

Thomson's Large Print, 10 Wellington Street, Strand.

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.*

Contents :

NEWS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE
The Week in Parliament	194
Letters from Paris	197
Continental Notes	198
War in Burmah	200
American Notes	200
Six Mile Bridge	200
Seamen's Strike at Southampton ..	200
Irish Agriculture	200
Religious Persecution in the Free Town of Hamburgh	201
The Romance of the "Diggings" ..	201
Progress of Association	201
Railway Smash : a "Director" ..	201
Killed	201

The Queen <i>versus</i> Newman	202
The Australian Mail Packet Adelaide	202
The Wreck of the Queen Victoria ..	202
A Very Rough Diamond	202
Miscellaneous	202
Health of London during the Week ..	202
Births, Marriages, and Deaths	202

PUBLIC AFFAIRS—

Ministers and Religious Liberty	203
Modern Tyrannicide	204
Progress of Labour	204
A Double "Indiscretion"	205
The Genesis of Parliament	205

Our Practical Morality	206
Church Harmony in Somersetshire ..	206
A "Stranger" in Parliament	206
Report of the Oxford University Commission. I.	208
The Discussion on Secularism	209

OPEN COUNCIL—

Wanted an "Uncle Tom" for Beth- nal Green	209
Friends of Italy	209

LITERATURE—

Books on our Table	210
A Viscount's Satire	210

Daisy Burns	211
Scientific Memoirs	211
The Religion for Our Age	211

PORTFOLIO—

The Works of the Old Painters. Chaps. VIII. IX. and X.	212
To —	214

THE ARTS—

The Theatrical Week	214
---------------------------	-----

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS—

City Intelligence, Markets, Adver- tisements, &c.	214-216
---	---------

VOL. IV. No. 153.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1853.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

NOTWITHSTANDING the time devoted to the vain squabble about Maynooth, Parliament has done some work this week of an important character. Although Mr. Spooner has dragged it into that old squabble of bigotry, it has not accepted his dictation. A consciousness of his difficulty made him alter his course this year, and instead of moving for an enquiry, he moved for a committee of the whole House to consider the Maynooth Acts, with a view to the repeal of the money grants. This motion Mr. Scholefield met by an amendment, to consider *all* the grants for religious purposes, including the Regium Donum; and Mr. Lucas, who made a brilliant display of neophyte ferocity as a Roman Catholic, challenged the extension of the amendment to the Established Church in Ireland. Mr. Edward Miall's maiden speech, in opposing the motion, will be recognised by many as an earnest and thoughtful expression of a more philosophical nonconformity. He maintained the principle that no advocate of truth could desire to see *his* truth supported by a State Endowment. On Wednesday, just before the set hour of adjournment, at six o'clock, the House resolved, by 192 to 167, not to adopt Mr. Spooner's motion. Out of doors, some remarks have been excited by the comparative narrowness of the majority; but it is evident that the whole of the anti-Maynooth party was mustered, while only the extreme section and bolder members of the opposite party thought it necessary to parade in the lobby; Members who would reject the motion taking the opportunity of skulking, in order not to offend ultra-Protestant constituents. The work, however, was done without them, and the annual nuisance summarily disposed of.

The treatment of Lord John's annual motion for the removal of Jewish disabilities, somewhat redeemed the character of the week's proceedings in politico-religious matters. Lord John advanced his proposition more than ever in a manner as if he intended to go through with it. The opposition was varied in its character. Sir Robert Inglis was obstinate, Sir Robert Peel wildly discursive, Mr. Napier wildly suggestive, exclaiming that "they were making Christianity itself an open question." The division did not exhibit so strong a majority as people expected—only 234 to 205; but it is a majority, and the op-

ponents have probably mustered their whole strength to contest the matter at the very outset.

The claims of the native Indians have been brought before Parliament by Lord Ellenborough, with a petition from Madras; and although we do not learn much respecting the intentions of Ministers, the reception is, upon the whole, favourable. It seems that Ministers intend to commence a reform at once, and not to continue the present system provisionally. But they speak as if they had not yet made up their minds as to the manner of proceeding.

Mr. Milner Gibson advanced his "County Rates Bill" with better auspices than he has found in former years. Lord Palmerston accepts the principle of the Bill,—Local Representation in County Financial Boards,—notwithstanding a warning from Sir John Pakington, that in doing so he would offend the Magistracy. The measure, although far from being perfect, involves a good principle,—local management of local affairs,—and the principle can be further applied hereafter.

Incidentally, some important announcements have been made in Parliament. The Divorce Commission is prepared to report in favour of a measure to render divorce more cheap and accessible to all classes, through a regular tribunal. The measure on secondary punishments will be submitted without great delay. Government will appoint a commission to examine into the law of limited liability; and we may expect a concession important to the working classes.

The people hate the army, said the Earl of Cardigan, in reference to the Six-Mile-Bridge affair; but he drew his instances principally from Ireland. It is true that great jealousies have existed between the People and the Army; but the character of the times has altered, and if military affairs be properly administered, there is no doubt that the jealousy will healthily subside.

The importance of a just administration in the military departments is now fully recognised. The further extension of the Naval and Military estimates, although it does not satisfy us that every stone, ball, or gun that would be desirable is to be provided, shows at least that the necessary attention is devoted to all parts of the subject; and such being the case, we have no fear whatever as to the result. We only wish that Government would at once carry out its own principles by recognising and encouraging the arming of the entire people

in volunteer corps under proper regulations. Lord Palmerston ought to be the man to do so; he has avowed confidence in the people, and this would test so honourable and patriotic an impulse.

In the course of the debates the Peace party sustained a damaging reverse. Lord Palmerston declared to Mr. Hindley that Government did *not* intend to prosecute those who had issued placards persuading men not to join the Militia, because, as the movement had failed, to prosecute the offenders might seem vindictive. Lord Palmerston's spirit in this matter is better than his logic. Carry out his reasoning, and then the pickpocket who had failed in his attempt to take your handkerchief, ought to be pardoned, lest prosecution should seem vindictive. However, the peace smashers were not left without rather a severe retribution. Mr. Hindley buried a document, and then Lord Palmerston produced it. It was a letter from Alexander Somerville, whose name had been cited in the peace placards without his authority, and in a manner most disingenuous; and who had challenged Mr. Hindley to make his explanation public. It seems that the Peace party cannot afford to be quite ingenuous.

Although they cannot get up an organized peace movement in the City, Mr. Sidney Smith's attempt proving a ludicrous failure, another association has been established, to promote the ballot, on the instigation of Mr. Henry Berkeley, with Mr. Phinn, Lord Dudley Stuart, and Mr. Wigram Crawford, among its members. This question is in a much more favourable position this year than it has been ever before.

The foreign news is comparatively scanty, though far from being unimportant. In the most infamous proclamations, imposing terrible mulcts on the Milanese, forbidding them to walk or whistle together in the streets, prohibiting even the singing in churches, Radetzky proclaims the terrors of the inexorable Austrian; and thus explains why it is that at last the hand of—it may be, fanatical patriotism has sought to avenge the intolerable wrongs upon the person of the Emperor. Count Gyulai, the military governor of Milan, adds his admission: scolding the members of a deputation who interceded for leniency, because he had not seen their faces before, he proclaims that the most respectable of the Italians stand aloof from the Austrian Government; an admission at variance with the industrious assertions of his party. As the rule in Italy grows more cruel, so the reports of revo-

lution and war in all parts of the continent become more confident.

The partition of European Turkey is a subject of general discussion in every capital of Europe, from Constantinople to Paris, from Vienna to London. The insolent claims of Count Leiningen were necessarily rejected by the Porte, and the Turkish army has renewed the effort to reduce Montenegro, in spite of Austrian warnings. Independently of that sectional contest, however, some dangerous negotiation is going on. Prince Menschikoff, with Count Demetri de Nesselrode, is in Constantinople on Russian "business." Paris is full of the subject; and our own leading journal writes as if the partition were solely a question of time. If so, England would permit her great Imperial rivals to close against her merchants the portals of commerce in Asia; but it is said, with great probability, that England and France have accepted the appeal of Turkey to their joint protection.

From the United States we have cheering announcements that reciprocity in fish and friendship is making way, although forms somewhat hinder immediate conclusions.

Death has been busy amongst people well known in the political world. The Bishop of Lincoln, who had administered his diocese with unostentatious and peaceful regularity, has made way for Ministers to bestow an important piece of patronage. Bishop Broughton, the useful and diligent prelate of New South Wales, has also succumbed to age. He was selected by the sagacity of Wellington: whether his successor will work as well, remains to be seen; but the patronage is not so high a prize as a prelacy at home. Pierce Mahony is a name more familiar to the lobbies of Parliament: the Dublin Coppock is removed from the scene. The young Earl of Belfast is a loss of nascent promise to his country. Heir to broken fortunes, and shattered in health, he had begun to devote his better hours to kindly offices, to refined studies, and to the assistance of the working-classes in the town from which he took his title. The working people of Belfast will remember with affection his personal intercourse with themselves.

The "accident" on the Great Western Railway, in which an express train at full speed parted asunder, one half ploughing up the bank, and falling back on the passengers like a rearing horse, is deplorable: it is only to be hoped that the fact of a Director's being destroyed on his way to a board, will speak to the managers of railways in a language which they may at last understand: if so, Mr. Gibbs will not have fallen a vain sacrifice to the English Juggernaut. But in this calamity at least it seems difficult to attribute the catastrophe so directly as usual to carelessness or mismanagement: unless it be proved that the first care of sailors and old-fashioned coachmen was neglected—the testing of the gear, and the scrutiny of the linchpins.

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MAYNOOTH.

ONCE more this interminable subject has been before the House. Mr. SPOONER moved, on Tuesday, for a committee of the whole House on the Maynooth acts, with a view to the abolition of the grant; in a speech two hours long. He was extremely dull, and reproduced with slight additions from the newspapers the whole of what he is accustomed to say on this topic. But there was some novelty in his position before the House. Previously he had moved for an inquiry; and had stated certain facts respecting the doctrines taught at Maynooth. Now, he had been personally abused, but those facts had not been denied; and assuming that they could not be denied, he at once asked the House to abolish the grant. He appealed to the oath taken by members of that House, who had sworn to defend the constitution in Church and State; and yet there were those among them who sought what was called religious equality and who supported this institution. He declared that the system of education at Maynooth was based on principles which absolved subjects from their allegiance to the sovereign, urged the persecution of Protestants, connived at the breaking of promises, and fostered sedition. He quoted Bellarmine and

Aquinas and the decretals. Taking up a file of Irish newspapers, he read extracts from them to show how the priests had acted in the late election in coercing the people by threats of spiritual punishment and temporal misfortune; and referring such conduct to the existence of Maynooth. Here are specimens:

"A parish priest in the county of Meath addressed his flock in these terms during the last election: 'In the presence of the Most High, by the living God, and by the crucifix before you, will you not vote for Lucas?' (Laughter.) He read an extract from the *Leinster Express*: 'The view into the other world of those Catholics who voted for Mr. Browne (said the Rev. James Maher, at the Carlow election) was far from affording consolation; let them go and be damned.' (Laughter.) In the *Evening Herald* the following statement was published: 'In the chapel of Lusk the priest addressed the people at mass; he called every voter he knew to be in the chapel by name to the altar; he warned them of the strictly religious character of the struggle now going on in the face of the congregation; he cautioned them against voting through any influence or circumstance for any other than certain candidates, and said with respect to those who despised his advice, and the interests of the Church, that he would not be surprised if their houses were burned over their heads.'"

Mr. SPOONER made a warm appeal to the House to stand by the Protestant institutions of the country.

Mr. JAMES MACGREGOR, who seconded the motion, placed himself in a ridiculous position. He mistook the committee of the whole house for a committee to take evidence, and argued as if that were so until he was set right by the jeering laughter of the house. He said the true way to meet their allegations against Maynooth was by inquiry; [yet he was seconding a resolution to abolish the grant at once!]

Mr. SCHOLEFIELD moved as an amendment that the proposed committee should consider all acts whereby the revenue of the State was charged in aid of any ecclesiastical or religious purpose, with a view to the repeal of such enactments. Until all sects were placed on a level, the principle of religious liberty would not be carried out. His motion did not refer to the Regium Donum, but he found charges for the ecclesiastical establishments in the West Indies, for commissioners for building churches, for stipends to ministers of the Church of Scotland, and for ministers in the Highlands, all of which he wished to sweep away. If, as he expected, his amendment should be lost, he should vote against the original motion.

Sir WILLIAM CLAY seconded the amendment. Colonel GREVILLE opposed the motion.

Mr. MIALl made his maiden speech on the subject—

It seemed they were all agreed that this debate had hitherto been far from profitable, that the feelings which had been excited were not the most genial, and that, whatever might be the result, the country probably would not be proud of their proceedings. (Hear, hear.) That was the natural consequence of that House interfering in matters of religion, and whatever might be the irritation under the affliction of speeches so lively as that of the honourable member for North Warwickshire, they must admit there was some ground laid by their past proceedings for bringing forward controversial topics once and again, until they got rid of them for ever. (Hear, hear.) He was glad the subject came before the House now in a shape which would admit of his giving a vote distinctly upon one of two principles. If he voted with the hon. member for North Warwickshire, granting that the State had a right to bestow endowments for religious purposes, he should affirm that it could only do so if that religion was true, and thereby constitute the State, or that House on the part of the State, a judge between truth and error. If he voted with the hon. member for Birmingham, he should simply mark his sense of the impropriety of sustaining religious institutions by State endowments. In the first case he aimed a blow at a certain form of religious persuasion. In the last case he simply expressed an objection to a certain mode of sustaining it. As long as he was a member of that House, and a representative of many persons of different creeds, he would not consent to give a vote designed to have the effect, as authoritative as one vote could be, of deciding what was religious truth and what was not. Deep as were his own convictions, he did not choose to express there his opinions as to the comparative merits of religious systems or of religious creeds. Let those merits be settled elsewhere by such processes as would touch the matter in dispute—by reason, by persuasion, and by the lives of those who professed them. Law did not touch them. All that they could do in regard to religious distinction in the way of law was to show their own intolerance. They could not alter the nature of the case. Truth was entirely independent of them, and he had very little faith in that religion which did not include within it the great principles of justice, and which did not exemplify in all departments, political and ecclesiastical, the great maxim of "Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you." But if he was obliged to decide what was truth and what error—if he was under the necessity of distributing endowments to one or to the other—he confessed he would rather give the money of the State in support of error than in support of truth. (Ironical cheers from the Opposition.) Honourable members were startled by that declaration, but let them examine into it. He would far rather do something to support by external means a bad system than he would kill the vitality of a good one. (Hear, hear.) The very last creed he should consent to endow was his own creed. The very last form of religious profession which he should wish to see receive the support of the

State was that to which he attached himself. Because he had faith in its own inherent and vital powers, he said, "Protect it in the exercise of its rights, but do not attempt to sustain it. Let it get its own living. Do not interpose to nurse or to feed it. If you must give endowments, give those endowments to those who say they cannot do without them. Give them to the moral heathen—give them to those who cannot stand upon the strength of their own system—who are afraid to trust their own creed—and who say that, if the State should withdraw its supporting hand, then they are afraid that creed would not stand a chance with the world" (hear, hear). Therefore, if he was obliged to give—which he did not conceive he was at all obliged to do—but if he was obliged to give some State support to some form of religious persuasion, he would not give it to the truth, but to that which the truth had to overcome (hear, hear). He confessed he did entertain the very strongest possible objection to the Maynooth College Endowment Bill when introduced by Sir Robert Peel's Government. He wished to do his Government and those who supported him all justice, and he believed they were influenced by motives both patriotic and pure. He believed they intended that bill as one step towards religious equality—that they intended to soothe the irritation of the Irish people. He acknowledged the nobleness of the motives. He regarded the measure itself as a fatal mistake, and as having demonstrated its being a fatal mistake by events which had subsequently taken place. Properly speaking, it was not a step towards religious equality. Religious equality had been too frequently spoken of, not only in that house but elsewhere, as to be comprehended simply in the provision that the priests and religious teachers of all denominations should be put on the same footing as regarded the law of the Church or the support they received from the State. There was a much wider sense in which he understood the term. He regarded religious equality as comprehended likewise in the relation of the laity to the priesthood, and he always looked upon it as an impolitic and as a cruel thing to put the people of Ireland under the power of the priesthood, as they did by the endowment which they gave to Maynooth College (hear, hear). He objected to endowments for the education of the priesthood in the Protestant as well as in the Roman Catholic Church. He should say that the office of a religious teacher was already one which exercised a large power over the consciences of those with whom he came in contact. But though he regarded this act for the endowment of Maynooth as opposed to the true idea of religious equality, he thought at the same time that it was calculated to soothe the irritation of the Irish people. He would not, however, go into that part of the subject, but would simply explain the ground upon which he had given his vote. He would fain get rid of this endowment, as well as of all ecclesiastical endowments whatever, but he would not consent to mystify himself. Who, he would ask, brought this motion forward, and for what purpose? What was the end which he should attain if he voted with the mover of the resolution before the House? How could he justify it to his own conscience, to take this step towards one class of her Majesty's subjects, when another larger and more powerful class were enjoying still larger endowments? He would not consent to be severe to the weak, and to show complacency to the strong (hear). He would not go with Protestantism to do wrong, and he was not ashamed at any time to stand by the side of Roman Catholicism when it did right (cheers). He would wish both to stand on their own merits, and that neither should have the support of the State, each exercising their inherent power and vitality, for both of them contained some portion of truth, so that they might bring their power to bear on the best interests of the people at large.

Mr. EDWARD BALL said the reference from that speech was an insult to the Catholics. He understood Mr. Miall as preferring the endowment of error.

Mr. MIALl restated his proposition. If he had to give State endowments to religion, he would rather give them to an erroneous than a truthful system; or, in other words, that he would rather give external support to a bad cause than kill the vitality of a good one.

Mr. BALL quite understood that Mr. Miall would prefer the endowment of error. Therefore he must vote with Mr. Spooner, otherwise he would be affirming the Catholic religion erroneous.

Mr. DUFFY denied the value of the newspaper statements brought forward by Mr. Spooner. They were extracts from partisan journals. Would the withdrawal of the Maynooth grant put an end to the teaching of the Catholic religion in Ireland? Might it not be worth considering whether if the Irish Catholics were to be driven to seek foreign assistance, the United States or the French Empire would not be glad to give it them? Should this motion be carried, the Irish Church establishment must speedily fall, and he for one would never pay another shilling of tithe. But he invited the Government to extend to Ireland the wise system of legislation they were adopting towards the Cape and Canada, namely, that of consulting the wishes of the people.

Sir JOHN YOUNG regretted that this useless and irritating motion had been brought forward. The measure originally had not been one of mere kindness to the Catholics, but was one of imperial policy, designed to prevent them from acquiring Ultramontane opinions, and Mr. Grattan himself had borne testimony to its beneficial results. Defending the course Sir Robert Peel had taken, and referring to that statesman's declaration that his policy had been received in Ireland with as much gratitude as he expected, he

added his own belief that there were thousands of Irish Catholics more kindly inclined to the English constitution in consequence of the increased grant to Maynooth. In regard to Mr. Spooner's allegation that the Catholic clergy had forfeited all claim to consideration by their conduct at the late elections, he would say that we should not be hasty to condemn, but consider the circumstances of excitement at those elections, at which persons who had not a chance of success started in opposition to the popular feeling, when they could only hope to win by unconstitutional means. Then there were the proclamations against processions and the Stockport outrage. And there were sixty or eighty elections in Ireland, and 3000 priests, and yet, on the evidence of ten or twelve papers, Mr. Spooner brought a charge against the whole body. After remonstrating with Mr. Spooner on his one-sided use of Scriptural language, he urged that there were some five millions of Roman Catholics in the kingdom, who paid perhaps ten millions to the revenue, and yet 30,000% was grudged to this body for educational purposes. Mr. Spooner had complained of the persecuting spirit of Roman Catholicism, but though he himself could not actually persecute, the will was there, and he did all he could by excluding Catholics from posts of distinction. This was the beginning of a retrograde and condemned policy, of the kind to which great part of the evils of Ireland were to be attributed. The Protestants, being a majority, were to be urged to disregard the wishes and feelings of the Catholic minority. But he appealed to the Protestants of the House not to be turned from their onward course, but to go on in their calm strength, and in the light of their own pure faith, disregarding any ingratitude they might have met, and avoiding even the appearance of persecution, by rejecting this motion by a large majority.

Mr. STANHOPE spoke warmly against both the principle and the working of the Maynooth grant. It being then past midnight, Mr. FAGAN moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to, but not without cries for a division.

Dull as had been the debate on Tuesday it grew duller on Wednesday; and we may dispose of it in few words without inflicting its weariness on our readers. With the stock arguments which had been exhausted on the previous day, Mr. FAGAN, Mr. BALL, Lord STANLEY, and others, defended either the college of Maynooth, or the grant to the college. The House was extremely impatient for a division. The only fillip to the debate came from Mr. LUCAS, who charged the movers of the amendment with being actuated by the same feelings of bigotry as the movers of the motion. The House loudly denied it, but Mr. Lucas spiritedly sustained the paradox. Next he attacked the Irish Established Church, in a rather dashing manner, declaring that its endowments had been established by robbery. He ridiculed the motion as being supported by the tails of both the parties, with the consent of the heads of neither. For a time he kept the House quiet, but at length even he was obliged to give way. The cries of "Divide" were now lusty and continuous; and after an interrupted and eccentric speech from Mr. DRUMMOND, an unheard oration from Lord CLAUDE HAMILTON, and some disputing about adjourning the debate, the House actually went to a division with the hand of the clock rapidly approaching six.

The question put was whether the words in the original motion, proposed by the amendment to be left out, should be retained, which was negatived by 192 to 162. This destroyed the vitality of Mr. SPOONER'S motion; but it being now six o'clock the amendment could not be put, so that the main question remained to be disposed of.

JEWISH DISABILITIES.

This long-vexed question was brought before the House of Commons on Thursday, by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who moved for a committee of the whole house to take into consideration certain civil disabilities affecting the Jews. He hoped that Sir R. H. Inglis would not offer any opposition at that stage.

Sir R. H. INGLIS said he most decidedly should oppose the committee.

Lord John would then be obliged to explain the measure he contemplated. He should have preferred a measure dealing with parliamentary oaths in general, which he thought ought to be limited to one simple oath, but this could not be introduced without raising other discussions not now necessary. He proposed, therefore, by a separate enactment to complete the edifice of religious liberty. He might be told that the Jews were neither numerous, powerful, nor agitators. They had nothing but reason, justice, and expediency on their side, arguments to which he hoped the generosity of the House would induce it to listen. He proceeded to lay down the proposition, that in no time in the history of this country since disabilities had been imposed, had they been grounded upon a

difference of faith. On a former occasion he had endeavoured to prove that the words which excluded the Jews, namely, "On the true faith of a Christian," had been framed with no such intention, a view which had been corroborated by Mr. Baron Alderson, on the hearing of the case of Mr. Salomons. That oath was merely an oath of allegiance, and originally designed against mental reservations. The question was whether, because a man believed in the Old Testament, and not in the New, you were to deprive him of political power and civil liberty? The Jews were British subjects who held land and property, who enjoyed many civil privileges, and discharged many duties, were ready to swear allegiance to the Queen, and bore financial burdens which were unhesitatingly imposed, and there existed no right to debar them from the rewards of British subjects. He wound up as follows:—

"What, then, are the arguments—what, then, are the reasons—why you should not admit them to the full privileges of British subjects? I really believe there is no conclusive argument, and that there is no satisfactory reason why they should not be admitted; and that there remains nothing but prejudice—nothing but the prejudice and the notion that you are a Christian nation and a Christian legislature, and that you degrade the nation and the legislature by the admission of Jews. If the nation is a Christian nation, as it is, it will remain a Christian nation after Jews are admitted to this house; and if the great majority—nearly all—of the members of this house be Christians after this law has been passed, the name of a Christian legislature can hardly pass away. Greatly, indeed, were it to be wished that that Christianity which we pray for according to the beautiful form of the Church of England—that 'we should hold the faith in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life'—was the prayer, that it might be accomplished for all the members of this legislature. I have always said it is no matter of indifference whether the Christian character should or should not prevail in your Houses of Parliament. I have always said that religion has no business apart from the business of life; certainly it has none apart or separate from the business of legislation. When I say this, I mean that spirit of union to which I have referred. But when, instead of 'the unity of the spirit' you have diversity of doctrine; when, instead of 'the bond of peace,' you have nothing but contention; and when, in place of 'righteousness of life,' you have such men as Wilkes introduced into this house, I ask, what are the benefits of your oath, and in what way does that oath secure that you are a Christian legislature? (Hear, hear.) Let us then not attempt to found our Christianity upon so flimsy and so worthless a foundation. (Cheers.) If, as I trust is the case, the Christian character prevails more now than it did a century ago—if it prevails more in the nation, if it prevails more in the legislature, it is not because you maintain this oath. It is because of greater attention to religious duties, and from a better inculcation of Christian doctrine. Rely upon this, that though you may have two or three persons of the Jewish faith in your House of Commons, this house will bear the character of a Christian legislature far more truly than it did when Gibbon was one of its ornaments. And, if that is the case, I ask you to do away with this remaining persecution—I ask you to do away with this remaining disqualification—and say that your doors shall be open to men of the Jewish faith—British subjects—men upon whose loyalty you can rely—men of whose co-operation you will be glad. So doing, you can then with a clear conscience say, 'Whatever other nations may do, we hold aloft the principle of religious liberty, and we grant that liberty to men who differ from us in religious opinion.' (Cheers.) Sir, I ask the house to agree to go into committee upon this subject. I ask you to take away this disqualification, and then you may say with truth, 'Having for wise political reasons done away with other disqualifications, we have done away with this disqualification solely upon the grounds of truth and justice; and that you had no other grounds to go upon; for upon that truth and justice you have founded your truly Christian character. (Cheers.)'

Sir R. H. INGLIS explained that he had refused to assent to go into committee on the principle on which he should abstain from opening the door to a thief desirous of breaking into his house. He believed the course urged by Lord John Russell opposed to the civil and religious liberty of the country, and to the progress of the business of that House. Power was a trust which the State might delegate, but it was the inherent right of no man, and it was to be exercised in reference to infinitely higher subjects than mere money. Parliament was called together by the Queen to legislate for the interests of the nation. The first estate of the realm was the Church—our first interest was our religion; and were those who called our Lord an impostor to frame enactments on blasphemy—those who believed the Gospel to be fables to make laws for Christians—those who disbelieved in the day of judgment to legislate by the side of Christian men? The argument that they were few was precisely that which had been urged in the case of the Catholics, an experiment the success of which would hardly tempt the noble lord to repeat it on any stage, large or small. He then argued that the Jews were a separate nation, and that it was their distinctive boast, and declared that they had no right to what was asked for them as a measure of expediency. In further answer to Lord John Russell, he cited a Mr. Van Oven's pamphlet, in which it was deliberately asserted that, having admit-

ted Jews to civil rights, England was not a Christian nation. Another of his reasons against the measure was his fear that the Keeper of the Sovereign's Conscience might one day be a Jew. Neither Wilkes nor Gibbon, he urged, ever blasphemed Christianity in that House, and their hypocrisy was the homage vice was compelled to pay to virtue. If, he said, we admitted the Jew, we must admit the avowed heathen and the avowed Mahometan, and ultimately destroy the Christian character of the Legislature; and he concluded by announcing his intention to resist the measure.

Sir ROBERT PEEL admitted that this was an excellent opportunity of showing our approbation of civil and religious liberty, and he took occasion to compliment Lord J. Russell for his despatch in the case of the Madiai, and to defend the course which had been adopted by the Swiss cantons in regard to the Jesuits. But he did not think that the introduction of the Jews into Parliament had anything to do with civil or religious liberty. The Jews were not dissatisfied with their exclusion from Parliament, and that he could not consent to do away with the legislation of 1688. As to the paucity of the Jews, he certainly did not believe that any constituency, except that of London, would confide its interests to a Hebrew; but there was no knowing what might occur. He urged, in answer to the vaunt that had been made of Jewish virtues, that the evidence taken by the committee on the Juvenile Offenders Bill, showed that the Jews were the chief instigators of metropolitan crime, by the facilities they afforded for the conveyance of stolen property. The affair seemed a personal one of Lord John Russell's. He then adverted to Mr. Rothschild as a rich man, but one whose fortune had the character of being accumulated in ways not entitling him to respect. There had, he said, been no greater enemies to European liberty than the Rothschild family. He expressed an earnest hope that the House of Lords would reject this measure, to which, in accordance he believed with the feeling of the country, he gave his most determined opposition.

Viscount MONCK and Mr. NAPIER respectively supported and opposed the motion. Lord DRUMLANRIG announced his conversion to the cause of the Jews amidst ironical applause verging upon uproar. Mr. WIGRAM opposed the motion both on political and religious grounds. Mr. DIGBY SEYMOUR supported the motion on the ground that the best way to Christianise the Jews was to admit them into the House. Colonel SIRTHORP opposed the motion upon every possible ground, and with every variety of invective.

A vigorous call for a division at this point did not prevent Mr. M. O'CONNELL from insisting upon being heard. The hon. member did not find many listeners, and on a division being pressed the motion was carried by 234 to 205. The result was hailed with loud cheers.

The House then went into committee, and agreed to a formal resolution for the removal of Jewish Disabilities.

AUSTRALIAN POLICY.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, on Thursday, called the attention of the House to the condition of the Australian colonies, and the question of transportation. After adverting to the history of Australia, to the gold discovery, which, in one year, had produced 10,000,000% sterling, and to the progress of emigration, he said that his object was to state the policy of the late Administration as to the future government of these colonies, and to ask the present Ministers whether they intended to pursue the same policy. He then entered into a detailed account of the statistics of the colonies.

Nothing could be more remarkable than the rapid progress of New South Wales from the period at which it ceased to be exclusively a convict colony, and when the departure of many freemen from this country to reside on its shores gave it the interest attaching to those dependencies of the Crown to which the inhabitants of this country carried their energies and industry. In the year 1830 the imports of New South Wales amounted in value to 420,418*l.*, and the exports to 131,461*l.*, whilst the population numbered 55,000. Passing over twenty years, to 1850, he found that in that year the imports of New South Wales had increased to 1,333,413*l.*, and the exports to 1,357,784*l.* (Hear, hear.) This showed an astonishingly rapid increase in the material prosperity of the territory, which was still more extraordinary during the following year, 1851, in which he had already mentioned that the gold discoveries took place. The imports for that year rose to 1,563,931*l.*, and the exports to 1,796,912*l.*; and the population, which in 1830 was only 55,000, had increased to 197,153, or in round numbers 200,000. Thus the imports for 1851 were at the unusual, if not unprecedented, rate of about 8*l.* a head of the population of all ages, and the exports at the rate of about 9*l.* a head of all ages. Port Philip was colonised in 1835 in opposition to the Government of that day. In 1845, after the lapse of only ten years, the imports of this infant settlement amounted to 248,000*l.*, the exports to 464,000*l.*, and the population to 28,000. In 1851, after six years more had passed, the imports had risen to 1,023,000*l.*, and the exports to 1,423,000*l.*, whilst the figures of the population had been

reversed, for instead of being 28,000, it then amounted to 82,000. Such was the rapid increase of the colony of Victoria, which Lord Aberdeen had pronounced ought not to be founded, and which only eighteen years ago it was considered by official men impolitic to establish. He would now advert to the effect produced by the discoveries of gold on the advancement of the material prosperity of the territory of Victoria, as seen by comparing the year 1852 with 1851. The date was too recent to give the statistics of the whole year, and he should therefore compare the two quarters ending in June of each year respectively. In the quarter ending June 30, 1851, the revenue of Victoria amounted to 35,994*l*. For the corresponding quarter of 1852, the general revenue had increased to 98,426*l*., being an increase of 62,432*l*. The Crown revenue for the June quarter of 1851 amounted to 87,874*l*., and in 1852 to 186,579*l*., showing an increase of 98,705*l*. Taking both the Crown and general revenue together, then, the whole increase on that quarter amounted to 161,160*l*., whilst the population, being now 182,000 in number, had increased by no less than 100,000. He would now state what had been the amount of emigration to those colonies during the last few years, with the view of showing the increase that had taken place subsequently to the marvellous discoveries to which he alluded. In 1849 the emigration from this country to Australia was 32,191, in 1850 it was 16,681, in 1851 it was 21,532, but during the last year, 1852, it increased to 87,424.

He bore tribute to the general good conduct of the population, and, incidentally, to that of the British soldiery placed there within a few miles of the gold fields, and said that the policy of the late Government was to place whatever public revenue might be derived from the gold discovery at the disposal of the colonial legislature. He alluded to the New South Wales petition, and its five demands—namely, a revision of the colonial civil list, that the lands of the colony should be placed under local control, that certain reforms should be effected in the customs system, that the patronage of Government offices should be given to the local authorities, and that colonial legislation on local subjects should not need Imperial confirmation,—all of which demands were refused by Earl Grey, and of which, on the renewal of the demand, Lord Derby's Government had been disposed to meet the wishes of the colonists on the first and third points, had coincided with Earl Grey on the last two, and had thought that though, in regard to the second, the colonists had no right to claim the control of the lands, the time had come to concede the question; the rather that a moiety of this revenue was applied to the purposes of emigration, an influx more important to Australia than the efflux to England. He had thought that the colonies had outgrown their constitution, and that a double chamber was desirable for New South Wales and Victoria. He then addressed himself to the transportation question, and stated the considerations upon which, though aware of the great value of the system as a secondary punishment, the late Government had felt it their duty to hold out the promise contained in the royal speech. Urging the importance, not only of putting an end to the introduction of convicts into Australia, but to the holding out to criminals at home a prospect of being taken to the gold regions, he expressed his hope that the present Government would speedily explain its views on the subject of secondary punishments. He concluded with some remarks on the policy which should be adopted towards our colonies, a policy which should be based on the maxims of our ancestors, and adapted to win the confidence of the colonists.

