine o'clock, and my master looked more angry than I ever saw him. He walked up and down the dining-room for upwards of an hour, and the clenching of the teeth and movements of the lips showed that some very unpleasant thoughts were passing through his mind. My mistress was rather flushed, but there was no appearance of displeasure about her.

10th. To-day my mistress walked out with Sophy, the new maid.

11th. I find Mr. Leslie was at Mrs. Gordon's party, and sat by my mistress at dinner, and that this was what made my master so angry. I suppose the Gordons knew nothing of the quarrel.

14th. Page told my master that Mrs. Page had written a note to Mrs. Joddrell in the morning, offering to walk with her, but Mrs. J. had declined, and that he had afterwards seen her pass his house with Sophy, the maid.

16th. To-day my mistress received an answer from her uncle; but I fear the contents were not satisfactory. She crushed the paper when she had read it, and threw it into the fire; and I afterwards observed her in tears. Clearly there is no help to be expected from that quarter.

26th. Certainly this is an uncommonly dull family; there is no stir in the house from one week's end to another. I wish we were as merry as my next neighbour; there's plenty of music, dancing, and laughing there. My mistress never opens her pianoforte now. Indeed, she is growing more and more listless, and seems to have no spirit for anything.

2nd. I think my master is coming round a little. He occasionally addresses an observation to his wife. I am glad to see this. To-day he asked her how she liked her new maid. When things come to the worst they generally begin to mend, I have heard. I hope they have arrived at that stage here.

3rd. Yes, things are certainly improving—to-day at dinner my master observed that he had not had a Yorkshire pudding lately, and that he should like one the next time there was roast beef. My mistress said she would mention it to Sarah.

5th. Last night Mr. Page called, and, instead of talking to him below, my master took him up to the drawing-room. He invited him to come to tea to-night, and bring Mrs. Page.

6th. Yesterday evening the Pages came, and after tea they played a rubber at whist. I don't think my mistress cares much for whist. However, it is better than being always alone. When the cards were over there was a little supper, and they staid till twelve o'clock. My mistress was certainly the better for it; but I see she likes the Pages less than ever. She probably suspects they are no friends of hers.

I conclude that nothing occurred worth jotting down for some time after this, for I find a considerable hiatus in my journal. I remember that things went on very much as they did before the quarrel. My master seemed to be endeavouring to behave as formerly, and I think his suspicions had evaporated in a great degree, though not sufficiently to make him seek a reconciliation with Mr. Leslie. My mistress, however, appeared to have fallen into a sad depression of spirits, and I often observed her in tears when she was alone. Certainly, her life was but a dull one for a young person. It was some time after the last date that I find the following entry.

July 20th. I fear that by his behaviour in Mr. Leslie's affair my master has alienated my mistress's affections. I have remarked that when he attempts to throw his arm round her waist or caress her that a sort of shudder passes through her frame—a shivering that I never observed formerly. Poor thing! poor thing! this must be a dreadful misfortune, and I fear an irreparable one. I do not think he was ever well fitted to sustain her affection; but she had the habit of loving him, or of thinking she did, which answered the purpose pretty well. It must be a dreadful discovery for a woman that she cannot love her husband. Doubtless many do not; but they do not find it out till some domestic earthquake or hurricane shakes off disguises and lays open their hearts. To-morrow my master and mistress leave town for Ramsgate.

Another hiatus.

September 6th. A reconciliation has taken place betwixt my master and Mr. Leslie since they returned to town. To-day being Sunday he dined here for the first time since the quarrel. He was not so gay and free as he used to be, and indeed there was a certain degree of restraint on all parties. I gathered from a conversation betwixt my master and Page that the reconciliation was brought about by the Gordons, who seem good-natured people enough; and that my master consented to shake hands with Mr. Leslie on condition that no allusion should be made to the past—an unwise condition, I think, and likely to preclude all real cordiality. When friends quarrel they should "have it all out and make a clean breast of it," before they attempt to bury the past in oblivion, else the poison of it will be apt to curdle and rankle in their hearts, and rise into their throats on every small occasion.

Mr. Leslie calls here occasionally, but never except when my master is at home. On a Sunday he generally dines here. I think it would be a good thing if my master had more company of an evening. I fancy writing all day at a desk disposes the mind to indolence; at least, it seems so with him. He sleeps more and more.

Sunday, December 6th. This morning my master found himself so poorly that he has remained in bed all day. He intended to get up to dinner, but

found himself unequal to the exertion. The doctor says it is an attack of bile. Mr. Leslie, who had been previously invited, came at five and dined tête-à-tête with my mistress. I think this is the first time they have been alone since the quarrel, except when they accidentally met in the street.

When the cloth was removed my mistress went to see how her husband was, but finding him asleep she returned to the dining-room. In the course of a long desultory conversation they at last came upon a point which Leslie much wished to have cleared up.

"Now we are upon the subject," said Mr. Leslie, "I wish you would tell me what was the cause of Joddrell's anger with me, for really I never could understand it."—N.B. I observe that since the time Mr. Leslie used to visit here before he has acquired a great deal more confidence and self-possession. I suppose he has mixed more with the world, besides being two years older.

"I don't exactly know myself," said my mistress, blushing, and looking somewhat confused, "but I fancy it was something Ann said."

"About our intimacy, I suppose?" said Mr. Leslie.

"I don't know," answered my mistress, blushing still more.

"It was, no doubt," said Mr. Leslie; "but why listen to her? why not appeal to you and to me?"

"It would have been more just, certainly," replied my mistress; "but people are seldom just when they are angry."

"But what the devil right had he to be angry?" exclaimed Mr. Leslie; "that is exactly what I complain of. I think he ought to have known me better after twenty years' acquaintance. Besides, it was extremely unjust to you."

"There's no use in talking of it," said my mistress, to whom I saw this conversation was painful. "One can't argue people out of their feelings."

"But when their feelings are founded on mere delusions one ought to try. Think of the possible consequences of his folly in listening to the report of a good-for-nothing maid servant. As it is, it has cost me a great deal of annoyance."

"And I am sure it has me," said my mistress, with a sigh.

"I am afraid it has," rejoined Mr. Leslie; "and I often reproach myself for having been the unintentional source of the mischief by my frequent visits during Joddrell's absence that time at Margate, for I am sure that it was on them the woman founded her calumny. More than once when I opened the drawing-room door I found her ear at the keyhole; but the fact is, you were so lonely that I really felt it a duty, as well as a pleasure, to come and divert your solitude a little."

"I was very lonely!" said my mistress, speaking sadly.

"And I am afraid you are not much better now," said Mr. Leslie.

"Not much," responded she, whilst a tear crept down her cheek.

"I pity women with all my soul!" said Mr. Leslie, with energy.

"We are to be pitied," answered my mistress, with a melancholy shake of the head; "but I think I had better go and see how Joddrell is," she added, hastily rising, "perhaps he is awake by this time;" and with this she quitted the room, leaving Mr. Leslie with his eyes fixed on the fire, in what is called a brown study.

Mr. Joddrell was awake; he said he felt better, and should like a cup of tea. "Is Leslie gone?" he enquired.

"No," answered my mistress, "he is in the dining-room," and there was a slight flush and sinking of the eyelids as she spoke—why I cannot tell—I could see no reason for it. I suspect it was not at her own thoughts she blushed, but at what she apprehended might be her husband's.

"There's no use in his staying," said Mr. Joddrell, rather peevishly; "I can't see him."

"I dare say he'll go away as soon as he has had his tea," said my mistress, "I'll go and make it directly."

This she did, and herself carried up a cup to her husband. Mr. Leslie did go after tea, and she spent the rest of the evening in the sick man's room.

I think my mistress was somewhat relieved by the above conversation with Mr. Leslie, although it embarrassed her at the moment. There was comfort in the conviction of his friendship and sympathy; and I observed that from this time their acquaintance somewhat changed its character, becoming gradually more confidential and easy. She spoke of her situation and feelings with less reserve; and he, with her knowledge and consent, contrived many little schemes to procure her amusement. I saw also that he endeavoured to manage my master's temper, avoiding as much as possible giving him any cause or excuse for dissatisfaction, whilst at the same time his visits became more frequent. Under these circumstances my mistress's spirits improved, and the state of affairs recurred very much to what it had been before the quarrel.

I think the above favourable circumstances must have continued some time; for I see nothing particular entered in my journal till the month of June, when I find the following notice:—

June 10th. I fear something unpleasant has occurred! Yesterday there was a party to Vauxhall. My master and mistress, Mr. Leslie, and a Mr. Glossop, went in a coach. As far as I can make out, my master and Mr. Glossop quarrelled about the supper bill, and the latter, in his rage, has said something offensive. My master and mistress came home alone; he very angry and she in tears. Mrs. Gordon was here this morning, saying she was dreadfully afraid there would be a duel between Mr. Leslie and Mr. Glossop. I see that my mistress is in great distress; my master is angry and silent.

Matters of Fact.

EXPORTS OF COTTON.

Burn's Commercial Glance, just issued, gives the statistics of the cotton trade for the past half year. From these it appears that there has been a decrease in the exportation of the following goods, as compared with the first half of 1849:—

Goods Exported.	Decrease in Quantity.
Cotton yarn .. .. .	2,194,226 lb.
Cotton thread .. .. .	876,639 "
Damasks and diapers .. .	16,005 yards.
Dimities .. .. .	2,070 "
Calicoes, plain .. .. .	17,061,580 "
Cotton and linen mixed .. .	1,382,833 "
Tapes, &c. .. .. .	22,386 dozens.
Unenumerated .. .. .	£77,542 value.