Mr. PEEL, after recognising the importance of the subject, and assenting to some of the preceding speaker's propositions, remarked upon the want of proportion of the speech to its object, and characterized it as unnecessary, no one having impugned the colonial policy of the late Government. He thought that the Duke of Newcastle and Lord J. Russell had anticipated one-half of Sir J. Pakington's inquiry, and rendered it needless. But he would endeavour to remove that gentleman's anxieties. As regarded the customs, recent legislation had deprived this country of all interest in the appointment of colonial officers, and that point was given up; as to patronage, he thought the complaints ill-founded; as to the Imperial veto, the Government considered it best to give the representative of the Crown the power to assent to colonial legislation, subject to the disallowance of the Sovereign. The more important question was the colonial demand for exclusive control over the civil list; and Government was inclined to think that the preponderance of argument was with the colonists. He mentioned, too, that in a list proposed by them they had proposed a sum of 88,000*l*., whereas the Government had only named 73,000*l*., and he thought it was far better to leave the matter to the former. In regard to the waste lands, he believed that the Crown had exercised its trust in a very advantageous manner, but there were other considerations which overbalanced the economical advantages of the present system, and Government were prepared to carry out the opinions of their predecessors, but they would wait until the transition state of the

colonial legislature had become a permanent one. In reference to transportation, he said that the terror which it once inspired was past, that it was very expensive, and was universally condemned by the colonists, which were among the reasons which had induced Government to announce its extinction. He believed that he had met the various questions urged by Sir J. Pakington.

Mr. ADDERLEY, as one of the old colonial reformers, said that it was matter of satisfaction to find that circumstances had compelled the adoption of nearly all the suggestions so long urged by those gentlemen. On some points he thought the late Government entitled to more credit than the present one.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in answer to some remarks of the last speaker, reminded the House that the colony of New South Wales was created with a despotic government expressly for the purposes of transportation. He alluded to the changes which had in late years been effected in the colony, and to the recent necessity of dealing with the transportation system. He denied that the present Government had restricted the resolutions of the last, and explained that they had rather adopted a contrary course. In answer to the appeal of Sir J. Pakington, he said that the question of secondary punishments was a most important one, and demanded grave consideration, but that Government would lose no time in bringing it forward.

Mr. HUME expressed his gratification that views, for supporting which he had borne to be called a rebel, were now unanimously adopted. He could forgive all that; but he hoped that the past would be a lesson for the future.

MILITARY ENLISTMENTS AND THE PEACE SOCIETY.

Some persons having been prosecuted for distributing placards in order to prevent young men from entering the Militia, Mr. HINDLEY asked whether Government intended to continue them; and as Lord Palmerston was not present at that moment, Mr. Fitzroy gave the required information in the negative. Mr. BRIGHT renewed the question, or rather commented on it. He indicated the Peace Society; characterized the ordinary modes of recruiting as scandalous and improper; and asked whether it was meant to gag the bill-poster. He displayed one of the offending placards exhibiting a woodcut—a military flogging—with extracts from the New Testament and the "Autobiography of a Working Man," by Mr. Somerville, who had himself been unjustly flogged. Would the persons in gaol be set at liberty?

Lord PALMERSTON was now present to reply, which he did in a surprising way.

"Government, he said, will not proceed with the prosecutions, because whatever may have been the intentions of the parties who have caused those placards and pictorial descriptions to be printed and circulated, those intentions have wholly failed. (Hear, hear, hear.) The good sense and patriotic spirit and feeling of the English people have induced them to treat those invitations to abandon the cause of their country with the contempt they merit. (Cheers.) The attempt to thwart the public service having failed, I thought it would really have the appearance of vindictiveness to pursue the prosecutions which had been instituted. I have, therefore, given notice that those prosecutions should be entirely and absolutely dropped. I shall not take the trouble of requiring the parties to enter into their recognizances, and therefore of course anybody who is in prison on this charge will be released. The honourable gentleman who has just sat down alluded to the case of Mr. Somerville, which formed the subject of one of the pictorial exhibitions on the placards. He had received a letter from Mr. Somerville on the subject, which he would read to the house. The noble lord then read the following letter, inclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Hindley:—

"MILITIA—PEACE SOCIETY.

"To the Right Honourable Lord Palmerston.

"36, Lime-street, Liverpool, Feb. 17, 1853.

"MY LORD,—I observe by the newspapers that Mr. Hindley is to put a question about the anti-Militia placards of the Peace Society. I have written by this post a letter to Mr. Hindley, of which I annex a copy. Should that gentleman not read or notice my letter, I trust your lordship will do so, and set me right with the public. I am more interested in that offensive placard than any other person. I am a literary man, earning bread for self and family by my pen, and eating it only by favour of the public who buy my productions. As your lordship will perceive, the Peace Society, by placarding me all over the kingdom, have placed me in a false and odious position.

"I am, my lord, your lordship's obedient servant,

"ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE,

"('One who has Whistled at the Plough'), &c."

Copy of a letter to Mr. Hindley, 17th Feb., 1853.

"SIR,—Seeing in the newspapers that you are to put a question to Lord Palmerston on the subject of the anti-Militia placards posted throughout the kingdom by the Peace Society, I beg your attention to the following facts, and I think you should in fairness read this letter in the house:—The placard in question contains an engraving of a man tied up to be flogged. It contains also a description by me (in a book entitled the 'Autobiography of a Working Man') of the punishment I received while a soldier in the Scots Greys, on the 20th of May, 1832. I have reason to complain of that offensive placard, and complained of it to the Peace Society as soon as I knew of its existence, and on the following grounds:—

"1. Because my own opinion has been decidedly in favour of the volunteering of recruits to the Militia, in preference to a

compulsory ballot (or invasion of the domestic circle by a conscription); and because, if the battalions of the Militia were not filled by volunteers, the conscription must have been resorted to.

"2. Because I do not believe that Militiamen were or are likely to be flogged, unless they commit crimes which they may easily avoid.

"3. Because my book was intended to be, what every page of it proves, a warning to young men entering the army, and to soldiers already there, not to connect themselves with politics and regimental politicians, as I unfortunately did; also, to dissuade civilians from connecting themselves with physical force movements.

"4. Because a quotation is prominently made from my book in the Peace Society's placard, without their naming the book or explaining why I was flogged, but, on the contrary, leading any one not acquainted with me to infer that I was some malefactor, guilty, probably, of a vile moral crime (which soldiers usually are guilty of before receiving such a punishment.)

"5. Because my name was the only one used in the placard, as a soldier who had suffered that punishment which was to deter men from volunteering into the Militia.

"6. Because I was not asked if I should allow my name to be used for such a purpose.

"And, lastly, if I had, I should have emphatically said 'No.'

"I am, &c.,

"ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE.

"Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P."

Well, I think that that letter does great credit to the writer. The honourable gentleman who has just sat down I understand began his remarks by finding fault with me for having said something on a former occasion which he considers to be offensive, or uncivil, or rude, to the Peace Society. Now I then stated what I cannot retract, namely, that I think that the course they pursued was a grave offence. (Cheers.) In the remarks I made the other evening, I did not intend to say anything offensive to the Peace Society. I look upon the Peace Society as a society of very well-intentioned fanatics—(cheers and laughter)—much too good to be entrusted with any political functions in this wicked and sinful world—(laughter)—and I would urge and entreat my honourable friend who asked the question, to use his influence, as a man of good understanding and practically conversant with public affairs, to induce his peace-preaching colleagues in the society to be a little less pugnacious than they show themselves. (Cheers, and great laughter.)

THE IRISH CHURCH.—Mr. MOORE asked Lord John Russell what were the opinions and intentions of Government in regard to the Established Church in Ireland. He hoped to have an answer which should be frank, and free from evasion, as the question affected the interests of a quarter of the Queen's subjects, and also the interests of the Ministry. Apprising Lord John Russell that Irish members, amounting in number to a fifth or sixth of a working House of Commons, had pledged themselves to oppose any Government not prepared to legislate, in regard to the Church of Ireland, on the basis of perfect equality of religious denominations, and stating that it was urged, on behalf of two of that number who had accepted office, that they would never have done so had not Government secretly pledged itself to such legislation, and to tenant right in accordance with Mr. S. Crawford's bill, he demanded whether it was the intention of Government, at a fitting time, to introduce any measure of the character he had described.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL declined to enter into any discussion on the Irish Church, but stated that Government had no intention of introducing any measure on the subject except that already announced on ministers' money. He would add that no such secret assurance as had been mentioned had been given, and that the gentlemen alluded to had taken office from their general knowledge of the principles of the Government.

Mr. FLAHERTY expressed his confidence in Ministers, rebuked Mr. Moore for his unseasonable and unfortunate introduction of the Irish Church question, and characterized his speech as "moonshine." Mr. LUCAS was prepared to act independently of both English parties in the House until a party could be found to do justice to Ireland. Lord J. Russell's frank answer did him the utmost credit, and there could be no doubt about its meaning. Lord J. Russell was not prepared to legislate on the basis of religious equality.

THE BURMESE WAR.—In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH moved for the production of a letter written in 1829 by the Directors of the East India Company to the Governor-General, giving instructions as to the line of operations to be pursued in any future war with Ava. The noble lord then commented on the line of operations pursued in the present war, which had been anything but successful or satisfactory, and wished to know what view the present Government took of the position of affairs in Ava, and especially with reference to the proclamation for the annexation of Pegu, though the responsibility of that step must be laid at the door of the late Government.

The Earl of ABERDEEN had no objection to produce the letter in question, though a despatch written twenty-five years ago on such a subject could scarcely be considered as anything else than an historical curiosity. With respect to the conduct of the present war, the Government could not boast of that power of military criticism professed by Lord ELLENBOROUGH, and therefore were unfortunately unable to pass judgment on the operations now being carried on in Ava; they had, however, the greatest confidence and reliance in the discretion of the Governor-General, and, as he had expressed himself satisfied with the progress of the war, and had determined to annex Pegu, after mature deliberation, the Government were disposed to acquiesce in the opinion expressed by the late Government, and in the eulogies passed by it on the Governor-General.

The Earl of DUNY defended the line of operations pursued against Ava, and read a memorandum written by the late Duke of Wellington, to prove that the war could not have been averted; that the operations proposed were judicious; that they had been carried on with great gallantry and success; and that in justice both to the Peguans and ourselves we were bound not to stop short of the annexation of that province.

The papers were then ordered to be laid on the table, and their lordships adjourned.

SIX-MILE-BRIDGE.—In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of Cardigan again called attention to the prosecution of the Irish soldiers engaged in the Six-Mile-Briggs affray. He complained that the Government did not enter a *nolle prosequi*, or had not adopted the course pursued when the noble lord the member for the city of London and his associates in office had a verdict of wilful murder returned against them during the famine in Ireland. He had been informed upon high authority that it was not the intention of the late Government to prosecute these soldiers.

The Earl of ABERDEEN maintained that the Irish Government had pursued the only course which law or justice left open to them. With all the respect which he entertained for the army, and for their noble conduct upon all occasions, he had still greater respect for the due administration of the law. The course to be pursued was perfectly clear. The grand jury would deal with the bills as they thought proper, and after the trial it would remain for the Government to decide what course they would take. As to the bills of indictment against the priests, they would be proceeded with in the same manner as the bills against the soldiers. No distinction would be made in the administration of the law in Ireland between the priest and the soldier, the peer or the peasant.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE BILL.—In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, Mr. PHINN moved the second reading of Her Majesty's Theatre Association Bill; and having alluded to the difficulties with which the Opera had struggled from the time of Handel to that of Lumley, to the fact that both Operas were notoriously insolvent, to the superior advantages enjoyed by foreign operatic establishments, and to the passage in the speech from the Throne recommending the encouragement of the arts, he explained that the object of this measure was to form a corporation of gentlemen, supporters of the lyric drama, who, with limited liability, might maintain the Opera upon its ancient site.

Mr. HUME, without objecting to any of the arguments of Mr. Phinn, thought that the bill should be withdrawn until the question of limited liability had been formally settled by the Legislature. Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, after a tribute to Mr. Lumley's energy, urged that no one man's fortune could maintain the Opera, but that a body of noblemen and gentlemen should not be prevented from endeavouring to do so, and he intimated that any opposition must come from a rival manager. Mr. CLAY thought that the bill infringed upon important principles, and reminded the House that competition had produced a most beneficial effect upon the interests of operatic art. Sir GEORGE PEACHELL opposed the bill.

Mr. CARDWELL said that, having been appealed to in the discussion, he came forward to say that his predecessor, Mr. Henley, had refused the charter applied for, and that he (Mr. Cardwell) had considered the subject, and had come to the same decision, after a long interview with Mr. Lumley. He admitted the high consideration of the persons who sought this bill, but the law knew no difference of persons, and on matter of principle he must oppose a bill the object of which was to create a limited liability.

On a division the bill was lost by 170 to 79.

DIVORCE.—On the second reading of a bill to extend the law of evidence Act to Scotland, Lord CAMPBELL gave some information as to the conclusions the Divorce commission have come to. They recommended the House not to pass an act of Parliament in each case, but that there should be a regular tribunal established, to take cognizance of such matters, consisting of a vice-chancellor, an ecclesiastical judge, and a common-law judge, and that the proceedings should take place judicially when a petition came from the husband against his wife for adultery; but when a wife asked for a dissolution of marriage on account of the misconduct of her husband, they were of opinion that ought to be a matter of legislation, because it would be impossible to lay down any code by which a court of justice could be regulated in deciding such matters.

COUNTY BOARDS.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON, on Wednesday, carried his bill to a second reading. Government, through Lord Palmerston, accepts the bill, provided it be adapted to the bill of 1851. They, however, will permit the clause, placing the election of the financial board, one half of whom must be justices, in the hands of the boards of guardians. The country gentlemen, of Tory politics, Mr. HENLEY, Mr. FRESHFIELD, and especially Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, opposed the bill, on the ground that it was an insult and a degradation to the unpaid magistracy!

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.—Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, in presenting a petition upon the subject, called the attention of the House to a breach of its privileges, by the unauthorised notice of withdrawal of the petition presented against the return of the sitting members for the city of Norwich, by which he considered that a fraud had been practised upon the House. Referring to an objection from Mr. Wilson Patten on a point of order, he indignantly protested against any attempt to "swamp" the inquiry; and concluded by moving that Colonel Dixon and Mr. Brown, the parliamentary agent, be called to the bar of the House.

Mr. HUME suggested that the documents relating to the case should be printed and due notice given of the motion. Mr. GLADSTONE, Lord J. RUSSELL, and Mr. H. BAILLIE concurred as to the propriety of deliberation in the matter, seeing that it was not clear that the case involved a breach of privilege.

The SPEAKER considered that that question must be decided before any further steps could be taken. To the best of his belief the case did not involve a breach of privilege.

Mr. DUNCOMBE ultimately consented to withdraw his motion for the present, in order that the petition might be printed.

Mr. DRUMMOND and Mr. LOCKE KING have also the matter in hand.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Sir R. H. INGLIS moved for a select committee to consider the best means of providing for the execution of the office of Speaker, in the event of Mr. Speaker's unavoidable absence by reason of illness or of other cause. In a long speech he adduced historical precedents in favour of such a course, and observed that the House of Commons was the only legislative body which had not made the kind of provision he recommended.

Mr. HUME opposed the motion as unnecessary, thinking that, if a deputy were appointed, he would be much more often in the chair than the Speaker. But the motion was agreed to.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.—Mr. BROTHERTON moved on Monday for a return of newspaper stamps issued for 1851 and 1852. Mr. JAMES WILSON hoped it would not be pressed for, as it was not wholly a public return, but would interfere with private concerns. Mr. GIBSON supported the motion, because it would show the truth, and enable advertisers to select the best medium. Mr. GLADSTONE objected that if the return should reveal nothing but the truth, that was not a conclusive reason why it should be made. We should get at the truth by a publication of the income-tax returns affecting trade; but it would not be right to publish private affairs. Why should this one class of traders be subjected to a hardship from which others are exempt? Mr. HUME supported the motion; but Mr. Brotherton seemed to admit the force of the objections, and it was withdrawn.

SUPPLY.—The several items of the navy estimates were discussed and agreed to, on Monday night, in a committee of the whole House.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM explained the checks to corporal punishment in the navy. In the first place, care was taken that punishment should not be inflicted in hot blood, it being provided that an interval of twenty-four hours should elapse between the offence and the punishment. Then the amount of punishment was strictly limited, and it was provided that no more than forty-eight lashes should be inflicted in one day. The commanding officer of the vessel was obliged to keep a minute record of all the circumstances which led to the infliction of the punishment in every case. This document was forwarded to the admiral on the station, and by him transmitted to the Admiralty. There it came under the revision of one of the naval officers of the board, and thus the list of punishments in each ship was brought under the review of the Board of Admiralty, and in every case in which it appeared either to the admiral on the station or the Board of Admiralty that explanation was required, that explanation was demanded. In deciding on the merits of commanding officers the Admiralty always had reference to the number of punishments on board his ship, and the preference was given to the officer who was able to maintain order on board with the smallest number of punishments.

Another interesting topic was the wages in the Royal dockyards. Mr. TUFNELL, Mr. COLLIER, and Mr. MONTAGUE CHAMBERS urged the claims of the employes to higher wages. Sir JAMES GRAHAM and Mr. HUME insisted that not one farthing more than the marketable value should be paid for labour in the dockyards. There were no vacancies at present, but Mr. Osborne, the Secretary, was inundated with applications from shipwrights. It is somewhat remarkable that the question of disfranchising the dockyard employes was mooted. Mr. MONTAGUE CHAMBERS was surprised to hear that it was under consideration to take the franchise from the dockyard men. From what he knew of that class, he thought it probable, if the suggestion were acted on, that some of the best men would be lost to the service, because some of the most high-spirited men would be lost—men who valued their privilege and right as much as any member of the House, and who knew how to use them. Mr. HUME remarked that if the franchise were taken away promotions could be made on account of merit. Mr. W. WILLIAMS observed that if the dockyard men were deprived of the franchise a check would be put on extravagance.

In committee of supply last night, Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT moved the Army Estimates. After mentioning a series of minor details, and changes from the last estimates, among which was an increase of 2000*l.* a year for good conduct rewards, he proceeded to say that the diminished charge at which Sir James Graham had said it was found possible to keep up as large and efficient a force as before was not confined to the navy. In 1835, the model economical year, the army estimates had been 5,900,000*l.* whereas in this year they were 8,025,000*l.*, showing apparently an excess; but if we deducted a sum of about 250,000*l.* for items which, on the recommendations of commissions and otherwise, had been added to the estimates, we should find a saving of 137,000*l.* But, in addition, we had actually 21,000 men more than in 1835, the number being now 102,283. He then showed how much had been done for the comfort of the men, and for their libraries, schools (of which he gave a very interesting account), and savings banks, and he also argued the advance in the soldier's character from the continuous progressive diminution of corporal punishments—a diminution which did not arise from any laxity of discipline, but from general improvement, as was proved by court-martial records, which showed that other punishments had also been reduced in number. On the health of the army he was able to speak most satisfactorily, and he showed a remarkable reduction in the percentage of mortality, both at home and on various foreign stations. He next adverted to the necessity of making our army more efficient at home. We have been in the habit of using our army too much as a police. Our soldiers were scattered at far too many stations, and could never be fit for field duty when they never saw an assemblage of troops. He hoped to be able to effect a greater concentration of soldiers in this country by withdrawing them from those colonies to which we were conceding the right of self-government, and which would learn self-protection. It was proposed to make arrangements for a station for ball practice and the use of the Minié rifle, to which non-com-

missioned officers and men should be drafted to learn these, afterwards returning to their regiments, to be succeeded by other drafts. It was also intended that in the summer an encampment should be formed, to which regiments should be sent for instruction, which would occasion scarcely more expense to the country than a change of quarters. He then stated that Lord Hardinge had been giving his best attention to the subject of weapons, and had sent to America and to all parts of the Continent for specimens, and trusted to be able to put into the hands of the British soldier a lighter, yet more effective weapon than had yet been produced. Our army must always be numerically small, but it ought to be perfectly drilled, and he believed that we had material for the most perfect army that could be conceived. The nation had a right to demand this, and he hoped to see the British army brought to a more effective condition than it had ever reached—an object to which, while he continued in office, his best efforts should be directed.

The votes were then agreed to in unusually rapid style.

INDIAN GRIEVANCES.—In the House of Lords, last night, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH presented a petition from certain native inhabitants of Madras, praying for a redress of grievances, which principally arose from excessive and oppressive taxation, and the delay and expense of the courts of law. The petitioners suggested a variety of reforms for the improvement of the Government of India. The noble earl having gone at length into the statement of the alleged grievances, inquired whether it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce any measure for the future government of India this session?

The Earl of ABERDEEN replied that it was their intention, although he was not then prepared to state what modifications he intended to propose. They would, however, be founded upon the reports of the committee of both Houses.

The petition was ordered to be referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

CHICORY AND COFFEE.—In the House of Commons, in reply to a question by Mr. HUME, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, the Government had come to the decision that the public interests would be best consulted by allowing chicory to be sold in a state of mixture with coffee, provided it was so described in labels attached thereto.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LETTER LXI.

Paris, February 22, 1853.

RUMOURS of war have sprung up within the last day or two to shake good easy folk from the somnolence with which our present *regime* has oppressed them. "The Austrians have occupied the Canton of Ticino"—"Austria proposes to Bonaparte to occupy Geneva while she occupies the Ticino." "England proposes to Bonaparte an offensive and defensive alliance to prevent the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire." Such are the three big rumours which have risen like a nightmare on the drowsy torpor of this city, producing an almost electrical commotion in the regions of the Bourse. Everybody was running to the Bourse to learn details. But there, as everywhere, no reliable information to be obtained. In this universal disquiet down went the funds.

One good result, at least, this triple rumour has produced: it will have startled from their slumbers many who had begun to fancy that they had nothing now to do but to shake their pillows, cover up their ears, and turn their heads to the wall. It is now well understood by all people that *war is inevitable*. The insurrection of Milan, the attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Austria, prove to the most torpid, and the most complacent, that the REVOLUTION is neither dead nor sleeping; and that the more terrible the compression, the more destructive will be the explosion. It is now confessed that, soon or late, the REVOLUTION, which stalks abroad like Fate, and wraps thrones and tyrannies like a thunder-cloud, will have to be encountered, and before its terrible tribunal despotism will have to justify its cruelties and crimes.

With regard to the state of Europe generally, the partition of Turkey appears to be almost a probable eventuality. Russia and Austria desire to take advantage of the present situation of France, ruled by an adventurer she detests, and of the momentary respite that the ebbing tide of the revolution still permits, to effect a dismemberment which shall change the face of Europe. In the third place, Russia and Austria have a direct interest in war. These two powers think to create a strong diversion to the revolutionary spirit by war. Fourthly, the northern powers having comparatively insignificant marine forces, would make the war *continental*. The French army would thus find itself alone in the face of the armies of the three powers. In this continental war England (supposing her to be thus disposed) could, in fact, be of little or no support to France on land. The two navies of France and England might sweep the seas and find no hostile fleets to conquer or disperse. Such is here considered to be the calculation of the northern diplomacies. It were well that the English Government should be strong and able enough to master the situation (*à la hauteur de la situation*). In such a war I know not what would be the policy of the English Cabinet, but the

feeling of the BRITISH PEOPLE should be, not to sweep the sea with ships, or to scour the continent with troops, but to subsidize the REVOLUTION, to put arms in the hands of the insurgents of Italy, Germany, Hungary, and Poland, to lend the helping hand to revolutionary France, and to assert with unfaltering voice the liberties of the world.

All these reflections are born of the breath of this morning's rumours, which every ear interprets according to its wishes or its fears. It is not the less true that the last illusions about the possibility of preserving the peace of Europe have now completely vanished away.

The actual point of public interest, as I write, is to know which of the two prevailing rumours (if either) is correct. Is the Ticino occupied? Has Austria marched on Lugano and Bellinzona, by way of a hint to France to occupy Geneva? or has Austria as yet simply proposed to France to move, making her own movement a subordinate and subsequent, or an accompanying and joint demonstration? Does Austria await the decision of Bonaparte, or has she anticipated it? The prevalent impression in Paris is, that Austria, under pretence of necessity, and authorized by Russia and Prussia, has made, or will make the movement, after simply announcing the intention to France, leaving to the latter to pronounce upon that intention, for or against. It cannot be forgotten that the Ticino is the gate of Lombardy, and that if in the approaching continental war the canton remained unoccupied by Austria, the Swiss or the French might, through the Ticino, take Lombardy in flank, while the Piedmontese attacked it in the front, and Italy would thus be lost to Austria without striking a blow. Such a movement, then, as the rumour I have mentioned indicates, would be nothing more than a precautionary measure on the part of Austria in the prevision of a continental struggle, for which, indeed, it would also be an unmistakable signal.

All these rumours and recent events have broken the monotony to which we had succumbed. A few days ago we had only the insignificant gossip of the Imperial train-train to amuse or to chafe our weary indolence. The Legislative Corps has commenced its operations. We had heard that it was disposed at first to exercise a certain control over the acts of the Government; but it is now reported that any such intentions, if they ever existed, have vanished away. The Corps has proceeded to the nomination of the Presidents of its bureaux, and instead of nominating the men who distinguished themselves last year in the commission on the budget by a show of independence, it has now nominated a set of creatures, insignificant in themselves, and ready to sell away like trash, the interests, as it has already cringed away the last surviving liberties of the country. Nevertheless, one incident has kindled a spark of opposition. Bonaparte, supported by the army alone, must needs make himself the providence of the barracks, at any price. Without consulting Senate or Legislative Corps, he has just decreed an increase of ten centimes a-day in the pay of the *sous-officiers* throughout the army and navy. This amounts to an augmentation of 1,500,000 francs on the budget of the year. True, the "Constitution" says positively that the budget shall be voted by the Legislative Corps. The Senate, in its character of guardian of the Constitution, assembled for a moment to discuss in serious fashion the *constitutionality* of the decree. Without laughing, I assure you they met for this dignified purpose. Scarcely were they assembled, however, or, to speak more precisely, no sooner was the delicacy of the question felt (*à peine a-t-on en touché la corde sensible*) than every senator, alarmed at the responsibility, made the best of his way out of the *salle*, and the Senate was found suddenly empty. So much for our Senators.

On the occasion of the proclamation of the Empire, Bonaparte exacted of the Senate, and of the Legislative Corps a new taking of the oaths. Never has there been a man so greedy of the oaths of others, so reckless of his own. On this occasion M. Bouhier de l'Ecluse, the Legitimist deputy of La Vendée, wrote a letter to M. Billault, the President of the Legislative Corps, which he intended to be read to the Chamber; but the tenor of the letter appearing too violent to the sensitive nerves of the President, he refused to read it. Thereupon followed a *piquant* scene. All the deputies quitted their seats individually, and crowded round M. Bouhier de l'Ecluse to hear his letter read privately. The Legitimist deputy satisfied their curiosity.

These gentlemen of the Legislative Corps had the honour to be presented individually, with their wives, to the Empress on Sunday evening last. The ceremony was a quiet affair enough, and has not even found mention in the journals.

The Coronation is still talked of. Some say it is fixed for March 20; others, for May 5—the anniversary of the death of Napoleon. What I imagine may

probably delay it till the latter date is the difficulty which Bonaparte finds in persuading the Pope to come to Paris. An active intrigue is on foot at Rome to that effect. On the one hand, Bonaparte, through his Envoys, Cardinal Donnet, and the other Bishops, despatched *ad hoc*, is urging all the inducements that he thinks likely to overcome the repugnance of the Pope. He insists upon the advantage to religion that the presence of the Pope in France would create. He promises him a triumphal reception, and a journey of acclamation through the country. Then he dwells upon the services rendered to the Pope, and lays a stress upon the absolute importance of preserving the good graces of a man who has only to lift his hand to leave Pope and cardinals at the mercy of the Revolution that already shakes Italy like a mine. On the other side, foreign diplomacy, supported by the majority of the Cardinals, labours to dissuade the Pope from so perilous a journey, and recommends him to turn the difficulty by sending a Legate, *à latere*, to replace him at Paris, where he would receive the same honours as the Pope himself, and march, preceded by cross and banner, and mounted like the Pope himself on the Pontifical mule. All considerations incline me to think that the latter suggestion will be adopted. What if war should come to interrupt all these fine projects, and if in six months' time the Pope should be sent a-fishing, with his ring in his mouth, and the Emperor be nowhere?

Last week, Bonaparte sent to request the Court of Austria to give up the mortal remains of the Duc de Reichstadt: his intention being to revive the ceremonial performed on the return of the ashes of Napoleon.

In the midst of all these unforeseen accidents and disturbing rumours, it is just possible that the disbanding of 20,000 men, so pompously announced in the *Moniteur*, may be quickly countermanded. At all events, St. Arnaud has taken good care to render this reduction of the forces quite illusory. In a circular to all the *chefs de corps*, he ordered them to discharge such *sous-officiers*, corporals, and brigadiers as were on the point of terminating their period of service, and to inscribe them on the reserve, so as to be available at any emergency for active service.

A new expedition to Kabylia has been talked of, to exercise the troops in Algeria, and keep them "in the slips," but it is probable that under existing circumstances they may find enough to do, or at least to expect, at home. Napoleon Jérôme is slow to start for his seat of government. He raises great difficulties on the subject. He insists on nothing less than the establishment of an Algerian Vice-Royalty, altogether separate from France, as the viceroyalty of Italy was under the former Empire. In this case the political regime, the administration, and even the army, would be separate and distinct. Bonaparte has refused assent to this scheme, but to wheedle his uncle, whose displeasure he dreads, and to amuse his cousin, he has promised to "have the question examined."

M. d'Haussonville owes his immediate release from arrest to his firmness. When the Commissary of Police interrogated him on the words imputed to him, he replied with equal wit and assurance, "I used that expression, '*their Emperor*,' in speaking of those fellows who surrounded me, and who no doubt all voted for Bonaparte; but for my part, as I voted against him, I could not conscientiously say, '*my Emperor*.'" The Commissary, embarrassed at this mocking tone, and having the sense to understand that it would make all Paris shout with derisive laughter, released M. d'Haussonville. A great number of domestics were discharged from the Tuileries last Saturday. They are suspected of having made indiscreet revelations to foreigners, or at least out of doors, of certain facts detrimental to the Emperor and the Empress. Nothing more is known about the matter, S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

An article entitled, "*Napoleon III, Officier d'Artillerie*," recently appeared in the *Pays*, signed, "J. Augier." It has since appeared in the *Constitutionnel*, signed "Denain." Paris papers make merry with this mysterious article. Who, they ask, is the real author? Which of the two has violated the law, passed three years ago, which declares that a person signing an article not written by himself shall be prosecuted for forgery? The *Sidèle* ventures to hint that neither the one nor the other of the persons signing is the real author, and it recommends to the enthusiastic writer of the article in question to *garder l'anonyme*, reminding him at the same time that the civil code, which is in opposition to, but of greater authority than, the Tinguay law, declares that *la recherche de la paternité est interdite*. This allusion of the *Sidèle* will be understood in a double sense by those who know the story of the French Emperor's parentage. Such is the *war of allusions*, a war which, conducted by writers as skilful as the ablest of the French publicists, proves more deadly than any thunders of unrestrained invective.

M. Pages Dupont, editor of the *Union*, M. Tanski, and Messrs. Lowenfeld, Hartmann, and Etienne, correspon-

dents of the German press, have been liberated with a simple caution.

"The following is a striking, though unfortunately not a singular instance of the hardship to which the political victims of the *coup d'état* of the 2nd December are subjected. Professor Charles Jules Geraizer was brought before the correctional police on a charge of *rupture de ban*, when the following conversation took place between him and the magistrate: "Why did you come to Paris, where you are forbidden to reside in consequence of the condemnations you have incurred?—I did not come to Paris either to remain or to conceal myself.

"Is it true you gave yourself up?—Yes; if I have broken my *ban*, it was for the purpose of surrendering to the authorities with the hope of being sent to Cayenne. My story is very simple and very sad. For the last two years and a half that I have been condemned to *surveillance*, it has been impossible for me, as the Court will understand, to find employment as a professor. I was on the point of getting a place in a manufactory, but my passport, which shows that I am under *surveillance*, closed the door against me. I was without resources, and would not allow myself to be drawn into evil ways. It was then that I thought that if I were sent to Cayenne, I might still find means of doing something which would enable me to live without falling into bad courses. This is my reason for breaking my *ban*."

"This touching speech, which shows how little dangerous the unfortunate professor is, had no effect on the flinty heart of the magistrate. M. Geraizer was condemned to three months' imprisonment for *rupture de ban*."

M. Emile de Girardin draws the attention of the French Government to a grand scheme of arterial drainage, which resembles the ideas put forth on the same subject by Mr. F. O. Ward, of the Metropolitan Sanitary Association in this country, and advanced by him at last year's Sanitary Congress in Brussels, in an address which has since been printed as a pamphlet, with the striking title, *Stagnation et Circulation*.

Marshal Narvaez has arrived in Paris.

From Berlin we learn that the tedious and impracticable commercial negotiations between Austria and Prussia have at length been brought to an end. The long announced and long deferred Customs Treaty between the two great German powers, was finally signed by the Plenipotentiaries *ad hoc* on the 19th inst. This desirable result has certainly been effected in a great measure by the energy, ability, and prudence, of the Austrian commercial diplomatist (by birth a Prussian) M. de Brück; and the conclusion has perhaps been hastened by the premature revolts in Italy, the untoward attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Austria, and the general insurrectionary symptoms in Hungary and Italy, which have terrified the excitable king of Prussia, in the midst of his harmless potations of Rhenish and Champagne, and have probably led him to feel the instant necessity of a close understanding between the Courts of Vienna and Berlin: a consideration to which commercial jealousies and customs rivalries are made to yield. The *Times*, in a leading article on the treaty yesterday, thus favourably sums up its leading results:—

"As far as we are acquainted with the terms of this important convention, it leaves each party at liberty to regulate its own commercial tariff, subject to certain general principles of a liberal character. Thus Austria renounces all prohibitory duties, except on the peculiar articles of salt, tobacco, gunpowder, and playing-cards, which are Government monopolies. The trade in raw materials, &c., as defined in the first schedule of the treaty, is free. All export duties on the produce of one State sold to the other are abolished. Navigation dues are equalized between the ships and ports of both countries. The consular agents of both countries are to protect the common interests of both. Transit dues are abolished, and access to the rivers, canals, and railroads of both parties is mutually conceded on the same terms. Provision is made for the introduction of a uniform monetary system. The present treaty is concluded for a period of 12 years, and at a suitable time commissioners are to consider the propriety of effecting a more intimate commercial union. Meantime the commercial adherents of Prussia in Germany are invited to accede to the treaty, as well as the commercial adherents of Austria in Italy, including, consequently, the principalities of Parma, Modena, and Tuscany. On the other hand, as the essential object of the Darmstadt league of minor States was to obtain the certainty of closer commercial relations with Austria before they closed again, with the conditions of the Prussian Zollverein, the principal purpose of that separate combination is secured, and it is probable that no further difficulties of moment will prevent the reconstitution of the Zollverein. Even Hanover is not indisposed to join the new compact, and it is desirable that the Northern States should throw into the scale their influence, favourable as it is to low import duties and foreign trade.