While in the exportation of the following goods there has been an increase:—

Goods Exported.	Increase in Quantity.
Cambrics and muslins .. .	1,242,543 yards.
Lawns .. .. .	279 "
Counterpanes and quilts .. .	52,571 number.
Ginghams .. .. .	114,434 yards.
Cords, velveteens, &c. .. .	1,164,258 "
Nankeens .. .. .	6,158 "
Quiltings .. .. .	11,012 "
Calicoes, printed and dyed .. .	15,886,004 "
Hosiery .. .. .	77,375 dozens.
Shawls and handkerchiefs .. .	33,289 "
Lace, &c. .. .. .	6,153,728 yards.
Ticks, &c. .. .. .	430 "

The decrease in the half-year of cotton imported has been 400,568 bales, and of cotton exported 8344 bales. The stock of cotton on the 1st of July was 723,627 bales, and the price was 6½d. to 8d. against 4d. to 5d. on the 1st of July, 1849. Of 40-mule twist the price was 11d. against 8½d. The average consumption of cotton per week has been 28,466 bales against 33,176 last year, and the total consumption for the six months 740,152 against 845,993 in 1849. Among our customers for cotton yarn during the period the Hanse Towns show the largest increase, and India and Turkey the largest decrease.

PROGRESS OF THE FREEHOLD LAND MOVEMENT.—It is not much more than two years since the first freehold land society was established upon the present improved and equitable plan. Now there are nearly 50 in full force in various parts of the country, having no less than 14,281 members. They have issued 20,476 shares, 31 estates have been purchased and allotted, the number of allotments being 3193, and the votes created, 3199, whilst the price of the shares has varied, in the different societies, from £19 10s. to £40. The number of votes actually created is as yet but a drop in the ocean towards the political emancipation of the masses by the aid of their own industry; but before five years have passed away the above number will be augmented to not much less than 50,000—a power of no insignificant nature, and which may be wielded with immense weight either for good or for evil.—Reporter.

POST-OFFICE.—From returns presented to the House of Commons, giving the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom for each week in which they were counted up to as late a period as practicable, it appears that in the week ending the 21st of February, 1850, the total delivered were—England and Wales, 5,784,213; Ireland, 728,010; Scotland, 727,739; gross total, United Kingdom, 7,239,962. For the year ending the 5th of January, 1850, the gross revenue for the United Kingdom was £2,165,349 17s. 9½d.; the cost of management, £1,324,562 16s. 10d.; the net revenue, £840,787 0s. 11½d. Postage charged on the Government departments, £106,923 18s.; the net revenue, exclusive of charges of the Government departments, £733,863 2s. 11½d. The payment made by the Post-office for the conveyance of mails by railway in the United Kingdom during the year ending the 5th of January, 1850, was, for work done within the year, £128,713 11s. 2d.; for work done in previous years, £99,583 11s.; total, £228,296 12s. 10d. In addition to this amount, a sum of £25,000 was paid to the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company on account, but the portion for the work done in previous years cannot be distinguished, the rate of payment not being fixed. Of money orders there were issued from the 6th of January to the 31st of December, 1849, in England and Wales, 3,515,839—their amount, £6,880,865 11s. 2d.; in Ireland, 358,578—their amount, £592,504 14s. 3d.; in Scotland, 374,474—their amount, £679,273 12s. 1d.—Total, United Kingdom, 4,248,891; amount, £8,152,643 17s. 6d. The total of money orders paid in the same period in the United Kingdom was 4,245,352—their amount, £8,158,356 14s. The cost of management, stated above at £1,324,562 16s. 10d., includes all payments out of the revenue in its progress to the Exchequer, except advances to the Money Order-office of the sum of £10,307 10s., disbursed in pensions, as follows:—£4000 to the Duke of Marlborough, £3407 10s. to the Duke of Grafton, and £2900 to the heirs of the Duke of Schomberg. Inclusive of these pensions there appears a sum of £17,084 14s. 2d., "charges other than management," entered above under the "cost of management." The expenses of the Money Order-office throughout the United Kingdom, during the year ending the 31st of December, 1849, were £70,248; the amount of commission, £70,570. Of this £58,770 was for England and Wales, £5695 for Ireland, and £6105 for Scotland.

POISONING.—A return has been published relative to the number of poisoning cases tried in the United Kingdom from 1839 to 1849 inclusive. The number of persons tried for this crime during the above period, at the Central Criminal Court, has been 33, of whom 18 were men and 15 women; 16 were tried for murder, of whom five were convicted, and 17 for attempt, of whom 10 were convicted. In the Home Circuit 8 women were tried

for murder by poison, three for attempt to murder, and two men as accessories before the fact. The number of convictions was three. In the Midland Circuit 11 women were tried for administering poison, of whom four were convicted. The number of men tried was six, all of whom were acquitted. In the Norfolk Circuit 22 cases of poisoning were tried, in 12 of which the prisoners were females. The number of convictions was nine. In the Northern Circuit the number of males tried for poisoning was 15, and of females five, the number of convictions being 14. In the Oxford Circuit 17 cases of poisoning were tried, in 9 of which the prisoners were women. The number of convictions was 3. In the Western circuit, in 12 out of 22 cases of poisoning tried, the prisoners were women, and conviction took place in 10. In the county of Durham there have been no trials for poisoning. In the county palatine of Lancaster, out of 8 cases, 7 were of women, and conviction was obtained in 5. In the North Wales and Chester circuit the number of persons tried for poisoning was 16, of whom 11 were women. The number of convictions was 5. In the South Wales circuit 5 prisoners were tried for poisoning, 2 of whom were women. Conviction was obtained in 1 case only, in which a man and woman were implicated. In Scotland the total number of trials for poisoning, from 1839 to 1849, was 15, in 10 of which the prisoners were women, and in 7 convictions were obtained. In Ireland 31 women and 25 men were tried for poisoning during the same period, and convictions were obtained in 14 cases. The largest number of cases occurred during the year 1849, the number of cases being 13 (7 men and 6 women), the average of the other years being 4.3, in the proportion of 1.8 men to 2.5 women.

STATISTICS OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—There are 14,000 enrolled friendly societies in this country, having 1,600,000 members, an annual revenue amounting to £2,800,000, and an accumulated capital of £6,400,000. A still greater number of minor friendly societies are not enrolled, and do not, therefore, possess the privileges and means of self-protection enjoyed by the former. It is estimated that there are 33,223 societies in this position in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, having 3,052,000 members, an annual revenue of £4,980,000, and with funds amounting to so large a sum as £11,360,000, the praiseworthy accumulations of the purely industrial classes. Indeed, half of the labouring male adult population are members of benefit societies.—The Reporter.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION.—Up to the 31st of July, 1850, no less than 1085 petitions have been presented, the gross amount of incumbrances on which is £12,400,368, and the annual rental is £655,470. The amount of property sold to the same date is £524,457, and since that about £224,017; whilst an enormous amount of property is advertised for sale for the months of October and November next. Of this purchase-money we understand about £175,100 will have been distributed to the 17th instant inclusive. The number of petitions presented by owners, who, like honest and honourable men, are anxious to pay their just debts, is, to the 31st of July, 1850, 177; and the amount of encumbrances thereon is £3,028,576. The annual rental on which this debt is secured is £189,344.

MURDERS IN ARMAGH.—According to a recent return, the number of cases of murder and waylaying which have occurred in the baronies of Upper and Lower Fews, county of Armagh, during the last six years, is thirty-three. The number of persons arrested was twenty-five. In ten cases the prisoners were acquitted or discharged; in three they were sentenced to imprisonment for periods of from one to twelve months, and three remain to be tried at quarter sessions.

FRENCH FINANCE.—The *Moniteur* publishes the law fixing the budget of expenses of 1851, the summary of which is as follows:—Ordinary expenses, 1,367,000,000f.; extraordinary, 67,000,000f.; special services, 21,000,000f.; departmental services, 104,000,000f.; colonial service, 18,000,000f.: total, 1,577,000,000f.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.  
(From the Registrar-General's Returns.)

The mortality in London is still increasing. The deaths registered in the last week were 997, while the deaths in the four weeks preceding were 781, 863, 898, 917. The increase in the time exceeds 200 a week. The deaths are, however, below the average of the corresponding weeks of 1840-9, after correcting for population, and excluding the corresponding fatal week of 1849, when the deaths were 1909, and 823 persons died of cholera. The corrected average is 1019, while the actual deaths were 997. The deaths from diarrhoea were 152, namely, 124 children under the age of 15, 9 adults between the ages of 15 and 60, and 19 persons of ages over 60. Of cholera 12 children and 3 adults died. The number exceeds the deaths from cholera in the corresponding weeks of 1840-5, but is less than those in the corresponding weeks of 1846-9, when 37, 16, 19, and 823 deaths were ascribed to that malady. There is nothing to indicate the presence of an epidemic either in the number of deaths from cholera, or in the character of the cases recorded below in some detail; but the mortality from diarrhoea is an untoward symptom, which deserves the attention of those who have the power to adopt precautionary measures. Of the 15 fatal cases of cholera recorded, 11 occurred amongst young children under five years of age, and four at more advanced ages.

The barometer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was low during the week; the corrected average reading was 29.651 inches. The mean temperature of the air in the shade was 64.2 deg., or 2.7 deg. above the average temperature of the week. The temperature of the Thames ranged from 63 deg. to 68 deg. The air was dry, showed little electricity, and passed over the Observatory at the average rate of 120 miles a day.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.  
SATURDAY.

The English Funds at the close of last week were unusually dull, and they have not improved in any degree since then. Last Friday we reported a decline of one-eighth in Consols, and a further decline of one-eighth took place on the following day. On Monday the same heaviness continued. The first quotation was 96¼ to 96½, and, owing to some large sales on account of the Court of Chancery, coupled with the unfavourable aspect of the weather, they receded to 96¼. A slight improvement took place afterward, however, and they left off at 96½ to 96¼. The fluctuations on Tuesday were chiefly in connection with the settlement of the account next day. Consols opened at 96¼ to 96½, and, after reaching 96¼, closed at 96½. The large supply of stock in the market, on Wednesday, caused an increased dullness, but no farther decline was reported. On Thursday there was little variation in the early part of the day. Previous to the close a decline of an eighth took place, in consequence of a report that one of the operators for a rise during the late account had failed to meet his engagements. The closing price of Consols yesterday was 96¼ to 96½. Yesterday a slight improvement took place; the closing prices were 96½ to 96¾.