"The result of this treaty will therefore probably be to remove commercial restrictions, national barriers, and fiscal taxes over a very large portion of Central Europe, extending from the Elbe to the Arno, and from Aix-la-Chapelle to Belgrade; and thus to bring into easier and freer intercourse no less than 70 millions of the most civilized and industrious inhabitants of the globe."

The Roman Catholic motion for an address to the King of Prussia, praying him to order the recall of certain Ministerial instructions of last year, for the better preservation of the peace at "stations" held by Jesuit missionaries in the midst of Protestant populations, and circumscribing the liberty of visiting the Collegium Germanicum or any foreign educational establishment conducted by Jesuits, was brought on last Saturday; and, after a very animated debate of more than seven hours, was rejected by a majority of 175 to 123.

The Emperor of Austria, that young Nero, Franz Joseph, has been almost deified by the journals of foreign govern-

ments, and, we must add, of our own, since he had the honour to escape the knife of a poor, fanatical, Hungarian tailor, on Friday, the 10th. If we believe the *Times*, the life of Franz Joseph is more precious to Europe than liberty, and to strike him is not mere murder, but sacrilege. Here is the account of the veracious correspondent of the *Times* at Vienna, who, we suspect, is more Austrian than the Viennese themselves. Mark how solemnly he approaches his theme: "The circumstances connected with the vile attempt you are now about to learn. At one o'clock p.m., his Majesty, accompanied by Count O'Donnell, one of his aides-de-camp, was taking his customary walk round the ramparts. On reaching that part of them which is about fifty yards to the left of the city gate, called 'Kärnthner Thor,' the Emperor and his companion leant over the parapet in order to look at some soldiers who were exercising in the dry moat. Such of your readers as have been in Vienna will probably remember that a few steps lead up to the ramparts from the end of the Kärnthner-street; from this staircase it appears the assassin advanced, and, rushing suddenly upon the Emperor, attempted to stab him in the neck with a large knife—a kitchen-knife," as people say here—something like those used by our shoemakers. Happily, the blow was given so high that the weapon, striking upon that part of the skull which descends below the ear inflicted a merely superficial wound. Before the blow could be repeated, Count O'Donnell struck the villain in the face, and a citizen, who was walking by with his wife, rushed upon him, and throwing his arms round him, confined his arms to his sides." The name of the assailant, described as "a short, slight man, of about twenty-three," is Lebeny; he is a Hungarian, and formerly a soldier, but for some years has been pursuing the trade of a tailor. It does not appear that he was at all alarmed at the consequences of his unsuccessful attempt. "Instead of putting him at once into a hackney coach (continues the correspondent of the *Times*), the culprit, with his hands tied behind him, was conducted, by eight soldiers, from the ramparts, through the Spiegelgasse, to the police-office in the Spenglergasse. On his arrival at the police-office, the prisoner exhibited the greatest effrontery and recklessness. Without waiting to be questioned by the commissary he declared that he had harboured his intent ever since the year 1850, and had for the last three weeks frequented the ramparts in the hope of meeting with his intended victim. "My object was not to kill him, but only to give him a 'blessur' (blessure)." It does not appear advisable to give the man's expressions literally; but he loudly declared that he had acted solely from a patriotic motive, vehemently and repeatedly asserting that he was *ganz allein* (quite alone). He was then removed to the police prison and interrogated, and his manner since his arrival is described as equally removed from fear and penitence. Of course the accounts have differed as widely as the sources from which contemporary history is drawn always differ. One account represented that a party of Turkish Jews were passing at the time, talking Italian, and that as they approached to offer assistance, the Emperor thinking their intentions hostile, drew his sword. The Emperor is said to have behaved with perfect self-possession, and even to have desired to return to the palace through the city, but his physicians instantly ordered him to bed. The *Times* also favours the British people with an episode between that excellent woman, the Archduchess Sophia, and her interesting son. The Emperor sent for his mother, and told her that his "neck was a little stiff, that was all." The enthusiasm of the Viennese of all classes for their beloved Emperor is described as little short of worship, the Hungarian regiments covering with their cheers even the native *Vivats*; all of which we are invited to believe. A solemn *Te Deum* was, of course, sung in the cathedral. It is clear that the attempt at assassination was considered to be part of a vast conspiracy, if we are to judge by the precautions exercised at Vienna. "As soon as the infamous deed"—writes the correspondent of the *Times*—"was known to the high authorities, the gates between the suburbs and the surrounding country were closed, domiciliary visits were paid to almost all the hotels and lodging-houses, and the extremities of the street in which the malefactor lodged were guarded by detachments of police, so as to prevent all egress. The termini of the railroads were occupied by the troops, and no passenger trains left the city last night." There is no reason, however, to believe that the attempt was anything but an isolated act, dictated by a strong individual sentiment of hatred towards the young hero of Austria, who, on the day before his abortive defilection, and out of the fulness of his heart, dispatched a present of twelve thousand cut. of lead to his beloved and loving subjects at Milan. "The wound" (now, we suppose, a sacred wound) "is about two inches in length, and if the point of the knife had not been turned (bent) by striking against the bone, the blow must have been fatal," says a perfectly well-informed person. The latest accounts inform us that his Imperial Majesty is rapidly recovering, but that he has suffered considerable fever from the wound.

Accounts from Milan of the 19th inst., state that the military authorities, believing that Mazzini was still in the town, have taken the most rigorous measures to prevent him from escaping. They even opened the coffins which were being carried to consecrated ground, to assure themselves that Mazzini was not concealed in one of them. By order of the Commandant all the houses were illuminated on the 19th, in rejoicing for the preservation of the Emperor's life.

Orders had been issued to the householders to suspend, for the purpose of lighting the town, a lamp from the first-floor of every fourth house, which is to remain burning from six o'clock in the evening until daylight. In case of disturbance, the householders are to close their doors, and every man found in the street is to be treated as concerned in the affray.

The inhabitants are forbidden to appear on the bastions from six o'clock in the evening till seven in the morning.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has decided upon the internment of the Italian refugees. Persons compro-

mised are to be expelled. Austria is to be requested to raise the blockade of Tessin.

Father Rothaan, general of the order of Jesuits, is on his death bed. He was seized by a sudden stroke of apoplexy. The "General" is a Dutchman.

General Kalbermatten, ex-general of the Valais troops in the war of the Sonderbund, and employed in recruiting Swiss troops for the Roman army, had been ordered to leave the Sardinian States.

The Academy of Italian Philosophy of Turin held a solemn sitting on the 14th, in commemoration of Gioberti. The bust of the philosopher occupied a conspicuous place in the hall, which was hung with black drapery. A company of national guards volunteered as guard of honour. Count Mamiani opened the sitting with an oration.

Great excitement prevails in the principal cities of Hungary and Italy. Insurrectionary symptoms at Buda and Pesth have been met by strong reinforcements of troops in those places, and other unusual military precautions.

Vienna letters of the 19th state as a rumour that the Austrian Emperor proposed to seize on the property of a large number of emigrant Lombards, alleging that they were engaged in designs against his Government.

The same correspondence reports the Milan arrests as having been 500 in number, and continuing every day. The number of individuals executed is said to be 17. The last executions reported by the Italian papers, those of the 15th, it may be remembered, brought the number up to 13.

Advices from Venice inform us, that on the night of the 14th a number of persons were arrested as they were in the act of stripping the walls of Radetzky's proclamation.

The blockade of the canton of Tessino is rigorously maintained. Even salt is prohibited.

Three thousand Tessinois who were turned out of Lombardy have arrived at Tessino.

Marshal Radetzky has issued a fresh proclamation, announcing the confiscation of the property of such persons as have connived in the late revolutionary outbreak.

The Count Giulai, Austrian commander-in-chief at Milan, complained to the deputation of Milanese of the bad reception of the Emperor last year. (At the time we were told by the Austrian Government journals that he was capitally received.) Milan had to pay on the 18th 40,000 florins (4000*l.*), and on every following Wednesday 30,000 florins (3000*l.*), till further orders, *pour encourager les autres*.

Accounts from Rome mention the reinforcement of the French army of occupation by two regiments. The King of Bavaria has left for Naples. The *Morning Chronicle* correspondent writes under date of the 13th:—"A bad carnival and bad weather. The Tiber had overflowed its banks, and the Ripetta and Dell'orso-streets, and the Pantheon, are all flooded. The most interesting news from those parts is the expected arrival of Mrs. H—, (why this mystery we do not imagine; the name of Howard in connexion with Louis Napoleon is no secret,) who repairs to Civita Nova, a little town situated in the province of Ancona, on the borders of the Adriatic, where the Emperor Louis Napoleon has some property. These possessions are administered by M. Casabianca, the brother of the Minister, and he has received orders to prepare the Palazzo, which is to be placed at that lady's disposal. Mrs. H— has five children with her, four girls and one boy—the latter five months old. She is accompanied by Count Troili, a particular friend of the Emperor Louis Napoleon, who resided at Rome with him in his early days. The count was formerly an officer in the noble guard of the late Pope Gregory XVI., and having been exiled from the Roman States, his return is not much relished, and a special passport had to be obtained for him from the Cardinal Secretary of State."

This is the sort of business with which "noble Romans," as Dr. Lemprière would say, are entrusted now-a-days by the French Emperor: and this is the way in which he avails himself of his "occupation" of Rome.

During the last few days (writes the *Daily News* correspondent from Naples) the body of Maria Christina, the first wife of his present Sicilian Majesty, has been disinterred after fourteen years quiet repose in the church of Santa Chiara, and disinterred for the purpose of verification, with a view to beatification. The remains of the late Queen are believed to have performed some miracle which the church has not thought fit, as yet, to publish to the world.

The late Queen was, it must be said, an excellent woman, beloved for her goodness of heart and her unceasing charities. She was as deserving of a place among the saints as her widower is of a distinguished position after death among those who "believe and tremble."

The Vatican has been induced to institute the preliminary investigations to ascertain what claims her Majesty has to be numbered with the saints. The body having been exposed, the nuncio and city authorities were invited to visit and identify it, and this having been done, a committee of ecclesiastics, consisting of the divines of the royal household, are now employed in tracing the miracles supposed to have been performed both before and after death—a very long process, if carried out according to the rules of the Roman church. Such an event is not without its political meaning, of course. The ignorant are thus taught to clothe royalty with Divine attributes—to ascribe the blessings and the gifts of God to their earthly rulers, until human or Divine Majesty become almost interchangeable phrases, and royalty a sacred thing. As to the church, it has everything to gain by such exhibitions. Who but they can solve this difficulty? and who but they are the exponents of the Divine mind? *Procul, procul, esta profani*. To the church therefore it gives new life and interest to perpetuate the idea that (by its will and decision) Divine interposition is accorded to the faithful. Queen Christina's life will, however, bear investigation, and the devil's advocate will soon be floored. She was a sincere, good woman,

who, had she lived, would have been a blessing to the country, disposing the royal will to justice and charity.

English society at Naples has been saddened, and all gaieties arrested, in the midst of the Carnival, by the death of the Earl of Belfast, after only a few hours' illness, from a cold caught (upon incipient measles) at a rehearsal of Victor Hugo's *Marion Delorme*, for private theatricals at Mr. A. Craven's. The Earl of Belfast was only 27. He was known in society as a man of some taste and accomplishment in literature and music.

There is great talk again in the semi-official journals of Austria and Prussia, of a "strong note" addressed to the British Government on the subject of political refugees. It is even said that the three Northern Powers have agreed upon a joint remonstrance. All the strong notes of all the despotic Governments in the world cannot alter English law; and so long as there exists a free press in England, no Government would with impunity act as the spy, much less as the accomplice, of foreign tyrannies.

The Chevalier Massimo d'Azeglio, late Prime Minister of Piedmont, has left Turin for London, on a two months' leave of absence from the Chamber. The correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Turin on the 21st inst., says:—"It is believed that the visit of M. Massimo d'Azeglio to London is connected with the London refugees, and that he has been despatched at the instance of the Queen, who still remains in the Tyrol."

We trust this sinister rumour, congenial enough, perhaps, to the source from whence it springs, is incorrect, and that the Marquis d'Azeglio is not coming to London on so impracticable an errand. The following extract from the correspondence of the *Daily News* supplies, we hope and believe, the more probable explanation of M. d'Azeglio's visit to London, if indeed it be not, as the *Morning Chronicle* assures us, a visit purely of leisure and recreation:—

"Since the outbreak at Milan, the Austrian-disposed newspapers of Germany have daily contained predictions, some of them professing to be authorized, of a joint note to be addressed to England by the European Powers, demanding coercive measures against the refugees. With Piedmont and Switzerland a shorter process is, according to these authorities, to be followed. The *Post Gazette* published at Frankfurt, the faithful exponent of Austrian ideas, announced on the 19th that the Imperial Government will set to work 'to purge Switzerland and England of the revolutionaries,' but omits to say how it will go about the task. The reactionary Governments of Europe are still very sore from the effects of Lord Palmerston's note, which, with copies of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet on Naples, they received two years ago from the Foreign Office, and would gladly seize an opportunity of recrimination. The semi-official *Parlamento* states that the relations of the Cabinet of Turin to that of Vienna are again very cold; and another Sardinian paper connects the Marquis d'Azeglio's visit to England with a desire on the part of his Sovereign to draw closer the bonds of amity between this country and his own, in anticipation of possible difficulties."

The *Morning Chronicle* correspondent, in announcing the departure of M. d'Azeglio for England, continues in the following pleasant strain, which we would fain believe is not a mere mystification. The accomplishments of the amiable hero of the paragraph are indeed well known and esteemed:—

"This celebrated statesman, artist, and author, who played so great a part in the political struggles of his country, and who has guided the policy of the kingdom of Sardinia during the last five years—in fact, ever since the introduction of those liberal institutions which it at present enjoys, and in the midst of the most tempestuous times—has now retired to recultivate the art of painting, his early passion. The name of Azeglio needs not much illustration. In Italy it represents the banner of national independence. From the times of Dante, Petrarca, and Boccaccio, literature, the fine arts, and politics, have conjointly distinguished the great men of Italy; and down to this very day that character has been maintained by its inhabitants, and is nobly represented by the Chevalier d'Azeglio. As a painter, Azeglio's name ranks amongst the first of Italy. His works are highly prized, and eagerly sought after. The Chevalier d'Azeglio purposes spending a few months in London, and has had his *atelier* prepared in the studio of the eminent sculptor Marochetti."

Hostilities in Montenegro have recommenced, and Omer Pasha is proceeding to cruel extremities in his operations against the brave defenders of the "Black Mountain." Meanwhile Count Leiningen, the Austrian envoy, has arrived at Constantinople in a special steamer, and has presented a menacing and even insolent ultimatum (to be replied to within eight days) to the Porte, demanding categorical explanations concerning the Turkish armaments on the Austrian frontier, complaining that the Montenegrine struggle has become a religious war; demanding the expulsion of Hungarian refugees from the Turkish army; that the numerous complaints and demands of Austrian subjects should be answered, and their claims speedily adjusted; and, finally, the cession of the territories of Kleck and Sutorina. "The most important part of the note (says the correspondent of the *Times*), is that referring to the territories of Kleck and Sutorina. These are the only points of land where the Turkish territory of Herzegowina touches the Adriatic. The Republic of Ragusa ceded these two places to the Turks in order to be protected to the north and south of their frontiers from their neighbours the Venetians. Since that time the Turks have never attempted to profit by this cession of territory, but have suffered all the exports and imports of Herzegowina, Bosnia, and part of Servia, to pass through Austrian ports, paying, of course, the Customs' duties. The Turks now propose to open ports at these places, which plan would inflict a heavy blow on Dalmatia. From her seaports Austria draws all her supplies for the imperial and commercial navy, and the sailors of that coast man all her ships. If Turkey establishes seaports on the above-named territories, the whole of the commerce of this part of Turkey, which now pays toll, enriching Austrian cities

would be diverted to those Turkish ports. Hence the grievance, and the exigency of the demands of Austria. The latest accounts mention that on receipt of this ultimatum, the Porte, after Cabinet councils, appealed to the arbitration of France and England, and that Count Leiningen had demanded his passports. Russia, it is believed, supports Austria on this occasion, while opposing France on the question of the Holy Sepulchres in Syria. Turkey does well to beware of so oppressive and dangerous a friend as Russia. It may be thought by some persons ominous and significant that the *Times*, in one of its quasi-diplomatic articles, should take this occasion to suggest, and almost to advise, under form of a prophecy, the dismemberment of Turkey. We had thought that even its affection for "our old ally" at Vienna, would yield to the traditional support of "our oldest ally" at Constantinople. The moral of the whole matter, however, is, perhaps, that the fate of Turkey will, in the next continental cataclysm, be hurried towards a final and inevitable solution.

The *Journal des Débats* states that the news received from Constantinople, by way of Trieste, announces that the Porte not having accepted the Austrian ultimatum, Count de Leiningen had quitted Constantinople, and that the Divan had then referred the settlement of its differences with Austria to the mediation of France and England.

Russian troops are concentrating on the frontiers of Moldavia, and great naval preparations are going on in the Black Sea.

A letter from Broussa states that the health of Abd-el-Kader is good. He lives in the greatest retirement, spending all his time in reading and prayer. It is said that he has commenced writing a religious work, to be called "Meditations on the Koran."

WAR IN BURMAH.

AN almost unintelligible telegraphic despatch was received yesterday from Trieste. These are its terms:—

"The Burmese occupy the Aeng with a large force. Pegu [the province, we suppose], has been again occupied by a large force of Burmese. They raised the siege [of the town?] on the 8th and 9th of January, and marched to the defence of Ichoygt [Shoygyn?], upon learning that General Steele was advancing upon that place. The Burmese have retired from Prome and from Meadami. It is said that a revolution has taken place at Ava, by which the old King has been deposed and driven out, and that the new King has recalled the troops to Ava, and desires peace. Fever and diarrhoea prevail among our troops, and were increasing."

AMERICAN NOTES.

SINCE the last mail, another great speech has been made in the United States Senate on the "Cuba and Monroe doctrine" resolutions of General Cass. The orator was Mr. Clemens, a Democratic senator from Alabama. Contrary to the expectations of many, Mr. Clemens was opposed to the discussion of the subject at the present time, as he did not wish to shackle or embarrass the in-coming Administration of General Pierce, who would doubtless endeavour to place the foreign relations of the United States on a better footing. In touching upon the tripartite treaty, he contended that he did not think it a wise policy for the United States to be pursued into intemperate action, because France and England had made a foolish parade of their future policy. As long as English statesmen kept their senses, a thousand Cubas could not induce them to declare war against the United States, for they well knew the importance of the cotton crop and commerce, and what would be the fate of Canada then. And France, he said, had just erected its imperial throne on the crater of a volcano; and if the great Emperor himself held the reins, a war with America would be destructive to France. On this point he added:—

"I am aware that upon paper the naval power of France is immensely superior to ours. Guns and vessels do not make a navy. If every vessel named in the United States register were to-morrow burned to the water's edge, France would be no more capable of contending with the United States upon the ocean, than the oak of the forest is capable of resisting the thunderbolt of heaven."

Mr. Clemens complained that the proposition of France and England had been unduly held out in Congress to influence the popular mind, but not very successfully. Cuba, he considered, would be annexed to the United States when the time was ripe. He was opposed to filibusterism, or the wrongful taking of territories belonging to other people, under the plausible plea of "progress," or "manifest destiny;" and he said—"Let us rob Spain of Cuba, England of Canada, and Mexico of her remaining possessions, and this continent will be too small a theatre upon which to enact the bloody drama of American progress!" He agreed upon that resolution which announced that the United States had no design upon Cuba; and for his part he saw no good to result from a re-affirmation of the Monroe doctrine.

The debate was again adjourned.

An equivocal looking telegraphic despatch from the south informs us that the "state of Honduras has taken possession of a British settlement at Limas, which it intends to keep at all hazards."

Projects for settling the Fisheries question were before the Senate.

SIX MILE BRIDGE.

THE Commission of the County of Clare was opened on Tuesday by Mr. Justice Perrin. The chief case for the consideration of the Court was the affray at Six Mile Bridge, when several persons were killed by the firing of the soldiers. Government, it will be recollected, prosecuted the soldiers on a charge of murder. In his charge to the Grand Jury, Mr. Justice Perrin set forth his views of the law as regards the use of deadly weapons by soldiers under the circumstances. His words on this head are very striking.

"Ordinary persons going on such an occasion to the hustings or elsewhere would act very indiscreetly and very dangerously, if not illegally, in arming themselves with deadly weapons in order to resist obstruction or opposition if it were expected; but soldiers are bound, are under orders, and therefore that which in other persons might denote a previous or deadly intention justifies them in carrying weapons. So far there was nothing illegal in their conduct on this occasion; there was nothing illegal in their proceeding through the crowd with the freeholders under their escort peaceably, doing or offering no unnecessary violence in the discharge of their duty; but soldiers have no right to force their way through a crowd by violence, or by arms, and still less by the discharge of deadly weapons; they have no right to repel a trespass on themselves, or the party escorted, by firing or mortally wounding; and you will observe the distinction I take between removing an obstruction and repelling a trespass. They have a right to lay hold of—as every subject of Her Majesty has—and resist persons guilty of assault and trespass, to restrain them, or make them amenable. There is no distinction between soldiers and other subjects in that respect; for, as Lord Mansfield says, and his attention was very much called to the subject—'No matter how called on, the military are citizens; and, I say, as subjects of Her Majesty, no matter whether their acts be hard or otherwise, they are employed not to subvert, but to preserve the laws that we prize so highly,' &c. If assaulted and struck with violence they have a right to repel force by force, but not by the use of deadly and martial weapons; although, if provoked by blows, so as to induce them to lose the command of their tempers (and more forbearance is to be expected from soldiers than others), but if so provoked by the use of deadly weapons, and that they use them without previous premeditation, the law considers the frailty of human nature, and will reduce the crime, which would otherwise be wilful murder, to manslaughter; and again, if it should further appear that, having been so assaulted and attacked, they were not guilty of any misconduct, and that their lives were threatened and in actual danger, and that in order to save their lives they were obliged to fire, and fired only in the necessary defence of their lives, then the homicide is excusable and justifiable; but in order to sanction such a finding by a jury they must be convinced by actual proof that the lives of the soldiers were in danger, and were saved by their firing, and only saved by that means. In considering these matters upon the evidence, you will recollect that there were of this party forty soldiers with fixed bayonets, under the command of two sergeants and two officers; and, further, that it is at least doubtful whether there was any express command given to them to fire. No command was given by their officers; that is, I believe, admitted by all parties, and you must further recollect that the firing cannot be justified on the ground that otherwise the freeholders or voters might have escaped or been taken away. You will consider carefully how the transaction occurred, and that part of it took place in a narrow lane, and part of it near the open road, and near the court-house, where there was a large body of police and a strong detachment of soldiers stationed, together with several magistrates. You will carefully consider all these circumstances, and whether or not the soldiers fired without orders, and I need scarcely repeat that in doing so you will take the facts from the evidence, and not from any statement. That some shots were fired, and some persons killed at a considerable distance from the lane, and by some of the soldiers who had just immediately come from it, there can be no doubt; and if this was done when there was no danger to their lives, and when some of the people were at a great distance, and some had their backs turned—such a state of facts, showing no previous excitement, would amount to the crime of murder; but, even if such facts existed, and there appeared to have been some previous excitement, it would be a subject properly for consideration how far that previous excitement would lead to the conclusion that they had not a deliberate intention to take away life, and induce you to reduce the crime charged to manslaughter. As to the persons who were slain upon what was called the Lodge road, your inquiry will be, first, whether those persons were slain, and if so, the condition in which they were found slain? And, secondly, by whom they were killed? And, if you find that a homicide was committed, and that it was committed by the soldiers charged, and was a homicide of the worst description I have pointed out,—if you find that the parties accused, without provocation or excitement committed this crime, you must consider another matter of importance; you could not find the whole body of soldiers guilty, and it would be therefore then necessary to ascertain who the individuals were who fired; and that is as important a consideration as any other in the case. If they are distinguishable, it is your duty to distinguish them, for you cannot find a general verdict, because it was undoubtedly a fact that several of the men, at least three-fourths of them, did not fire at all, and a bill could not, therefore, be found to implicate them all. With respect, then, to those who were slain in the lane, I will again say, if you are convinced that the soldiers were not the aggressors,

but that in the performance of a duty they were unlawfully assailed, so as to be in danger of their lives, and could not otherwise save them, their conduct in firing would be justifiable; but, if you are of opinion that, although they were not the aggressors, they were assaulted and struck, and thereby provoked so as to get their blood heated, and that they were induced to fire even when their lives were not in danger, then I think you should find a bill for manslaughter against every man that it has been proved to your satisfaction discharged his musket; but, if you come to the conclusion that those soldiers who fired did so deliberately and premeditatedly, when there was no danger to their lives and when there was no excitement, then it will be your duty to find a bill for the more serious charge."

We have a telegraphic despatch, however, stating that the grand jury had ignored the bill preferred against the soldiers. It remains to be seen whether the prosecution of the priests, alleged to have incited the populace, will be proceeded with.

POLICE RULE.

THE Reverend Mr. Angley has received justice at the hands of Lord Palmerston. It will be remembered that this gentleman interfered between the police and some orange sellers opposite the Pavilion Theatre, on the 6th of February. He was taken into custody, and fined by the Worship-street Magistrate. His alleged offence was striking the officers: really he was attempting to take the number of one of them. His case has been brought under the notice of Lord Palmerston, and he, finding that the sentence of the Magistrate cannot be sustained, has ordered the fine to be remitted. In the official letter from the Home Office we find the following information:—

"Lord Palmerston directs me at the same time to admonish you, that you were wrong in interfering with the policeman on the spot, and that if you thought he had exceeded his duty, and the case was one which required notice, you should have represented the matter, in writing, to his lordship, in order that the proper and necessary steps might be taken. It was not at all necessary for this purpose that you should take the constable's number, as Lord Palmerston could easily have ascertained what constable was on duty on the spot at the time."

Without any feeling adverse to the police—quite the contrary—we nevertheless trust that Mr. Angley's example will be followed in all similar cases; otherwise our police administration will soon become of the Algerine order.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

DESIROUS of partaking of the general rise in wages, the seamen in the employ of the Peninsular and Oriental, and the Royal West India Mail Companies, have this week struck for an advance of five shillings on their present allowance of fifty shillings a month, with grog. The companies resisted, and Captain Eagledue, the superintendent of the former, went to London to hire new hands. A meeting of firemen, stokers, and coal trimmers, was called for Thursday.

The companies do not object to the attempt of the men to get higher pay, but they feel hurt at the means employed; the men having refused to sign articles on the eve of the departure of ships bound under heavy penalties to sail on a particular day: the movement, however, seems likely to spread.

IRISH AGRICULTURE.

SOME Returns have been recently presented to Parliament respecting Agricultural Produce in 1851, from the Office of the Census Commissioners. We quote the abstract published by a contemporary.

With respect to the number of separate holdings—the Returns show a considerable diminution. In 1849, the number exceeded 650,000—in 1850, it was about 628,000—and in 1851, 608,000. In holdings of more than one acre, the decrease in the two years was nearly 49,000—about one-thirteenth part of the total number in 1849. On the other hand, in those not exceeding one acre, there was an increase of nearly 6,000, or about one-fifth of the total in 1849. The holdings not exceeding one acre were, in 1851, about one-sixteenth of the whole number.

While the decrease in the number of holdings must be viewed with satisfaction by every sound economist, the increase which has taken place in the extent of land under cultivation during the same period is a yet more hopeful symptom. It is not a partial increase, nor is it merely obtained by striking a balance or taking an average. It is observable in every Irish county, with the single exception of Limerick; and it is largest in four of the counties which we have noticed as having suffered the greatest loss of population. Mayo heads the list with an increase of 37 per cent. upon the acreage cultivated in 1847—Leitrim follows with 34 per cent.—Roscommon with 25—and Sligo with 23. This increase of cultivation, accompanied by a decrease in every class of occupiers hitherto distinguished in the Returns (except those who hold less than one acre each), is fully accounted for by the circumstance that, in former documents of this nature, the occupiers of thirty acres "and upwards" were all classed together. Consequently, one large farm of 300 or 400 acres—and these are, happily, becoming more numerous—would absorb several even of the highest class. For 1851, however, a more extended classification is given, and it appears that there were then about 50,000 farms ranging from 50 acres

to 100, about 20,000 between 100 and 200, and more than 9,000 which exceeded 200 acres.

The increase in the breadth of cultivation has been accompanied by a change in the relative proportions of the crops raised. In 1847, the proportion of cereal to green crops was, in acres, four and six-tenths to one, whilst, in 1851, it was two and three-tenths to one. But the diminution is only relative, for the actual acreage devoted to cereal crops in 1851 was very nearly equal to that employed for the same purpose in 1847. Green crops, however, covered 1,350,000 acres, instead of 700,000; and more than 140,000 acres, instead of 80,000, were given to flax. The Report proceeds to state some interesting details respecting the proportions which each description of crop, as cultivated in 1851, bore to every 100 acres in each class of holding. It appears that wheat was most extensively grown on farms of from 50 to 100 acres; but the largest proportion of other cereal crops belonging to farmers occupying from 5 to 15. The greatest extent of flax was grown on holdings of the same class, and of the one immediately above it. The proportion of meadow land rose continuously from less than 3 per cent. in holdings under one acre, to more than 45 per cent. in those exceeding 500 acres.

From this class of details the Report passes to others of equal interest relative to the live stock of Irish farms. The number of cattle has increased from less than two millions in 1841, to nearly three millions in 1851—that of sheep remains stationary at two millions—and that of pigs has fallen from 1,400,000 to about 1,100,000. Under the head of horses and mules there is a slight decrease—which is not, perhaps, a bad symptom, for the late Mr. Anthony Blake, a most competent witness on Irish affairs, told a Committee of the House of Lords, in 1846, that “many a poor man had a horse which he would be better without. It would be a blessing if each poor family were provided with a cow, and the horse were got rid of. For the sake of comparison, the valuation adopted by the Census Commissioners of 1841 has been used for the present Returns. Taking the prices assigned by them, which are below the existing rates, an increase is shown in the total value of Irish farm stock, from 21 millions in 1841, to nearly 28 millions in 1851. It is gratifying to observe that this improvement is distributed over all the counties of Ireland, without a single exception. In the province of Ulster it is 50 per cent., in Connaught 31, in Munster 24, in Leinster 23.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE FREE TOWN OF HAMBURGH.

WE have received the following communication from M. Johannes Ronge.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Some weeks ago an article, copied from the *Strasburg Gazette*, appeared in the English press, in which it was said, “the German Catholic communities formed by Dr. Ronge have at last expired.”

This false account was a forerunner of a new persecution against the free religious communities in Germany, which the Jesuits and diplomacy are determined entirely to suppress (if possible). They have heard that the new reformation has spread out to America, and that I have formed a free religious community in London, and they fear the mutual influence of these communities. Jesuitism and Austrian diplomacy have commenced boldly in the north of Germany, in the free town of Hamburg, employing the Senate of this town as a willing tool to serve their purpose.

I have just received the news, that this Senate has sent to the *Sechziger* (a body of citizens elected by the senate) a resolution to forbid the German Catholic community of Hamburg the celebration of all religious acts and ceremonies. The *Sechziger* have not only confirmed this despotic resolution, but at once carried a resolution to dissolve the community, and to exile its ministers.

This community I founded in the month of November, 1846, and it has since during seven years not only celebrated all religious acts, but received in 1848 a lawful existence from the Senate. The number of members is about three thousand souls. The chapel is crowded every Sunday, and the discourses of its minister are heard and read by the most cultivated classes of the town. The school and the children's garden are flourishing. Three benevolent Ladies Unions were formed by the members, which have worked with great success since 1846 and 1848.

One of these Unions supports the free religious communities of Germany; the second the poor, without regard to difference of creed; and the third has founded children's gardens, and a university for young ladies, which is supported and directed by the Unions. These schools, and institutions especially, while propagating the new ideas of humanity, have been the cause of constant anxiety to the bigoted or Puseyite Protestant party, which is connected with the Protestant Jesuits in Berlin, and secretly led by the Roman Catholic Jesuits. When this party could not suppress the free religious community by means commonly employed by Jesuitism, they resorted to measures of violence, instigated by the Austrian diplomacy. There are several members of the Senate and of the *Sechziger* who believe nothing at all, and feel more disposed to pay homage to Bacchus and Venus, than to Christ and

Christianity, but they are willing to obey the Austrian ambassador in Hamburg.

The Community has nobly resisted, with the exception of two of its members (two merchants, I hear), who deserted on the first approach of alarm. Every one at all acquainted with the present posture of affairs on the continent, must know that such oppressive measures will only be the means of adding more fuel to the general indignation, which forebodes a general outbreak at no distant period.

I maintain here only that such violent measures are against the fundamental principle of Protestantism itself, that they establish brutal force, and that Popery, Jesuitism, and the Emperor of Austria, are justified, by the Senate of Hamburg, occasionally to use the means of violence, sanctioned by an older historical authority, to suppress the protestant churches of Hamburg, and to exile protestant ministers.* The senate of the free (?) and protestant town of Hamburg, with its co-citizens, has gone in the face of the civilized world and of history, and has placed itself on a level with the fanatic tyrant of Tuscany.

This catholic tyrant imprisoned two men; the protestant senate of Hamburg, of a protestant town, deprives three thousand respectable inhabitants of their first divine right—of the right to worship God in truth, and according to their consciences. This Senate has brought down scandal on the citizens of Hamburg, whose forefathers have struggled and suffered so nobly in the cause of religious liberty and progress.

They betray the very principle which raised Hamburg to her present position and wealth. From this moment, all true religious noble-minded English and Americans, who stand in commercial connexion with the merchants of Hamburg, must recoil at such irreligious and base conduct, and feel ashamed of the cowardice of the Senate, for it is here well known that Austria and Popery have a hand in all this.