In other English Securities the same heaviness has been exhibited. The range of prices during the week has been to the following extent:—Consols, 96¼ to 96¾; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 98½ to 99¼; Bank Stock, 211 to 212; Exchequer Bills, 65s. to 69s. premium.

In Foreign Securities the amount of business done has been very limited. Prices have undergone no change worthy of note, and speculators have evinced little disposition to extend operations. The sales yesterday comprised—Brazilian, at 92¼; Danish Five per Cents., 101¼ and ¼; Ecuador, 3¼ and ¾; Mexican, 29¾, 29¾, and 29; Portuguese Five per Cents., 87¼; the Converted, 33¼; the Four per Cents., 33 and 33¼; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents., 96¾, ¼, and ¾; Spanish Five per Cents., 17¼ and ¼; the Three per Cents., 37¼; Venezuela, 35¼, 34¼, and 35; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents., 57¼ and ¼; and the Four per Cents., 89 ¾ and ¼.

The supplies of foreign corn into London this week have been liberal. Notwithstanding the gloomy weather which has very generally prevailed in the country, and the continued unfavourable reports of the probable yield of the wheat crop, no speculation has been excited. The holders of wheat are firm, but the buyers take no more than is sufficient to supply their immediate wants. Barley and oats sell readily at fully Monday's rates. The following are the arrivals of corn from August 12 to 16:—

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat .. .. .	2980	—	13,510
Barley .. .. .	30	—	5950
Oats .. .. .	1190	—	9390

There is no new feature in the reports from the manufacturing towns. In the textile branches great briskness prevails, more especially in the linen and woollen districts. At Leeds the shipping houses are said to be much busier than they usually are at this season.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending on Saturday, the 10th of August, 1850.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued ....	£ 30,127,645	Government Debt, 11,015,100	£
		Other Securities ..	2,984,900
		Gold Coin and Bul-	
		lion .....	15,923,687
		Silver Bullion ....	203,958
	£30,127,645		£30,127,645

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital, 14,553,000	£	Government Securities (including Dead-weight Annuity) ..	14,430,847
Reserve .....	3,277,752	Other Securities ..	10,096,445
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	6,283,403	Notes .....	9,978,245
Other Deposits .....	9,717,785	Gold and Silver	
Seven-day and other		Coin .....	674,591
Bills .....	1,347,789		
	£35,179,728		£35,179,728

Dated Aug. 15, 1850. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(Closing Prices.)

	Satur.	Mond.	Tues.	Wedn.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock ....	—	212	211	212	212	211
3 per Ct. Red ..	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	96½
3 p. C. Con. Ans.	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
3 p. C. An. 1726.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 p. Ct. Con. Ac.	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
3 p. Cent. An.	99½	99½	99	98½	98½	99
Now 5 per Cts.	—	8 5-16	8 5-16	—	8 5-16	8½
Long Ans., 1860.	—	268	267	—	—	266
Ind. St. 10½ p. ct.	90	90	90	90	89	85
Ditto Bonds ..	66 p	66 p	69 p	69 p	68 p	65 p
Ex. Bills, 1000f.	66 p	66 p	69 p	69 p	68 p	68 p
Ditto, 500f. ..	68 p	66 p	69 p	69 p	68 p	68 p
Ditto, Small	68 p	66 p	69 p	69 p	68 p	68 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

Table of foreign funds including Austrian 5 per Cts., Belgian Bds., Brazilian 5 per Cts., Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cts., Chilean 6 per Cts., Equador Bonds, Danish 3 per Cts., Dutch 2 1/2 per Cts., French 5 p.C.An.at Paris, Mexican 5 per Ct. Acc., Neapolitan 5 per Cts., Peruvian 4 1/2 per Cts., Portuguese 5 per Cent., Russian 1822, 5 p. Cts., Span. Actives, 5 p. Cts., and Deferred.

SHARES.

Last Official Quotation for the Week ending Friday Evening.

Table of shares categorized into RAILWAYS (Caledonian, Edinburgh and Glasgow, etc.), BANKS (Australasian, British North American, etc.), MINES (Bolanos, Brazilian Imperial, etc.), and MISCELLANEOUS (Australasian Agricultural, Canada, etc.).

GRAIN, Mark-lane, August 16.

Table of grain prices for Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Peas, and Beans, listing various grades and their prices.

GENERAL AVERAGE PRICE OF GRAIN.

Table showing weekly and aggregate average prices for Wheat, Barley, and Oats.

FLOUR.

Table of flour prices for Town-made, Seconds, Essex and Suffolk, Norfolk and Stockton, American, and Canadian flour.

AVERAGE PRICE OF SUGAR.

The average price of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, computed from the returns made in the week ending the 13th day of August, 1850, is 2 5s. 5 1/2d. per cwt.

BUTCHERS' MEAT.

Table of butcher's meat prices for Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, and Lamb, listing different cuts and their prices.

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Table of cattle prices for Beasts, Sheep, Calves, and Pigs, listing prices for Friday and Monday.

PROVISIONS.

Table of provision prices for Butter, Bacon, Cheese, Hams, and Eggs, listing various types and their prices.

HAY AND STRAW. (Per load of 36 Trusses.)

Table of hay and straw prices for Cumberlan, Smithfield, and Whitechapel, listing different grades and their prices.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, August 13.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.—W. Varnam, Istock, Lelcestershire, draper; first div. of 7s. 6d., any Thursday; Mr. Christie, Birmingham—W. Maddox, Liverpool, tailor; first div. of 1s. 10d., on Thursday, Aug. 15, or any subsequent Thursday; Mr. Cazenove, Liverpool—J. W. Brooke and J. Wilson, Liverpool, merchants; second div. of 9d., and first div. of 1s. 6d. (on new profits), on Thursday, Aug. 15, or any subsequent Thursday; Mr. Cazenove, Liverpool—G. Lister, jun., Kingston-upon-Hull, ale merchant; first and final div. of 6d., on Friday, Aug. 16, or any subsequent Friday; Mr. Carrick, Hull—E. Wray, Kingston-upon-Hull, draper; first div. of 4s., on Friday, Aug. 16, or any subsequent Friday; Mr. Carrick, Hull—J. Fletcher, Manchester, auctioneer; first div. of 4 5-16d., any Tuesday; Mr. Hobson, Manchester.

BANKRUPTS.—J. STEELE, Deptford, tar manufacturer, to surrender Aug. 22, Oct. 3; solicitor, Mr. Chidley, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—S. and W. B. ADAMS and G. RALSTON, Bow, engineers, Sept. 5, Oct. 10; solicitors, Messrs. Crowder and Maynard, Coleman-street; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Birch-lane, Cornhill—E. STEPHENSON, Richmond, Surrey, builder, Aug. 22, Oct. 3; solicitor, Mr. Kaye, Symond's-inn, Chancery-lane; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Birch-lane, Cornhill—J. HIBBLE, Bishopsgate-street Without, oil and colourman, Aug. 22, Sept. 30; solicitors, Mr. T. J. and E. S. Clarke, Bishopsgate-churchyard; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—E. GROUND, Wisbeach and Parsons-Drove, draper, Aug. 23, Sept. 27; solicitors, Messrs. Mardon and Prichard, Christchurch-chambers, Newgate-street; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—J. WHITWELL, Mark-lane, corn factor, Aug. 21, Sept. 27; solicitors, Messrs. Abbott and Wheatley, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, and Messrs. Miller and Son, Norwich; official assignee, Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—H. E. FORD and W. REEVES, Leadenhall-street, ship agents, Aug. 20, Sept. 23; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Plews, Old Jewry-chambers; official assignee, Mr. Pennell, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street—J. ROBINSON and E. MOORE, Wakefield, spinners, Aug. 22, Sept. 23; solicitors, Messrs. Westmorland and Taylor, Wakefield; official assignee, Mr. Hope, Leeds—W. H. DE WOLF, Liverpool, merchant, Aug. 22, Sept. 16; solicitor, Mr. Holden, Liverpool; official assignee, Mr. Cazenove, Liverpool—D. M'INTYRE, Manchester, manufacturing chemist, Aug. 23, Sept. 16; solicitors, Messrs. Rowley and Taylor, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Pott, Manchester.

DIVIDEND.—Sept. 4, J. Parker, Blackburn, grocer. SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—R. Mills, Perth, baker, Aug. 15, Sept. 9—J. Muir, Edinburgh, banker, Aug. 21, Sept. 18—J. Maitland, Troon, merchant, Aug. 19, Sept. 9.

Friday, August 16.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.—G. E. Inger, Nottingham, druggist; first div. of 4s., on Saturday, Aug. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 12, and on every subsequent alternate Saturday until Dec. 21; Mr. Bittleston, Nottingham—R. Woolston, Stamford, Lincolnshire, brickmaker; second and final div. of 4s. 10d., on Saturday, Aug. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 12, and on every subsequent alternate Saturday until Dec. 21; Mr. Bittleston, Nottingham—C. Till, Salisbury and Andover, linen-draper; first div. of 1s. 8d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—J. Yates, Guernsey, and York-road, Lambeth, shipowner; second div. of 5d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—J. Ward, Upper Ground-street, Christchurch, Surrey, ironfounder; third div. of 4d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—E. Reynolds, jun., Gorleston, Suffolk, miller; first div. of 2 1/2d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—C. W. Davies, Brownlow-street, Holborn, licensed victualler; first div. of 1s. 1d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—P. Clark, Colchester, jun., pawnbroker; final div. of 1d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—C. H. Weigall, Conduit-street, Regent-street, tailor; third div. of 3d., on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street—R. H. F. Williams and M. Wilson, Liverpool, merchants; eighth div. of 3/8ths of a penny, on Wednesday next, or any of the three Thursdays after Oct. 12; Mr. Graham, Coleman-street.