Sir, I beg you will allow me to lay down in your organ, my solemn protest, in the name of religious liberty and humanity, against these violent proceedings, which are a shame to the 19th century, and especially to Protestant countries. May the noble-minded and true religious English and Americans not be silent and inactive in this important cause, and may the press of England act herein with the same noble indignation as it has done in the cause of the Madiai. The free religious communities in London, and those of America, will do their duty by their suffering brethren in Hamburg.

Respectfully yours,
JOHANNES RONGE.
London, 24th Feb. 1853.
11, Hollis-place, Camden-town.

THE ROMANCE OF THE “DIGGINGS.”

THE *Dublin Commercial Journal* publishes a letter giving a novel glimpse of society at the diggings. The letter was lately received by a lady of Dublin from a young female friend, and former schoolfellow of hers, now at the Australian diggings. It appears from her narrative that she and her brother were suddenly left orphans with 300*l.* for their necessities, and all the fancies and niceties which life in prosperous circumstances is wont to include.

“He had passed through college with credit, and could write poetry, and ride up to the hounds as well as any huntsman who ever hunted the Golden Vale, while I, on my part, could play polkas, sing ballads, speak French and a little German, was a capital horsewoman (only I had no horse), and once in my life had composed a waltz, and written sixteen chapters of a novel, which broke down from my not knowing how to get my heroine out of a terrible scrape. But, alas! my dear friend, all these things might have done well enough ‘once upon a time,’ but the real battle of life was now to be fought by two utterly inexperienced raw recruits, and the question was, how our time and means were to be profitably rather than pleasantly spent. Fortunately, we were both young, strong, active, and hearty, and never did any Sebastian and Viola of them all love each other with a stronger and more enduring affection than did Frank and I—sole remnants, as we were, of so much prosperity and so little prudence.”

After much nervous consultation over the 300*l.* they determined to emigrate to Australia. On reaching Melbourne they found they could not encounter worse inconveniences at the diggings, and there they now are under singularly interesting circumstances. The young lady says;—

“I was resolved to accompany my brother and his friends to the diggings, and I felt that to do so in my own proper costume and character would be to run unnecessary hazard. Hence my change. I cut my hair into a very masculine fashion; I purchased a broad felt hat, a sort of tunic or smock of coarse blue cloth, trousers to conform, boots of a miner, and thus parting with my sex for a season (I hoped a better one), behold me an accomplished candidate for mining operations and all the perils and inconveniences they might be supposed to bring. All this transmutation took place with Frank and Mr. M——’s sanction; indeed, it was he who first suggested the change, which I grasped

* Gervinus was considered to be, in 1848, a conservative, to-day he is imprisoned as too liberal.

at and improved on. I could not bear to be separated from Frank, and we all felt that I should be safer in my male attire than if I exposed myself to the dangers of the route and residence in my proper guise. We have now been nine weeks absent from Melbourne, and have tried three localities, at the latter of which we have been most fortunate. We are near water (a first rate article), and our tent is pitched on the side of as pretty a valley as you could wish to visit. I have for myself a sort of ‘supplementary canvas chamber,’ in which I sleep, cook, wash clothes—that is, my own and Frank’s—and keep watch and ward over heaps of gold dust and ‘nuggets,’ the sight and touch of which inspirit me when I grow dull, which I seldom do, for I have constant ‘droppers in,’ and, to own the truth, even in my palmy days I never was treated with greater courtesy or respect. Of course, my sex is generally known. I am called ‘Mr. Harry’ (an abbreviation of Harriet); but no one intrudes the more on that account. In fact, I have become a sort of ‘necessity,’ as I am always ready to do a good turn—the great secret, after all, of social success; and I never refuse to oblige a ‘neighbour,’ be the trouble what it may. The consequences are pleasant enough. Many a ‘nugget’ is thrust on me whether I will or no, in return for cooking a pudding or darning a shirt, and if all the cooks and sempstresses in the world were as splendidly paid as I am, the ‘Song of the Shirt’ would never have been written, at all events. My own hoard amounts now to about 10*lb.* of gold, and if I go on accumulating, even the richest heiress in my family in former days will be left immeasurably behind. Sometimes, when I have a few idle hours, I accompany Frank and his comrades to the diggings, and it is a rare thing to watch the avidity with which every ‘bucket’ is raised, washed, examined, and commented upon. Wild the life is, certainly, but full of excitement and hope; and, strange as it is, I almost fear to tell you that I do not wish it to end! You can hardly conceive what a merry company gather together in our tent every evening, or how pleasantly the hours pass. Tea and coffee we have in plenty, for every one brings a hoard, and milk we manage to obtain, for among us we have imported two cows, which cost us about 50*l.* each, but that is a mere trifle. Cake of various kinds I manufacture, thanks to old Betsy D—— for teaching me; and, as for liquor, we sometimes have a little wine, brandy, or arrack, and sometimes not. And then we dance to the music of a German flute, played by a real German, or we sing glees and quartets, or talk of Moore, Byron, Burns, Goethe, ‘Shakspeare and the musical glasses,’ &c., until midnight, and sometimes long after it. As to suitors, I have them in plenty, and not despicable ones either I assure you.”

We trust the fair writer will not be too rash in exchanging her merry life, as the Maid Marian of the diggings, by rashly accepting one of the most despicable suitors.

PROGRESS OF ASSOCIATION.

THE members and friends of the Preston Co-operative Store Society have just celebrated their second anniversary with a tea party and ball, in the Temperance Hall. A very numerous and respectable party were in attendance. From inquiry, we learned that the society has been making, throughout the year, quiet and steady progress, increasing in numbers and in wealth; that all the members were animated with true co-operative spirit; and that they had succeeded, in a great measure, in establishing confidence with the public, by the honesty of their dealings—carefully avoiding all tricks of trade; in fact, from all we could learn, they considered their experiment had been eminently successful. —*Preston Chronicle.*

RAILWAY SMASH: A “DIRECTOR” KILLED.

THE Board of Directors of the Great Western Railway had assembled at Paddington terminus on Thursday, and were waiting for some colleagues. Suddenly came the news that a fearful accident had occurred at Ealing, and that one director was killed, and three others seriously injured! We append the “official report” as it tallies with others.

“The morning express train from Bristol reached the Ealing cutting at the usual time, 11.15, and had passed the Ealing station on its way to Paddington, when the travelling porter, who sits on the tender looking back on the carriages, observed one of the first-class carriages to sink at one corner, and to run off the rail. He instantly called to the engine-driver, who, on looking back upon the train, saw the gravel flying about, and shut off the steam, reversing the engine. When this was done, but before the train could be stopped, the three first-class carriages broke away from his coupling, and were discovered running up the left slope of the cutting.

“The foremost of them, after reaching the summit of the slope, fell over, and the second carriage, coming into violent collision with it, also fell over on its side.

“The last carriage was but slightly injured, and the passengers in it escaped without injury.

“In the second body of the middle carriage four of the Great Western directors were seated, coming to attend the weekly meeting of the board. One of them (Mr. James Gibbs, of Bristol) we lament to say, was killed on the spot. Dr. Prichard Smith was severely injured by a dislocation of the shoulder. The other directors (Mr. Potter, of Gloucester, and Mr. Simonds, of Reading) escaped unhurt. Three or four of the passengers met with some injury by cuts or contusions, but not in any case to a serious extent, and all were enabled to proceed on their journey.

“The only cause which can be assigned for the accident is the breaking of the scroll iron and axle guard of the

first-class carriage, and it is difficult to distinguish whether either or both of these were fractured before the carriage left the rail or when it was upset.

"The wheels and axles prove to be entire, one axle only being bent, which was obviously occasioned by the blow when the carriage was thrown over from the slope of the cutting."

THE QUEEN *versus* NEWMAN.

TO THE MOST REV. DR. CULLEN.

THE *Morning Chronicle* has, by request, published the following letter:—

My dear Lord Archbishop.—I acknowledge with a very grateful heart, and with feelings of extreme gratification, the bounty of the Catholics of Ireland, conveyed through your grace, towards the liquidation of the heavy expenses in which my late trial has involved me. I praise and bless the Author of all Good, who has never failed me, that He has put it into the heart of rich and poor, clergy and laity, thus effectually to aid and sustain me in the most trying event of my life. May they receive an overflowing reward from Him who never forgets good deeds done in His name and to His glory! When I first heard of their charitable intentions I knew well that an inexhaustible fount of liberality was their characteristic as a people; but I confess it never did enter into my mind that it would rise in my case even to a fourth part of the sum which it has actually attained. What can I say sufficient for the occasion to them all, high and low, to their reverend prelates and others, who have so generously prompted and sanctioned their munificence, and to my friends, known to me personally or not, who have busied themselves in the various arrangements which it involved? One, alas! there is, dear to your grace, who has a claim on my perpetual remembrance, who was among the first to stir in the work of mercy, and who has been taken to his reward before the termination of our fears and of our discouragements.

I say that our discouragements have ended with our fears; for in-truth I have to offer, first of all, my dear lord, to you, who have stood by me with such noble simplicity, and frank confidence, and affectionate earnestness from the beginning; and then, through you, to all my Irish benefactors, my congratulations on the success, as well as my thanks for the generosity, of your exertions in my behalf. The legal process is at an end; and though it was impossible, as it now appears from the nature of the case, that I could have satisfied what many will call the unreasonable demands of the law, still, with God's blessing, and by the undaunted zeal and great ability of the distinguished men who defended me, I have gained a moral victory, as is testified by the rejoicings of my friends, and the disappointment and mortification of my opponents. What the judges have *not* done is the best justification of an act which was prompted to me by a simple sense of duty, committed with great deliberation, untainted by malice or revenge, and unimpeached ever since by even a momentary misgiving or regret. Had they felt me to be more than legally guilty of the crime laid to my charge, they would certainly have inflicted on me—for a libel which, if morally such, was (as the counsel for the prosecution insisted) the most comprehensive, the most energetic, the most malignant, the most audacious, for the perjuries by which it was supported, of all conceivable libels—an unexampled punishment, whereas, they have visited me with nothing more than a £100 fine. Moreover, the judge who delivered sentence has informed us that, had the question of a new trial turned simply on the evidence brought before the jury, as contrasted with their finding upon the facts, the court was so far dissatisfied with that finding, that they would have sent the case to another jury for a fresh verdict; or, in other words, the difficulty imposed on me by the technical rules of law, was the main cause why a new trial was refused. And, to make the matter clearer still, immediately before the judgment, my counsel, when addressing the court in mitigation of punishment, distinctly stated that they had no instructions from me to retract any part of the libel of which the jury had found me guilty; and when the counsel for the prosecution indignantly protested against so unprecedented a proceeding, as they called it, and invoked on me a sentence of signal severity for this special offence, the bench was emphatically silent.

Thus have the judges virtually revised and reversed the verdict of the jury, and I am grateful to all four for this act of justice. One of them, it is true, who delivered their judgment, to the surprise (as I doubt not) of his learned brothers, took advantage of the merely accidental opportunity afforded him by the technicalities of the law, to improve the spectacle before him to the benefit of an extra-judicial theory of his own, and held me up as a warning to all those who are tempted to join the catholic church, for the evident want of affection towards the Protestant Establish-

ment, the bad taste, and the deterioration of style which, in my case, had been the result of conversion. However, I will say no more of that eminent person's words, when he was just to me in his acts, and kind to me, I am sure, in his intentions. He finished well, though he was elaborate in the process. After half-an-hour's suspense, the emblem of the tediousness of the whole transaction, the subdued excitement of his auditory was surprised, by his unexpected conclusion, into the abrupt expression of a very opposite emotion—

"Solvuntur risu tabulae, tu missus abibis."

But I must not occupy your grace's attention longer; and begging your blessing, and that of the other prelates who have taken so kind an interest in my anxieties,

I subscribe myself, my dear Lord Archbishop,

Your Grace's faithful and affectionate

Servant in Christ,

(Signed)

JOHN H. NEWMAN,

Of the Oratory.

Birmingham, Feb. 5.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL PACKET ADELAIDE.

By the Royal mail steamer *Severn* we have received the subjoined particulars relative to the steam-ship *Adelaide*, belonging to the Australian Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which vessel left Plymouth on the 3rd of January last, with the contract Mails for Adelaide, Port Philip, and Sydney. The letter is dated St. Vincent, Cape Verdes, Jan. 31:—

"After leaving Plymouth on the 3rd inst., the *Adelaide* encountered strong south-westerly winds and a head sea in her course down Channel, and across the Bay of Biscay. At half-past three o'clock in the morning of the 6th an alarm of fire gave rise to considerable excitement and confusion on board. The fore-saloon and cabins were suddenly filled with smoke, which was found to proceed from the coal-bunkers immediately beneath. The fire-engines being brought to bear, and a large quantity of water promptly poured down the scuttle-holes, it was soon ascertained that no imminent danger was to be apprehended. The coals, however, continuing in a very heated state, pumping was resumed at brief intervals during three or four successive days, after which the alarm gradually subsided. The accident was stated to have originated in the unusual proximity of the coal-bunkers to the boilers, which, combined with the highly inflammable nature of the coal, rendered the liability to spontaneous combustion one of peculiar peril. On the morning of the 17th, the *Adelaide* reached St. Vincent (Cape Verdes), but, unfortunately, finding that the company had neglected to provide any coals for her use (though she was now one month over-due), had to wait the arrival of fresh supplies from England, which were known to be on the way. After a detention of eight days, she obtained from the brig *Llewellyn*, which made St. Vincent on the 25th, from Swansea, a small quantity of patent fuel, wholly insufficient, however, to meet her requirements. On the 28th the chance arrival of about 400 tons of coal, by the barque *Nile*, from Bristol, promised at length a termination to this tedious suspense; but a dispute as to price consumed much valuable time, and up to the hour of the *Severn's* departure, on the night of the 31st, it was still a matter of complete uncertainty at what date the *Adelaide* might get away; indeed her further detention would probably extend over another week at least, as she had then barely 500 tons of fuel on board, being only one-half of her necessary complement. Much indignation was expressed by the passengers generally on account of the repeated and vexatious delays to which they had been subjected by the gross mismanagement and improvidence of the company, and which were considered to admit of no excuse or palliation. Among the second-class passengers the deepest dissatisfaction prevailed, and the complaints were loud and many with respect to the miserable incompleteness of the domestic arrangements and economy of the ship, and the utter want of system, discipline, and adequate service, which entailed upon one and all an amount of discomfort and positive privation hardly to be credited. One passenger quitted the ship in disgust at St. Vincent, and returned to England by the *Severn*, and several others declared that nothing short of the most urgent necessity would have induced them to proceed. The sea-going qualities of the *Adelaide* were spoken of as contrasting favourably with the immethodical and unbusiness-like character of the company's arrangements in connexion with her, which were considered to reflect the greatest discredit upon all parties concerned."

Private advices by the *Severn* mention that the *Adelaide* would probably get away from St. Vincent on the 4th inst. The delay of the Australian mails on this occasion, and the general irregularity of the postal service, must inflict immense injury upon the mercantile interest.

The *Australian*, Capt. Henson, sailed from Plymouth for the Cape and Australia, on Thursday, at 4.40 p.m., and put back leaky yesterday evening at 6. With the wind at W.N.W. she made 10½ knots, and reached 60 miles W.S.W. of the Eddystone, when, shortly after midnight, three feet of water were discovered in her engine-rooms. This increased to four feet and a half, and nearly extinguished the port-engine fire. The two engine-room engines and the two injection pumps were set to work, but with little effect. The ship was, therefore, put about at 3 o'clock, and on reaching smooth water, the leak was reduced four or five inches per hour. On entering Plymouth Sound she had three feet in the engine-room, and her cog-wheel is a

little out of order. A very heavy gale prevailed during the night and carried away her port life-boat. The *Australian* was to go into dock to-day.

THE WRECK OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA.

AN inquest has been held to inquire into the circumstances attending the loss of the *Queen Victoria*. The evidence confirms the account we published last week. Government has sent an inspector.

The inquest was brought to a conclusion a little before seven o'clock on Thursday evening, when the jury brought in the following verdict:—

"We find that John Reardon, jun., came by his death by drowning, he being at the time a passenger on board the *Queen Victoria* steamer, bound from Liverpool to Dublin, which said steamship was wrecked on the morning of the 15th of February, 1853, off Howth; and that his death was occasioned by the culpable negligence of Captain Church and Thomas Davis, in not slackening speed in a snow-storm which obscured all the lights, and they knowing they were approaching land."

The Coroner then said it would be his duty, under this finding, to commit Thomas Davis (the first mate of the ill-fated vessel) to gaol upon a charge of manslaughter. An application was made to admit the prisoner to bail, which was at once agreed to, Davis giving security in 100*l.* and two sureties in 50*l.* each. In the case of the other three sufferers a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

A VERY ROUGH DIAMOND.

OCCASIONAL importations of seamen from America disgrace their country. John Diamond, from New York, entered a public-house near the London Dock, and took up a pot of beer belonging to a man named Gifford, standing at the bar. Gifford told him to put it down. Diamond refused, and Gifford took it from him. Diamond immediately said, "That's your b—— Cockney fashion, is it?" Gifford replied, "Yes, it is; you are a stranger to me, therefore don't interfere with anything I have paid for." Diamond in answer to this said, "That's your way, is it?" Gifford said, it was; on which Diamond exclaimed, "Take that, you b——; that's in the American style," and struck him a tremendous blow on the nose with his clenched fist, which caused him to stagger, and the blood gushed forth in a stream. Diamond attempted to make off, but Gifford seized Diamond by the collar, and said he would give him into custody. Swearing dreadfully, and seizing Gifford by the hair, he dragged him on to the ground on his knees, and said, "This is an American touch," at the same time kicking him in a most savage and cowardly manner on the front of the head, causing him to bleed most copiously; he dragged Gifford out of the house, and some desperate ruffians and thieves, who abound in that neighbourhood, recognising Gifford, encouraged the prisoner by calling out, "Give it him; that's Bill Gifford, the policeman." Finally, a policeman overpowered the savage, and the magistrate sent him to prison for two months.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE Queen has bestowed some honours this week at Buckingham Palace. At an Investiture of the Order of the Bath, on Tuesday, Lord Cowley received a Grand Cross of the Order (civil division); and Mr. Gore Ouseley, Mr. Belford Wilson, and Lieutenant General Macleod, were made Knights Commanders.

At a Court and Privy Council held on Monday, Lord John Russell resigned the seals of the Foreign-office, which were handed to Lord Clarendon.

Her Majesty has visited the Lyceum and Haymarket this week.

Prince Albert, as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, intends to increase, at his own expense, the band of the regiment from thirty-two, its present number, to sixty. This is princely.

Colonel de Fleury, the Master of the Horse to the Emperor of the French, attended the reception of the Countess Granville, on Thursday evening.

There was a meeting at the London Tavern on Tuesday, held for the purpose of organizing a society to obtain vote by ballot. It is proposed to do this by widely diffusing information on the subject. The meeting included Mr. Henry Berkeley, M.P., Mr. Gore Langton, M.P., Mr. Phinn, M.P., Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., Mr. Torrens M'Cullagh, Mr. Wigram Crawford, Mr. W. J. Hall, Mr. Thomas Prout, and others.

Certain schoolmasters, metropolitan and provincial, waited on Lord Granville, on Saturday, to present a memorial against the famous modification made by the Derby Government in the clause of the Privy Council Minute of 1847, affecting the management of schools.

The Earl of Carlisle has been nominated as Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen. His opponent is "Mr. Benjamin Disraeli." The election will take place next week.

Dr. Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln, died on Saturday last. He was a "learned" bishop and an amiable man.

Dr. Broughton, Bishop of Sydney, died on Sunday. He had been formerly Chaplain of the Tower, and owed his connexion with the colonial church to the Duke of Wellington, who gave him the archdeaconry of New South Wales. He was made a bishop in 1836.

The working classes of Belfast have lost a good friend in the young Earl of Belfast, who died at Naples, on the 11th of February. He had gone thither for the benefit of his health. He imprudently assisted at a rehearsal of a private dramatic performance, and caught a fatal cold.

Some reports having gone abroad respecting the treatment of Mr. Feargus O'Connor, who is confined at the Manor-house, Chiswick, Dr. Tuke has written to set the

matter right. He says that the "inference to be drawn from the statement in question is, that Mr. O'Connor is denied to his friends, is unhappy, and therefore harshly treated. The very contrary is the fact; he is perfectly content with his residence here; his malady (hopeless, I fear, in its character) makes life to him one holiday; he has no idea that he is under any restraint; and his solicitor, his sister, his nephew, and other friends, have always had access to him."

Mr. Thomas Butler Cole is a magistrate of Lancashire. Owing to an accident, he became acquainted with Mrs. Robertson, a widow. He felt the force of her personal attractions. In 1851 she went to his seat, Beaumont-cote, and stayed there some ten days. Afterwards, he visited her in Old Bond-street; and one day took her to dine with him at Richmond. Miss Murray was of the party. After dinner, Mr. Cole and Mrs. Robertson sauntered out into the park. When they returned, Mr. Cole spoke of his approaching marriage with Mrs. Robertson, and asked Miss Murray to be bridesmaid. Subsequently, however, matters so fell out, that Mrs. Robertson heard of strange women living with Mr. Cole. She reproached him. Finally, the engagement was broken off. Mrs. Robertson, however, pressed Mr. Cole to say what he intended to do. She went to his house; his servants turned her out. She then brought an action for breach of promise. Mr. Cole put in no plea of justification. It was tried at the Lancaster Assizes, on Saturday, and settled in private.

A German, bearing the ill-omened name of Radetzki, has been committed to Newgate, this week, for fraud, forgery, and robbery.

Eliza Nash stabbed her husband so that there is great doubt of his recovery. She was arrested at the bedside of her husband, the bloody knife in her hand. She said—"I did stab him, and I am sure to be hung. I shall stab him again, so don't let me go. You are sure to have me again. I am bound to do it."

In the case of Elms, the farmer, found dead at Bishops' Sutton, near Bristol, the jury have returned a verdict, that he was found dead, but there was not sufficient evidence to show how he came by his death.

Last Friday a murder was committed at Wakefield. Henry Dobson, only twenty-four, had lived some time with Catherine Sheridan, a young woman belonging to a degraded class; and latterly had so seriously ill-used her, that she applied to the magistrates for protection. Dobson was bound over to keep the peace, and Sheridan went to lodge with a woman named Clough. While Clough was out, Dobson called on Sheridan, and cut her throat. When arrested near the house, he confessed that he murdered her. He was sent to York Castle.

From the provinces we receive constant warnings of the spread of the garotte system of robbery. It seems to be rife at Leeds, just now. Surely something should be done to check this infamous practice. It will come to this, that as in the middle ages, every man who walks at night must be effectively armed.

Frederick John Haselton, formerly master carpenter at the Haymarket Theatre, systematically charged more for the work of his subordinates than was due. He has been convicted of defrauding Mr. Benjamin Webster; and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

Two labouring men were passing through the Kilburn tunnel, when they heard a train coming. They threw themselves down between the rails. The fender of the engine was so low that one was instantly killed, and the other injured beyond hope of recovery.

Two boys and a man were drowned in Sir John Duckett's canal, near Victoria-park, last week, owing to the breaking of the ice. The body of a pedlar has been found on Dartmoor. There has been considerable loss of life in consequence of the snow-storm in the north.

Mr. John Dibbs, a Canadian emigrant, has laid before Captain Englefield plans for breaking ice-way in the arctic regions, by attaching one or two small steam-engines, working circular saws, which, it is said, by proper disposition, would soon effect the desired object. Another suggestion was that a balloon, secured to the deck by three rings, might be elevated to a chosen altitude, and which would be a conspicuous object if displayed with proper coloured bands, and might be seen for miles. The advantage of this would be great, as it may happen that the lost party of explorers may be lying within a mile of the blocked up vessel in search of them. Occasionally and for a short time, officers might ascend in the balloon and survey with glasses an immense extent of territory.

Last week was fatal to two centenarians. On the 15th of February, at the workhouse, Chelsea, an army pensioner died of "natural decay," at the age (as stated) of 102 years. Mr. Larnier, registrar, mentions that "this was a man of colour, who had been for many years cymbal player in one of the regimental bands; he was admitted into the workhouse from Mermaid-yard, about three months before his death. It is stated that he was married only six years ago." At 24, Duke-street, Aldgate, on 19th February, the widow of a fruiterer, died from "decay of nature," at the great age of 104 years. Mr. Spencer says, "She came from Mentz, in Germany, to England in the year 1770, at the age of twenty-one years. She retained her faculties to the last, and never had medical advice previous to her last illness."

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

THE effect of increased coldness of the weather is visible in an increased mortality amongst old and young. The mean temperature of the air in the second week of January was 45 degs., and the deaths of London were 1001; in the week that ended last Saturday, the mean temperature was only 29.8 degs., and the deaths registered rose to 1328. Since the former week the weekly temperature has declined according to the following series: 41.9 degs., 37.7 degs., 36.5 degs., 34.8 degs., and 29.8 degs.; and the mortality has concurrently risen according to the following numbers: 994, 1011, 1220, 1235, and 1328.

The following tables exhibit the mortality at three periods of life during the last four weeks:—

Ages.	Week ending Jan. 29.	Week ending Feb. 5.	Week ending Feb. 12.	Week ending Feb. 19.	Corrected Average of Ten Weeks (1843-52), corresponding to last Week.
From birth to 15 yrs.	451	550	479	534	509
15 to 60 years.	324	391	452	424	411
60 yrs. and upwards	235	278	293	370	284

Hence it appears that while persons of all ages have suffered, the severity of the weather has been most fatal to persons in advanced life. Well-heated apartments, warm clothing, and comfortable lodging at night, at all times necessary in this climate, are indispensable at this season to the aged, who find it difficult to support life when the temperature has fallen below a certain point. The deaths from bronchitis in the last five weeks have been 82, 91, 110, 168, 184; those from hooping-cough rose last week to 66; those from consumption to 167. Taking the last six weeks, and comparing the facts of the former half of this period with those of the latter half, it is observed that the mortality in the West Districts has increased 36 per cent.; in the North, 31 per cent.; in the Central, 17 per cent.; in the East, 30 per cent.; and in the districts south of the Thames, 19 per cent.

Last week the births of 850 boys and 731 girls, in all 1581 children, were registered in London. The average number in eight corresponding weeks of 1845-52, was 1464.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.585 in. The mean temperature of the week was only 29.8 degs., which is 9.1 degs. below the average of the same week in 38 years. The mean daily temperature was lowest on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, when it was about 28.7 degs., or about 10 degs. below the average. On all other days it was 7 degs. and 8 degs. below the average. On Saturday the highest temperature was 36.2 degs., and the lowest only 20.5 degs. The mean dew point temperature was 22.9 degs. The wind blew from the north or north-east throughout the week.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 28th of December last, at Madras, the wife of Major Hubert Marshall, Deputy Secretary to Government: a son.

On the 28th, at Agra, the wife of Francis Boyle Pearson, Esq., officiating magistrate and collector of Allahabad: a son.

On the 16th of February, at Warwick-terrace, Belgrave-road, the wife of John Brady, Esq., M.P.: a son, stillborn.

On the 17th, at Bournemouth, the wife of Colonel Charles Bagot: a daughter.

On the 17th, at No. 2, Hyde-park-place, Cumberland-gate, the Lady Charlotte Watson Taylor: a son.

On the 17th, at Milford-lodge, Lymington, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Carpenter: a daughter.

On the 17th, at Berkeley-square, the wife of Edward Rigby, Esq., M.D.: a daughter.

On the 18th, at No. 3, Upper Seymour-street, the Lady Caroline Lister Kaye: a son.

On the 19th, at Bedgebury-park, Kent, Lady Mildred Hope, prematurely: a daughter.

On the 20th, in Belgrave-square, the wife of the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert: a son.

On the 21st, at Woolwich-common, Lady Louisa Spencer: a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 17th of February, at Trinity Church, Marylebone, William Hammond, only son of S. Reynolds Solly, Esq., of Serge-hill, Herts, and of Manchester-square, to Catherine Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Goldfinch, K.C.B., of Upper Wimpole-street.

On the 21st, at Gillingham Church, Kent, Henry Handley O'Farrell, Esq., to Elizabeth Laws, only daughter of John Parmenter, Esq., late Secretary H.M. Dockyard, Sheerness.

On the 22nd, at Kensington Church, Captain Frederick Maude, son of the Hon. and Rev. John Charles Maude, and nephew of Lord Viscount Hawarden, to Catherine, youngest daughter of the late Very Rev. Sir George Bishopp, Bart., Dean of Lismore, and sister of Sir George Curzon Bishopp, Bart.

On the 22nd, at Hildenborough, Tunbridge, Richard Philpott, Esq., of West Farleigh, Kent, late of Melbourne, to Fanny, daughter of J. H. G. Heath, Esq., of Oak-hill-lodge, Tunbridge, Kent.

On the 24th, at St. James's, Devonport, Willoughby Harcourt Carter, Esq., Captain Seventh Royal Fusiliers, only son of Joshua Carter, Esq., formerly of the Bengal Civil Service, and grandson of W. H. Carter, Esq., of New-park, County of Dublin, to Eliza, third daughter of the late George Palmes, Esq., of Naburn-hall, county of York.

On the 24th, at the Scotch Church, River-terrace, Islington, James Hannay (late of H.M. Navy), son of David Hannay, Esq., and grandson of the late James Hannay, Esq., of Blairinnie, in the stewardry of Kircudbright, N.B., to Margaret, daughter of Joseph Thompson, Esq., of the Oriental Bank Corporation.

DEATHS.

On the 28th of January, at Nice, George Fitz-Gerald, Esq., only son of the late Lord Robert Fitz-Gerald.

On the 3rd of February, at Brussels, James Vaughan Allen, Esq., of Inchmartine, Perthshire, N.B., late of H.M. Eighth Regiment of Hussars.

On the 10th, at Corfu, Georgina, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Pester, Royal Artillery, and daughter of the late Sir John and Lady Emily Macleod.

On the 14th, at Albert-terrace, Rathgar, Dublin, Godfrey Piercy, Esq., Captain Unattached, late Queen's Royals.

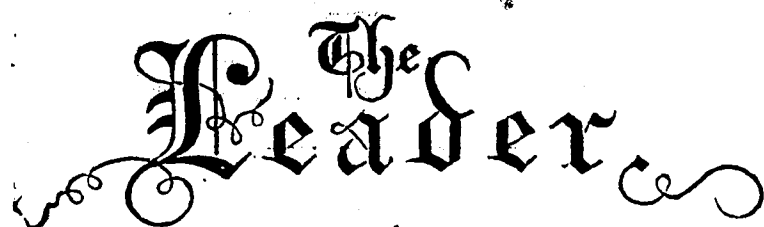
On the 17th, at Cheltenham, Major-General Allan, C.B., Colonel of the Fifth Regiment.

On the 19th, at Uckfield, Sussex, William Thomas Christopher Robinson, Esq., Surgeon-Major of the Coldstream Guards, aged thirty-eight.

On the 20th, at the residence of Lady Gipps, No 11, Chester-street, Grosvenor-place, the Right Rev. William Grant, Lord Bishop of Sydney, and Metropolitan of Australasia, aged sixty-four.

On the 20th, at 3, Eaton terrace, Dowager Lady Nicolson, widow of Major-General Sir William Nicolson, Bart, in the seventy-fourth year of her age.

On the 21st, at his residence, Camherwell-grove, Kenneth MacRae, Esq., of her Majesty's Treasury.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1853.

Public Affairs.

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

MINISTERS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

If we are inclined to anticipate that the admission of Jews to Parliament is virtually settled by the new endeavour of Lord John and his colleagues, we do not rely so much upon the strength of the division, which is not great, as upon the strength of the position which Ministers have taken, and upon the general expectation that they really mean to execute the work they undertake. The usual arguments have been advanced against the measure, with the usual feebleness. The claim of Sir Robert Inglis, to resist any act which should "un-Christianize" the House of Commons, has been exploded as often as the proposition has been advanced. It is not the business of the House of Commons to be Christian, but to represent the people of England, including *all* the elements of the community. To carry out Sir Robert Inglis's argument fully, English Governors ought to refuse to administer Indian law in India. When Mr. Napier complains that Christianity is made an open question in Parliament, his complaint might be taken as a sarcasm upon the conduct of too many amongst its members; with whom Christianity is an open question, in practice, at least. That is to say, they profess to obey the Scriptures; save that in practical life they reserve to themselves the right of private judgment as to the necessity of obeying; and not one of them would be prepared to turn his other cheek, or to do many other things that are essentially acts of obedience in a real Christian. When Sir Robert Peel objects, that Baron Rothschild is not worthy of admission, because he has aided the despots of Europe by loans, the argument has no hold. There is no question of applauding Baron Rothschild, or otherwise: the whole question is, shall a certain family of Englishmen be excluded from the representation, or shall they not? When it is said that the Jews are extra-national, perhaps that fact is a result of these exclusions, which have prevented their acquiring the full nationality that so many of them display in their public spirit.

Upon the whole, however, the new Ministry has taken up strong ground; insisting, for the positive side, on the full emancipation of the Jews; and for the negative side, refusing to withdraw a grant to the Roman Catholics, when to withdraw it would be to make a sectarian distinction, while grants are allowed to other sects. This is better than attempting to fight Popery with Ecclesiastical Titles Bills, either in Ireland or England. The true mode of contending against Papal supremacy is, to identify the Roman Catholics with liberalism in politics and knowledge.

We cannot but wait with some anxiety to see how far Ministers will carry out their fidelity to religious freedom in their foreign policy. Lord John has spoken bravely for the Madiat; but spiritual freedom in Italy is inextricably bound up with political freedom. "To un-Pope the Pope" is the true mode of disentangling the knot of Romanism; and a very numerous part of the Italian people is prepared to aid in that process. We have already pointed to the discouragements of Protestants in Italy, Hungary, Belgium, and other countries: we may now add Hamburg to the list. A letter from Johannes Ronge in our present number tells the struggles of Protestantism in that professedly free town. If Ministers are prepared to use those powers of freedom, whether religious or political, which exist on the continent, as a means of retrieving British influence, they may speedily occupy strong ground. Indeed, the crisis in Turkey seems likely to precipitate the contest; and it is with interest that we watch to see that England shall

take strong ground at the very outset. For the Ministry that is weak abroad cannot retain any strength at home.

MODERN TYRANNICIDE.