BANKRUPTS.—J. G. BRACH, licensed victualler: to surrender Aug. 23, Sept. 28; solicitors, Messrs. Bristow and Tarrant, Bond-court, Walbrook; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street—J. G. STORT, Bell-street, Edgeware-road, ironfounder, Aug. 23, Sept. 28; solicitor, Mr. Kusbury, Howard-street, Strand; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Birch-lane, Cornhill—J. N. REYNOLDS, Upper-street, Islington, grocer, Aug. 23, Sept. 27; solicitors, Messrs. Van Sandau and Cumming, King-street, Cheapside; official assignee, Mr. Cannan, Birch-lane, Cornhill—F. MOUNTFORD, Greenwich, stationer, Aug. 24, Oct. 4; solicitor, Mr. Goddard, King-street, Cheapside; official assignee, Mr. Groom, Abchurch-lane—J. ROBINSON and E. MOORE, Wakefield, spinners, Aug. 29, Sept. 23; solicitors, Messrs. Westmorland and Taylor, Wakefield; official assignee, Mr. Hope, Leeds—R. H. WOOD, Birmingham, surgeon, Aug. 29, Sept. 26; solicitors, Messrs. Motteram, Knight, and Emmet, Birmingham; official assignee, Mr. Valpy, Birmingham—W. SHROPSHALL, jun., Congleton, Cheshire, miller, Aug. 26, Sept. 23; solicitor, Mr. Bell, Liverpool; official assignee, Mr. Morgan, Liverpool—W. G. WILLIAMS, Accrington, Lancashire, draper, Aug. 27, Sept. 18; solicitors, Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, Manchester; official assignee, Mr. Fraser, Manchester.

DIVIDENDS.—Sept. 13, T. C. Jones, Blackfriars-road, linen-draper—Sept. 9, J. Woolnough, otherwise J. L. Woolnough, Chediston, Suffolk, cattle dealer—Sept. 13, J. Fisher, Bristol, livery stable keeper—Sept. 16, N. J. Keed, Marlborough, licensed common brewer—Sept. 13, W. James, Liangatchock, Breconshire, provision dealer—Sept. 20, J. Bowyer, Boreham, Wiltshire, miller—Sept. 4, W. Orrel, Manchester, gum manufacturer—Sept. 6, G. Danson, Lancaster, merchant—Sept. 7, W. Linley, Conisbrough, Yorkshire, sithe-manufacturer—Sept. 7, J. Bridgeford, Sheffield, printer—Sept. 6, M. Cawood, Leeds, ironfounder—Sept. 7, H. Parker, O. Shore, J. Brewin, and J. Rodgers, Sheffield, bankers—Sept. 7, W. L. Bickley, Sheffield, innkeeper—Sept. 6, J. Garrison, Helderby, Yorkshire, grocer.

CERTIFICATES.—To be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—Sept. 9, T. C. Jones, Blackfriars-road, linen-draper—Sept. 9, E. A. Peakome, Princes-street, Cavendish-square, saddler—Sept. 9, T. J. Edwards, King-street, Bloomsbury, dressing-case maker—Sept. 12, C. Penfold, Arundel, ironmonger—Sept. 12, F. W. Spencer, Devonport, draper—Sept. 12, E. B. Thomas, Leominster, wine-merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—R. M'Gown, Glasgow, trader, Aug. 21, Sept. 11—A. Miller, Glasgow, manufacturer, Aug. 21, Sept. 11—J. Corbet, Glasgow, commission-agent, Aug. 23, Sept. 16—J. Pirrie, Gartly, Aberdeenshire, farmer, Aug. 21, Sept. 11.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th inst., in the British Museum, the wife of J. R. Kenyon, Esq., of a daughter. On the 9th inst., at Upper Lansdowne-terrace, Kensington-park, the wife of the Reverend A. Y. Bazett, of a daughter. On the 9th inst., at Clebury Mortimer, Shropshire, the wife of E. M. Moultrie, Esq., of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law, of a daughter. On the 10th inst., at Gopsall, the Countess Howe, of a son. On the 10th inst., at the Royal Marine Barracks, Woolwich, the wife of Lieutenant and Adjutant J. A. Stewart, R.M., of a son. On the 10th inst., at Colney-hatch, Middlesex, the wife of A. Crawshaw, Esq., of a son.

On the 11th inst., Mrs. C. W. Dilke, of a son. On the 11th inst., in Sussex-gardens, the wife of Henry W. Schneider, Esq., of a son. On the 11th inst., at Stifford-house, Warminster, the wife of F. W. Curteis, Esq., of a daughter. On the 12th inst., at Archbishop Tenison's Grammar School, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the wife of the Reverend P. Hale, of a son. On the 12th inst., at Brompton-row, the wife of Dr. Baber, of a son. On the 12th inst., in Harley-street, Mrs. Wm. J. Jarvis, of a daughter. On the 12th inst., at Woolwich, the wife of Captain J. H. Francklyn, R.A., of a daughter. On the 12th inst., in Gordon-square, Lady Romilly, of a son. On the 12th inst., at Castlebar, Ireland, the wife of Captain Reader, Seventeenth Regiment, of a son. On the 13th inst., in Gibson-square, the wife of the Reverend C. F. Vardy, A.M., of a daughter. On the 13th inst., in Upper Woburn-place, the wife of James Kemplay, Esq., of the Middle Temple, of a daughter. On the 14th inst., at Exton-park, the Lady Louisa Agnew, of a son and heir.

MARRIAGES.