PREACHMENTS are made in this quiet country about the crime of attempting to assassinate the Emperor of Austria, and we are told that the tyrannicides of classic times have ceased to excite our admiration. If so, the mawkish degeneracy of the times has advanced further than we supposed, and its silliness. But these censors seem to forget some of the elements in the estimate of a man's actions, and they thus render themselves liable to the charge of confounding good and bad.

We are, it seems, licensed to respect Cæsar, or even Nero; but not Brutus. Catiline would be a hero in history if he had succeeded, whom Lord Malmesbury would eulogise for his "immense glory;" and Lord John Russell would say that in doing so Lord Malmesbury had "supported the dignity of this country." For such is really the fact. Napoleon the Third, and Francis Joseph, are the objects of official eulogy or respect; while the poor wretch who has attempted to avenge the wrongs of Hungary, is hunted down to the portal of the tomb with execration. But where is the practical sense of the distinction?

Is it that Lebeny attempted to take a man's life? If he did, the act is not of the worst. All the imperial potentates whom we have named have taken lives by wholesale; and that which is bad in a single instance cannot become good when multiplied. No man has shown a greater contempt of human life than Francis Joseph, whose executioners are continually at work with process of law, genuine or sham, or without any process of law whatever.

Is it that he approached his victim by a treacherous stealth? Even here he is not guilty as that Emperor is, or any other of the European Emperors. Do not accept our arguments, but look at the facts for yourself, and say if Lebeny is so guilty as Francis Joseph, or as Louis Napoleon, in the matter of treachery and stealth? Francis Joseph habitually employs hosts of spies, who steal around his subjects night and day, betraying them, if not inveigling them, into destruction of every shape. Louis Napoleon organized a host of assassins, primed them with wine, and set them to assassinate the people of his own capital at midnight. That was literally assassination. Among the men who fell in that detestable attempt how many had been guilty of the tyrannies and cruelties that have made Francis Joseph the object of hatred to the many peoples over whom royal accomplices maintain him by their alliance? *Not one*; but if those men might have been dared even to a fair fight, what was the plea for assassinating women and girls? Lebeny is not accused of acts like those, any more than with the ingenious stranglings of Mantua.

But it is nonsense to make the stealthy approach a matter of accusation. There is, in fact, no surprise in such cases, except that which is made by the tyrant himself. Francis Joseph's whole conduct is a defiance to the tyrannicide. He casts away moral obligation; for he has broken his word with Hungary—the word of an Emperor with a people; he has set his spies in Italy to break up family ties, by punishing the son, or the wife, for not denouncing to the police a father, or a husband, guilty only of acts which are made crimes by Austrian tyranny; he cannot even pay his bonds in the money market. He has cast away the respect for human life, and lavishes it to support the very caprices of his tyranny; for if Francis Joseph would consent to govern constitutionally, that is by law instead of bayonet, we all know that he might be, not tolerated, but adored. Yet he imprisons, beats, shoots, hangs, and tortures his subjects. While he thus treats them, he hedges himself round by great armies, and within them by body-guards. And then he has troops of spies and scouts to warn him of danger. He casts away moral obligation; he outrages the common feelings of humanity; he surrounds himself by armies and body-guards; he keeps watch against the avenger. Is such a man "taken by surprise" when the avenger comes? No; he is taken at his word, on his own terms.

Is it that Francis Joseph abides by a law, however harsh, while Lebeny breaks it? Assuredly not. No man living, save Louis Napoleon, has broken the law in a way so wholesale as Francis Joseph. He refuses law to Italy, save his own

law; and if one man may decree his code, why not another: if Francis Joseph may decree a code to warrant the slaughter of Italians by the mass, why may not Lebeny decree his own code to warrant the slaughter of one man? But it needs no refinement to establish Francis Joseph's criminality: he has broken the entire law of Hungary. A thief breaks one statute, a murderer another, a swindler a third, a ravisher a fourth, and some criminals of deep die break several at once: Francis Joseph broke them all. He reduced Hungary to anarchy, and then for Hungarian law substituted an alien law of "siege." By defying all law, he made himself, towards Hungary, an outlaw; and the hand that brings him to justice breaks not, but executes, the law.

There is, indeed, one kind of action that too often unfavourably distinguishes the modern from the ancient tyrannicide, though we have no evidence that it existed in the case of Lebeny. It is quite clear that the tyrannicide who prepares for his own escape, makes from his public service two serious detractions, which go far to neutralize it altogether. He takes from it that element of sacrifice which attests the singleness and nobleness of the motive; and he risks failure. Moreover, he thus renders the path more difficult to his successor. For successors there will be, so long as tyranny exists, and so long as human instincts have a deeper truth than human reasoning. If the tyrant chooses that the knife of the tyrannicide shall be the sole form of responsibility available, the choice is his own. The life of Francis Joseph, the system he impersonates, the principle he embodies, the tyranny he represents, is a summons to the tyrannicide.

PROGRESS OF LABOUR.

It is a hopeful incident of the present time, that the working of party, the commercial state of the country, and some of the most recent mechanical improvements, are all combining for the benefit of the working-classes, in spite of their quietude. Even the present week indicates some very important steps in that direction.

We do not allude only to the successful stand which the working-classes are making in several directions for higher wages, because the mere rate of wages that may be drawn from the employers in a particular branch of trade, although important to the men directly engaged, is not of so much moment as some other considerations. Nevertheless, it is satisfactory to see that the working-classes have caught the idea of watching the general progress of wages. The sailors of Southampton, who are demanding higher payment from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, are perfectly in the right to moot the question. There are, indeed, statements on the part of the masters, which throw some doubt upon the completeness of the case upon the side of the men. For example, in a rival company grog is allowed, but not in the Peninsular; this company, however, allowing an additional five shillings as compensation. It will be well for the members of the working-classes to weigh such kinds of set-off, before they hasten to put their claims. They should be careful not to ask too much, and to ascertain clearly that which they have a right to ask under any circumstances—namely, an equivalent for the rate of wages generally current in the country. They will attain to a right judgment in proportion to the amount of information they may be able to collect; and when they are possessed of that information, they will be able to secure the acquiescence of their masters without the frequent resort to the rude process of going out "on strike."

The same kind of education that is now teaching the working-classes better methods of supporting their own interests, will also enable them to understand the advantages which they may derive, in common with the rest of the community, from mechanical improvements. Rightly understood, every mechanical improvement for the saving of labour should be as advantageous to the working-classes as to the employing-classes. Unluckily, from the working of our competitive system, where man is set against man, the workers are often defrauded of the gain which should be theirs. Many an instrument which has brought wealth to the employer, has thrown whole classes out of work. For we by no means adopt the commonplace but unfounded dogma of books on political economy, that labouring men who are thrown out of one

branch of work, can "transfer their industry" to another; and the survival of handloom weavers in Paisley, Bolton, and Bethnal Green, we have several times cited as a disproof. The case of the wool-combers at Bradford is another. There is, however, no denying the fact that all great improvements in machinery have given occasion to increased employment; as the power-loom did, and as the railways have done. It is particularly the case when the direct production of articles necessary to life is involved in the improvement; for then the very basis of population—subsistence—is augmented. Mechanical improvements for agriculture, if they were of a highly progressive kind, would not only enrich the whole community, but would call into existence what may be considered a really new branch of industry. Two improvements just published at Birmingham are of that nature:—

"An important invention to reduce agricultural labour and facilitate harvesting, has recently been produced by a labouring man in Buckinghamshire. It is a reaping machine, which, while it cuts the wheat with precision and closeness, at the same time lays the sheaves with as great regularity as if laid with human hands."

"Mr. Samuelson, of Banbury, has recently produced and patented a new machine for digging. It is simple in construction, goes deeper than the plough by several inches, covering from two to three times its breadth, and reducing the land to a tilth equal to several ploughings and harrowings—in fact to trenching. It is equally effective in breaking up land for railway and other public works. The cost will not be more than from ten pounds to fifteen pounds."

The value of these particular improvements must be tested by experience; but we are convinced that the second is certainly proceeding in the right direction. It is remarkable how mankind adheres to some of the earliest and simplest inventions: trousers and shoes, very similar to articles which are still worn, though not seen at Almack's, are to be traced back in the most antique sculpture; and the plough, in particular, is like that of which Triptolemus set the fashion. Such machines as those described above are very likely to realize the expectation of a vast change. Birmingham has already anticipated great advantage to herself, and is calculating that "the agriculturists will be among the best customers to her local manufactures." Thus, there is a beginning to a far better relation between the agriculturists and the engine-making trade. It is a hopeful state of things, when agriculturists are beginning to be thought "important customers" anywhere. But, how much more momentous to the agriculturists themselves, such a revolution as that indicated by the second invention. If it were carried out, it is obvious that our often expressed belief of a much more minute application of labour to land, would become speedily available: the labour would concentrate itself on a much smaller extent of land, and the produce for every pair of hands would be immensely increased. In other words, the proportion of food and of raw material to the people of this country would be augmented; and the return to the field labourer would become proportionate to that of the skilled labourer. To put this idea in a tangible shape, it would seem to indicate that a time is within prospect, when the agricultural labourer may be receiving the wages of the factory hand, or of the artisan, say eighteen, twenty, or thirty shillings a week, with more for the best hands!

And while their own intelligence is combining with the advance of mechanical improvements to secure a better return for their labour, the intelligence of their legislators is also improving. Incidentally, during a discussion on a bill for enabling certain noblemen and gentlemen to carry on the Opera-house called "her Majesty's Theatre," with a limited liability to the shareholders in the enterprise, it was stated by Mr. Cardwell, that a commission would be appointed to survey the whole of that question. Of course the survey may include other imperfections in the present law relating to joint-stock undertakings; and many of the inconveniences which impede the working-classes may be removed. The present law, even where it is intended to defend them against fraud, operates as a restriction on their enterprise; and in evading it, they place themselves at the mercy of their own officers. The restrictions, also, have frequently a directly mischievous effect, such as that which prevents the division of profits beyond a certain fixed amount. But the power to limit the

liability to the actual amount subscribed or staked by each shareholder, would in itself be a great boon. That which was once a perfect bugbear in the House of Commons, limited liability, now appears to be received with favour by many parties, including the Government; and we welcome for it the advocacy of our economical contemporary, the *Daily News*. The working-classes, however, should watch the progress of this question strictly; for they may be assured, first, that they will be able to obtain advantages from the pliancy of legislatures precisely in proportion to their own zeal in exacting as much as they can get; and secondly, they may be assured that every step which they gain is an advance towards more.

A DOUBLE "INDISCRETION."

MR. DISRAELI, Louis Napoleon's Attorney-General, *vice* Malmesbury, invalided, made a great display on behalf of his client, last Friday week. He was in glorious voice; not a note of his splendid organ was out of tune. He was in rude health, fresh from the triumphs of the chase. Every feature, every limb, was under command. He shook his locks, he threw back his chest, he thrust his hands into the depths of his pockets; he was philosophic, he was insolent, he was jollily sarcastic; the Disraeli of 1846 stood once more upon the floor of the House, with the halo of a Cabinet Minister still upon his brow—the Mercury of sarcasm. And what a theme—the cause of peace and an Emperor! How he rattled away! Now upbraiding the press, his "only escocheon;" then impaling Sir Charles Wood; this time sneering at Sir James Graham, that, flinging a shower of epigrams on the head of Lord John Russell; now, damning Lord Aberdeen with faint praise, then executing a rapid charge among the Radicals. Above all, convicting "All the Talents" of an "indiscretion." Everybody laughed and cheered with delight at the display; but nobody was deceived. Even the gentlemen behind him knew that they only assisted at a "brilliant display of fireworks," an attraction reserved for that House alone. Even the journals of the Emperor treat it as nothing more. Base ingratitude!

But while arraigning the Government for its warlike tendencies, some busybody, in an unlucky moment, placed a circular in the hands of the orator. He had appealed to the House to pronounce that he was not factious in demanding an explanation of the intentions of Ministers, and he was met by "loud ironical cheers." Turning fiercely upon his foes, he exclaimed—

"Do you think so? What is the opinion of the merchants, bankers, traders, and others, in the City of London? Here is an invitation to 'a meeting of the merchants, bankers, traders, and others in the City of London, who feel called upon at this time publicly to express our deep concern at seeing the efforts continually being made to create and perpetuate feelings of distrust and hostility and of ill-will between the inhabitants of two great nations—France and England.' Therefore, I should recommend the honourable gentleman who disturbed me, or attempted to interfere with my observations—if he does not favour us with his observations here to-night—to go to the London Tavern and tell the merchants and traders of England that they are factious, and that because they are alarmed, disquieted, and full of distrust for their commercial transactions, they are showing a feeling of faction towards her Majesty's Government."

He gained a triumph for the moment; he made a successful hit; his party cheered. But who had heard of this portentous meeting in the city? The "merchants, bankers, traders, and others" in the House must have felt uncomfortable at being thus discovered in their patriotic attempt. It is such a noble thing to

"Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame."

Strange that even the *Times* knew nothing of the "invitation." Nobody knew anything of it. An awful mystery pervaded the whole affair. Monday passed by, and no evidence was forthcoming. But on Tuesday the bubble burst. The *Times* found it out.

It appears that the circular was private; that it had been issued on the very day the speech was delivered; that the "merchants, bankers, traders, and others," were created to round off Mr. Disraeli's periods, and that the "invitation" came from—Mr. Sidney Smith! The invitation to a public meeting was another fiction; the

illustrious Mr. Smith had convened, for Monday last, only a *private* preliminary meeting of a few leading merchants, bankers, and others. So that Louis Napoleon's attorney-general had committed more than an "indiscretion"—he had negligently perverted the facts. As to the illustrious statesman, unattached, who rejoices in the name of the witty canon of St. Paul's, we admit he had been badly used by Mr. Disraeli. On Wednesday, Mr. Smith wrote to the *Times*, very properly complaining that Mr. Disraeli had made an "unwarrantable use" of his circular, in his "factious" attack on the Government; and had moreover induced the impression that the "meeting at the London Tavern had a party object." How shocking! But then Mr. Smith was also indiscreet in the officious step he took towards placarding an opinion of the City of London. For what did he propose?

In his circular, Mr. Smith informs us it was "an opinion very generally expressed"—by whom?—"that some manifestation should be made of the disbelief of the commercial body in any hostile designs being entertained by France towards this country, and of the strong desire of the mercantile community for the maintenance of friendly relations between the two countries." What a state of distress the "commercial body" must be reduced to, when they require the intervention of Mr. Smith to manifest their disbelief in the hostile designs of France! The "mercantile community," too,—we suppose a distinct set of persons from the "commercial body,"—how thankful they must be to the obstetric Mr. Smith, who so opportunely came in to deliver them of their "strong desire!" They must be thankful for the recondite information that they desire peace—as if anybody did not desire peace! But what sort of evidence is their desire for peace, of the truth or falsehood of the prevailing suspicion of the designs of Louis Napoleon? Why, Mr. Smith has almost rendered a counter declaration necessary. Here are grave doubts as to the intention of a military autocrat; and Mr. Smith asks the City of London to meet them by saying—Oh, we are very desirous of peace. We remember the story of the clergyman who read the bible to the thieves while they grimly ransacked his desk and carried off his property. We are reminded of the pacific man who, in the presence of the quarrelsome bully, loudly proclaims his intention of keeping the peace. Mr. Smith wants the City to propitiate the Emperor by condemning, at a public meeting, the hostile criticisms of the press. We live in that land which is "the last refuge of the liberties of Europe;" we have seen one man by stealth, by perjury, by murder, trample out the freedom of a great nation, and we are asked to be silent, lest we should exasperate and alarm him—for it is all a farce to talk about the "French people," that disingenuous habit of the peace orators.

Well, Mr. Smith issued his cards of invitation to the great men of the city, and held his meeting on Monday. Mr. Gurney was there. But, strange to say, others came also. That practical absurdity, the projected declaration, was strongly opposed; even a chairman was not appointed; the meeting was a *fiasco*, as the circular convening it was an "indiscretion."

Now, we should like to know *who* really got up the affair? Is it one of the first movements of Mr. Cobden's projected agitation? Were the circulars paid for out of the £10,000 fund? Understand, reader, these are only questions. There are two facts patent: Mr. Sidney Smith was a loud little gun in the Anti-Corn Law League; and the loud great guns of that successful revolution are the captains of the movement which patronises at once peace and Mr. Disraeli's imperial client, Louis Bonaparte.

THE GENESIS OF PARLIAMENT.

LORD ENFIELD, when candidate for Chatham, stated boldly to the admiring electors, whom, of course, the eyes of Europe were upon at that moment, that it had always been his chief wish to promote, as far as he could, their individual interests. The precedent, slightly modified, seems to have been very generally adopted; from the hustings, indeed, imperial topics are now-a-days ordinarily descanted on; but in secluded spots, such as back lanes and public houses, it seems that "individual interests" are still the questions principally attended to. Drink, too, seems to be an important element in the Constitution; and bribery, or corruption, as it is more classically

termed, an essential preliminary to a seat in Parliament.

Let us illustrate the present state of affairs with a few examples, not, of course, in the hope of expediting any reform—the present Government is too strong to be hurried—but simply with the intention of showing that we, who have thought "finality" a mistake, have not been altogether without grounds for our belief on the subject.

At Blackburn, it is "resolved" that there has been something wrong. Strangely enough, for the gentleman turned out swore—he being at the time an "honourable member"—that he had no anxiety to be elected, though he had six paid agents. He was happy in the affection, but unfortunate in the judgment, of his family. They had not the confidence they should have had in the popularity of their father; and therefore, unknown to that gentleman of course, and most unnecessarily moreover, they drew a cheque upon his banker, and disbursed money to his constituency to an amount so extravagant, that the Committee—who probably manage their elections more economically—thought the example a bad one, and visiting the sins of the sons upon the father, unseated the victim of filial devotedness.

Bridgenorth is a small town, but not an inexpensive one. The reports of the last week show that a great outlay is necessary before a footing can be established in this borough. Voters require breakfasts mysteriously, and those who are modest are even told, that at certain remote public houses they will find "liquors, and wine, and everything they want." Most of them are pliable enough, ready to sell their franchise on very fair terms, and in cases where principle, or, according to the Coppock morality, the hope of a better bargain, makes them obstinate, a "distress" is threatened, and generally, Willoughby, one of the Committee, with a no doubt, found efficacious. Benevolent agents come, unauthorised and unpaid, from distant places, and make facetious allusions to the absurdity of combining conscience and poverty. Solicitors "sink their politics in their profession;" and Sir Henry shrewdness which we hope is not derived from experience, finds that "a trap" has been laid for a petition, and that simpletons have been induced to be bribed, simply in order that their sin might invalidate the unwary briber's friend's (it is never the candidate himself who bribes) election.

But Clitheroe, perhaps, is the most smiling corner of the world for a vagrant citizen with no particular local attachments. There a ten-pound householder may get large sums for his vote. They ask 150*l.*—fancy a liability to the income-tax, as the result of being an elector!—but the candidates stickle for 50*l.*, and that, even, is perhaps worth acceptance, especially as, in these days of unstable Governments, contests are rather frequent. But let us not lead anybody into danger without warning. Clitheroe is open to this objection—the Conservatives are rather ferociously inclined. One gentleman, a voter, received this time an intimation from "Aspinal's party," that "300 fighting men would be required"—poachers—has Conservatism come to this?—to have the preference!

Then there is Chatham; and after the evidence touching this place, the *Civil Service Gazette* must expire. "Gentlemen in search of Government appointments," instead of wasting their substance in the purchase of that periodical, which only tells them what offices are vacant, must henceforth take the far wiser course of becoming ten-pound householders in Chatham, whereby they will obtain the posts, and not merely be told that they are vacant. A "situation in the dock-yards" must be worth having; and recollecting Lord Enfield on "individual interests," one scarcely can blame the poor voter who quietly sells himself to put his representative in a position to go through the same operation.

At Canterbury a public character appears, Coppock in person, the liberal W. B. We have not a word to say against him—not a tittle of evidence to produce. Oddly enough, people do find sovereigns in beds, without being surprised, and appropriate them without being given into custody. But suspicion attaches to nobody; and though voters occasionally "alter their minds," everything is done "conscientiously!"

They petition at Newry, by mistake; the petition has been withdrawn very properly, no influence, we are assured, having been brought

to bear on the petitioners, who, of course, would have resisted it, if it had; and the petitioners, *ex-officio*, are "all honourable men."

And now we come to the reflection, whether it is likely that in so many places men's minds should be unsettled on the main question of the day. Is all this "reconsidering of the matter," at the last moment, a sign of the times? and is it only in Chatham that a druggist, if examined, would have to say, "I am not aware that my son in the Post Office got his situation through Sir F. Smith, though it may be so, for I had asked Sir F. Smith to get him a situation?" Are we to understand that all classes are open to corruption, and that the real objection to the ballot is, that were it once in force, no more sons could be got into the Post Office, and no more sovereigns turned up in beds unaccountably?

One committee, by the way, we have forgotten. Samuel Carter has been turned out. But why? Not because he was not fit to be a senator, not even because he bribed; but because he was not in a position to bribe. Let our protest be made in favour of Carter, as it was in favour of Kirwan—we have no affection for the man, but we will stand by the principle. If the want of a property qualification may turn out Carter, it may turn out Gavan Duffy, in whom we believe, and against whom there happens to be a similar petition, and it may turn out Englishmen as good as him. We happen to have heard, indeed, in Westminster Hall one of the first parliamentary practitioners of the day remarking that Carter's mistake had been his attempting to prove his qualification; that his proper course would have been to get up petitions against some five and twenty indispensable men in the same position, who then would have quieted the petitioners against him, if only he would have dropped the petition against them. And how long, we may ask, is this state of things to continue? Lord John Russell, just at present, seems to have nothing to do—let him direct his attention to the propriety of establishing the ballot, and abolishing the property qualification. Having dipped his hesitating feet in these two little streams, our Premier "unattached" will have more courage to take a "header" into the broad river of Reform next year.

OUR PRACTICAL MORALITY.

THE English member of Parliament ought to possess a property qualification; Mr. Carter does not appear to have done so; he is declared not to have been duly elected. But the want of property qualification cannot be the cause of his dis-election, since it is notorious that several English members are without that element. Of course, Mr. Carter was to be examined on that point, as other members are; and he ought to have been prepared to reply efficiently. He was not prepared. In his examination his answers became so painful, that the chairman, with much gentlemanly feeling, took the matter out of the hands of counsel; and after a very distressing exhibition, Mr. Carter was pronounced to be disqualified. But it was not the want of truth in his replies; since we all know that there are members in the House whose pretended possession of the qualifying property is in itself a complete falsehood, that comprehends all Mr. Carter's abortive attempts to make up the fiction; but it is that Mr. Carter had not fabricated with completeness, and did not assert with aplomb. We test causes by effects: the non-possession of the property is a defect common to Mr. Carter and to other members: he goes out, they stay in; the difference being, that they are masters of fiction, he is not. Thus, we learn that the qualification for a member is a property, or a romance; but the honourable House won't tolerate fragments.

So with votes. It is the usage to affect that members are returned by independent electors, not by paid servants of their own; but occasionally we discover, as in the case of Bridgenorth, that there is in England a custom of returning a man by means of his own paid servants. Not, indeed, his resident servants; who must be "sober, honest, and industrious," and must know his character, and must, therefore, be able to give some guarantee of his fitness to legislate for a family on a large scale. No; the election servants are hired for the occasion; and in respect to them, neither is the usual question asked whether they are sober, honest, and industrious, nor is any character given. They are hired for the

job. Their wages are exorbitantly high—enough to excite the envy of the regular servants. And it is by such persons that many of the members are returned. They pretend that they sit for this or that borough, whereas they sit for what they pay. If you charge one of these Members with commission of bribery, you render yourself liable to a challenge for impugning his honour; and if you talk of giving the suffrage to a working man, you are told that you will break down our glorious constitution.

Anomalies like these in our representation are followed up in other relations of life. Recently there has been an immense sensation in England, because a couple of Tuscan Protestants have been in prison, while whole classes of Protestants are to be found in the same town unable to pursue their own observances; and whole states of Protestants are abandoned by England to the Pope or his pet, the Emperor of Austria, almost without a murmur; and then we boast of our national greatness and our Protestant zeal!

We boast also of our morality, whereof two examples are before us this week. The Society for the Suppression of Vice has been pursuing its avocation in routing out obscene prints, and the vendors are brought to justice; but what will be the result if they are punished? Is it supposed that there will be less vice in this corrupted land? The very name of the Society indicates the perpetual mistake of our moralists, who are ever "suppressing" vice, instead of eradicating its causes or removing the real circumstances that foment it. We had Rochesters and Buckinghams generations back, and prints from France, and plenty of naughty places for the idle and the debauched to frequent; but it is the boast of our day that we have developed a factory system which associates the young in herds, binds them to protracted toil, and leaves them, between a working week and an "observed Sabbath," no recreation but the orgies of a Saturday night, or the stolen pleasures which are yet more destructive. And the system is as efficacious as if we had matured and established a universal Rochester.

Still we vindicate morality, as this other story will testify. A lady proceeds against her husband for "restitution of conjugal rights," and the Consistory Court orders restitution—the husband is "to take his wife home, and treat her with conjugal affection." The very fact that such a process is possible is a scandal; but that a Court should sit solemnly and publicly to execute it, forcing a woman upon a reluctant man, is monstrous. The wife however, unsatisfied, appeals again; and the case is once more before the judge. An advocate is found solemnly to declare that the order of the Court had been complied with. "On the 26th of January last Mr. Hakewell took his wife to his residence in Powis-place, where he had slept ever since." Dr. Phillimore, however, said, that instead of having been obeyed, the order of the Court had been evaded.

"Mr Hakewell had taken his wife to Powis-place, where two rooms were furnished for her on the second floor, Mr. Hakewell having a bed placed in the dining room with a strong iron-cased door to prevent communication between them. There were two servants in the house, but they had received directions not to obey her orders. In the evening she took possession of the dining-room, when her husband abused her 'in the blackest terms.' She attempted to soothe him and to kiss him, when he declared it was an assault, and he would knock her down."

Dr. Phillimore left it to the Court to say whether he had treated her with conjugal affection; and the Court asked for more information before giving its judgment on that point. But let us leave it to Dr. Phillimore and all the learned doctors to say whether the hideous process here described, this revolting admixture of law, curses, and caresses, is a true way of maintaining morality.

How strangely must foreign nations regard these traits of our manners and customs—this forcible seduction of a husband by a wife under sanction of law—this special pleading of Protestantism—this pretended wealth and pretended election of our legislators—this universal upholding of the appearance instead of the substance and the truth.

CHURCH HARMONY IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

OUR attention has been called to certain ecclesiastical proceedings in Somersetshire, in which Mr. George Anthony Denison is a prominent actor; and in taking notice of them, we must be

understood as giving no opinion on the rightfulness or wrongfulness of the views of either party. We simply intend to narrate the facts as they appear on the face of a correspondence between Mr. Archdeacon Denison and some of the clergy of his archdeaconry.

It would appear, that in his visitations to his clergy, the archdeacon insists on administering the Holy Communion; and that at a visitation at Stogumber, held in 1852, fourteen of the clergy remained outside the church during the purely religious proceeding, and after the blessing, walked in, answered to their names, and walked out again. Naturally Mr. Denison was greatly annoyed.

Well, in 1853, he desired to hold a visitation at Dunster Church, and to administer the sacrament. On the "Feast of the Circumcision" he wrote to the Reverend Mr. Luttrell stating his desire, expressing a hope that the strong objections to the introduction of the Sacrament would not present itself; and asserting for the visitations a "purely religious character." But in reply, he gets a document from thirteen clergymen of the Deanery of Dunster, denying in the first place, the "purely religious" character of the visitation; and secondly, propounding the following difficulty to their archdeacon:—

"That whereas, the Archdeacon, in his letter dated March 29th, 1852, used these words:—'If any of the Incumbents object to this, or to the administration of the Lord's Supper, I am quite aware that I have no power to order either;' and in a subsequent letter, dated the Ascension Day, 1852, wrote as follows: 'I have been advised on very high authority, since I wrote the letter dated March 29th, that I have the power, as Visitor and Ordinary, to order what arrangements I think fit, provided that such be within the rule of the Church, on the days of my Visitation, and that the Incumbent of the church where the Visitation is held, is *pro hac vice* only one of the "visited;" and that as these two opinions are so entirely opposed to each other, the Archdeacon be requested to point out the Canon or Act of Parliament which has induced him to depart from his opinion as at first expressed."

Further informing their ecclesiastical superior, that if he can make a satisfactory answer as to the legal authority, Mr. Luttrell will surrender Dunster Church; and the clergy will "attend and answer to their names in the same manner as they did at Stogumber."

It must be admitted that this was rather a hard blow; and Mr. Denison felt it. Acknowledging the resolution "with deep and painful regret," Mr. Denison revealed how deeply he felt the blow, by adding, with some temper, "I am not going to discuss questions of my lawful authority as Archdeacon with the clergy of my archdeaconry." He knows his power now better than when he wrote his missive of the 29th of March. And he bluntly refers the thirteen clergymen—his clergymen—to the letter dated "Ascension day."

Well, having gone so far in the autocratic line, of course, the guileless reader expects that this stickler for church authority will exercise his power. Not a bit of it. No; he resolves, as a punishment to the recusants, to hold no visitation in the Deanery of Dunster so long as this "unhappy state of things shall continue;" and appealing to public opinion, he throws upon Mr. Luttrell, and "others of my brethren, the scandal and great public inconvenience caused by your own proceeding!"

Here is an anti-climax. Mind, we are expressing no opinion on either party; but right or wrong, what a want of courage and confidence, what a lack of a logical perception of the duties of his position is here displayed! He knows his power; he is placed there to exercise that power; there is a case of contumacy, at least in his opinion, and—he calls in the public to judge the recusants and award the punishment.

We may draw one moral on our own account: does not this Somersetshire transaction sadly, but aptly, illustrate that scandalous anarchy of the Church of England which we have so often exposed?

"A STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

A coalition Government, with an opposition consisting of one man only, presents this advantage to the public, that it gets through business. Last night there was a wonderful amount of work got through—the army estimates, for instance, travelled through in an unprecedented couple of hours; and though all this usefulness is unexciting and leaves the morning papers more unaccept-

able than usual, a practical public will doubtless be gratified. It is from a consciousness that the country is gratified, albeit not amused, that Mr. Cayley, oddly proffering the project from the Tory side, considers he is entitled to propose, on the understanding that Lord John Russell is to do nothing, that that noble commoner shall be well paid for his trouble. Some drolls suggest that the great question of the day is the precise question which nobody dares to put, viz, what it all means, this foreign office resignation of Lord John Russell, and accession of Lord Clarendon? The Government must feel oddly confident of its strength while making such changes, and not taking the trouble to tell Parliament anything about them; for, though perhaps Lord John indulges in some such anticipation, Lord Aberdeen, basking in Ministerial sunshine and fair weather, is likely to prefer Belgravia to Nice, at least until August next, when our brief respite from north winds is over again.

But the question of the week has been that question which Mr. Napier put so pertinently in the feeble debate on the Jewish Disabilities. "Is Christianity to be an open question?" That is putting the matter in a strong way. Mr. Napier thought that the interrogatory was an overwhelming sarcasm which the latitudinarians who dine with Lionel Rothschild would find it impossible to stand up against. Yet it is exactly the right question to face in a week devoted, with slight variation, to the consideration whether Roman Catholics and Hebrews are to be incapacitated by their creeds from becoming good citizens. Not that there is any doubt in the enlightened House of Commons, which is by no means a rigidly religious assembly, that confession and circumcision are not altogether inconsistent with the avoidance of transportation or the treadmill; but that it is not yet the fashion to fling away the affectations of prejudices still cultivated by the powerful tea-table interest in this country. The English House of Commons does admit the Jews (this is the third year in which the affirmative has been voted) to Parliament, and that is very illogical in gentlemen who are *ex officio* (as English M.P.'s) Christians; and that intelligent Senate, having already endowed Maynooth, would endow the whole Irish Roman Catholic Church if political expediency could be pleaded in favour of such pecuniary extravagance. That House of Commons, made up of men of business and men of the world, would endow a Mormon College, if there were one, on good political reasons being shown, and would make a Ghebir Prime Minister, if he had got in, and were the fittest man, just as they made Benjamin Disraeli, passionate champion of the pure Sephardim, the practical governor of the British Empire. That House of Commons was elected, and got elected, to look after the nation's and its own interests in this world, and it only begins to think about the next, as of a notice of motion, after the orders of the day are disposed of! When we see the man who is the favourite of the House—leader of the *par excellence* Protestant Church party—a man who owes his literary fame to a dashing Judaic theory, which among other things includes a compliment to Caiaphas for the crucifixion—for, asks Mr. Disraeli, we should never have been redeemed had not the Redeemer been put in a position to die for us?—it is difficult to realize the notion that the British representation is Christian in the theological sense. But what is quite certain—what no one will deny if he leaves off generalisation, and remembers Jones's, the member for Here's, and Smith's, the member for There's, individual talk about churches and chapels, is this, that the House of Commons is perfectly representative in respect to reflecting impartially all the phases of faith of the British Empire, and that it is intensely anti-sectarian? To such threats as those of Mr. Napier on Thursday night, that the vengeance of God would afflict Mr. Speaker and Lord J. Russell, if they allowed the money-changing Rothschild to enter the temple of pure Christianity, namely, the House of Commons, which is elected by the most conspicuous national demoralization and scoundrelism illustrated, (see committee rooms) in the very lobbies through which Mr. Napier walked to deliver his Jeremiad—some gentlemen are profoundly indifferent; and if the lollers on the back benches did arouse themselves, the clareted Jehoiakims, to think at all about the warning, delivered with that denunciatory snuffle in which Irish Orangemen excel, it was to consider whether, when the head of the Rothschilds does take his seat, Mr. Napier will flee to the salubrious and irresponsible atmosphere of the Chiltern Hundreds. Is not that the test? Elijah, when nobody attended to him, went into the wilderness: but, though the House of Commons *did* twice vote for the admission of the Jews, and therefore invited that providential vindictiveness which the member for Dublin Trinity specifies, for of course a just God is not technical, and does not wait until the two Houses have agreed—we found Mr. Napier snugly in office

last year, and enjoying himself as heartily as a deaf statesman possibly could. In the same way, applying the same tests, the House does not even compliment Mr. Spooner, or Mr. James Macgregor, Mr. Spooner's seconder in the Maynooth matter, upon fanaticism. The men of the world who are the majority, and who know that Spooner ("der berüshrte Spooner," as a Cologne paper recently called him) would allow Beelzebub to bank with him, and who are satisfied that the chosen of the Eastern Counties Railway—one of Louis Napoleon's pet English friends—is one of the most rational and clever of mankind, will insist, and vote accordingly, that these hyperperfect Protestant persons are only playing the game, and that a clumsy one, of a party which plays bigotry, having revoked on protection, as its last card. You cannot expect that Jones, who is a Protestant because he has three church-livings in his gift, and who has dined to-day with Smith, a Roman Catholic, and a Papist because he was born one, but would, nevertheless, as soon confess to Dr. Mc Hale as to you, will tumble into the House after Curacoa at eleven, and vote that the teaching of Maynooth is inimical to the order of the realm. Spooner, who seems to have found out some ecclesiastical Holywell Street, where naughty Latin books are sold, may quote to him worse things than Casanova ever suggested, and the inference, as to the possible consequences on youthful and pious Irish minds, maybe awful. But Jones won't believe a word of it. He has smoked with G. H. Moore for years—been attentive to the *mots* of Duffy all through the session, and he and Keogh have been together nights and nights at a stretch; he knows that these are the Pope's brass band—the crack Catholics—and he refuses to be frightened by Spooner; and when he gets Macgregor into the dining-room, he nudges him in the ribs, leers knowingly, and asks him if he knows what are Forbes Mackenzie's calculations as to the votes all this piety will bring. If the bigotry succeeds, well and good—Jones respects it; but if it fails, as it has failed this week, he laughs at it. As we said (having read Mrs. Tyler's letter) last week, we cannot interfere for humanity and liberty, "and that sort of thing," abroad, until we have put matters straight at home; and this week you could see he was gradually coming to the conclusion that the Protestantism and the Christianity appealed to against the claims of Catholics and Jews, could not be very well worth giving a monopoly to, seeing that when parliament is traced, in a committee-room, to its source, it would appear that theological anxieties but slightly influence its characteristic vitality. So, analyzing the votes of this week, it is clear, Mr. Napier, that Christianity is made an open question. A few years more, and we shall have some great Hindü merchant settling in London, affecting the citizens, giving good dinners, and at last getting in; and then the question of the day will be, why should not the Juggernaut interest be represented? Why not?