On the 15th inst., at Rydal, Westmoreland, by the Reverend F. Fleming, W. E. Forster, Esq., of Rawdon, Yorkshire, to Jane Martha, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Arnold, of Rugby. On the 1st inst., at St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth, Jeremy Taylor, son of the late Reverend J. Digby, of Osherstown, county of Kildare, to Mary Elizabeth Pomeroy, only child of R. Williams Avery, Esq., of Plymouth. On the 6th inst., at Croydon, C. E. Thornhill, Esq., barrister-at-law, to Ellen Eliza Fanny, youngest daughter of the late Major Fraser, of the service of his Highness the Rajah of Nagpore. On the 6th inst., at Dusseldorf, H. J. Von Gerstein Hohenstein, Fifth Regiment of Prussian Lancers, to Anne Harriett, daughter of the late W. C. Bruce, Esq. On the 10th inst., at Wellesbourne, the Honourable and Reverend Lord Charles Paulet, to Mathewana, eldest daughter of B. Granville, Esq., of Wellesbourne-hall, Warwickshire. On the 12th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, Viscount Reidhaven, eldest son of the Earl of Seaford, to the Honourable Caroline Stuart, youngest daughter of the late Lord Bantyre. On the 12th inst., at Blisworth, the Reverend M. W. Gregory, M.A., of Wadham College, Oxford, to Jane, third daughter of G. Stone, Esq., of Blisworth. On the 13th inst., at Dyrham, Gloucestershire, C. R. G. Douglas, Esq., Thirty-second Regiment Bengal Infantry, only son of the late Major R. Sholto Douglas, R.A., to Louisa, daughter of Sir G. B. Robinson, Bart. On the 14th inst., at St. Mary's, Bryanston-square, Thomas Addison, Esq., captain, Second (Queen's Royal) Regiment, to Ellen, eldest daughter of R. Gillespie, Esq., Portman-square. At St. Mary's Bathwick, Bath, George Edward, of the Ordnance Department, second son of Colonel Durnford, of the Royal Artillery, to Mary Georgina Elizabeth, eldest daughter of C. Beaven, Esq. On the 14th inst., at the parish church, Preston, E. Francis Ffarington, Esq., of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law, second son of Captain Ffarington, R.N., of Woodvale, in the Isle of Wight, to Margaret, only child of the late J. Newsham, Esq., of Preston. On the 15th inst., at the church of St. James's, Piccadilly, H. M. Windsor, Esq., of the Treasury, to Alice, daughter of the late E. Fletcher, Esq., of Clifton-house, Lancaster.

DEATHS.

On the 16th inst., at his apartment in the Charter-house, Mr. Robert Hunt, aged 77, eldest brother of Mr. Leigh Hunt. On the 2nd inst., at Bath, Major-General Innes, C.B., Bengal army, aged 78. On the 4th inst., at Jerez de la Frontera, J. D. Gordon, Esq., of Wardhouse, vice-consul in that city. On the 6th inst., at Adare Manor, county of Limerick, the Earl of Dunraven, aged 67. On the 7th inst., B. Delmar, Esq., of New Inn, aged 50. On the 8th inst., at Rotterdam, G. R. Keogh, Esq., D.L., of Kiltbride, in the county of Carlow, Ireland. On the 8th inst., at Wroughton, Somerset, the Reverend Robinson Elsdale, D.D., formerly high master of the Free Grammar School, Manchester, aged 67. On the 8th inst., at Leamington, Frances Ursule, relict of the late Reverend H. A. Pys, prebendary of Worcester Cathedral, and perpetual curate of Cirencester. On the 9th inst., at St. Martin's-lane, Charing-cross, aged 56, Ann, relict of the late W. B. Williams, Esq., late governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. On the 10th inst., at Barn Elms, the Right Honourable Sir L. Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England, aged 72. On the 10th inst., at Draycot Rectory, aged 68, the Reverend H. Barry, late Michel Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, and rector of Draycot Cerne, and Upton Scudamore, Wilts. On the 11th inst., in Bloomsbury-square, Henry N. Carr, Esq., barrister-at-law. On the 11th inst., J. W. Wright, Esq., of St. John's-wood, and formerly of British Honduras, aged 61. On the 11th inst., in Dublin, aged 56, Colonel R. Beauchamp, youngest son of the late Sir Thos. B. Proctor, Bart., of Langley-park, Norfolk. On the 12th inst., at Shirley, near Southampton, Peter Berthon, Esq., formerly of Finsbury-square, aged 78. On the 13th inst., at Eaton-place, Belgrave-square, the Honourable C. E. Law, M.P., recorder of London, aged 58. On the 13th inst. (being the anniversary of his birthday), John Brown, Esq., in the 90th year of his age, in Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square.

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A Committee (elected on the 30th of June by Poles, assembled for the purpose from among both the old and new refugees) has been appointed to raise means for the support of these remaining (about 80) exiles, until, by the efforts of the Committee, employment may be found or opportunities afforded for their return to the Continent. For this purpose a Subscription List is opened at the *Leader* Office, 9, Crane-court, Fleet-street; and the Committee urgently request the contributions of all friends of European freedom.

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