Mr. Disraeli, sitting through it all on Thursday, sublimely cynical, could have suggested to Rothschild that seats are attainable to Hebrews with less pother, by doing what "Tancred" describes gentlemen doing at Jerusalem—accepting conversion to Christianity from the English bishop, and when the missionary supplies from the tea-table interest fall short, striking for wages. Mr. Disraeli takes the oath on the faith of a Christian, like a sensible man, and yet writes "Coningsby," and draws "Sidonia," whose ancestors defied by eluding the Spanish Inquisition. Not heroic, no doubt; and yet the practical classes think Disraeli wiser than Rothschild; or, at any rate, the creator of Sidonia, and the writer of the celebrated Jew-Pontius-Pilate paragraph in the "Political Biography," heads the party whose *mot d'ordre* is Church and State and the Protestant Constitution. Only one condition is apparently made by the party with their leader—that though he will not be with them against the Jews, he shall not be against them; that if he votes with Lord John (should not the Tory leader talk always gently at the Whig statesman who makes Jews free-men?) he shall not speak with Lord John. And this year, as in the year before last, Disraeli fulfils the pact—by giving his vote for his race (as to their creed, he is as devoted to it as—no matter what other statesman—to the details of the Christian dispensation), but giving it a silent vote; sitting among his party and enduring in sullen tameness all the insults which red-faced and respectable saints like Inglis, and moustached muscadins like Sir Robert Peel, poured down on Thursday, on the Caucasian aristocracy of humanity. From Disraeli's side rose Napier—who had served under Disraeli—to give notice about God's vengeance. At Disraeli's side stood Inglis, who had followed Disraeli into every lobby for six years, when that high-minded man was proving from Holy Writ that a Jew in Parliament would carry destruction to the British constitution—although he did not make it apparent that Holy Writ

was dedicated to the proposers of Magna Charta. Over Disraeli's head thundered the impetuous Sir Robert Peel—than whom no man has a better right to think ill of the Jews, since who has suffered more from them?—when that ingenuous youth (having ascertained that his brother was booked to vote for Rothschild) demonstrated, without mentioning that Lola Montes was his authority, that the Jews were the enemies of freedom (is not Mr. Sloman, of Chancery-lane, a Jew?) and that the house of the Rothschilds constituted the principal support of the despotic emperors of Austria, France, and Russia. It might have been remembered by the fiery Sir Robert that the Cabinet of Disraeli, per Malmesbury, was the firm, not to say the affectionate, ally of those potentates; and that the unfilial owner of Tanworth, who never saw so much in his father as other people did, and who, for his part, thinks Disraeli a "doosed good" fellow, &c. &c., was an inveterate supporter of that Cabinet. Mr. Disraeli may have detected the perverse logic—Mr. Disraeli saw and felt all the absurdities of his own situation, and of his friends' argumentation—for it was not difficult to perceive by the changeful shrinking and smiling of his demeanour that he was not a very proud or a peculiarly happy man on this occasion, when he was sitting as the frightful example of an Inglis's preaching. But Mr. Disraeli threw the heroism and the work and the honour on Lord John Russell; and perhaps he assisted Lord John thus far, that he manoeuvred his friend Mr. Walpole—leader *pro hac vice*—into keeping quiet, into suppressing all the respectable elocutionists of the party—therefore in leaving the opposition to a Sibthorpe (who—the dirtiest old man in Christendom—objected that Hebrews don't wash) and to an Inglis, the traditional obstructives of the Conservative classes, and accordingly in making the whole fuss ludicrous. After all there was as much avoidance of oratory on the other side. Lord John was eminently and curtly dull; and it is a consequence of a Government of "all the talents" that debating, which cannot be all on one side, must be tepid.

The debate on the Maynooth question, on Tuesday and Wednesday, was only more interesting that it provoked into action one or two individualities about whom there has been considerable interest among that extensive section of the community who, in these days of political acquiescence in everything, regard Parliament merely as a public amusement, and are given to gossip about the actors, in the usual pit way. The talk of the week, active about a new House full of latent celebrities, chronicles a success and a failure among the new men. The success is that of Mr. Gavan Duffy, the most brilliant of Irish journalists; and the failure is that of Mr. Edward Miall, not the most brilliant of English journalists, but a gentleman who is high in his profession as a journalist, who is a trusted leader of the best of the Nonconformists, and who is known tolerably through the country as an individual entitled to a seat in the House of Commons—and to a hearing, if he can get it. So far, he has not got that preliminary to Parliamentary triumphs; and it is worth ascertaining why,—the reasons for his defeat suggesting all the reasons for the hit which Mr. Duffy made. The first remark you make about Mr. Miall as he passes by you to the House, is, that he is a small headed man; and you guess at once that he will find it difficult to tempt or intimidate the always impatient House into attention to his accurate and elegant but, you may be sure, feeble and unimpressive syllogisms. On Tuesday there was noise, bustle, sneers flying about—Protestant insults and Catholic repartees—general sense of being bored, and general longing for a good speech to lift the House out of its littlenesses into vigorous generalities. A speaker concluded—the slight Mr. Miall rose up like a note of exclamation on the decadent orator—he had caught the Speaker's eye, and was in for an ordeal the most severe and telling ever invented—a maiden speech in the House of Commons. There was silence at once—the House is always looking out, and always ready to welcome capability—and Mr. Miall plunged into his oration. Alas! the prim voice, the slightly conventicle gesture, or no gesture, the elaborated style, the obvious preparedness, the utter absence of a conception of what would tell—that is to say, of what was wanted—told, in a few minutes, that here was a blunder—a closet speech sing-songed to a House in a hurry. Mr. Miall clearly had arranged to lecture the House—was bent upon a great effort to produce a great impression; and he was at once found out and put down. How? They left off quiet—began to bray—said pooh, pooh—oh, oh—satirically "hear, heard." The Cobden class of men, who need Brights to kick them into energy, would have been obliged for all this; they would have faced it—put it down; but they are the large-headed class. The gentlemanly, scholarly, amiable Mr. Miall gave way before the impertinence he met with; he stuttered—grew pale—grew red—got tremulous—lost his way—re-

peated—bungled—trembled—lurched—leered—and went down. Now, because Mr. Duffy did just the opposite of all this he succeeded. He may have read the anecdote, in the pleasantest of the books of Disraeli the elder, of that young French advocate who practised oratory while pacing about a cabbage garden, and when he broke down before the Court said to the Judges—“*Video certe quod non estis caules.*” Mr. Miall, not quite a man of the world, had not calculated the difference between the Judges and the cabbages—between sage M.P.’s, who have no delicacy if they are bored, and patient and deliberative, assenting, mild, dissenting meetings, composed of ladies and gentlemen educated into good demeanour by much sitting under of varieties of heavy shepherds. Mr. Duffy leaped into the arena with a smile—commenced by a joke—putting his savage sneers into passing parentheses; and confined his papistical declaration against Spooner to negatives, which were good humoured but telling exposures of Mr. Spooner’s authorities for intolerance; fastening, for instance, on Sir Francis Head’s *Fortnight in Ireland*—(“Well divided,” said Mr. Duffy, “week for observation—week for reflection”)—clever, clinching, and brief, the speech got attention, kept it, and repaid it—wherefore the Liberals said “hear, hear,” heartily, and the Tories looked pleased. For Mr. Duffy had a bug-a-boo sort of reputation as a rebel among good and brave English country gentlemen; and they were glad at having, in place of a “blood-anous” hero, a quiet, genial, accomplished, and apropos speaker—for you don’t suppose Spooner is such a favourite but that they enjoy a laugh at him? Why Mr. Duffy should have surprised anybody, as he evidently did, it is not easy to say; for as he was on Tuesday he has been all his life—always in earnest, but talking his earnestness calmly, and never venturing on melodramatic politics in the Mitchell or Ferrand style. He went into a rebellion—coolly, and smiling like a gentleman; and if he had had the pikeing of Lord Clarendon it would have been with a “Pray permit me.” The extravagances usually associated with the Young Ireland school were never of his creation: and though there was in his heart very likely, on Tuesday, a vehement vigorous disgust with that oligarchical Parliament which has ever flirted with the Spooners, and which still insists on tyrannical systems in Ireland with Irishmen, he would as soon of thought of reciting “the Harp that once,” as of offering an insult to men whom he is only entitled to consider as mistaken. The “dying on the floor” school of Irish M.P.’s has gone out: and English M.P.’s will take care to encourage such men as Mr. Duffy—insisting on “independence” to a fanatical fault—honest and ultra—but courteous and clever. And what was said here last week, in remarking on Mr. Lucas’s decent reception in Parliament, may be repeated in reference to Mr. Duffy. Does it not illustrate the magnificent freedom of English public life, that the *Nation* can talk its “leaders,” and talk them with effect in the House of Commons. The fact may modify the *Nation*’s prejudice against British prejudices.

The novelty of useful brains and practical capacity among the Irish members has been recognised in these pages. The change which the last election (the result of Mr. Duffy’s *Nation* exhortation) produced in the characteristic of Hibernian M.P.-dom has been recognised in these pages; and in acknowledging party successes, like that of Mr. Duffy, all the prophecies which were submissively presented in these pages are sufficiently fulfilled. The cheers which welcome a Duffy—which endure a Lucas—which, for some years, have enjoyed the epigrammatic but harsh Moore—attest that good Irish members will effect in time a good Irish policy. But something else was suggested in the *Leader*—that the result of the defiance offered by Messrs. Lucas and Duffy to the Aberdeen Government, would be a dismemberment of the “Irish Party;” Mr. Duffy answered the *Leader*, and pledged the *Nation* to the assertion that the Irish party, save Sadleir and Keogh, would be in February what it had been in November. What is the result? Take the week’s reports: Mr. Flaherty defying Mr. Lucas, Mr. Fitzgerald defying Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Sergeant Shee defying Mr. Lucas, and ditto ditto ditto. Let us ask Mr. Duffy—Where is the Irish party now? “A STRANGER.”

REPORT OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

I.

THIS is still the chief Blue Book of the day. It has escaped the usual fate of its fellows, contrary to the auguries of many and the wishes of more. It is just now an important text-book of national study; and after inspiring the pens of Quarterly Reviewers, itself more readable and attractive than their lucubrations, it has emerged into the world of realities, and stands prominent among the topics of daily journalism. It

has forced a recognition from the Premier who had denounced the legality of the Commission. It is embalmed in a royal speech, and is recommended to the consideration of the governing body of the University which repudiated it, and which, therefore, following the example of its Chancellor, now submits to the investigations of a committee appointed by the Hebdomadal Board, the principles which it so recently denounced.

Now, at the outset of the considerations which we propose to lay before our readers upon the questions discussed in the Report, we state at once that we augur no great results for University Reform from the enquiries of this Common-room-Committee. The Hebdomadal Board has compromised itself too seriously to permit us to expect much from its ungracious labours. The age of sudden conversions has returned, so at least said *The Times* lately; but whatever sincerity marked those of the days of Constantine and Clovis, political and prudential motives tell materially with penitents of the nineteenth century. Men are not now remarkable for making a clean breast of it. Especially they eschew all confession of sin, and only accept the “situation” on the time-honoured principle of making the best of a bad job. Oxford, however, notwithstanding the shield which Mr. Gladstone cast in front of her, neither accepts nor promises to accept. She did all she could to hinder the appointment of the commission and to thwart it when appointed. She discoursed learnedly of ancient privileges, and her colleges have displayed equal acumen in asserting the dignity and antiquity of their vested rights, and the solemn obligations of statutes which could permit no other than the sufficient interference of their visitors. Oxford denounced the Commission to her late Chancellor as mischievous and unnecessary. She declared that “supposed obstacles to an improved system of study, if they exist, produce no material effect upon the general academical system.” She submitted a case to counsel respecting the legality of the commission, and, fortified by the opinion of gentlemen learned in the law, carried, by a majority of 249 to 105 in Convocation, a petition to the Queen, in which intimation was given of possible disobedience to the royal authority under which the Commission was empowered to act. None who read the correspondence and documents contained in Appendices A, B, of the Report, can hesitate to admit that the University—the nominal University—has declared reform unnecessary and dangerous. It has also, by the broadest implication, if not by positive declaration, asserted the sufficiency of its present studies. It refuses to stir. Through the measured phrases of Dr. Plumptre, the cold acknowledgments or silence of Heads and Visitors, this stands out as the indisputable and main fact, draped of course in ample talk of great things done almost to supererogation, and—O the gods—of solemn responsibilities and the Laudian statutes!

It is for the nation to extract a reality from a pretence: and while we write there are signs in the political heavens which it will not be well for the Hebdomadal Board—we may drop the pretence of the University—to neglect. The Deluge, whose waters will bury some ugly things, looms nearer daily, and the Board must bestir itself now that the friendly and perhaps collusive protection of Lord Derby has been exchanged for a more searching supervision. Nor shall we grudge to Oxford the initiative or completion of the work, and shall only wish her soon rid of so ungracious a task. “If it were done when ’tis done, then ’twere well it were done quickly.” To be thus rid of it the authorities must adopt the watchword of the Chancellor-Archbishop, and be all for Thorough: little less, in short, than the body of recommendations put forth by the Commission will satisfy the public, too long trifled with on all subjects connected directly or remotely with the church, and which loudly, in the case of the Universities, demands common endowments for the common good.

The question of the visitatorial rights of the Crown is one worthy only of academic dissertation, and is not to be seriously entertained. The Act of 13th Elizabeth, granting incorporation to the scholars and masters of the University, disposes of it. Those who desire, however, to see how corporate bodies can at exigency deny the principle which they have at other times asserted, e.g., against the Parliamentary Visitors in 1647, will find a satisfactory statement in the Report of the Commission, pp. 3, 4, and the subject is fully treated in the evidence of Mr. Wilkinson among others. Sir E. Head (*Evidence*, p. 158), in stating the case as between the country and the University and the colleges, proposes a distinction in dealing with these bodies which the former will be not indisposed to accept. “In the case of public corporations like the University, I think it is not only allowable, but essentially right, that the Legislature should from time to

time interfere to regulate and modify the action of their own creature by positive enactments eliminating all hindrances to the main object for which such a corporation was instituted, and directing in what manner the privileges granted by the Crown and the nation can be best used for the advantage of the nation at large. In the case of private corporations, I think the analogy of English law and the sound feeling of the English people would be best consulted by making the interference negative; that is to say, by declaring null any laws, statutes, or bye-laws, which the Legislature may deem mischievous, but abstaining from directly enforcing against the will of the members any particular course of action.” It remains to be seen how the colleges will act. The silence of their Heads and the example of Brasenose augur ill for any general resolution to meet frankly the necessity of their position; but we warn them against the plea of inability to modify in any essential manner their statutes. Legislative sanction will not be wanting to assist them; but it will not be forgotten that not a few of the most important of those statutes have been violated systematically to the advantage of Heads and Fellows, while recommendations such as those of the Duke of Wellington in 1837, have, in spite of promises, slept unregarded. “With respect to the colleges,” said the Duke, in a debate upon the question of a change in the statutes, “I have received accounts from several of them that they are reviewing their statutes. Several are in communication with their respective Visitors, and others with the Fellows of their Colleges, with whom they must communicate in order to make effectual reforms. They are going on as well as they can at the present moment.” These anticipations, it is needless to say, have not been realized, and the Commissioners ascribe this perhaps to the necessity of legislative aid, without which the Colleges are declared to be unable to effect the alterations they strongly recommended. They pass over the little fact that such assistance was never sought. The Colleges (to which we shall again return) shelved the subject when the danger was past, and have not mooted it since. Something more than correspondence with Visitors and Fellows is looked for now. They too must be thorough, even with ‘admission of dissenters’ looming in the future.

The Commissioners have little more to say in behalf of the University than of the Colleges. No single reform can be pointed to among the changes and alterations referred to in the letters of the Hebdomadal Board to the late Chancellor, tending to the main point of all, the NATIONALIZATION of the University. The changes have had regard solely to collegiate studies and collegiate examinations, for so long as the existence and claims of the Professors are ignored in the examination statute, the machinery of the schools is worked by and for the Colleges only. We must dissent then from even the qualified commendation of the Commissioners. To the propriety indeed of the principles recognised by the University since 1837, none can demur. Certain regulations, which are now incapable of observance in the present day, have been repealed, and the necessity of rescinding oaths to enforce the observance of statutes, even when accommodated to modern times, admitted. An admonition to matriculating students by the Vice-Chancellor, has been substituted for the oath formerly taken; and all oaths required at degrees, excepting those of allegiance and supremacy, abolished. It was quite time; but the admonition itself comes with an ill grace from those who have sworn to the Laudian statutes, of which more anon. The matters sworn to on matriculation must have caused a whimsical or sorrowful surprise to many whom curiosity has led to explore the antique mysteries of the statute-book. If we recollect rightly, one section solemnly forbids the undergraduate to read the book to which he has assented on oath, till he has proceeded to the B. A. degree. Such modifications, however, are scarcely worthy of commendation or of comment. They will not atone for the abuses which remain. Nor, even when these are removed will the University be what it yet must be. The Commission is only the pioneer to the overthrow of the old breastworks which separate Oxford and England.

Oxford has had its war of words respecting its statutes, as everything besides. It is a grave question there (and there only), whether Convocation possesses the power to alter the Laudian statutes. Dr. Macbride decides for the affirmative, excepting, indeed, the three known as the Caroline, which came “direct from the crown.” Oddly, he says that these chiefly refer to the Procuratorial Cycle; yet the first, ominously enough, constitutes the Hebdomadal Board, the main cause, “under Laud,” of all the existing evils. Others, with Dr. Phillimore, hold the contrary, and declare that the power of revision belongs to the Crown only, and this was the decision of Sir John Campbell and

Dr. Lushington, in the case of Dr. Hampden, in 1836. But, as we have intimated, the controversy is meaningless. The Charter of the University is bound up with the observance of these statutes, and has lapsed to the Crown by their violation. It matters nothing whether they are binding with or without the assent of Convocation. The latter is manifestly the fact; but, were it otherwise, as Convocation has never formally sanctioned the measures of the Hebdomadal Board, the violation of the statutes bars the university of all power of complaint against visitations, commissions, or whatsoever else the Crown may decree. The "eternal laws" which Convocation, in servile deference to Laud, declared to be destined to endure, in "annum Platonicum," have, as we shall see, long ceased to operate in points most essential to the welfare of the University. As we write, our glance falls on these strange words of the letter to Laud, sealed in Congregation, Sept. 1, 1623, "Ulro compeginus jugum quod pronis cervicibus annectas;" fit introduction to the perpetual bondage imposed by the letters from the Chancellor and the King, dated June, 1635, by which the statutes are ratified and declared in all essentials inviolable for ever. The "eternal laws" stand unrevoked, but vigorous only for evil; a moral plague, tainting Oxford through all its members. We pity as much as we censure. Duty and conscience have failed, when matched against irreversible decrees and the corporate spirit which substitutes verbiage for duty, and which knows no conscience. But the sum of all is, that Oxford has forfeited its charter, and lies at the mercy of the State.

THE DISCUSSION ON SECULARISM.

DURING the past six weeks a public discussion has been held in the Cowper-street School-rooms, between the Rev. Brewin Grant, B.A., of Birmingham, and Mr. G. J. Holyoake, Editor of the *Reasoner*, on the comparative merits of "Secularism and Christianity." Thronged doorways, an hour or more before the commencement of the proceedings each night, attested the metropolitan interest in the issue, and the interest, we believe, has extended to every town in the empire. The four principal Dissenting journals, the *Nonconformist*, *British Banner*, *Christian Times*, and *Patriot*, have given copious reports of the proceedings; and what is noteworthy and creditable, on the whole, impartial reports. Unqualified approval, credit, and success, are awarded by the *British Banner* to Mr. Grant; but the same paper "feels, in justice, bound to confess that Mr. Holyoake exhibited sobriety of deportment, habitual solemnity—that his whole air and mien are strongly marked by that modest gentleness and those conciliatory qualities which command respect, and beget something like affection." For rapid utterance the *Banner* concedes to Mr. Grant an excellence which, it says, exceeds the analogies of Nature to parallel; and thinks "his lingual, labial, and intellectual apparatus so perfectly adapted to each other, that they assume the appearance of a special creation." The oratorical powers of Mr. Holyoake are described as "very superior: his voice, though thin, is well heard, and his speaking often distinguished by splendid strokes of power and pathos." So much for the *personnel* of the disputants. As respects the matter of the contest: Mr. Grant's speeches were personal—Mr. Holyoake's expository. To the secular advocate the debate was simply a trial of temper rather than of reason. We do not say that there was any lack of such reasons as the Secularists deem valid, but the demand made by Mr. Grant in that direction was not great; and the personalities Mr. Holyoake studiously ignored. By this means Mr. Grant's sallies retained piquancy, whereas, had his opponent stooped to retort, the pleasant aspect of the discussion would have been changed. The Secularist expositor seemed to labour not only to develop his own positions, but also to balance the tone of the controversy itself, so that the reputation of free discussion should not suffer. Doubtless other discussions will follow. Defenders of Christianity of another order of mind will no doubt put upon record what may be said for its *principles*. For ourselves, we are unwilling to believe that Christianity is only to be defended by personalities, imputations and bitterness. We hear its most attractive expounders say of Christianity:—

Thou art all mildness, patience, power to cope,
And pitying heart is thine;
Giving them charity and faith and hope,
Thou link'st thy children with a love divine.

We shall probably say more on this subject. Of its relevancy, the public will be able to judge ere long, as able reporters were engaged, and we understand a verbatim volume will soon appear. The chairman for Mr. Holyoake was Mr. Ebenezer Syme, late Unitarian minister; for Mr. Grant, Mr. Samuel Morley. The umpire was the Rev. Howard Hinton; and, under the auspices of these gentlemen, the public may expect a trustworthy report. Tomorrow, north and south of the Thames, thirty-eight ministers simultaneously preach on the "Secular Aspects of Christianity."



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.

WANTED AN "UNCLE TOM" FOR BETHNAL GREEN.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—In last week's *Leader* is quoted a "Letter to the *Times*," from the incumbent of St. Philip's, Bethnal-green. The tale told is most distressing, not the less so from being a common one, even in richer neighbourhoods than Bethnal. A poor woman loses her child—"Oh, such a fine child, sir,—three years old, died nearly a fortnight ago." Her husband is in the hospital, sick of rheumatic fever—she wants to bury her baby—the undertaker will do it for 15s. She sets to work to beg and to borrow. The clergyman remonstrates, "My good woman, it is very wrong. The parish will do this for you." "Yes, sir, they would bury it, but he told me, sir (bursting into tears), that he must take it out of its little coffin, and put it in a shell, and I could not follow it, and the prayers would not be said over it;" and she rocked herself, and covered her face, and was almost choked with her sobs and her agony. It would be worse than waste to spend words upon the pathos of this scene; when the genius of Scott drew Mucklebackit moaning for his Steenie, he wrung tears from the eyes of half Christendom, yet the fisherman's agony, as imagined by the illustrious novelist, goes no straighter to the heart than the cry of this poor mother for her child, "taken out of its little coffin," to be buried "without prayers," in a grave to which she must not follow it. "And my husband, it would break his heart; and the man spoke so 'gruff,' and I had not been used to it, and I could not, sir, oh! I could not."

But, good God! Mr. Editor, what material for national reflection is suggested by all this; what a theme for 'Mrs. Tyler,' and the slave-states, that in our land, with its Christian code and its Christian church, we should only bury poverty on condition of "no praying" and "no mourning," no, not even the mourning of a mother! What must foreigners think when they read such tales as these in our daily annals! Their first impression is to pronounce the Christianity of England a fiction, and they only pause at such conclusion on being reminded that England alone pays more for the administration of religious rites to her people than all the nations, Papal and Protestant, of collected Christendom. That something like eight millions a year should be devoted to the maintenance of an evangelical establishment, and yet that Christian burial should be denied to English subjects without money in their purse, is an anomaly that strangers to our social system can scarcely be expected to understand. It is really enough to puzzle the very natives. The incumbent of St. Philip's seems to think that the political economists are in some way responsible; he says, "I looked, sir, at Adam Smith and Harriet Martineau, they were on the shelf close by, and at Mill in two thick volumes, but it was of no use. Malthus himself would have given in." Now, with unfeigned respect for the character and labours of the incumbent, it does appear rather hard upon these distinguished writers, to charge them with the accumulation of sorrows heaped upon the heart of this poor woman and thousands of similar sufferers. What, for instance, have Smith, Mill, and Martineau to do with the fact that a richly-endowed church charges fees for burial, and will not bury without fees; fees for the clergyman and fees for the clerk, fees for the bell and fees for the spade. Fees from the poor in the name of a Master who, when on earth—

But this letter is long enough, and what I was going to say, is too obvious to need expression. There can be no doubt of the minister of St. Philip's being a most worthy Christian gentleman, but he would surely do well to ponder the working of the tithe-and-rate system to which he belongs, before indulging in sary casm at the expense of such thinkers as Smith, Mill, and Martineau.—I am, Sir, with respect, your's faithfully,

Oxford, Feb. 24.

FRIENDS OF ITALY.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Golding Penrose, gives some excellent advice as to the necessity of avoiding small tricks in obtaining unwilling signatures to petitions in favour of Italian Freedom. Those who are at all aware of the ease with which signatures to petitions for almost any object whatever, may be, and are, manufactured, always look upon all petitions of that description with considerable suspicion. In consequence of this, I have long ceased to sign any petition in an individual capacity. The most proper and constitutional mode of petitioning Parliament is by the Chairman of a Public Meeting, in pursuance of a resolution thereof. Petitions signed by the officers of a society are also of the same description. These cannot be falsified or sneered down in any way. We have sent four petitions from Sheffield in favour of Italy. They were similar to the one adopted by the St. Pancras Public Meeting last week, over which the talented, excellent, and amiable Professor Newman presided. One was from our Town Council; another from the National Society; another from the Nether Hallam Wardmote; and another from a meeting of friends of European freedom. These petitions were signed by the Mayor, or by the respective chairmen of the other bodies. They were presented, in December last, by our member, Mr. Hadfield; and one of them was printed in *extenso* with the Votes of the House. I am quite aware that this is nothing to boast of, but if all towns had done as much, the Italian cause would now stand in a better position. One earnest man in every town, district, village, or hamlet, is all that is necessary.

In his essay on *Representative Government*, Guizot truly says that the right to govern is proved by the capacity to do so, and that all who have the capacity, *do* govern, whether they have the vote or not. If the friends of progress wish to govern, they must show their capacity. The truth is on their side, but the actual fact is against them, and their supineness is the sole cause.

The excuse generally made for neglect and non-attention is, that it is troublesome and expensive to mo in these matters. Of course it is. "No noble task was ever easy," says Carlyle. Those who think freedom can be won or maintained without trouble are mistaken, and are also altogether unworthy of having it. The objection on the ground of expense is far too common. It is the accursed spirit of mammon eating like a canker into the heart of everything good. Our international relations are regulated by no higher principles than those of the shop. We are continually verifying the truth of Napoleon's remark, that we are a nation of shopkeepers. The police court is the assault shop, where the magistrate acts as shopkeeper, and disposes of assaults at so much each. But really the expense of a public petition in favour of Italy need not be much. Let those who are poor, and yet have the cause at heart, endeavour to interest the wealthy in their neighbourhoods, and failing that, let them employ the bellman of their district to call a public meeting in some club room, if no other place can be obtained. Appoint a chairman, and propose a petition for adoption, in short, reasonable speeches. It should be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and sent to the Member of Parliament who represents the place or district for presentation. There is nothing to prevent this being done in every town, village, hamlet, parish, or township in the country. An earnest man in each place is the one thing needful. The friends of progress would prove their capacity for governing, by adopting this constitutional plan of petitioning, not only in the cause of Italy, but on all subjects in which they take an interest.

Yours faithfully,

ISAAC IRONSIDE.

Sheffield, Feb. 14th, 1853.

P.S.—It is a significant and gratifying sign of the times, that the St. Pancras Public Meeting was held in the Vestry Hall. Whenever the ratepayers throughout the country think proper, they may have their respective vestry rooms used in a similar manner.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B.—The poem referred to never came under our eye. We shall be happy to see the communication he suggests.

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*.

THE great event of the week—and it is rare, indeed, for us to announce so important and far-reaching an event—is the certainty of an International Copyright with America. The thing is no longer a speculation nor an agitation, it is on the eve of its birth as a fact. To England it will be of twofold importance. It will not only increase the hard earnings of Men of Letters, it will admit of grave works being published without the present risk of serious loss; and this in two ways—1st, Because the great extension of the market will bring a public for such works; 2nd, Because this very extension will induce a reduction in the price of books, which reduction will, in its turn, very materially extend the market, as we see in the large sale of Mr. BOHN'S various Libraries. To America it will be of still more importance, in the stimulus given to national literature. A few years ago, it seemed as if America could only, at the best, be to England what Rome was to Greece. But now that we have abundant signs of a real national genius growing up and expressing itself, the removal of that temptation to reprint English works for a few pence, will force publishers into enterprize with national literature.

The French Academy has been the scene of a contest more than usually interesting to Englishmen. The papers of last week, which merely indicated the fact of MACAULAY'S having been elected a Member of the Academy, in place of Dr. LINGARD, omitted, or were unacquainted with the most curious part of the occurrence. There were two candidates proposed, GROTE and MACAULAY—two names suggestive of very different claims to the honour, and such as would have puzzled an English Academy to decide upon. It was GUIZOT proposed MACAULAY, and TOCQUEVILLE who proposed GROTE. We presume personal friendship dictated this; otherwise one might feel surprised at GUIZOT'S selecting a candidate whose brilliant qualities are so far removed from those which distinguish the *Histoire de la Civilization en Europe*. In France, MACAULAY'S reputation must have justified his election; if it were not justified by his nearer affinity to what Frenchmen have been taught to consider the true historic type. The brilliant style, and easy, yet abundant, erudition of MACAULAY, assimilate him more to the French type; while the laborious, deep-thinking, but somewhat cumbrous, work of GROTE, reminds us more of the German type.

May we beg those correspondents who intend to forward us their views on the subject of Spontaneous Combustion, to send them without delay? It has occurred once or twice that, after a discussion had been closed in our columns, we have received letters which we should gladly have published, and we wish to prevent such an occurrence in the present case. We cannot undertake, of course, to print every letter sent; but none of them will be other than welcome.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>A Legend of Pembroke Castle.</i> By F. G. Herbert. 2 vols. | R. Bentley. |
| <i>Memoir of a Metaphysician.</i> By Francis Drake. | Longman, Brown, and Co. |
| <i>Just Glimpses of Convocation.</i> By A. J. Joyce. | T. Bosworth. |
| <i>A Treatise on the Peculiarities of the Bible.</i> By the Rev. E. D. Rendell. | F. Pitman. |
| <i>Juvenile Delinquents: their Condition and Treatment.</i> By Mary Carpenter. | W. and F. G. Cash. |
| <i>Homœopathy.</i> By G. Wild. | John Walker. |
| <i>The Wide, Wide World.</i> By E. Wetherell. | G. Routledge. |
| <i>Speculation; or, the Glen Luna Family.</i> By A. Lothrop. | G. Routledge. |
| <i>Bohn's Antiquarian Library—Matthew Paris's English History.</i> Vol. II. | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Classical Library—The Idylls of Theocritus, Bion, and Moschus.</i> | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Illustrated Library—Stories of English and Foreign Life.</i> By W. and Mary Howitt. | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Scientific Library—The Physical and Metaphysical Works of Lord Bacon.</i> | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>Bohn's Standard Library—Milton's Prose Works.</i> | H. G. Bohn. |
| <i>The Cruise of the "Challenger" Life-boat.</i> | W. Pickering. |
| <i>Chambers's Repository of Instruction and Amusing Tracts.</i> | W. S. Orr and Co. |
| <i>Recollections of Service in China.</i> By Col. A. Cunningham. | R. Bentley. |
| <i>Language as a Means of Mental Culture and International Communication.</i> By C. Marcel. 2 vols. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>Zanoni.</i> By Sir E. B. Lytton. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>Chambers's Pocket Miscellany.</i> | W. S. Orr and Co. |
| <i>The Dissector's Manual of Practical and Surgical Anatomy.</i> By E. Wilson. | Longman and Co. |
| <i>Punch's Letters to his Son, Punch's Complete Letter-Writer, and Sketches of the English.</i> By Douglas Jerrold. Vol. V. | Bradbury and Evans. |
| <i>The Encyclopedia Britannica.</i> | Adam and Charles Black. |
| <i>The Working Man's Way in the World; being the Autobiography of a Journeyman Printer.</i> | W. and F. Cash. |

A VISCOUNT'S SATIRE.

The Deluge. A Poem. By Viscount Maidstone. Dedicated to the Electors of Westminster. Chapman and Hall.

VISCOUNT MAIDSTONE is a very foolish nobleman, with a feverish desire for notoriety. He wishes to be "distinguished," and does not see that "distinction" is often synonymous with contempt. The industrious "super" whom no one hissed when his talents were confined to carrying banners and shouting "Long live the Marquis!" becomes the target of scorn when with misguided ambition he attempts "Othello" or "Charles Surface." It is even so on the stage of life. Lord Maidstone may be charming in his own circle; he may even rank there as a poet and a wit. But in the presence of electors and critics the prestige has vanished. We say of him, as Molière says of another nobleman—

"Je le tiens galant homme en toutes les manières
Homme de qualité, de mérite, et de cœur
Tout ce qu'il vous plaira, mais fort méchant auteur!"

The electors of Westminster, on mature deliberation, did not consider him endowed by nature with that lofty eloquence and far-reaching saga-

city required to represent them. The critics, being for the most part men of known "enviousness," and unabashed ignorance, will, we doubt not, exhibit an unanimity as distressing.

But indeed, my lord, you must allow something to their failings, for after all they are mortal men, poor devils! They have their foolish prejudices in favour of certain conventional signs; and etiquette is worshipped among them as in your lordship's elegant circle. If a *parvenu* force or wriggle himself among you, do you not laugh at his misplaced efforts to comport himself like one "to the manner born?" Do you not mercilessly quiz his birth, parentage, and education, and his ignorance of the hundred charming futilities which your "set" agree to prize? Well, we critics are for all the world as exclusive! We laugh at the *parvenu* who comes amongst us, who apes the aristocracy of genius, and betrays ignorance of our conventional signs—such as taste, wit, good sense, nice feeling, rhythm, and other futilities. If we bear names which sound indifferently in the mouths of announcing footmen, you bear names which are insignificant on title-pages.

It was said by Pope of the critics in his day—

"But let a lord once own the happy lines,
How the wit brightens! how the style refines!"

It may also be true in our day, but, *que diable!* there must at least be "wit" to brighten, and "style" to catch refinement! It is not enough to write *indignant* verses; the verses must have wit, or sense, or poetry in them, otherwise indignation will not furnish salt to preserve them. Lord Maidstone pathetically exclaims:—

"Oh strangest symptom of times out of joint!
Verbose malignity mista'en for point,
Diffuse parade of commonplace for style,
And for free speech a pleonasm of bile!"

("Pleonasm of bile" is charming, and makes the verse come so trippingly off the tongue!) If, however, *that* be one of the evidences of the coming Deluge we beg his lordship to allay his fears. We assure him, no one is likely to mistake the verbosity and commonplace of his poem for "point" or "style"—there is still enough sanity in this universe to prevent so alarming a mistake. He may be as indignant as he pleases, fling about his harmless epithets,

"And rhyme with all the rage of impotence,"

the Critics will not accept him; their one constant refrain, however politely worded, will be—"My Lord Viscount, you are a *parvenu*, you are aping a position to which you were not born, to which you will not arrive."

The Deluge is meant to be a satire severely lashing Whigs, Peelites, and Journalists. Lord Maidstone evidently believes that he is very terrible indeed:—

"Still, some will say, 'Why crush the viper's nest,
Pillage the wolf, or storm the dragon's rest?'
To such I answer plainly, 'There are times
When indignation finds or fashions rhymes;
In these for satirists a lyre is strung,—
And Gifford's soul rebell'd, before his tongue
Wither'd the flower of *Della Crusca's* strains,
And dried the source impure of *Pasquin's* gains."

But he has yet to learn that before satire can be terrible it must reach its victims, and reaching them, must wound. A blow with a sledge-hammer, if it only strike the air, will not trouble a sleeping child; and Lord Maidstone has so little sense of the weak points of those he attacks that his blows "pass by them as the idle wind." Do but read this onslaught on the Press, and then marvel how the victims can survive it!

"Of three Ephemerals, Palmerston can boast
The *Globe*, the *Sun*, and, last, the trimming *Post*.
Take up with Newman when sweet Jenkins fails,
Latest in growth of Tiverton's three tails!
Tractarian slipslop for court circles vend,
Kiss Pusey's toe, and call Pope Bennett friend;
But think not long thy trashy files to save
From Fonblanque's mercies and a bankrupt grave!
And thou, chief idiot, that with bell and book
Would'st marry Phœbus to Eliza Cook,
Desist from task unhappily begun,
Phœbus has no connexion with the *Sun*.*

"Now for th' *Examiner*: we'll pass him too,
Despite his dragon writhings, in review;
Of censor's rags his withered back we'll strip,
And as to Titus Oates, apply the whip.
Plead not secession, but come stand the brunt,
Worthy successor to imprison'd Hunt!
Whose pen for many years with party tact,
And artificial list, warp'd every fact;
Who never lost occasion for a sneer,
Nor ever loved a lord or spared a peer."

We come in for our lashing too; on receiving the blows, we instantly took to our bed, from whence this article is written—amid howlings!—

"Besides all these come in the minor fry,
Scuffling, ere plates be clean and bottles dry.
Noblest exponents of unshackled thought,
By leaves converted and by fishes bought.
Their names I mention, since so few e'er see 'em,
The *Leader*, *Satirist*, and *Athenæum*."

It was doubtless considered a "crusher" to bring the *Satirist* in between the *Leader* and the *Athenæum*; and to pretend that the *Athenæum* is an obscure journal, seen but by few, was also an adroit thrust!

* *Sun*. For two years, this wretchedly-written paper seldom appeared without quotations from the miserable platitudes which go by the name of *Eliza Cook's* "Diamond Dust."

"Seen by few" of Lord Maidstone's intimates it is very probable; the work is usually confined to readers of intelligence. In a note appended to the passage Lord Maidstone says, "I scarcely know whether this infamous paper (the *Satirist*) exists now." "Nor do we; but we will tell Lord Maidstone what it was which constituted the speciality of that paper—viz., a reckless dragging of private names into publicity, and an incessant effort to be satirical without wit or honest indignation: that is to say, precisely what the noble viscount has exhibited in *The Deluge*!"

DAISY BURNS.

Daisy Burns. A Tale. By Julie Kavanagh, author of "Nathalie." In 3 vols. Bentley.

WHEN the Wedding Guest was stopped by the Ancient Mariner, and forced to listen to his tale, his irritable impatience at the ungainly appearance of the Mariner broke forth in emphatic language; but chafe as he might, he was stayed—the Mariner "held him with his glittering eye," and forced him to hear the story to an end.

Something like this is the effect on the reader produced by *Daisy Burns*. The book is disagreeable—its unreality surpasses all licence—yet the "glittering eye" holds you fast. In vain you protest against the violation of nature and probability—in vain you feel inclined to toss the volume aside because of its caricatures of human beings—the fascination exercised by passion, the irrepressible sympathy awakened by this picture of deep and single-hearted love, fastens you to the story, and will not release you till the end be known. We do not remember any work, written by a person of anything like Miss Kavanagh's ability, so uniformly untrue to nature; it amounts to the fantastic. And yet the book carried us on with untiring interest.

Daisy Burns is left an orphan, and is adopted by a young artist aged twenty. We see at once that she will fall in love with him as she grows up; indeed, every new turn in the story plainly reveals the whole path that will be followed, so that the least experienced novel reader will divine the plot long before the incidents evolve it—which, after all, is only a fault in a novel of incident, and not one at all in a novel of passion and reflection like this.

It is the history of a girl's passion which fills the three volumes. Her childish affection and jealousy, and the gradual alteration of the man's feelings from the paternal into the marital, make up the substance of the tale. We will not pause to consider the defective psychology which keeps Daisy so long in impossible ignorance of her own feelings, and keeps Cornelius in doubt; because, as we before said, the characterization is uniformly untrue, and this is only one illustration of it. For the same reason we will not dissect the preposterous figure of Miriam Russell, whose jealousy of Daisy would be intelligible were it not for the acts by which she expresses it. What is true and interesting in the book is the clinging love and unbounded devotion of Daisy for Cornelius: there is something touching and enchanting in the picture which makes one forgive all the other faults. Read *Daisy Burns*, therefore, for this, and be not too critical—that is our advice. There is some charming writing in it—and nothing of the flippancy or mawkishness so commonly interfering with one's enjoyment of novels.

SCIENTIFIC MEMOIRS.

Scientific Memoirs Selected from the Transactions of Foreign Academies and from Foreign Journals. New Series. Parts I. and II. Taylor and Francis.

PROBABLY all our scientific readers are acquainted with the *Foreign Memoirs*, translated by Mr. Richard Taylor; and none acquainted with them can have heard without regret of their cessation: it will be gratifying, therefore, to learn that this important publication is resumed, with one excellent modification—viz., a division of subjects under different editors. The Memoirs now consist of two parts, each purchasable separately—a Biological part, devoted to Botany and Zoology, and a Physical part, devoted to Natural Philosophy. The Biological portion is edited by Arthur Huxley and T. H. Huxley; the Physical, by John Tyndall and William Francis.

The two parts of each division now before us contain very important papers, among which let us name Clausius on the *Mechanical Equivalent of an Electric Discharge*, and the heating of the conducting wire which accompanies it; Knoblauch on the *Dependence of Radiant Heat in its passage through Crystals upon the Direction of Transmission*; and Helmholtz on the *Conservation of Force*—papers, however, too abstruse for popular abstract. The botany and zoology will be found more generally interesting; especially Dr. Hoffmann's valuable account of his experiments and conclusions respecting the *circulation of the sap in plants*. Does the sap circulate at all? remains a question for the anatomist; does it ascend and descend so as to form a circulation? The doubts that confuse this subject arise mainly from the want of *philosophical method*. Every positive Biologist will at once pronounce that in organisms so various as those of the vegetable kingdom, the degree of specialization of each will bring with it corresponding specialization of function—in other words, that the nutritive process of sap-distribution will vary with the varying complexity of the organism. This premised, let us open Dr. Hoffmann's excellent essay. He begins with the lowest forms—the fungi, and shows by experiment that in them the path of circulation has no fixed boundaries, and presents no anatomical peculiarities: the fluid penetrates forwards and laterally between the cells, proceeding most rapidly in those places where the laxity of the tissue and the direction of the cells oppose the smallest amount of resistance; just as the fluid saturates blotting paper. Proceeding to the examination of higher vegetable forms, he says:—

"In the preceding section an attempt was made to prove that in the lower cellular plants, in accordance with their homogeneous structure the fluids passing from the soil into the plants, took no fixed direction, but, soaking through from cell to cell, advanced most rapidly wherever the laxity of the tissue opposed the minimum of resistance. In the Vascular Cryptogams, on the contrary, in the Ferns, it was found that special organs, the streaked vessels, already present themselves, exclusively destined to contain gaseous fluids, while the fluids absorbed from

the earth first ascended within the looser cellular tissue in the vicinity of those vessels, and were from thence diffused throughout the remainder of the tissues of the vegetable; not, indeed, without previously undergoing suitable elaboration and amelioration.

"In the Monocotyledonous plants, where the specialization of the anatomical systems becomes more distinctly marked, similar results are met with, and it is especially seen here, that the function ordinarily attributed to the system of the spiral vessels and their allies, is devoid of all proof in fact, and has been deduced from experiments, in which sufficient regard was not paid to all the circumstances involved."

We cannot follow him further; enough has been done to indicate the nature of this paper.

The most surprising contributions, however, are those on the *Hectocotylus*, by Müller, Verany, and Vogt. Probably most of our readers have heard of the *Hectocotylus*, as a parasitic animal found attached to the female Argonaut. It is a little animal, furnished with pedunculated suckers; but the precise position it should assume in a classification had greatly troubled naturalists. We will not enter upon a history of the various opinions which this parasite has called forth; but will state briefly what the latest researches establish. The males of the cephalopod mollusca develop one of their arms into a special organ of generation, which is, however, not simply a spermatophore or seed bag, but an animal capable of independent life; when its development is complete, it is detached from the parent body, and swims free till it encounters a female, upon whom it fastens, and is found there living in her body as a parasite, but really fecundating her ova. These arms are renewed periodically. For the details we must refer to these *Scientific Memoirs*.

When we add, that engravings accompany these Memoirs, and that the price of each part is only three shillings, we have done enough to make several of our readers subscribers to this New Series.

THE RELIGION FOR OUR AGE.

Ten Sermons on Religion. By Theodore Parker.

John Chapman.

[THIRD ARTICLE.]

HAVING treated of Truth and Justice—that is, of Religion as manifested in the Intellect and Conscience—Parker proceeds to consider Religion as manifested in the Affections; his language is heartfelt and elevated on this as on the other subjects, and we feel that in borrowing largely from his pages to enrich our columns we are earning the reader's gratitude.

Love is the piety of the Affections. All the folly and extravagance of got up enthusiasm and calculated sentimentality—all the serious mistakes and excesses—all the pains, deep and enduring, which it brings with it into life, are incapable of diminishing the force of this omnipotent and central piety.

He who for Love hath undergone
The worst that can befall,
Is happier thousandfold than one
Who never loved at all;
A grace within his heart hath reigned
Which nothing else can bring:
Thank God! for all that I have gained
From that high suffering!

And this is so because Love not only calls into energetic action the whole of our being, moving it as with some divine impulse, but because Love is Love for loving's sake. We do not love Truth for its use, but for its truthfulness; we do not love Justice for its social necessity, but for its own sake; and in like manner the love which makes us yearn towards mistress, parent, child, and friend, is independent of their convenience to us, their use to us; although often bound up with these it does not spring from them, nor is it related in soul to them: we love because a loving nature moves us. Hence it is that love survives ill-treatment, survives the hope of return, survives by virtue of its own life. Hence it is, moreover, that some one could say with profound truth—"There is greater pleasure in loving than in being loved."

The above paragraph sets forth the ideal state. In reality, this faculty of loving, like the faculty of perceiving and holding by the Truth, or the faculty of perceiving and acting up to Justice, is variously apportioned among men. There are some in whom personality is centripetal, and these are the selfish; there are others in whom personality is centrifugal—it rays out its affluence like a sun—and these are the sympathetic, loving natures. Between the two extremes there is every variety of degree.

How Love under its various forms of passion and of sympathy operates among men need not be pointed out. It vitalizes and humanizes society; but it also disturbs and perverts it. The affections often conquer Truth and Justice with a blind vehemence. They need occasional control. They need also sedulous culture; for although it is true that no man is without them, it is also true that many men are as deficient in that form of piety as in others. By saying God is Love, we have not done all; we must worship him as Love, and by *worship* no lip-service of punctilious ritual is meant, but *active piety*. In other words, we must cultivate the affections.

Parker will tell you how strong and pervading is the rule of the affections:—

"Indeed, with most men the affections take the lead of all the spiritual powers; only they act in a confined sphere of the family, class, sect, or nation. Men trust the heart more than the head. The mass of men have more confidence in a man of great affection than in one of great thought; pardon is commonly popular, mercy better loved than severity. Men rejoice when the murderer is arrested; but shout at his acquittal of the crime. The happiness of the greater part of men comes from affectional more than intellectual or moral sources. Hence the abundant interest felt in talk about persons, the popular fondness for personal anecdotes, biographies, ballads, love-stories, and the like. The mass of men love the person of their great man, not his opinions, and care more to see his face and hear his voice than to know his ideas of truth and of justice. It is so with religious teachers. Men sympathize with the person before they take his doctrine. Hence the po-

pular fondness for portraits of great men, for their autographs, and even for relics. The person of Jesus Christ has left a much greater impression on the hearts of men than his doctrines have made on the mind and conscience of Christendom."

And this might be put in as a plea for fiction. The very merit and purpose of fiction lie therein; for

"All men need something to poetize and idealize their life a little, something which they value for more than its use, and which is a symbol of their emancipation from the mere materialism and drudgery of daily life. Rich men attempt to do this with beautiful houses, with costly furniture, with sumptuous food, and 'wine too good for the tables of pontiffs,' thereby often only thickening and gilding the chain which binds the soul to earth. Some men idealize their life a little with books, music, flowers; with science, poetry, and art; with thought. But such men are comparatively rare, even in Scotland and New England—two or three in the hundred, not more. In America the cheap newspaper is the most common instrument used for this purpose, a thing not without its value. But the majority of men do this idealizing by the affections, which furnish the chief poetry of their life—the wife and husband delighting in one another, both in their children. Burns did not exaggerate in his 'Cottar's Saturday Night,' when he painted the labourer's joy:—

'His wee bit ingle, blinkin' bonnily,
His clean hearth-stane, his thriftie wifie's smile,
The lisping infant prattling on his knee,
Does a' his weary carking cares beguile,
An' makes him quite forget his labour and his toil.'

"I have heard a boorish pedant wonder how a woman could spend so many years of her life with little children, and be content! In her satisfaction he found a proof of her inferiority, and thought her but the 'servant of a wooden cradle,' herself almost as wooden. But in that gentle companionship she nursed herself and fed a higher faculty than our poor pedant, with his sophomoric wit, had yet brought to consciousness, and out of her wooden cradle got more than he had learned to know. A physician once, with unprofessional impiety, complained that we are not born men, but babies. He did not see the value of infancy as a delight to the mature, and for the education of the heart. At one period of life we need objects of instinctive passion, at another, of instinctive benevolence without passion.

"I am not going to undervalue the charm of wisdom, nor the majestic joy which comes from loving principles of right; but if I could have only one of them, give me the joy of the affections—my delight in others—theirs in me—the joy of delighting, rather than the delight of enjoying. Here is a woman with large intellect, and attainments which match her native powers, but with a genius for love, developed in its domestic, social, patriotic, human form, with a wealth of affection which surpasses even her affluence of intellect. Her chief delight is to bless the men who need her blessing. Naturalists carry mind into matter, and seek the eternal truth of God in the perishing forms of the fossil plant, or the evanescent tides of the sea; she carries love into the lanes and kennels of society, to give bread to the needy, eyes to the blind, mind to the ignorant, and a soul to men floating and weltering in this sad pit of society. I do not undervalue intellect in any of its nobler forms; but if God gave me my choice to have either the vast intellect of a Newton, an Aristotle, a Shakspeare, a Homer, the ethical insight of the great legislators, the moral sense of Moses, or Menu, the conscience of men who discover justice, and organize unalienable right into human institutions—or else to take the heroic heart which so loves mankind, and I were to choose what brought its possessor the greatest joy—I would surely take, not the great head, but the great heart, the power of love before the power of thought."

How in earlier life this love is nurtured, Parker has well indicated:—

"See the array of natural means provided for the development and education of the heart. Spiritual love, joining with the instinctive passion which peoples the world, attracts mankind into little binary groups, families of two. Therein we are all born of love. Love watches over our birth. Our earliest knowledge of mankind is of one animated by the instinctive power of affection, developed into conscious love. The first human feeling extended towards us is a mother's love. Even the rude woman in savage Patagonia turns her sunniest aspect to her child; the father does the same. In our earliest years we are almost wholly in the hands of women, in whom the heart emphatically prevails over the head. They attract and win, while man only invades and conquers. The first human force we meet is woman's love. All this tends to waken and unfold the affections, to give them their culture and hasten their growth. The other children of kindred blood asking or giving kind offices; affectionate relations and friends, who turn out the fairest side of nature and themselves to the new-born stranger—all of these are helps in the education of the heart. All men unconsciously put on amiable faces in the presence of children, thinking it is not good to cause these little ones to offend. As the roughest of men will gather flowers for little children, so in their presence he turns out 'the silver lining' of his cloudy character to the young immortals, and would not have them know the darker part. The sourest man is not wholly hopeless when he will not blaspheme before his son.

"The child's affection gets developed on the smallest scale at first. The mother's love tempts forth the son's; he loves the bosom that feeds him, the lips that caress, the person that loves. Soon the circle widens, and includes brothers and sisters, and familiar friends; then gradually enlarges more and more, the affections strengthening as their empire spreads. So love travels from person to person, from the mother or nurse to the family at home; then to the relatives and frequent guests; next to the children at school, to the neighbourhood, the town, the State, the nation; and at last, manly love takes in the whole family of mankind, counting nothing alien that is human."

The affections are the *Shekinah*, the presence of God in the dwellings of men. The piety, therefore, which belongs to the affections is, perhaps, of all others the most needful, and that form of Religion which pays most attention to the culture and healthy activity of this piety, is the form best suited to human life. Far be it from us to say that Christianity does not recognise this; it is emphatically the Religion of Love. But in practice have we not seen that the *dogmatic* elements have assumed undue predominance, that Creed had taken precedence of Conduct, that Faith has been held of quite infinitely more account than Love, and that adherence to certain rituals has been made the touchstone of a religious heart? Is this the fact, or is it not? Will any one say that the Church has seen clearly, and holily practised the piety demanded of it? Will any one say that having to control the naturally erratic tendencies of

men, to raise their aspirations above daily needs and daily realities, the Church has endeavoured to control them by the activity of Love—thus proceeding logically to move men by their emotions, instead of illogically to move them by their intellects? No one can say this, because every one knows that, speak with what emphasis it may on the necessity of Love, it lays its great stress of requisition on Faith. Parker says:—

"Notwithstanding the high place which the affections hold in the natural economy of man, and the abundant opportunities for their culture and development furnished by the very constitution of the family, but little value is placed thereon in what is called the 'superior education' of mankind. The class of men that lead the Christian world have but a small development of affection. Patriotism is the only form of voluntary love which it is popular with such men to praise—that only for its pecuniary value; charity seems thought a weakness, to be praised only on Sundays; avarice is the better week-day virtue; friendship is deemed too romantic for a trading town. Philanthropy is mocked at by statesmen and leading capitalists; it is the standing butt of the editor, whereat he shoots his shaft, making up in its barb and venom for his arrow's lack of length and point."

Here, then, the function of a Church is clearly indicated. It should counteract these tendencies. There is exaggeration, or rather let us say onesidedness, in the following passage; but few will deny the truth of what it affirms:—

"Hitherto justice has not been done to the affections in religion. We have been taught to fear God, not to love him; to see Him in the earthquake and the storm, in the deluge, or the 'ten plagues of Egypt,' in the 'black death,' or the cholera; not to see God in the morning sun, or in the evening full of radiant gentleness. Love has little to do with the popular religion of our time. God is painted as a dreadful Eye, which bores through the darkness to spy out the faults of men who sneak and skulk about the world; or as a naked, bony Arm, uplifted to crush his children down with horrid squelch to endless hell. The long line of scoffers from Lucian, their great hierophant, down to Voltaire and his living coadjutors, have not shamed the priesthood from such revolting images of deity. Sterner men, who saw the loveliness of the dear God, and set it forth in holy speech and holy life—to meet a fate on earth far harder than the scoffer's doom—they cannot yet teach men that love of God casts every fear away. In the Catholic mythology the Virgin Mary, its most original creation, represents pure love—she, and she alone. Hence is she the popular object of worship in all Catholic countries. But the popular Protestant sects have the Roman Godhead after Mary is taken away.

"When this is so in religion, do you wonder at the lack of love in law and custom, in politics and trade? Shall we write satires on mankind? Rather let us make its apology. Man is a baby yet; the time for the development of conscious love has not arrived. Let us not say, 'No man eat fruit of thee hereafter;' let us wait; dig about the human tree and encourage it; in time it shall put forth figs."

Slowly as the world moves through its wondrous orbit, it moves into clearer spaces lighted by diviner stars; and the meditative mind is forced to conclude, as our great poet concludes,

I doubt not thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened by the process of the suns.

The darkness lingers but the dawn is here, and we see that

"Slowly vengeance fades out of human institutions, slowly love steals in;—the wounded soldier must be healed, and paid, his widow fed, and children comforted; the slaves must be set free; the yoke of kings and nobles must be made lighter, be broken and thrown away; all men must have their rights made sure; the poor must be fed, must have his human right to a vote, to justice, truth, and love; the ignorant must be educated, the State looking to it that no one straggles in the rear and so is lost;—the criminals—I mean the little criminals committing petty crimes—must be instructed, healed, and manlified; the lunatic must be restored to his intellect; the blind, the deaf and dumb, the idiots, must be taught, and all mankind be blest. The attempt to banish war out of the world, odium from theology, capital punishment out of the State, the devil and his hell from the Christian mythology—the effort to expunge hate from the popular notion of God, and fear from our religious consciousness—all this shows the growth of love in the spirit of men. A few men see that while irreligion is fear of a devil, religion is love: one half is piety,—the love of God as truth, justice, love, as Infinite Deity; the rest is morality—self-love, and the love of man, a service of God by the normal use, development, and enjoyment of every faculty of the spirit, every limb of the body, every particle of power we possess over man or over matter. A few men see that God is love, and made the world of love as substance, from love as motive, and for love as end."

Portfolia.

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

The Works of the Old Masters:

THEIR RUIN AND RENOVATION.

BY HENRY MERRITT.

"Who, in contemplating one of Raphael's finest pictures, fresh from the master's hand, ever bestowed a thought on the wretched little worm which works its destruction?"

MARIA EDGEWORTH.

CHAPTER VIII.

PICTURE DESTROYERS.

PICTURE brokers, picture frame makers, house painters and decorators are never deterred by any scruples from writing themselves down proficient in the art of restoring the pictures of the Old Masters. One possesses a famous compound, a newly-invented preparation; another, an extraordinary elixir, concocted from a very old recipe, which never fails to renew the colours of old paintings, however

faded they may have become through lapse of centuries or modern ill-usage; a third, is possessed of a secret for making a varnish, which beats glass out of the market for clearness and durability; it is warranted "neither to discolour, bloom, nor crack:" so that those pictures which are so fortunate as to get a few coatings of the said varnish will be astonishingly improved in all respects, and in all probability last for ever.

The well-informed, however, are seldom, we trust, induced by pretensions of this order, to intrust their pictures to hands guiltless of Art-principles, and to operators who have no explanation to give of the special treatment each particular picture, or class of pictures, seems to require. The judicious collector rather dreads the cleverness of quacks, who would make one common receipt suffice for all the productions of genius, so manifold and infinitely various in their nature as works of genius ever are. The professors of picture-restoration are very numerous in London, familiarly known by the sign hung out at their doors; generally, an old portrait one half clean, the other half dirty, as a specimen to convince the unwary connoisseur that the proprietor of the shop can restore pictures. The mere fact of hanging out a specimen of picture-cleaning to attract the attention of passers-by, is perhaps not necessarily a proof of the shopkeeper's inability to equal his professions; but there is a something in this fashion of advertising which makes the prudent connoisseur question the spirit and artistic faculty of the proprietor; and reflection usually leads to the conclusion that the show-picture is a sign of the shopkeeper's incapacity. Many who have had the guardianship of pictures, have preferred to leave them to the ordinary decay arising from neglect, to risking their utter destruction, by what seemed to them the uncertain process of cleaning. Instances, on the other hand, are not wanting of those, who, with unparadonable haste, have called in the common enemy, in the person of one of these picture-owners, whose operations (saving a miracle) were conducted at the expense of the picture itself; not intentionally nor malignantly, no doubt, for where there is neither the faculty to distinguish, nor the taste to appreciate, there can be no accountability for injury, and the excuse is ignorance.

CHAPTER IX.

THE RESTORER.

IN contemplating a face, or number of faces, successfully exhibiting delicate sentiments and deep passions, we are struck with the story they tell, or the moral they combine to represent, and we marvel at the skill of the artist who could, so to speak, create anew the life, by the aid of simple lines and colours. We should marvel more did our reflections lead us to consider each particular part of the process by which the life-like forms came fashioned from the painter's hand. It were instructive to contemplate the process, from the laying of the first broad general grounds of colour, to the critical and final retouchings, by which the niceties of expression were arrived at, and which were the finish of the work and the evidence of mastery. It is these finishing touches, the "glazings," "scumblings," "blendings," and "pointings," whether considered as mere texture, or as intellectual refinements, which tax the Restorer's art and claim his vigilance. The Sculptor wastes away the rude block till he has accomplished the desired form. Not so with the pencil; the painter builds up his forms from a blank surface, and hides, as he progresses, all the preliminary layers upon which the external colours depend for durability and lustre. And hence not only the meaning and spirit of the work must be understood, the Restorer must also be familiar with the nature of the materials and the manner of their employment.

The Restorer should also be deeply read in those established principles which test the truth and goodness of pictorial representations. He should understand linear perspective, that he may know where its laws have been adhered to, and where ignored. He should be acquainted with aerial perspective, that he may in certain works appreciate its many and various beauties. He should be master of anatomy, that he may be careful not to injure the works of those artists which exhibit an accurate acquaintance of the human figure. He should understand the principles of colouring, so far as they have been ascertained, that he may be free from the danger of injuring beauties founded on principles, and at the same time be in a position, to understand, and respect, if not to admire, works painted without any definite knowledge of colours. The practical Restorer should study to the end that his mind may become as it were an index of the various styles of painting practised by the masters whose works are his care. Be the style of a painter simple or complex, graceful or ungraceful, it should be registered in its place. It is for the Restorer to have no bias. It is for him to trace with untiring industry, and unerring precision, the many fine distinctions in each particular work he may have to treat. He ought to comprehend not only the meaning and spirit of each work, but be able to trace, bit by bit, with microscopic exactness, the means and the method which the artist employed to accomplish it. It is not enough for the Restorer to know the results, he must also penetrate their causes—that the effects may not suffer. It would seem that nothing less than a master mind could achieve the successful treatment of a master work, but it comes out in the end, that a Restorer of inferior power profiting by the creations of the artist, may be able to appreciate their excellencies though unable to produce them: just as the critic discovers in another the qualities he could

never have invented himself. In a word, the Restorer has wholly to devote himself to the study of pictures until he has made himself as familiar with the productions of many pencils as the ambitious painter does with a few select examples.

Thus, it is quite possible to conceive an accomplished Restorer, fulfilling the high functions of *conserver* to the Arts, content with that capacity, and devoting all his energies, with frank good will and hearty self-respect, to the preservation of the works of others. It is easy to define accurately all that a Restorer should know, and how he might acquire his information. He should be willing to forego any reputation he might himself achieve as a painter for the general good of art—content to be the servant and the friend of painters, not their rival. He should be favourable to the growth and exchange of congenial sympathies, and he might well become an adviser to them in some minor practical difficulties often experienced by creative genius. There is nothing which a painter is required to know of the mechanical part of his art, which a Restorer is not required to know also. The painter not unfrequently works in ignorance of the mechanical department of his art. Through the neglect of what he is too apt to think unworthy of his attention, the rationale of his materials and their uses, he often labours in vain and grasps at last but that transient reputation, which only lives, like the actors' and the musicians', in the breath of memory and by the tongue of report.

CHAPTER X.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS.

THE possessor of a gallery of paintings undoubtedly ought to be familiar with their necessities, and should never be compelled to follow, unconditionally, the dictum of others. If he consult a number of eminent painters, as to the condition of his pictures, they will probably indulge in vague generalities about art, with very insufficient reference to the peculiarities of the pictures in question. Your painters, for the most part, are too much taken up with their own productions, to enter into a minute particularization of the works of others. Indeed, it could be shown, by a general reference to the best pictures of the English school, that even the ablest of its masters have paid little or no attention to pictures with respect to their preservation and durability. All lovers of art regret the present condition of the chief works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, to which may be added many of Romney's, nearly the whole of Hopner's, and even some of the best portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence; which last are deficient in deep flesh shadows, the asphaltum and lake having partially disappeared. The contempt of chemical laws in the founders of the English school is much to be wondered at, but the continued neglect by living artists, of a study so evidently called for, is without excuse. Painters of the present day seem to vie with each other in a reckless use of materials, which cannot be expected to last more than a few years. Moreover, painters strictly confine themselves to favourite styles. Mr. Dashing, for instance, plasters on the colour in heaps. He has an extraordinary liking for the picturesque, such as dark lanes, ruined edifices, and wild, barren, deserted places. He has no rival in the art of rendering ragged and jagged appearances of nature; he most delights in the disordered and unaccountable; and the choice of subject seems to have dictated to him the choice of style, and to have made it necessary for him to employ a trowel, where artists of the old schools used pencils. Mr. Dashing's peculiar taste, however, induces him to look with contempt on the works of those old painters who delighted in rendering common objects in a commonplace manner. He thinks those four pictures by Gremer, representing the "Seasons," very absurd productions. The churches, cottages, and trees, in which you may count every brick, stone, tile, and leaf, together with the crowds of people, dressed as they were in Gremer's time, and occupied, according to their respective stations in life, and in such matters as the particular season or time of day would seem to call for, he gazes at as minor details, insignificant facts, unworthy the notice of an artist and a poet. Then what interest can there possibly be found in those stark-stiff saints, by Albert Durer? On the other hand, (to show that there is not always unanimity of feeling in artists,) Mr. Hairbreadth is in downright ecstasies with pains-taking, plodding Gremer, and begs of the fortunate owner the liberty to make a copy of the German master-piece, vowing he never contemplated so rare a specimen before. Dashing can only attribute the choice of pictures made by his friend Hairbreadth to sheer affectation. Hairbreadth, in return, bestows a look of despair on his reckless friend, who, despising the examples of the early masters of painting, has struck out an entirely new walk of art, expressly for himself.

Surely the connoisseur, consulting two painters of such opposite tendencies, with the desire of obtaining information about the condition of a mixed collection of pictures, would be disappointed. One produces a score of sheep with as many strokes of the pencil, and trusts to accidental splashes of colour for the representation of trees; the other bestows a month in the elaboration of a wisp of hay, and thinks Gerard Dow must have laboured under excitement when he painted the handle of a besom in fourteen days. Therefore it is that they never agree about anything in connexion with art, though in most other matters they seldom differ. Then there is Mr. William Tintoretto, the famous colourist, who on being consulted about anything connected with old paintings, and

diately commences a rhapsody about those famous masters, Giorgione and Titian, interspersed with praises of the great Fleming. Colour, especially Venetian colour, is our modern Tintoretto's forte; he has a passion for colour; his happiest thoughts are all in Venice, whose painters are the sources of his inspiration. All other cities, and all other painters, (excepting the great Fleming,) are to him of no consideration. Therefore it is that our modern Tintoretto is not the sort of person to consult about pictures in general; nay, even when his favourite masters are at stake, he is somewhat too vague, and his observations seldom have that closeness necessary for practical purposes. Should the lover of the old masters consult the great modern landscape painter, the "prophet of Nature," as he has been termed, one can hardly conceive it possible that he would descend from "his cloud-capped eminence" to answer trifling questions about damaged pictures of low Dutch, German, Flemish, and Italian schools. Nor is it too much to say that the old schools of painting are insignificant facts to which he rarely descends. The condition-of-pictures question hardly ever once entered his mind. His own pictures decay almost as soon as they are painted, and he never takes cognizance of the fact; intent upon immortality, the contingent decay, even in his own pictures, strangely enough, is a matter of indifference.

Thus the connoisseur consults one illustrious artist after another in vain; and he is eventually convinced "that nothing is a greater hindrance to his acquiring an intimate acquaintance with the old masters than entertaining too high an opinion of the judgment of professors in painting." He, with some exceptions, "finds each artist an implicit admirer of some particular school, or a slave to some particular manner."

TO ———.

The broken moon lay in the autumn sky,
And I lay at thy feet,
You bent above me, in the silence, I
Could hear my wild heart beat.

I spoke—my soul was full of trembling fears
At what my words would bring;
You raised your face—your eyes were full of tears
As the sweet eyes of spring.

You kissed me then—I worshipped at thy feet
Upon the shadowy sod.
O, fool! I loved thee! loved thee, lovely cheat,
Better than fame or God!

My soul leaped up beneath thy timid kiss;
What then to me were groans,
Or pain, or death? Earth was a round of bliss,
I seemed to walk on thrones.

And you were with me 'mong the rushing wheels,
'Mid Trade's tumultuous jars;
And when to awe-struck wilds the night reveals
Her hollow gulfs of stars.

Before thy window as before a shrine,
I've knelt 'mong dew-soaked flowers,
While distant music-bells with voices fine,
Measured the midnight hours.

There came a fearful moment—I was pale,
You wept, and never spoke,
But clung around me as the woodbine frail
Clings pleading round an oak.

Upon my wrong I steadied up my soul,
And flung thee from myself;
I spurned thy love as 'twere a rich man's dole—
It was my only wealth.

RELIGIOUS PRATTLE.—It is only bigotry that can make the mistake of supposing that the making a child learned in some of the technical terms of a belief is making it religious. In science this is clearly enough seen. A child may talk about gravitation, cohesion, caloric, oxygen, and so on, and yet have but little comprehension of the great teachings which those words convey to the mind of a wise man; so, likewise, he may prattle of atonement, justification, sanctification, and so on, yet be altogether ignorant of what the words mean. It is but trifling with terms which, to the believer, are awful and august, and solve for him some of the deepest mysteries of our nature.—*LANGFORD'S Religion and Education.*

THE IMAGINATIVE MAN.—As one and the same goddess was called Luna in heaven, Diana on earth, and Hecate in the shades below, so one and the same man is loftily hailed a poet, is called in commonplace a lover, and is damned by the name of a lunatic.—*From DALLAS'S Poetics.*

I spurned thee! I who loved thee, could have died,
That hoped to call thee "wife,"
And bear thee gently smiling at my side
Thro' all the shocks of life!

Too late, thy fatal beauty and thy tears,
Thy vows, thy passionate breath;
I'll meet thee not in life, nor in the spheres
Made visible by death.

ALEXANDER SMITH.

The Arts.

THE THEATRICAL WEEK.

WHAT a thing it is not to know Anglo-Saxon! Last week, in the rapidity of a parenthesis, I questioned whether Macbeth's "fell of hair" was the correct phrase. A correspondent tells me that my query was absurd, for the word *fell* is a good Anglo-Saxon imitation of the Latin, *pellis*, and means skin, or covering; so that the "fell of hair" means, the covering of hair. Another correspondent confirms it in the following letter:—

"SIR,—The humble 'Jones' presumes to address the august 'Vivian.' 'I think *fell* is the right reading: remembering that Corin excuses the shepherds for not saluting hands, because 'we are still handling our ewes, and their *fells*, you know, are greasy.' No more imposing authority as to the meaning is within my reach now, than an ordinary dictionary, in which 'fell' is said to be derived from 'felle' (Saxon), and to signify hide or skin. 'Fell of hair,' I take to be an equivalent form of expression to 'field of wheat,' or 'dish of fish.' Was it not Dryden who said 'Old words are old gold?' and Horace—but, no! I do not think 'Jones' ought to quote Latin.

"But, prithee, do not get into a be-knight-ed way of inventing new readings. Shakespeare has suffered quite enough, without any further attacks.

"THE INDIGNANT JONES."

So, you see, I made an ass of myself—*mais que voulez vous?* I can't know everything! I don't read the *Etrbiggia Saga*, and have only once seen, never read, Xiphilin! Ah! that Xiphilin—if I had but burned the midnight oil over his pages, what *lead* I could aggravate my sandals with! and how the public would look up to me! "Vivian" frivolous, indeed; why, he reads Xiphilin!" and I'll trouble you for the reverence which would follow such a remark!

Instead of reading Xiphilin, I have been reading Albert Smith's pamphlet, "Press Orders," being the opinions of the leading Journals on the Abolition of the Newspaper Privileges; and a very curious page it makes in our dramatic history; though, from all that I can learn, the "reform" will be simply confined to relieving us from the trouble and manifold vexation of writing orders: the real mischief of orders was, not that the Press used them indiscriminately, but that Managers had not the courage to play to small audiences. However, Albert has here employed the wittiest of scissors, and the adroitest of paste, and, with these sub-editors, has edited a very curious pamphlet, containing all that has been written on the subject. I have also looked over—not read—another curious pamphlet, *The Dramatic Register for 1852*, which all persons curious in such matters should possess. It contains a list of all the dramatic works published and performed; a chronology and necrology; an abstract of the "seasons," and a variety of theatrical facts.

As to the theatres themselves, I have only been to the FRENCH PLAYS, to see Ravel in *Edgar et sa bonne*, and in *La Rue de la lune*; in both of which, the latter especially, he was very diverting and farcical, so that one will feel his absence to be a loss it will require *all* Mlle. Luther's smiles and wiles to console us for. She appears on Monday. The short visit Ravel has made will not be forgotten. The houses have been excellent, and the amusement unquestionable. To have seen *L'Etourneau*, *un Monsieur qui suit les femmes*, and *York*, is to have seen what varieties Ravel is capable of, and what a fine actor he is amid all his farce.

At DRURY LANE the bills have presented the "immense attraction" of *Black-eyed Susan*, *Lady of Lyons*, and *Armand*, which with the Drury Lane company must have been "a real treat." By some strange perversity I did not rush there to enjoy that treat.

At the OLYMPIC, *Life in Australia* has offered its "information for intending emigrants," in what, report says, is not the most amusing of dramas. To represent life under any of its manifold aspects is a laudable ambition, but on the stage the primary requisite is, that whatever you represent you must shape it into an amusing drama.

VIVIAN.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, February 25, 1853.

CONSIDERABLE business has been transacted in the different Stocks during the past week, and with a decided upward tendency. Consols are steady at 99½ to 99¾ for money, and at 99½ for the account March 10th. Exchequer Bills have been dealt in as low as 10s. and 5s. premium, the last price marked, however, 12s. to 18s. In the early part of the week, some inquiry was made after the Turkish Loan, owing to a better feeling with regard to the payment of the interest prevailing in Paris. A slight reaction took place this afternoon in Shares and Stocks, owing to the telegraphic news of the breach between Austria and the Porte; but it has had no effect upon Consols. All French railway-shares have advanced in price since last week. A rumour is current amongst some City men that a new commercial treaty between France and England, which is said to be in progress, and which would doubtless have the effect of making French investments more valuable. Our own different railway shares have fully maintained their value. Money is said to be plentiful, and to be obtained more easily. The reports of

extensive freights of gold from Australia may be the cause of this. In the Gold-mining market there has been considerable improvement. The great price of copper and the lucrative returns from the different mines, has caused two new copper mines—one in Nova Scotia, and one in the Rhenish Provinces of Prussia—to be projected, with highly respectable names as directors, and supported by the opinions of scientific men.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Satur.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	227½	228	227	227½	226½	227½
3 per Cent. Red.	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
3 per Cent. Con. Ans.	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Consols for Account	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
3½ per Cent. An.	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
New 5 per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans., 1860	6½	6½	6 7-16	6½	6½	6½
India Stock	.....	266	269	.....	266	266
Ditto Bonds, £1000	.....	50	50	45	.....	.....
Ditto, under £1000	00	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Ex. Bills, £1000	5 p	15 p	.....	15 p	17 p	18 p
Ditto, £500	.....	15 p	20 p	15 p	17 p	18 p
Ditto, Small	12 p	15 p	.....	10 p	20 p	18 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING
FRIDAY EVENING.)

Austrian 5 per Cents. ... 87	Sardinian Bonds 94½
Brazilian, Small 102½	Spanish 3 p. Cents. 47½
Buenos Ayres Bonds 63	Spanish 3 p. Cts. New Def. 23½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 99½	Spanish Passive, Conv. 6
Mexican 3 per Cents. 24	Swedish Loan 1½ dis.
Peruvian 3 per Cent. Def. 62	Turkish Loan, 6 per Cent. 1852 1 pm.
Peruvian 3 per Cents. 63	Venezuela 3½ per Cents. 37½
Account, March 16 63	Venezuela Deferred 15½
Russian 4½ per Cents. ... 104	

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS, AND REDUCED FARES AND FREIGHTS.

DEPARTURES OUTWARDS.

INDIA and CHINA, via EGYPT.—For Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, and Hong Kong on the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and on the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

AUSTRALIA, via SINGAPORE.—For Adelaide, Port Philip, and Sydney (touching at Batavia), on the 4th of March and 4th of every alternate month thereafter from Southampton, and on the 10th of March and 10th of every alternate month thereafter from Marseilles.

MALTA and EGYPT.—On the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

MALTA and CONSTANTINOPLE.—On the 29th of every month from Southampton.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—For Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, from Southampton, on the 7th, 17th, and 27th of every month.

CALCUTTA and CHINA.—Vessels of the Company ply occasionally (generally once a month) between Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

N.B.—The rates of passage money and freight on the India and China lines have been considerably reduced, and may be had upon application at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, London, and Oriental Place, Southampton.

CRYSTAL PALACE SUNDAY OPEN-

ING FUND.—The Conference of the United Working Classes, formed to procure the opening of the Crystal Palace on Sundays, APPEAL to those who are favourable to that object for SUBSCRIPTIONS on behalf of the movement. The Treasurer to the fund, Sir J. V. Shalley, Bart., M.P., has opened an account at the bank of Messrs. Hoare and Co., Fleet-street, to which subscriptions may be paid in the name of the above-mentioned fund. Subscriptions under 10s. will be received by the Committee, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Monday evenings.

GEO. W. PRIDEAUX, Sec. pro. tem.
Committee Room, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, Feb. 23, 1853.

THE ROYAL EXHIBITION—

39, ALBEMARLE STREET, PICCADILLY: Observe, opposite the York Hotel. Valuable newly-invented, very small powerful Waistcoat-pocket Glass, the size of a Walnut, to discern minute objects at a distance of from four to five miles, which is found to be invaluable, for yachting, and to Sportsmen, Gentlemen, and Gamekeepers. TELESCOPES, possessing such extraordinary power, that some 3½ inches, with an extra eye piece, will show distinctly Jupiter's Moons, Saturn's Ring, and the double Stars. They supersede every other kind, and are of all sizes for the Waistcoat-pocket, Shooting, Military purposes, &c. Opera and Race-course Glasses with wonderful power: a minute object can be clearly seen, from 10 to 12 miles distant. Invaluable newly-invented Spectacle.

DEAFNESS.—NEW DISCOVERY.—THE ORGANIC VIBRATOR, an extraordinary powerful, small, newly-invented instrument, for deafness, entirely different from all others, to surpass anything of the kind that has been, or probably ever can be produced. Being of the same colour as the skin is not perceptible; it enables deaf persons to hear distinctly at church and at public assemblies; the unpleasant sensation of singing noises in the ears are entirely removed; and it affords all the assistance that possibly could be desired.

S. & B. SOLOMONS, Aurists and Opticians, 39, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly: Observe, opposite the York Hotel.

HEAL AND SON'S ILLUSTRATED

CATALOGUE of BEDSTEADS, sent free by post, contains designs and prices of upwards of ONE HUNDRED different Bedsteads, in Iron, Brass, japanned Wood, polished Birch, Mahogany, Rosewood, and Walnut-tree Woods; also their Priced List of Bedding. Their new Warehouses enable them to keep one of each design fixed for inspection. They have also, in addition to their usual Stock, a great variety of the best designs of PARISIAN BEDSTEADS, both in Wood and Iron, which they have just imported.

Heal and Son, Bedstead and Bedding Manufacturers,
196, (opposite the Chapel,) Tottenham Court Road.

SUPERIOR TO COFFEE, BUT LOWER IN PRICE.

FRENCH CHOCOLATE, 1s. per pound, or in packets, 6d., 3d., and 1d. each, a preparation from the choicest Cocoas of the English markets, and manufactured by the most approved French method. Coffee is far inferior in nutritive qualities to Cocoa. And Chocolate, or properly prepared Cocoa, is now universally recommended by the Medical Profession, as more conducive to health than any other vegetable substance which enters into the human dietary. The superiority of the above One Shilling French Chocolate, over raw and unprepared Cocoas, may be judged of by the perfection attained in its manufacture, owing to which it may be used either as food or beverage.

PARIS CHOCOLATE COMPANY, distinguished by the Patronage of her Majesty the Queen, and the unanimous award of both "Council" and "Prize" Medals at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Manufacturers of Breakfast Chocolate, Bonbons, and French Syrups.

Sold Wholesale and Retail by the principal Grocers, Confectioners, and Druggists in the kingdom. Chocolate Mills, Isleworth; Wholesale Depot, 35, Pudding-Lane, City; West-End Agent, Mr. JOHN HATFIELD, 221, Regent-Street.

"The saving of from 30 to 50 per cent. on each suit of clothes, is a feature which the practical genius of Englishmen will not fail to appreciate."

THE above quotation is taken from a Work lately published, on "The Various Systems, &c., of the Woollen-Cloth Trade." The immediate reference of this extract is to the New System recently introduced at the LONDON CLOTH ESTABLISHMENT by

EDMUND DUDDEN AND CO.

And in which the Writer shows that the Customers of Messrs. Dudden and Co. save from 30 to 50 per cent. on their purchases by adopting the New System. The fine STOCK of the LONDON CLOTH ESTABLISHMENT is known as one of the best in the Metropolis, from which any Lengths, even the shortest, are

SOLD AT THE WHOLESALE PRICE.

But, as an auxiliary to the Cloth Trade, Cutters of superior talent are engaged; and Purchasers of Cloth, &c., may, if they wish, have it made up on the Premises, at the charge of

THE WORKMEN'S WAGES,

Messrs. Dudden and Co. guaranteeing, not only the Quality of the Cloth, but also the Fit and Workmanship of every Garment.

LONDON CLOTH ESTABLISHMENT, 16, COVENTRY STREET.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales. 3½-inch ivory-handled table-knives, with high shoulders, 10s. per dozen; dessert to match, 9s.; if to balance, 1s. per dozen extra; carvers 3s. 6d. per pair; larger sizes, in exact proportion, to 25s. per dozen; if extra fine, with silver ferrules, from 36s.; white bone table-knives, 6s. per dozen; dessert, 4s.; carvers, 2s. per pair; black horn table-knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; dessert, 6s.; carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table-knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels, from 1s. each. The largest stock of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish carvers, in existence. Also, a large assortment of razors, penknives, scissors, &c., of the best quality.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER. The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced 20 years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle	Thread or	King's
	Pattern.	Brunswick Pattern.	Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s.	23s.	36s.
Dessert Forks "	30s.	42s.	58s.
Dessert Spoons "	30s.	42s.	62s.
Table Forks "	40s.	55s.	70s.
Table Spoons "	40s.	55s.	75s.

Tea and Coffee Sets, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL, NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size,			
per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto	5s.	11s.	12s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS (all communicating), exclusive of the Shop, devoted solely to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRON-MONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated, and japanned wares, iron and brass bedsteads), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

No. 39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); Nos. 1 & 2, NEWMAN-STREET; and Nos. 4 & 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

TO EMIGRANTS.

THE following GUTTA PERCHA ARTICLES will be found of great value to Emigrants, especially such as are proceeding to the

GOLD DIGGINGS.

GUTTA PERCHA LINING FOR BOXES.

BUCKETS.	LIFE BUOYS.	WASHING BOWLS.
DRINKING MUGS.	FLASKS.	SYPHONS.

GUTTA PERCHA TUBING.

SUCTIONS FOR PUMPS.	CARBOYS FOR GUNPOWDER.
JUGS.	MINERS' CAPS.

SOLES FOR BOOTS AND SHOES.

TO KEEP THE FEET DRY is of the utmost importance to the Emigrant. This may be secured by the use of Gutta Percha Soles, which are perfectly Waterproof, Cheaper and more Durable than Leather. They can be put on with ease by any one. This cannot be too extensively known amongst Australian Emigrants, as it is now difficult to find a Shoemaker in that country.

GOLD WASHING VESSELS OF EVERY VARIETY OF SHAPE
MAY BE HAD TO ORDER.

Directions to Emigrants for lining Boxes with Gutta Percha Sheet, (so as to preserve the contents from injury by sea water,) also for putting on Soles of Boots and Shoes, &c., may be had GRATIS on application to any of the Gutta Percha Company's Dealers.

N.B.—The Company's Illustrated Circulars, with Instructions for Joining Tubes, Lining Cisterns and Tanks, and for securely attaching Gutta Percha Soles, will be forwarded (post free) on receipt of four postage stamps.

THE GUTTA PERCHA COMPANY, PATENTERS,
18, WHARF ROAD, CITY ROAD, LONDON.

BANKS OF DEPOSIT AND SAVINGS BANKS.

INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL AND SAVINGS.

NATIONAL ASSURANCE and INVEST-
MENT ASSOCIATION,

7, ST. MARTIN'S PLACE, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON,
AND 56, PAUL MALL, MANCHESTER.

Established in 1844.

TRUSTEES.

Lieut.-Col. the Right Honourable Lord George Paget, M.P.
Rev. Joseph Prendergast, D.D., (Cantab.) Lewisham.
George Stone, Esq., Banker, Lombard Street.
Matthew Hutton Chaytor, Esq., Reigate.

The Investment of Money with this Association secures equal advantages to the Savings of the Provident and the Capital of the Affluent, and affords to both the means of realising the highest rate of Interest yielded by first-class securities, in which alone the Funds are employed.

The constant demand for advances upon securities of that peculiar class, which are offered almost exclusively to Life Assurance Companies, such as Reversions, Life Interests, &c., enables the Board of Management to employ Capital on more advantageous terms and at higher rates of Interest than could otherwise, with equal safety, be obtained.

The present rate of Interest is five per cent. per annum, and this rate will continue to be paid so long as the Assurance department finds the same safe and profitable employment for money.

Interest payable half-yearly in January and July.

Money intended for Investment is received daily between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock, at the Offices of the Association.

Immediate Annuities granted, and the business of Life Assurance in all its branches, transacted, on highly advantageous terms. Rates, Prospectuses, and Forms of Proposal, with every requisite information, may be obtained on application at the offices of the Association, or to the respective Agents throughout the United Kingdom.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Applications for Agencies may be made to the Managing Director.

THE OAK MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE
and LOAN COMPANY. Offices—49, Moorgate Street,
London. •Guarantee Fund, Fifty Thousand Pounds.

The OAK LIFE OFFICE undertakes all transactions involving the contingencies of human life, whether they relate to the Upper or Middle Classes, which are now almost peculiarly the objects of Life Assurance, or to those in a humbler sphere—the industrious Labourer, Mechanic, or Artisan.

The constitution of the Office is upon the Mutual Principle, and embraces Assurances upon Single or Joint Lives and Survivorships, Endowments, and the granting of Immediate or Deferred Annuities.

The attention of benevolent persons, and employers of every description, is invited to the Prospectus and Tables of the Industrial or Workmen's Branch of this Company.

Table showing the Monthly Contributions payable for the Assurance of any of the following Sums payable at Death.

Age next Birthday.	For £20.	For £30.	For £40.	For £50.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
10	0 0 7	0 0 11	0 1 3	0 1 6
12	0 0 8	0 0 11	0 1 3	0 1 7
15	0 0 8	0 1 0	0 1 4	0 1 8
18	0 0 9	0 1 1	0 1 5	0 1 9
20	0 0 9	0 1 1	0 1 6	0 1 10
22	0 0 10	0 1 2	0 1 7	0 1 11
25	0 0 10	0 1 3	0 1 8	0 2 1
28	0 0 10	0 1 4	0 1 9	0 2 2
30	0 0 11	0 1 4	0 1 10	0 2 3
32	0 1 0	0 1 5	0 1 11	0 2 5
35	0 1 0	0 1 6	0 2 0	0 2 6
37	0 1 1	0 1 8	0 2 2	0 2 9
40	0 1 2	0 1 9	0 2 4	0 2 11
42	0 1 3	0 1 11	0 2 6	0 3 2
45	0 1 4	0 2 0	0 2 8	0 3 4
48	0 1 6	0 2 3	0 2 11	0 3 8
50	0 1 8	0 2 5	0 3 3	0 4 1
	0 1 9	0 2 7	0 3 6	0 4 4

EXAMPLE.—A person aged 21 may, by the small payment of 9d. per month, secure to his wife, children, or other relatives or nominees, the sum of £20 at his death, whenever that event may occur. The Premiums will be received by instalments at such of the Company's Agencies as may suit the convenience of the Assurers.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be had at the Company's Offices, and of the Agents throughout the kingdom.

G. MANNERS COODE, Secretary.

N.B.—Agents required in all parts of the Kingdom.

ARGUS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

39, Throgmorton Street, Bank; and 14, Pall Mall.

Chairman—THOMAS FARNCOMB, Esq., Alderman.

Deputy-Chairman—WILLIAM LEAF, Esq.

Richard E. Arden, Esq.

Edward Bates, Esq.

Thomas Camplin, Esq.

James Clift, Esq.

Rupert Ingleby, Esq.

John Humphery, Esq., Alderman.

Thomas Kelly, Esq., Alderman.

Jeremiah Pilcher, Esq.

Lewis Pocock, Esq.

AUDITORS.

Rev. T. G. Hall, M.A. | J. B. Shuttleworth, Esq.

PHYSICIAN—Dr. Jeaffreson, 2, Finsbury Square.

SURGEON—W. Coulson, Esq., 2, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry.

CONSULTING ACTUARY—Professor Hall, M.A., of King's College.

SOLICITOR—William Fisher, Esq., 19, Doughty Street.

ADVANTAGES OF ASSURING WITH THIS COMPANY.—In addition to a large subscribed Capital, Policy-holders have the security of an Assurance Fund of Three Hundred and Forty Thousand Pounds, and an income of £75,000 a-year, arising from the issue of nearly 7500 policies.

BONUS, OR PROFIT BRANCH.—Persons assuring on the Bonus System will be entitled, at the expiration of five years, and afterwards annually, to participate in 80 per cent. of the profits. The profit assigned to each Policy may be added to the sum assured, applied in reduction of the annual premium, or be paid in money.

NON-BONUS, OR LOW PREMIUM BRANCH.—The Tables on the non-participating principle afford peculiar advantages to the assured, not offered by any other office; for where the object is the least possible outlay, the payment of a certain sum is secured to the Policy-holder, on the death of the assured, at a reduced rate of premium.

PREMIUMS TO ASSURE £100.			WHOLE TERM.	
Age	One Year.	Seven Years.	With Profits.	Without Profits.
20	£0 17 8	£0 19 1	£1 15 10	£1 11 10
30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

One half of the "Whole Term" Premium may remain on credit for seven years, or one-third of the Premium may remain for life as a debt upon the Policy, at 5 per cent, or may be paid off at any time without notice.

Claims paid in one month after proofs have been approved.

Loans upon approved security.

The medical officers attend every day at Throgmorton Street, at a quarter before two o'clock.

E. BATES, Resident Director.

ESTABLISHED 1841.

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE OFFICE, 25, PALL MALL.

During the last Ten years, this Society has issued more than *Four Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Policies*—

Covering Assurances to the extent of *One Million Six Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Pounds, and upwards*—

Yielding Annual Premiums amounting to *Seventy-Three Thousand Pounds*.

This Society is the only one possessing Tables for the Assurance of Diseased Lives.

Healthy Lives Assured at home and abroad, at lower rates than at most other Offices.

A Bonus of 50 per cent. on the premiums paid was added to the policies at last Division of Profits.

Next Division in 1853—in which all Policies effected before 30th June, 1853, will participate.

Agents wanted for vacant places.

Prospectuses, Forms of Proposal, and every other information, may be obtained of the Secretary at the Chief Office, or on application to any of the Society's Agents in the country.

F. G. P. NEISON, Actuary.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

HOUSEHOLDERS' LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

DISTINCTIVE AND PECULIAR FEATURES.

1. Every Policy is absolutely indisputable, the state of health, age, and interest, being admitted on the Policy.

2. Policies paid to the Holder within Fourteen Days after Proof of Death.

3. No charge for Policy Stamp.

4. The Savings' Bank Assurance—the Company granting an Assurance on the life of the Depositor for every sum deposited, with liberty to withdraw the deposit at fourteen days' notice.

5. Loans on the security, or for the purchase, or erection, of property, on an entirely new plan, the payments to cease in the event of the death of the Borrower, and the property to be handed over to his family, or representatives, free and unencumbered.

6. The Savings' Bank and Assurance-Loan Branches combined, by which Depositors in Savings' Banks and intending Members of Building Societies, may invest their funds so as to secure the Assurance of a given sum in the event of death, and at the same time employ them for the purchase of property during life. This system supersedes Building Societies—supercedes Savings' Banks.

7. A person may choose any age for entry, by paying the value of the difference between his own and the chosen age, in one sum.

RICHARD HODSON, Secretary.

OFFICES: 15 and 16, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON.

On the 2nd of March will be published No. I. of the

POLITICAL EXAMINER: A Weekly Democratic Journal.—16 pages.—Price One Penny.

"If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait for ever."—Jeffrey. Contents: A Summary of Political Events at Home and Abroad—Local and Trade Difficulties of the Working Classes—Home and Foreign Politics—Social Questions—Information on Emigration, and other subjects of practical interest or importance to the people—Reviews of Books relating to Political, Social, and Educational Questions—Fiction, original and translated—Correspondence—Poetry. This journal will endeavour to contribute to the effectiveness of public opinion by an open and manly discussion of Political and Social questions, and their practical development. Looking to the political movements that are and have been, and to the statesmanship of the day, we see generally either honesty without policy, or policy without honesty. To join policy to honesty, and ability to both for the defence and extension of public liberty, based on Universal Suffrage, will be the endeavour of the "POLITICAL EXAMINER."

Published every Wednesday, by J. Watson, 3, Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row, London; and may be obtained of all Booksellers.

On the 28th inst. will be published, price One Shilling, the First Number of

**HANDLEY CROSS;
OR, MR. JORROCKS'S HUNT.**

BY THE AUTHOR OF "MR. SPONGE'S TOUR."

Illustrated with Coloured Plates and numerous Woodcuts, by JOHN LEECH, uniformly with "Sponge's Tour."

BRADBURY AND EVANS, 11, BOUVERIE STREET.

Now Ready. The Second Volume of

**SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON'S
POETICAL AND DRAMATIC WORKS.**

Containing "KING ARTHUR," Books 1 to 9.

WITH A VIGNETTE-TITLE.

** Vol. I. contains THE NEW TIMON, &c., with a Portrait of the Author by Maclise.

[Crown 8vo, cloth, 8s. each.]

**CHEAP EDITION OF SIR E. BULWER LYTTON'S
NOVELS AND TALES.**

This Day, crown 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.

ZANONI.

Corrected and Revised, with a new Preface by the Author, and a Frontispiece.

Third Edition. Price 2s. 6d.

NOT SO BAD AS WE SEEM;

OR, MANY SIDES TO A CHARACTER.

A Comedy in Five Acts,

As now performing at the Haymarket Theatre.

By SIR EDWARD BULWER LYTTON, Bart., M.P.

London: Chapman and Hall, 193, Piccadilly.

In a few days will be published, 2 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 21s.

**NARRATIVE OF A MISSION TO
CENTRAL AFRICA,**

Performed in the years 1850-51, under the orders, and at the expense, of her Majesty's Government.

By the late JAMES RICHARDSON,

Author of "Travels in the Great Desert of Sahara."

With a Map.

READING FOR TRAVELLERS. NEW VOLUME, price 1s.

THE VILLAGE DOCTOR.

Translated from the French of the COUNTESS D'ARBOUVILLE,
By LADY DUFF GORDON.

[This Day.]

Recently Published.

OLD ROADS AND NEW ROADS. 1s.

MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT. 1s.

FRANKLIN'S FOOTSTEPS. A Sketch of Greenland, &c.
1s. 6d.

2 vols., crown 8vo, cloth, 16s.

**LANGUAGE AS A MEANS OF MENTAL
CULTURE**

AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION;

Or, Manual of the Teacher and the Learner of Languages.

By C. MARCEL, Knt., L.H., French Consul at —.

London: Chapman and Hall, 193, Piccadilly.

On the 28th inst. will be published, price 1s., the Thirteenth Number of

BLEAK HOUSE. By CHARLES DICKENS.

With Illustrations by HAMILTON K. BROWN. To be completed in 20 Numbers, uniform with "David Copperfield," &c.

Bradbury and Evans, 11, Bouverie-street.

Just published, price 1s. 2d., in wrapper,

THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL,
RELIGIOUSLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY CONSIDERED. A Series of Lectures by ROBERT COOPER. Subjects: 1. What is the Soul?—2. Review of Popular Arguments.—3. Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.—4. Philosophy of Materialism.—5. Facts from Anatomy and Physiology in relation to Materialism.—6. Doctrine of a Future State, &c.—7. Instinct and Reason.

London: J. Watson, 3, Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row.

FRASER'S MAGAZINE for MARCH,
Price 2s. 6d., or by Post, 3s., contains:

Shakespeare and the New Discovery.

The Last of the Scombers.

The Wetherbys—Father and Son.—Sundry Chapters of Indian Experience. Chap. II.

The Octavius of Minucius Felix.

Familiar Epistle from Ireland.

On the Marriage of Napoleon III.

Life of the Rev. W. Kirby.

Hypatia. By the Author of "Yeast." Chaps. XXVII.

and XXVIII.

The Personnel of the New Ministry.

The Proposed New National Galleries and Museums.

Law Reform—its Progress and Prospects.

London: John W. Parker and Son, West Strand.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE,
No. CCCCXLIX., for MARCH, 1853. Price 2s. 6d.

CONTENTS.

Clubs and Clubbists.

Lady Lee's Widowhood. Part III.

The Vegetable Kingdom.

Rambles in Southern Slavonia.

John Rintoul; or, the Fragment of the Wreck.

A Trio of French Tourists.

Peace and War.

The Malt Tax.

Note to the Article on Slavery in our January Number.

William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for
MARCH contains the following articles:—

1. The Masters of the Roman World.
2. The State of the Soul after Death.
3. Mr. Joseph Ames and Dr. Samuel Johnson.
4. The Devereux Earls of Essex.
5. Fra Dolcino and his Times.
6. Memorial of John Home, the Author of "Douglas."
7. Dr. Cunningham at Florence, Siena, and Rome in 1736.

CORRESPONDENCE:—1. The Ancient Records of Ireland. 2. Richard of Cirencester. 3. Suffragan Bishops. 4. Cefny-Castell and the last Battle of Caractacus. 5. English Etymology: Cheer. 6. The Society of Gregorians. 7. Escape of James II. from the Boyne. With Notes of the Month, Reviews of New Publications, Historical Chronicle, and OBITUARY, including Memoirs of the Earl of Stair, Earl Beauchamp, Viscount Melbourne, Peter Borthwick, Esq., Henry Fynes Clinton, Esq., Rev. Dr. Rice, Rev. P. L. Fraser, &c. &c. Price 2s. 6d.

Nichols and Sons, 25, Parliament Street

On the 7th of March will be published, price 5s. 6d. in cloth,

THE SIXTH VOLUME OF

HOUSEHOLD WORDS. A WEEKLY JOURNAL, conducted by CHARLES DICKENS. Designed for the Instruction and Amusement of all Classes of Readers, and to assist in the Discussion of the Social Questions of the Time.

** Volumes I. to V., price 5s. 6d. each, in cloth boards, may be had by order of any Bookseller or Newsvender.

Office, 16, Wellington Street North.

FRANCIS'S CRITICAL BIOGRAPHIES.

This Day, One Shilling,

LORD BROUGHAM. A Critical Biography.
By GEORGE HENRY FRANCIS.

By the same Author, One Shilling each,

SIR ROBERT PEEL.

RIGHT HON. B. DISRAELI.

To be continued.

London: John W. Parker and Son, West Strand.

Octavo, 2s.

TRANSPORTATION NOT NECESSARY.
By C. B. ADDERLEY, M.P.

London: John W. Parker and Son, West Strand.

Now Publishing, price 6d.

JOURNAL of a VOYAGE from LONDON to PORT PHILIP, in the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company's Ship "Australian." Being the First Voyage by Steam between England and the Australian Colonies. Containing some useful Hints to intending Emigrants. By H. LEUCAS.

London: Clarke, Beeton, and Co., 143, Fleet Street.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE HOOPER, (of No. 3, Portland Place, Kensington, in the County of Middlesex,) at the Office of MESSRS. SAVILL and EDWARDS, No. 4, Chandos Street, in the Parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, in the same County; and Published by THOMSON LEIGH HUNT, (of Broadway House, Hammersmith,) at THE LEADER OFFICE, No. 10, WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND, in the Precinct of the Savoy, both in the same County.—SATURDAY, February 26, 1853.